

WORLD CULTURAL COUNCIL

AWARD CEREMONY 2019

University of Tsukuba

Acceptance Speech “Albert Einstein” World Award of Science

Dr. Zhong Lin Wang
Chair and Regents
Professor, School of Materials Science
& Engineering at Georgia Institute of
Technology, USA.

Dear Chairman of the WCC, ladies and gentlemen

I am extremely honored and privilege to receive the 2019 Albert Einstein World Award of Science, which is the most prestigious honor I have received. Thanks to the WCC for giving me this special honor.

I was born in a general peasant family in China. Due to historical reason in China, I did not have a proper science education during my childhood until I went to University in 1978. I never dreamed that I will have an opportunity to become renown scientist and standing on this stage today. The question is how did I get to this far? I like to summarize a few points.

First, my deep interest and love in science. I always love what I do and I take science as the most important part of my life.

Secondly, I have a curiosity mind about science and always try to be distinctive and different from my peers.

Thirdly, persistency and consistency are vitally important to be success. Like the famous quote Agassizi saying: any major scientific discovery goes through stages: first, people says that it conflicts with bible; then they say, it was discovered before. Lastly, they said they always believed in it. Going through this stage usually takes 10-15 years, during which you have to stay focused and persistent. In many cases, you strive alone! no one believes in you but yourself!

Fourth, a major discovery was found by accident. An original research at beginning is always considered unimportant, meaningless and useless at the first stage. It is your responsibility to open the door. It is just like you walking on street and being triggered by a stone brick on the floor. By removing the stone brick, you find a copper brick underneath; digging and removing the copper brick and you find a gold brick. Removing the gold brick, you find that it is a gold mine underneath, you will be like Alice in wonderland! However, if you did not remove the stone brick at the first step and just walk by, nothing will be found afterward. Therefore, finding new emerging science from a small phenomenon is a test of intelligence.

Fifth, in today's science, one has to have a leadership character even for a scientist. To be successful you need a team composed of students and co-workers and collaborators worldwide to work with you. You not only just open the door, you have to lead the people follow you going into the door. Therefore, you have to be a team leader, an educator and a mentor.

Lastly, having a blue print and dream in mind, and persistently chasing your dream. Like Steve Job said: "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future." "You have to trust in something -- your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my (his) life." Therefore, believe in your dream and conscious feeling.

Finally, thanks to my parents, thanks to my family, thanks my students, postdoc and team, and also thanks to our university and the funding agency support. I will continue to work for the next many years to come and make the nanogenerator to serve the sustainable development of human kind. I will look forward to that nanogenerator will have a broad impact to the energy in the new era – the era of internet of things, artificial intelligence, and big data.

Thanks to WCC!