

## **2020 Wuhan COVID-19 Lockdown Oral Histories**

### **Kent Interview**

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Virtual Meeting

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## Kent Interview

**ROBERT BROWNING:** So my name is Robert Browning, working in conjunction with the Reuther Library at Wayne State University. Today's date, in America here, is July 16, 2021. This interview is with Kent, which is a pseudonym, about his experience of living through the COVID lockdown in Wuhan, China in early 2020. Shade Kent is located in Wuhan. This interview is being recorded remotely and will be housed at the Reuther Library, which is part of Wayne State University.

The Reuther Library will keep administrative information about this oral history project, such as interview releases and deeds of gift in its case files. Case files are in a locked nonpublic area of the building accessible only to the Reuther Library staff. (00:01:00) In the event of a criminal investigation or legal discovery proceedings, the Reuther Library could be compelled to turn over holdings and case files that are otherwise closed to the public, including the case files for this oral history project. All right, Shade, are you connected with Wayne State University in any way?

**KENT:** No, I'm not.

**BROWNING:** Okay. So are you originally from Wuhan?

**KENT:** Yes.

**BROWNING:** Okay. Where in Wuhan are you located or where do you live in Wuhan right now?

**KENT:** I'm now living in Wuchang District.

**BROWNING:** Okay. Okay. And did you grow up in Wuchang?

**KENT:** No, I actually, I grew up in Hankou.

**BROWNING:** Okay. And what do you do for a living now?

**KENT:** Well, I'm running a small business here in Wuhan. (00:02:00) I'm now running a craft beer brewery. I got a lot of jobs because I'm also running an import and export company in

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Shanghai. So I'm doing two jobs, or two careers at the same time. But most of my time, I'm staying in Wuhan.

**BROWNING:** Okay. Could you tell me about the craft brewery restaurant that you're running? Could you tell me a little bit more about that?

**KENT:** Yes, sure. Um, I opened it up in 2019 with another two of my friends here in Wuhan. (00:03:06) The name is Variety Brewery & Bistro. So we're doing a locally crafted brew for the community and we serve all kinds of craft brews. We serve an American style of food, or some mixed Chinese and American food for our customers. And we have folk, jazz, blues performances every now and then. (00:04:03) And it is pretty good, so far.

**BROWNING:** Okay. And could you just tell me a little bit about the import export business? Can you tell me what kind of products you deal with? Or is it one product or various products?

**KENT:** Oh, sure. For my import export business, we import raw materials, you know, the common commodities such as crude oil, lumber, prime sugars. (00:05:02) Something like that. For the export side, we export medical devices, garment products and the prime furniture and office stationaries. So, that is the basics about our business.

**BROWNING:** Okay, interesting. All right, so I just usually ask a little bit about the background of the person that I'm talking with just to get that on record. So I want to now change topics a little bit here and get into some of the issues of about what happened last year. (00:06:05) So what I want to do is go back to maybe the end of 2019, early 2020, before the lockdown began and ask, do you remember the first time you heard about the Coronavirus?

**KENT:** Yes, yes. I remember it clearly because the news came up around the end of November 2019. The news spread fast through, you know, the local news. It was all over Sina Weibo, which is the Chinese style of Twitter. (00:07:02) But a lot of people thought it was just rumors. We didn't take the news seriously, including myself. Because, at that time, we wanted to maintain our normal business operation here in Wuhan. We didn't want that news to frighten

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our customers and friends. So the first time I heard about the Coronavirus was the end of November 2019.

**BROWNING:** Okay, wow, November?

**KENT:** Yes.

**BROWNING:** Okay. So I guess maybe you answered that this question, how did you feel about it? (00:08:00) Could you maybe say more about what you thought about it initially?

**KENT:** Yes, because I felt it was so unreal and I didn't take it very seriously. I thought it was just another kind of, like, a flu, right? I thought it was not a big deal. Um, I didn't expect what would have happened, you know?

**BROWNING:** So you were in Wuhan at this time, right?

**KENT:** Right.

**BROWNING:** Okay. So what could you tell me what were you doing the days before the lockdown began? (00:09:00)

**KENT:** Yeah, sure. Um, before the lockdown, I stayed in Wuhan. Actually, I went to my brewery and the restaurant basically every day because it was near the Chinese New Year, and a lot of people and a lot of companies were going to have holidays. So, normally, here in China, we throw a big party before we celebrate Chinese New Year. We throw parties with our colleagues, with our friends, with our good buddies, so we did have a lot of parties before the lockdown. (00:10:00) But thank God, we didn't get it [COVID].

**BROWNING:** Right, yeah. So, you may have said this, but your bar is in Wuchang, right?

**KENT:** Right, my bar is actually located in the Optic Valley area.

**BROWNING:** Okay, yeah.

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**KENT:** Which is in Guanggu.

**BROWNING:** I remember the area very well. Okay, so you're having lots of parties and events before the New Year. It's what you would normally do, right?

**KENT:** Right. (00:11:00)

**BROWNING:** Because that's what takes place at that time of the year. So did you ever feel that you needed to take precautions before the lockdown began?

**KENT:** Seriously, I didn't think about it before the lockdown. Maybe a week ahead of the lockdown people, especially in Wuhan, we didn't want to take any precautions until just one or two days ahead of the lockdown. Then people knew something was wrong. Something was making people panic. (00:12:00)

**BROWNING:** Okay, so when the lockdown actually began, what did you think? Do you remember what you first thought when you heard that Wuhan was going to be shut down?

**KENT:** Um, the first time I heard about the news, I was working with my staff, with my colleagues. We were at our bar and we got the notification from our local newspaper. It is a governmental newspaper called Hubei Daily. It is a very, very official news channel. So we got the news from our smartphones and the first time I heard about news, I was, like, Oh, my God, this is going to happen. (00:13:02) This is real. It was bad. It was so bad.

**BROWNING:** So what did you do when it began? Sorry to go back, so you were working basically I guess the night before the lockdown, right?

**KENT:** Right.

**BROWNING:** Right, okay.

**KENT:** I was working with my staff. Actually, with my colleagues the night before the lockdown. So I remember clearly the lockdown started January—I'm sorry, January twenty-third, at ten

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o'clock in the morning. (00:14:00) So, the night before I was at my bar with my colleagues and we started to wear masks. We started to feel something bad was coming. And when we closed down, we couldn't get any taxis or couldn't get any car hailing services. Because at that time the Yangzi River Bridge and the Yangzi River tunnels were all blocked.

**BROWNING:** Really?

**KENT:** Yeah, actually before the official lockdown, the bridge and the tunnels, they were all closed. (00:15:00) So people could not travel. You know, from Hankou to Wuchang and from Wuchang to Hanyang.

**BROWNING:** Wow, I never heard that before. That's interesting. So how did you end up getting home that night?

**KENT:** Because I didn't need to go back to Hankou. So I didn't have to cross the bridge. I didn't have to cross the tunnel to get home.

**BROWNING:** Okay, but I mean, that night before the lockdown began, you finished closing—

**KENT:** Oh, I walked.

**BROWNING:** You walked?

**KENT:** Right.

**BROWNING:** Okay. Was it a long walk? (00:16:00)

**KENT:** Yeah, it was like over a thirty- or forty-minute walk, or something.

**BROWNING:** Yeah, that's a pretty decent walk. So you get home, you maybe go to sleep, or whatever, you wake up the next day and so one thing I always ask people is, for you, what were the kind of the immediate challenges when the lockdown began?

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**KENT:** Well, actually, I didn't feel—or my family—we didn't feel any challenges because of the lockdown, you know? Because we didn't know how long it was going to be. (00:17:00) We didn't know, so we didn't prepare. We were just a little bit concerned about our food stock.

**BROWNING:** Okay. So how did you deal with the problem or challenge of dealing with the food?

**KENT:** Normally, we just consumed our stock. Because we had one week of food stock. Yeah, but after we finished because it was not our own problem. It was a common problem [for] all of the people in Wuhan at that time. (00:18:00) So the Chinese government, the local government and the communities organized the supply chain regarding the food, groceries, life necessities. And they just delivered all of it to every community in Wuhan. So we didn't have any problems, like, we're out of food or were out of water.

Oh, and by the way, I just forgot one point about our family just running out of food. (00:19:04) I could still go outside to the supermarket, to the grocery stores. Spot buying, you know. I know it was a lockdown and people just can't go outside Wuhan. You just couldn't go outside Wuhan. We just voluntarily stayed at home and did not go outside unless there was an emergency—if you're short of food or out of supplies. So I remembered I just went out and went to the grocery stores to buy some fruit, some rice and bread, meat, vegetables, cookies. (00:20:02) Because, at that time, a week just after the announcement of the lockdown, we could still go outside of our house. We could get on the road. We could go to the grocery stores, but basically all the businesses here in Wuhan, at that time, were closed. That was not the harsh lockdowns. But after just one week after the official announcement of the lockdown, it was getting harder. (00:21:00) Like all the communities were closed. All the condo buildings were closed. From then on, we couldn't go outside. We could just stay at home. We had no choice.

**BROWNING:** Okay, so in your community, where you lived, how did the lockdown work? You kind of gave me some good detail about how the process played out with not being, well, you could go out for a little bit if it was necessary. And then after some time, you just couldn't go

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out at all. (00:22:00) So when you needed to get more food or get other things, how did that work in your community? How did you get food?

**KENT:** Okay, so about the normal food procedure under the lockdowns, every day one household must submit your body temperature to the community. So, if it was okay, then it was okay. When it was not okay, the community will get the professional doctors and nurses with an ambulance and wearing the protective gear to escort you to the hospital or to the isolation ward. (00:23:00) That was the normal procedure.

Speaking about food, how we get food, is that very day or just the day, the night before—the community organizers—whatever it was, it was more like a Chinese Communist Party organization, a very, very basic organization—the local officials, they would set up a WeChat group by units, by condo buildings or maybe by living quarters, whatever. (00:24:00) So every family or every household would submit your food demand. Like, how many eggs? How much milk? How much rice? How much meat? You had to submit your food demand. When the community gets all the demands, from basically all the households, they will submit to their supervisors or to the supply chain unit. So the supply chain unit will be responsible for the food supply. So that's the way we got our food.

**BROWNING:** Okay. Wow. (00:25:00)

**KENT:** But there was one challenge when these models started because each household had very different or unique food demands. So there will be a lot of supply chain delivery units for those people, for the workers. But I don't know if you understand me because every family had its own demands. Like, I want this kind of food, I want that kind of food. There would be so many varieties of food, which will be a challenge for the supply chain, right? So, um, the supply chain unit changed, in a way, which was that there would be a certain quota. (00:26:00) There would be a certain number of varieties that you can choose, right? So, after a few days of a food delivery trial, it was changed. We had to choose the day before, the community volunteers, or the organizers, would provide you a food list. And you can choose how many of



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them you want. You have to register. You have to make a file. The next day, there will be guaranteed the food is all delivered to your household.

**BROWNING:** Right, so basically you had a meal plan. (00:27:03) Or maybe several meal plans that you could choose from?

**KENT:** Yes, but it was not real food. It was like, you know, the raw materials. You got the vegetables. You got the ramens, or rice, but we still have to cook ourselves at home.

**BROWNING:** Yeah, of course. Of course. Yeah, I understand that. That's interesting. So let's stick with the lockdown and in your immediate environment. Did people in your community get sick or have trouble or anything like that? (00:28:01)

**KENT:** Oh yes, man. Big time. There were over fifty confirmed cases in my community at that time. For that number, at that time, it was a big number. I remember it was fifty-three or fifty-four, or something, confirmed cases. Other people, my family, including my neighbors, we all got very anxious because we're so scared if we all get COVID.

**BROWNING:** I also should ask, too, in your building, which floor do you live on? (00:29:02)

**KENT:** Um, the eighth floor.

**BROWNING:** Eighth floor, okay, so a little a little high.

**KENT:** Yeah, not that high. We have thirty—over thirty-three floors in total.

**BROWNING:** Yeah.

**KENT:** Compared to the eighth floor, it's not high, man.

**BROWNING:** Yeah, yeah. That's true. That is very true. So did people cooperate with the procedures of the lockdown or the restrictions of the lockdown in your community?

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**KENT:** Oh yes. I mean, it was very surprising, right? At that very moment, people got very self-disciplined. (00:30:00) People obeyed the instructions from the communities, from the government. People basically were highly cooperative.

**BROWNING:** Okay, so let's see, just a second here. During the lockdown, especially during the very restricted period where you could not go outside, basically, what did you do? How did you keep busy? Because even here in America with the with some of the lockdowns here, they were at times a little restrictive, and people would complain about being bored, you know?

(00:31:00) So what did you do? How did you keep busy?

**KENT:** Oh, at that moment, during this serious period of time, we couldn't go outside and couldn't leave our doorstep. I watched movies. I watched a lot of movies. I watched lot more movies than usual and I played cards with my parents. I had a lot of meetings, like, telecommunication meetings with my friends, with my colleagues. We discussed about how we're going to deal with our business—our craft brewery in Wuhan. (00:32:01) How are we going to take care of our colleagues and our staff. And I also had a meeting with my team in Shanghai. Because, at that time, Shanghai was not as serious as Wuhan. So we still had some business going on in Shanghai, so I had meetings with my team in Shanghai. I got phone calls from my friends. They're from all over the world. From the UK. They're from United States of America, from the Philippines, from Singapore, from Hong Kong. And they all care about me, you know, How was I [doing]? (00:33:00) How was my family? How was life? How was the problem? How was the challenge?

So we have, like, official stats about those days. We endured seventy-six days of lockdown. From the beginning until the lift of the lockdowns, it was seventy-six days in total. And I did feel bored. I did feel bored. You know, I felt frustrated. So were my parents, so were my friends. (00:34:00) Our communities, during that period of time, they organized a lot of doctors. I mean, they're shrinks.

**BROWNING:** Psychologists, psychiatrists.

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**KENT:** Right, psychiatrists. Um, they normally took on demand calls online. If you had any mental problems, you feel depressed, frustrated, you could call the doctors for free. The government would pay the bill. So I remember I called it twice. I called the doctor twice online. (00:35:00) So there were hotlines provided by the government. They organized the licensed shrinks for you to hear your stories, to hear your complaints.

**BROWNING:** Right, interesting.

**KENT:** Yeah.

**BROWNING:** It's kind of good.

**KENT:** Yeah, it was good. It was good.

**BROWNING:** So I know that in the beginning of the lockdown, you and most other people had no idea how long it was going to go on, right? Maybe you thought it was just going to be a short time. (00:36:00) So as the lockdown continued, it seemed they made it longer and then made it longer again, right? So I just need to ask, how did you feel? It seems nobody really knew when the lockdown would end. How did that make you feel?

**KENT:** I felt depressed at first. Because we were never told there was going to be a deadline for lockdown. You know, people got to eat, people got to work, people got to make money to support themselves. (00:37:00) So, um, but the government never told us there was a deadline, as the situation progressed, we can see the decrease of the confirmed cases every day. When the situation was getting better, the government started to update about the preparations for the lift of the lockdown.

The lockdowns ended in phases. There were three phases. The first phase is the people who work for the power company, for the water company. For the most immediate people needed in sectors, they could get to work in the first batch. (00:38:00) And the second batch was the post office, phone office, supermarkets. Something like that. Then there were the third batch, or we call it the third phase. The last phase were the service industries, like bars, restaurants,

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train stations, airports. So we didn't have any confirmed date of the deadline, but we were being told step by step. There was guidance about how we [were] going to end the lockdown. (00:39:03)

**BROWNING:** Right, so let's get into your work situation with the bar and the export import companies. How did this affect your work life, basically, you know?

**KENT:** Oh yeah, sure. Because the lockdown caused a very big impact on my bar business here in Wuhan. Because it was a service, right? People couldn't eat inside; people couldn't dine in. (00:40:04) Even after the lockdown. People still weren't allowed to dine in. So I remember that the day of the final lockdowns, the end of—it was April 7, 2020, I think, but my bar reopened [on] May 13, 2020. Because we didn't know what to do and we didn't get prepared. We needed to refill our stock. We need to get our brew materials to brew the new beer because we have to dump all the old stock. (00:41:02) We had to get our staff back to work.

We had to renegotiate the lease contract with our landlord. Because the government had issued policies that if your landlord was like from state owned properties, then you will have a six-month rent waver. But if your landlord has privately owned properties, you will get two month's rent waivers. (00:42:02) So we had to renegotiate the contract with our landlord. We had to negotiate with our staff. How to compensate them during the lockdowns? We had to sanitize all of the bars, breweries and everything. And for the company in Shanghai, actually, it was doing great. Because, um, after China's lockdowns, COVID started to spread all over the world. And, you know, a lot of countries started to have lockdowns. (00:43:00) I remember that the United States was getting worse from May, I think, May 2020, starting from New York.

**BROWNING:** Well, it was more like March and April.

**KENT:** And the Chinese made products were a highly needed at that time. From our customers in United States, in the European Union. So for my import export business that was good, because of COVID. We exported a lot of medical devices. We exported a lot of garments.

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(00:44:00) A lot of the telecommunication devices because people started to stay at home. You know, we call it telework. That was basically the situation.

**BROWNING:** So when your bar started to open up, were your staff comfortable returning to work? Was it easy for customers to come back to the bar? How did the public respond to going back to kind of a normal, based on your bar, you know?

**KENT:** Oh, well, um, it was hard, man. (00:45:00) It was hard. Because the first time when we prepared to reopen our bar business, a few of our staff they were so reluctant to return. We had no choice but to end their contract. We did give out the compensation to the staff, who were unwilling to return and then we recruited a few people. Because, at that time, a lot of people wanted jobs, so it was easy for us to recruit new members. (00:46:00) So, but for the customers, it was hard to get new customers or get walk in customers, because the government didn't tell anybody that you just cannot dine in, but you can just serve take away food. But, for our restaurant, we make the American style food. We have American style menus. We have like, Spanish style menus, and we have Mexican style menus. Those foods are not for daily life. It's not for daily meals, so we did suffer for a period of time. It lasted for over two weeks, man. (00:47:00)

But, in the beginning of June, the government—I remember it because I watched the news. The Wuhan mayor, himself, went to this food street. He encouraged citizens to go to the restaurants to spend their money on food. On the greens, in the supermarkets, on the beers, on the bars or restaurants. So the business resumed, I think, at the end of June. I mean for my bar it was hard in the beginning when we reopened. (00:48:02) It was getting better at the end of June, I think. We did suffer one month and a half. So, basically, during July, August, the business was good. Because people—there was like a revenge. They want revenge. Revenge for what? Revenge for being locked down for over two months. They want to spend money. They want to get beers. They want to meet their friends. They want to have parties, right?

**BROWNING:** Yeah, definitely.

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**KENT:** Yeah. So I remember starting from July 2020 in Wuhan there were a lot of grand parties.  
(00:49:01)

**BROWNING:** Really?

**KENT:** Yeah, organized by the government. There were swimming pool parties, DJ parties.

**BROWNING:** I saw videos of that, yeah.

**KENT:** Oh, you saw the videos? Because there were a lot of swimming pool parties because it was summertime. It was so hot in Wuhan if you remember, right?

**BROWNING:** Of course.

**KENT:** Yeah, so, surprisingly, the government held a lot of swimming pool parties and a lot of open-air parties. And a lot of bars have their own parties. So that was like, you know, a beast feast. (00:50:00)

**BROWNING:** Yeah, I can imagine. I can imagine. So let me see here. Kind of going back to the time of the lockdown, I just need to ask as well, did anybody in your family or friends, people get sick?

**KENT:** Oh yeah. This was real, man. My cousin from my father's side, I think, yes. From my father's side. My cousin had it and he was so bad, but he made it. (00:51:01) He made it, man.

**BROWNING:** How old—

**KENT:** There were like four times. Oh, my cousin was over forty—forty-five, forty-six.

**BROWNING:** Okay.

**KENT:** Yeah, but he has these underlying disease, diabetes, so it was hard for him. But, anyway, he made it. Um, there was another case. It was my mom's colleague. The family had two adults. So, a Mom and Dad and they had one kid. The kid was nine or ten years old. (00:52:02) And

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they have their grandparents. They all lived together. There are five people living in the same household. It turned out they're all dead.

**BROWNING:** Really?

**KENT:** Yes, including the kid. That was real. That was real. That was happening around me. So the mom was my mom's colleague. Because, my mom got the news that the adults and the parents and the grandparents, they were all dead. Only one kid was left in the hospital under treatment. (00:53:00) So my mom received the suggestions that we needed to make donations to the kid because he was the last of the whole family. We needed to support him, right? But, you know, when we were discussing how much to donate, we received another news. The kid was gone.

**BROWNING:** The kid passed away?

**KENT:** Yeah, the kid passed away when we were discussing how much we're going to donate to that kid.

**BROWNING:** Wow.

**KENT:** Right, that was real. That was a real story.

**BROWNING:** That's unfortunate. (00:54:00) Um, I guess on a happier note. We did talk about what a little bit about what happened after the lockdown in your situation, in your life. But I want you to maybe tell me when the lockdown ended—

**KENT:** It was April the seventh, I think?

**BROWNING:** Okay, was it kind of a situation where you went out that day and did something or did you have to wait some time? I mean because some other people that I've talked to you have told me that it wasn't like April seventh or April eighth came and we went out and celebrated. (00:55:00) You know, it's a little bit more complicated. But the ending of the lockdown was a good moment, I would assume. And so the point that I'm getting to is, when

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you knew that the lockdown was going to end? What was the first thing you did? Did you do anything special in some way?

**KENT:** Um, I'm sorry. I'm sorry because I double checked. The date of the lift of the lockdown was April the eighth.

**BROWNING:** Okay.

**KENT:** So the first thing I did after the lockdown was I went to the riverbank to observe the fireworks.

**BROWNING:** Oh, there were fireworks?

**KENT:** There were fireworks across the Yangzi River. And there were people gathering. (00:56:00) Not really gathering, but there were certain places that the government allowed you to be. We went to the places, you wear masks, you take care of yourself. You take precautions, so you can observe the fireworks. So there were people celebrating the lifting of the lockdown.

**BROWNING:** Yeah, not bad. All right, so I have just a few more questions for you. In your mind, how have things changed since the lockdown? You know, maybe for you personally, your family for Wuhan, for China? (00:57:03) I will allow you to answer this however you like, but how have things changed since the lockdown?

**KENT:** Well, this is a big question, man. For myself, you know, I started to focus on the people that are close to me. I started to rethink my relationship to parents, with my friends. I needed to rethink our relationship. I needed to reflect on myself. I needed to evaluate them, right? I need to treasure all these relationships because when the big time comes, all these people matter to you. (00:58:06) That's for myself and for my family. I think we had the same feeling. But for the common folks, I think the Chinese people, our personal hygiene has improved to another different level. So we wash our hands all the time. We wear masks. Even if we have zero cases right now. We have zero cases. We still voluntarily wear masks when we take public transportation, we go to supermarkets, we go to the public places. Yeah, that is the big change.



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(00:59:00) And there was a rumor, but it was not confirmed by the WHO, or by the, I don't know, by the government—about the wild animals, right? So basically after COVID, the epidemic in Wuhan, people just quit eating wild animals. All the wild animal markets are gone.

**BROWNING:** Oh, really?

**KENT:** Yeah, they're all dead or gone, forever. And you can see the banners, right? See the banners everywhere that you can't eat wild animals. You have to protect wild animals. And the government legislated laws for wild animal protection. (01:00:02) If you have something to do with the wild animals, it was a violation of laws, it was criminal. You will be a criminal. That was the difference, so that was the change.

**BROWNING:** Okay, interesting. Yeah. So out of all this experience, what do you appreciate more?

**KENT:** I appreciate my family and in challenging times we stick together, right? We support each other. And I think the government did the right thing. (01:01:04) All the procedures, even though there were complaints. There's still complaints that people got lockdown. They couldn't see their family for the last time. Because when you have family members who got COVID, you couldn't see them, right? You couldn't see them, you know, face to face. You could see them [only] through the FaceTime. The second they departed, you knew that moment was the last time you were going to see your family. So there's still a lot of people complaining about the lockdown. (01:02:01) There are people complaining about not getting jobs because of the lockdown. So many people lost their jobs.

**BROWNING:** Right. Or maybe lost their business.

**KENT:** Yeah, a lot. A lot of businesses are gone. I heard rumors, but it was just rumors. It was not confirmed. After the lockdown, 40 percent of the restaurants were closed or dead. Forty percent of the restaurant and bars were dead because of the lockdown. But they were just rumors, right? It was not confirmed.

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**BROWNING:** Right, you somehow managed to make it survive, huh?

**KENT:** Yeah, I got lucky. (01:03:00) I'm not fighting it by myself. I have my partner's, right? We have our families supporting us from behind.

**BROWNING:** Good to hear. So how do you feel about the future?

**KENT:** I think the future is going to be bright. (Laughs) Yeah, I mean it. I think the future is going to be bright. Because I'm feeling the future right now. Because everyday life is vivid. People are so busy doing their jobs, you know, working their jobs, on their careers. (01:04:02) They are making money. And every day, I have a lot of business both in Wuhan and Shanghai. Because I will answer your question because I'm feeling the future right now. Because every day is the future, right? The future will be made up of every single day. You can feel it, you can feel it.

**BROWNING:** So you're optimistic?

**KENT:** Yeah. I'm very optimistic about the future.

**BROWNING:** Right, that's good. Also, good to hear. All right, so I guess my last question is, is there anything else that you wish to share? (01:05:00) Anything else that I didn't ask or maybe something that has come to your mind that you want to say about your experience?

**KENT:** Let me think. Oh yes, I want to share one story. Because, you know, one of my business partners, bar partners, is a member of the International MBA Club of Wuhan University. So the club is a high elite club, like a scholar student club in Wuhan. A lot of the members, they volunteered during the lockdown. (01:06:03) They risked their lives. I heard that one of the volunteers lost their life.

**BROWNING:** These are Chinese or foreigners?

**KENT:** Chinese.

**BROWNING:** Okay, okay.

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**KENT:** They're basically all Chinese. And, yes, so because of that, I brewed an IPA for those volunteers, for those doctors and nurses who went into harm's way to fight COVID.

**BROWNING:** So when you say brewed beer for them, was it like you had a party for them one night? (01:07:00) Or what do you mean?

**KENT:** I mean, I brewed a very specific type of beer for those volunteers. Doctors and nurses. And whenever they come, you know, to dine in they'll have free refills. They will have free food. They will have free drinks.

**BROWNING:** Very nice.

**KENT:** Yeah, because I did my part. They did theirs. I did mine.

**BROWNING:** Right, it's a way to return a favor, I guess.

**KENT:** Yeah, return a favor. I mean, not return a favor—[to] just do our own part.

**BROWNING:** Right.

**KENT:** Just for society, for the community. Yeah, whatever. (01:08:00)

**BROWNING:** So your business partner did some volunteer work, right?

**KENT:** Yeah.

**BROWNING:** Well, what specifically (crosstalk)—what specifically did he do? What kind of volunteer work?

**KENT:** Organized the hospital stocks. Because at the very beginning of the lockdown, the medical care system in Wuhan was in chaos. There were no organizers. There was no order. So the volunteers had to rebuild the order, right? They rebuilt the supply chain. They helped the doctors, they helped the nurses, to get the food for the medical care workers. To get the

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medical supplies for the hospitals. (01:09:00) And they drove their own vehicles to help transport the patients.

**BROWNING:** Okay, right. Very good. All right. So I think that's all I was planning to ask you. If there's nothing else you wish to say, we can start to wrap the interview up.

**KENT:** Oh yeah, I think that'd be all the things I can share, you know? (01:10:00)

**BROWNING:** Okay, great. So I'm going to stop recording soon here. But before I stop recording, I should say thank you very much for doing this and taking your time and being willing to do this for me.

**KENT:** Oh, sure, man. Thanks for having me. You know, I'm very glad to take part, you know, to get involved in this program. It's my pleasure.

**BROWNING:** Thank you, thank you.

End of interview