

CHINA

Inspired by China, Tajik student hopes to build bilateral business bridge

By YAN DONGJIE in Tianjin
yandongjie@chinadaily.com.cn

Amirhamza Temurzoda, a 24-year-old entrepreneur from Tajikistan, is working to turn a vision into reality: building a company that boosts trade between his homeland and China. Currently studying at Tianjin University, Temurzoda sees his path as not only personal but one deeply tied to his hometown's economic future.

Originally from Dangara in Tajikistan's Khatlon province, roughly 100 kilometers from the capital Dushanbe, Temurzoda has witnessed firsthand how Chinese investment is transforming local communities.

In recent years, propelled by China's Belt and Road Initiative, Dangara has emerged as a significant node for economic and trade collaboration between Tajikistan and China.

A pivotal development was the establishment in 2014 of the Zhongtai New Silk Road Tajikistan Agricultural and Textile Industrial Park in Dangara.

Funded by Chinese enterprises, the industrial park is now one of Central Asia's largest integrated textile complexes. It spans the entire production chain from cotton farming to garment manufacturing, employing over 600 people directly and supporting thousands more, he said.

"This project boosted local economic growth and also provided young people with their first tangible exposure to the transformative power of business," Temurzoda said.

Inspired, he pursued studies in finance and economics at Tajikistan National University. During his time there, he noticed a growing demand for Chinese consumer technology. "Affordable, high-quality Chinese tech products, such as smartwatches and smartphones, were particularly popular among Tajik youth," he said.

Leveraging Alibaba.com for sourcing and Instagram for sales, he built a thriving small business. Starting with modest monthly profits of 300 to 400 dollars (2,149-2,865 yuan), his earnings quickly rose to around 1,000 dollars. Within two years, his Instagram account attracted over 40,000 followers, creating a stable customer base.

By his third year, he had formally registered his trading company and launched the brand "Azon.tj". With a 40,000-strong Instagram following and a small team handling logistics, procurement and IT, he established a fully operational business.



Amirhamza Temurzoda (fifth from left) takes a group photo with his classmates in Tianjin University. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

I want to become a bridge between our two countries, deepening economic cooperation and contributing to shared prosperity."

Amirhamza Temurzoda, an entrepreneur from Tajikistan

"It was like the Chinese saying: 'Although a sparrow is small, it has all the vital organs,'" he said, reflecting on his startup's comprehensive structure.

Economic cooperation between China and Tajikistan has deepened consistently in recent years. China remains Tajikistan's largest source of foreign investment and a crucial trading partner. Bilateral trade reached a historic high of \$3.93 billion in 2023, marking a significant 53.5 percent year-on-year increase.

Increasingly, young Tajiks are heading to China to study language and economics, hoping to tap into the growing commercial links, Temurzoda said.

He is one of them. After completing a master's degree in International Trade and Management at Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, he followed his professor's advice and enrolled in an intensive six-month Chinese course at Tianjin University. Since March, he's made rapid progress, passing the HSK Level 4 Chinese language exam by May.

"Tianjin University's teachers tailored the courses to my needs," he said. He frequently practices speaking Chinese at local markets near campus, immersing himself in daily life and culture.

Alongside his language studies, he also takes online courses in international trade, covering company registration, import-export procedures, customs clearance, and taxation.

Looking ahead, Temurzoda plans to gain work experience at an international company before launching his own trade firm. His ambition is clear: to bring more Chinese products to Tajikistan and help Tajik goods reach China.

"China has opened a world of opportunities for me," he said. "I want to become a bridge between our two countries, deepening economic cooperation and contributing to shared prosperity."

Wuhan school sets a record with self-learning model

Personalized, task-based method sees 109 students ace gaokao

By LIU KUN in Wuhan and CHEN MEILING

The unique teaching model at a high school in Wuhan in Hubei province proves that self-learning motivated by students' curiosity and passion for knowledge is key to good academic performance.

Hanyang No 1 High School in Caidian district set a historical record in this year's *gaokao*, or college entrance examination. A total of 109 students scored above 600 points, with a first-tier university admission rate of 87.31 percent. Chen Yongzheng, the provincial top scorer among science students in this year's *gaokao*, is from the school.

In recent years, the school has earned an enviable reputation among parents for good *gaokao* results. However, its own admission score for middle school students was relatively low compared to other provincial model high schools in Wuhan.

The secret to its success is that the school prioritizes students' independent growth, encouraging them to find personalized learning approaches based on their strengths, according to Li Haixia, president of the school.

In most classes in Chinese high schools, teachers mainly give lectures while students listen and take notes. But at her school, it is the opposite.

Li said here teachers first prepare a guided learning plan divided into three sections: pre-class foundation exercises, in-class inquiry tasks, and post-class consolidation work.

At self-study classes, students work independently — simple preparatory exercises can be completed by reviewing the textbook. For more difficult questions, students are separated into groups to figure out answers for each question.

And at presentation classes, students stand on the rostrum to explain their answers using PPT or the blackboard, while peers ask questions and provide their insights. The teacher summarizes and gives lectures in the end.

"It sparks collaborative discussion, which is far more effective than the



Students watch a news program in a classroom at Hanyang No 1 High School in Caidian district of Wuhan, Hubei province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

teacher giving speeches all the time," Li said, adding that they genuinely empower learners through three core principles: "teaching tailored to learning needs"; "task-driven instruction"; and "student-centered approach."

There's no rigid time quota for lectures or presentations; new and review lessons adapt flexibly, but those three principles remain central, she said. "The 'learning pyramid' theory holds that students retain 70-80 percent of knowledge when actively teaching others, versus just 20 percent from passive listening."

Every day, each class has six self-study courses when students practice the lessons they wish to. They can also ask teachers questions.

"They formed the habit of being concentrated, quiet, and independent at self-study sessions in the first year at school," Li said. "Letting them arrange their own time helps improve efficiency and tackle each one's weakness. Students are also encouraged to use the learning methods they like, such as reciting, taking notes, and dictating. In that case, they are not forced to learn, but want to learn."

Li said the provincial champion student Chen completed all the assignments given by the teachers, but instead of doing extra homework, he thoroughly analyzed each question, seeking out similar problems and even creating his own variations.

The teacher then followed his learning approach, specifically curating this type of practice material for him.

Benefiting from the tailored teaching, self-learning method, the school's *gaokao* performance has been improving in recent years, according to Li.

Chen's class achieved a 100 percent admission rate to "Double First-Class" universities, with an average score of 631 points.

Zhu Hui, the head teacher, shared his recipe for success: "We built a strong learning atmosphere where students supported and pushed each other forward. We taught students to stay grounded, progress step by step, and avoid unrealistic expectations or overconfidence. We treated every student fairly and with respect — no one was left behind, and each individual's potential was valued. We focused on efficiency over exhaustion, prioritizing smart learning instead of prolonged, ineffective study sessions."

In terms of seat arrangement, the class utilized online software for randomized allocation and adhered to a weekly rotation every Sunday morning. "So students eagerly anticipated their new seatmates each week, and had the excitement of going to school," he said, adding that no one ever fell asleep in his class.

Li added that the school organizes all students to watch news programs three times a week to cultivate their sense of patriotism and family, while

broadening their international horizons. "We don't want to produce students who can only solve equations but don't understand human relationships or care about society," she said.

There are about 40 interesting clubs such as basketball, badminton, tai chi, street dance, music and Chinese calligraphy, offered free for students of grade one and two.

Liu Linrui, a student, recorded a high point of 626 in this year's *gaokao*. "I think the school's atmosphere is very good, which helps me immerse myself in study. Students compete with and help each other, which is vibrant," she said.

She was not good at math in the first place, but the teachers would answer her questions patiently and her classmates were also willing to discuss with her, which contributed to a big improvement in her math score.

Liu's mother said she became more active in learning and more confident facing challenges after entering the school.

"Most homework was done at school, so the rest time was guaranteed to improve study efficiency the next day," the mother said, adding that she agrees that self-study and clubs are good for children's comprehensive, long-term development.

Contact the writers at chenmeiling@chinadaily.com.cn

Shangri-La balances mushroom bounty with sustainability efforts

KUNMING — As dawn's light filtered through mist-shrouded pines in the rain-freshened woods behind Tanglangding village in Shangri-La city, Southwest China's Yunnan province, Zhang Jianhong moved with practiced silence.

Armed only with a basket and a wooden stick, the seasoned forager scanned the thick carpet of pine needles beneath old trees. His trained eyes quickly revealed the prize: five pristine matsutake mushrooms nestled on the forest floor.

Shangri-La, a name synonymous with earthly paradise, yields an astonishing bounty of this global treasure, with a yearly production volume of 800 to 1,500 metric tons. These high-altitude forests produce 65 percent of the matsutake harvested in Yunnan, a province that accounts for a staggering 40 percent

of China's entire output. Global demand is insatiable, with Japan and South Korea leading the charge. In both 2023 and 2024, annual exports destined for Japan alone neared 15 million yuan (\$2.1 million).

"We've agreed on community rules," explained Zhang. "We carefully refill the soil where each mushroom is picked. And we harvest only the mature ones, between 9 and 12 centimeters." Younger mushrooms are left to grow, seed and sustain future harvests.

The village economic cooperative sends every single freshly picked matsutake to a local agricultural operations management company, which in return, offers a premium price of 5 percent above the market rate.

Thanks to the company's invest-

ment, drones patrol the conservation zones, while infrared thermal imaging automatically monitors forest health. These sophisticated tools enable precise ecological intervention, balancing increased yield with long-term sustainability.

"We integrate modern eco-technology to protect the environment while boosting the villagers' income," said Zhang Yi, the company's deputy general manager.

Across Diqing prefecture, which administers Shangri-La, five matsutake conservation bases now span 1,667 hectares. "We promote conscious stewardship and reduce reckless harvesting," said Zhang Yangbin, deputy director of Diqing's agriculture and rural affairs bureau.

Time is the ultimate test for these forest gems. Thanks to a state-of-the-art cold chain, Zhang Yi said that



A case of matsutake mushrooms waits for delivery in Shangri-La city, Yunnan province, on July 4. PU CHAO / XINHUA

within China, they deliver across provinces in seven hours, reaching 264 cities within 24 hours, and Japan and South Korea in just 36 hours.

XINHUA

Chinese green solutions help Sri Lanka have a tea party

GUIYANG — In Sri Lanka, drinking black tea is practically a national pastime. So, tea lovers across the island nation can raise their cups in relief knowing that the quality of each sip can be guaranteed by Chinese green solutions.

"We are currently taking actions to introduce eco-friendly pest prevention and control technologies in tea gardens overseas," Zhang Libo, a professor at Guizhou University, said during the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2025, which was held on July 5 and 6 in Guiyang in South-

west China's Guizhou province.

"At present, Sri Lankan tea gardens have already adopted our methods, consequently enhancing both yields and quality of tea," said Zhang.

Guizhou University has a world-class discipline in plant protection, a State Key Laboratory of Green Pesticides, as well as a China-Sri Lanka joint laboratory of green pest control technology of tea under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Both China and Sri Lanka are major tea producing countries with

a shared demand for green pest control technologies in tea cultivation. The laboratory aims to cope with issues such as low utilization rates and high residues of traditional pesticides in tea planting and production processes.

The joint endeavour has met with enthusiasm in Sri Lanka, which regards tea as an important cash crop, said Zhang.

As one of the world's top five tea producing countries, Sri Lanka meets approximately 11 percent of the global demand and is also one of

the world's largest exporters of handpicked traditional tea. According to media reports, the country's tea exports exceeded 245 million kilograms in 2024, generating an export revenue of nearly \$1.43 billion.

Sri Lanka's high-altitude mountainous tea growing regions are very similar to the tea growing areas in Guizhou, said Wu Jian, a professor at the state key laboratory of Guizhou University.

Through measures such as immune induction and resistance

enhancement, as well as the use of green pesticides, the laboratory not only helped local tea gardens control diseases and weeds, but also significantly increased the yield of tea gardens.

Guizhou is an important tea producing area in China. The province's tea plantations exceeded 467,000 hectares in 2024, with the total output value of the tea industry reaching more than 96 billion yuan (\$13.42 billion).

In 2014, Guizhou began to prohibit the use of water-soluble pesticides and increased the types of banned pesticides in tea gardens from 62 to 156.

Since then, the tea gardens in the

province have been promoting green prevention and control systems in order to improve the quality of tea.

Guizhou's tea export volume ranked among the top 10 in China last year. The tea, made in Guizhou, has become popular in over 40 countries and regions, including Germany, the United States, Singapore and Australia.

Currently, international students from countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India are studying in majors like plant protection and green pesticides at Guizhou University.

XINHUA