

Showcasing Turkmen Identity on a Global Stage: Deniz Nakip's Documentary Journey

My name is **Deniz Nakip**, and I am a Turkman from Kirkuk, Iraq. I am studying Journalism at Ankara University. I was invited to participate in the **Looking China 2025** documentary project organized by the People's Republic of China. Together with directors from different countries, each of us worked on a specific topic during an 18-day documentary-making process. I was honored to be the first person representing my country and Turkmen identity, and I proudly shared this with my foreign friends whenever I had the chance.

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I chose to explore **incense** as my documentary topic, given its historical significance and its wide cultural relevance from East to West.

While researching how to approach this topic in my documentary, I realized that information about incense online was scattered and difficult to access. So I told myself: "I need to bring

everything together as a whole—only then can I present my message more clearly.”

We had warm and wonderful moments with **Mr. Ling Kun**, who hosted us at the **Jiulong Agilawood Private Museum** and was a guest in our documentary. He took the tradition of incense preservation passed down by his family and combined it with his own vision and adventurous spirit, elevating it to a higher level. During and before the documentary filming, he introduced me to different types of incense and even organized a **workshop** on how incense sticks are made.

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Moreover, I developed a great bond with my **producer, Ling Zixun**, who helped me in everything—from organizing to translations. We are now friends.

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