

# Nantong report

## Nantong Economic and Trade Delegation went to Switzerland and Germany for exchange

“The delegation promoted the development environment and investment opportunities of Nantong, and deepened the cooperation with multinational corporations, organizations, associations and international sister cities.

By Li Tong

From 24th to 29th August local time, Nantong Economic and Trade Delegation carried out exchanges in Switzerland and Germany, to promote the development environment and investment opportunities of Nantong, and deepen the cooperation with multinational corporations, organizations, associations and international sister cities.

While in Switzerland, the delegation visited Chen Yun, Consul General of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Zurich. The two parties carried out in-depth exchanges on promoting cooperation in industry, technology and talent between Nantong and Switzerland, and planned events including Swiss technology and innovation companies entering Nantong to be carried out by the end of the year. The delegation visited the headquarters of companies such as Siegfried, Syngenta and TE Connectivity, systematically understood the enterprises' investment and development plans, and discussed about further cooperation.

The China Nantong- Switzerland Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum held on 26th August attracted representatives from many Fortune Global 500 companies and multinational chambers of commerce and associations including Sika AG and Swiss Machinery Association to participate. Senior executives from organizations and enterprises such as Swiss Centers, EurAsia Forum, TE Connectivity, and Calorifer Heat

Transfer communicated and shared at the forum, clearly expressed the active willingness to visit Nantong for research and negotiation in the near future and to cooperate with relevant industrial parks.

While in Germany, the delegation went to the municipal government of Troisdorf, had a cordial meeting with the Mayor, Biber. The two parties had in-depth exchanges on establishing a mutual visit mechanism, deepening industrial and innovation cooperation and strengthening cultural exchanges. Handwerkskammer Bremen has more than 5400 member companies, and has a high reputation and a strong foundation in vocational education. The delegation had in-depth communication with Hans-Joachim Stehr, the president of the association about promotion of the highly skilled talents 'dual system' education vocational training project, and signed the *Cooperation Framework Agreement*.

Merck Group has been an 'old friend' of Nantong. It has been deeply rooted in Nantong for 10 years. It increased investment and expanded production for several times. The accumulated investment amount exceeded half of its total investment in China. In the headquarters of Merck Group, the delegation visited senior executives including Maike Becker-Krüger, the Chief Political Officer. Merck Group fully recognized Nantong's superior investment environment, expressed that they would choose Nantong as the preferred place to increase investment in the Yangtze River Delta, and would further expand the industrial layout in Nantong.

## 2024 Nantong Cross-border E-commerce Selection Exhibition opened

By Li Tong

On 5th September, 2024 Nantong Cross-border E-commerce Selection Exhibition opened at Nantong International Convention & Exhibition Center. Top platforms including Amazon, Lazada, Mercado Libre, TikTok, Shein, Pinduoduo, and AliExpress, sellers, comprehensive service providers and local Nantong enterprises gathered together, to grab development opportunities and expand cooperation space together.

The exhibition lasted 3 days. The exhibition area is 14,000 square meters. Nearly 300 companies participated.

The Cross-border E-commerce Selection Exhibition not only precisely served industrial belt production enterprises, but also helped sellers select products accurately in one stop, which is conducive to further integration of resources, building and improving cross-border e-commerce industrial chain and ecosystem. It provided a new platform for Nantong excellent products to go abroad.

'Nantong has a solid industrial foundation, especially in the fields such as home textile, clothing and power tools, where they have unique features.' Liu Tao, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Amazon said.



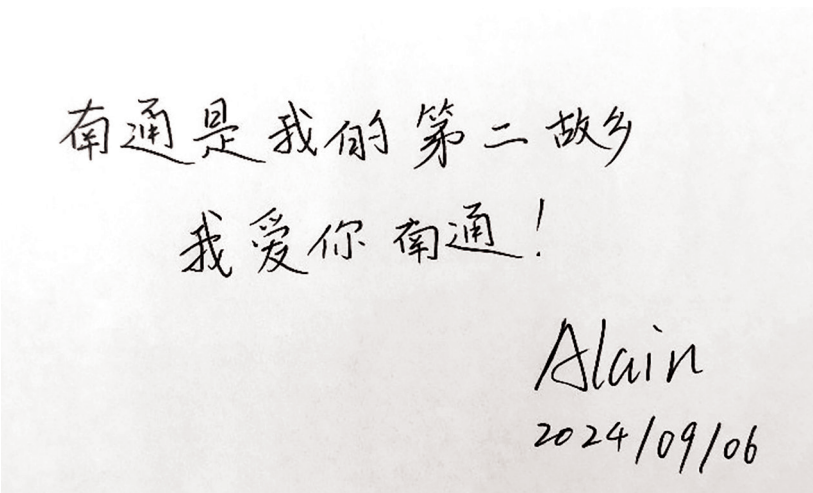
## A Cameroonian family has lived in Nantong for 14 years Enjoyed the beauty of 'home in China'

By Feng Qirong

Although 14-year-old Alain and his two younger brothers are African people with dark skin and curly hair, they can speak fluent Mandarin and write beautiful Chinese characters. Since he was born, they have had an indissoluble bond with Nantong, their 'second hometown'. They live, study, and grow here. Their parents both work in Nantong. For more than 10 years, they have long been integrated into Nantong and have become authentic 'locals'.

On the morning of 6th September, in class 33 grade 2 in Yijiaqiao Middle School, an English class was in progress. An African boy sitting in the first row of the classroom was very focused. His name is Alain. His parents both come from Cameroon. In October 2010, he was born in Nantong. After that, their family settled in Nantong.

Whether in school or at home, Alain speaks Mandarin the most. 'I am used to speaking Chinese. Sometimes my parents speak English, I will answer them in Chinese.' With fluent Chinese, Alain made many good friends, especially some boys who like playing football.



'He not only speaks Chinese well, but also can write beautiful characters. What's more rare is that his composition score is also good.' Qian Yingxia, his Chinese teacher introduced. Opening Alain's

composition book, there is a paragraph of affectionate description, 'in my opinion, football is the only gem which can open the future. Every time I see a football, I will be attracted.'

With his love for football and

outstanding talent, in April 2023, Alain joined 'Nantong Zhiyun Football Youth Team'. There, he received more professional and systematic training, and his football skills have also been rapidly improved.

Alain's father Feddy is actually an 'old Nantong citizen'. He came to Nantong to work in as early as 2003. He worked as an English teacher at a university, and did foreign trade business before. He also played for the amateur football team of Nantong. 'I have long considered myself a local of Nantong. Although there are many foreigners in Nantong, I prefer making friends with local people. A lot of my friends who like football are Nantong citizens.' 55-year-old Feddy has another symbolic character — wearing wenwan bracelets. 'I have many bracelets. They are gifts from my football friends!' In the view of Feddy, apart from habitable and suitable for work, the biggest advantage of Nantong is safety. 'Walking on the road in Nantong at 1 or 2am, I am not afraid at all.'

Alain's mother Julie works as an English teacher in a kindergarten in Nantong Economic & Technological Development Area. She is good in 3 languages, which are English, French, and Chinese. She followed her husband to settle in Nantong in 2010, and gave birth to 3 lovely boys in Nantong after that. 'Living in Nantong for 14 years, our family has long fallen in love with this city,' Julie said.

Feddy said that during the holidays the family would go to climb Langshan Mountain and visit Hao River, or taste delicious Nantong cuisine in restaurants. This simple and plain life is the greatest happiness.

## Nantong has established five pairs of sister cities with African countries

By He Jiayu

In early October, nearly 80 international students from 4 African countries including South Africa and Namibia will report to Nantong Vocational University, to study in majors such as construction engineering technology and Internet of things.

Over the years, Nantong has kept close ties with Africa, and has established 5 pairs of sister cities with 4 African countries one after another. More than 60,000 citizens have started businesses in Africa, invested in 48 overseas projects, involving multiple

fields such as real estate, construction materials, textile, and optical communication.

With the help from Nantong entrepreneurs, Nantong Vocational University cooperated with Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation of Namibia and Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, carried out a full-time international students' academic education program. The program has cultivated more than 80 highly skilled talents. It is included in the 'Presidential Revitalization Plan' of Namibia. Apart from that, Nantong University has provided academic education for

459 international students from more than 40 African countries.

Nantong and African countries are closely connected. In the past few years, Affiliated Hospital of Nantong University and Nantong First People's Hospital have sent medical experts to Africa, to provide medical assistance for local people. Nantong University has also cultivated nearly 40 excellent medical talents for Namibia by its talent development program. Nantong pharmaceutical companies also donated high-quality traditional Chinese medicine to countries such as Ghana, Tanzania, and Kenya, which saved a lot of critically ill patients.

## 2024 Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Qidong Stop held

By Huang Hai

On 5th September, 2024 Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Qidong Stop opened at Yuantuo-jiao Blue Sea and Silver Sand Scenic Spot. More than 100 beach volleyball players from 53 teams of 18 countries including China, the United States, Australia, and Thailand participated.

Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour is an International Class A event organized by International Volleyball Federation. It is one of the top three events of International Volleyball Federation second only to the Olympic Games and the World Championship.