

PRICELESS ADVICE

A Chinese translation of Jim Rogers' book *A Gift to My Children: A Father's Lessons for Life and Investing* has just been published. **Liu Xiangrui** reports.

For Jim Rogers, an investor from the United States, investment is not just about money.

His approach also reflects in how his children are educated.

For example, he has encouraged them to learn Mandarin at a young age. Recently, videos of Rogers' two daughters sending Chinese New Year greetings and singing in Chinese went viral online, with many Chinese viewers appreciating their accent-free Mandarin.

China is going to be the next great country, he says, which is why he wants his daughters to stay invested in it.

"They are already one step ahead of others," says Rogers, 76. "And I wrote, lectured and broadcast that people, everybody, should teach their children, grandchildren Mandarin."

He sees letting his daughters learn the language as one of his most important "investments", as he believes it will give them an advantage in achieving success in their future.

According to him, as China's economic, political and cultural influences keep growing and it becomes a key player internationally, Chinese will become a world language like English.

Rogers hired a native speaker to teach Mandarin to his daughters, aged 14 and 10, at home since they were babies. He moved his family from the US to Singapore partly because he wanted his daughters to go to Chinese-language schools there and use the language often, while being able to experience both Asian and Western cultures.

Rogers co-founded the Quantum Fund with George Soros in the 1970s, and made his fortune even before turning 40.

As a traveler, Rogers has visited China several times from the early 1980s to the late 1990s, including making a motorcycle tour of the country, from the eastern city of Shanghai all the way to China's western border. And, the experiences helped him gain a global perspective and he learned to evaluate prospects in rapidly developing economies such as China, he says.

Rogers sensed China's potential way back in the 1980s, when most analysts were highly skeptical of its prospects for growth.

While many people thought he was "crazy", Rogers trusted his own judgment, he says. He tried to search for all the information he could find to learn about China.

"But the most valuable research



Jim Rogers has visited China to participate in various business activities, such as an education project in Nanjing, Jiangsu province. DA MING / FOR CHINA DAILY

and study were my experiences of traveling through this truly huge country and observing it with my own eyes," explains Rogers, who started to make monetary investments in China in the late 1990s.

He was impressed by the hard-working nature and entrepreneurship of ordinary Chinese people he encountered during his travels, he says.

"If I hadn't been to China and put myself in Chinese society, I would have ignored those changes like many other Westerners," Rogers recalls. "I left with the thought, 'How could a country like this not develop?'"

In recent years, Rogers has visited China to participate in various business activities and give lectures.

He and his family have traveled to many parts of the country.

"People in China are extremely motivated and driven, and I want to be in that type of an environment, so my daughters are motivated and driven too," says Rogers, who is also



Rogers and his daughters and wife in Beijing in January.

interested in Chinese history and culture.

Besides business activities, Rogers has authored several books over the past years, including best-selling *A Bull in China* and *Hot Commodities*.

In his book *A Gift to My Children*:

publisher. In the form of family letters, Rogers' important advice to his daughters, including "trust your own judgment", "focus on what you like", "be persistent" and "see the world", are illustrated with his own experiences in the book.

In the area of finance, he says he has taught his children the importance of saving money since they were kids.

"The book is about an ordinary father giving advice to his daughters. But it also shares with everybody the investment wisdom and life inspirations of a legendary Wall Street investor, a Guinness record-holding explorer and a proven forecaster of trends," says Zhang Ni, a Beijing-based financial reporter and author of *Seven Days' Conversation with Jim Rogers on How to Invest in China*.

Zhang believes the book is a great gift for all those just starting to invest in their future.

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Guizhou county holds lectures to explain new policies

By YANG JUN in Guiyang
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Bijie in Southwest China's Guizhou province has set up the New Era Workshops to help people understand government policies on poverty alleviation and rural development.

As part of the initiative, a lecture on "adjustment of agricultural structure" was organized by the city's Nayong county in its Qiangganyan village on Feb 10. More than 30 locals attended it.

"After removing the costs for seed, fertilizer and labor, corn farmers actually don't make money," Xie Lijie, an official in charge of poverty alleviation in Qiangganyan, said at the lecture as the main speaker.

"If we transfer the land to a cooperative for planting fruit trees, we will receive dividends and also have the time for other jobs. This way we can earn more money than from planting corn."

Xiong Yihong, whose husband passed away in 2016, is raising three children alone. But she is unable to afford her children's education by growing corn alone.

The workshops give her hope, she says.

"I have decided to transfer my land to the village's cooperative to grow fruits."

Xie says officials in the village started to give lectures at least twice a month since July. At the beginning, they had to go door to door to invite villagers, but now people attend them voluntarily.



"We help every impoverished household master at least two production technologies."

Guo Yu, director of publicity, Nayong county, Guizhou province

The content of the lectures involve the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, village sanitation, environmental protection, rural tourism and poverty alleviation.

Chen Lun is an attendee of such workshops.

Last year, he transferred 0.27 hectares of land to the village's cooperative and started to run a restaurant. His family earned 60,000 yuan (\$9,450) from dividends, the annual sale of fruit and the restaurant business.

The county started to set up 454 workshops covering all townships and villages in May. Nayong also provides online services for people through new media. Villagers are able to select speakers and lecture time and date on the official website and then physically attend the lectures in their villages.

Guo Yu, Nayong's director of publicity, says the workshops not only help the masses gain knowledge but also raise Party cadres' enthusiasm in learning more about government programs.

"Cadres who are qualified to give lectures must do training and pass strict exams. Attendees can grade them after listening to their talks," Guo says.

The workshops teach the masses concepts as well as skills. "We help every impoverished household master at least two production technologies," she adds.

According to government data, some 2,276 speakers in Nayong have given 5,383 lectures to more than 530,000 people since May.

More than 400 cooperatives have been organized in the county to help its poor population with crop and livestock production.

Zhao Yandi contributed to the story.

Children learn Chinese by drawing Spring Festival posters

A new and colorful door opened to welcome the Year of the Dog on the Chinese lunar calendar, with happy dogs about to move into their symbolic house, while next door, which is drab and dull, is already closed after a farewell to 2017, the Year of the Rooster; with tracks announcing the recent departure of roosters.

Four red Chinese lanterns are hanging down from the new door, each bearing a Chinese character jointly to express "Happy New Year" greetings.

This picture, which illustrates a vivid transition between a new year and an old one in Chinese culture, was painted by an ethnic Chinese child, winner of the poster-drawing contest organized by the Real Chinese Academy, a Chinese-teaching weekend school in southeastern London.

After tough selection process, 13 winners came out of 113 participants, most of whom are aged from 4 to 7 years old.

The award ceremony was held on Sunday to celebrate the Chinese New Year, which fell on Feb 16 this year.

Many of the participants are from non-Chinese families living in Bromley, a London district that is about one hour's drive from the central part of the British capital.

"Children love drawing and painting," says Xu Zhi, head teacher of the Real Chinese Academy.

"Painting is a universal language. It is a very effective vehicle to promote Chinese culture in the outside world."

The school launched the poster

contest a few weeks before the Chinese New Year, so ethnic Chinese children can learn about the traditional Chinese festival while non-Chinese children can have a better understanding of Chinese culture, Xu says.

"For the ethnic Chinese children, this is the way to help them hold on to their cultural roots," Xu says, adding that most of her students are all born and raised in Britain.

Han Dong, chief executive officer of the London-based Creative Time Media, says the participants were very creative.

"The posters were in different styles," Han says. "They show you many things which are very Chinese, culturally."

"For example, the use of bright color and the poster layout give you a feeling that a high-speed Chinese train is traveling across Asia and Europe along the Silk Road," Han says.

"Some posters show the children's love of China and Chinese culture."

Kim Botting, a councillor from Orpington Ward in the London borough of Bromley, says: "It is very important to learn Chinese because Chinese is the language of the 21st century."

"I will continue to encourage more British children to learn Chinese."

The Real Chinese Academy was founded in 2006 and it is dedicated to teaching children Chinese and spreading Chinese culture in London.



"For the ethnic Chinese children, this is the way to help them hold on to their cultural roots."

Xu Zhi, head teacher of the Real Chinese Academy in London



Above: A poster of a dog at the Spring Festival celebration at London's Chinatown. Top: A Chinese family enjoy their time in London's Chinatown during Spring Festival. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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