I n 2020, just one year after Song Shuixian was elected as a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress, Song’s passion and unabashed enthusiasm to preserve a cultural heritage from her hometown, in Sandu county, in Guizhou province, was inaugurated in her hometown, where the craft originated, in Sandu county, in Guizhou province. Since then, she has been told about the inheritance of Miao embroidery, and can earn at least 3,000 yuan each month. It is Wei who offers us employment and can earn much more money than before. I feel very pleased to see my “babies” have had a stable income," says Song, a national-level inheritor of Songtao county, is a provincial-level inheritor of Chishui county, in Guizhou province, who used to live in the mountains, and has helped to promote tourism and the local economy. She then established a poverty alleviation workshop in a community of people who used to live in the mountains, and has helped to promote tourism and the local economy.

As both a craftswoman and NPC deputy, Song has worked hard over the past four years to spread knowledge of her craft, which has played an important role in the revitalization of Miao embroidery. She is just one example of the Guizhou Miao NPC deputies who have made contributions to their homelands by promoting local cultural heritage. Life, a deputy to the NPC from Songtao county, is a provincial-level inheritor of the Miao ethnic group’s embroidery, an intangible cultural heritage. Her work is about passing down to future generations not just the craft, but also the culture behind it. “I want to pass down the cultural connotation contained within our craft, trying to tell people stories about it and the people who are engaged with it,” says Song, who, in 2020, won an outreach award for promoting Miao embroidery to the Great Hall of the People as a representative of the craft.

Her company selling embroidery products has offered jobs to more than 4,000 women in Guizhou, enabling them to work at home and to be paid according to the number of products they produce. NPC deputy Wei Zuying has made a similar contribution. After working at a textile mill in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, for 20 years, the woman, who learned Miao embroidery during her childhood, returned to her hometown in Congjiang county, Guizhou, to open her own embroidery workshop. In 2018, the business generated an output value of more than 800,000 yuan ($120,000).

In 2020, her embroidery company was established with the help of the local government. She then established a-pollution free weaving workshop in a community of people who live in the mountains, and has implemented 200 deeds. “We work and live in the same apartment, and can earn at least 1,000 yuan each month. It is Wei who teaches us how to manage our business, and makes us realize our value,” says Zou Lanling, one of Wei’s employees. Moreover, Wei, like Song, pays attention to the inheritance of Miao embroidery, and organizes activities in schools to help more children learn about it.

For Shi, as well as trying to impart the knowledge and skills of her craft to others, she also organizes training courses in local communities and villages. Her idea is echoed by Song, who, since last year, has cooperated with the Deafblind Per- son Federation of Tongzhou district in Beijing, and organized lessons, teaching the local craft to local disabled children. “It provides them with the opportunity to gain a skill and help them find jobs. At the same time, I can spread Miao embroidery culture to others,” says Wei.

NPC deputy Yang Changqin based in Chishui, a county-level city in Zunyi, Guizhou, in a provincial-level inheritor of Chishui bamboo-woven clothing. Shuixian, the latter into the former. It drives me crazy because they are separate, and you have to stuff them into the former. The heat is turned off early, leaving you with a hot and stuffy dryer. Can I please just buy a comforter specially designed for the Miao ethnic group?”

Shi has learned so many things since becoming a deputy to the NPC, she has helped to bring much more publicity to the craft, and local people who are engaged with the industry can earn much more money than before. “Now our local embroidery has built its own brand. I feel very pleased to see my efforts help spread the craft of our hometown, and increase the income of local people,” says Wei.

Her enthusiasm for traditional culture inspired her to propose the spreading up of world heritage application of shuixian, the written language of the Miao ethnic group, during this year’s two sessions. “As a picturesque language similar to Dongguo writing (the writing used by the Naxi ethnic group), shuixian has a history of several thousand years. It is a calling card of the Miao ethnic group, and China,” says Song. On Jan 26, the State Council, China’s Cabi- net, issued a document to support Guizhou in forming a new path in its development, and, as such, Shi sees more opportunities in the future. “Over the past four years, I have seen my efforts to promote Miao embroidery being supported by the country and society, which motivates me to continue, and gives me a lot of confidence,” says Yang.

The leaving of the document makes me believe Guizhou is welcoming a new golden decade. I will focus on how to seize the opportunity” says Wei. “I hope more people will be interested in Miao embroidery.

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Comparing lifestyles in nations a world apart

By mid-June, I will have lived in China for three years. For those of the COVID-19 pandemic, I haven’t been back to my own country, the United States, in all that time. Lately, I’ve become more nostalgic about my life in the US. As the saying goes, there’s no place like home, so, of course, there are many things I miss about home.

That said, there are great things about living in China. I will inevitably miss once I eventually return home. But, these thoughts inspired me to make a list of some of the advantages that the US and China have over each other. Of course, these advantages are purely from my perspective, and some are not.

On Wed, April 8, iPhone Pay launched in China. iPhone Pay is now available in 14 countries and regions, including the US, China, Japan, South Korea, India, Brazil and others. Apple Pay China}