

Aptiv CEO wins Magnolia Gold Award

Li Huacheng, Tom Qian and Emma Song

SIMON Yang, chief executive officer of Jiading-based Aptiv Asia Pacific, received the 2021 Magnolia Gold Award last month.

The Magnolia Gold Award is given to expats by Shanghai government every year for their contributions to the city's economic development and social progress.

Yang is one of 10 recipients of the award this year who are from Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan and Italy.

A recipient of the 2018 Magnolia Silver Award, Yang has helped Aptiv set up two regional headquarters and two global research and development centers in Shanghai.

Yang helped Aptiv build an intelligent automobile factory in Shanghai that is automatic, digitalized and accessible to the Internet in all aspects, including production, management, storage and logistics.

As a multinational company, Aptiv specializes in the production of automobile wire harness systems and the development of automotive technologies. Yang took over the company's business in China 19 years ago and established a branch in Shanghai's Jiading District.

"In some sense, it was not me to choose Shanghai, but Shanghai made me who I am," said Yang.

To show China's capabilities in automobile technologies to the world, 90 percent of Aptiv's automatic production devices are made by Chinese team under Yang's leadership.

"The self-developed and manufactured automobile production facilities not only make the traditional automobile industry more innovative, but also presents the world with our own strengths," said Zhang Yiding, head of the injection molding and pressing factory of Aptiv.

Aptiv has received more than 1,600 patents in China, and many of its technologies lead the world. Yang credits all the success to cultivating talent.

Speaking of the cultivation of talent, Yang feels an obligation to cultivate more in auto industry.

"We are devoted to sending our domestic engineers to other countries to learn advanced technologies. Overseas experts will be invited to China to share their experience with us," said Yang. "Jiading also provides support, making me more confident to build a multi-national company that is managed by a Chinese with localized strategy. That's one of the reasons for the success of Aptiv in China."

Although Yang lived in the United States for many years, he still appreciates Chinese culture. Prior to the Chinese New Year, Yang and his colleagues made dumplings together to



Simon Yang (right) and David Farrugia make dumplings. — Li Huacheng

celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

"This is my first time staying in China during the Spring Festival. I'm glad Simon taught me how to make dumplings and showed me the amazing Chinese culture," said David Farrugia, counselor of the global trade sector at Aptiv.

The company's eight R&D centers and 36 manufacturing bases focusing on active automotive safety, automatic driving and improving the driving experience brings new momentum for reform in the

automobile industry and supports the development of new-energy vehicle companies such as Tesla, NIO and Xpeng.

Yang created a voluntary association at Aptiv in 2008 to care for others, support education and protect the Earth.

He led about 20,000 employees on 58 voluntary activities around China. In the past 13 years, their services in Shanghai have benefited nursing homes, Hope Schools and children from impoverished families.

Foreign service doctors make a difference in Morocco

Yin Qinqin and Tom Qian

A MEDICAL team of 11 doctors from Jiading District have been hard at work in Morocco, enhancing the reputation and image of China's medical aid teams overseas.

They have diagnosed and treated 12,600 patients and performed more than 4,300 operations of various types in the North African country since last February. During that time, they have overcome difficulties such as living in the Sahara desert, lack of local doctors and medicine, and language barriers.

Jiading has dispatched medical teams to Morocco since 1994. The fifth group of medical aid teams set off on February 2 last year for a two-year medical aid mission.

"After returning to China, I often remember the patients' eyes seeking help," 54-year-old Jiang Quanming, leader of the recent medical team, said. It's his second trip to Morocco.

The hospital Jiang works at is in the Sahara Desert. Due to the lack of medical resources and poor transport facilities, patients with common diseases, such as appendicitis, will sometimes wait till they are dying before they see a doctor.

Six months ago, Jiang treated a 107-year-old patient and found a huge abscess in the liver of the old man, accompanied by ascites. The patient was diagnosed as peritonitis. After Jiang consulted with



Zhang Deyu, associate chief physician of Jiading Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, performs an eye operation for a Moroccan patient.

Gao Yuping, who also went to Morocco, and local doctors, he immediately worked out a surgical treatment plan for the man.

In the end, the collaborating Chinese and local doctors removed the abscess with a diameter of 20 centimeters. The old man recovered and was discharged a week later.

"Thank you Chinese doctors for saving my life," the old man said affectionately before leaving hospital, holding the hands of Jiang and Gao.

Since 1975, China has annually dispatched

medical teams to offer services in Morocco, so Chinese doctors have, for almost two generations, become well-known there.

A Jiading medical team in Morocco once went to the Sahara Desert and passed by a cafe. After the owner learned that they were Chinese doctors, he immediately called his mother, wife and three children to thank them.

It turned out that when the owner's mother gave birth more than 30 years ago, the surgery was performed by a Chinese doctor. The owner himself contracted hydatid disease more than 10 years ago and was saved from dying by a Chinese doctor. Later, his wife gave birth and was delivered by a Chinese doctor.

"Doctors from Jiading have been assisting Morocco for 28 years. After seeing the recruitment notice, I signed up as soon as possible, just hoping to continue the branded service," Lei Hui from Jiading District Maternal and Child Health Hospital said.

"In the past year, I have handled more than 5,000 outpatient and emergency patients, treated more than 1,000 inpatients of various types, and presided over nearly 1,000 ophthalmic surgeries of various types, of which about 90 percent were fourth-level surgeries with great difficulties," said Zhang Deyu, associate chief physician of Jiading Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.