

China is not a Golden Xanadu in a bed of roses



An Interview with Andrew Leung

Founder and Chairman, Andrew Leung International Consultants Limited, London

“China Insights”: Dear Andrew we are honored you agreed to this interview. Almost everybody today talks about China’s potential. Let me tell you from the beginning that your articles, keynotes etc are our favorites. I love the way you make insights to China Issues. Can you please share with our readers your perception for modern China? In few words what is China for you?

China as an ancient civilization is now recovering her lost potential after a long decline and a great deal of suffering over several hundred years. She had been the world’s largest economy up to the early fourteen century, not only in absolute terms but also in per capita terms. She was active in outreaching the outside world in peace and trade during the Tang, Song and Ming dynasties.

In a world full of confrontation and aggression, China is preaching peace, tolerance, diversity and cooperation. She realizes that each country’s development path is different because of history, culture, resources, geography, demographics, and a host of diverse internal and external challenges. Just like your family being different from mine.

There can be no single formula for all and for all times. Instead on imposing a single formula, she recognizes mutual differences but is not preoccupied by them. Instead she seeks common grounds for constructive cooperation, knowing that such cooperation will eventually build trust to reduce mutual differences. This may be a better way in approaching modern asymmetric international conflicts.

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In aggregate terms China is already the 4th largest economy. But with a population of a fifth of mankind, she still ranks below 100th in terms of per capita GDP, amongst some of the poorest countries in Africa. Moreover she has only

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