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CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit Visits Algeria, Ethiopia And Kenya

Huang Xiaowei

At the invitation of Said Bouhadja, president of the Algero-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group of the People's National Assembly of Algeria; Degefe Bula, speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia; and Kenneth Marende, speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and president of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association (CAPFA), led a CAPFA delegation to pay a goodwill visit to Algeria, Ethiopia and Kenya from April 24 to May 5. The three countries attached great importance to the delegation's visit and accorded it high-level reception.

During the visit in the three countries, CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit met with Abdelaziz Ziari, speaker of the National People's Assembly of Algeria; Abdelkader Bensalah, speaker of the National Council of Algeria; Degefe Bula, speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia; Kenneth Marende, speaker of the Na-

tional Assembly of Kenya; Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, vice president of Kenya, and had talks with Said Bouhadja, president of the Algero-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group of the People's National Assembly of Algeria, and Maalim Farah, deputy speaker of the Kenyan National Assembly.

During his visit in Algeria, Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat was interviewed by journalists from the Xinhua News Agency, inspected the construction site of the building project invested by the Guangsha Holding Venture Capital Co., Ltd. On April 29 he attended the 4th Seminar on Exchanges between Chinese and African Local Governments—China and Ethiopia Round held in Addis Ababa.

Bilateral Relations

When meeting with the leaders of the three countries, Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat spoke highly of China's relations with the three countries. He said, China maintains profound traditional



President Said Bouhadja and other members of the Algero-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group of the People's National Assembly of Algeria with the delegation



Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and president of the CAP-FA, and his party having a meeting with Degefe Bula, speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia

friendship with the three countries and the Chinese Government attaches great importance to developing relations with them. In recent years, China and the three countries have kept frequent high-level exchanges. The mutual political trust between them has been enhanced, and the cooperation in economy, trade and other areas has been fruitful. They have supported each other and collaborated closely in international affairs. China thanks and appreciates the consistent support given by the leaders of the three countries on the issues concerning China's core interests.

Speaker Abdelaziz Ziari said, the long-standing friendship between Algeria and China dates from the period of the Algerian War of Independence. Despite their different political views, the Algerian political parties all agree to develop relations with China and always remember the help China rendered to their country during the Algerian War of Independence.

President Said Bouhadja said, the Algerian people have got firm support and great help from China both in the war for national independence and in the country's economic construction. The friendship between Algeria and China has struck root in the hearts of the people. The two countries hold identical stands on many international issues. Algeria appreciates the importance China attaches to developing relations with Africa.

Speaker Degefe Bula said, in the past China

rendered great help to the African people in their fight against colonialism, and now China is actively taking part in Africa's economic construction. Across the African continent it can be seen that the China-aided infrastructural projects are warmly accepted by the African people, and have promoted the fast development of African and Ethiopian economy. If one travels in Ethiopia's cities and countryside, he can see workers of the two countries working side by side to create a good future for Ethiopia. Ethiopia has given China consistent and firm support on the issues concerning China's major interests, and will, as always, be China's trustworthy partner and friend.

Kenyan Vice President Musyoka stressed, Kenya and China have always been good friends. The Kenyan Government unswervingly pursues the one-China policy. The two countries hold identical stands on many international issues. Kenya highly praises China's principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries in its relationship with other countries.

China-Africa Cooperation

On the ongoing international financial crisis, Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat said, China pays attention to the difficulties and challenges that African countries are confronting in their economic and social development, and is willing to cooperate with the African people to tide over the cri-



Maalim Farah, deputy speaker of Kenya's National Assembly, meeting with CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit

sis. During his visit to Africa in February and the G-20 London Summit in early April this year, President Hu Jintao said explicitly that China will earnestly implement the aid-Africa measures adopted at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, continue to increase its aid to Africa and reduce and exempt debts owed by African countries within its capability, expand trade with and investment in Africa and strengthen substantial cooperation. China is willing to work together with African countries to ensure a steady and healthy development of Sino-African cooperation and make new contributions to fighting off the effects of the financial crisis and enhancing the well-being of the Chinese and African people. The leaders of the three countries highly praised and warmly welcomed China's stand, saying that this reflects China's firm support to African countries. They expressed the hope to continuously strengthen substantial cooperation

with China in all fields so as to achieve mutual benefits and win-win progress.

Abdelkader Bensalah said China enjoys a good reputation in Algeria. The bilateral cooperation has reached a very high level both in scale and quality. He hoped that more Chinese businessmen would come to Algeria to do business and that the parliaments of the two countries would strengthen coordination and reach more consensuses on the international arena.

Degefe Bula said, in the current international financial crisis, Ethiopia and China should strengthen coordination and cooperation in seeking ways of overcoming the crisis. China's interest in Africa will be conducive to Africa's economic development. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and China's investment in Ethiopia have brought a lot of benefits to Ethiopia. Ethiopia will continue to deepen bilateral substantial cooperation in the framework of the forum and further strengthen exchanges between the local governments and enterprises of the two countries.

Kenneth Marende said, Kenya and China maintain good cooperative relations. There are many China-aided projects in Kenya. Even now many Chinese enterprises are still engaged in building highways and the construction of other infrastructural projects in Kenya. He hoped that in the future the two countries would continue strengthening cooperation in the above fields. In recent years, quite a number of Kenyan assemblymen have visited China. He hoped that the parliaments of the two countries would further strengthen exchanges and cooperation and consolidate and promote traditional friendship between the two countries.

Nongovernmental Exchanges

During his visit to the three countries, Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat briefed the African side on the CAPFA and its major work. He said, while governmental exchanges between China and African countries are being carried out smoothly, nongovernmental exchanges between the two sides have also achieved remarkable development. The CAPFA is willing to work together with African countries and play a positive role in fur-

CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit addressing the 4th Seminar on Exchanges between Chinese and African Local Governments—China and Ethiopia Round



ther enhancing the friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between the Chinese and African people. The leaders of the three countries expressed their agreement to this and hoped to increase nongovernmental contacts.

Said Bouhadja said, the Algero-Chinese Parliamentary Friendship Group plays an important role in promoting exchanges between Algeria and China in various fields. He hoped that friendship should be kept not only between the high ranking leaders of the two countries, but also go deep into the parliament, the local governments, various trades and professions and the ordinary people.

Degefe Bula expressed his sincere thanks to the CAPFA for choosing Ethiopia to host the Fourth Seminar on Exchanges between Chinese

and African Local Governments—China and Ethiopia Round. He said, the seminar has provided Ethiopian and Chinese local governments with a platform to carry out constant dialogue and exchanges and will help expand and deepen the existing good relations between the two countries and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

Deputy Speaker Maalim Farah of the Kenyan National Assembly spoke highly of the efforts made by the CAPFA over these years to develop nongovernmental friendly relations between Africa and China, and hoped the two countries would further strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the parliaments and the people, and in agriculture, tourism and other fields. □

(Continued from p.56)

and won 5 first prizes in the group folk dance, the traditional wind and stringed instruments, the traditional plucked instruments and the solo folk dance contests. One painting won the second prize.

Visiting art academies and schools. During its visit in Moscow, the delegation and the students of the No. 11 Secondary Boarding School carried out various forms of activities for strengthening the bonds of friendship. The delegation also visited the Svetlanov Arts

School for Children and the Balakirev Arts School for Children and had exchanges with the teachers and students of the two schools. During its stay in St. Petersburg, the delegation visited the Repin Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. The two sides had talks on exchanging students and teachers and jointly holding painting exhibitions.

Visiting museums and meeting with Red Army veterans. During its visit in Russia, the delegation visited the Victo-

ry Square built in commemoration of the victory over fascism in World War II and the Museum of the Great Patriotic War in Moscow, and had a meeting with former Soviet Red Army veterans who had participated in the battle to liberate Dalian. In a solemn atmosphere, the members of the delegation together with the veterans cherished the memory of the martyrs who had laid down their lives for the victory of the anti-fascist war and stood in silent tribute in front of their tombs. □

CJFA President Song Jian Leads Delegation to 12th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges

Qiao Lun

At the invitation of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), Song Jian, president of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), led a delegation to Japan to attend the 12th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges on May 11. During his visit in Japan, President Song Jian called on Taro Aso, Japanese prime minister, and met local government heads and leaders of friendship organizations including governors and assembly speakers of Kagawa, Kochi and Ehime prefectures, exchanging opinions with them on further strengthening non-governmental exchanges between China and Japan.

12th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges

Since 1983, the Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges has been held jointly by the CJFA and the JCFA for 11 sessions. The 12th Conference was held in Takamatsu, Kagawa, from May 13 to 14. Song Jian, president of the CJFA; Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC and the CJFA; Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese prime minister and honorary adviser to the JCFA; Koichi Kato, president of the JCFA; Tetsuo Sakai, vice president of the JCFA; and Takeki Manabe, governor of Kagawa Prefecture, among about 300 representatives from China and Japan, attended the conference.

Song Jian pointed out, since the 11th conference in 2007, the Sino-Japanese relations have, after the “ice-break-

ing”, “ice-thawing”, “spring-heralding” and “warm-spring” visits by the leaders of the two countries, witnessed a significant development and great breakthrough. Recently, through frequent meetings, the leaders of the two countries reached a number of important agreements on Sino-Japanese friendly cooperation, which has promoted the further growth of Sino-Japanese friendly relations. Now China and Japan have entered a new phase of all-round promotion of the strategic and mutually beneficial relations with new opportunities for accelerated development. However, we also should see soberly that there still exist some weak links in the Sino-Japanese relations and the friendly feelings between the two peoples are relatively fragile, hence the

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso meeting with the delegation



CJFA President Song Jian making a speech at the conference



nongovernmental organizations of both countries must work hard to implement the agreements reached by the leaders, to deepen friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, science and technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges, and to constantly foster the amicable feelings between the two peoples, so as to truly reflect the virtue of oriental culture “universal love and mutual benefit” and contribute to the long-term, sound and stable development of the Sino-Japanese relations.

President Koichi Kato said, in the history of Sino-Japanese relations, the remarks made by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 laid the foundation for the stable development of Sino-Japanese relationship in the new era. The friendly relationship between Japan and China is beneficial to peace and prosperity of Asia and the whole world. When participating in the Beijing Paralympics Opening Ceremony in

September 2008, he had the honour of meeting with President Hu Jintao. Even before the full breakout of the world financial crisis, President Hu already expressed his great concern over the harms and the possible continued spread of the crisis and showed his confidence and determination to deal with the worsened situation, which was really admirable. In the current financial crisis, Japan and China should join their efforts to respond to the challenges. He hoped the nongovernmental organizations of both countries would take the opportunity of the 12th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges to make new contribution to the cause of Japan-China friendship.

In his keynote speech, Vice President Jing Dunquan made six suggestions on deepening the people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and promoting the stable development of Sino-Japanese relations: first, adhering to the principles set in the

four political documents such as the Sino-Japanese Statement, to consolidate the political basis of Sino-Japanese relations from the high plane of strategy; second, promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and Japan to expand the common interests of the two countries; third, increasing cultural and people-to-people exchanges to serve as a bridge of communication between the two peoples; fourth, speeding up the cultivating of successors to pass on China-Japan friendship from generation to generation; fifth, developing exchanges and cooperation between localities of the two countries to bring new content and vigour into bilateral friendship; sixth, guiding the public opinion for China-Japan friendship in the new era to maintain a favourable orientation for the sound development of the relations.

In his keynote speech, Vice President Tetsuo Sakai said, the visits between the heads of our two countries and

Fifth Meeting of China-Spain Forum Held in Chengdu

Yu Shunji

The Fifth Meeting of China-Spain Forum (CSF) was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province from April 28 to 29. Leading delegates of the Chinese side including Yang Rudai, former vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Chen Haosu, CPAFFC president; Jiang Jufeng, governor of Sichuan Province; Zheng Silin, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress; Zhen Yan, vice president of the All-China Women's Federation; Liu Yang, executive vice president of China Law Society; Wei Hong, executive vice governor of Sichuan; Ge Honglin, mayor of Chengdu, and Li Jianping, CPAFFC vice president, and leading delegates of the Spanish side including Bibiana Aido Almagro, minister for equality; Angel Losada Torres-Quevedo, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Carlos Blasco Villa, Spanish ambassador to China; Alfredo Bonet, secretary general for foreign trade of the Ministry for

Industry, Tourism and Trade, and Juan Llado, chairman of the Spain China Council Foundation, among more than 350 delegates, attended the meeting.

In view of the current international and domestic situation that countries across the world are all dealing with the economic crisis, this meeting defined its theme as "China and Spain Cooperate to Address the Challenges", aiming from different angles to study and explore new thinking, new channels and new measures for China and Spain to cooperate in all fields to tide over the economic crisis. On the basis of the previous meetings, this meeting added round-table meetings and meetings on promoting cooperation between Chinese and Spanish enterprises to the agenda.

Round-Table Meetings

According to the agreement reached by the two sides at the working meeting, this meeting

the exchange programmes in various areas made by governments have opened up a new prospect in people-to-people friendly exchanges. Under the new situation, the central task of the nongovernmental organizations of both countries is to carry out varied forms of exchange activities, deepen our mutual understanding, guide and maintain a sound development of the national sentiments, and create a favourable atmosphere for the vigorous growth of Sino-Japanese friendly relations. The friendship organiza-

tions of both countries should have the general situation in mind, while concentrating their efforts on particular work, and take up the noble mission of developing a new era of Sino-Japanese relations.

During the conference, the representatives of both sides were divided into four groups for discussion on the two keynote speeches, and many constructive suggestions on the development of Sino-Japanese friendly relations in the new era were put forward. The representatives of both sides held that

the conference has not only exchanged and summarized experiences of carrying out non-governmental exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, but also clarified the direction and tasks for the future friendship work.

During his visit in Japan, Song Jian specially paid homage to the late prime minister Masayoshi Ohira's tomb, visited the headquarters of the Shorinji Kempo Group and conferred the title of China-Japan Friendship Envoy on its president Yuki So. □

successfully introduced the form of round-table meetings. The theme of the first round-table meeting was “China and Spain Address the Current International Crisis: The Common and Individual Challenges They Encounter”. Six delegates, namely, Zheng Silin, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress; Cui Hongjian, director of the Department of EU Studies of the China Institute of International Studies; Cui Yanxin, representative from the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce; Juan Llado, chairman of the Spain China Council Foundation; Manuel Teruel Izquierdo, president of Zaragoza Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Alicia Herrero, head of the Unit for Emerging Markets of the BBVA Economic Research Department, spoke on measures to deal with the economic crisis. The meeting was presided over by Alfred Bonet. The theme of the second round-table meeting was “2010: New Opportunities for Deepening Cooperation between Chinese and Spanish Cities”. Another six delegates, namely, Ge Honglin, mayor of Chengdu; Xu Bo, director of the Office of Foreign Affairs of Shanghai Expo Bureau; Yang Yang, director general of the Bureau of the China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair; Javier Conde, president of the State Society for International Exposition of Spain; Ignacio Nino, general coordinator of “Madrid Global”, and Josep Roca,

director of International Relations of the City Council of Barcelona, spoke at the meeting, offering opinions and suggestions on new ways and channels for the cooperation between cities of the two countries. The meeting was presided over by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu.

Participants at the meeting welcomed the new form of round-table meetings. They derived inspiration from the delegates’ speeches and discussions which had put forward new thinking on how the two countries respond to the current international economic crisis and deepen exchanges and cooperation between cities and regions.

Sub-Committee Meetings

The Economic, Cultural, Legal Committees, the Committee of Regions and Cities, and the Committee of Equality held separate meetings. The delegates of the two sides reviewed the cooperation carried out after the Madrid Meeting, and discussed the exchange projects to be carried out in the future. Based on the results of the discussions, the sub-committees submitted the conclusive materials to the Secretariat of the Meeting.

Conclusive Document

On the basis of the conclusive materials submitted by the sub-committees and through full consultation, the conclusive document was formed.

The document sums up the fruits achieved in

Chen Haosu, executive chairman of the CSF’s Chinese Committee, and Juan Llado, executive chairman of the CSF’s Spanish Committee, exchanging the signed conclusive document





The meeting of the Committee of Equality in session

China-Spain cooperation and affirms the positive role played by the CSF in promoting and invigorating exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields. It holds that the CSF is an important mechanism in China-Spain relations and a supplement to the bilateral governmental cooperation, and stresses that both sides are willing to make concerted efforts to push forward the development of China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher and deeper level. It highly praises and pays tribute to Hu Qili, chairman of the Forum's Chinese Committee, and Juan Antonio Samaranch, chairman of the Forum's Spanish Committee, for their outstanding contribution to the establishment and development of the CSF. It is decided in the conclusive document that from 2009 on the CSF will be held once every two years, that between sessions, if need be, the sub-committees can carry out relevant activities through consultation between the two sides, and that the Secretariats of the two sides will hold regular working meetings according to the needs to implement the forum's resolutions and promote the cooperation projects.

The Committee of Equality Formerly Formed

Through consultation, the two sides agreed that the subject of gender equality was kept and the Committee of Equality was formed at the CSF

Fifth Meeting.

In the discussions, the two sides unanimously held that efforts should be made to alleviate the impact of the international economic crisis on women, eliminate gender violence and include women's needs and concerns in relevant policies, plans and development projects. The platform of the CSF should be fully used to strengthen exchanges between the two countries in women's starting business, participation in policy making, safeguarding women's rights and interests, etc., and to promote cooperation between women entrepreneurs, law experts, experts on women issues and anti-gender violence workers of the two countries to jointly advance gender equality and social harmony. Bibiana Aido Almagro, Spanish minister for equality, attended the two meetings held by the Committee of Equality on April 28 and 29. □



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Her Party Visit Tonga

Wang Lidan

Invited by the Tongan Government, a CPAFFC delegation headed by its vice president Li Xiaolin visited Tonga from April 24 to 28. The delegation had meetings with the Tongan Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita and Prime Minister Feleti Sevele, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friendship and Cooperation with the Tonga-China Friendship Association (TCFA).

The royal family, the government and the newly-founded TCFA attached great importance to the delegation's visit as it was the first such visit made by a CPAFFC delegation in ten years. Due to bad weather, the plane the delegation boarded arrived behind schedule. Princess Salote who came to the airport to greet the delegation waited there for about two hours. Though it was already 10 pm

when the delegation arrived, the hospitable hosts insisted on holding a grand ceremony at the hotel to welcome the delegation. The princess, the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and several ministers among about 50 people were present at the ceremony. Tongan friends in national costumes put garlands on every member of the delegation, treated them with Kava, a drink used by local people to greet distinguished guests, and performed traditional Tonga dances. The warmth of the Tongan people touched the heart of every member of the delegation.

During the delegation's visit in Tonga, Princess Salote accompanied the delegation to attend all major activities. As it was inconvenient for Vice President Li Xiaolin to move about due to the ankle injury she got

when arriving at the airport, the princess proposed that the meeting between the two friendship associations be held in the hotel where the delegation stayed. The Tongan hosts let the delegation take the special passageway used exclusively by the Tongan King during its entry into and exit from the country at the airport.

Prime Minister Feleti Sevele specially arranged a meeting with the delegation at his official residence apart from attending the welcoming banquet. He thanked the Chinese people for their consistent support for Tonga and expressed his willingness to push forward people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

The Tonga-China Friendship Association was just founded when the delegation visited the country. The delegation had

The delegation with Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita, president of the Tonga-China Friendship Association, and other members of the TCFA





CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (R.1) calling on Tongan Prime Minister Feleti Sevele. L.1 is Chinese Ambassador to Tonga Fan Guijin

a meeting with TCFA President Princess Salote and all the council members of the TCFA, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friendship and Cooperation between the two organizations. Princess Salote presented the statutes of the association to Vice President Li Xiaolin and said that she believes that people-to-people exchanges are the foundation and important contents of bilateral relations and that the TCFA will make unremitting efforts to enhance understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promote ties between the two countries. Li Xiaolin extended thanks to all the Tongan friends present particularly Princess Salote for their hard work, noting that the inception

of the TCFA is of great significance and may serve as an example for other countries in the South Pacific region.

Though the visit was short, the kind-hearted and friendly Tongan people left a deep impression on the delegation. The delegation arrived in Tonga on a stormy day. The plane it took landed after several severe bumps and repeated landing attempts. To show respect for Princess Salote and other important figures who had been waiting at the airport for a long time, Vice President Li Xiaolin in formal dress stepped down the plane first despite strong wind and heavy rain. Accidentally she fell on the slippery ramp, resulting in a fracture and sprains in her left an-

kle. In spite of the injuries and pains, Li in a wheelchair attended the welcoming ceremony and all other activities Tongan friends had arranged for the delegation.

People present at the ceremony were deeply moved by Vice President Li's insistence on attending these functions. They rose to their feet and applauded to express their respect for this Chinese friend from afar when she entered the hall. Viliami Ta'su Tangi, deputy prime minister and health minister of Tonga, came to the hotel several times to check her injuries. Princess Salote came to see her and expressed solicitude and from time to time sent in medicine and people to check her injured ankle. Whether in the early morning or at midnight, Angela, an attendant of the hotel, always offered her assistance with sweet smiles. She often came to ask if the vice president needed a new bag of ice. There was no elevator in the hotel. Whenever the vice president needed to go downstairs to take part in activities, the strong male attendants would come to help carry her down in wheelchair. It was because of the help from those friendly Tongans that we concluded our visit smoothly. We experienced their friendly sentiments for the Chinese people. Princess Salote said with emotion, the Chinese people have always been our good friends. Unlike clouds in the sky, their friendship is substantial, which is reflected in the construction of our highways,

“Malaysia-China Friendship Evening 2009” Held

Our Staff Reporter

The CPAFFC, the Embassy of Malaysia in China, the Malaysia-China Friendship Association and the Malaysia-China Business Council jointly hosted the “Malaysia-China Friendship Evening 2009” at the Conference Hall of the China World Hotel in Beijing on June 4 in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia. Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang and the visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak attended and spoke at the event.

On behalf of the Chinese Government, Vice Premier Li Keqiang extended heart-felt thanks to the friends of various circles who have cared for and supported the development of China-Malaysia relations over the years. He pointed out, 35 years ago, Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, the late father of Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, made a historical visit to China. With wisdom and courage, leaders of the older generation of the two countries forged diplomatic ties, opening a new chapter of China-Malaysia and China-ASEAN relations. It is of profound significance that we gather here today with Prime Minister Najib Tun

Razak and friendly personages of various circles of the two countries to mark the 35th anniversary of our diplomatic relations and cherish the memory of the older generation of leaders and their outstanding contribution to the growth of China-Malaysia relations.

Li said, over the past 35 years, China and Malaysia have witnessed deepened political mutual trust and fruitful cooperation in various fields, and cooperated well in major international and regional issues. China and Malaysia have become each other's reliable neighbours and partners of mutually beneficial cooperation. The growth of our bilateral relations has brought tangible benefits to the people of our two countries and contributed to peace and development in our region.

Li noted, the sound bilateral relations we enjoy today profited from the traditional friendship, the broad common interests and the great importance attached by both countries' leaders to promoting the ties. Under the new situation, China-Malaysia relations are facing new opportunities for development and greater potentials for cooperation. China wishes to join Malaysia to cope

hospitals, schools, etc. We cherish our friendship with the Chinese people and are willing to work together with them to strengthen cooperation for win-win results.

Though far apart, there is a long history of friendly contact between the people of China and Tonga. China has provided aid to the social and economic development of Tonga

within its capability over the years. Tonga is not rich, but when the snow storm hit Southern China and the magnitude earthquake ripped Wenchuan in Sichuan Province, the Tongan people made generous donations to show their solicitude for the people in the disaster areas. Our visit to Tonga was short, but it enabled both sides to get more direct knowledge

about each other, deepened their understanding and forge profound friendship between them. We in the CPAFFC would like to join our friends in the TCFA to make unremitting efforts to enhance exchanges and cooperation between our peoples in accordance with the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding on Friendship and Cooperation. □



Chinese Vice Premier Li Ke-qiang and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak cutting the cake at the event

with the international financial crisis and implement the Joint Action Plan on China-Malaysia Strategic Cooperation to bring about a better future for bilateral relations by enriching the contents, opening up new fields and elevating the level of their strategic cooperation.

Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said, we are full of respect for the older generation of leaders of our two countries who charted a new course for Malaysia-China relations and proud of our country being the first among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to establish diplomatic relations with China 35 years ago. At

present when Malaysia and China are both accelerating their development, there is great room for practical cooperation between them. The new Malaysian administration wishes to enhance all-round cooperation with China in a bid to lift bilateral ties to a new historical level.

President Gu Xiulian of the China-ASEAN Association and Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Liu Jian among over 700 friendly personages from the two countries were present at the “China-Malaysia Friendship Evening”, at which Chinese and Malaysian artists gave excellent performances with distinctive national features. □

Malaysian artists giving a performance



Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond Visits China

Lu Yanxia

Hosted by the CPAFFC, Alex Salmond, first minister of Scotland, visited Beijing and Shanghai from April 7 to 12. Lu Yongxiang, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Li Hui, vice foreign minister; Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC; Wang Yong, director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ); and Tu Guangshao, vice mayor of Shanghai met with Alex Salmond and his entourage. President Chen Haosu attended and spoke at the reception given by the first minister.

Consolidating Sino-British Relations and Promoting Cooperation in Various Fields

On the evening of April 10,

Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui met with and entertained First Minister Salmond and his party. British Ambassador to China Sir William Ehrman was present. Li extended warm welcome to the first minister of Scotland and thanked him for sending letters of condolence over the train collision in Shandong and the Wenchuan earthquake, and his support for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Paralympics. At the meeting, Li Hui spoke highly of the first minister's efforts, since he took office in 2007, to encourage the Scottish Government to formulate the document *Scotland's Strategy for Stronger Engagement with China* which shows Scotland's sincerity to forge friendship with China and the importance it attaches to developing strategic and cooperative relations with it. Li Hui said, the

Chinese side is pleased to see that under the care of the first minister, the Confucius Institute in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh has been elected one of the top ten Confucius Institutes in the world. "China Now in Scotland", a festival with a series of cultural events was held successfully in Scotland and very popular. Li Hui also mentioned the advantages Scotland has in information technology, life science, renewable energy and financial services, and the great potential for bilateral cooperation. He extended welcome to the first minister to visit China again next year to get a more comprehensive knowledge of China, especially its market and hoped that China and Scotland would expand and deepen cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, energy, culture and education,

Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui meeting with Alex Salmond, first minister of Scotland, and his party





CPAFFC President Chen Haosu having a cordial conversation with First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond. Present at the meeting is Tan Xiutian (R.1), Chinese consul general to Edinburg.

etc. First Minister Salmond thanked Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui for his meeting with the delegation and CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping for accompanying the delegation throughout its visit in China, and said that his first visit to China was a full success. The first minister said, the Scottish people were happy over Beijing's successful holding of the 2008 Olympic Games and the Paralympics and also felt proud of the excellent performance by the Scottish pipers at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games. He stated, the Scottish Government wishes to maintain and consolidate its good relations with China, sticks to its "one China" stand on China's core issues such as Taiwan and Tibet, and will push forward friendly exchanges and practical cooperation in all fields with China.

Implementing Cooperation Programmes by Strengthening Contacts with Chinese Departments

When meeting with the

first minister and his party on the afternoon of April 10, Vice Chairman Lu Yongxiang noted, China and the U. K. are facing the same opportunities and challenges. There is sound basis for cooperation in renewable energy between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the U. K. and the two sides should strengthen cooperation in it and other alternative energy such as wind power, biomass, tidal power and garbage power so as to contribute to the efforts to resolve the global energy crisis and tackle climate change. Vice Chairman Lu expressed appreciation of the Scottish Government's efforts to explore and develop renewable marine energy. In December 2008, the Scottish Government launched the 10-million-pound Saltire Prize, the world's first prize for innovation in renewable marine energy. Lu said that he was honoured to be invited to serve as a member of the Saltire Prize Challenge Committee. The first minister held that there is large room for cooperation between the two sides and that Scotland

is willing to cooperate with the CAS in the field of renewable energy and conduct scientific researches together.

On the afternoon of April 8, when meeting with First Minister Salmond and his party, Tu Guangshao, vice mayor of Shanghai, briefed the guest on the city's urban development and its efforts to build it into an international financial centre. He hoped that Shanghai would learn from the experience of the U. K. and Scotland in urban development and suggested that the two sides enhance cooperation in fund and asset management, financial personnel training, public transport and energy. The first minister said, China has shouldered the great responsibility of a major power at the on-going global financial crisis. This crisis can not last forever and the world economy will gradually get out of this difficult period. Scotland wishes to cooperate with China and with Shanghai and carry out substantial exchanges in all fields including economy, finance and education.

US Georgetown University President John DeGioia Leads Delegation to China

Ba Cuicui

Invited by the CPAFFC, John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University of the U. S., and his party visited Gansu, Jiangxi and Hubei provinces and Beijing from March 4 to 9. Liu Yandong, state councillor; Li Yuanchao, head of the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CC-CPC); Ye Xiaowen, director of the State Administration of Religious Affairs; Li Jingtian, executive vice president of the Party School of the CCCPC; Sun Gang, deputy governor of Jiangxi; and Zhao Bin, deputy governor of Hubei, met with the delegation.

Enhancing exchanges and cooperation in education and cadres training with Georgetown University. State Councillor Liu Yandong praised Mr. DeGioia for his efforts since he was president of

Georgetown University in actively promoting Sino-US friendly relations, educational exchanges and personnel training. She said, education and training of qualified personnel are an important foundation for the realization of China's modernization, and the U.S. has a lot of advanced experience in education that China can draw on. Over the 30 years of reform and opening-up, about 350,000 Chinese have gone to study in the U.S. In 2007, there were more than 76,000 Chinese students in the U.S. and 19,000 American students in China. In future, the two countries should continue to increase educational exchanges. The state councillor expressed the hope that Georgetown University would deepen its cooperation with China in education and personnel training.

Li Yuanchao affirmed Georgetown University

On the morning of April 10, GAQSIQ Director Wang Yong met with the first minister and his party. The two sides discussed concrete problems of quality supervision, inspection and quarantine on potato and other agricultural produce and food, and the registration of geographical indications of such products as whisky, etc.

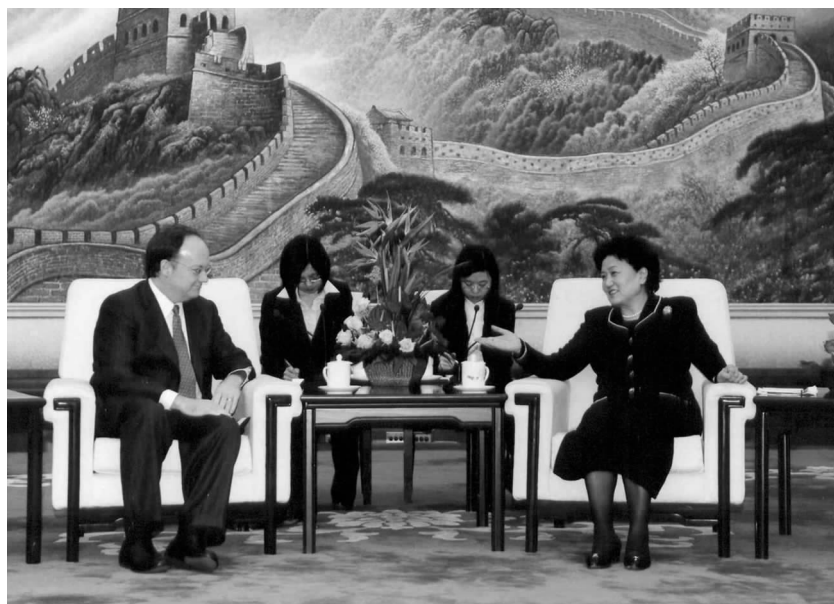
Deepening Understanding and Fostering Closer Ties

On the morning of April 9, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with the delegation that came to pay a visit. During the meeting President Chen recalled the friendly exchanges between

the CPAFFC and the Scottish Government in recent years, noting that cooperation between them has been smooth and their friendship deepening. He said, the good cooperation between the CPAFFC and Scotland has vigorously increased understanding at various levels between China and the U. K. and pushed forward practical exchanges and cooperation between China and Scotland in all fields. First Minister Salmond thanked President Chen for meeting with him and his party, the CPAFFC for making arrangements for his visit, and Vice President Li Jianping for accompanying the delegation

throughout the visit. He said, the meticulous care taken and the friendship shown by the CPAFFC deepened his understanding of the Association and increased the friendly feelings between the two sides. The Scottish Government would maintain close contact with the CPAFFC and carry out cooperation programmes on rural development and traditional Chinese medicinal therapy for keeping fit.

In the evening, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu attended and delivered a warm speech at the reception given by the first minister for publicizing Scotland. □



State Councillor Liu Yandong meeting with John DeGioia, president of Georgetown University

Continuing to improve the Chinese Young Cadres Training Programme in the U.S. In order to strengthen China's cadres training, after a year's preparation, the CPAFFC and Georgetown University launched last January a 5-year programme—

ty's efforts to cooperate with China in training cadres in recent years. He said, on the one hand, China has been effectively using the existing cadres training system, and on the other hand, it is reforming the system to make it better fit in with the modern society. The reform of the training system consists of two aspects: first, to change the training system with cadre students in Party Schools as the main body into a system combining cooperation with other universities; second, to send cadres to study abroad, and the U.S. is an important place of choice. Georgetown University has already established good cooperation relations with the Organization Department of the CCCPC, the Party School of the CCCPC and the CPAFFC in cadres training, and the training course for Chinese young cadres conducted in cooperation with the CPAFFC last January was a success. He hoped that the course would be carried on as a long term programme and that Georgetown University would continue to contribute to the training of Chinese cadres.

President DeGioia said, Georgetown University aims to provide more opportunities for Chinese students to study in the U.S. and American students to study in China. It will also expand and improve cadres training programmes to train cadres for China and further widen and deepen cooperation with China in education and personnel training as well as in other fields.

the training course for CPAFFC young cadres in the U.S. 25 middle-aged and young cadres from the CPAFFC and other 8 friendship associations of provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities went to Georgetown University to participate in a 3-week training course which focused on innovation and public administration, and achieved good results.

Georgetown University paid great attention to this programme. Within 45 days after the conclusion of the training course, President DeGioia led a delegation to China. One of the main purposes of the visit was to interview the participants of the course to find out whether the training has any effect on their work and way of life and gather their suggestions on improving the programme.

President DeGioia and his party then went to Jiangxi and Hubei and visited the China Executive Leadership Academy, Jinggangshan and the Hubei Hong'an Revolutionary Tradition Education Institute, where they learned more about the demands of Chinese localities for personnel training, with a view to expanding the programme to more participants.

The delegation members said after the visit that they not only examined the actual results of the training course, but also learned more about China's requirements for cadres training and that they were satisfied with the results achieved. □

Delegation of Teenagers and Children from Schuan Earthquake-Hit Areas Visits ROK

Zhang Haiyue

At the invitation of the Korea-China Friendship Association of Culture and Economy (KCFACE), a 28-member delegation of teenagers and children from Sichuan Wenchuan earthquake-stricken areas led by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin paid a goodwill visit to the ROK from May 15 to 19. Twenty members of the delegation were teenagers and children from the Wenchuan earthquake-stricken areas, the majority of whom were orphaned by the earthquake.

On the afternoon of May 17, ROK President Lee Myung-bak and his wife held a meeting on the lawn of the Cheongwadae Presidential Palace to welcome the delegation. Chinese Ambassador to ROK Cheng Yonghua was present. Jang Nara, a Korean singer popular among the young people, was invited to preside over the meeting in both Chinese and

Korean languages.

In her speech, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin expressed her thanks to President Lee Myung-bak and his wife for inviting teenagers and children from the quake-hit areas to the Cheongwadae Presidential Palace and their care for the Chinese people, particularly for the children from Sichuan quake areas. She said, the Chinese people and the children in the quake areas will never forget the scene that a year ago regardless of the danger of aftershocks President Lee went to the severely afflicted area to express sympathy and solicitude for the people of the disaster areas and pay a cordial visit to the pupils studying in a temporary tent school. President Lee dispatched a 47-member rescue team at the earliest possible

time to the quake-hit areas to take part in the relief work, making the people there feel deeply the true love from the ROK people. Li said, in the past year, with the care of the Chinese government and great support from the people of the whole country, the people in the disaster areas have made unremitting efforts and overcome all difficulties with an indomitable will to rebuild their villages and towns, bringing a tremendous change to the quake areas.

At the meeting, President Lee Myung-bak recognized at first glance Wei Yuehao whom he had taken in his arms when he visited Sichuan shortly after the earthquake. President Lee gently patted the boy on the head and said to him: "You have grown taller."

ROK President Lee Myung-bak and his wife with the children of the delegation





CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin presenting paintings by Sichuan artists to President and Mrs. Lee Myung-Bak

President Lee gave a touching speech. He said, in May last year I visited the quake-stricken areas when there were still aftershocks. The scene in the disaster areas was very miserable. There is a common saying in the ROK: "the closer friends we are, the more we should help each other in times of difficulty." The ROK is China's good neighbour. When China is in difficulty, we will definitely lend a helping hand.

President Lee spoke highly of the utmost efforts the Chinese Government had made to rebuild the disaster areas. He said, the reconstruction work is progressing rapidly. China has accomplished what any other country in the world is unable to. The achievements in the fight against the earthquake and relief work are rarely seen in the world.

He said, "Last year when I went to the disaster area to see the children, Wei Yuehao was the first child who threw himself into my arms. He is now

standing beside me. I feel very happy to see him grow taller. I feel relieved when I see the children's optimistic and dauntless spirit." He encouraged the children from China's disaster areas, saying: "You were greatly shocked in the earthquake. I am sure that you can overcome difficulties. In face of any difficulty and misery, we should not lose hope. I hope you will grow up healthily and become qualified personnel the country needs."

President Lee's sincere words touched everyone present. Wei Yuehao, on behalf of the teenagers and children from the disaster areas, read out his letter to Grandpa Lee Myung-bak written on leaving China for the ROK. In the letter, he said, "Dear Grandpa Lee, I haven't seen you for a year. How are you? I miss you very much. I hope you are fit and everything is well with you. The May 12 earthquake has brought us disasters and misery, but we also experienced the loving care

and warmth you brought to us. We are deeply moved by your care." The letter in simple language was hand-written by Wei Yuehao on a piece of paper, which expressed an ordinary child's heartfelt gratitude to a foreign leader who showed care for him. President Lee and his wife listened to him attentively, with smiles on their face.

The children of the delegation gave performance at the meeting. Eight children of the Qiang ethnic group in traditional costumes performed a Qiang dance for President Lee and his wife. Then the children sang the song *A Grateful Heart*, while using sign language to tell the meaning of the song to express their sincere gratitude to all those who had shown care for them.

After that, the children gathered round President Lee and gave him their best wishes. President Lee and his wife inquired about their study and life and put gifts into the children's hands. President Lee hugged the

children and encouraged them to be strong. Finally, President Lee carried Wei Yuehao in his arms, saying with a smile: "You are much heavier than last year."

The delegation presented in return 12 calligraphic works and paintings by 12 native Sichuan calligraphers and painters to thank President Lee for his care for the orphans in the disaster areas on behalf of the Sichuan people. The meeting scheduled for 30 minutes lasted for about an hour in a warm atmosphere. President Lee said, he hoped that he would have a chance to visit Sichuan again.

On the evening of May 18, the KCFACE held a seeing-off ceremony. The children of the delegation in Korean traditional costumes watched with great interest the popular street dance performed by ROK elder brothers and sisters. They also performed on the occasion.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin thanked the KCFACE for the itinerary and psychological consultation it had meticulously arranged for the children. She said, the intimate and friendly exchanges between the children of the two countries in the past five days have greatly enhanced mutual understanding and friendship. Though they didn't understand each other's language, the children talked with each other in sign language and simple English and forged deep friendship. The future of the cause of friendship between the two countries

relies on the youth. To promote the friendship between the Chinese and ROK people should start from promoting friendship between youth of the two countries. It is necessary to bring up successors to the cause of friendship and sow the seeds of friendship in the hearts of children. She invited 20 ROK children to visit China and go to Sichuan to meet their Chinese pals. Li specially expressed her heartfelt thanks to all the staffers of the KCFACE with Ms. Kim Young Aeh as chairperson and the volunteers for their meticulous care. Through these friendly activities the delegation members fully experienced the true love from the ROK people.

During the delegation's stay in the ROK, Oh Se-hoon, mayor of Seoul and an old friend of the CPAFFC, had a cordial meeting with the delegation. He said, he feels very happy on seeing the children from the disaster areas healthy and

lively. He hoped the ROK and Chinese children would communicate with each other by surmounting the language barrier and become successors to the cause of ROK-China friendship in the future.

The KCFACE arranged for the children many activities such as skiing in an indoor ski ground, visiting a children's park to have close contact with various kinds of small animals, visiting a science and technology museum, a boat trip on the Han River and a visit to Lotte World, one of the largest indoor amusement parks in the world. The children's optimistic attitude towards life, their ability to take care of themselves and their spirit of caring for and co-operating with each other moved the personages of various social circles in the ROK. The Chinese and ROK children with their honest and pure hearts touched everyone, from the President down to ordinary people. □

The delegation at the seeing-off party given by the Korea-China Friendship Association of Culture and Economy



CPAFFC Delegation Visits Nepal and Bangladesh

Tu Lili

At the invitation of the Nepal China Executives Council (NCEC) and the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA), a CPAFFC delegation led by its vice president Feng Zuoku paid a goodwill visit to Nepal and Bangladesh from April 3 to 10, 2009.

During its visit to the two countries, the delegation made extensive contacts with Nepalese and Bangladeshi personages from the political and business circles and nongovernmental friendship organizations. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, minister of information and communications, and Hisila Yami, minister of tourism and civil aviation of Nepal; Narayan Man Bijukchhe, president of Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party (NWPP) and the Nepal China Friendship Association (NCFA); Ram Ji Prashad Baral, chief administrative officer of Chitwan City of Nepal; and Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Bangladeshi minister of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, met with the delegation on separate occasions. The NCEC, the BCPFA and Bangladesh Prime Bank Managing Director M. Ehsanul Haque respectively held receptions in honour of the delegation. Representatives of the

friendship organizations, friendly personages as well as personages from the political, economic and other social circles of the two countries were invited to the receptions. Vice President Feng Zuoku, on behalf of the CPAFFC, held working meetings and signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the NCEC and the BCPFA respectively. The delegation visited the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre constructed with China's aid.

Speaking highly of China-Nepal and China-Bangladesh relations. In his meeting with the delegation, Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Nepalese minister of information and communications, spoke highly of the friendly relations between the governments, political parties and peoples of the two countries. He said, China is the friendliest neighbour of Nepal. China has always strictly abided by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries. It respects and supports the Nepalese people's own choice and decision. The Nepalese Government and people appreciate it very much. He continued, Nepal and China have

The delegation with friends of the Nepal China Executives Council



maintained friendly relations for generations. The people in the border areas of the two countries have similar cultures and customs and keep close economic and trade ties. This friendly relationship will pass on from generation to generation. An important task Nepal is facing at present is to maintain lasting peace and build Nepal into an independent, peaceful, prosperous and strong country. He hoped that the CPAFFC would do more work to promote people-to-people friendship and economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries. He believed that the relations between the two countries would surely see further growth.

In his meeting with the delegation, Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Bangladeshi minister of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, said, there is traditional friendship between Bangladesh and China. He has visited China many times and China has left a beautiful and deep impression on him. In recent years, the two countries have carried out frequent trade exchanges. Many Chinese entrepreneurs have made investment in Bangladesh, helping promote the country's economic development. The people of the two countries have benefited from the friendship between the two countries. At present the two countries should work together to fight off the effects of the financial crisis and strengthen cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields to achieve common development.

Firmly supporting China's stand on the issues relating to Tibet. The Nepalese and Bangladeshi government officials and friendship organizations told the delegation on many occasions that they support China's principles and stand on the issues relating to Tibet. Nepalese Information Minister Mahara said, Nepal unswervingly supports the "one-China" stand, recognizes that Tibet is an inalienable part of China and pledges to resolutely stop the forces for "Tibet independence" from carrying out anti-China secessionist activities in Nepal.

NWPP President Narayan Man Bijukchhe strongly condemned the secessionist activities carried out by the forces for "Tibet independence". He said, the NCFA has actively publicized the reality and truth of Tibet to the Nepalese people and



CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku and Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association President Anwarul Amin signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation

published the book *Tibet: Turmoil and Reality*, giving the facts of the March 14 incident that happened in Tibet last year and exposing the Dalai Lama's hypocrisy and lies.

NCEC President Anoop Ranjan Bhattarai said, the NCEC is willing to do more work on the issues relating to Tibet and hopes to set up a Tibetan Cultural Centre in Nepal in cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region so as to publicize Tibet's history and current situation to help the Nepalese people know about the real Tibet.

Deepening cooperation between the CPAFFC and the friendship organizations of Nepal and Bangladesh. During its visit in the two countries, the delegation had working meetings respectively with the NCEC and the BCPFA. Both sides unanimously held that friendship is the basis and cooperation the aim, and agreed to carry out cooperation in various fields so as to maintain sustained development of the friendly relations.

Vice President Feng Zuoku, on behalf of the CPAFFC, signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation respectively with the NCEC and the BCPFA, and reached consensus with them on enriching the contents and expanding the areas

CPAFFC Delegation in Denmark and Iceland

Yang Xuehe

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its vice president Li Jianping made a working visit to Denmark and Iceland from April 16 to 24 at the invitation of the Denmark-China Friendship Association (DCFA) and the Icelandic-Chinese Cultural Society (ICCS).

Conferring the Title of Friendship Ambassador on ICCS Vice President Arnthor Helgason

On April 22, a ceremony to confer the title of Friendship Ambassador on Arnthor Helgason, vice president of the ICCS, by the CPAFFC was held in the Chinese Embassy in Iceland. CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping said in his speech, Mr. Helgason, an outstanding representative of the ICCS, is the first

handicapped person among the over 70 recipients of this title who have made prominent contribution to promoting friendship with China. In his work for friendship with China over the past 40 years, he has done a great deal to enhance mutual understanding and exchanges between the Chinese and Icelandic peoples in spite of his physical disability of being blind. In his speech, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Keyuan spoke highly of the outstanding contribution Helgason and the ICCS have made to expanding cultural exchanges and increasing friendship between the people of China and Iceland. On behalf of the ICCS, President Olafur Egilsson expressed thanks to the CPAFFC for conferring the title of Friendship Amba-

sador on Helgason. Helgason gave a thank-you address amid warm applause. He said: "I am honoured and pleased to accept the title Ambassador of Friendship. This nomination is an honour not only to me, because I see it as recognition of the Icelandic Chinese Cultural Society and an indication of how valuable good relations with the Icelandic people are. ... my job would have been unsuccessful without the assistance and cooperation of many people. I heartily thank them for their efforts. I would like to send my regards to the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Chen Haosu and his staff. It is my wish that Icelandic-Chinese collaboration, mutual respect and understanding be

of cooperation, carrying out substantive exchanges and deepening cooperation.

At the reception in honour of the delegation given by the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, Vice President Feng had conversations with the representatives of the BCFA, the BCPFA, the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre, the Bangladesh-China Economics, Culture and Communications Centre and the Bangladesh-China Institute on future exchanges and cooperation.

Promoting cooperation between the local governments. During the delegation's visit in the two countries, Nepal and Bangladesh showed

positive attitudes towards cooperation with Chinese local governments. Chief Administrative Officer of Chitwan Baral and President Bijukchhe of Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party expressed their hope that the CPAFFC would help Chitwan and Bhaktapur to find suitable Chinese cities for them to establish friendship-city ties and carry out cooperation so as to promote urban development. During the visit, four leading officials of the friendship associations of Yunnan, Guangxi and Sichuan in the delegation had talks with local government officials of the two countries. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping (R.1) conferring the title of Friendship Ambassador on Arnthor Helgason (R.2), vice president of the Icelandic-Chinese Cultural Society, on behalf of the CPAFFC



strengthened with each passing year, for the joy and benefit of both nations.”

Looking for Opportunities for Cooperation

Promoting seminar series on agriculture between China and Europe. During the visit, the delegation had working meetings on agricultural cooperation with Johnny Sotrup, mayor of Esbjerg of Denmark, and Sigurgeir Thorgeirsson, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, and specialists from the Agricultural University of Iceland. Li Jianping gave a brief account of the present economic development in China and CPAFFC's plan to hold the first China-Europe seminar on rural development in Sichuan. Mayor Sotrup told the delegation, the Region of Southern Denmark where Esbjerg is located attaches great importance to cooperation with China. It has set up an office in Suzhou. It would actively extend fields of cooperation and look for projects to cooperate

with the CPAFFC. Permanent Secretary Thorgeirsson pointed out, Iceland is advanced in fishery and water and soil conservation. The specialists from the Agricultural University of Iceland expressed the hope to carry out exchanges in animal husbandry and the prevention of water loss, soil erosion and desertification with the provinces in western China through cooperation between universities, academic studies, personnel training, etc., and learn from each other's experience.

On-the-spot study of geothermal energy projects. The delegation held talks with Reykjavik Energy Invest and Geysir Green Energy of Iceland and listened to the analysis and suggestions made by Icelandic specialists on the development and utilization of geothermal resources in China and explored the possibility for cooperation. Together with the China National Petroleum Corporation, the above two companies have, through technology investment, built the geothermal heating

system in Xianyang City of Shaanxi Province, which can provide heating for 300,000 households in an area of 1 million square metres. The Icelandic side expressed the willingness to further cooperation in this field with China and hoped to establish links with relevant local governments through the CPAFFC so as to develop and utilize geothermal resources in more Chinese provinces and cities.

Introducing traditional Chinese therapy in health care. In his meeting with Henrik Poulsen, international consultant of the Mayor's Office of Odense, Denmark, Li Jianping conveyed the wish of the Health and Recreation Council of China Health Care Association to cooperate with Denmark. Poulsen said, Odense is known in the world for its pharmaceutical industry and leads the world in the development and research on medicine for diabetes. And it is where the Danish Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Institute has its headquarters. He

On CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin 's Trip of Gratitude To Japan

Dong Sijia

In April, cherry flowers bloomed in profusion in Japan and spring was very much in the air. Invited by the Japan-China Cultural & Economic Exchange Organization, a delegation of the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) headed by Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC, paid a goodwill visit to Tokyo and Nagasaki from April 7 to 11.

Apart from calling on Japanese political figures and heads of friendship organizations including Genjiro Kaneko, governor of Nagasaki, and Shinichiro Shiranishi, president of the Japan-China Society, and attending the opening ceremony of *Love and Peace*—the Calligraphy, Painting and Photo Exhibition by Noted Chinese and Japanese Artists, also included in the itinerary was a very special programme, that is, to go to Sasebo City in Nagasaki to pay respects at the tomb of a Japanese doctor named Yoshio Inoue and visit his widow and family to add new part to the story of China-Japan friendship between the president of

the People's Republic of China and an ordinary Japanese national that began 60 years ago.

Precious Memory

The story started in the years around the founding of New China.

Comrade Li Xiannian was commander and political commissar of the Hubei Provincial Military Area Command, secretary of the Hubei Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Hubei Provincial People's Government. He suffered from serious cases of rhinitis and gastric trouble which he had contracted in the hard time of war years when he fought the enemy in one place after another and had not had time to receive systematic medical treatment. Until October 1949, Chairman Li Xiannian had a surgical treatment by Yoshio Inoue, a Japanese military doctor who had remained to work in a local hospital in Wuhan who cured his chronic rhinitis and rendered regular health care services to him in the

said he would like to assist the CPAFFC to establish contact with the Institute and hoped that the two sides would cosponsor symposiums to push forward cooperation in traditional Chinese therapy for health care. The delegation visited the Blue Lagoon Health Care Centre. The Blue Lagoon Spa is one of the geothermal spa resorts of world renown and geothermal treatment in Iceland also enjoys high reputation. A leading member of the Centre expressed the desire to

look for appropriate projects for cooperation with Chinese health care enterprises.

Discussing the work of friendship cities. Now there are 8 pairs of friendship cities between China and Denmark and 2 pairs between China and Iceland. The delegation called on Local Government Denmark and the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland, and discussed with them the development of friendship cities. The leaders of the two associations said, today when the world

economy is facing an increasingly severe situation, China which has just successfully held the Beijing Olympic Games has attracted the world's attention with its rapid economic development and great market potential. They hoped to grasp this opportunity and expand cooperation with China at the local government level, including twinning more friendship cities and broadening areas and channels of cooperation through exchanges of visits between cities. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Chinese Consul General to Nagasaki Teng Anjun (L.1) with Mrs. Miyoko Inoue and other members of the family



four years that followed.

During this period, Chairman Li communicated with Dr. Inoue in writing and gradually learned more about him and his family. Dr. Inoue had worked in a hospital in Anshan in Liaoning Province. After Japan's defeat in the war he worked in the health department of the Fourth Column of China's Northeast Democratic United Army as a retained military doctor, moving from one place to another with the army. And finally the whole family came to Wuhan, Hubei Province.

Perhaps it was because they were of similar age that after a few communications in writing friendship grew between them. Upon learning that Dr. Inoue had several children and was having a hard time to make ends meet, Chairman Li often gave some rice, flour, clothing and other daily necessities he bought with his limited income to the Inoue family. Dr. Inoue held Chairman Li in high esteem for his kindness, honesty and generosity and worked conscientiously to repay the Chinese military and civilians with his high skill medical service.

Due to the changes in China's domestic situation, Dr. Inoue and his family returned to Japan in 1953. And there was no news of them in the following several decades. But, the president of the People's Republic never forgot the Japanese doctor who had cured his illness.

"I wish to see Dr. Inoue again to express my

gratitude."

In 1987, through Lt. Gen. Hu Qicai, former commander of the Fourth Column of the Northeast Democratic United Army, President Li Xiannian asked Mr. Makoto Sakai, executive director general of the Japan-China Friendship Association who was on a visit to China to inquire the whereabouts of Yoshio Inoue and his family.

It was no easy job to find the doctor. Upon returning home in January 1987, Mr. Sakai immediately contacted relevant organizations in Japan and collected information about the doctors and nurses who had worked in Wuhan, but there was no trace of Inoue. When there was no other choice, they had a notice published in the newspapers, appealing those who knew the doctor's whereabouts to provide information. At last news came that the Inoue family lived in Sasebo City in Nagasaki, running a private clinic.

President Li Xiannian was very happy to learn the news and immediately extended an invitation to the Inoue family to visit China through a relevant Japanese organization. But unfortunately Doctor Inoue could not make the visit due to his poor health. It was a pity that the two old men missed the chance to see each other again. President Li passed away in Beijing in 1992 and Dr. Inoue in Nagasaki in 2004.

Profound Remembrance

"We will be there soon. My father's long

cherished wish will be realized at last.”

On the way to Sasebo on April 10, Vice President Li Xiaolin told other members of the delegation how the decision was made to take this trip.

“When I was young I heard my father speaking about his serious rhinitis being cured by a kind-hearted Japanese doctor. But I did not know much about the doctor. In 2008 I learned by chance that Mr. Makoto Sakai, an old friend of the CPAFFC and director of the Japan-China Friendship Association, was the person that my father entrusted to look for Dr. Inoue in 1987 and that Mrs. Miyoko Inoue, widow of Dr. Inoue, was still alive and in good health. The idea of going to Sasebo to visit the Inoue family and pay respects at the Doctor’s tomb to fulfill the unrealized wish of my father came to my mind...”

The car arrived at the burial ground of the Inoue family in Sasebo before the Vice President finished her sentence. The 92-year-old Mrs. Miyoko Inoue was waiting there with the whole family.

“How do you do, Mrs. Inoue? I am Li Xiaolin, daughter of Li Xiannian. I come here today specially to see you.” After brief greetings, the vice president went up to the tombstone of Dr. Inoue, placed fresh flowers before it with respect, and led all the members of the delegation to bow three times to the benefactor who had relieved numerous Chinese patients of their sufferings. Vice President Li then turned back to Mrs. Inoue. Holding her hands she had a nice chat with her.

The vice president told Mrs. Inoue that she came to Sasebo to fulfill her father’s long-cherished wish and thank the Inoue family on her father’s behalf. “The favour of a drop of water would be rewarded with the gratitude of a fountain of water” and “Never forget the well digger when drinking water” are maxims in China, telling people that whatever favour one receives and however small it is, one must be grateful and tries his/her best to return it. Dr. Inoue had relieved my father of his sufferings from illness, for which we will always remember his kindness.

Hearing this, Keiko Neshiro, eldest daughter of Dr. Inoue, expressed her feelings with emotion. She said that she was born in China and cherished a special friendly feeling towards the country, and that she still remembered vividly scenes of her childhood in China. She added, in her eyes and those of her brothers and sisters, her father had been an ordinary doctor who worked conscientiously. Having heard the story about her father today, she suddenly felt that her father was great.

This story that began 60 years ago continued in cheers and laughter.

Time is always short for reunion. One and a half hours slipped away without our knowing it. For fear that the elderly Mrs. Inoue would feel strained, Vice President Li suggested ending the conversation. With deep emotion, Mrs. Inoue presented two photos of her late husband she kept with her to the vice president as mementos. Vice President Li said that she would have these photos placed in the Memorial Hall of Li Xiannian in Hong’an County of Hubei Province so that future generations would always remember this moving story between China and Japan.

Li Xiaolin said: “Though there existed an unpleasant period in history between China and Japan, it was brief compared with the friendly exchanges of over 2,000 years between them. The facts that being a high-ranking general, my father agreed to be treated by a Japanese military doctor and that abiding by medical ethics, Dr. Inoue cured his patients with his excellent medical skills demonstrated the mutual trust between them. These seemingly ordinary deeds of their generation laid the foundation for people-to-people exchanges between China and Japan.” Vice President Li expressed the hope that the younger generation of the Inoue family would continue this tradition and contribute to the promotion of Sino-Japanese friendship.

The story between the older generation of Chinese and Japanese and the new chapter of it between the contemporary Chinese and Japanese show that the Chinese people will always remember past friendship and remain grateful, and that there are successors to the cause of China-Japan friendship. □

Nigerien President 's Wife Laraba Tandja in China

Tang Ruimin

In the spring season when flowers were in full bloom, Nigerien president's wife Laraba Tandja and her party visited Beijing and Shenzhen from April 11 to 19. She visited the China National Children's Centre, the Beijing Olympic venues, the headquarters of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. and the Shenzhen Splendid China Folk Culture Village, and called on the All-China Women's Federation and the China Charity Federation.

When meeting with Chen Zhili, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and president of the All-China Women's Federation, Mrs. Tandja briefed about the present conditions of the Nigerien wom-

en and children and the MAGAMA Foundation she had created. The foundation has already provided free vocational training and basic health care for more than 500 poor women and enjoys a good reputation in Niger. NPC Vice Chairperson Chen Zhili expressed her congratulations on the achievements the foundation had made and gave a brief account of the conditions and relevant laws and regulations on the protection of women and children in China since reform and opening up. In order to promote China-Niger friendship and support Mrs. Tandja's Foundation, Chen said that the Chinese side would donate a few medical vehicles to the Nigerien side to help the MAGAMA Foundation

carry out its work. Mrs. Tandja expressed her gratitude to China for the aid and said the MAGAMA Foundation dedicates itself to the cause of women and children, to the fight against AIDS and the reduction of poor population in Africa. She said that Niger would learn from China's experience and work for attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Mrs. Tandja visited China at the invitation of the CPAFFC and Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. Huawei is now promoting e-administration in African countries. Two-thirds of its staffers in Africa being locals, it is most welcomed by the African people. Last year the company donated 20,000 US dollars to the MAGAMA Foun-

Chen Zhili, vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, meeting with Laraba Tandja, wife of the Nigerien president, and her party



“I can feel the true friendship between China and Africa”

—Afro-American Woman Writer
Sharon T. Freeman Visits China

Ma Xu

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Sharon T. Freeman, president of the All American Small Business Exporters Association, former adviser to the secretary of commerce and well-known woman writer, and her husband visited Beijing and Shenzhen from March 2 to 14 to collect materials for her new book about Sino-African relations. During her stay, she called on leading members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the CPAFFC, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the School of International Studies of Peking University, Chinese special envoy to Africa Liu Guijin, China-Africa Business Council, the Representative of the Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Agency China Office at Shenzhen International Science and Technology Business Platform, the Sino-Egyptian Joint Business Council, the Africa-Invest. Net, the China National Offshore Oil Corp. and Beijing Holley-Cotec Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. Through these meetings, she focused her investigation on Sino-African relationship and trade exchanges between the two sides.

Members of relevant departments answered

dation, which was earmarked to provide free lunches for the poor school-children. During her visit in China Mrs. Tandja paid a special visit to the headquarters of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. in Shenzhen. She paid great attention to the training of employees and suggested that her foundation cooperate

with Huawei to train Nigerian employees to raise their skills. Huawei Technologies expressed its willingness to strengthen ties with the foundation.

Mrs. Tandja has deep feelings for China. Several years ago she sent her second son to study in China who since graduation has worked

questions and briefed on the situation of such issues as the writer is concerned about including human rights and economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa. In his response to the issue of human rights, Ambassador Liu Guijin said, China's stand on human rights consists of three points: first, we should consider a country's level of development, solve the problem of food and clothing first, and then discuss other issues; second, implement our country's policy of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs; lastly, we should negotiate and solve problems as friends instead of resorting to warnings, sanctions or use of force. As for the Sudan issue, it is only through multilateral efforts to mediate between the Sudanese government, the neighbouring countries, the African Union, the United Nations and all other stakeholders, can the issue be resolved. Representatives of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences analyzed the friction arising from the trade between China and Africa, and said it was absolutely not caused by China alone, but resulted from multiple elements such as national protectionism, tariff evasion, disorder of export regulations, etc., and joint efforts of both China and African countries are required to solve the

for economic cooperation between Niger and China. Her eldest daughter who accompanied her on her visit to China will also start business on environmental protection in China. We sincerely wish that friendship between China and Niger will pass on from generation to generation. □

Delegation of Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation in China

Tu Lili

Invited by the CPAFFC, a delegation of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation (ASLC-SCC) led by its President Indrananda Abeysekera visited China from February 25 to March 5, 2009.

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku had a working

meeting with the delegation. Ai Ping, director general of Bureau I of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, briefed the guests on the development of the guiding ideology of the CPC and its guidance in China's making great achievements in reform and opening up. Wang Dongmei,

deputy director of China Radio International, signed with the delegation a memorandum of understanding on strengthening cooperation. The delegation also visited Qinghai and Sichuan.

Appreciating Cooperation

On February 26, the dele-

problem.

The visit of nearly half a month has given Dr. Freeman a brand new understanding of Sino-African relations. She said, "After listening to your experiences in Africa, I can feel the true friendship between China and Africa, because the experiences of Chinese and African people are the most powerful evidence." Having learned about the situation of the trade between China and Africa, she commented with appreciation, "China has certainly made its unique efforts and gestures in promoting its trade exchanges with Africa. In this respect, our country should learn from China. When I return home, I will report in details to the commercial department of the government what I have seen and heard here. I will also suggest that cooperation and exchanges be enhanced in import and export between small enterprises of China and the U.S." On several occasions, she said with emotion, "So China has done so many things in Africa, but neither had I in Africa nor our country heard this voice. On the contrary, our

ears are filled with denouncement and boycott. I shall reveal all this in my book so that more people may know truly about China and China's relationship with Africa." Her husband Peter Gebre, an Ethiopian, also said with deep feelings, "My country has no minerals or oil, and definitely not a country rich in natural resources. However, China has always helped us build roads and bridges and construct infrastructures. The Chinese people have been our constant friends."

Sharon T. Freeman planned to publish her new book worldwide in 5 languages in June 2009, with the title *Perspectives: China, Africa, and the African diaspora*. □

Sharon T. Freeman and her husband on the Great Wall



gation held a meeting in Beijing to commend the CPAFFC for its holding in cooperation with the ASLCSCC a series of activities in Sri Lanka last year to mark the 30th anniversary of China's adoption of the policy of reform and opening up. The activities included a photo exhibition on the achievements of China's reform and opening up, printing and distributing pamphlets about the achievements and experience of China's reform and opening up, etc.

In recognition of the CPAFFC's outstanding contributions to promoting Sri Lanka-China friendship in the past decades, the delegation conferred the award Extraordinary Hero of People-to-People Friendship Diplomacy upon the CPAFFC and awarded the 2009 Medal of Friendship to CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku.

Carrying Out Activities for Public Good

Loving care for the people in the earthquake-hit areas: The Sri Lankan people who suffered greatly during the Indian Ocean tsunami show solicitude for the victims of the Wenchuan earthquake and share their woe. The delegation carried out a series of activities to express sympathy and solicitude to the people in the earthquake-stricken areas. The loving care and material aid from the Sri Lankan people warmed the hearts of the people in the disaster areas and fully demonstrated the deep friendship between the Chinese and

Sri Lankan people.

Abeysekera said, when Sri Lanka was hit by the tsunami, both the Chinese government and people offered great assistance to and helped Sri Lanka rebuild the disaster areas. Now the Chinese brothers are suffering, the Sri Lankan people, though not rich, are willing to do what little they can to help the Chinese people within their ability.

The delegation offered scholarships to ten students who had become disabled during the earthquake. Abeysekera said that his association would offer scholarships to the ten students or other students in Dongqi Middle School every year to show the Sri Lankan people's care and love for the children in the disaster areas. He added that his association would hold in Sri Lanka an exhibition of paintings drawn by the children in Sichuan quake areas and would sell these paintings for charity. The proceeds from the charity sale would be sent back to the disaster areas for rebuilding education facilities for children.

The delegation put forward a suggestion to the Deyang Municipal Bureau of Education that the ASLCSCC send English teachers to the disaster areas to give free English teaching.

"Friendship and love": The delegation donated books and special equipment for the deaf and mute to Dongqi Middle School and the Sichuan Provincial Disabled Persons' Federation. It is a continuation of the

"Friendship and Love" project, which started in 2007 when the ASLCSCC delegation visited Guizhou and has been operated for three years.

Promoting Exchanges between Localities

In Qinghai, the delegation signed a memorandum of understanding on establishing friendly and cooperative relations with the Qinghai Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The contents of the memorandum include exchange of visits, tourism promotion, educational and scientific exchanges, and promoting twinning of friendship cities. The memorandum has laid a good foundation for future cooperation between the two sides.

With regard to friendship cities, Abeysekera and Cui Qingshan, deputy secretary general of the Xining Municipal Government, respectively gave a brief introduction to Kalutara City and Xining. Both of them held that the two cities have potential for cooperation and agreed to make joint efforts to promote establishing friendship-city ties between the two cities.

Promoting Exchanges in Education

Sister Schools: The Foundation for Sri Lanka-China Educational Relations is set up under the ASLCSCC. During the visit, the delegation actively promoted establishment of sister-school relations between

four pairs of Chinese and Sri Lankan schools on behalf of the foundation. The nominated Chinese and Sri Lankan schools all had traumatic experiences and suffered material losses from the earthquake and tsunami respectively. They are more willing to help each other to walk out of the shadow of disaster. The delegation handed over a letter from the principal of St. Thomas' College, Matale to Guangya School in Xiangchuan on the college's intention to establish sister-school ties with it. The principal of Guangya School asked the delegation to pass the brochure about the school to the principal of St. Thomas' College, and said his school is looking forward to twinning sister schools with St. Thomas' College.

Cultural Exchanges Exchanges in Buddhism:

Under the ASLCSCC there is the Foundation for Sri Lanka-China Buddhist Relations. The delegation, on behalf of the foundation, presented consecrated Buddha statues to Ta'er Monastery and Daci Temple.

In Daci Temple, the two sides recalled the friendly exchanges in Buddhism between China and Sri Lanka, such as Chinese Monk Faxian of the Jin Dynasty studying Buddhism in Sri Lanka, and Sri Lankan Monk Bukong and Bhikkuni Pitipana Devasara propagating Buddhism in China. The exchange in Buddhism between the two countries has a long history. Abbot Shi Da'en expressed his willingness to strengthen contact in Buddhism with Sri Lanka and got positive response from the delegation, which invited him to visit Sri Lanka this year.

Jointly holding the Chinese and Sri Lankan students'

painting exhibition: On March 4, the ASLCSCC, the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Chengdu Yibo School jointly held the 2009 Exhibition of Paintings by Sri Lankan and Sichuan Children. It attracted many parents who visited the exhibition with their children.

It was the first time that paintings drawn by Chinese and Sri Lankan children were on display together. In his interview with the Sichuan media, Abeysekera said, children are the future, and friendship should be first fostered between children. This exhibition is mounted to cultivate the future of Sri Lanka-China friendship, let the seeds of friendship between the two countries strike root in the hearts of children and let the traditional friendship be carried forward by the younger generation. □

(Continued from p.50)

selection of the subject for study and the head of the delegation, this project was welcomed by many large Dutch financial institutions.

APEP's projects involve in varied fields including politics, economy and social life; and the range of study covers Europe, the U.S. and major Asian countries. For instance, there are special subjects like "Justice in the United States", "Innovation, collaboration and IT in India", "Battling against the Obesity Epidemic in the U.K.", etc., fully demonstrating the extensiveness and variety of the subjects of these projects. Usually the APEP carefully designs the subjects for study on the basis of the requirement of its members. Once a project is decided, it tries every means to get in touch with the most authoritative and influential experts, government officials or enterprises in the relevant fields of the relevant countries to have

talks and cooperate with them to implement the project. Through expanding its channels of work and building a platform for all-directional exchanges, the APEP not only guarantees the quality of its projects, but also raises its popularity and reputation.

The APEP takes the consolidation and development of its interpersonal relationship network as the basis to carry out its projects. In the past more than 20 years since its founding, the APEP through recruiting new members and carrying out study trips has established extensive interpersonal relationships in many countries. While carrying out new projects and making new friends, it constantly strengthens contacts with friends in other countries and timely updates its interpersonal relationship network by paying regular calls, distributing its publications and promptly reporting the results of the study at different stages. □

Delegation of Chinese Advisers And Veterans Visits Vietnam

Wu Jiong

At the invitation of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO), Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC, led the delegation of Chinese advisers and veterans who had participated in China's aid mission to help Vietnam fight against French and US aggression visited Vietnam from May 3 to 9.

The delegation members came from Beijing, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Guangdong and Hunan Provinces, who had either worked as military and political advisers, or fought in the war in Vietnam. During their visit to Vietnam, the delegation attended a welcoming reception held by the VUFO and had a gathering with Vietnamese veterans. Participants of the two countries recalled the special history together and renewed their friendship forged during the war, which was of great significance for the people of the two countries to carry on the tradition and face the future, and to continue to promote the sound development of Sino-Vietnamese relations.

The Vietnamese side attached great importance to the delegation's visit. Phung Quang Thanh, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam and minister of defence, Nguyen Thi Doan, vice president of Vietnam, and Nhu Thi Hong Lien, vice president of the People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province, met with the delegation respectively. Vu Xuan Hong, president of the VUFO, Ngo Xuan Lich, deputy director of the General Political Department of the Ministry of Defense, Doan Manh Giao, president of the Vietnam China Friendship Association, and Pham Cong Chinh, deputy gen-

eral manager of the Vietnam Railway Company, met with and entertained the delegation.

Praising and expressing gratitude for the great contribution by the advisers and the troops of the Chinese aid mission to help Vietnam against French and US aggression. During the meetings, Phung Quang Thanh, Nguyen Thi Doan and other Vietnamese leaders highly praised and expressed sincere gratitude to the CPC, the Chinese Government, army and people for their support and assistance in manpower, material resources and spirit during the war of the Vietnamese people against the invasions. The fact that the delegation came to Vietnam just at the 55th anniversary of the victory in Dien Bien Phu and the 34th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam fully shows the traditional friendly sentiments of the Chinese people towards the Vietnamese people, which is of great importance.

The VUFO specially held a ceremony to confer the medal of "For Peace and Friendship Among Nations" on each member of the delegation to commend and thank the Chinese advisers and veterans for their contribution to Vietnam. Speaking at the ceremony, President Vu Xuan Hong said, in the middle and late periods of the last century, more than 3,000 fine Chinese people came to Vietnam and fought side by side with the Vietnamese people to support them in their revolutionary struggle, making great contribution to the country's national independence and unification and to consolidating and carrying on the traditional friendship and the "Comrade and Brother" relationship between Vietnam and China. They are

benefactors of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people, as well as “precious stones” of the traditional Vietnam-China friendship. The Vietnamese people will always be grateful to and never forget them.

Speaking highly of the traditional friendship, the relations and cooperation between Vietnam and China, and hoping that the younger generations of the two countries will carry forward the traditional friendship. During the meetings, Phung Quang Thanh, Nguyen Thi Doan and other Vietnamese leaders spoke highly of the traditional friendship and the “Comrade and Brother” relationship between Vietnam and China, cultivated by President Ho Chi Minh and Chairman Mao Zedong and generations of leadership of the two countries. They pointed out, now the two countries have formed an all-round strategic cooperative partnership, signifying a new height of the bilateral relations. They hoped that the veterans and senior comrades would actively educate the younger generations of the two countries to promote the development of Vietnam-China friendship in a deeper, wider and more effective way. They also hoped that young people of the two countries would take the older comrades as their models, inherit their fine tradition and carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries so that this friendship would be passed on from generation to generation.

On behalf of the Chinese veterans and senior advisors in the delegation, Vice President Jing Dunquan expressed sincere gratitude to the Vietnamese hosts for their warm invitation and generous hospitality as well as to the Vietnamese Party, government, army and people for their support to the revolution and development of China. He said, China and Vietnam are linked by common mountains and rivers, share common cultural tradition and have identical social systems. The Parties, governments, armies and people of the two countries have forged a deep friendship during their revolutionary struggles, a friendship which is defined as “Comrade and Brother” relationship. During the visit, the delegation members felt deeply the friendly sentiments of the Vietnamese people towards the Chinese people. The senior

advisors and veterans were very excited when they revisited this land. They cherished profound feelings for the places where they used to work, fight and live with Vietnamese comrades, and took Vietnam as their second hometown. Vice President Jing also said, Sino-Vietnamese relations have witnessed a sound development with frequent high-level exchanges between the two sides and extensive cooperation in various fields. As important countries of Asia and in the world, China and Vietnam ought to make contributions to the regional stability and cooperation as well as to world prosperity. The younger generations of the two countries should, on the basis of the “Comrade and Brother” relationship, inherit the fine tradition and revolutionary spirit of the older generations and develop the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Cherishing the memory of heroic martyrs and deepening Sino-Vietnamese traditional friendship at the reunion of comrades-in-arms. During its visit in Vietnam, the delegation also had a reunion gathering with Vietnamese veterans and comrades who had fought with their Chinese comrades on the battlefields. When the comrades-in-arms, old friends and colleagues who had not seen each other for over half a century met again, everyone on the scene was deeply moved. They embraced each other excitedly and chatted intimately. They told touching stories of the foreign aid mission during the war against French and US aggression, and recalled the years when they fought and worked together as well as their revolutionary comradeship. They sang old songs of the revolutionary struggle and Sino-Vietnamese friendship, shedding tears in excitement.

In Hanoi, the delegation paid homage to the tomb of President Ho Chi Minh and visited his former residence. With deep respect for President Ho Chi Minh, the members recalled his simple life and whole-hearted service to the people as well as his cultivating the traditional Vietnam-China friendship together with Chairman Mao Zedong. During the meetings with Vietnamese hosts, the delegation members emotionally spoke about how President Ho came to visit their troops at the Spring Festival. In Quang Ninh,

San Marino-China Friendship Association 20 Years Old

Yu Shunji

San Marino, with a population of less than 30,000, is one of the smallest countries in Europe. In such a small country the San Marino-China Friendship Association (SMCFA) was set up and has exerted important influence in the country's external affairs and done a great deal of work for people-to-people friendship between San Marino and China.

Gian Franco Terenzi, founder and president of the Association has been captain

regent of San Marino (head of state) three times. He visited China for the first time in 1988 in his capacity as captain regent, during which he met with Chinese President Li Xiannian, Premier Li Peng and Jiang Zemin who was then mayor of Shanghai. In the same year, with his great efforts, the SMCFA came into being and he has been its president ever since.

Over the years Mr. Terenzi has taken care of the varied ac-

tivities held by the Association and often organized lectures, exhibitions and symposiums in San Marino to publicize the ancient civilization of China and its modernization progress. The SMCFA encourages people of all walks of life in San Marino to visit China and receives Chinese delegations every year.

The SMCFA established stable and long-term friendly and cooperative relations with the CPAFFC soon after its founding. The past 20 years



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and the delegation he headed with San Marino personages of various circles at the celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the SMCFA

owing to the host's arrangement, the delegation went to Mong Duong and held a memorial service at the Cemetery of the Revolutionary Martyrs' of the Chinese Aid Mission to Vietnam. After the delegation solemnly placed a wreath in front of the monument, Bui Viet Thin, vice president of

the Quang Ninh Provincial Union of Friendship Organizations, delivered a memorial speech, and burned incense with his colleagues before each of the martyrs' tombs. Vice President Bui Viet Thin told the delegation that a memorial pavilion would be built by this October. □

China-DPRK Friendship Cities Conference Held

Hong Lei

The China-DPRK Friendship Cities Conference cosponsored by the CPAFFC and the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of DPR Korea (CCRFCK) was held in Pyongyang on May 12. A 36-member delegation of the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA) and Chinese local governments led by Wu Donghe, president of the CKFA, paid a visit to the DPRK and attended the conference from May 8 to 13.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the DPRK, and is also the Year of China-DPRK Friendship. The China-DPRK Friendship Cities Conference is one of the major activities of the Friendship Year. So far, eight pairs of

friendship cities between China and the DPRK have been twinned. The activities between friendship cities carried out in the Friendship Year are aimed at promoting substantial cooperation between the local governments of the two countries.

On May 12, the friendship cities conference was held in the People's Cultural Palace in Pyongyang. 150 Chinese and DPRK delegates from China's provinces of Jiangsu, Shandong and Sichuan, municipalities of Shanghai and Tianjin and cities of Changchun, Jilin and Hunchun, and DPRK's provinces of Kangwon, South Hwanghae, South Pyongan and South Hamgyong, and cities of Nampo, Chongjin and Rason, and Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang, attended the conference. Mun Jae Chol, acting chairman of the

have witnessed frequent high-level exchanges of visits between the two organizations, rich contents of their exchanges and many achievements of their cooperation. With assistance from the two Associations, Huangshan City of China and Serravalle of San Marino have twinned friendship-city ties. Encouraged by the SMCFA, the San Marino Government and business delegations made several visits to China and at its invitation, Chinese local and specialized delegations often participated in various events sponsored by San Marino. In 2004, with enthusiasm San Marino issued commemorative stamps on the 55th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 50th an-

niversary of the CPAFFC. And in the same year Mr. Terenzi led a SMCFA delegation to China to take part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CPAFFC and was received by Chinese state leaders.

In 2008, the CPAFFC conferred the title of Friendship Ambassador on SMCFA President Terenzi in recognition of the active role the SMCFA had played and great contribution it had made over the years to the official and unofficial friendly exchanges between the two countries.

The 20th anniversary of the SMCFA fell in 2008. Invited by President Terenzi, a CPAFFC delegation led by President Chen Haosu paid a friendly visit to San Marino in September.

The SMCFA organized a big anniversary celebration in the Grand Hotel San Marino, attended by about 100 people of various circles including high-ranking government officials and entrepreneurs. President Terenzi specially invited President Chen Haosu to present Certificates of Honour to the Sanmarinese public figures of various circles who had worked hard over the years to promote friendly exchanges between the two countries. San Marino Postal Authority specially issued postcards and first-day postmark for the 20th anniversary of the SMCFA. The San Marino state television interviewed President Chen Haosu on China-San Marino relations. □

German HSF Vice President U. Mannle Gives a Lecture

Our Staff Reporter

On the afternoon of May 21, Ursula Mannle, vice president of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), gave a lecture on the German election at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Li Jianping, vice-president of the CPAFFC; Ulla Bekel, representative of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Beijing Office; and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the International Department of the CCCPC, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and the China-Germany Friendship Association, totaling about 40 people, attended the

lecture.

In his speech before the lecture, Vice-president Li Jianping said, the Hanns Seidel Foundation is one of the important cooperative partners of the CPAFFC in Germany. As early as in May 1979, former President Wang Bingnan visited Germany at the invitation of the foundation. Over the three decades thereafter, both sides have carried out varied and effective cooperation in the fields of social politics, culture, exchanges between members of the parliaments, etc.

Ms. Mannle, a veteran politician of the Christian Social Union and former Bavari-

an minister, led delegations to visit China in 1977 and 2005. In her lecture, she focused on the internal issues of Germany and commented on the background, status quo and trend relating to the super election year of the country, which provided scholars and specialists who research on and follow with interest Germany's economic and social development with updated information and unique perspectives. She also answered questions raised by the specialists, discussing together with them the current situation and trying to predict election results, all in a warm atmosphere. □

CCRFCK, Wu Donghe, president of the CKFA, and Liu Xiaoming, Chinese ambassador to DPRK, attended and addressed the conference. Li Rong, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shandong Provincial Government; Liu Changmu, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Jilin Municipal Government; Im Young Hoo, vice chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee, and Kim Ki Yong, vice chairman of the Mangyongdae District People's Committee, on behalf of their respective local governments, spoke at the conference. A Joint Declaration was adopted at the conference.

During the conference, eight pairs of friendship provinces and cities of the two countries had meetings in separate pairs. In a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, the two sides reviewed history and looked forward to the future and fully exchanged views on carrying out substantial cooper-

ation in future.

Yang Hyong Sop, vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, met with the chief members of the Chinese delegation. He said, in the past several decades, the establishment and development of friendship cities between DPRK and China have conformed to the fundamental interests and met the requirements of the two peoples. Friendship cities serve as links and bridges to enhance friendship between the people of the two countries.

The conference has set up a new platform for cooperation between friendship cities. The DPRK side stressed repeatedly that the convening of the China-DPRK Friendship Cities Conference is an innovation in the history of DPRK-China relations and an important opportunity for the local governments of the two countries to further ties and carry

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Beautiful Melodies from Porcelain Instruments Enchant Austrian Guests

Xu Nianrui, Yang Huan

Editor's note: A high-level Austrian-Chinese Friendship Association (ACFA) delegation led by Harald Reisenberger, president of the Austrian Federal Council and member of the Supervisory Board of the ACFA, visited China from April 2 to 12. Included in the delegation were Susanne Neuwirth, vice president of the Federal Council; Stefan Pehringer, deputy director of the Asia Department of the Ministry for European and International Affairs; Gisela Wurm, member of the National Council; and principal leaders of the ACFA and the Committee of Overseas Chinese. The delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangxi, Fujian and Guangdong. Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met with the delegation.

In April, the weather is beautiful in Jingdezhen, a city known as the porcelain capital of China. In this pleasant season a 16-member delegation of the ACFA led by Harald Reisenberger, president of the Federal Council of Austria, paid a visit to the city.

On the morning of April 7, with Zhu Bingfa, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Jiangxi Provincial

People's Congress, and Li Fang, mayor of Jingdezhen, in company, President Reisenberger and his party visited an old kiln to see how pieces of porcelain for imperial palace were made and enjoyed the music played by a porcelain instrument orchestra.

Upon arriving at the kiln area, the Austrian guests were

greeted by the tune *Welcoming Guests*. Following a flagstone path, they first entered a workshop built with wood and watched an old craftsman making a vase on a potter's wheel. As the wheel spun, the old man turned a lump of white clay into a gourd-shaped vase with his deft fingers. "Fantastic! This is how ancient Chinese porcelain

CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin meeting with President Harald Reisenberger of the Austrian Federal Council and his party



Canada Youth Ballet Company Visits China

Gan Qianyi

The Canada Youth Ballet Company of 40 members visited China from April 24 to May 8 at the invitation of the CPAFFC and gave 6 performances in Foshan, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Tianjin and Beijing.

The Canada Youth Ballet Company consists of dancers from Canada, the U.S., Australia, Japan and China. The programme prepared for this tour combined parts of classical ballet with Chinese folk dance and modern dance, and was arranged in a unique style, fully demonstrating their high skills. As the highlight of its tour and the last performance, “The Ballet Soiree—Tour of the Canada Youth Ballet Company 2009” pre-

sented on May 4 at the Beijing Exhibition Theatre, brought the performance series in China to the climax. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Li Jianping, leading members of the Chinese Dancers Association and the Beijing Dance Academy, and over 2,000 teachers and students of art institutes including the Beijing Dance Academy, the College of Dance of the Central University of Nationalities and the Dance Department of the PLA Art Academy, watched the performance. The opening dance, *Souvenir de Florence*, moved the audience with its thrilling sound effect, gorgeous costume and smooth movement. The classical ballet, *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*,

was made,” marveled the guests, impressed by the old man’s superb skill. Some took out cameras to take pictures and some turned on their video cameras to record this interesting moment.

As the Austrian guests proceeded to see the next process—painting, the cheerful Austrian classical music *Radetzky March* was heard in the workshop. This familiar tune played by porcelain instruments having a special clear and pleasant effect touched the Austrian guests who could not help clapping their hands. Amid the lively music, the delegates watched women painters painting camellias, the city flower, on bowls. The result showed the unique charm of the oriental art and the skills of

these women painters impressed the guests greatly.

The Austrian guests were greeted at the kiln by the porcelain instrument orchestra that was ready to perform for them. The performers in traditional Chinese costumes played *Jasmine Flower*, *Crescent Moon at Dawn*, *Joyful Atmosphere* and other Chinese folk songs and music. The beautiful melodies and the lively rhythm intoxicated the guests. When the performance came to an end, the Austrian guests gave a prolonged warm applause. President Reisenberger and his wife walked up to shake hands with the performers, congratulated them on their successful performance and said the porcelain music was very appealing.

Touching the blue-and-white porcelain musical instruments—*ou*, *qing*, chime bells, flute and *erhu*, he tried his hand at *ou* with great interest. President Reisenberger loved music. He said it was an unforgettable experience for him to play a porcelain instrument.

After the visit, the Austrian guests thanked the hospitable hosts and expressed that they would tell people about the porcelain musical instruments, the long history of ceramic culture of Jingdezhen and the annual China Jingdezhen International Ceramics Fair when they returned home and that they would as always work to promote cultural exchanges and economic cooperation between Austria and China. □

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu congratulating Choo Chiat Goh, founder and art director, and dancers of the Canada Youth Ballet Company on their successful performance at the end of the show



enabled the audience to review the charms of the classics and feel the inner grace of ballet. The *Daughter River*, choreographed by the well-known Chinese director Zhang Jigang, and *Rise* by the famous Japanese modern dance choreographer Toru Shimazaki, had a different oriental charm when performed by the Canadian dancers. Especially as they in traditional Chinese folk costume demonstrated the tender inner beauty of Chinese women, the audience gave a prolonged applause. The grand finale, *Don Quixote* suite, with its theme from the Spanish classic dance drama, and blending the classic with the modern, excited the audience by its splendid costume and passionate dancing, which concluded the whole performance with perfection.

On the evening of May 5 , President Chen

Haosu and Vice President Li Jianping entertained the delegation at the auditorium of the CPAFFC to celebrate the success of the performance tour in China. At the banquet, President Chen Haosu highly praised Choo Chiat Goh and Lin Yee Goh for the hard work they have done to train ballet dancers, and with dance as a means of culture, spread the art achievements of the overseas Chinese. He commended their numerous visits to China, which has played an active role in promoting the friendship and cultural exchanges between Chinese and Canadian people.

Choo Chiat Goh thanked the CPAFFC for its support and care for the ballet company over the years. He said, this tour in China is a heart-touching experience for the young dancers that helps them better understand China and know a true

Don Quixote Suite



China. Moreover, their personal experience will be told to their friends and families, like seeds spread all over the world, and thereby a bridge of friendship will be built.

On knowing that three members of the company happened to have their birthday during their visit in China, President Chen Haosu and Vice President Li Jianping hosted a birthday party for them, who were greatly excited by the surprise. They said, what they saw and heard during the visit have left them a deep impression, and the friendly sentiments of the Chinese people are unforgettable. They thanked the Chinese people for their hospitality and friendship wherever they witnessed, and hoped they would reunite with the Chinese friends in the near future and recall the ever-lasting friendship.

The tour of the Canada Youth Ballet Company in China not only brought Chinese audience an exquisite feast for the eyes, but also enabled Chinese ballet lovers to get a close touch with the excellent ballet from other countries.

On April 28, the company had a get-together with representatives of the cultural circles of Shenzhen city and its Yantian District at the Shenzhen Citizen's Art Gallery and the Yantian Cultural Centre respectively. They watched each other's performance and enhanced mutual understanding. The *Swan Lake* pas de deux and the *Don Quixote* suite performed by the Canadian side were warmly received by the audience. The ballet and the traditional folk dance of Zang and Miao ethnic groups performed by Chinese dancers also broadened the view of the Canadian artists. James, the choreographer of the company, praised enthusiastically the Chinese folk dance; and he believed that ballet and Chinese folk dance, though belonging to two different kinds of dance, could learn from and enrich each other. He was particularly impressed by the harmonious coordination between the folk dancers, as well as their vivid facial expressions and strong appeal. He said he would try to put these elements of Chinese dance into his future works.

On May 3 morning, the company visited the National Ballet of China (NBC), and had exchanges with the dancers there. Chinese ballet

pays great attention to the combination of the art of ballet with Chinese traditional dance skills and introduces elements of traditional Chinese culture into ballet. As one of the most influential ballet companies in China, the NBC has a strong faculty and a team of professional dancers. Being one of the best ballet troupes in China, it has won a number of prizes in the world top ballet competitions, making the Chinese ballet known to the world. Watching the training and rehearsal of the NBC, the Canadian dancers were greatly inspired. Many said, they were deeply impressed by the professional skills and hard training of the Chinese dancers, which would inspire them to work harder and seek artistic perfection ceaselessly. Choo Chi-at Goh, founder of the Canada Youth Ballet Company and art director, used to be a leading dancer of the NBC. As he revisited the place 30 years later, a youth of yore has now become a man of grey hair. Looking at the old photos displayed in the exhibition hall of the NBC, he said with emotion that the NBC witnessed the peak of his art career and the best years of his life were recorded in China. Time flies, and within 30 years his black hair has turned grey and a student has already become a teacher. The Chinese society has undergone great changes and the Chinese ballet now is vastly different from what it was in the past. Now he hopes more ardently that ballet may act as a platform to develop the cultural exchanges between China and Canada, and that he could do something more within his ability for the people of both countries. □



“Beijing After the Olympics” Delegation From Nuremberg, Germany Visits China

Sun Kang

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a 25-member delegation “Beijing after the Olympics” from Nuremberg, Germany led by Dr. Peter William Schonlein, president of the Olympic Committee of the Administrative Region of Middle Franconia, paid a goodwill visit to Beijing from April 9 to 16.

Dr. Schonlein was elected mayor of Nuremberg respectively in 1987 and 1990. During his term, Nuremberg and Shenzhen established friendship-city ties. Since his term of office ended he has served as president of the Olympic Committee of the Administrative Region of Middle Franconia and president of a number of associations and important foundations, and made active efforts to promote cultural exchanges in the region. Dr. Yan Xu-Lankner, deputy head of the delegation, is dean of Confucius Institute at the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, and is enthusiastic in promoting cultural and educational exchanges between Germany and China. Other members of the delegation came from the political, economic, cultural, art and media circles of Nuremberg.

Carrying out exchanges

and promoting cooperation.

During the meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan, Dr. Schonlein expressed his sincere congratulations on the success of the Beijing Olympic Games and thanks to the CPAFFC for inviting him and his delegation to visit China. He hoped to establish a long term relationship with the CPAFFC to carry out cultural and educational exchanges. At the China National Office of the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), Deputy Director Zhao Guocheng briefed the delegation on the development and future work of Confucius Institutes in various countries and fully affirmed the work done by the Confucius Institute at the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. At the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Sun Youzhong, assistant president of the university, said the BFSU is willing to conduct exchanges and cooperation with Confucius Institute at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and other educational institutions. In the audio-visual auditorium Dr. Schonlein gave a lecture “Introduction of

Nuremberg through Pictures” with the audio-visual aids, presenting a vivid account of the culture and history of Nuremberg and Germany.

Learning about Chinese culture and witnessing the post-Olympics development in Beijing. Most of the members of the delegation visited China for the first time. They were very much interested in Chinese culture, but only had limited knowledge about the current development in China. During their stay in Beijing, through visits to many places, they saw for themselves the urban development and improvement of environment in Beijing after the Olympics. At the Chinese Culture Experience Centre of the Hanban, they took part in the activities in high spirits, experiencing first-hand the charms of Chinese culture represented by traditional operas, paintings, musical instruments, and arts and crafts. Through the visit they gained a better understanding of the rich and profound Chinese culture and the current social development of the country.

The delegation visited the National Stadium (Bird’s Nest) and the National Indoor Stadium and had talks with Xu Da,

Sri Lanka Friendship Delegation in Sichuan

Shen Zaiwang

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, the Delegation of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation (ASLCSCC) visited Sichuan Province from March 1 to 5. The head of the delegation, ASLCSCC President Indrananda Abeysekera is an old friend of the Chinese people and a recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC. He had visited Sichuan twice before. The main purposes of his current visit was to express solicitude and support for schools in the earthquake-stricken areas and to develop friendly relations with the province in education, culture, and religion.

Chilly wind was blowing as it was early Spring in Sichuan. Braving the fatigue of traveling and the cold weather, the delegation set off at 5 a. m. for the ruins of the old Hanwang Township of Mianzhu City where the earthquake hit hard in May 2008 to mourn for those who lost their lives in the quake. In formal attire with flowers in their

hands, members of the delegation presented a white bouquet in front of the Bell Tower with a heavy heart and stood in silent tribute to quake victims. Abeysekera said with deep emotion, several years ago Sri Lanka was stricken by tsunami. Last year China was hit by earthquake. Facing such severe natural disasters, the Sri Lankan and Chinese people did not become disheartened and desperate. Rather they encouraged and helped each other. Our friendship has stood the test of time.

Abeysekera has made great efforts to enhance the friendly exchange between Sri Lanka and Sichuan. When the earthquake stroke Wenchuan last year, Abeysekera immediately sent a message of condolences to the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA). Last October while attending the Western China International Economy and Trade Fair held in Sichuan, Abeysekera paid a

former director of the Media and Communications Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), and vice president of the Beijing Administrative College. When Dr. Schonlein and Xu Da recalled the activity "Olympic Games Forum" held in the Nuremberg City Hall in July 2008 to publicize the Beijing Olympic Games, all sorts of feelings welled up in their minds. After watching a summary documentary about the Beijing Olympic Games, the members of the delegation raised questions about hot is-

ssues such as post-Games Olympic venue utilization, the construction of the Beijing Olympic venues and transformation of the old city, environmental protection and changes in traffic regulations before and after the Olympic Games, etc., and got satisfactory answers for all the above questions.

Strengthening substantial cooperation with Chinese local governments. Changping District of Beijing has carried out friendly exchanges with Nuremberg for several years. In Changping the delegation visited the triathlon venue of the Olympic Games at the

Ming Tombs Reservoir, the office of Changping eastward expansion and the Changping South Ringroad Bridge newly completed and open to traffic. When meeting with the delegation, Jin Hui, deputy head of Changping District, said that in recent years Changping District and Nuremberg had carried out various forms of exchanges and cooperation and achieved many fruits. Dr. Schonlein expressed his appreciation of the District's active attitude towards opening up and his full confidence in the bright prospects of the development of the district. □

special visit to the temporary school premise of the Aba Teachers College to meet the students and the teachers. On that visit he delivered grants to three students. Upon his return to Sri Lanka, he introduced the Qiang ethnic culture to the Sri Lankan people in local media. On his current visit, he returned to the Aba Teachers College where he proposed to put on an exhibition of 50 pieces of works of art done by the teachers and students of the college in the capital Colombo and the coastal city of Balapitiya which suffered great loss from the tsunami. The ASLCSCC would cover the international travelling and local expenses of the exhibitors. Abeysekera also suggested the Balapitiya Teachers College and the Aba Teachers College establish sister college relationship. His enthusiasm and sincerity impressed the teachers and the students deeply.

While visiting the Deyang Dongqi School which suffered severe losses during the earthquake, the delegation donated US\$1,000 as grants to ten disabled students as well as paintings by Sri Lanka students, and encouraged the students to study hard and adopt an optimistic attitude towards life. The delegation donated some books to the school library, and recommended Ginthota Maha Vidyalaya, a Sri Lankan school which suffered from the tsunami, to twin sister school ties with the Dongqi School.

Hu Zonglin, secretary general of the Deyang Municipal Government met with the delegation. Nandasena Madawanarachchi, honorary president of the ASLCSCC and director general of the Ministry of Education, read out a letter of encouragement from the Sri Lankan Education Minister to the Deyang Education Bureau. During the meeting, Nandasena Madawanarachchi said, Sri Lanka is a developing country and our Association an NGO. While we are not rich in terms of material, we are rich in spirit and passion and willing to lend a hand to our Chinese friends. When the tsunami struck Sri Lanka, the first international donation we received was from China, a vivid expression of Chinese people's friendship towards the Sri Lankan people. Director General Nandasena Madawanarachchi proposed that Sri Lankan English teacher volunteers could come to Deyang

for short term teaching assignments. He also proposed that a Sri Lankan school in the tsunami-hit area establish sister-school relations with one of the schools in Deyang.

While in Chengdu, the delegation attended the opening ceremony of "Peace and Love—an Exhibition of Paintings by Sri Lankan and Chinese Children". The exhibition was jointly sponsored by the SIFA, the ASLCSCC and the Chengdu Yibo School. The paintings provided by Chengdu were done by children from Dujiangyan, one of the most severely quake-affected cities. The delegation decided to take these works back to Sri Lanka for charity sale. The proceeds will be donated to schools in the earthquake-stricken areas for reconstruction. Young students of the Yibo School performed dances and martial arts as part of the opening ceremony. The delegation members were deeply impressed. Abeysekera expressed the wish to promote exchanges of visits between children's performing art groups of China and Sri Lanka, and would like to invite Chinese martial arts teachers to teach in Sri Lanka.

The delegation visited the Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Hearing Impediments run by the Sichuan Disabled Persons' Federation, and donated a lot of books to the Centre. Abeysekera said, as assisting disabled children was an important task of his Association, he hoped more cooperation with China in this regard would be carried out in the future.

The delegation also visited the Sichuan School of Administration where Nandasena Madawanarachchi delivered a speech on "Friendly Relations between Sri Lanka and China", in which he recalled the history of friendly exchanges between the two countries. He told the audience, the Association had already set up an academic research institution in order to better learn from China's important experience in carrying out reform and opening up policy. The Association would like to conduct academic exchange with the Sichuan School of Administration.

The delegation called on Master Da'en, vice president of the Sichuan Buddhists Association and Abbot of the Chengdu Daci Temple. The delegation presented the Temple with precious gifts

Delegation Led by Former Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phinij Jarusombat Visits Qingdao

Sun Shaobei

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of friendship ties between Qingdao and Chiang Mai of Thailand, a 42-member Thai delegation led by Phinij Jarusombat, former Thai deputy prime minister and vice chairman of the Thai-Chinese Cultural and Economic Association (TCCEA), and Chanchai Chairungruang, industry minister of Thailand, paid a visit to Qingdao from April 3 to 4. The Qingdao Municipal People's

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (QMPAFFC) and the TCCVEA signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation and held talks on economic and trade exchanges and cooperation. The delegation visited Haier Group, Tsingtao Brewery Co., Ltd. and Hisense Group. Xia Geng, mayor of Qingdao, met with the delegation.

TCCEA Vice Chairman Phinij Jarusombat, an old friend of Qingdao, has made contribution to promoting cooperation between Thailand and Qingdao, particularly to twinning friendship ties between Chiang Mai and Qingdao.

The Qingdao Municipal Government will organize and send delegations of famous enterpris-

es from the rubber, electrical household appliances and brewery industries to Thailand as soon as possible and provide convenience and necessary support for these enterprises to do business in Thailand. The Thai Ministry of Commerce plans to hold a fruit festival in Qingdao in June and make Qingdao the logistics centre for Thai products in northern China. With the support of the QMPAFFC and the TCCEA, Qingdao and Chiang Mai will set up bodies in each other's city to promote cooperation. The newly-appointed governor of Chiang Mai will soon lead a delegation to visit Qingdao to discuss and deepen cooperation in various fields and further strengthen friendly relations between the two sides, and to explore ways to establish mechanism for exchanges between institutions of higher learning and enhance cooperation between teachers and exchanges between students. □

Qingdao Mayor Xia Geng and former Thai Deputy Prime Minister Phinij Jarusombat exchanging souvenirs



including a Sri Lanka white jade Buddha and eight pieces of auspicious Buddhist treasures.

Qin Lin, president of the SIFA met with the delegation. The ASLCSCC presented a long scroll with messages of sympathy and support to the people in the earthquake-stricken areas in Sichuan. The scroll carries signatures of the Sri

Lankan Prime Minister and many other cabinet ministers. SIFA President Qin Lin said that she would pass the scroll to the Sichuan Earthquake Museum to preserve. The delegation suggested the alma mater of the Sri Lanka Ambassador to China forge sister-school ties with the Guangya School. □

Kazuo Koga's 100 Visits to Dalian Marked

Li Na

Kazuo Koga, president of the Ishikawa Prefecture Japan-China Friendship Association and honorary citizen of Dalian, has dedicated himself to the cause of Japan-China friendship for years and made active efforts and contribution to promoting friendly exchanges between Dalian of China and Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City of Japan.

To express its respect and gratitude to Mr. Koga, the Dalian Municipal People's Government held an activity in celebration of Mr. Koga's 100 visits to Dalian. Over 100 people including Zhu Chengqing, vice mayor of Dalian, Zhao Yaoping, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Dalian Municipal People's Congress, and Li Jianping, CPAFFC vice president, as well as Koga's old friends in Dalian were present at the celebration.

In his speech, Vice Mayor Zhu said, for many years Mr. Koga has shuttled between Kanazawa and Dalian for the cause of friendly exchanges between Japan and China. His sincerity, selfless dedication and strong willpower have left a deep impression on us, and filled us with confidence in future exchanges and cooperation between Dalian and Kanazawa. CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping, on behalf of the CPAFFC, conferred the "Award for Contribution to People's Friendship" upon Kazuo Koga. In his speech of congratulation, Li mentioned that this award was set up at the Executive Committee Meeting of the CPAFFC National Council in November 2008 with the purpose of com-

mending organizations and individuals both at home and abroad that have done outstanding work in carrying out international nongovernmental exchanges. Kazuo Koga is the first person to receive this honour. Toshio Kimoto, speaker of the Ishikawa Prefectural Assembly, and Kumiko Asaka, vice mayor of Kanazawa in charge of education, expressed their appreciation of Mr. Koga for his unremitting and long-term efforts to develop exchanges between Japan and China, and said, in future they would take Mr. Koga as a model to actively promote Japan-China friendship, particularly friendly exchanges and cooperation between Japan and Dalian.

At the celebration a short documentary reviewing the course of contacts between Mr. Koga and Dalian was shown. These familiar and touching scenes reflected again the personality of Mr. Koga, an envoy of Japan-China friendship. His sincerity and persistence touched everyone present at the celebration. Mr. Koga expressed his thanks to the leaders and friends of various circles for their encouragement and support. He said, he was gratified and warmed with the profound friendly sentiments towards him, and he would continue to do his utmost to contribute to consolidating Japan-China friendship, especially the friendly relations between Japan and Dalian. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping presenting the medal and certificate of Award for Contribution to People's Friendship to Kazuo Koga



Launching Ceremony for *60 Russian Lyrics* Held

Hu Chunmei

On April 2, the CPAFFC and the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) held a ceremony to launch *60 Russian Lyrics*, a Chinese-Russian bilingual collection of poems. Bai Lichen, vice chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC; Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC and the CRFA; Li Hui, vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Zhu Yuli, adviser to the CRFA; Li Jianping, vice president of the CPAFFC; Liu Shu and Wang Fengxiang, vice presidents of the CRFA, as well as council members of the CRFA in Beijing; representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the academic circles, teachers and students of institutions of higher learning and middle schools, and the media in the capital, totaling about 200, attended the ceremony. Russian ambassador

to China Sergey Razov and other diplomats of the Russian Embassy and representatives of Russian students studying in China were invited to the ceremony.

Liang Peilan and Zhang Weihua, widows of the late famous translators of Russian literature Ge Baoquan and Lan Man who had made significant contributions to popularizing Russian literature in China, and Gu Yunpu, professor of Peking University and well-known translator of Russian poems were present at the event.

60 Russian Lyrics was published during the Language Year initiated by the two countries to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CRFA. In his speech, Presi-

dent Chen Haosu said, Russian literature has had a profound and lasting influence on China. After the early 20th century when the Russian literary classics were introduced into China, they evoked strong repercussion in the hearts of the Chinese people and left us indelible impressions. He hoped, the newly published collection of poems will arouse young people's interest in Russian classical poetry and set off another fervour in Russian literature.

In his speech, Ambassador Razov said, the book *60 Russian Lyrics* published in Russian with Chinese translation will not only attract attention among professional scholars of Russian language, but also all devotees of lyrics, providing them an opportunity to further understand Russian literature. He believed the publication of the collection



APEP—Building a Bridge of Friendship Through Exchanges

Deng Yingying

At the invitation of the Atlantic and Pacific Exchange Programme (APEP), I went to the Netherlands in March to do a 2-week fieldwork. Though my stay was short, the warmth and friendliness of the Dutch friends and their pragmatism, efficiency and flexibility in work left an unforgettable impression on me.

On starting my practice, Lia Rosenbrand, managing director of the APEP, gave me a brief introduction of the APEP. Founded in 1983, the APEP is a nongovernmental and non-profit foundation aiming to promote international understanding and cooperation through nongovernmental exchanges. The main participants in its exchange programmes are leaders of political and business circles, journalists and editors from Western Europe, North America and Asia (mainly China, Japan and India). The APEP adopts membership system and now has about 40 members including government departments, multinational corporations and large institutions. Its annual membership dues are about 10,000 euro. It started to develop friendly and cooperative relations with the CPAFFC in 1992. Hans Dijkstal, its current chairman and former deputy prime minister of the Netherlands, enjoys high prestige in the country and has led delegations to China twice. The APEP is one of the important channels through which the CPAFFC carries out friendly cooperation in

the Netherlands.

The APEP has a crowded day-to-day work schedule. Take the year 2006 as an example, the APEP organized 17 tailor-made study trips. To my surprise, there are only six staffers in the APEP's management team, but they are responsible for all the matters including designing and proving every project, working out the itinerary, making contacts, booking air tickets, making hotel reservations, etc. How can they deal with such a large amount of work? Besides, the funds of the APEP mainly come from the annual membership dues, and members join the APEP on a voluntary basis, how then does the APEP attract and increase its members to ensure its sustained development? With these questions in mind, I began my fieldwork as arranged by the APEP. I was involved in the APEP's day-to-day work and concrete projects. I looked up its recent years' files, hoping to find out in the shortest possible time the secret to its success.

During my practice, according to its work schedule, the APEP released four staffers to accompany me on my visit. They took good care of me, told me about the local conditions and customs and answered my questions about the APEP. On my request, they arranged for me to visit local families and have contact with young people, enabling me by face-to-face contacts to know about

of poems would play an important role in strengthening the traditional friendship and mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

Gao Mang, editor of the collection of poems, well-known writer, painter and advis-

er to the CRFA, briefed on the selection and editing of the book.

At the launching ceremony, Vice Chairman Bai Lichen presented the book to the Russian Embassy in China, while Vice Minister Li Hui to the Na-

tional Library and the Capital Library, and President Chen Haosu to universities and middle schools in Beijing.

Several university and middle school students recited poems from the book at the ceremony. □

NZCFS Earthquake Projects

As at May 2009

The earthquake of May 12, 2008, with its epicentre in Sichuan, killed over 70,000 people, several million were left homeless, and many farmers' livelihoods were destroyed. New Zealand China Friendship Society (NZCFS) undertook a major nationwide fundraising effort, in many places in partnership with other organizations such as the Chinese Association. A total of \$36,741 was raised.

NZCFS executive members Sally Russell and Dave Bromwich spent several weeks in August last year in Sichuan and neighbouring Shaanxi Province, which also suffered damage from the devastating

earthquake. As an outcome of this visit NZCFS supported 3 communities in these areas with four projects. The sums raised were used to apply for further grants of \$219,617 from NZAID emergency relief and community development project funds. These are the HAF, Humanitarian Action Fund, and KO-HA-Partnerships for International Community Development Fund. The total sent was \$256,358 to four projects either for reconstruction work or to assist rural people get their livelihood back on track.

In April this year, Dave Bromwich visited China and was pleased to see the projects our fundraising has supported

nearing completion. The overall progress being made in reconstruction throughout the devastated regions is reported to be ahead of schedule. Below is a summary of the projects supported, with updates on progress as at April 2009:

Sichuan Province

In the following two projects in Sichuan, NZCFS has ICCIC, or Gung Ho, as our China partner, and they are using the Pengzhou Rural Development Bureau to implement the project at a local level.

Livelihood reconstruction in Pengzhou County, Sichuan
NZCFS \$6,907 HAF \$62,164

and experience their country's multi-culture. Managing Director Elaine Springford said, the APEP, as a nongovernmental organization, pays great attention to keeping neutral in views and at the same time does its best in its organizing and reception work to move people with its sincerity. I had an actual experience of what she said. When the APEP staffers told me about some social phenomena in the Netherlands, they acquainted me with both the good and bad sides and let me judge by myself. They paid attention to the differences between Western and Chinese cultures, and respected and showed consideration for my habits. From this I clearly see the characteristics and advantages of the work of a nongovernmental organization, i.e., when expressing its views it does not impose them on others, and when forming friendly relations with others, it is not anxious for quick results.

In designing projects for study, the APEP

pays attention to combining these projects with hot-spot issues at the time and provides useful information as reference for the participants to make a correct judgment of the situation and solve practical problems. For instance, during my fieldwork there, in view of the spreading worldwide financial crisis, the APEP was planning a visit to the U.K. and the U.S. to study the prospects of the financial crisis. I was fortunate to accompany Ms. Elaine Springford on her meeting with Ronald Gerritse, secretary general of the Ministry of Finance of the Netherlands, to discuss APEP's plan. Mr. Gerritse said, he was willing to head the delegation and gave concrete suggestions about the plan. Mr. Gerritse is an adviser and brain trust most valued and trusted by the Dutch finance minister. He has drafted a series of important policies and programmes of the Ministry of Finance during the financial crisis. Due to its proper

(Continued on p.33)

Pengzhou County borders Wenchuan County (where the epi-centre was) so the overall damage is severe. Pengzhou is a major vegetable supply area for Chengdu and other parts of China as the selenium levels in the soil are high. In the community of Huang Village selected for this project, the earthquake damage to irrigation channels caused farmers annual income to drop from 2,300 RMB to 880 RMB. There are 886 households in this project.

Local Government is responsible for the main channels and have secured funding for that repair work and this project is to provide materials to reconstruct 1,500 metres of minor irrigation channels which farmers are responsible for, and the local farmers are providing the labour. An extra requirement was identified to re-level the land as a result earthquake upheaval prior to repairing the channels, and this cost is being met by local government.

In mid-April, all reconstruction work was well underway, with an expected completion date of early May.

Community rehabilitation of selected communities in Pengzhou County, Sichuan.

NZCFS \$9,103 KOHA \$36,414

This project will work in two areas to develop co-operatives; in Danjingshan Township to assist with the development of a tea industry and in the three villages communities of Paifang Vegetable Cooperative where the irrigation channel repair



Farmers repairing irrigation channels in Pengzhou County, Sichuan

project is occurring. In Danjingshan, the earthquake caused major slips, which ruined the scenic beauty and destroy the tourism industry. Tea is seen as a very suitable alternative industry as it grows well in the climate and will be an organic product. This project commenced in April 2009, and will continue until the end of the year, with training including enhancing cooperative management and marketing by the co-operative. This project will eventually benefit over 5,000 households.

Shaanxi Province

Walnuts in Lueyang County, Shaanxi with Shaanxi Women's Federation (SXWF)

NZCFS \$14,088

KOHA \$56,253

This project is designed to assist farmers from villages in Guozhen Township whose house in the mountains were destroyed, with an improved income through the planting of a new variety of walnut with higher yields on dwarf rootstocks for early returns, and to

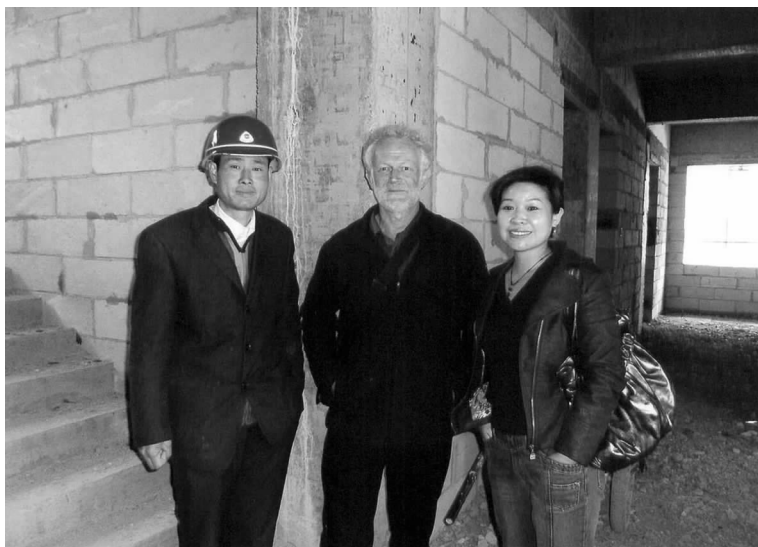
improve their chestnut varieties. Between November 9th-15th forestry technical staff and Lueyang Women's Federation were in Guozhen to provide guidance to the villagers and all the walnut trees were planted. On April 3 Dave Bromwich attended a training session for grafting chestnuts organized for farmers from 15 villages.

Honghuapu Township Clinic reconstruction with Shaanxi Women's Federation

NZCFS \$6,643

HAF \$64,786

The clinic is in the poorest township in Fengxian County, Shaanxi Province, where Rewi Alley worked and lived. The earthquake damaged the foundations of the clinic, and it was condemned. The total cost to rebuild is \$404,000 and with contributions of \$215,000 from the Red Cross, \$65,000 from local government and NZCFS' \$71,429 this leaves a shortfall of \$52,571 which they will be able to get through government loans. On April 1 Dave Bromwich inspected the



Dave Bromwich (middle) inspecting the rebuilding of Honghuapu Township Clinic

rebuilding, and the main construction is expected to be completed by early May, with the building ready for use by August. The construction design uses heavy steel reinforcing to withstand a future minimum 8.0 earthquake. The new clinic will have capacity to provide more extensive medical services, including for pregnant women, and deliver to a broader community than the previous clinic. There are over 6,000 people who will directly use this clinic. □

(Continued from p.38)

out substantial cooperation. The fact that each of the 8 Chinese provinces and cities that has friendship ties with the DPRK sent representatives to attend the conference showed the sincerity and determination of the Chinese side to develop relations with the DPRK, thus enhancing the DPRK side's confidence. The DPRK side suggested that in the future friendship cities conference be held in the two countries in turn.

The Chinese participants said, it is a rare chance that they can meet their Korean counterparts in Pyongyang. The friendship cities conference is a good form that sets up a platform for the two sides to carry out exchanges. Through this conference, the two sides have had a better understanding of each other, laying a good foundation for future cooperation.

The conference has injected new impetus to cooperation between friendship cities. Economic and trade cooperation is a focal point of attention for Chinese and DPRK friendship cities and has become the main motive force for cooperation between friendship cities. Before the visit the Chinese delegates had made ample preparations with the focus on knowing about DPRK's current economic development and the relevant laws and regulations in order to expand the fields of cooperation and channels of exchanges. The DPRK side was also full of expectations of carrying out exchanges of complementarity with the Chinese

side, especially of strengthening economic and trade cooperation. Sichuan and Shandong included entrepreneurs in the delegation and reached intent on cooperation with their counterpart provinces in food processing and mining.

The DPRK sponsor invited the president of the DPRK Council for the Promotion of International Trade to have talks with the Chinese entrepreneurs and arranged for them a briefing given by the Council on the country's policy on trade and investment.

The conference is a new starting point for deepening cooperation between friendship cities. The participants at the conference unanimously adopted the Joint Declaration and fully affirmed the important role played by friendship cities in promoting exchanges between the Chinese and DPRK local governments. They said, in the future the China-DPRK friendship cities will as always expand cooperation and exchanges on the principle of mutual benefits, and make positive contribution to further consolidating and developing the friendly relations between the two countries.

The friendship cities conference has enabled the two sides to see that there is room for cooperation. The conference has become a new starting point for expanding exchanges and deepening cooperation between the two sides and laid a good foundation for contacts between China-DPRK friendship cities in the new period. □

Agreement on Establishing China's International University Scholarship Fund Signed

Zhang Jinmei, Li Xiaoxiao

On April 20, a ceremony was held at the Friendship Museum of the CPAFFC for the signing of an agreement between the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) and the Australian International School of Beijing (AISB) Group on the establishment of China's International University Scholarship Fund and the latter's donation to the fund. Present at the ceremony were Li Xiaolin, honorary chairperson of the CFFPD; Hu Jianhuai, secretary general of the CFFPD; James Tan, chief representative of Western Australia Curriculum Council in Greater China Region and board member of AISB Group; Lydia Liu, principal of the National Institute of Technology.

At the signing ceremony, Li Xiaolin and James Tan signed a Five-Year Co-operation Agreement on behalf of the CFFPD and the AISB Group respectively. The AISB Group will raise 15 million RMB yuan to set up China's International University Scholarship Fund under the CFFPD. The fund is ear-marked for scholarships and grants to students studying at schools in the CBD International Education Park, who are good both in study and behavior and whose families have financial difficulties. The fund will help these students complete their studies at home and abroad for the acquisition of more qualified personnel for China and promote the

development of education of youth in the country.

In her address, Li Xiaolin said that she has high respect for Mr. James Tan for his devotion to China's education for years. As early as in 1997, James Tan invested in creating the CBD International Education Park in Beijing, an act that won him fine reputation both in China and abroad. The park has hitherto sent more than 3,000 students abroad for further study, a significant contribution to China's education. In addition to providing an incentive and assistance to good students at home and abroad by reducing their financial burdens, the fund also encourages the students to study hard and display enterprising spirit. She also expressed the hope that more enterprises and individuals will join in the cause and pool their efforts

James Tan, board member of the AISB Group, presenting a cheque of 3 million yuan to Li Xiaolin, honorary chairperson of the CFFPD



Who Was Kathleen Hall?

Diana Madgin (New Zealand)

II

Japanese attacks on local towns were extraordinarily vicious. The population of nearby Dingxian was bayoneted and then burnt when the Japanese locked the city gates and torched the town. Everywhere there was plundering, looting and rape.

The Eighth Route Army was badly in need of medical workers and supplies, so the famous Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune was hailed as a godsend when he arrived in the summer of 1938. Bethune was a pioneer in thoracic surgery. Angry at the rise of Mussolini and Hitler, he had become a communist in his thirties and joined a Republican medical

unit in the Spanish Civil War. The shocking death rate from untreated wounds inspired his pioneering mobile blood transfusion unit, the first in the world. He then turned his attention to the Chinese peasants and their fight against Japanese imperial aggression.

Bethune met Mao Zedong in his cave headquarters at Yan'an, the town in northwest Shaanxi Province where the Long March ended in 1936. Mao described to him the plight of the Eighth Route Army in the Taihang Mountains near Quyang, where Kathleen Hall was based. Bethune prepared his mobile operating units and moved east. He was horrified by what he saw: the wounded in

filthy rags and covered with lice, home-made thread to stitch wounds, pieces of wire for probes, a hand saw for amputations.

Once he had set up a proper base hospital, his biggest problem was how to procure adequate medical supplies. When he met Kathleen, he found the solution. "I have met an angel," he wrote in his diary. "She will go to Peking, buy up medical supplies and bring them back to her mission—for us!"

Bethune's request was formidable: the route to Beijing and back was perilous. Nevertheless, Kathleen agreed to help, sure in the knowledge that it was God's will to save men's lives. Moving the supplies from

to make contribution to education. She emphasized the establishment of the fund falls in line with the mission of the CPPFD. The two parties will strictly adhere to the basic principles of "openness, transparency, respect for donor's wishes, effective use of donations"; strictly observe rules stipulated in the Regulation on the Administration of Foundations by the State Council and Law of the People's Republic of China on Donations for Public Welfare and other relevant laws and regulations, as well as stipulations in the Agreement signed between us; manage well and make good use of the funds; acquire more qualified personnel and make better contribution to the development of education of youth in China.

James Tan delivered an ebullient address on behalf of the AISB Group. He said that he had been devoting his efforts to education in the past years, because he wanted to cultivate more qualified personnel, and assist more young people to go abroad so as to increase their knowledge and broaden their vision. As a Chinese Australian, he felt gratifying to have done something beneficial in the field of education. He would continue his efforts to raise funds both at home and abroad so that more students could get scholarships and grants, which would help them complete their studies at home and abroad so as to make greater contribution to China's modernization.

Li Xiaolin accepted from James Tan a check of 3 million RMB yuan as donation for 2009. □

station to station required meticulous planning and the absolute confidentiality of a chain of helpers, innkeepers and a few carefully chosen friends. Kathleen personally accompanied each heavily disguised consignment, walking miles on foot or riding alongside the carts on her bicycle. Young nurses and cadres, keen to help the Eighth Route Army fight the Japanese, sought her protection en route from Beijing. One of them, Guo Qinglan, told Newnham in 1989, "She was very brave. A young, unmarried woman in a foreign country where it was very dangerous to be. I thought, if anyone can get me to the Liberated Areas, Kathleen can."

It was only a matter of time before spies reported her to the Japanese. Her clinic, indeed the whole village of Songjiazhuang was razed, and Kathleen escaped to Hong Kong. She tried to get back to the border area, where Dr Bethune so urgently needed supplies, but word came that he had died of septicemia incurred while operating without gloves. Kathleen had tried desperately to get supplies to him, but malnutrition and six months of helping the sick and dying at every village along the way took its toll. When she developed beriberi, a small contingent of the Eighth Route Army carried her south by stretcher to Xi'an, where her old friend Bishop Shen Zegao nursed her back to health and arranged her journey home to New Zealand.

Tom Newnham's search resulted in a fascinating book,

He Ming Qing, The Life of Kathleen Hall. He inspired Madam Ma Baoru to begin her own enquiry, so that today she is Kathleen's most devoted disciple, escorting increasing numbers of New Zealanders to Quyang County. In 1996, Kathleen's centennial, Newnham led a group of New Zealanders there, including two of Kathleen's nieces and the Anglican Bishop of Auckland, to the unveiling of her tomb and a life-size statue in her honour. A smaller version now stands in the Marsden Chapel of the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Parnell; next door in St Mary's, one of artist Claudia Pond-Eyley's stained glass windows depicts Kathleen among the revered women of the diocese.

Her centennial was also celebrated by the New Zealand China Friendship Society inaugurating the Kathleen Hall Memorial Nursing Scholarship for post-graduate community nursing training in New Zealand.

In 1998 Noni Johnson, then deputy principal of Whangarei Girls' High School, visited Baoding No 13 Middle School, where the authorities expressed the hope for a sister school in New Zealand. The first group of fourteen students and three teachers arrived in July 2000, led by Ma Baoru and Quyang County leader Li Yumei. Madam Ma's joy at being in New Zealand was palpable. "We are Kathleen's Chinese relatives", she exclaimed.

"Being here makes us feel close to her because Auckland is her home town. People from Quyang County are excited by such a special visit."

Before she left for New Zealand, Madam Li received a delegation of villagers from Songjiazhuang. They had heard of her trip to New Zealand and had walked many miles carrying baskets of red dates. "We have nothing else to give", they said, "only red dates. They were all we had for He Ming Qing when she came to our village many years ago." When Madam Li told them New Zealand Customs would not permit her to take the dates, the old people cried. "In China one red date means one heart", Li reassured them. "When I go to New Zealand I will take with me the hearts of all the people in Quyang County."

In 2007, the Kathleen Hall Scholarship was replaced with the He Mingqing Scholarship. NZCFS now pays for books, board, travel and full fees for a student nurse from an impoverished area in China, to complete her training at a local medical training college. The first recipient is Wei Yunjie, from a minority village in northern Guangxi. Her father died of liver disease. And her mother, who plants rice and keeps a pig, is getting weaker. Wei started her final year of studies at the Guangxi Medical University in September 2008. She plans to work in her local community when she graduates.

In 2008, a second He

Dalian Children and Youth Art Delegation's Visit to Russia

Li Na

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia, a Dalian Children and Youth Art Delegation led by Ju Wenhua, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Dalian Municipal People's Congress, went to Russia on March 25 to take part in a series of celebration and exchange activities at the invitation of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA).

Paying official call on president of the RCFA. On March 26, the delegation paid an official

call on Mikhail L. Titarenko, president of the RCFA. During the meeting President Titarenko talked about the prospects of the development of Russia-China friendly relations and said that the Russian people have special feelings for Dalian. He praised the achievements Dalian had made and said that Russia should learn from China's successful experience.

Taking part in the VI Moscow International Festival—Contest of Children's and Youth Creative Art "Open Europe". The festival is held

once a year. It is sponsored by the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly, the Russian Ministry of Culture and Mass Communications and the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and jointly undertaken by the RCFA and the Russian International Association for Culture Promotion. More than 2,000 contestants from 18 countries took part in the contest. 18 children and youth from Dalian took part in the dance, musical instruments and painting contests

(Continued on p.5)

Children of the delegation at the VI Moscow International Festival



Mingqing Scholar was selected, this time from near the region where Kathleen Hall worked in the Taihang Mountains. She is Shen Qianqian, who will receive full support for her nursing training at the Hebei Medical University in Shijiazhuang. Shen comes from a poor family in a mountain village in Shi Xian, Hebei, where her parents

have a small farm of 5 mu (5/8 acre). Without this scholarship, Shen would be unable to complete her studies.

Wei Yunjie and Shen Qianqian are outstanding young women, committed to serving their rural communities when they become qualified nurses. The New Zealand China Friendship Society is proud to be able

to contribute to their education with the He Mingqing Scholarship so that they can emulate Kathleen Hall's selfless service to the rural people.

The author is on the National Executive of the New Zealand China Friendship Society and chairs the He Mingqing Scholarship Committee.