

“Fight for member interests in difficult times.”

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Where do you see the main challenge or main opportunity for German companies in China over the next two years and where do you see the role of the German Chamber?

Corona and its aftermath changes and changed the business environment of German companies in China. Market access and equal treatment of German companies have always been challenging topics. However as of recently, business owners and employees were confronted with unprecedented obstacles, ranging from entry restrictions to differential access to shops and public services based on nationality.

The business climate changed, and there is a chance that some of this change will outlive the virus. Under circumstances like these it is even more important that the chamber fights for the interests of private businesses, no matter how big they are. Standing together as German businesses will become more and more important in the future. Let's take up that challenge together!

How can your expertise and professional background support the German Chamber to address this challenge or opportunity?

For me, China is more passion than profession. Through my early-life exposure to China I deeply care about the direct exchange with our Chinese clients, business partners, and friends.

I have spent almost my entire career in China. After holding positions at McKinsey and later at Volkswagen Group China, I am now Chief Representative of Lufthansa. I have held a close connection to China since my youth. I speak Chinese on a native level and I am appointed translator to German courts. During my five-year-long studies at Peking University (as the first German PhD) I was able to build up a solid network, particularly in the judiciary and administration.

In my first tenure on the chamber board, I focused my attention on meetings/forums with Chinese officials. I love the challenge of finding the right balance between Chinese-style politeness and pursuing German interests without compromise, like in our forums with CAC, Mofcom and Huawei. That's what I'd like to keep on doing: Fight for our members' interests - Chinese style.