

Reflections on the Interview with a Hong Kong

Icon: Sir David Akers-Jones

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Undoubtedly, the interview with Sir David Akers-Jones, who has been a major figure in the Hong Kong government for many years, was very exciting, interesting and thought-provoking. It was really wonderful of him to answer our questions one by one, as we sipped aromatic Chinese tea and nibbled on almond biscuits! Sir David was even gracious enough to sign three copies of his memoirs, *Feeling the Stones*.

Honestly, as it was my first time as a reporter, I felt so tense at first that I found it difficult to even answer Sir David's most straightforward question! When he asked me to calculate the number of years he had been in Hong Kong, I was unable to work it out due to my being nervous and anxious, and I responded generally by saying "fifty something" although I knew he came to Hong Kong in 1957. I did feel very embarrassed.

Nevertheless, that didn't affect my overall performance during the rest of the interview. I took notes carefully and showed positive responses while he was answering questions. When he asserted that the government should take real action instead of merely talking, I quoted an old saying, "Actions speak louder than words." Sir David asked who had taught me this phrase, and from then on a more natural conversation began.

For me, it was one of his mottos, "Enjoy your life wherever you are", that impressed me the most. He believes that we should always stay positive and enjoy what we are doing, whatever challenges and difficulties there are. Though sometimes we can't change our unpleasant circumstances, we can get through the hard times by changing our mindset.

Last but not least, Sir David reminded us to keep our curiosity alive regarding the truth. "Seek truth from facts!" he exclaimed passionately. And an effective way to do this is quite simple - read more books, widen the range of reading and don't only focus on text books. As a result, we may achieve greatness one day. Wisdom in the mind is better than money in the hand. Sir David himself is interested in reading books about history, such as *A History of the Middle East* and *Prehistoric England* ", of which he took us through a few pages.

"Any book you like would help," he reassured us, as he peered confidently over the rim of his glasses and let out a faint chuckle.