Building a multi-national electricity and low carbon infrastructure development business, Harley Seyedin has spent more than 20 years in China, always seeking to promote a development model that is being both socially and environmentally as well as economically sustainable - a development model in which the indigenous communities themselves are major stakeholders that will enjoy secure, long-term revenue with which they can move beyond subsistence living to invest in their own futures.

Harley Seyedin’s life path is interesting, being an Iranian immigrant to USA, and then moving into a Chinese context. When Seyedin began his first big development project in South China, two decades ago, the challenges were many. To find financial credit in China was impossible and he had to turn outside the country for equity partners. South China also lacked the infrastructure to provide the engineering, equipment, and construction management.

Some 15 years later, the situation was completely different. Seyedin, as president of Sithe Global Pacific, helped the Company build another power plant, for 1.1 billion US dollars, in the Philippines. But this time, he turned to China for the help - for the equipment, engineering, and even for half the investment capital, leading Sithe Global to become the first U.S. company to utilise major Chinese power equipment and technology. In that 15-year span, Seyedin saw China go from being a country that had to rely on assistance from abroad to erect a major electrical power plant, to becoming a country with the skills, equipment and finances to offer such support to other nations. Today, Seyedin is President of both the company Allelon Energy Partners, and the American Chamber of Commerce in South China.

The American Chamber of Commerce's growth reflects the progress Seyedin has witnessed in China’s capacity to be a major player in not just development projects, but also in the global economy. When Seyedin became president, it had 211 members, while as of today, the number has grown to more than 2,000 members. In the United States, Seyedin beats the drums loud to promote South China and the city of Guangzhou, and his efforts have brought successes for many US companies after having entered the Chinese marketplace.

Seyedin has good reason to be proud of his own role in the development that has changed the face of Guangzhou and South China over the past couple of decades. While some worry that the Chinese economy might be slowing down, Seyedin remains bullish on the South China market. He simply sees it entering a new phase. South China grew on the strength of its labour market and its exports; now, says Seyedin, it will continue to thrive by feeding the immense, domestic consumer market in China.
Building a multi-national electricity and low carbon infrastructure development business, Harley Seyedin (Iran/USA) spent more than 20 years in China, always seeking to promote a development model that is both socially and environmentally, as well as economically sustainable - a development model in which the indigenous communities themselves are major stakeholders that will enjoy secure, long-term revenue with which they can move beyond subsistence living to invest in their own futures. When Seyedin began his first big development project in South China, the challenges were many. To find financial credit in China was impossible and he had to turn outside the country for equity partners. Some 15 years later, the situation was completely different. Seyedin, as president of Sithe Global Pacific, helped the company built a large power plant in the Philippines. This time however, he turned to China for the equipment, for the engineering, even for half the investment capital, leading Sithe Global to become the first U.S. company to utilise major Chinese power equipment and technology. In that 15-year span, Seyedin saw China go from being a country that had to rely on assistance from abroad to erect a major electrical power plant, to becoming a country with the skills, equipment and finances to offer such support to other nations. Today, Seyedin is President, not only of the company Allelon Energy Partners, but also of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China.