



'How to be a legend': Milan Panic

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What makes a legend?

Milan Panic, the charismatic millionaire whose successful career path included renowned scientist, CEO, politician and many other successful undertakings during his 80-year lifetime just might have a few tips for college students on how to become one.

Hundreds of students at Peking University attended the former Yugoslavian Prime Minister lecture entitled "Science makes legends" on October 23, where Panic recalled his poverty-stricken childhood in present-day Serbia and urged young people to seize on this unprecedented time in history to devote themselves to both their personal ambitions and scientific development.

Born in war-torn Belgrade in 1929, Panic struggled to eke out an existence by raising rabbits and chickens for his family at their small farm. After his childhood was shattered by the Nazi invasion, Panic joined the resistance movement and served as an officer combating the German occupation.

"No life should be taken, just as no idea is worth killing for," Panic recalled during his talk.

With \$20 in his pocket, a degree in chemistry and years of hard work, Panic immigrated to the US and went on to found International Chemical and Nuclear (ICN) in 1959, a major global pioneer in biotechnology and also a frequent name in publications like Forbes and in the Wall Street Journal.

"However, wealth is what you have in your heart, in your soul, not in gold or bank accounts. Whoever is not rich in his soul is poor," Panic reflected.

The ICN CEO decisively switched from businessman to politician by serving as prime

minister of Yugoslavia in 1992, whose initiative and optimism won him respect and popularity among citizens.

After two years in office, Panic returned to the US to start MP Biomedicals. Headquartered in Solon, Ohio, the firm produces over 55,000 products available across the globe.

"I was told that ... it is impossible to make something from nothing. They were wrong. One can make a lot out of nothing. As early as my first day in America, I realized that I would survive."

However, China's market has tremendous potential, which inspired Panic and MP Biomedicals to invest in the country.

"Have a dream and work on it, and never compromise your values," Panic explained his multi-faceted success by saying, calling on youths' efforts in pursuit of scientific study and research.

"I believe you can be more of a legend than I am. The world belongs to you."

Source:<http://english.sina.com/china/2009/1102/282220.html>