

40 YEARS ON

Editor's Note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy.

China Daily profiles people who experienced or witnessed the important drive.

BORN:

Rugao, East China's Jiangsu province, on Nov 22, 1938



Forensic expert sees evidence of progress

Henry Chang-yu Lee says China has become a leading player in high-tech systems for catching criminals

Henry Chang-yu Lee

World-leading forensic scientist

EDUCATION:

- 1959: Graduates from Central Police College, Taiwan
- 1972: BSc in forensic sciences, City University of New York
- 1974: MSc in biochemistry, New York University
- 1975: PhD in biochemistry, NYU

CAREER:

- 1960-65: Officer in the Taipei Police Department, rising to the rank of captain
- 1979-98: Director and chief criminalist, Connecticut State Police Forensic Laboratory, United States
- 1998-2000: Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety
- 2001-10: Commissioner emeritus of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Laboratory
- 2006: Establishes the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science at University of New Haven, Connecticut, where he serves as director of forensic research and training
- September 2013: Accepts consultancy role at China's Procuratorate Technology Information Research Center, part of the Supreme People's Procuratorate
- 2016-present: Chairman of the Silk Road Forensic Consortium



Henry Chang-yu Lee gives a speech at Shanghai Jiao Tong University on July 26, 2013. DU XIN / CHINA DAILY

By CAO YIN

caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

Globally renowned forensic scientist Henry Chang-yu Lee has tipped China to become a world leader in high-tech evidence collection thanks to growing investment in time, energy and talent since the 1980s.

"I believe the technology in China will be more advanced than even in the United States within five years," the Chinese-American expert said in an exclusive interview.

Lee, 80, has more than five decades of experience in forensic science and has taken part in investigations into some of the biggest criminal cases in the US. Since the 1980s, he has regularly traveled to China to offer his expertise to students, law enforcement, lawyers and judges.

"The apparatus and devices used to identify fingerprints or footprints, for example, were very simple when I first visited Chinese forensic laboratories," he said. Yet, as forensic

science has developed in the country, he said there have been many advances, particularly in electronic evidence collection and real-time monitoring at banks to prevent fraud.

In 2016, Lee and several other experts established the Silk Road Forensic Consortium in Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi province, to fight crime and safeguard security by boosting scientific exchanges among countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The consortium, which has 150 members from 30 countries and regions, provides an open platform for forensic specialists, police officers and judges to share ideas and difficulties as well as experiences in DNA identification studies.

Lee, who acts as chairman, said, "Although we speak different languages in our daily lives, we all speak the same 'language' at work, and that's the language of criminal investigation. We share the same goal — to speak for the dead using forensic science."

In September, at the organization's third

annual conference in Yantai, East China's Shandong province, Lee announced plans to unify DNA identification standards among its members to try and build a mutual DNA database that can better solve criminal cases.

Unified standards are essential to the world of forensic science, he told *China Daily*. For example, he said, forensic technicians in different Chinese cities use various chemical reagents, apparatus and reports to identify DNA, which could affect cross-regional cases.

"If we can achieve unification in China, it can be extended across Asia, to the consortium and finally the world," he added. "It would mean a brighter future for forensic science."

Lee was born in Rugao, East China's Jiangsu province, and was a child when his family moved to Taiwan. He took an interest in law enforcement from a young age and graduated from the island's Central Police College in 1959.

For five years he was an officer with the Taipei Police Department, eventually rising

>> PAGE 11