

Greetings to Vice Minister Mr Zhang, Provincial Officials, scientists and educators, good afternoon. I am honoured to be addressing you today.

尊敬的张副部长、各位省领导、各位科研和教育工作者们，大家下午好！今天，我非常荣幸有机会在这里发言。

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My name is Ian McLoughlin, in Chinese, 马国岭。I was born in England and studied at the University of Birmingham. Initially I trained as an electronic engineer, starting as a junior engineer in a famous electronics company. After getting my PhD I worked in Singapore as an assistant professor and then an associate professor. I spent 10 years there. I also worked in Christchurch, New Zealand, leading an industrial research group. In fact, for 26 years, I have held every grade of engineer, and university teacher, from the lowest level, to the highest. Now, I live in Anhui Province where I am a Professor in the School of Information Science and Technology at USTC.

我的英文名是 Ian McLoughlin, 中文名马国岭。我出生于英格兰，就读于伯明翰大学。毕业后，我就职于一家著名的电子科技公司，成为一名电子工程师。获得博士学位后，我在新加坡工作了 10 年，先后担任过助理教授和副教授。我也曾在新西兰基督城领导过一支工业研究团队。事实上，在过去的 26 年里，我当过工程师，也做过大学教师，均从底层做起，直到成为该领域的佼佼者。现在，我来到了安徽，成为中国科技大学信息科学技术学院的一名教授。

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My research in USTC is in the National Engineering Laboratory of Speech and Language Information Processing – it is called NELSLIP for short. The NELSLIP laboratory was set up by the government of China to undertake world-leading speech research. Several experts

in the laboratory are famous for their work on speech recognition, speech synthesis, language identification and other related fields. At the same time, we work with USTC Anhui iFlytek, which is an excellent company located in Hefei. Already iFlytek is the worlds' number 2 speech company and hopefully soon it will become number 1.

目前，我在语音及语言信息处理国家工程实验室，简称（NELSLIP）从事研究工作。NELSLIP 是中国政府建立的、世界顶级的语音及语言科研机构。该实验室工作的许多专家在语音识别、语音合成、语言识别及其他相关领域都颇有造诣。同时，我们与落户安徽的优秀企业科大讯飞密切合作。目前，科大讯飞是全球第二大专门从事语音技术研究的科技公司，相信在不久的将来它将会成为世界第一。

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It has been a great blessing to me to come to USTC and find so many good people to work with. At the same time I have brought my family with me to Hefei. My wife is overseas Chinese, and we have two teenage children. The opportunity to work at USTC is good for my career, and it is equally good for my personal life and family. China is increasingly becoming a good place for foreigners to work, and people in China are generally kind and helpful to foreigners. I sincerely hope that more talented foreigners can consider coming to Anhui, especially Hefei, instead of just Beijing and Shanghai.

对我来说，来到科大、与这么多善良的人共事实属有幸。同时，我的家人也跟随我一起定居合肥。我的夫人是个海外华人，我们有两个十几岁的孩子。有机会到科大工作不仅对我个人的事业有益，而且对我的生活以及我的家庭同样有益。中国已逐步成为适宜外国人发展事业的好去处，中国人民对外国人如此友好。我真诚地希望更

多的外国人才能够考虑来安徽，特别是合肥发展，而不仅仅只将眼光停留在北京或上海。

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Let me say a little about my research. Right now I am focussing on two main areas. The first is to develop machine hearing systems, which will allow computers to listen to sounds, classify and understand them in the same way that a human would. This is a required technology for future smart homes – where we have computer assistants helping to organise our lives, which we speak to – as well as being important, for improving the capabilities of future speech processing technologies such as mobile phones.

下面请允许我谈谈自己的研究工作。目前，我致力于两个主要的研究领域。第一是进行机器听觉系统的研究，这项研究旨在让电脑像人类一样收听、分类和理解声音。这项技术不仅是未来智能家居的必须技术，比如方便我们和电脑助手进行语音交互以管理家居生活，而且未来对提高语音处理技术——比如移动通信也至关重要。

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My second research area is to advance human knowledge relating to speech production and understanding. The main focus is to find the areas of the human brain which are responsible for creating Chinese tones, as well as for understanding them. At the moment, researchers can only guess how this works, and many of the guesses are different. It means that most of them are probably incorrect! We aim to conduct experiments to establish the facts about tone production and understanding beyond doubt. This is not just interesting science, but it will help companies in future to develop speech technology that performs better for natural Chinese speech.

我的第二个研究领域是提升人类对语音产生和理解相关知识的掌握。主要集中于寻找人脑中负责产生和理解汉语语音调信息的区域。目前，研究人员只能猜测人脑是如

何对此进行工作的，而提出的猜想也各不相同，这就意味着大部分猜想都是不正确的。我们的目标是通过实验来明确音调产生和理解的相关事实，而非猜想。这不仅是一项有趣的科学，而且也将有助于企业在未来提升汉语语音处理技术。

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I think that I would also like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to various colleagues and students at USTC who have provided me with invaluable support and help during my time here. Without them I think that I would not be here today.

同时，我也要借此机会感谢科大的同事和学生们，他们给了我太多无私的支持与帮助。如果没有他们，今天我也不会站在这里。

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In summary, I am very grateful to the Recruitment Programme of Foreign Experts in Anhui Province for selecting me and providing financial support. Being supported by the Anhui Foreign Experts Hundred Talents Programme is a real honour, as well as giving me a great responsibility to work hard on behalf of Anhui Province, USTC and the NELSLIP laboratory.

最后，我要感谢安徽省特聘外国专家计划能够选中我并给我的研究提供资金支持。成为安徽省百人外专计划资助的一员对我来说是莫大的荣誉，同时给我更多的责任让我在科大的 NELSLIP 实验室发奋工作！

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To end, I would like to sincerely thank the vice minister, provincial officials and others.

最后，再次真诚感谢副部长，感谢各位省领导以及在座的各位！