

Professor brasileiro Francisco Foot Hardman destaca receptividade e comprometimento dos estudantes chineses

Por Beatriz Cunha e Fátima Fu

O professor brasileiro Francisco Foot Hardman, autor de "Meu Diário da China: a China real aos olhos de um brasileiro", recently visited Beijing for university lectures and granted an exclusive interview to Diário do Povo Online.

Foot shared his first experience in China, when he received an invitation to teach in 2024 at Peking University, with the option to stay for six months or a year, he decided to stay for a year. He highlighted a significant difference between the first six months and the remaining period, when the Covid-19 pandemic occurred.

During his stay in China, Francisco traveled to several other cities and provinces in China. He noted that almost every student of his was from a different province, and all were very eager to receive him in their homes. In addition to the exceptional hospitality, Foot highlighted the commitment of Chinese students to their studies and was particularly impressed by their punctuality and completion of all assigned tasks.

This time, Professor Foot, who came for some academic activities at Peking University for a period of only two months, was surprised by the concentration of people in Beijing, a completely different view from the empty Beijing of 2024. He took the opportunity to make tourist visits to the city and was impressed with the Beijing metro. Of the tourist spots he visited, his favorite was the Museum of the Grand Canal.

The University of Peking itself has become a tourist attraction, with many people wanting to know it, he observed, noting an increase in the number of people visiting the campus.

Foot told Diário do Povo Online that his book "Meu Diário da China: a China real aos olhos de um brasileiro" emerged during the Covid-19 period, when Folha de São Paulo invited him to write an article about the new reality of daily life in China. The article was well received by other media, and was then published by the virtual newspaper of the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp). Other articles were produced by him for the Unicamp, and later the Editora da Universidade de Pequim became interested in his articles, which were compiled resulting in the book.

The original title of his book was "Minha China Tropical", but it was changed to "Meu Diário da China" due to translation issues, to better understand and accept the Chinese public, explained the author. However, for the Brazilian version, which will be launched in Brazil, the original title was preserved.

"...my tropical China is not that Brazil is China, it's southern China, especially," said Foot comparing Brazil to Yunnan, "starting with the climate, the forests...I went to the Botanical Garden, it looked like a Brazilian landscape, very hot, very humid, and the people very happy, very musical, I found it incredibly interesting," explained Foot indicating the similarity as the reason for the original title of his work.

Foot perceives an advance in the movement of translation of lusophone literatures in China, which he does not see in other countries. In addition, the establishment of various Confucius Institutes in Brazil shows the openness of Brazilian educational authorities and the potential to expand exchanges between Brazilian and Chinese institutions, he said.

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Autor: symphonyinn.com

Assunto: 1xbet 1xbet logo png

Palavras-chave: **1xbet 1xbet logo png - symphonyinn.com**

Data de lançamento de: 2024-08-05