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**Front cover:** Leaders of friendship organizations of China and the ten ASEAN countries at the Third Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations held in Indonesia (June 2, 2008)

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# China-Spain Forum Meeting on Sports Cooperation Held in Beijing

## Our Staff Reporter

A meeting on sports cooperation of the China-Spain Forum (CSF), co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Sports Committee of the CSF, was held in Beijing on August 2. Distinguished guests from sports circles of China and Spain gathered at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse to discuss future sports cooperation between the two countries. The meeting which was held just days before the opening of the historic Beijing Olympic Games had received great attention from leaders of the CSF and the sports circles of both countries. Hu Qili, chairman of the CSF Chinese Committee; Liu Peng, director of the General Administration of Sport, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee and executive president of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG); Chen Haosu, executive chairman of the CSF Chinese Committee and president of the CPAFFC; Li Binghua, Chinese chairman of the Sports Committee of the CSF and executive vice president of the BOCOG; Qiu Xiaoqi, Chinese ambassador to Spain;

Juan Antonio Samaranch, chairman of the CSF Spanish Committee and honorary life president of the International Olympic Committee; Juan Llado, chairman of the Spain China Council Foundation; Alejandro Blanco, president of the Spanish Olympic Committee; and Carlos Blasco, Spanish ambassador to China, attended the meeting.

Centring on the Olympic Games, the two sides conducted extensive discussion and exchanged views on Beijing's preparation for the Olympic Games, the Spanish Olympic delegation and sports cooperation between China and Spain. The two sides fully affirmed the important role the CSF has played in promoting friendship and cooperation in all fields including sports between China and Spain and reached broad consensus on the positive impact sports cooperation could produce, especially the great potential it has in promoting world peace. They looked forward to having more in-depth and varied cooperation in the future. IOC Honorary President Samaranch has said, the Olympic spirit embodies the great desire of mankind for friendship, peace and cooperation and the Olympic

desire of mankind for friendship, peace and cooperation and the Olympic



Hu Qili, chairman of the China-Spain Forum's Chinese Committee, speaking at the opening ceremony

Games should not be affected by race, religion or politics. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said in his speech at the opening session: Sport is a silent world-wide language. It has played a unique role in promoting peaceful dialogue between different nations, cultures and civilizations and improving the ability of self-adjustment of human society. The Olympic Games, with the characteristic of transcending language barriers and having no national boundary, has become a very important part of the world peace movement. In this spirit, Beijing welcomes friends from all over the world with openness and friendship and passes on the torch of harmonious, green and people's Olympics. The Spanish guests saw the unremitting efforts made by Beijing in its preparation for the Olympic Games and felt the rapid development Beijing has achieved in the short span of seven years. They were full of confidence in and expectation for a successful Beijing Olympic Games. The two sides expressed their wishes that the athletes would display fine sportsmanship, forge friendship and achieve good results in competition.

Liu Peng, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, presented to Honorary IOC President Samaranch a Decoration of Supreme Honour of the COC, the first medal ever awarded by the COC, to express heartfelt gratitude to and high respect for him. Samaranch has been concerned for and supports the development of sports in China. He has played a major role in China's return to the Olympic family and made great contributions to China-Spain sports cooperation. CSF Chinese Committee Chairman Hu Qili said in his opening speech: "Mr. Samaranch has a heart of gold and a friendship deep as the sea for the Chinese people. His words, his deeds and his moral integrity are the



**Liu Peng, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) and director of the General Administration of Sport, presenting the Decoration of Supreme Honour of the COC to J. A. Samaranch, honorary life president of the International Olympic Committee**

most vivid and best interpretation of the Olympic spirit." He is forever an old friend of the Chinese people.

Sport, a strong impetus to state-to-state relations, has also played an active and effective role in the development of relations between China and Spain. We are confident that in an atmosphere of peace, harmony and cooperation, the CSF will surely provide a broader platform for continued enhancement of bilateral exchanges and interaction so as to strengthen the friendship between our two peoples. □

### **(Continued from p.9)**

there—all day, unless I was watching performances, people kept coming up to me to be photographed. I have never in my life been so popular! It was a great feeling to have so many people who wanted to hold or just touch the torch and some were so excited that they were able to hold it and have their photo taken. At

the finale point the Canberra Branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society ran a series of activities for the spectators—a Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, Chinese tea ceremony, Chinese brush painting demonstration and Chinese lantern making. We were the only community group participating and were very warmly received.

The Canberra Torch Relay was judged a great success and those of us who were runners will always remember the wonderful atmosphere, the extraordinary support of the Chinese students who came from all over Australia and the great feeling of goodwill on the day. It was a great honour and privilege to be part of such a wonderful event. □

# CPAFFC Holds Activities to Greet Beijing Olympic Games

**Geng Zifeng**

The Olympic Games are coming and really coming! We have been looking forward to this day for 100 years. At last, the Beijing Olympic Games will begin tomorrow with the attention of the whole world. To celebrate the one-day countdown to the Beijing Olympic Games, on the morning of August 7, the CPAFFC invited a number of important foreign guests to have a get-together with its staff and organized celebration activities, adding jubilation to the festive Beijing.

## **Ringling Bell for Olympic Games, Expressing Best Wishes**

At ten o'clock in the morning, some foreign guests and their entourages invited by the CPAFFC to attend the opening ceremony

of the Beijing Olympic Games arrived one after another at our association and gathered at the Peace Bell Pavilion to attend the bell-ringing ceremony in celebration of the one-day countdown to the Games. At the ceremony presided over by CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu gave an enthusiastic speech.

Chen said, we are now waiting for a great historic event: the curtain of the Beijing Olympic Games is about to rise and on the elaborate internationalized stage a splendid opera of unity, friendship and progress of humanity will be put on show. The Chinese people warm welcome to friends from all over the world and their persistent pursuit of "One World, One

Dream" will be recorded in the unforgettable history that we are all experiencing. Chen particularly pointed out, in the world people's cause of unity and progress, the foreign guests the CPAFFC has invited to the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games and the organizations they represent are all our best friends and partners. He wished that this friendly and cooperative relationship would display its values in the grand Olympic Games and shine more brightly in future years.

In his speech on behalf of the foreign guests, Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association and former Thai deputy prime minister, said, the convening of the 29th

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the bell-ringing ceremony**





Olympic Games in Beijing fully confirms China's economic and social development. He was sure that with the concerted efforts of the Chinese people, the Olympic Games would definitely achieve an unprecedented success. He hoped that through the Olympic Games, the growth of the force for peace in the world and the creation of a better future for humanity would be promoted.

After that, the leaders of the CPAFFC and foreign guests struck the bell together 29 times to express our best wishes for the success of the Olympic Games through the chime of the bell to the National Stadium and spread the Games' concept of "One World, One Dream" to all parts of the world.

### **Participating in Delight Matches to Experience the Atmosphere of Olympic Games**

After the bell-ringing ceremony, the foreign guests and CPAFFC staffers went to the auditorium to take part in the two delight sports matches organized by the association's Trade Union: the mimic bowling match and the



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the prize to Francis Cowan, a member of the championship team**

set-shot match. The foreign guests joined different teams organized by the various departments of the CPAFFC and took part in the matches together with the staffers.

All the foreign guests were very interested in the delight matches meticulously designed and arranged. They carefully studied the rules of the games and discussed warmly about the ways of

competition and from time to time exchanged experiences. The auditorium resonated with applause, laughter, chanting of "go" and cheers. Moved by the scene, 93-year-old Francis Cowan, mother of the late American table tennis player Glenn Cowan, took part in the set-shot match. She successfully shot the ball in and won cheers from the spectators.

**CPAFFC staffers with foreign friends the Association invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games**



# Exciting Scene    Profound Friendship

## —Guests of the CPAFFC Attend the Opening Ceremony Of the XXIX Olympic Games

**Han Guangming**

On August 8, comrades of the CPAFFC were as excited as all the Chinese people on the day of the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon, over 20 foreign guests invited by the CPAFFC to attend the opening ceremony came to the compound of the CPAFFC, and accompanied by Vice President Li Jianping and Deputy Secretary General Niu Yingli, they took a bus to Jingsong where they changed to the subway to reach the venue of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. All the way they were

amidst cheers and laughter and felt the excitement of the Olympic atmosphere. Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association and former Thai deputy prime minister, recalled his experience of serving as president of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) for years, and enthusiastically chatted with passengers nearby, especially those young people with flags in hands and Olympic logo on cheeks who were overwhelmed with joy. He experienced the genuine happiness of the Chinese people, especially its young generation embracing the

Japanese friends Shiro Minamimura and his wife were very concentrated on the match. When Eitsuko Minamimura got a high score, she jumped with joy. American friend Chris Burger was a good shooter and equally matched with Thai friend Chaayos Tangchaisak in skill and finally won the match by leading only one shot.

After half an hour's intense competition, finally the combined team of the China Service Centre for Friendship and Cooperation with Foreign Countries and the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development and the team of the Department of the American and Oceanian Affairs won the championship of the two events respectively. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Li Xiaolin gave the members of the championship teams prizes—stuffed Fuwa toys. Everyone liked Fuwa very much

and was immersed in happiness.

### **Performing Setting-up Exercises to Music to Display the Vigour of the CPAFFC**

At 11 a.m. at the square in front of the main building of the CPAFFC, about 200 staff members of our association performed the eighth set of the setting-up exercises to music.

All performers dressed neatly in sports uniforms and marched in step to the square to the rhythm of the music. Everyone was dashing and spirited. After the drill formation was ready, the setting-up exercises' music started. Under the scorching sun, all performers did every movement carefully so that their movements were standardized and synchronized, which won waves of applause from the foreign guests. After the performance of setting-up exercises, responding to the call of the guide to cheer for

the Beijing Olympic Games, all performers shouted loudly "Go Olympic Games!" "Go China!" Finally together with the foreign guests all the staff of our association had pictures taken in front of the auditorium.

At 11:30, the CPAFFC's reception in celebration of the one-day countdown to the Beijing Olympic Games was held in the auditorium. Chen Haosu extended his warm welcome to all the foreign guests to take part in the activities organized by the CPAFFC and wished everyone happiness in watching the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. All the Chinese and foreign participants raised their glasses to toast to the successful convening of the Beijing Olympic Games.

CPAFFC leaders including Li Xiaolin, Jing Dunquan, Feng Zuoku, Li Jianping and Luo Qin took part in the above activities. □

Olympic Games.

Glenn Cowan, the American table tennis player, unfortunately passed away in 2004. He was the first to have contact with a Chinese player, which led to the important historical event of China using the “small ball” to push the “big ball” forward—the Ping Pong Diplomacy in 1971. However, Chinese people have never forgotten the American player who contributed to the opening of Sino-U.S. relations, and his family. Cowan’s 93-year-old mother was invited to Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympic Games. On the way to the stadium she was full of energy and enthusiasm not feeling the least tired.

After three hours’ travel, at 7:45 p.m., we finally rested on the seats reserved for us.

It was hot and humid that day, and the “Bird’s Nest” became very sultry inside. Margaret Cooper, former president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society, felt uncomfortable, even turned pale. We immediately sent for a doctor for her. When she got better, she returned to her seat to watch the performance. She said, she would not leave and miss the opportunity to witness Chinese people creating miracles.

The grand opening ceremony moved everyone with magnificent scenes and unprecedentedly exquisite performances, and all the foreign guests cheered for every wonderful performance and the march-in of athletes, which made a really moving sight.

Korn Dabbaransi said with emotion that as president of the BWF he has attended Olympic opening ceremony several times, the Beijing ceremony was the most splendid one.

### **(Continued from p.10)**

Association. Apart from being a son of the great sports lover, the late Lala Muhammad Ayub, the love for Sports and respect for Sportsmen is in his blood. Recently People’s Republic of China’s Acting Ambassador & Charge d’ Affaires in Pakistan, Mr. Yao Jing (as Ambassador Lu Zhaohui is in China) hosted a reception in honour of the Pakistan’s Olympic Delegation, which showed our Chinese friend’s special attachment with Pakistani Olympic Mission. While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yao Jing extended their best wishes, apart from all possible assistance to



**Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association and former Thai deputy prime minister, speaking at the bell-ringing ceremony**

The opening ceremony ended at about 10 o’clock in the morning when everyone was really tired, but our guests gave applause and cheers to the leaving athletes, and waited till the last moment to leave. They were sincerely grateful for this unforgettable opportunity provided by the CPAFFC to experience the Beijing Olympic Games as well as the profound friendship of the Chinese people. □

our mission during their stay in Beijing. The President of Sports Writers Association, NWFP, Mr. Amjad Aziz Malik also arranged a warm send-off for the Mission.

In the end, I wish all the best to the friendly people and Government of the People’s Republic of China, and hope for safe and successful Olympics.

**The writer is Secretary-General of Pak-China Friendship Association NWFP & President of Radio China Listener’s Club NWFP.**



# My Torch Relay Run

## —Canberra, 24 April 2008

**Carol Keil (Australia)**

In October last year I was asked if I was happy to be nominated as a potential runner in the Beijing Olympics torch relay. I could hardly believe my ears and very excitedly said “yes!” When I was subsequently advised that I had been selected to be one of the five BOCOG runners and indeed one of only 80 Australian torch bearers I felt greatly honoured and privileged.

In the lead-up to the Relay the focus turned to security, the route was shortened and the cele-

brations on the day were compressed into a much shorter time-frame. On the afternoon of the 23rd of April we were given our uniforms and passes and attended a briefing which covered security, pickup arrangements and our duties. We then had an hour before we went to the buffet reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy at Parliament House, where, after a number of speeches a troupe of drummers and dancers from Shaanxi Province put on a splendid performance which was repeated the next

day on Stage 88, where the Relay ended.

On the day of the Relay we left home at 7:30am as we were unsure what the traffic would be like as people had been advised to get to work before 8am and there were estimates of more than 200 buses of Chinese students arriving in the early hours. My group of runners (numbers 5-12, I was number 11) had to wait by the edge of Lake Burley Griffin and the atmosphere when

we arrived was extraordinary—a sea of waving red flags with some Australian ones interspersed, singing and chanting and a big cheer when we arrived. It was very cold standing around in shorts on a very chilly Canberra morning. We were not allowed to take anything with us and there were no pockets in our uniforms for keys, cameras or the like. We waited for over half an hour for the torch to be rowed across the Lake from its starting point and several of us were interviewed for China TV. All the while the students kept up the flag waving and chanting.

We were called to our bus—shuttle No. 1, and then we were off, dropping each runner at his/her starting point. I was given my torch as I left the bus and was then escorted to the side of the road by a policeman. As Changbin Yu, runner No. 10, a former student at ANU and also a BOCOG nominee, approached I was ushered to the centre of the road and when he arrived I lit my torch from his under the supervision of the Chinese attendant and police. And then I was off, flanked by several policemen and the Chinese attendant. I was so proud to be running and the cheering support from the spectators, my family and friends and the Chinese students, some of whom ran alongside the barricades, was absolutely exhilarating. The smile

**Carol Keil lighting her torch from that of Changbin Yu at the torch relay in Canberra, Australia**





# CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS... BEIJING

**Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani (Pakistan)**

The dawn of August 8th, 2008 will witness the grand opening ceremony of the 29th Olympics in Beijing. The world's most prestigious mega sporting event where athletes & delegations from over 200 countries and regions will come together to participate in and enjoy the games of friendship. The Olympic motto: citius, altius, fortius, meaning faster, higher, stronger has been literally followed by China to transform itself into an emerging nation on the world's stage. Ever since the 29th Olympic Games were awarded to Beijing back in 2001, China has invested billions in sports and infrastructure development. Anyone arriving in Beijing will be undoubtedly impressed with the new Norman Foster-designed Capital airport. The Beijing Olympic Park, with its Herzog & de Meuron-designed "Bird's Nest" stadium and its bubble-skinned, transparent National

Swimming Centre will surely be eye-catching. China will be spending a colossal amount of nearly US \$30 billion on the Olympics. Besides building stadiums and parks, it is building a new subway system, new highways, and even a new sewage system. The Chinese capital is being re-made for the Olympics.

Beijing, the host city of the Olympics, has been the capital of China for the last 800 years, and can be rightly termed as the political and cultural hub of the country. Beijing is all set and offers all its resources ranging from improved transportation to healthy environment and all supported by trained volunteers. Beijingers are prepared to embrace the valued spirit of the game and warmly welcome athletes, participants and tourists from around the world.

There are about 35,000 journalists coming to the Beijing Olympic Games. They will be provided

did not leave my face until mid-afternoon! I ran at a good pace and was even asked to slow down at one point. I was, however, pleased to stop after my 200 or 250m and handover to the next

runner. I moved over to the side of the road, my flame was extinguished and my run was then over. It was then a short walk to Stage 88 (the finale point) and what would normally take me 10

minutes or so took at least an hour and a half because everyone I passed, going in either direction, wanted to have their photo taken with the torch! And it didn't stop

**(Continued on p.3)**

**Carol Keil and other members of Canberra Branch of the Australia-China Friendship Society**



## Greeting the Beijing Olympics

with excellent and efficient services. The Chinese government has extended its commitment by initiating a round the clock one station media service. Beijing Olympics will unfold a country of 5,000-year history and the world's most populous country and will have long lasting influence on the Chinese people.

A 163 acre Olympic Village on the northern end of the north-south central axis in Beijing will be home to over 16,800 athletes, coaches and official staff. The village is divided into residential and international quarters so that one can easily reach venues from village by road or by metro. It will take a drive of not more than 30 minutes to reach the venue from the village.

Total fool proof security measures have been taken on the event with a national command system involving police, army and armed police as well as security companies and volunteers. No doubt preparations and hosting the Olympic Games will play a key role in China's opening up and joining the international community as one of the leaders of the world.

In December 2007 a high level Friendship Delegation from the Chinese People's Friendship Association (CPAFFC) China visited Pakistan on the invitation of the Pak-China Friendship Association (PCFA) NWFP which was headed by Madam Li Xiaolin, Vice-President of the CPAFFC, she disclosed that ever since China won the event of holding the Olympic Games, the whole Chinese Nation got busy in preparation at their level. It was not just Beijing,

which is the host city, but throughout China, everyone considers himself responsible as a host of this event, and the slogan of these games, "One World One Dream" as his mission.

The people of Pakistan as true friends of China will be watching the Games with awe and inspiration. It is worth mentioning here that Islamabad was one of the 22 cities chosen for the relay of the Olympic torch as the Chinese people and government wanted their Pakistani brethren to share the Olympic spirit when the flame arrived from Oman, and carried in Islamabad by the legendary squash player, Jehangir Khan, and a former Pakistani Olympian, Samiullah.

The sporting gala will start from August 8 to August 24, 2008 with the theme of one world full of harmony and integrity in the true Chinese spirit. The Chinese media, especially China Radio International, plays a vital role through its Urdu and English Services and its international linkages and Listener's Club and associations in informing the world about this Mega Sports event and its preparation by the Chinese people and their Government.

The Beijing Olympics will be China's coming out party—a symbol of this ancient country's resurgence, of it once more taking its rightful place as one of the world's great powers.

I also wish all the best to our Pakistani Olympic Mission for their success which is being headed by Syed Aqil Shah, NWFP Minister for Sports & Culture. He is also the President of NWFP Olympic

**(Continued on p.7)**

**The National Stadium also known as the "Bird's Nest"**



# Third Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations Held in Indonesia

**Zhan Xiushuang**

The Third Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations was held in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, from June 2 to 4. About 100 representatives from Chinese and ASEAN people-to-people friendship organizations attended it. The delegation of China-ASEAN Association led by Gu Xiulian, former vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the Association, attended the conference and had extensive and in-depth discussions on cooperation and exchanges with the representatives of the people-to-people friendship organizations of the 10 ASEAN countries.

The Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations with the

aim of promoting nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation between China and ASEAN initiated by the CPAFFC in 2006 and participated by the Chinese and 10 ASEAN countries' friendship organizations is held once a year rotationally in China and ASEAN countries. With the concerted efforts, after the 2006 Beijing Conference and the 2007 Bandar Seri Begawan Conference, the 10+1 nongovernmental consultation mechanism was preliminarily set up.

The task of this conference with the theme of "mutual assistance, cooperation and unity" was to sum up the past experience, plan for the future and explore together new thinking for friendly cooperation. At the conference the 2008-2009 China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Or-

ganizations' Cooperation Plan was approved and five working groups in charge of detailing and implementing the cooperation plan, namely, the economic, cultural, educational, health and sports working groups were set up. The participants of various countries unanimously held, through this conference, the nongovernmental 10+1 cooperation was playing a greater role in promoting governmental relations through nongovernmental channels and various sides were taking a more pragmatic attitude towards mutually beneficial cooperation. The nongovernmental 10+1 mechanism has made an important progress.

During the conference an exhibition of Chinese and ASEAN commodities was held. More than 20 economic and trade companies

**Leaders of all the delegations at the opening ceremony of the conference**





including the Shenzhen Huawei Technology Co., Ltd., the Beijing Beiao Incorporation, the Guangxi Golden Throat Group Co., Ltd. and other CPAFFC group council members from China and companies from Indonesia and Thailand took part in the exhibition. On the afternoon of June 3, a meeting on exchanges between the Chinese and ASEAN businessmen was held to explore experience in co-operation and seek opportunities for business cooperation.

**Experience in exchanges was summed up and practical cooperation stressed.** In the past year the Chinese and ASEAN people-to-people friendship organizations actively implemented what had been agreed at the Bandar Seri Begawan Conference, and under the guidance of the Declaration on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship and Co-operation coordinated and cooperated with each other and made new progress in personnel and cultural exchanges, economic and trade cooperation and philanthropic work. In the aspect of personnel exchanges, friendship organizations of various countries continued to keep contacts and exchange of visits; the number of visitors surpassed the previous years, greatly boosting exchanges and cooperation. In cultural exchanges, activities such as the ASEAN knowledge quiz, the Chinese language speech contest, the China-ASEAN media TV summit, the Thai elephants greeting the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, etc., were successfully held and enhanced understanding and trust. In the aspect of economic and trade cooperation, economic and trade delegations of various coun-



**Gu Xiulian, president of the China-ASEAN Association, visiting the exhibition of Chinese and ASEAN commodities**

tries made frequent visits to one another's countries, and the ASEAN Commodities Exhibition Hall in the Commodities City of Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, began to be put in place, promoting mutually beneficial cooperation to achieve win-win results. In the work of charity and donation, various friendship organizations lent helping hands in the wake of the Myanmar tropic cyclone and the Sichuan earthquake. The Singapore-China Friendship Association donated money for education to China's poor areas. All this shows the nongovernmental forces are becoming stronger and more mature. The participants of various sides held, in the past year the Chinese and ASEAN people-to-people friendship organizations achieved notable results in their cooperation with more solid foundation, had a clearer orientation for their future work and made contributions to promoting China-ASEAN relations through the nongovernmental channel. In future friendship organizations of various sides should further con-

solidate the existing mechanism, pay greater attention to practical cooperation and continuously build up the strength and influence of nongovernmental organizations.

**The plan of cooperation was signed and the task set.** At the conference the 2008-2009 China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations' Cooperation Plan was approved. According to the plan, the friendship organizations of China and ASEAN countries will continue to make efforts to regularly exchange visits and keep contacts, strengthen exchanges and cooperation, promote economic and trade cooperation and investment and increase exchanges in tourism and culture. Particularly they will work together to carry out the large-scale transnational charity activity "Pass on Love, Be Friendly Neighbours—Panglin Bringing Light Tour". They will try hard to carry out the project of cooperation in personnel training between China and Singapore and continue the construction of the



ASEAN Commodities Exhibition Hall in Yiwu Commodities City. When conditions are ripe, they will carry out youth sports exchanges and tourism projects for promoting cultural exchange.

**Working groups were set up to share out the work and help one another.** At the conference five working groups, namely, the economic, cultural, educational, health and sports working groups were set up. The friendship organizations of China, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia respectively serve as coordinators in charge of coordinating exchanges in the above five fields. The participants held, the above five fields are the highlights of people-to-people exchanges. To strengthen exchanges in these five fields will help promote the overall nongovernmental cooperation between China and ASEAN; to appoint coordinators in charge of the exchanges in these five fields will facilitate sharing out work and help one another.

The participants are fully aware of the necessity of strengthening information exchanges and unanimously agreed to set up the official website of the Conference. Indonesia will be in charge of setting up the website and

Brunei the website's maintenance and renewal. The participants unanimously held the establishment of the five working groups and the plan for setting up the website symbolize a new progress of the institutionalization of the Conference.

**Showing concern for the disaster areas and loving care for the victims of the disasters.** The participants of various countries showed great concern for the recent catastrophic disasters in Myanmar and China. Before the opening ceremony of the Conference, all the participants stood in silent tribute for the victims of the tropical cyclone in Myanmar and the Wenchuan earthquake in China. Friendship organizations of various countries expressed in different ways their sympathy and solicitude for the Chinese and Myanmar participants. Dr. Sukamdani Sahid Gitosardjono, president of the Association of Indonesia-China Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation on behalf of the sponsor of the Conference donated 10,000 US dollars respectively to China and Myanmar via Gui Xiulian and the representative of Myanmar. Lorenzo Ku, honorary chairman of the Association for Philippines-China Understanding, sug-

gested setting up a China-ASEAN loving care foundation to raise money to build a loving care school in the disaster area in Sichuan. His suggestion received positive responses from various sides. Gui Xiulian said, in time of difficulty, people of various countries lend their helping hands to express their loving care, showing the great spirit of humanitarianism. "Misfortune tests the sincerity of friends." The Chinese people will forever remember the friendly sentiments shown by the people of all countries in the world including the ASEAN countries.

Frequent natural disasters in various places of the world in recent years have sounded a warning to the people of the world. The participants in the conference said, natural disasters are the challenge that humanity is facing. Only by uniting as one and making joint efforts to cope with them can humanity conquer disasters and realize common development. People-to-people friendship organizations should play a greater role in it.

The conference decided that the Fourth Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations would be held in Malaysia in 2009. □

#### **(Continued from p.25)**

Now we are old friends. He expressed the hope that the athletes of both countries would display their talent and achieve excellent results in the coming Beijing Olympic Games.

Braithwaite said, he was very proud that he had been a member of the US Table Tennis Team to visit China then. The hospitality of the Chinese people left a deep impression on him. In 2001, he visited Guangzhou together with other American table tennis players. China's economic development was amazing. He hoped to have the opportunity to

visit China again and together with Liang Geliang enjoy once again the happiness to bring pleasure to people through playing table tennis.

Executive Director Taylor said after *The Re-match*, winning or losing is not crucial. As long as the American and Chinese players display their skills and exchange their friendship in the matches, especially at this year's Olympic Games, there will be no loser. Every one will come out a winner. This is the message that Ping Pong Diplomacy of 1971 has spread and so will the 2008 Beijing Olympics. □

# CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and His Party Visit Norway and Estonia

**Xu Fenghua**

A CPAFFC delegation led by its president Chen Haosu paid a goodwill visit to Norway and Estonia from April 15 to 24. The visit was made at the invitation of the Norway-China Association (NCA) and the Estonia-China Friendship Association (ECFA).

The delegation called on State Secretary Ms. Wenche Lyngholm who is also vice minister of government administration and Reform and Environment Minister Mr. Erik Solheim of Norway, and Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Ms. Kristina Ojula and Chairman of the Olympic Committee Mr. Mart Siimann of Estonia.

At the meetings, the Norwegian and Estonian leaders and friendly personages expressed their best wishes for the Olympic Games that would soon be held in Beijing and their conviction that China would offer an eye-catching Olympics. President Chen Haosu told friends in the two countries, the Olympic Games is a grand sports gathering of the whole humanity, through which the Chinese people hope to

convey goodwill to the people of all countries in the world, deepen mutual understanding and trust, increase friendship and make contributions to world peace. The Chinese people would greet the opening of the Games with their outstanding preparation.

The delegation came into contact with leaders of the city governments of the Norwegian capital Oslo, Estonian capital Tallinn and Tartu, Rakvere, Viljandi and Kuresaare of Estonia. President Chen Haosu briefed them on one of the main tasks of the CPAFFC which is to promote international cooperation between the local governments of China and other countries. He said that Norway and Estonia had much experience that China could learn and hoped that more personnel exchanges would be carried out between the local governments of China and the two countries so that they could learn from each other and borrow each other's experience to promote mutually beneficial cooperation. A representative of the Hangzhou Municipal Government on the delegation reached preliminary agreement with the government of Tallinn on the establishment of friendship-city relations. The twinning of friendship ties between the two cities will fill the vacancy of friendship cities between the two countries. With the help of the CPAFFC, the Port of Tallinn and the Port of Ningbo have established good cooperative relations.

The delegation also had meetings with the Norway-China Association and the Estonia-China Friendship Association and exchanged views on strengthening friendly contact and promoting China-Norway and



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu (middle) with Erik Solheim (right), Norwegian minister of environment, and Kjetil Krane (left), president of the Norway-China Association

On behalf of President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistani Ambassador to China Salman Bashir presented the medal and certificate of Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam (Crescent of the Great Leader) to CPAFFC President Chen Haosu on the morning of June 20 at the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam is one of the national medals issued by the President according to the Constitution of Pakistan to commend those who have made outstanding contributions to Pakistan.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said that he was very honoured to receive the medal which was given to him as well as to all the Chinese people and that it is a

## CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Receives Hilal-i-Quaid-i-Azam Medal

**Wu Jiong**

symbol of the friendly sentiments of the Pakistani people for the Chinese people. Chen recalled the all-weather traditional friendship and mutual assistance between China and Pakistan and said that he himself and the CPAFFC would make unremitting efforts to uphold lasting friendship between the two countries and build a harmonious world.

Ambassador Bashir spoke

highly of the great contributions President Chen Haosu has made to Pakistan-China friendship. He pointed out, words are not enough to describe the friendship between the people of Pakistan and China, which is the convergence of the hearts and minds of our two peoples. The ambassador expressed the belief that Pakistan-China friendship will have a better future and reap richer fruit. □

### CPAFFC President Chen Haosu calling on Oslo Mayor Fabian Stang

China-Estonia people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

NCA President Kjetil Krane is an old friend of the Chinese people. He has assumed the presidency of the Association for the second time since its inception in 1969. He said, contacts between friends usually go through a process of getting to know, understanding and trust and the key is mutual trust. President Chen Haosu expressed appreciation of what the NCA had done to further the friendship between China and Norway and held that the two sides should continue to increase exchanges and expand areas of cooperation.



The CPAFFC delegation's visit to Estonia was the first personnel exchange between the CPAFFC and the ECFA. Set up in 2007, the ECFA works to enhance friendly exchanges and cooperation in the economic, trade, cultural, educational, sports and other fields with China and strives to become an accomplished friendship-with-China organization. During the meeting, President Chen expressed the hope that the two organizations would exchange visits and conduct other exchanges on a regular basis. He extended an invitation to the ECFA president to lead a delegation to visit China. □

# CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin Leads Delegation to Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Vanuatu

**Wang Lidan**

**A**t the invitation of the China-PNG Friendship Association Incorporation (CPNGFA), the New Zealand-China Friendship Society (NZCFS) and Vanuatuan Ambassador to China, a CPAFFC delegation led by its vice president Li Xiaolin visited Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Vanuatu from May 11 to 22. It paid official calls on Governor General Paulius Matane of Papua New Guinea; President Kalkot Matas Kelekele, Prime Minister Ham Lini, Speaker Sam Dan Avok of the Representative Assembly, Foreign Minister Georges Wells and President Sebastien Algued of Sanma Province of Vanuatu; and Vice Secretary John McArthur of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, attended the PNG-China Friendship Forum, the Annual Conference of New Zealand-China Friendship Society and the ceremony of signing the memorandum of understanding on friendship and cooperation between the CPAFFC and the Vanuatu-China Friendship Association (VCFA) and visited the China-aided Oil Palm Project/Plantation and the Chinese medical team in Vanuatu.

**Sharing weal and woe with the people in China's disaster areas.** Wenchuan earthquake occurred on the second day of the delegation's overseas visit.

All the members of the delegation led by Li Xiaolin immediately participated in the local people's collection of donations for the stricken areas and mourning the victims of the earthquake. When meeting with the delegation, the governor general of Papua New Guinea, the Vanuatuan president, prime minister, speaker of the Representative Assembly and foreign minister and the vice foreign minister of New Zealand, all expressed their sincere sympathy and solicitude for the people of the disaster areas in China. On May 19, in the Chinese Embassy in Vanuatu, together with all the people at home the delegation paid silent tribute to the victims of Wenchuan earthquake. In Port Vila on May 20, the delegation took part in the collection of donations held by the Chinese community in Vanuatu. Chinese Ambassador to Vanuatu Cheng Shuping and his wife, Vanuatuan President Kalkot Matas Kelekele and his wife, Speaker of the Representative Assembly Sam Dan Avok and his wife, Vanuatuan Ambassador to China Lo Chi Wai, diplomatic envoys in Vanuatu and representatives of overseas Chinese and Chinese Vanuatuan, among over 200 people, participated in the activity. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin gave a speech expressing her thanks to the personages of



**PNG Governor General Paulius Matane (right) meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin**





**CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin addressing the China-PNG Friendship Forum**

various circles of Vanuatu and the Chinese Vanuatuans and overseas Chinese there for their active participation in collecting donations for relieving the distress among the victims of the Wenchuan earthquake. The local Chinese community organized a charity performance. Vanuatuan President and his wife also took part in the charity auction. On that night donations of 3.4 million Vatu (about 34,000 US dollars) were collected. During delegation's visit in Sanma Province, after listening to Li Xiaolin's briefing about the disaster, Governor Aligned, on behalf of the province, right away donated 1,500 US dollars to the people in the disaster areas. Ambassador Lo Chi Wai who accompanied the delegation on the visit said, the fact that Sanma Province, an economically backward area, donated money to China's earthquake-hit areas fully showed Vanuatuan people's friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people.

**Carrying out people-to-people friendly cooperation and exchanges.** On May 12, the CPAFFC and the CPNGFA jointly held the China-PNG Friendship Forum. The CPNGFA with more than 800 members, a fairly big friendship-with-China or-

ganization in PNG, aims at promoting and developing friendship between PNG and China and the people of the two countries. The PNG incumbent Prime Minister Michael Somare is its honorary president. Chao Xiaoliang, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in PNG; Leonard Louma, international relations adviser to the Prime Minister; Maimu Raka-Nou and Max Rai, former ambassadors to China, and representatives of the Chinese community there, among over 70 people, attended the forum. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and CPNGFA President Stanley Shi signed a letter of intent on friendly cooperation. In their speeches at the forum, CPNGFA President Stanley Shi, and former PNG Ambassador to China Maimu Raka-Nou stressed the importance of PNG-China relations. They said, PNG has always supported China in international affairs. People-to-people exchanges, an important component of bilateral relations, have bright prospects. The signing

**Kalkot Matas Kelekele, president of Vanuatu, meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and her party**



# Delegation of US National Conference of State Legislatures In China

An Xin

Invited by the CPAFFC, a 10-member delegation of the US National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) led by Donna Stone, chairperson of the NCSL, paid a visit to Beijing, Hunan and Shanghai from May 26 to June 4, 2008. In Beijing, Li Zhaoxing, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People Congress (NPC), Ma Xiuhong, vice minister of commerce, Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC vice president, and Liu Jieyi, assistant foreign minister, met with the delegation.

## Strengthening exchanges be-

**tween legislative bodies of the two countries to promote the development of bilateral relations.** In meeting with the delegation, Li Zhaoxing, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC, reviewed the development of China-US relations in the past 30 years, and said, China and the United States, both permanent members of the UN Security Council, should work hand in hand, shoulder more responsibilities and make unremitting efforts to maintain regional stability and world peace. The legislative bodies of the two countries can play

more active roles in promoting bilateral cooperation in international affairs.

In his meeting with the delegation, Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi stressed, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to promoting exchanges with the United States in economy, culture, education, sports and other fields. Though the political systems of the two countries are different, there is a very broad prospect for cooperation. Liu hoped that the US legislatures as an important force in promoting China-US relations would contin-

of the letter of intent on friendly cooperation has opened a new chapter in the people-to-people contacts and friendship between PNG and China.

In his meeting with Li Xiaolin and her party, Vanuatuan President Kelekele said, the friendly relations between Vanuatu and China go back to ancient times. The hard-working and honest Chinese in Vanuatu keep harmonious relations with the local people and have made great contributions to the development of local economy. The establishment of the VCFA will promote the development of the relations between the two countries, particularly people-to-people exchanges. Not long ago, the wife of Vanuatuan President led a women's delegation to visit China. China's rapid economic development and rich and colourful Chinese culture left a deep impression on them. During the delegation's stay in Vanuatu, she specially held a meeting briefing about her visit to China and showed great enthusiasm for the establishment of the VCFA. On the night of May 20, at the charity performance for the Wenchuan

earthquake relief, the First Lady and president of the VCFA announced the establishment of the VCFA and signed with CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin an agreement on cooperation between the VCFA and the CPAFFC.

The establishment of the VCFA and the signing of the letter of intent on friendly cooperation between China and PNG and the memorandum of understanding on Friendship and cooperation between the CPAFFC and the VCFA have laid a foundation for carrying out people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between China and the two countries.

The delegation attended the Annual Conference of New Zealand-China Friendship Society in Master-ton. In her speech at the conference, Li Xiaolin extended her warm congratulations to Eric T. Livingstone, newly elected president of NZCFS, and sincere thanks to new and old friends for their efforts to develop New Zealand-China friendship. She expressed her wishes to further strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. □

**The delegation with Academician Yuan Longping (middle in the front row) known as “father of hybrid rice” after visiting the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre**



ue to strengthen its contacts with the Chinese NPC and further enhance mutual understanding and trust to ensure a steady and healthy development of bilateral relations.

In their meetings with the delegation, Liu Lianyu, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Hunan Provincial People's Congress; Yi Lizhen, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Yueyang Municipal People's Congress; Yao Mingbao, secretary general of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, and Peng Xulan, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Pudong New Area People's Congress, respectively briefed about the People's Congress and the social and economic development of their places since the reform and opening up.

Donna Stone said, she and most of the members of the delegation visited China for the first time. They were very glad to see for themselves China's rapid development. The visit has given them a better understanding about

China's legislative system, setup of administrative bodies and social and economic development. She said, US-China relations have never been as important as they are now. US-China relationship will be the most important bilateral one in the world in the coming 20 to 30 years. The NCSL and the CPAFFC have kept in contact for more than ten years and had good cooperation. She welcomed more Chinese delegations to visit the United States to expand and deepen bilateral exchanges and continuously push forward US-China relations.

**Respecting each other's concerns and promoting economic and trade cooperation.** At her meeting with the delegation, Vice Minister of Commerce Ma Xiuhong briefed about the current situation of China-US trade, and the economic and trade exchanges and the prospects of cooperation between China and the delegation members' states of the U.S. As to the China-US trade deficit that the US legislators are concerned about, Ma expressed her understanding of the U.S. side's con-

cerns. She said, in recent years China has actively taken measures to gradually increase its import from the U. S. and encourage Chinese-funded enterprises to make investigation and investment in the U.S. She also pointed out, as Chinese enterprises lack experience in making investments in foreign countries and know little about the legislation of different states of the U.S., they meet many difficulties and challenges. She hoped that the NCSL and legislators of various states would give them more support in future and make contributions to developing mutually beneficial China-US economic and trade relations.

About the imbalance of China-US trade, Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi said, the harsh conditions set by the US Government for exporting high-tech products to China have resulted in the tiny proportion of such products in the total US export to China. This is one of the main causes of the imbalance. He hoped that the US legislatures at various levels would make efforts to solve the problem impeding the devel-



Li Zhaoxing (middle) with NCSL Chairperson Donna Stone (left) and Vice Chairman Don Balfour (right)

opment of China-US economic and trade relations and create better conditions for their development.

After visiting the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Zone, the Pudong New Area, China Sany Group, the US Varian Medical Systems Inc. and the GE China Research and Development Centre, the delegates expressed their great admiration for the high efficiency and achievements of China's economic development. They said, after returning home they would actively carry out economic and trade cooperation with China according to the conditions of their states and provide convenience for more Chinese enterprises to invest in the United States.

**Paying attention to people's livelihood and making joint efforts to create a harmonious world.** Through the visit, the delegation had a better understanding about the course of China's growth as well as the Chinese Government's governance concept of putting priority on building a harmonious society where people's livelihood is put first.

During their stay in Beijing, the delegation visited the Exhibition "Tibet, the Past and the Present". A great number of photos, cultural relics, films and videos enabled the delegates to have a perceptive understanding of the tremendous changes in Tibet. They expressed appreciation of the enormous efforts made by the Chinese Government in the construction of Tibet.

Through their visit to the Former Residence and the Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao Zedong in Shaoshan, the delegates felt the difficulties and hardships China had undergone in its revolution and liberation. In the Xianjia New Residential Quarters in Changsha, the delegation visited the homes of ordinary people and had a cordial chat with them about their life, work and China's social welfare system. They were deeply impressed by China's efforts to build a harmonious society.

Academician Yuan Longping known as "father of hybrid rice" had a cordial talk with the delegation at the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre. The

achievements China had made in the research of hybrid rice seemed very fresh and new to the delegates. They said that the research on hybrid rice carried out by China is of great importance to uphold grain security in the world and a great undertaking benefiting humanity.

During their stay in China, the delegation showed great concern to Sichuan earthquake and spoke highly of the strong measures taken by the Chinese government. Donna Stone, on behalf of the NCSL and the American people, expressed her heartfelt condolence to the victims of the earthquake and said that the NCSL had donated money to the China Red Cross via the Chinese ambassador to the United States. She recalled with deep feelings the selfless aid given by the Chinese people in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina. She said, the American people as friends of the Chinese people will stand firmly side by side with the Chinese people to tide over difficulties and make contributions to building a harmonious world. □



# Delegation of Ministers of East African Community Visits China

**Liu Hongmin**

Received by the CPAFFC, a 17-member delegation of ministers in charge of the East African Community (EAC) affairs of the EAC's five countries led by Hon. Eriya Kategaya, Ugandan first deputy prime minister and minister of the EAC affairs, paid a goodwill visit to Beijing, Yichang and Shenzhen from May 5 to 14.

The EAC founded in 2000 is a regional organization composed of five East African countries, namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda with its secretariat in Arusha of Tanzania. The EAC aims to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and development in politics, economy and trade among its member countries and with other countries. The EAC established a tariff union in 2005 and plans to establish a common market by 2010 so as to realize free flow of personnel and commodities within the EAC's five members. Its goal is to establish a monetary union and on this basis the East African political federation by 2012.

In Beijing CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Assistant Foreign Minister Zhai Jun and Vice Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng met with the delegation on separate occasions.

Eriya Kategaya, head of the delegation, said,

China and Africa enjoy traditional friendship and the Chinese people are good friends of the African people. The Chinese Government has always helped Africa sincerely with no conditions attached. He said that he had visited China many times and that every time he saw new development in China. He expressed his admiration for the achievements China had made.

He said, China keeps friendly relations and close cooperation with the EAC five member countries. This time the five countries, as a whole, visit China hoping to deepen cooperation with China. He held, a single country is not potent enough to attract large investment. The EAC has set up a platform of common development for its five members, which will help attract large investment in their construction and realize common development. The EAC with rich natural resources has a lot of opportunities of investment and welcomes Chinese big companies and businessmen to make investments there. The delegation had talks successively with China Road and Bridge Corporation in Beijing, China Gezhouba Group Corporation in Yichang and Huawei Technologies in Shenzhen. The details of cooperation plan have not yet been discussed. The delegation hoped that Chinese companies would make

**Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting with the delegation**



# Japan-China New Century Association Delegation Visits China

**Zhang Zhenxing**

At the invitation of the CPAFC, a delegation consisting of seven Japanese Dietmen of the Japan-China New Century Association (JCNCA) led by Otohiko Endo, president of the JCNCA and member of the House of Representatives of the Komei Party, paid a visit to Beijing from June 22 to 25. Xu Jialu, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), met with the delegation. Song Jian, president of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), met with and entertained the delegation. The delegation paid an official call on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

## **Xu Jialu Meeting with the Delegation**

On June 24, Xu Jialu, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met with Otohiko Endo and his party at the Great Hall of the People.

Xu Jialu expressed his welcome to the Japanese delegation visiting China and appreciation of the efforts made by the JCNCA since its founding in 2000 to en-

hance mutual understanding, promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields and develop Japan-China relations. Xu said, looking back on the past, China-Japan relations experienced twists and turns from time to time and met with great difficulties a few years ago. With the joint efforts made by the governments and various social circles of the two countries, now the dark clouds have been dispelled and the sun has come out in bilateral relations. In recent years, through successful exchanges of visits by the leaders of the two countries, China-Japan relations have been noticeably improved and are developing further. Particularly President Hu Jintao's successful visit to Japan has born rich fruits. Sino-Japanese relationship is at a new historical starting point and has had a solid foundation for its development to a higher stage. The leaders of the older generation and personages of insight of various circles of the two countries have made painstaking efforts to promote bilateral relations. The Chinese and Japanese people will forever remember their great contributions. We

on-the-spot investigation for the construction of highway and railway networks in the five countries so as to consummate the plan and eventually con-

struct the network of communication in the EAC. The EAC and China Gezhouba Group Corporation signed the Memorandum on the Framework of Cooperation in Energy and Infrastructure Construction. □



**The delegation at the  
Splendid China Folk  
Culture Village in Shen-  
zhen**

**Xu Jialu, former vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, meeting with Otohiko Endo and his party**



should carry out the behests of the older generation and make joint efforts to realize ever-lasting friendship between the people of the two countries.

Xu said, we should not evade the problems existing in bilateral relations. The two sides should proceed from the China-Japan friendship and on the basis of friendly consultation properly handle these problems. China and Japan are close neighbours and have a 2,000-year history of friendly exchanges. Though there was an unfortunate period in the 20th century, friendly relations have remained the mainstream. Both countries should draw experience and lessons from history, strengthen exchanges and dialogue, and learn from each other to make up for their deficiencies so as to realize common development.

Otohiko Endo thanked Xu Jialu for meeting with them in the midst of pressing affairs. He said, President Hu Jintao's visit to Japan in May has achieved great success. The two countries have reached extensive consensus on all-round promotion of Sino-Japanese strategic relations of mutual benefit. The further develop-

ment of bilateral relations is conducive to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and the world. Relations between the two countries, in final analysis, are relations between the people of the two countries. In future mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples should be further enhanced. The JCNCA as a friendship-with-China organization in the Japanese Diet will continue their efforts to boost exchanges between the two countries in various fields and develop Japan-China relations.

#### **CJFA President Song Jian Meeting with the Delegation**

On June 23, CJFA President Song Jian met with and entertained Otohiko Endo and his party at the Diaoyutai State Guest House. Otohiko Endo, on behalf of the JCNCA and the Kenminkai of Tochigi Prefecture, his home place, donated money to the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas and wished the people in the disaster areas early success in rebuilding their homeland.

Song Jian expressed his gratitude to Otohiko Endo and the JC-

NCA for their good wishes for the reconstruction of the earthquake-stricken areas. Song said, in the wake of the Wenchuan catastrophic earthquake, the international community including Japan showed great concern and support for the Chinese people. The Japanese Government offered prompt relief aids to China and the Japanese people of various circles also lent their helping hands. All this shows the Japanese people's friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people. Japan, a country where earthquakes happen frequently, has precious experience in taking precautions against earthquakes. China is willing to learn from Japanese techniques and experience. We believe that with the help of the international community and through concerted efforts of the Chinese government and people, the disaster areas in Sichuan will surely be reconstructed early. Song Jian also expressed his sincere sympathy and solicitude for the families of those who lost their lives and the wounded in the recent Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake. □

# Commemorative Activities for 37th Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy Held in The United States

**Jiang Yingshan**

At the invitation of the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin led a delegation to attend the China-US Table Tennis Tournament and the Exhibition of Ping Pong Diplomacy jointly sponsored by the Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, the CPAFFC and the USA Table Tennis (USATT) from June 10 to 12. These activities were held in Yorba Linda of California, the birthplace of President Nixon where his library is located to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the Ping Pong Diplomacy between China and the United States, and to serve as a prelude to the Beijing Olympic Games and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. Members of the delegation included Liang Geliang, former table tennis world champion and witness to the Ping Pong Diplomacy, Qiao Yunping and Zhang Lei, former world champions, and Song Shichao, young player of China's National Table Tennis Team II. The main activities were the opening ceremony and the official celebration dinner gala on June 10, Chinese and US national players giving table tennis lessons to school-age players and amateurs on June 11, and the China-US Table Tennis Tournament—Ping Pong Diplomacy: *The Rematch*, and the closing ceremony

on June 12. Over 500 people from various circles including the media of both countries attended these activities. Huang Xiaojian, acting consul general of the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles, was present at *The Rematch* and the closing ceremony and hosted a banquet in honour of the Chinese and US participants on June 11. Deputy Consul General Xu Chaoyou attended the opening ceremony and the celebration dinner gala. Before *The Rematch*, local Chinese community performed unique Chinese dances—waist drum dance and lion dance.

**Reviewing the history and looking into the future.** CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, Acting Chinese Consul General Huang Xiaojian, Deputy Chinese Consul General Xu Chaoyou, Kris Elftmann and John H. Taylor, chairman of the Board of Directors and executive director of the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, and Michael D. Cavanaugh, interim CEO of USATT, spoke at relevant activities. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, former US national security adviser, made a key-note speech at the dinner gala. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin said in her speech at the opening ceremony, the Ping Pong Diplomacy opened the door to China-US relations. The holding of the present table tennis tournament not only shows the friendship between our two peo-



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Deputy Consul General Xu Chaoyou of the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles with Chinese and American table tennis players



ples, but also highlights the importance of the historic event. In 1971, thanks to the wise decision and careful arrangements made by the Chinese and US leaders, the US Table Tennis Team became the first batch of Americans to visit China after the founding of new China, a historic breakthrough in the development of Sino-US relations, which helped bring about President Nixon's visit to China in 1972 and eventually led to the normalization of relations between China and the United States. This was a great undertaking of people-to-people diplomacy; the small balls rolled the big ball (the globe). History has proved that the sound development of Sino-US relations is of vital importance to the governments and peoples of the two countries. She expressed the hope that this tournament would enable people to relive the athletic concept of "friendship first, competition second".

Gen. Scowcroft recalled his experiences of accompanying President Nixon on his visit to China. He stressed, the significance of Ping Pong Diplomacy lies in bringing the United States and China to sit for dialogue in the Cold War years. It was such dialogue that brought major improvement in bilateral relations after decades of estrangement. There have been six successions to the US presidency since President Nixon's visit to China. Whether republicans or democrats, they have always adhered to US' China policy. Today, the U. S. and China are interdependent economically and carry out bilateral cooperation in international affairs on an unprecedented scale.

Executive Director Taylor likened the relationship between the two big countries, the U.S. and China, to a great athletic contest that is fraught with tension, disappointment, and triumph. He said: "Besides reminding people how this vital new relationship began, *The Rematch* will be further evidence of how healthy state-to-state relations should always be founded in thriving people-to-people relations."

**Friendship first, competition second.** *The Rematch* consisting of four single matches held on the morning of June 12 pushed the commemorative activities to a climax. First Qiao Yunping played Tawny Banh. Then, Song Shichao engaged Mark Hazinski, which was followed by Zhang Lei versus Khoa Nguyen, and finally the match between Liang Geliang and George Braithwaite, the original Chinese and American team members in 1971. In the



**Liang Geliang and George Braithwaite, witnesses to the Ping Pong Diplomacy, happy together**

end the Chinese team had three victories against one loss. While engaging in a keen competition, the Chinese and American players did not forget to arouse the enthusiasm of the spectators and add the appreciativeness to the scene. The excellent performance of looping by both sides was a feast for the eyes for hundreds of spectators. Liang Geliang engaged Braithwaite again after 37 years. Both played with great concentration. Their superb skills brought waves of enthusiastic applause from the spectators. *The Rematch* was filled with an atmosphere of the main theme "friendship first, competition second".

When interviewed, Liang Geliang said, we came here to commemorate the great feat of the Ping Pong Diplomacy. Without the wise decision of the leaders of the two countries, there would be no Ping Pong Diplomacy, and it would be very difficult to open the door to establishing Sino-US diplomatic relations. Comparing with 30 years ago, the Chinese and American people feel much closer to each other.

**(Continued on p.13)**

# Japanese Young Dietmen's Delegation Visits China

Pan Lin

From July 22 to 26, a Japanese young Dietmen delegation of the Dietmen's League for Japan-China Friendship (DLJCF) headed by Masayoshi Hayashi, secretary general of the DLJCF and member of the House of Councillors from the Liberal Democratic Party, visited Beijing, Changsha and Shanghai at the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association. During the visit, Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat and head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, met with the delegation. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with the delegation and hosted a banquet in its honour. The delegation called on Zhou Qiang, governor of Hunan, He Yafei, vice foreign minister and Yang Yue, president of the All-China Youth Federation, and had informal discussions on Sino-Japanese relations and youth exchange between the two countries with the teachers and students of China Youth University for Political Sciences.

At his meeting with the delegation on July 24, Li Yuanchao expressed appreciation of the important contributions the DLJCF has made over the years to advancing the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship, the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, and promoting the healthy development

of bilateral relations. He noted, now the development of Sino-Japanese relations appears gaining momentum. President Hu Jintao made an official visit to Japan in early May; it was a successful "warm spring visit", during which the two countries reached extensive common understanding on promotion of the strategic relationship of mutual benefit in an all-round way. Now, the Sino-Japanese relations are at a new historical starting point, having a new opportunity for further development. To pursue good neighbourly relations between China and Japan conforms to the fundamental interests of both countries and peoples and is of great significance to peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world. The Chinese side is willing to work with the Japanese side to implement the agreements reached during President Hu Jintao's visit, and continue to increase friendly exchanges, deepen mutual benefit and cooperation, properly handle relevant problems, further enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, particularly the youth, and work hard to realize the lofty goal of peaceful co-existence, lasting friendship, cooperation of mutual benefit and common development.

Masayoshi Hayashi said, Japan-China relations have seen continuous improvement. Especially, the two visits to Japan by President Hu Jintao this year and

his fruitful talks with Prime Minister Fukuda have expanded and deepened the contents of the bilateral strategic relationship of mutual benefit and brought about a turn for the better of the friendly sentiments between the two peoples. The governments of the two countries have reached consensus in principle on the East China Sea issue, which is highly appraised by the public opinion. He expressed sincere hope that the development of Japan-China friendly relations would bring tangible benefit to the people of the two countries and that young politicians of the two countries would strengthen exchanges and mutual understanding and work together to further interaction in all fields between the two countries and advance bilateral relations.

On the issue of East China Sea, Li Yuanchao pointed out, with concerted efforts by both sides, China and Japan have reached consensus in principle and publicized it. This is a major step taken by the two sides towards resolving the issue, a new progress made in their strategic relationship of mutual benefit, and in conformity with the idea of building a peaceful and harmonious world put forward by China. He hoped that the two sides would continue to handle this problem properly so that the principled consensus would have the understanding and support of the broad masses of people in the two countries. □

# Former Netherlands Deputy Prime Minister Hans Dijkstal Leads Delegation to China

Lu Yanxia

Hans Dijkstal, former Netherlands deputy prime minister and current chairman of the Board of Atlantic & Pacific Exchange Programme (APEP) of the Netherlands, headed a 12-member goodwill delegation to visit Beijing and Shanghai from May 25 to 31 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, Tang Dengjie, vice mayor of Shanghai and Zhou Muyao, president of the Shanghai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SMPAFFC) met with the delegation respectively.

**Promoting exchange of information and deepening mutual understanding.** The CPAFFC organized for the delegation a seminar on China, which was presided over by its vice president Li Jianping. Leading members from the Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and the National Council for Social Security Fund attended the seminar and spoke about China's social security system, the management and the use of social security fund, the employment policy for the

floating population, social relief for poor people as well as the supervision and management of food and agricultural products. The delegation exchanged information and experience in these areas with the speakers and held that China has made remarkable progress in the field of social security, which is conducive to maintaining a stable livelihood for the people and continuous development of society. They expressed the hope to have closer exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese side in the areas of social security fund, food and import and export of agricultural products.

The delegation visited farmers at their homes in Mutianyu Village in Beijing. The members of the delegation had deep impressions of the visit and were satisfied to hear positive appraisals of China's reform and opening up from common people. They believed that life of the Chinese people would become better and better and society would advance in a steady way.

**Forging close cooperative ties and expanding fields of cooperation.** When meeting with the delegation, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu expressed ap-

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu meeting with the goodwill delegation headed by Hans Dijkstal, former deputy prime minister of the Netherlands



preciation of the work done by the APEP over the years to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries and hoped that the two sides would continue to cooperate on more projects. President Chen briefed the delegation on China's reform and opening up, the building of a socialist harmonious society and the earthquake relief efforts made by the people of the whole country under the leadership of the government. He pointed out, the building of a harmonious world is a global concept worth of attention. The world is colourful because there are differences and the world will become more beautiful if common language exceeds differences. During the meeting, President Chen presented to the delegation a commemorative plaque to congratulate the APEP on the 25th anniversary of its founding this year. Chairman Hans Dijkstal said, he was very happy to receive congratulations from the CPAFFC for APEP's 25th anniversary. He noted, cooperation between the APEP and the CPAFFC has got fruitful and satisfactory results since the two organizations established cooperative relations in 1991 when President Chen led a delegation to visit the Netherlands. He said, the APEP would like to maintain long-term cooperative relations with the CPAFFC and make fresh contributions to exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the Netherlands and China. Chairman Dijkstal held, competition exists in the world, but it should be conducted in a peaceful way. The development China has achieved in the past several decades and its growing ability for social activities will produce positive influence not only on

China, but also on Asia and even the whole world. He sincerely wished the Beijing Olympic Games a full success. At the meeting, Chairman Dijkstal, on behalf of all the members of the delegation and himself, expressed sympathy and solicitude to the people in the earthquake-affected areas in Sichuan and praised the quick response of the Chinese government of various levels to the tremendous natural disaster and the national spirit demonstrated in the relief efforts. The APEP would consider providing assistance to the reconstruction of the disaster-stricken areas in Sichuan and according to the needs of the Chinese side, send specialists in the treatment of water and soil contamination to the quake areas to make investigation and draw a working plan.

**Strengthening contacts between localities and promoting practical cooperation.** Shanghai Vice Mayor Tang Dengjie and SMPAFFC President Zhou Muyao met with the delegation on separate occasions. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the successful cooperation between Shanghai and Rotterdam, the two friendship cities and agreed to deepen cooperation and exploit their respective advantages to promote the continuous development of the two cities. After the earthquake hit Sichuan, Rotterdam donated 100,000 euros to the disaster areas. At present, the Shanghai Construction Group is cooperating with Rotterdam to build a European-Chinese centre in Katendrecht, port area of Rotterdam. The agreement on the project will be signed in Shanghai in June. The construction is expected to start in February of 2009 and complete at the end of 2011.□

#### The delegation at the seminar on China





# Fourth Chinese Commoners Delegation in the U. S.

Liu Yi

At the invitation of United Parcel Service of America, Inc. (UPS), the fourth delegation of ordinary Chinese people led by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin paid a goodwill visit to Washington, D.C. and Atlanta from June 2 to 8. Also included in the delegation were two 5th-grade students from the Beichuan Middle School in the Sichuan quake-hit areas and three private entrepreneurs from Beijing. During the three-day stay in Washington, D.C., the delegation called on 16 US congressmen, participated in the Global Family Day activity with the theme of earthquake relief co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Global Family Foundation, at which Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong and 17 US congressmen were present and made remarks, and attended the welcoming reception hosted by UPS with six congressmen present. The delegation made a spe-

cial trip to Atlanta, Georgia to pay a visit to former US President Jimmy Carter. During its stay in the U. S., the delegation briefed on China's earthquake relief efforts and exchanged views with the American side on the tremendous changes that have taken place in China over the past 30 years since reform and opening up and on Sino-US relations.

**The performance of the Chinese Government and people in earthquake relief wins respect.** The visit was made only a fortnight after the devastating earthquake occurred in Sichuan. At their meetings with the delegation, former US President Carter and congressmen expressed their condolences on those who died in the earthquake and their sadness over the tragedies that happened during the disaster. They gave their best wishes to the Chinese people and highly praised the unity demonstrated by the Chinese Govern-

ment and people in the earthquake relief efforts. Spencer Bachus, Republican congressman from Alabama, said, the Chinese people plunged into earthquake relief with one heart and one mind and the Chinese Government quickly mobilized a large contingent of the army and rescue teams. The whole relief effort was great. Vernon Ehlers, Republican congressman from Michigan, stated, the decisive and prompt actions taken by the Chinese Government after the earthquake, the timely news release of the latest development in the quake areas to the international community and the reception of humanitarian aid reflected China's progress. Thelma Drake, Republican Congresswoman from Virginia, was deeply touched by the two students' stories of how the teachers and students of their school helped each other during and after the earthquake. She said, the Americans learned news about

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and her party paying a visit to US Congressman Rick Larsen





**The delegation with US Congressman Joe Wilson**

the earthquake on TV, but they did not get such moving stories showing the indomitable and selfless spirit of the Chinese people. Diane Watson, Democrat congresswoman from California, expressed her admiration of the great courage and strength demonstrated by the Chinese people in the earthquake.

**The Global Family Day on aiding the Sichuan quake areas strikes a sympathetic chord in the hearts of many Congressmen.** On June 5, the delegation took part in the Global Family Day activity with the theme of aiding Sichuan quake areas jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Global Family Foundation at the Capitol Hill. Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong, 17 congressmen and their assistants, representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce, the World Harmony Foun-

dation, Walt Disney Company, Morgan Stanley and Caterpillar, totaling over 100 people, attended the event. Ambassador Zhou and CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin made speeches, expressing gratitude to the US Government and people for their goodwill and support for the Sichuan quake areas.

The two students from Beichuan Middle School spoke in English on the situation in the quake areas, thanked the United States and other countries in the world for their assistance to China, and told the audience that the Chinese people would surely win victory over the disaster and rebuild the quake areas into beautiful towns and villages. The speeches of the two students moved all those present. John Conyers, Democrat congressman from Michigan, said, the world is like a big family, the earthquake that occurred in Sichuan, just like the hurricane that hit New Orleans, evoked the American people's sympathy. Nancy Boyda, congresswoman from Kansas, gave her kindest regards to the Chinese people. She said, the stories told by the two girls were very touching. She was happy to see that they had recovered so

soon after the earthquake, and with their dauntless spirit they had inspired many victims to rebuild their homeland.

The CPAFFC had collected 535 drawings and handicrafts made by primary and middle school students from all over China as souvenirs to convey to all the members of the US Congress the best wishes of the Chinese children for China-US friendship and world peace. When the delegation handed these handicrafts to the Congress members, they all prized them very much, saying that these gifts embodied Chinese children's friendship for the American people and would be placed in the most conspicuous spot in their offices. They asked us to give them the addresses of the students who made these handicrafts so that they could write to express their thanks.

**China's reform and opening up and the development of Sino-US relations in the past 30 years receive positive appraisal.** 2008 sees the 30th anniversary of China's adoption of the reform and opening up policy and the approaching of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States. Former US President Carter and congressmen spoke highly of the great achievements China had made in the past three decades since reform and opening up and gave positive appraisal of the development of Sino-US relations in the last 30 years.

Carter said, to establish diplomatic relations with China was the wisest decision he had made during his tenure of office. He was pleased to see that

# German Delegation's China Tour

**Wang Wei**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a delegation of the Association for Germany-China Friendship (AGCF) Stuttgart on a tour of investigation of environmental protection and energy conservation visited Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Tangshan and Changzhou from March 22 to 30. The delegation was led by Mrs. Karin Roth, secretary of state of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, and member of the Federal Assembly and the Presidium of the AGCF. Rainer Dold, president of the AGCF Stuttgart; vice mayor of Stuttgart; directors of the Environmental Protection Bureau of Stuttgart and of Frankfurt were among the members

of the delegation.

The delegation paid an official call on Wang Guangtao, chairman of the Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee of the National People's Congress. Wang briefed the German guests about the progress China had made in environmental protection, energy conservation and reduction of emission since reform and opening up, urban construction and the challenges the country was facing in solving the housing problems for the people. Karin Roth made positive estimation of the achievements China had made in environmental protection and energy conservation, and held that China

US-China relationship has become one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. He expressed his willingness to visit China in January next year to attend the celebration of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Jean Schmidt, Republican congresswoman from Ohio, remarked, the Chinese people's enthusiastic donation of money and materials after the earthquake was similar to what the American people did after Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans. This shows that despite the cultural differences, people in the two countries have one thing in common, that is, they all have a benevolent and kind heart. She expressed her conviction that the people of the United States and China will live in peace.

Thelma Drake, Republic congresswoman from Virginia, praised China's rapid development in recent years, saying that China's telecommunications industry has developed by leaps and bounds and that its mobile phone signal coverage has by far surpassed that of the United States. She added, in the process of development, the two countries face many similar problems such as energy shortage and environmental pollution. The two countries could strengthen cooperation and seek solutions to these problems together.

There were on the delegation farmer-turned entrepreneurs who built up their enterprises during the reform and opening up. After they made it, they went back to their poor home villages to practise charity, which produced good social results. After

the earthquake, they all made donations in cash and material. Gre-sham Barrett, Republican congressman from South Carolina, appreciated the entrepreneurs' deeds of repaying society. He expressed his support for trade between the U.S. and China and welcomed Chinese entrepreneurs to make investment and set up factories in South Carolina. Congresswoman Jean Schmidt spoke approvingly of Chinese entrepreneurs' deeds of repaying society and helping people in the quake areas. Most of the congress members affirmed China's achievements in reform and opening up, praised the hard working and pioneering spirit of the Chinese entrepreneurs, and welcomed Chinese business circles to strengthen exchanges with their American counterparts and learn from each other. □

had potentials in standardizing energy-saving specification for new buildings, transforming existing buildings into energy-efficient ones and utilizing renewable energy resources. She hoped that Germany would fully cooperate with China in coping with climate changes.

Qiu Baoxing, vice minister of housing and urban-rural development, briefed the delegation about the coming Green Building Conference and the current situation and plan of building eco-cities in China.

Karin Roth said, Germany has accumulated rich experience in formulating standards for energy-efficient buildings. Every year China constructs new buildings of several billion square metres. She hoped that China would introduce Germany's advanced technical specification and standards. She gave an account of the new energy-saving technologies such as geothermal energy and wall solar energy plates that are widely used in German new buildings.

In Tangshan, the delegation visited the demonstration project of energy conservation transformation of the existing buildings in the Hebei No. 1 Residential Quarter. This Sino-German cooperative project, supported by the ministry of construction of the two countries and the Tangshan Municipal Government, is undertaken by German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Because of poor insulation and low efficiency of the heating system of existing Chinese buildings, energy consumption per unit is 2 to 3 times higher than that in the developed countries of the same latitude. This project has carried out building energy conservation transformation by reforming the buildings' exterior walls' structure, the windows and the heating facilities, and notably improved its insulation, heat preservation, sound insulation and dust prevention. Members of the delegation visited the houses of two residents. When seeing that the residents were satisfied with the results of the transformation and that more and more people living outside the demonstration residential quarter hope to transform their houses with their own funds, Roth felt very glad and encouraged, and fully affirmed the significance of this demonstration project.

The delegation visited the Changzhou Trina Solar Energy Co., Ltd. The company, a privately-run high-tech enterprise, is mainly engaged in re-

search, development and production of photovoltaic products, chiefly solar battery plates that are exported to Europe and other places of the world, among which Germany is the largest importer of its products. Roth said, use of solar energy is very important for environmental protection, and hoped that the company would give more attention to open up domestic market for its products.

This was Roth's first visit to Shanghai, though she had been to China five times. The delegation admired Shanghai, a mega city with a high population density of 20 million people, for its capability of calmly handling challenges it faces every day and developing the city in the mode adaptable to its conditions. When enjoying the night scene at the Bund and seeing that only half of the lights were on, they praised the measures Shanghai had taken to conserve energy and reduce emission.

In Tianjin, the delegation visited Siemens Water Technologies, where they listened to the briefing given by the executive of the company about sewage treatment, collection of recycled water and reuse of sludge. In Beijing the delegation visited the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences of Peking University, the German Centre and the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Before the delegation left China, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with them and spoke highly of the efforts made by the AGCF over the years to promote Germany-China cooperation and urged relevant German departments and enterprises engaged in environmental protection to expand their cooperation with China. Chen hoped that China and Germany could have sincere dialogue in this field. Roth said, only by understanding China's huge economic size and current situation of development, can one really know how to carry out cooperation with China. She said, she understands China's position and views and is willing to make contribution to promoting Germany-China cooperation in this field.

During their visit in China, the delegation had contacts with China's scientific, technological, management and policy-making departments, conducted dialogue and in-depth exchanges in energy conservation and environmental protection. The members of the delegation said that the visit through which they got much information left a deep impression on them. □



# Saudi Entrepreneurs Delegation Visits China

**Xiong Liang**

A delegation of Saudi entrepreneurs headed by Abdul-Rahman Ali Al-Jeraisy, president of the Saudi Arabia-China Friendship Association (SACFA) and chairman of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CSCCI), paid a friendly visit to Beijing, Ningxia and Shaanxi from May 28 to June 1 at the invitation of the CPAFFC.

The CPAFFC conferred on SACFA President Al-Jeraisy the title of Friendship Ambassador. President Al-Jeraisy has made unremitting efforts to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and Saudi Arabia and economic and trade cooperation between the two countries since 1986. Especially since 1997, the CPAFFC and the SACFA have held seven symposiums on China-Saudi Arabia trade and economic relations and trade talks alternately in China and Saudi Arabia and set up the China-Saudi Arabia Mix Committee of Entrepreneurs in 2003. These efforts have played a positive role in helping en-

trepreneurs of the two countries establish links, deepening their understanding of each other's economic and trade policies and projects for investment, and broadening channels for cooperation. In 1997 when the SACFA was founded, the total trade volume between the two countries was less than 1.7 billion US dollars. Ten years later, bilateral trade volume reached 25.36 billion US dollars. This is inseparable from the efforts made by President Al-Jeraisy. The conferring of the title of Friendship Ambassador on him is recognition of his outstanding contributions to people-to-people friendship and economic and trade cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia.

President Al-Jeraisy thanked the CPAFFC for conferring on him the honorary title and said that he would continue to do his

best to further the Saudi-China friendly relations and economic and trade exchanges. He emphasized, leaders of Saudi Arabia and China regard each other's country as important strategic cooperative partner in the world and bilateral economic and trade contacts have grown smoothly, in which the two friendship organizations and the Mix Committee of Entrepreneurs have played a major role. Saudi Arabia is undergoing a 20-to-25-year period of rapid development. It has a huge domestic market and great potentiality for development. Many enterprises of European countries, the United States and Japan are planning to expand business in the country. Saudi Arabia hopes to share with its close partner China opportunities for development. The high-quality low-price products of China will help its economy take-

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the medal of Friendship Ambassador to Abdul-Rahman Ali Al-Jeraisy, president of the Saudi Arabia-China Friendship Association



off. The frequent exchange of visits between entrepreneurs of the two countries at present has become a main channel to push forward bilateral trade and economic relations. He hoped that the two sides would maintain this momentum and further increase mutual understanding so as to upgrade the level and widen the fields of cooperation. President Al-Jeraisy also expressed profound sympathy and solicitude to the victims of the earthquake-stricken areas in China's Sichuan and its neighbouring provinces. He believed that under the leadership of the Chinese government, the people of China would surely win victory over this natural disaster and rebuild the quake areas. The Saudi government and people will continue to assist the Chinese people in their earthquake relief efforts.

In Beijing, Wang Tao, president of the China-Saudi Arabia Friendship Association (CSAFA) hosted a banquet in honour of the delegation. The CPAFFC and the CSCCI jointly held the 8th Symposium on China-Saudi Arabia

Trade and Economic Relations and business talks. CSAFA council members from business circles and representatives from 40 Chinese enterprises that have cooperative relations or want to cooperate with Saudi enterprises, totaling 110 people, participated in the symposium and trade talks.

Cui Bohui, secretary of the Yinchuan City Committee of the CPC, and Wang Ru'an, mayor of Yinchuan, met with the delegation. The Foreign Affairs Office of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region together with relevant departments of the Region and Yinchuan City sponsored China-Saudi Arabia business talks and presentation of investment invitation projects in Ningxia and Yinchuan. Various departments of the regional government and large and medium-sized enterprises in the region which have economic strength and want to go overseas sent representatives to the presentation and had actively contacted Saudi entrepreneurs. The Saudi delegation visited the Islamic Scripture College of Ningxia, the Exhibition of Halal Food

and Muslim Commodities in Yinchuan and the Hui Culture Park. When visiting the exhibition, the delegation showed great interest in the local specialties of Ningxia. President Al-Jeraisy said that he would keep in contact with the person in charge of the exhibition and introduce these products to the Saudi market. He noted, the delegation came to Yinchuan to hold business talks with the aim of seeking investment opportunities in Ningxia for Saudi entrepreneurs and opening the door for Ningxia's entrepreneurs to do business in Saudi Arabia as well. He hoped that Chinese business people would go on study tours to Saudi Arabia and open up market there so that Ningxia products could be exported to Saudi Arabia and Ningxia entrepreneurs would make investment there.

During the delegation's visit in Xi'an, it attended a projects promotion presented by the Xi'an Muslim Chamber of Commerce. The two sides signed a document on the establishment of friendship ties between the two chambers. □

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Tomur Dawamat, president of the Chinese-Arab Friendship Association, with the participants of the 8th Symposium on China-Saudi Arabia Trade and Economic Relations**



# WTA President Sim Jae-Duck and His Party Visit China

**Xia Guozhu**

**S**im Jae-Duck, president of the World Toilet Association (WTA), and his party visited Beijing, Shandong and Shanghai from May 19 to 23 at the invitation of the CPAFFC.

Sim Jae-Duck is the founder of the WTA, a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and former mayor of Suwon. At his initiation, the Inaugural General Assembly of the World Toilet Association was held in Seoul in November 2007. A delegation of the CPAFFC and local government officials attended the Inaugural General Assembly, at which CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, as a Chinese representative, was elected vice president of the WTA.

The aim of the WTA is to popularize convenient sanitary toilet for all mankind to prevent diseases caused by insanitary toilet so that people of all countries can enjoy a happy life. The CPAFFC has been chosen to host the First General Assembly of the World Toilet Association in 2009.

On May 19, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping met with President Sim Jae-Duck and his party and had a working meeting with them on the holding of WTA's General Assembly in China.

Sim Jae-Duck and his party visited Beijing, Shanghai, and Jinan and Zibo of Shandong Province from May 20 to 23, had meetings with the municipal administration commission, construction bureau, environmental sanitation administration and landscape and forestation bureau of these cities, and inspected public

toilets.

President Sim Jae-Duck was very satisfied with his investigation tour of these cities and expressed confidence in the success of the First General Assembly that would be held in China in 2009. He hoped that the toilet movement would have China's support and that with the concerted efforts of all, the function of toilet would be upgraded from providing a convenient sanitary place to meet human physical need to a space of health, rest and culture.

Sim Jae-Duck and his party arrived in China on the first day of the country's national mourning period for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. They came to the CPAFFC straight from the airport to take part in the mourning and made donations to the quake-stricken areas. Sim Jae-Duck spoke highly of the prompt and effective measures taken by the Chinese government after the earthquake and hoped that the Chinese people would unite as one and rebuild the quake areas at an early date. When the Korean friends learned that mobile public toilets are in urgent need in the disaster areas, they immediately contacted the Korean enterprises. In a recent letter to CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping, the Korean friends said, the WTA has decided to donate 1,000 plastic mobile toilets to the earthquake-hit areas in Sichuan. □

**WTA President Sim Jae-Duck (L.2 front) joining the CPAFFC staffers for a 3-minute silent tribute to those who died in the Sichuan earthquake. From right: CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Secretary General Luo Qin**



# Chinese Friendly Personages' Delegation Visits Vietnam

Xu Yiyi

A 50-member "Meeting at Uncle Ho's Hometown" Chinese friendly personages' delegation led by Wang Yunze, vice president of the China-Vietnam Friendship Association (CVFA), paid a visit to Vietnam from May 15 to 23. Nguyen Minh Triet, Vietnamese president; Vu Xuan Hong, chairman of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO); Nhu Thi Hong Lien, vice chairperson of the People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province; Hoang Xuan Luong, executive deputy secretary of the Nghe An Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV); Le Hung Quoc, chairman of the VUFO of Ho Chi Minh City; and Nguyen Thanh Tai, executive vice chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, met with and entertained the

delegation. The delegation visited Hanoi, Quang Ninh Province, Nghe An Province and Ho Chi Minh City, and attended the "Meeting at the Uncle Ho's Hometown" evening party in Nghe An, hometown of Ho Chi Minh, in celebration of the 118th birthday of Chairman Ho Chi Minh.

**Great importance attached to the visit by the governments of the two countries resulted in the realization of promoting governmental relations through people-to-people contacts and developing both governmental and nongovernmental relations.** On May 16, President Nguyen Minh Triet met with the delegation at his office in Hanoi. He said, the members of the delegation have rendered great service to Chairman Ho Chi Minh, and made

great contributions to the Vietnamese revolution and Vietnam-China friendship. This activity organized on the occasion of the 118th birthday of Chairman Ho has a far-reaching significance, and reflects the Vietnamese people's fine tradition of "remembering past kindness and reciprocating the kindness received". He stated, the CPV and the Vietnamese government and people will forever remember the long-term support and aid given by the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government and people for the Vietnamese revolution. Vietnam attaches great importance to developing relations with China. Regular exchanges of visits by high-ranking leaders of the two countries have promoted bilateral cooperation. In the new era, Vietnam and China will ad-

Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet (L.9 in the front row) meeting with the delegation





here to the principle of “maintaining long-term stability, looking ahead to the future, deepening good-neighbourly relations and carrying out cooperation in all aspects” set by the leaders of the two countries, and further consolidate traditional friendship and strengthen cooperation in all fields between the two countries so as to continuously push forward bilateral relations. He stressed, in the new era when world situation is constantly changing, the two countries should unite as one and stick to the socialist road. Vietnam is willing to make concerted efforts with China to further enhance the traditional friendship forged by Chairman Ho Chi Minh, Chairman Mao Zedong and revolutionaries of the older generation. He also expressed his heartfelt condolence and sincere sympathy for the victims of May 12 Sichuan earthquake.

Wang Yunze expressed his thanks to President Nguyen for meeting with the delegation in the midst of pressing affairs. Wang said, the facts that the Vietnamese side invited a 50-member Chinese delegation to visit Vietnam on the occasion of the 118th birthday of Chairman Ho and that President Nguyen met with the delegation cordially fully show that the CPV and the Vietnamese government attached great importance to China-Vietnam relations, greatly heartening all the members of the delegation. Wang said, Chairman Ho Chi Minh was not only a great leader of the Vietnamese people, but also a good friend of the Chinese people. With the careful cultivation by the leaders of the older generation of the two countries

including Chairman Ho and Chairman Mao, the two countries forged profound traditional friendship. He said, China and Vietnam are close neighbours with similar cultures, identical ideals and related destinies. In the period of revolutionary wars, the two peoples sympathized with and supported each other. In the new era, the two countries will continue pushing forward their traditional friendly relations in accordance with the principle set by the leaders of the two countries. The Chinese people will never forget the support given by the Vietnamese people. Wang expressed his thanks to the Vietnamese government for its attention to the Olympic torch relay in Ho Chi Minh City and its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the snow disaster in early 2008 and May 12th Wenchuan earthquake.

**Cherishing the memory of Chairman Ho Chi Minh and deepening traditional friendship between the two peoples.** During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation visited the Chairman Ho Chi Minh Museum and his former residence. With a heavy heart and deep memory, the delegates burned joss sticks before the Ho Chi Minh statue, and visited the places where Chairman Ho had worked and lived. Some of the members of the delegation had served as Chairman Ho’s interpreters and some as his doctors, nurses and bodyguards. Some were veterans helping Vietnam in its revolution and some have long been engaged in Vietnamese studies. They had deep affection for Chairman Ho and were moved to tears when seeing these places and the scenes of their working

for Chairman Ho reappeared in their minds. Their profound sentiments of friendship seen on the TV and reported in the newspapers evoked strong repercussion among the local people.

On May 19, the delegation attended the evening party “Meeting at Uncle Ho’s Hometown” to commemorate the 118th birthday of Chairman Ho together with representatives of the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the VUFO, the government of Nghe An, as well as local university students and foreign students studying in Vietnam. In his speech at the party, CVFA Vice President Wang Yunze said, China and Vietnam are close neighbours joined by common mountains and rivers. The traditional friendship between the people of the two countries dates back to ancient times. In the struggles for national independence and liberation, the two peoples supported each other and fought shoulder to shoulder and forged profound “comradeship and brotherhood” friendship. In the socialist revolution and construction, we make explorations together, learn from each other and constantly enrich and develop each other’s theories and practice of the socialist construction of our countries. We are happy to see that with the concerted efforts of the new leadership of the two countries and care by the two peoples, the flower of China-Vietnam friendship tended personally by Chairman Ho, Chairman Mao and other leaders of the older generation are continuing bursting into gorgeous bloom. At the party some members of the delegation were interviewed by reporters of the local TV station. They told

# Chinese-Peruvian Forum on Urban Culture Development Held in Lima

Wang Qing

The Chinese-Peruvian Forum on Urban Culture Development jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Peruvian-Chinese Cultural Institute was held in Lima, capital of Peru, on May 22. A 32-member delegation led by Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC Vice Pres-



ident, and composed of representatives from Yunnan, Guizhou and Gansu provinces and Chongqing, Xiamen, Shenyang, Kunming, Anyang and Wuhan cities attended the forum and had exchanges and discussions with mayors and cultural officials of 31 Peruvian cities on the cultural development of cities of the two countries and related subjects.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan said, Peru, once the site of ancient Inca Empire with splendid civilization, is the heart of native South American civilization, while China is an ancient oriental country with a long-standing uninterrupted history. Both China and Peru are developing countries and facing the opportunities and challenges of reviving civilization, realizing modernization and protecting traditional cultural heritage. Therefore, this forum has far-reaching historical significance. Gao Zhengyue, Chinese ambassador to Peru; Luis Chang, former Peruvian ambassador to China; Dr. Eduardo Yong Motta, former minister of health and president of the Peruvian-Chinese Cultural Institute, and Diego Uceda, member of the Lima Municipal Council and

**CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan speaking at the opening ceremony of the Forum**

moving stories about how they worked for Chairman Ho in the old days, fully displaying their love and memory of the chairman. The audience there was greatly touched.

**Strengthening the relations between the CPAFFC and the VUFO, consolidating and developing nongovernmental diplomatic work.** In his meeting with the delegation, Vu Xuan Hong, chairman of the VUFO said, the traditional friendly relations between

the two countries have laid a solid foundation for nongovernmental diplomacy. The delegation's visit to Vietnam expressed the Chinese people's profound friendship for the Vietnamese people and fully demonstrated the importance of nongovernmental diplomacy. In the new era it is particularly important to further promote the Vietnam-China friendship in accordance with the foreign policies set by the two countries and through the combination of gov-

ernmental and nongovernmental diplomacy. He said, in future, the VUFO will as always strengthen its contacts with the CPAFFC and make joint efforts to carry forward the traditional profound "comradeship and brotherhood" friendship between the two countries. During the meeting the VUFO conferred "Peace and Friendship" medals upon 39 Chinese friendly personages. All the members of the delegation were greatly inspired. □

chairman of the Cultural Tourism Association, spoke on the occasion.

At the forum, participants of the two sides had warm discussions on how to protect traditional cultural heritage and preserve their cities' cultural features which are disappearing gradually in the trend of economic globalization, how to build city's multi-culture, how to protect environment and integrate preservation of downtown historical sites into commercial tourism development in the process of industrialization and how to promote friendship-city ties between China and Peru. In his speech, Ambassador Gao Zhengyue said, to revive the memories and vigour of the cities with culture is an important link of urban construction in the two countries in the new era. The participants of the two sides reviewed the development of bilateral exchanges in recent years and held that the forum responding to the demands made by the heads of state of the two countries during their mutual visits was a trial for deepening traditional friendship, increasing consensus and expanding political, economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

Representatives from Xiamen, Kunming and Anyang cities and Yunnan province briefed about the cultural features and international cultural exchanges of their own cities and province as well as their experience in cultural preservation. Officials of Salvador, Miraflores and Barranca, on behalf of the Peruvian side, briefed about features of their cities and expressed their wishes to sign agreements on cultural exchanges with Chinese cities.

During the break of the forum, Gao Zhengyue,

Jing Dunquan and Wang Xiuyun attended the press conference arranged by the Peruvian side and answered questions on urban planning, protection of cultural relics, control of air pollution and traffic congestion and prospects of cooperation.

The Peruvian side also arranged for the Chinese delegation to visit two cities with distinctive features. Miraflores District of Lima is a representative of Peruvian modern cities with good urban planning and thriving business. Particularly the District has a rich urban cultural atmosphere: an exhibition of Peruvian handicrafts, a large-sized photo exhibition of French airplanes and recital by a German pianist. All such cultural facilities and activities are open to the public free of charge. Cusco is a representative city where Spanish colonial culture and South American Incan culture are perfectly integrated. The mayor of the city met with the delegation at the city hall and introduced the city's unique local traits, folk customs and culture and ecological protection.

The forum happened to be held after Wenchuan earthquake struck China's Sichuan province. At the opening ceremony all the Chinese and Peruvian participants observed silence for the victims of the earthquake. The Peruvian side thanked China for its economic aid when earthquakes struck Peru in August 2007. After the forum, when the delegation visited the Peruvian Congress, the congressmen stopped their discussions to welcome the Chinese delegation. At the Congress president's suggestion all rose and stood in silent tribute for the victims of the Wenchuan earthquake, **(Continued on p.46)**

### **The participants in the Forum**



# Former Japanese Ministers Masajuro Shiokawa and Kiyoshi Mizuno Visit China

Pan Lin

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Japan's former Minister of Finance Masajuro Shiokawa and former Minister of Construction Kiyoshi Mizuno visited Beijing and Tianjin from June 24 to 27. During their stay in Beijing, Tang Jiaxuan, former state councillor, and Song Jian, president of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), met with them on separate occasions.

In his meeting with them, Tang Jiaxuan appreciated the long-term support and care of the cause of China-Japan friendship given by the two senior statesmen of the Japanese political circles and their efforts and precious contributions to the good neighbourly relations and promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields.

On Sino-Japanese relations, Tang said, President Hu Jintao's

successful visit to Japan in May has borne rich fruits. Particularly the two sides issued the China-Japan Joint Statement on All-round Promotion of Strategic Relationship of Mutual Benefit, the fourth important political document between the two countries. Now Sino-Japanese relationship is at a new historical starting point and facing a new opportunity for further development.

Tang continued, the year 2008 marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty and is also the China-Japan Youth Friendly Exchange Year. It is an important year for Sino-Japanese relationship which is developing and forging ahead into the future. People-to-people exchanges play an important role in consolidating state-to-state rela-

tions. Looking into the future, the base of China-Japan friendship lies in the people, particularly the youth of the two countries. Mutual understanding and friendly exchanges between the youth are conducive to a long-term steady development of Sino-Japanese relations. We should educate and influence the youth and help them understand the importance of China-Japan friendship.

As to the East China Sea issue, Tang pointed out, during his visit to Japan 30 years ago, when answering questions raised by reporters about the development of Diaoyu Island and its surrounding waters, Comrade Deng Xiaoping put forward the strategic thinking of "putting aside disputes and making joint exploitation". Today 30 years later, through the concerted efforts, the two countries



Masajuro Shiokawa (L.1) and Kiyoshi Mizuno (L.2) donating money to the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas. L.3 is CJFA President Song Jian and L. 4 CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan



# Delegation of University of Regina Visits China

Ye Zi

Invited by the CPAFFC, a 26-member delegation of the University of Regina, Canada headed by Professor Nick Kozey visited 13 Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Harbin, Chongqing and Shenzhen from May 12 to June 2.

**Following closely the situation in the earthquake-hit areas and expressing solicitude and respect for the Chinese people.** The delegation arrived in Shanghai on the afternoon of May 12. They felt the tremor of the Sichuan earthquake. Prof. Kozey, leader of the delegation, said, all the members of the delegation were deeply concerned about the devastating earthquake that took place in Wenchuan of Sichuan Province, expressed profound condolences over the

have made an important step and reached the principled consensus on the issue of East China Sea, fully showing progress of the strategic relationship of mutual benefit between the two countries. It is not only beneficial to China and Japan, but also to peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world. This act is universally welcomed by the international community and won positive public comments in the world.

Masajuro Shiokawa first passed on Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's autographed letter to Premier Wen Jiabao expressing his sincere sympathy and solicitude for the victims of Wenchuan earthquake in China's Sichuan province. He said, through the media he saw the Chinese government take prompt effective measures to carry out relief work in the wake of the earthquake and was deeply moved. The Japanese

government and people are willing to do everything they can to render aid to China, and believe that under the leadership of the Chinese government, the people in the disaster-hit areas will surely overcome difficulties and rebuild their homeland soon.

Shiokawa said, he is glad to see that Japan-China relations are gaining momentum of development. The principled consensus reached by the two countries on the East China Sea issue reflects the spirit of strategic bilateral relationship of mutual benefit. He expressed his willingness to continue to work for the development of long-term steady and healthy relations between the two countries.

Kiyoshi Mizuno said, through the concerted efforts, Japan and China reached the principled consensus on the joint development of the East China

people who died in the quake and sincere solicitude for the bereaved families. At 14:28 on May 19, the delegation together with the Chinese people observed a three-minute silence for the victims of the earthquake.

The delegation followed the situation in the quake areas closely and highly praised the Chinese Government's fast response to the earthquake and the grand scale of its relief efforts. Prof. Kozey said, the prompt and effective measures taken by the Chinese Government, the accurate, timely and objective coverage by all major media, the dedication demonstrated by the Chinese servicemen in racing against time to save lives without any thought of their own

Sea. He believed this would become a symbol of Japan-China friendship, thus further promoting the development of bilateral relations.

During their stay in Beijing, Masajuro Shiokawa and Kiyoshi Mizuno donated money to the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas. Kiyoshi Mizuno, on behalf of the Hanazawagakuen Meisei Senior Middle School of Chiba Prefecture, donated money and wished the disaster-hit areas to start reconstruction soon. During their visit in Tianjin, Huang Xingguo, mayor of Tianjin, briefed them about the city's latest economic and social development and hoped that the two former ministers would actively publicize Tianjin and make new contributions to bilateral friendly cooperation and exchanges. The delegation visited the Tianjin FAW Toyota Motor Co., Ltd. □



**Prof. Nick Kozey speaking at the banquet CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping (left) hosted in honour of the delegation**

safety, and the strong will and determination displayed by the united Chinese people as one in the relief efforts have left deep impressions on the delegates.

During the delegation's visit in Beijing, Prof. Kozey handed over to CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping a letter of sympathy he wrote to the quake-stricken areas and 2,710 RMB yuan the members of the delegation donated. In his letter, Prof. Kozey expressed his belief that under the strong leadership of the Chinese Government, the people of the quake-hit areas would overcome all difficulties and rebuild their homeland early. The delegation sang in chorus *It's A Small World* to express their encouragement and support for the Chinese people. Members of the delegation said that they would continue to give whatever help they could through the Red Cross and other charity organizations after returning home. Sabitri Sugrim said, she hoped to adopt a girl survivor of the Sichuan earthquake, take her to Canada to study and ask her to work for China, her motherland when she grows up.

**Experiencing the changes and highly praising China's rapid development.** During the visit, Prof. Kozey spoke highly of China's rapid development in recent years. He said, China's achievements since reform and opening up have captured world attention. With the rise of China's international status, its influence in the world is growing, so is the interest of the Canadian people in the country. He stated, to let more Canadians know more about China and increase the friendship between the Canadian and Chinese peoples were the main reasons for him to suc-

ceed Prof. Edmund H. Dale to lead delegations to China.

It was the first visit to China for most members of the delegation. The real China is so different from what they have imagined. While in Shanghai, Charles Westra noted, there are three things he has not expected in China: the Chinese no longer wear mandarin jacket, long gown, and cheongsam; there are so many sky scrapers and high apartment buildings; and urban afforestation is carried out in such an orderly way. He added, his decision to visit China is correct. He will show the photos he has taken to his friends who advised him not to come to China to let them realize that they were wrong when he returns home.

Some members visited China four or six years ago. They marveled at the tremendous changes and fast urban construction in China. Tom Strutt said humourously that half of the world's tower cranes are now in China. The affluent and comfortable life of the ordinary Chinese people also left a deep impression on them. In Beijing, Chongqing and Wuhan, the members of the delegation were drawn to the scenes of people singing, playing chess and dancing in the streets and parks at dusk. Some members even happily joined in and danced to the music with the local people.

**Supporting Beijing and wishing the Beijing Olympic Games great success.** The 29th Winter Olympic Games will be held in Vancouver, Canada in 2010. The souvenir the delegation presented to CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping was a wood carving made by Charles Westra with the Canadian

# Montenegrin Friends Praise China's Achievement

**Zhang Heqiang**

Invited by the CPAFFC, the delegation of the Society of Friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Montenegro led by its president Nikola Vujacic visited Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai from April 30 to May 7. In Beijing, the delegation called on the Ministry

of Commerce, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Beijing and China Travel Service; in Shanghai, it visited the Shanghai Harbour Administration, the Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administrative Commission, COSCO Container Lines Co., Ltd., Changning District

Central Hospital and Yangshan Deep-water Port. It was the first visit to China for most members of the delegation. The urban development and modernization drive in China have left deep impressions on them.

**Publicizing the characteristics and advantages of Montene-**

Winter Olympics mascot design on it. The delegation showed great interest in and enthusiasm for the Beijing Summer Olympics. Therefore, we arranged for the delegation to visit Olympic venues such as the Bird's Nest, the Water Cube and the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre. The delegation showed admiration for the first-class sports venues China had constructed in such a short time and expressed the belief that the Beijing Olympics would be a full success.

The delegation arrived in Wuhan just one day before the Olympic torch relay in the city. The whole city was filled with an atmosphere of Olympic festivity, which also influenced the members of the delegation. Gladys Boehler followed closely the news reports on the torch relay. She said, she opposed politicizing the Olympic Games and the torch relay. Johanna Ernter said that wherever she went she was deeply moved by the great enthusiasm of the Chinese people for the Olympics and that she was convinced that China was capable to make the Olympic Games a success.

The opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games was a hot topic among the delegates. During its visit in Shenzhen, the delegation watched three large-scale shows: *Proud Son of Heaven*, *East Nichang*, *Dragon & Phoenix in China* at the Splendid China Folk Culture Village in Shenzhen. The grand scale, the extraordinary imagination and the gorgeous costumes of the ethnic groups of China won

praises from all members of the delegation. Edwina Madill said, such shows filled her with curiosity and expectation for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games. She would sit by the TV to watch the opening ceremony on August 8 whatever the time in Canada.

**Working hand in hand to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Canadian peoples.** At his meeting with the delegation, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping pointed out, the CPAFFC has maintained friendly exchanges and cooperation with the University of Regina for years. Through inviting Canadian delegation to China and sending CPAFFC staffers to visit Canada every other year, mutual understanding and friendship between the two sides have been continuously enhanced. Prof. Dale has made important contributions to the friendship between the people of China and Canada. We hope and believe that our future friendly cooperation with Prof. Kozey will achieve greater success.

Prof. Kozey told Li Jianping, Prof. Dale has profound feelings for the CPAFFC. Having taken over from Prof. Dale the work of friendship with China, he would keep learning and contribute his bit to the mutual understanding and friendship between the Canadian and Chinese peoples. He said the visit was a great success and expressed heart-felt thanks to the CPAFFC for its hospitality and meticulous and thoughtful arrangement for their visit. □

**gro to win China's investment in its construction of harbour, free trade zone and tourism facilities.**

All the members of the delegation came from Bar, a port city and the second largest city in Montenegro. Included in the delegation were the president of the Board of the Port, the executive manager and the director of the general office of the Port. Promoting cooperation between the Port of Bar and China naturally was one of the main purposes of their visit.

Dr. Predrag Ivanovic, president of the Port Board, said at meetings with relevant departments of China, the Port of Bar was the main deep-water trading port of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Its handling capacity in 2007 exceeded 5 million tons. It has a free-trade zone. As a major port in southeastern Europe, the Port hoped to cooperate with the Shanghai Harbour in human resources, port management, environmental protection, purchase of second-hand equipment from Chinese ports, etc. When calling on the COSCO Container Lines Co., Ltd., the delegation expressed the hope to open direct regular freighter route between China and Bar.

When calling on China Travel Service, Nikola Vujacic, leader of the delegation, said, small as it is, Montenegro has unique and beautiful scenery. It has ski resorts in snow-capped mountains as well as beaches where people can swim and surf. The Lake of Scadar on the border between Montenegro and Albania is the largest lake in Eastern Europe and produces large amount of fresh water aquatic products. The distance from beaches to mountain-

ous areas and lakes is little more than 100 kilometres, but the climate, scenery and culture change greatly. The varied landscapes and cultures attract tourists all over the world. There are more than 400 hotels in Montenegro to accommodate overseas tourists. He believed that the beautiful natural scenery of Montenegro would draw Chinese tourists and bring the country large sums of tourist revenue.

**Praising China's achievements in construction and expressing desire for cooperation.**

The Society of Friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Montenegro was founded a year ago. It took this visit to China as an important activity in celebration of its first anniversary. For publicizing the visit, they had a reporter and a cameraman from the state television station accompanying them, who would make TV programmes of the visit and broadcast them when they return home to let the Montenegrin people know more about China.

When visiting the venues for the Beijing Olympic Games in Beijing, the Montenegrin friends showered praises on the National Aquatics Centre (Water Cube) and the National Stadium (Bird's Nest). President Vujacic said, the Bird's Nest is the largest steel-spanning structure in the world and the Water Cube applies the principle of bubble on buildings successfully for the first time in the world. They have not only embodied the wisdom of the Chinese people, but also demonstrated their innovative spirit. The members of the delegation said after the visit, when a nation pros-

pers, its sports flourish. The rapid economic development has given the country strength to build world-class sport venues.

Samir Hadzic, secretary general of the Society, is the director of the Institute for European Integration and International Cooperation. He has written a book on free trade zone. Before the end of the visit, he said to the Chinese friends with deep feelings, Montenegro is very proud to have such friend as China. The position of Montenegro is unique. On the one hand, it is a Slav country and has traditional friendship with Russia and other Slav countries in East Europe, and on the other hand, it maintains good relations with the European Union. The Port of Bar is one of the nearest European ports to Asia, enjoying convenient land transportation to other parts of Europe. He added, Montenegro hopes to develop into another Hong Kong, exploiting its unique geographic advantage to the full to serve a bridging role in politics, economy and culture between the East and the West. At present, there is great potential for investing in ports, railways, highways and hotels in Montenegro. China is welcome to make investments for common development. □





# Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association Delegation in China

**Tu Lili**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA) delegation led by Murshed Chowdhury Manzur, patron of the BCPFA and former Bengali ambassador to China, visited Beijing, Shanghai and Yunnan from May 19 to 28. The delegation called on China Radio International (CRI) and the Administrative Committee of the Shanghai Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone, and visited Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall, Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, and the Exhibition Centre of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai.

## **Solicitude for the Earthquake-Hit Areas**

During their stay, the delegation got to know the earthquake and the latest development of disaster relief and showed great concern with the progress of the fight against the disaster and the rescue of lives. Head of the delegation Murshed expressed, the Bengali people and the Chinese people are like brothers. The Bengali people feel the same as those in the disaster areas and have been in deep grief. After the earthquake, the Chinese leaders went to the front line themselves to command the relief efforts, while all departments and all social circles of the country were mobilized to actively support the earthquake-hit areas, fully demonstrating the Chinese people's unity and determination and the great spirit of helping each other in times of difficulty. He believed under the firm leadership of the Chinese government, the Chinese people would surely win their fight against the natural disaster and rebuild the ruined areas. The Bengali people will always support the Chinese people in their disaster relief and reconstruction and provide help as much as they can.

The delegation members wrote on the Wenchuan Earthquake Memorial Book of the CPAFFC their condolences on those who died in the earthquake. The BCPFA sent messages of condolence on the earthquake victims to the CPAFFC, CRI, the China Association for International Friendly Contact and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Af-

fairs.

## **Reminiscing China-Bangladesh Friendship**

Murshed was the fourth Bengali ambassador to China in the 1980s. He became patron of the BCPFA after he completed his tenure of office and returned to his country, working for the cause of friendship between the two countries. This time, at the age of 80, he visited China again and said he would spend the rest of his life to promote the development of people-to-people friendship between the two countries.

Murshed said that the friendship between Bangladesh and China has lasted for over two thousand years and stood the test of time. China has given Bangladesh enormous help for its development which the Bengali people remember in their hearts. With its limited resources, Bangladesh can not give China much support, but the Bengali people will unswervingly stand with Chinese brothers in upholding the stance of "one China", and opposing "Taiwan independence" and "Tibet independence". The Bengali people support and look forward to the success of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in China.

## **Understanding China's Development**

All the members of the delegation visited China in 1980. 20 years later, immense changes have taken place in the Chinese social life. During this visit, they got the chance to fully know the present situation of China's social and economic development. At the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre they listened to vivid and systematic narrations of the development plan and achievements of the two metropolises, which deeply impressed the delegates. They said they would hold an exhibition of China's development achievements in Bangladesh to let more people see the development of China which would help them understand China better and encourage them to devote themselves with greater enthusiasm to their own country's construction. □

# New Leadership of UCLG ASPAC Elected

## Zhang Ruoning

**A** CPAFFC Delegation headed by its president Chen Haosu attended the Second UCLG ASPAC Congress in Pattaya, Thailand from July 14 to 19. With the theme “Sustainable Cities and Local Governments for a Sustainable World”, the congress organized four theme forums and eight workshops. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sahas Bunditkul was

present at the opening ceremony. As president of UCLG ASPAC, Chen Haosu made an opening speech. About 590 representatives from over 100 local governments in 24 countries attended the congress. The congress elected a new presidency, Regional Executive Bureau and Regional Council of UCLG ASPAC. Chen Haosu was recommended and ap-

proved as its founding president. Chinese cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Haikou, Harbin and Dalian were elected members of the Regional Council while Beijing also member of the Regional Executive Bureau. It was decided at the congress that the Third UCLG ASPAC Congress would be held in Hamamatsu, Japan in 2010.



From right: UCLG ASPAC Secretary General Peter Woods, Founding President Chen Haosu who is president of the CPAFFC, newly-elected President Kim Bum-il who is mayor of Taegu of the Republic of Korea, Vice President Jatin V. Modi who is president of the All Indian Institute of Local Self Government, Vice President Krishna Prasad Sapkota who is president of the Association of District Development Committees of Nepal, and Atty Violeta S. Seva, representative of Vice President Jejomar C. Binay who is mayor of Makati of the Philippines

### (Continued from p.39)

fully showing the friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people.

The forum is a platform set up for the cooperation between local governments of the two countries.

The Chinese participants unanimously held that the forum has promoted cultural exchanges and substantial economic and cultural cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the cities of the two countries. □

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# Astana—A Capital City for New Millennium

**Ikram Adyrbekov (Kazakhstan)**

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Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, is nearly 10 years old and a wide range of ambitious building projects are in full swing. 1,700 cranes are in operation on 650 separate sites in a city which less than a decade ago had a population of only 280,000, and today boasts 600,000.

In 1994, President Nursultan Nazarbayev decided the capital of Kazakhstan would be moved here from Alma-Ata. In 1997, the city's name—briefly Akmola and before that Tselinograd—was changed to Astana, literally 'capital'. Moving the capital to Astana allowed President Nazarbayev to build—with the extraordinary level of foreign investment that the country has attracted since the discovery of its untapped oil reserves—on an epic scale.

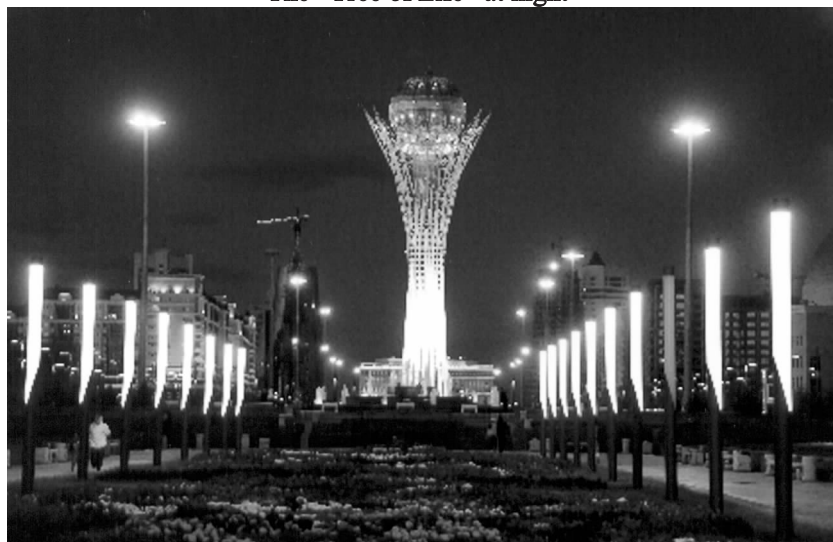
On the right bank of the city is the building site of Khan Shatry—a spectacular and unique, fully-functioning indoor city for 10,000 inhabitants designed by Norman Foster. This immense structure—an area larger than ten football stadiums—will regulate temperature and accommodate schools, hospitals, shops, sports and concert halls. Cars will be prohibited from entering, but canals and water transport

will be used. The upper floor of Khan Shatry will have a jungle, beach and a "sea".

Foremost among the completed large-scale buildings is the "Tree of Life". It stands midway down the length of a 1.5km-long boulevard lined with flowerbeds, sculptures and fountains. Huge offices line either side of this thoroughfare: a national archive resembling a giant egg, a pair of 30-storey cones in gold mirror glass and a trio of towers. The Baiterek Tower was completed in 2002. It is 97m high (a figure that reflects the year in which Astana became the capital) and comprises an "egg" of gold mirror glass held aloft on a "tree" of white steel. The Kazakhs have dubbed it "The Big Chupa Chups" for its resemblance to the lollipop. A lift ascends into the egg to an observation deck with a platform that supports a triangular gold ingot in which President Nazarbayev's handprint has been cast. The tower has come to symbolise the ambitions of the country much like the Eiffel Tower in France.

In 1998, President Nazarbayev envisaged a permanent structure to house the Congress of World Religions (which takes place triennially in Astana).

**The "Tree of Life" at night**



# Visiting Ukraine in May

**Duan Beisheng**

In Ukraine the sky was blue in May and the ground was green. Everywhere on the roadside small yellow flowers were in full bloom bursting with vitality.

Invited by the Vinnytsia Municipal Government, a 27-member China Children's Art Troupe, sent by the CPAFFC, took part in the Third International Children Festival of Folk Choreography "Barvinkove Fruzhalo". It happened to be the 63rd anniversary of the victory of

the Great Patriotic War against Fascists when we made a performance tour in Ukraine. We saw the local people in various ways cherish the memory of the heroes, recall the past and look ahead to the future. On the morning of the anniversary day, all the delegations participating in the Festival and numerous local people gathered at the Square in Memory of the Heroes of World War II where red and colourful flags were fluttering among which the national

flag of the People's Republic of China was particularly eye-catching. There came chief municipal government officials, representatives of the army, teenagers and children, priests from churches, and veterans in their old uniforms with medals on the chests. At 12 o'clock sharp, the commemorative ceremony started. Doves of peace were released to fly in the blue sky. Representatives of various circles took the floor one after another, and then group by group

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There was a site: directly opposite the presidential palace. There was a time frame: it had to be ready by 2006. The President had been thinking about the form that this "Palace of Peace & Accord" should take. He decided a pyramid would be suitable and contacted Norman Foster to design it. The pyramid, 62m wide and long, incorporates a sub-terranean 1,500-seat auditorium which today functions as an all-purpose performing arts venue. Blue and yellow light permeates the cathedral-like interior of the pyramid itself. On exiting a lift at level six, ramps ascend through a hanging garden and wind towards a circular platform with a wide oculus at its centre. Here, Brian Clarke's stained glass windows can be admired (a flock of doves are pictured ascending towards the sun that is the central emblem of Kazakhstan's flag). The building required a workforce of nearly 2,000—supplemented by the Kazakh army in the final stretch.

This year alone, a new bridge across the Ishim River, an outpatient medical facility, four monuments, a residential home for veterans and senior citizens were unveiled in Astana. A number of overpasses have also been completed and exit roads running towards the cities of Kokshetau, Kostanai and Pavlodar have been overhauled. 24 parking lots are

being constructed to house 7,500 cars each (55 underground garages and multi-level parking lots accommodating up to 20,000 cars each will be operational by 2009).

An additional two bridges are under construction, as well as 22 schools, a medical cluster, a 3,500-seat concert hall by the Italian architect Manfredi Nicoletti and a 3km-long Green Water Boulevard. Groundbreaking ceremonies have been held to celebrate the start of construction of the Nokian tyres plant, Nissan and General Electric assembly facilities. New 5-star hotels, mosques and synagogue all function well and a light rail metro line will open in 2010 (with a link to the airport). Landscaping work is also underway to make Astana greener. 400 hectares will be transformed into parks and squares and 40 thousand hectares of forest have already been planted around the city's outskirts.

Kisho Kurokauwa, the superstar Japanese architect designed much of the city plan, but in spite of the many extraordinary talents involved, President Nazarbayev is Astana's ultimate visionary. "Our plans for Astana are grand," he explains. "The heart of the nation beats here. And I believe that the greater part of the city will be completed by 2012."

**The author is Kazakh ambassador to China.**



**The China Children's Art Troupe with children from other countries taking part in the Third International Children Festival of Folk Choreography**



placed flowers before the Monument to Revolutionary Martyrs in a solemn atmosphere. In the following Victory Day parade, we saw dozens of young soldiers guided by a national flag bearer holding ensigns of the Ukrainian First, Second, Third and Fourth Front Armies during the Great Patriotic War and red flags march at the front row of the paraders, followed by veterans wearing medals for military merits. They waved greetings to the spectators on the roadside from time to time. When a veteran with outstanding military exploit appeared in a

wheelchair in the procession, people shouted “Ura” continuously. People of different ages presented flowers to this hero. Each delegation was guided by a person holding a placard on which the nationality of the delegation was written. When the Chinese children came, spectators on both sides of the road cheered. Many hospitable Ukrainians joined the parade and had photos taken with the Chinese children, and young mothers with children in their arms also joined us. The Ukrainian people felt grateful to the Chinese children for their coming

from afar to participate in their celebration; the Chinese children felt greatly honored for having the rare chance to pray for peace.

In the intervals of performances, the sponsor arranged a visit to the museum for the delegation. The guide told us that the Ukrainian people had made great sacrifice and contributions to the victory of the anti-fascist war. During the Great Patriotic War, over 7 million Ukrainians lost their lives, and more than 2.4 million people were sent to Germany to do forced labour. 714 cities and towns and 28,000 villages were



# 1150th Anniversary of Birth of Tajik Poet Abu Abdullah Rudaki Commemorated In Beijing

**Kang Jingyuan**

The CPAFFC, the China-Central Asia Friendship Association (CCAFA) and the Embassy of Tajikistan in China jointly sponsored a meeting to commemorate the 1150th anniversary of the birth of the famous Tajik poet Abu Abdullah Rudaki on the afternoon of July 22.

Born in 858, Abu Abdullah Rudaki is the founder of Tajik classical literature and known as “father of Persian poetry”. Drawing nourishment from the people, he composed Persian poems of various styles which have been published in many countries of the world including China. Recently, a commemorative activity was held at the UN Headquarters in New York. UN Secretary General spoke on the occasion.

At the commemorative meeting, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Tajik Ambassador to China Rashid Alimov delivered warm speeches. President Chen said, China and Tajikistan are friendly neighbours with linking mountains and rivers. There

exists time-honoured traditional friendship between the people of our two countries. Now, China and Tajikistan enjoy sound and steady development of good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation and witness frequent high-level exchange of visits. The CPAFFC and the CCAFA work to promote friendship and cultural and educational exchanges between the people of the two countries. Chen pointed out, respecting cultural diversity and encouraging interaction between different cultures play a very important role in building a harmonious world. Ambassador Alimov said, the friendly contact between the people of Tajikistan and China dates back to ancient times. The ancient Silk Road not only promoted the interflow of commodities, but also strengthened cultural exchanges. The hearts and minds of Rudaki and Chinese poets Li Bai and Du Fu of an earlier period were in communion. Today, the people of China and Tajikistan share the same feeling. The ambassador expressed gratitude to the

destroyed. According to the statistics of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, in the country there are now 3.48 million veterans and persons enjoying the same treatment, among whom over 200,000 were disabled during the war. Hearing these, the Chinese children were deeply touched. They came to understand that homeland could be lost temporarily and their dear ones could suffer from misery, but as long as they had a strong will and confidence, they could overcome any difficulty and hardship.

After returning to Kiev, capi-

tal of Ukraine, the delegation visited the National Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War on the famous “Mother-Motherland” hills. The Museum collected many precious photos, letters and army uniforms of the Soviet Red Army officers and men, and panoramically displayed the Ukrainian people’s heroic fight against fascists. The exhibition was laid out in order of the progress of the war. In one section, letters to or from home, photos, diaries and poems found in the uniforms of many Red Army martyrs who died on the battlefield were dis-

played. We stood before the things left behind by a deceased signalman, among which there was a photo taken with his mother that he had brought to the battlefield. On a long bench in front of a fence was sitting the mother with grey hair on her forehead who wore a cotton print scarf and leaned her head against the shoulder of her handsome son in military uniform. There was a happy smile that could be rarely seen on the face of an old woman who worked hard all day long. When watching this picture, we were moved to tears.

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the meeting in commemoration of the 1150th anniversary of the birth of Tajik Poet Abu Abdullah Rudaki**



CPAFFC and the CCAFA for holding the commemoration. He called President Chen Haosu “well-known goodwill ambassador, from whose words and deeds we see the great Chinese civilization”. He presented Chen Haosu with a commemorative badge of Rudaki.

Hu Zhenhua, professor of the Central University for Nationality (CUN) and adviser to the CCAFA, made a long report, in which he gave a detailed introduction of the life of Rudaki, characteristics and background of his poems, and made comparisons between the poems by Rudaki and those by Li Bai and Du Fu. He suggested in his report that in-depth re-

search in the cultures of Central Asian countries including Tajikistan should be strengthened and specialists in this area be trained.

At the meeting, teachers of the CUN recited poems by Rudaki. Two painters presented to Ambassador Alimov portraits of Rudaki they had painted.

Ambassador Fu Quanzhang and Ambassador Yin Songling, vice president of and adviser to the CCAFA, among representatives of various circles in the capital, reporters, and diplomats from the Tajik Embassy in China, totaling over 40 people, attended the meeting. □

Now, numerous flowers were laid by the side of the group statues around the Museum which had become an attraction on the Victory Day. Some presented flowers to express remembrance of their comrades-in-arms, others to mourn for their lost dear ones, and more to remember history and express their memory of the heroes. The Mother-Motherland Statue, a component of the main part of the Museum, was built in commemoration of the heroes who had sacrificed their lives during the Great Patriotic War and was completed on the Victory Day in 1981. The 62-metre high statue of Mother holding a shield

in her left hand and a long sword pointing to the sky in her right hand demonstrates the Ukrainian people’s confidence in and determination of protecting their homes and defending their country, and has become a rare landmark of Kiev.

Standing on the viewing stand at the foot of the “Mother-Motherland” hills, the children of the Art Troupe looked ahead and saw in the distance the Dnieper River flowing silently, and nearby newly-wed couples walking hand in hand towards the Monument to the Heroes. The red roses and white bridal gowns looked so harmonious under the

blue sky. Turning round, they saw war chariots, tanks and cannons shining under the sunlight, silently telling the difficulties and hardships over half a century ago. Suddenly, a familiar song rang in my ear: “This is our beautiful motherland where I grew up ... When friends come, I’ll treat them with nice wine. When man-eating wolves come, I’ll treat them with my hunting rifle...” □



# Sichuan Youth Delegation's Performance Tour in ROK

## Chuan You

According to the annual cooperation agreement between the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the ROK Yulgok Society, a 20-member Sichuan youth goodwill delegation mainly composed of students of the Deyang Dance School paid a visit to Gangneung City of the ROK from June 6 to 10 at the invitation of the ROK Organizing Committee of the Gangneung Danoje Festival and gave performances at the 2008 Gangneung Danoje Festival.

Deyang is one of the most seriously affected areas in the Sichuan earthquake. After the disaster, the people of Deyang rose up from the ruins of the earthquake and threw themselves into the relief work. Quite a few members of the delegation came from Mianzhu and Shifang that suffered devastating losses in the earthquake. Their homes were collapsed, but together with the teachers and students of the Dance School they braved the aftershocks and kept on rehearsing in the temporary tents, determined to bring dances with Chinese features to the people in ROK to express their sincere thanks to them who had given generous aid to the Sichuan disaster areas and show Sichuan people's optimistic, indomitable and self-reliant spirit.

The annual Gangneung Danoje Festival attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors from home and abroad. At the ful-

ly occupied Gangneung Theatre, the delegation performed dances *Painting New Year Pictures*, *The Eternal Passion and Love of Kongding*, and *Graceful Peacocks Reflected upon the Lake*. The dance *Painting New Year Pictures* with the theme of Mianzhu New Year pictures, China's intangible cultural heritage, depicted the Mianzhu people's love and pursuit of happy life. The earthquake brought catastrophes to Mianzhu where the village with a time-honoured tradition of producing New Year pictures was reduced to ruins in an instance, but the performers with an expression of firmness on their faces and beautiful dance movements displayed the continuing vitality of Mianzhu New Year pictures and the growing Mianzhu spirit of unity. Their dances won warm applause from the audience. The delegation sang the song *Ari-rang* to express their thanks to the ROK people for their aid to the Sichuan disaster areas, pushing the festival gala party to a climax.

Choi Myeong-Hee, mayor of Gangneung who met with the delegation, spoke highly of their performances and expressed his sincere solicitude for the performers from Mianzhu and Shifang. When learning that the delegation came from Sichuan earthquake-stricken areas, Kim Jin-sun, governor of Gangwon Province, specially sent people to drive more than 200 kilometers to Gangneung to donate via the delegation 3 million won to the people in the disaster

areas and give gifts to every young performer. The ROK rescue team that had just returned from their relief work in Sichuan specially came to Gangneung to see the delegation. Team Leader Kim Yong Suk said he was greatly encouraged by the Sichuan people's courage to fight the earthquake.

M. K. Cheong, president of the Educational Institute of ROK Yulgok Society, was the liaison at the ROK side for the delegation's performance. He showed great concerns for the effects of the disaster in Sichuan. He not only donated 3,000 US dollars to the disaster areas, but also took meticulous care of the delegation from the disaster areas. Though he was advanced in age, he greeted the delegation in the hotel at 2:00 A. M. Knowing that the performers were young and felt tired after the performance, every day he would bring them fruits and cake. He asked the delegation to pass on his donation of 25 sets of stationery to children in the disaster areas, and said he would continue to give donations and lead the Gangneung Farmers' Musical Group to give performance in Sichuan disaster areas in September. The members of the delegation were greatly moved by his kindness and experienced the ROK people's profound sentiments of friendship towards the Chinese people, which enhanced their confidence in rebuilding their beautiful homeland. □