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Japanese Young Dietmen's Delegation Visits China

Zhang Zhenxing



Vice President Zeng Qinghong meeting with Japanese young Dietmen's delegation

Invited by the China-Japan Friendship Association, a seven-member delegation of Japanese young dietmen visited China from January 11 to 14. Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong and State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met with the delegation respectively. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with the delegation and hosted a banquet in its honour.

Vice President Zeng Qinghong's Reception

Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with the delegation on January 12. Present at the meeting were Chen Haosu, CPAFFC president, Hu Chunhua, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, Wang Yi, Chinese ambassador to Japan, Cui Tiankai, assistant foreign minister, Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC vice president, and Hidehisa

Horinouchi, minister of the Japanese Embassy in China.

Vice President Zeng said, the fathers and elder brothers of most of the Japanese friends present here were forerunners of China-Japan friendship and old friends of the Chinese people. In their lifetime they persisted in the cause of China-Japan friendship and made unremitting efforts and valuable contributions to developing exchanges and cooperation in all fields between the two countries and to enhancing mutual understanding and friendly feelings between the two peoples. "Remember the well digger when drinking water". The Chinese people will never forget what they had contributed to Sino-Japanese friendship. With the passage of time, a younger generation has come to the fore in the



State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan meeting with Japanese young dietmen's delegation

Japanese political arena. Zeng expressed the hope that those at the meeting would carry on the behests of their predecessors and take up the historic mission of realizing a healthy and steady development of Sino-Japanese relations.

Zeng said, the Chinese side attaches great importance to exchanges and cooperation in all fields between the two countries. He noted, this year marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. In the past 35 years, the two countries have achieved marked progress in the exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological, educational, friendship cities and other fields. China-Japan friendship is hard won, which the two sides should cherish dearly. The two countries should further strengthen exchanges in all sectors, enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples, expand the mutually-beneficial friendly cooperation and consolidate the foundation of China-Japan friendship.

Zeng pointed out, at present, Sino-Japanese relations are at an important period of development. To consolidate and expand the improved

bilateral relations so as to ensure their long-term and steady growth conforms to the interests of both countries and accords with the aspirations of the two peoples. It is also a mission on the shoulder of the governments and statesmen of the two countries. The Chinese Government has always set great store by the Sino-Japanese relations and is willing to develop good-neighbourly relations of friendship and cooperation in the spirit of "drawing lessons from history and looking to the future". Although the two countries encountered serious difficulties in their relations in recent years, the determination of the Chinese side to work for achieving the lofty goals of peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually-beneficial cooperation and common development is firm and unshakable.

Meeting with State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan

On January 11, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan met with the Japanese young Dietmen's delegation.

Tang Jiaxuan spoke highly of the active efforts and valuable contributions made by the fathers and elder brothers of the members of the delegation to the Sino-Japanese relations. Tang

First China-Arab Friendship Conference Held in Khartoum

Gao Xuesong



Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha meeting with CAFA President Tomur Dawamat

The first China-Arab Friendship Conference sponsored by the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) and the League of Arab States (LAS), supported by the foreign ministries of China and Arab countries and organized by the Sudanese Council for International People's Friendship

said, well-known Japanese statesmen Zentaro Kosaka, Noboru Takeshita, Masaharu Gotoda, Keizo Obuchi, Ryutaro Hashimoto, and others were old friends of the Chinese people, who had made important contributions to improving and advancing bilateral relations in their lifetime. The Chinese people will always cherish the memory of their firm belief in China-Japan friendship and their valuable spirit of dedicating themselves to this cause. Tang expressed his hope and conviction that the successors of the two countries would carry on the behests of their predecessors, stick firmly to the road of Sino-Japanese friendship and make new contributions to the improvement and development of bilateral relations.

Tang said, reviewing the past year, the 5-year-long abnormal state of bilateral relations

has ended. Looking into the future, the two countries are faced with a new situation for developing friendship and cooperation. The two sides should work hard to make greater headway in their relations this year. In October last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe successfully visited China. The leaders of the two countries reached important consensus on building a strategic relationship of mutual benefit between China and Japan and realizing the lofty goal of "peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development" between the two countries, which has given impetus to the exchanges and cooperation in various fields. The two sides should continue to consolidate and expand this momentum of improvement and development to ensure the long-term sound growth of bilateral relations. □

was held in Khartoum, capital of Sudan from November 28 to 29, 2006. Being the first gathering of the Chinese and Arab friendship organizations, the Conference is of great significance and a new milestone in the history of the friendly people-to-people exchanges between China and Arab countries.

The first China-Arab Friendship Conference, one of the activities held by the CPAFFC and the CAFA in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between new China and Arab countries, was attached great importance to by the participating countries. China sent a 35-member CAFA delegation headed by Tomur Dawamat, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the CAFA, and composed of representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the CAFA, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, and leading members of 16 provincial and municipal people's associations for friendship with foreign countries. On the Arab side, about 150 people including leading members and representatives of the friendship-with-China orga-



Representatives of friendship organizations of Arab countries at the opening session of the China-Arab Friendship Conference

nizations of 22 Arab countries and the representatives of the LAS attended the conference. On the morning of November 28, a grand opening ceremony of the conference was held in the Friendship Hall of Khartoum. Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha, ministers of various ministries, diplomatic envoys to Sudan, delegations of participating countries, the media of various countries and personages of various circles in Sudan, among about 800 people, attended the conference. Vice President Taha, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Nancy Bakir and CAFA President Tomur Dawamat, respectively on behalf of the hosting country and the sponsors, spoke on the occasion. Ambassador Yao Kuangyi, leading official of the Forum Office of the Chinese

Foreign Ministry, and Selman Algeria, director general of the Department of Nongovernmental Organizations of the LAS, respectively read out the messages of congratulations from Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxin and LAS Secretary General Amre Moussa. In their speeches, the Chinese and Arab participants recalled the history of friendly contacts between China and Arab countries, highly praised the traditional friendship between the two sides, placed high hopes on China-Arab nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation in the new era and expressed warm congratulation on the successful convening of the conference.

After the opening ceremony, four plenary meetings were held. At the first meeting, CPAFFC Vice President Wang

Yunze and Arab League Assistant Secretary General Nancy Bakir on behalf of the Chinese and Arab sides made key-note speeches centring on the theme of the conference. Wu Sike, Chinese Ambassador to the LAS, made a speech entitled *China-Arab Relations and China's Stance on the Middle East Issue*. In their speeches at the following meetings 4 Chinese and 22 Arab representatives talked freely and cheerfully about China-Arab friendship and broad prospects for the development of China-Arab non-governmental friendly relations, exchanged experience in carrying out nongovernmental friendly exchanges with China, explored ways and channels for further expanding exchanges and cooperation and reached consensus in many aspects. The meetings were held in a warm

and friendly atmosphere at which participants spoke without reservation and had full discussions and friendly consultations on each item of the agenda in the spirit of taking overall interests into account and seeking common ground while reserving differences and reached consensus on a broad range of issues. The meeting finished deliberation of all the items on the agenda smoothly and achieved a full success.

The Declaration on China-Arab People-to-People Friendship approved at the conference elaborates the significance and the aim of the conference, reviews the traditional China-Arab friendly relations and expresses the determination of the participants to continue their efforts for the further development of China-Arab non-governmental friendly and co-

operative relations.

All the participants unanimously agreed to establish the China-Arab Friendship Conference mechanism, deciding that the conference will be held every two years and organized by either Chinese or Arab qualified organizations. At the last plenary meeting, the participants unanimously agreed that the next conference would be hosted by Syria.

During the conference, representatives of the Arab countries through consultation decided unanimously to establish the Federation of the Arab-China Friendship Associations as an Arab nongovernmental friendship organization corresponding to the China-Arab Friendship Association. Its headquarters will be established in Khartoum and a permanent secretariat will be

The China-Arab Friendship Conference in session



At the invitation of the Japan-China Friendship Centre, a delegation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) led by its President Song Jian paid a goodwill visit to Japan from December 3 to 10, 2006. In Tokyo Song Jian and his party paid an official call on leaders of the Japanese ruling party and parties not in office and a number of important political figures including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Speaker of the House of Representatives Yohei Kono,

Foreign Minister Taro Aso, head of the New Komeito Party Akihiro Ota, leader of the Democratic Party Ichiro Ozawa, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan Kazuo Shii, and Chairman of the Socialist Party Mizuho Fukushima, and fully exchanged views with the leaders of the seven Japan-China friendship organizations on making great efforts to promote people-to-people friendly exchanges. Song Jian and his party also visited Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures and exchanged views with the leaders concerned on the exchanges between localities of the two countries.

Personages of various circles in Japan expressed their welcome to the improvement of Japan-China relations and held that both sides should continue their concerted efforts and take the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan

set up in charge of routine business. Presidency of the Federation will rotate in every two years among the leaders of the friendship organizations of the country that hosts the China-Arab Friendship Confer-

CJFA Delegation Led by Song Jian Visits Japan

Zhang Zhenxing

and the Japan-China Exchange Year of Sports and Culture as a turning point to further promote the development of Sino-Japanese relations.

When meeting with personages in the Japanese political circles, Song Jian briefed about China's basic views of the current China-Japan relations and its relevant policies. Song said, the two countries through concerted efforts have reached consensus, overcome the political obstacles in the bilateral relations and improved and developed their friendly cooperative relations. In October 2006, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a successful visit to China and the two sides issued a joint communique, stating that the two countries would work together to construct a mutually-beneficial strategic relationship and materialize the lofty goals of peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, which has offered a new opportunity for the development of

ence. The Conference through friendly consultation decided to designate November 29 as the Day of China-Arab Friendship which is also the International Day of Solidarity with the

Palestinian People designated by the United Nations. In the future on November 29 every year the friendship organizations of China and Arab countries and the LAS will hold celebration in various forms. □



CJFA President Song Jian with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

bilateral relations. The fact that in November the leaders of the two countries met again in Hanoi has shown the common aspiration of the two sides for improving and developing the relations and marked a new situation emerging in bilateral relations. Currently, China-Japan relations are at an important moment of its development. Song Jian expressed his appreciation to the personages of various circles in Japan for their efforts to improve and develop the relations between the two countries.

In his meeting with Song Jian, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, after taking office as prime minister in September, he chose China as the country for his first official visit, and had fruitful talks with the Chinese leaders. The two sides agreed to push Japan-China relations to a higher level and jointly construct a mutually-beneficial strategic relationship. He met with President Hu Jintao again in November in Hanoi and is looking forward to meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the East Asia Summit. Frequent

contacts between the leaders of the two countries are of great importance to enhancing mutual understanding and trust and promoting exchanges and cooperation, Abe added.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Yohei Kono said, the fact that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chose China for his first official visit abroad is the outcome of the concerted efforts made by the two countries, and what is more, the resolution made by the Chinese leaders proceeding from the overall situation. The two sides should intensify their efforts to further promote the development of bilateral relations and make up for the lost time.

Foreign Minister Taro Aso said, exchanges between the two countries in various fields are being carried out more actively in a better atmosphere. Particularly, the undertaking of exchanges in the 21st century with the exchange of visits between the students of senior middle schools of the two countries as the main content is progressing smoothly. The younger generation

shoulders the future of Japan-China relations. The exchanges between the younger generations of the two countries are of great importance. He hoped that exchanges of this kind would produce more tangible results. The year 2007 is the Japan-China Exchange Year of Sports and Culture. He hoped that the two sides would strengthen coordination and cooperation and jointly promote exchanges between the two countries in the cultural and sports areas.

The leaders of the Japanese nongovernmental friendship-with-China organizations said, the improvement of Japan-China relationship which has not easily come by should be treasured dearly. People-to-people exchanges in all fields should be further carried out energetically to enhance friendship between the two peoples.

People-to-people exchanges have played an important role in the development of Sino-Japanese relationship especially when it is confronted with difficulties. At the luncheon jointly held by the presidents of the seven Japan-China friendship organizations, Song Jian spoke highly of the efforts made by them for the development of bilateral relations. He said, in the past few years, China-Japan relations met the most serious difficulties since the two countries normalized their relations. In March 2006, presidents of the seven organizations jointly visited China. Leaders of the friendship organizations of the two countries gathered together to exchange views in depth on how to overcome political obstacles to bilateral relations and intensify people-to-people friendly exchanges. In meeting with them, President Hu Jintao gave an important speech on the improvement of China-Japan relations, pointing out that the Chinese Government always look at China-Japan relations from the strategic and long-term perspective and keep

committed to the peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually-beneficial cooperation between the two countries and common development. President Hu stressed, it is impossible to build a bright future for China-Japan relations without the extensive support and active participation of the two peoples and the hard work of the friends from the friendship organizations in the two countries. Song Jian said, this fully demonstrates that the Chinese leaders attach great importance to Sino-Japanese relations and the Chinese and Japanese friendship organizations have played important roles in friendly exchanges between the two peoples. The seven Japan-China friendship organizations, proceeding from the friendship between the two peoples and their fundamental interests, have overcome numerous difficulties, worked hard to push forward the cause of friendship between the two peoples and made great contributions. Song hoped that the two sides would make concerted efforts to maintain the good situation of the improved Sino-Japanese relations and make new contributions to their further development.

In his speech on behalf of the seven organizations, President of the Japan-China Friendship Centre Yoshiro Hayashi expressed his welcome to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China as well as to the consensus in a wide range of areas reached by the state leaders of the two countries and the improvement of Japan-China relations. He said, with a view to pushing Japan-China relations to a higher level and expanding common interests of the two sides, it is not enough to rely only upon cooperation between the governments. Exchanges and dialogue between the two peoples at all levels in various fields should be earnestly carried out to nurture a mature and healthy environment for public opinion and feelings of the people and enhance mutual under-

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Egypt and Uganda

Wang Kai

At the invitation of the Egyptian-Chinese Friendship Association (ECFA) and the Uganda-China Friendship Association (UCFA), a goodwill delegation led by Wang Mingyi, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Henan Provincial People's Congress and honorary president of the Henan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, paid a friendly visit to Egypt and Uganda from November 3 to 14, 2006.

In Egypt, Mr. Ismail, a leading member of the ECFA, met with the delegation. In a warm, friendly and frank atmosphere, the two sides chatted cheerfully about the friendly relationship between the ECFA and the CPAFFC as well as the

China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA), and the bright prospects of the development of exchanges and cooperation. During the meeting, Mr. Ismail expressed his admiration for China's great achievements in its reform and opening-up and its economic construction, and expressed his high respect and sincere gratitude to the Chinese government and people for the unswerving selfless assistance and support given to Egypt in its struggle for national independence and economic construction and in international affairs. He wished to play a greater role in promoting non-governmental exchanges, strengthening all-round cooperation, enhancing the development of Egypt-China strategic cooperative partnership. He

standing between the two peoples. This is also an urgent task we are faced with.

In their speeches, Ikuo Hirayama, President of the Japan-China Friendship Association; Masahiko Komura, president of the Dietmen's League for Japan-China Friendship; and Takeshi Noda, president of the Japan-China Society, all expressed their welcome to the gradual improvement of Japan-China relations. They said, they would make good use of the opportunity of the year 2007, the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations and the Japan-China Exchange Year of Sports and Culture, and do more work to enhance mutual un-

derstanding between the two peoples and promote bilateral cooperation. Particularly they would give more guidance to the media of the two countries so as to create a good media environment for the healthy and stable development of the relations between the two countries.

Daisaku Ikeda, honorary president of Soka Gakkai, said, Japan should always stick to developing friendly and cooperative relations with China. This is Japan's only correct choice. Soka Gakkai and he himself are willing to continue to make efforts to carry on Japan-China friendship from generation to generation and safeguard peace in Asia and the world at large. □



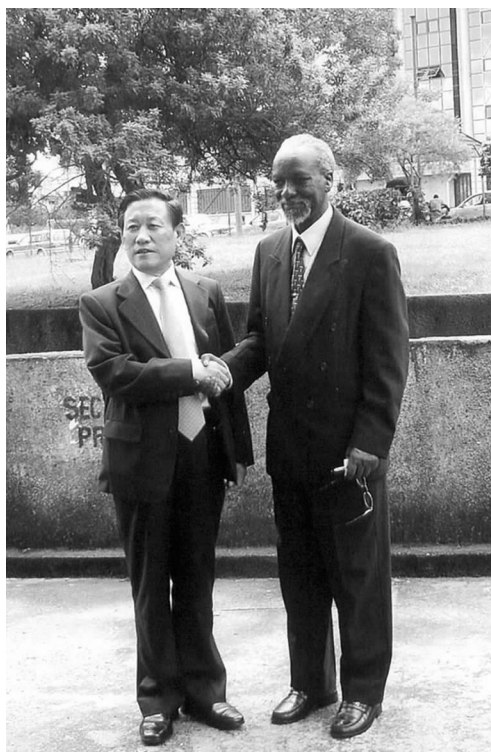
Wang Mingyi, leader of the delegation, presenting a souvenir to the Egyptian-Chinese Friendship Association

hoped both sides would make greater efforts to carry out personnel training.

During its stay in Uganda, Nasser Ntege Sebaggala, mayor of the capital city Kampala, Florence Namayanja, deputy mayor of Kampala, Kirunda Kivejinja, the third deputy prime minister and honorary president of the UCFA, and Kahinda Otafiire, minister of local government, met with the delegation. The delegation also had working meetings with the Ministry of Local Government and the UCFA. During his meeting with the delegation, Third Deputy Prime Minister Kirunda Kivejinja highly praised China's great achievements in its reform and opening-up,

its economic construction and its influence on the developing countries. He sincerely thanked the Chinese government and people for their selfless assistance and support, and reiterated the firm stand of the Ugandan government for "one China" and that "Taiwan is part of the territory of the People's Republic of China". He believed, under the impact of the Beijing

Summit and the Third Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Uganda-China friendly relations will greet a brighter future. □



Kirunda Kivejinja, third deputy prime minister of Uganda and UCFA honorary president, with Wang Mingyi, leader of the delegation

China-ASEAN Friendship Tour

Zhu Dan

The CPAFFC launched the China-ASEAN Friendship Tour, a large scale series of activities to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between China and ASEAN and the Year of China-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation. From October 27 to November 10, 2006, headed by Lu Xuezhi, deputy director general of the Department of Asian and African Affairs of the CPAFFC, a 23-member delegation in 5 cars left Beijing and passed the Friendship Pass in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to visit Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. From November 10 to 20, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan and his party accompanied by an art troupe joined the first group at Bangkok, Thailand, making a delegation of

more than 60 people, and continued to visit Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. They were warmly welcomed by the governments and people of all the 6 countries and together with the local people took part in the celebration of the anniversary and activities of the Year of China-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation.

It was the first large scale nongovernmental activity for friendship with the ASEAN countries in coordination with the celebrations held by the governments. Their motorcade traveled through the ASEAN member countries, covering 10,000 kilometres in 25 days. Along the route they carried out various cultural, economic and trade exchanges and made philanthropic donations. They came into close contact with a great number of



Members of the China-ASEAN Friendship Tour at the thread-tying ceremony held by the Lao-Chinese Friendship Association

Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, president of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association accepting donations from the delegation

the local people, and enhanced mutual understanding and the Sino-ASEAN people's friendship.

In the year 2006, the 15th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between China and ASEAN, both the authorities and nongovernmental organizations attached great importance to holding various forms of celebration. On October 30, when China-ASEAN Commemorative Summit was held, a border crossing ceremony of the tour was held in Nanning and the motorcade crossed the Friendship Pass to visit the 6 countries. It is a meaningful event and will have far reaching influence. While serving as foil to set off the Summit, the nongovernmental activities



coordinated with the authorities in expressing Chinese people's warm wishes to be a forever "good neighbour, good friend, good partner" of its neighbouring countries. At the same time, with the flexibility of the people-to-people diplomacy, it acted upon the spirit of the Summit and donated stationeries to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the new members of the ASEAN, holding gala parties and cultural, commercial and trade

Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association, Zhang Jiu-huan, Chinese ambassador to Thailand, Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC, among others with the artists after the performance





Dato' Abdul Majid (R.5), president of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, and Jing Dunquan (R.6), vice president of the CPAFFC, at the China-ASEAN Friendship Contingent Dialogue

exchanges with Thais, Malaysians and Singaporeans, people of the old ASEAN members. In every country they stepped onto, reporters of the delegation interviewed Chinese ambassadors, royal members, government and local officials, representatives of friendship organizations, overseas Chinese, representatives of China funded enterprises, teachers, students and common people, further spreading the message of friendship between China and ASEAN countries and deepening the concept of Sino-ASEAN friendly cooperation. The tour "promoted bilateral relations through multilateral activities" and thus realized the goals of promoting governmental relations through nongovernmental diplomacy. The CPAFFC hosted the Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations in Beijing on May 17, 2006, which was attended by friendship organizations of the 10 ASEAN member countries. The conference issued the Declaration on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship and Cooperation. The friendship tour was implementation of the declaration. The friendship organizations of the six countries also regarded it as part of the concerted

efforts following the conference and did their best in planning itineraries, arranging various activities according to their national conditions and their capability. Thongloun Sisoulith, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and minister of Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and Siasavath Savengsuksa, vice minister of industry and commerce, met with the delegation and accepted the donations. Bosaykham Vongdara, minister of energy and mines and president of the Lao-Chinese Friendship Association, held a warm reception for the delegation at 10 p.m. upon their arrival in Laos, despite a 4 hour delay due to motor failure. In Cambodia, Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, president of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association, accepted the delegation's donation and reporter's interview. She then attended the entertainment held by the China Hong Kong and Macau Expatriate and Business Association. In Thailand, Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association and former deputy prime minister, attended many activities together with the delega- **(Continued on p.20)**

12th Edgar Snow Symposium Held in Kansas City of the U.S.

Shu Zhang



Rostrum of the 12th Edgar Snow Symposium

The 12th Edgar Snow Symposium was held in Kansas City, Missouri State of the United States from October 18 to 19, 2006. The China Society for People's Friendship Studies sent a delegation headed by its Vice President Mei Ping to attend it. Tong Zhiguang, former president of the Export-Import Bank of China and former vice minister of

the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (now the Ministry of Commerce), Fan Jinshi, director of the Dunhuang Research Institute, and Jiang Chengyu, professor of biology and biochemistry at the Research Institute of Basic Medical Science under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, were specially invited by the American side to

attend the symposium.

The symposium included four activities. The first was the round table meeting with the theme of Five Years after China's WTO Membership and China-US Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead held at the Performing Arts Centre of the University of Missouri-Kansas City(UMKC). About 200 people were present

at the meeting. After the introduction given by Lawyer Albert Yabo Lin, member of the Board of Directors of the Edgar Snow Memorial Fund, Dan Rather, former CBS news anchor who accompanied President Nixon on his visit to China in 1972, presided over the meeting. With rich experience in gathering news he raised questions in a resourceful and quick-witted way, and the main speakers stated their views through answering his questions. The main speakers were Tong Zhiguang, former president of the Export-Import Bank of China and former vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation; J. Stapleton Roy, former US ambassador to China; Ambassador Jiang Chengzong, secretary general of the China National Commit-

tee for Pacific Economic Cooperation; and William Reid, vice president of VISA International. The meeting was very lively in asking and answering questions. There were heated arguments, confrontation of different views, realistic explanations, clarifications and supplements. The audience also asked questions. Through the meeting the participants came to know about China's past five years' experience after its accession to the WTO, the problems existing in China-US trade and the efforts needed to be made by both sides. This was a very successful mass symposium.

The second activity was the dinner party held in the Banquet Hall of Intercontinental Hotel. About 400 people attended the party which was also presided over by Dan

Rather. In his keynote speech entitled *Promotion of China-US Partnership* at the banquet, Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong reviewed the high-level exchanges between China and the U.S. in recent years, showing that with concerted efforts of the two sides, Sino-US relations are further improving and developing. He said, facts have proved again that China and the U.S. which have extensive common interests and shoulder important responsibilities should and can achieve win-win results through cooperation. Healthy and steady development of China-US relationship conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, and is also an important factor for the promotion of regional and world peace, stability and prosperity. China and the U.S. should further strengthen dialogue, increase mutual trust, develop cooperation and strive to push China-US constructive cooperative relations to a higher level. In the field of international affairs, China



The delegation in front of the bust of Edgar Snow

and the United States, as two big countries, have the responsibility to make contributions to world peace. Zhou specially pointed out, the biggest obstacle to the development of China-US relations is still the Taiwan issue. To properly handle the Taiwan issue is still the key to the healthy and steady development of China-US relations. Zhou hoped that the U.S. would stick to the one-China policy that President Bush had time and again reiterated, and abide by the three China-US joint communiqués, fulfill its commitment of opposing “Taiwan independence”, understand and support all the efforts made by the Chinese government and people to maintain state sovereignty and territorial integrity and realize peaceful reunification of the motherland, and avoid giving any wrong signals to the Taiwan secessionist forces. Zhou said, as long as China’s sovereignty and way of handling its internal affairs are respected, China-US relations will see great improvement. This is also the aspiration shared by the two peoples. At the banquet students of the UMKC Conservatory of Music gave performances.

The third activity of the symposium was lectures on the

development of global biological technology held at the UMKC School of Medicine. Jiang Chengyu, professor of biology and biochemistry at the Research Institute of Basic Medical Science under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, gave a lecture on the cause and the control of SARS in China and how coronary viruses cause severe acute respiratory syndrome. Dr. Li Linheng, associate investigator at the Stowers Institute, gave a lecture on the study of the application of human genes and stem cells to the treatment of cancer, anticipating that in 15 to 20 years diseases that are most seriously threatening human lives such as cancer and heart disease can be cured by medicine. Dr. Deng Hongwen, Franklin D. Dickson/Missouri Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery at the UMKC School of Medicine, gave a lecture on the cause and prevention of senile osteoporosis.

The fourth activity was a lecture held in the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Fan Jinshi, director of the Dunhuang Research Institute gave a lecture on the Dunhuang Grottoes, treasures of Euro-Asian culture on the Silk Road. She gave a detailed introduction

while showing slides. More than 150 people attended the lecture. Immediately after the meeting some people said that they would join the Snow tourist group to visit the Mogao Grottoes and the Silk Road in 2007. Fan said that she would receive them warmly.

To coordinate the activities of the symposium, Edgar Snow Memorial Fund organized musical and dance performances given by the Chinese Music Ensemble of Kansas City, Le Yue Chorus, the Marshal Art Troupe and Zhang Li Dance School at the UMKC Performing Arts Centre. Chinese painters residing in the U.S. displayed and sold their works and part of the earnings were donated to the Edgar Snow Memorial Fund.

In Kansas City, the delegation attended the breakfast reception hosted by the Rotary International, at which Ambassador Mei Ping spoke about China-US trade. John Phillips, vice chairman of Edgar Snow Memorial Fund and managing partner of the Blackwell Sander Peper Martin Law Office, gave a cocktail party in honour of the delegation. The delegation also visited the Harry S. Truman Library in Missouri State. □

CPAFFC Delegation Attends Annual Conference Of Australia Sister Cities Association

Liu Yanling

At the invitation of the Australia Sister Cities Association (ASCA), the CPAFFC delegation visited Australia and attended the Annual Conference of ASCA in Devonport of Tasmania State from November 11 to 22, 2006.

The theme of the conference was “Share the Spirit Naturally”, during which approximately 200 participants from different countries discussed how to maintain long lasting friendship-city relations. In addition to local government officials of Australian states and cities and representatives of the ASCA, representatives from relevant organizations of the U.S., China, New Zealand, Japan and the ROK were also present at the conference. Hon Jim Lloyd, federal minister for local government, and Kevin Hill, president of the ASCA, spoke at the opening ceremony of the conference, expressing that they would continue to make contributions to the establishment of long lasting friendship-city relations and encouraged the states to make more friends for Australia.

International representatives were invited to speak at the conference. Former president of the Sister Cities International (SCI) of the U.S. Nancy Hobert called on people to break through the boundaries between different races and nationalities, and clear up misunderstandings so as to establish long lasting friendship-city relations. Representatives from China, New Zealand, Japan and the ROK briefed each other on their friendship cities’ work, existing challenges and future goals.

The conference invited representatives of Australian cities that had achieved good results in exchanges with their friendship cities to tell their experiences. They were commended at the conference. Leading members of Australian local organizations, scholars and entrepreneurs were invited to speak about their new thinking on how to take advantage of the channels of friendship cities to carry forward exchanges in all fields. Representatives of Darwin, host city of the next annual conference, made an introduction of their



Leader of the CPAFFC delegation Wu Dalai speaking at the international forum of the Annual Conference of Australia Sister Cities Association

CPAFFC Delegation Attends Third OLAGI Meeting

Wang Hongqiang

A CPAFFC delegation led by Wang Hongqiang, deputy director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC and secretary general of the China-Latin America Friendship Association, attended the Third Meeting of OLAGI (Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios) held in La Romana, the Dominican Republic from October 18 to 20, 2006 upon OLAGI's invitation.

Founded in December 2004, the OLAGI consists of more than 300 governors from 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Its major tasks are to enhance coordination among the governments of these countries for their com-

mon interests, press ahead with integration and promote democratic governance. The topics of the Third Meeting of the OLAGI centred on the development of Latin American and Caribbean region, Haiti, women as well as the development strategy of the OLAGI. Vice President of the Dominican Republic Rafael Alburquerque and officials of the ministries of the interior, foreign affairs and women attended the meeting. The participants aired their views freely and had warm discussions. The meeting adopted the Dominican Declaration and other resolutions.

In accordance with the Statutes of the OLAGI, Jhonny Yanez Rangel, governor of Co-

jedes, Venezuela, was elected new president of the Organization for the concurrent president Luis Guastavino Cordoba no longer served as governor.

The CPAFFC established contact with OLAGI in July 2006. In the same month President Luis Guastavino Cordoba headed an OLAGI delegation and visited China, during which the two organizations signed a letter of intent on friendly cooperation.

At the meeting, on behalf of the CPAFFC, Wang Hongqiang, leader of the delegation, signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation with OLAGI which included that the two organizations would organize governors' delegations to

city, welcoming all the participants to come at the scheduled time.

At the international forum, Wu Dalai, head of the Chinese delegation spoke on the rostrum, briefing on the development of China's friendship-city work and expressing the hope to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with sister

cities organizations of all countries. During the conference, the Chinese delegation had wide contact with leaders of the ASCA and representatives of other countries, establishing new friendly relations while reviewing old friendship, and discussing possibilities of future exchanges in all fields. □

exchange visits in 2007, holding Latin-American friendship cities conference in 2008, etc. Jhonny Yanez Rangel, the new president, said that he would implement the agreement signed with the CPAFFC by the previous president and work to further the traditional friendship between Latin American countries and China.

During the visit, Wang Hongqiang met with Roberto Santana, president of the Dominican-China Friendship As-

sociation (DCFA). Set up in 2000, the DCFA has done a great deal of work to enhance friendship between the people of the two countries. Wang expressed gratitude to President Santana for his efforts to promote friendship between China and the Dominican Republic. The two sides discussed how to carry out exchanges between the two organizations.

The delegation visited San Francisco de Macoris, capital of Duarte Province. The may-

or of the city held a welcoming ceremony in honour of the delegation at the municipal building. The delegation also visited the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and the Pontifical Catholic University and had a working luncheon with the local chamber of commerce, at which Wang Hongqiang briefed those present on the work of the CPAFFC and the bridging role it played between China and other countries for economic development of both sides. □

(Continued from p.14)

tion, and General Bannavit Kengrien, deputy permanent secretary for defense and vice president of the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association, met with the delegation. In Malaysia, Dato' Abdul Majid, president of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association and former Malaysian ambassador to China, took part in many activities of the delegation, and Dato' Liow Tiong Lai, vice minister of youth and sports, met with the delegation and conducted the Flag-Off Ceremony for them. As the delegation had strong mainstream media participation, the Thai and Malaysian state tourist bureaus set great store by the tour and took part in the work of receiving the delegation, and at the same time introduced their own tourism to the Chinese media, welcoming Chinese tourists.

The tour focused on people-to-people exchanges, through direct friendly contacts, get-togethers and performance on the same stages with the local people, publicizing Chinese policy of promoting a "good, secure and prosperous

neighbourhood together with the surrounding countries" and building a harmonious Asia and a harmonious world. During their stay in Vietnam, the delegation had gala parties with comrades of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations in Halong Bay and Quang Ninh Province. They presented a donation of 10 boxes of stationeries, worth over 50,000 RMB yuan, to the Kim Lien Middle School in Kim Lien of Vinh City, hometown of Ho Chi Minh, and had a successful meeting with about 1,000 teachers and students there. In Laos, they exchanged best wishes with the local people according to the local custom of tying threads on each other. While visiting Thailand and Malaysia, artists of the delegation gave performances together with the local artists invited by the friendship organizations. When the tour passed by Phatthalung in southern Thailand, Mr. Sonsak, our Thai friend, asked his brother, mayor of the city, to give the delegation a unique reception in a middle school where the students welcomed the delegation by performing traditional Thai music and dances. □

Commemoration of 110th Anniversary of Birth of Evans. F. Carlson Held in the U. S.

Shu Zhang

On the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of American Brigadier General Evans F. Carlson, an old friend of the Chinese people, at the invitation of Furman University in Greenville, S. C. , University of South Carolina, Columbia, and family members of Evans Carlson, a delegation of the Chi-



The meeting in commemoration of Evans. F. Carlson in session

nese Society for People's Friendship Studies went to the U.S. to attend the commemorative activities and visited the above two universities from October 23 to 24, 2006.

In Furman University, Acting President Dr. Tom Kazee held a banquet in honour of the delegation. Mei Ping, head of the delegation, gave a speech on Sino-US relations. The delegation had a meeting with the teachers and students of the Institute of Asian Studies, briefing them about China's situation, the Chinese women today, etc., and attended the family dinner hosted by Carlson's granddaughter Jeanne Carlson.

Amanda Zhou Yangzhi and Peter Wang Yun, granddaughter and grandson of Zhou Libo and Wang Yang who accompanied Carlson to inspect the base area established behind the enemy lines in 1937, and Lu Ke, grandson of General Lu

Zhengcao, also participated in the commemorative activities. Venerable Dr. Charles F. Grossman, president of Evans F. Carlson's Friends of the People's Republic of China, specially came from Portland, Oregon to participate in the commemorative meeting.

At the meeting jointly sponsored by Thomas Cooper Library of University of South Carolina, the Centre of Asian Studies and Carlson's family members, Mei Ping said, the Chinese people have never forgotten this old friend. In 1996 a meeting in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Evans Carlson was held in Beijing. The Chinese newspapers and magazines have published many articles to commemorate him. Mei Ping recalled the contributions to the promotion of Sino-US friendship made by Evans Carlson during the Chinese People's War of Re-



The delegation with Carlson's daughter-in-law Jeanne Carlson and granddaughter Karen Loving at Jeanne's home

sistance against Japanese Aggression, praising his uprightness, sacrifice of personal interests, persistence in truth and dedication to the cause of justice. Mei said, we commemorate this great man, for he occupied a special place in the history of China-US friendship. He particularly mentioned that several descendants of Carlson's Chinese friends also took part in the commemorative activities, showing that there was no lack of successors to carry on our cause. Zhou Yongming, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in the United States, read out the letter of congratulations sent by the Chinese Ambassador to the United States Zhou Wenzhong. Professor Patrick Maney with the Centre of Asian Studies of the University of South Carolina briefed about Evans Carlson's special relations with President Roosevelt, saying that President Roosevelt and Carlson had many traits in common, "Perhaps one of the most important traits was genuine interest in long history and rich culture of China and respect for the Chinese people". She said, Carlson covered more than 2,000 miles and made inspections in the base area established behind the enemy lines where the Chinese Eighth Route Army-led guerrilla forces fought against the Japanese aggressors. He learned China's guerrilla warfare tactical strategy and during World War II by employing China's guerrilla warfare tactics, he success-

fully organized the US Marine Raider and dealt severe blows to the Japanese aggressors in the South Pacific. Colonel Robert Lanham, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, South Carolina, said at the meeting, "The military imprint that Carlson left on tactical strategy is still used today. He provided an example of uncompromising integrity. It proved effective in the field and continues to influence Marine Corps thinking today." At the meeting, Carlson's granddaughter Karen Loving also spoke about her grandfather's deeds, saying that she would carry on her grandfather's cause and make contributions to the friendship between the American and Chinese people.

In coordination with the commemorative activities, Thomas Cooper Library of the University of South Carolina held an exhibition of Carlson's relics, at which on display were a lot of photos provided by Carlson's family, including photos of Carlson's visit to China in those years, many photos of the Chinese military and political leaders during China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, a photo given to Carlson by Chairman Mao with Mao's personal inscriptions and letters written to Carlson by Chairman Mao, as well as many unpublished letters, manuscripts and documents, articles of daily use and cultural relics left over by Carlson. □



Second Meeting of China-Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Forum Held in Beijing

Dong Zhenhua

The Second Meeting of the China-Japan-Korea (ROK) Cultural Exchange Forum was held in Beijing on December 19, 2006. Chinese representatives Liu Deyou, Wang Yunze and Jing Dunquan, Japanese representative and president of the Japan-China Friendship Association Ikuo Hirayama, and ROK representative and professor of Hanyang University Kim Yong-woon, among others, attended the meeting.

With the aim to jointly sponsor varied cultural exchanges to enhance mutual understanding and friendship among their people, especially among the youth, the peo-

ple-to-people friendship organizations of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea set up the China-Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Forum which convened its first meeting in Seoul in December 2005. The present meeting reviewed the exchanges carried out in various fields by the three sides in the past year, had warm discussions on how to further mobilize social and nongovernmental forces to conduct rich and colourful exchanges in all fields to promote the relations of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation among the three countries and agreed on the exchange pro-

gramme of 2007.

In his speech on behalf of the Chinese side, Liu Deyou said, the China-Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Forum was founded on the initiative of personages of insight of the three countries and with the support of their governments. Over the past year since its inception, rich and colourful activities have been carried out, which have contributed to increasing the exchanges and mutual understanding among the youth of the three countries. Being close neighbours, the friendly contact among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea dates back to over 2,000 years. The three

countries share the same cultural origin which has facilitated mutual understanding and friendship among their people, who have made monumental contributions to the development of oriental civilization. As countries having great influence in the world, especially in the affairs of Asia, it is of great significance to the maintenance of peace in East Asia and the world at large that China, Japan and the ROK develop good-neighbourly and mutually-beneficial cooperative relations.

Wang Yunze and Jing Dunquan, Chinese representatives and vice presidents of the CPAFFC, spoke respectively on the China-ROK and the China-Japan relations and briefed the participants on the various large-scale bilateral activities that would be held in 2007 to mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and

the ROK and for the China-ROK Exchange Year, and to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan and for China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchange Year. They expressed the hope that these activities would greatly boost bilateral relations, increase the friendly feelings between the peoples and contribute to peace and development of Northeast Asia.

Representatives of the three countries expressed at the meeting that 2007 is a very important year for both Sino-Japanese and Sino-Korean relations. The three sides should cooperate more closely in carrying out various exchanges. They stressed, though the three countries have the same cultural origin, they not only have common ground, but also differences. Therefore, exchanges are needed to bridge over the differences and promote devel-

opment. The three countries should conduct cultural exchanges in accordance with their national conditions. At the same time, they should draw lessons from history to avoid conflicts in their pursuit of new civilization. They said, cultural exchange is spiritual contact between people. It can help improve the political relations. The improvement of political relations will in turn provide good conditions for cultural exchange.

The representatives of the three countries also warmly discussed future exchanges in a variety of areas including football, *weiqi* (go), music, dance, fine arts, restoration and preservation of cultural relics, study tours, etc.. They aired their views freely and reached consensus on many points. The three sides agreed that the third meeting of the Forum would be held in Tokyo in October 2007. □

(Continued from p.26) their homes. The fresh experience of staying at ordinary people's homes and close contacts helped them forget the language barrier. On departure, the Chinese and Japanese students were reluctant to part with each other, and many students and their parents shed tears. Koji Chiba, teacher in charge of the students from Chiba Prefecture said, "The Japanese and the Chinese students are about the same age, and spent a night together. This kind of activity is very good for nurturing affection

between the youngsters of the two countries."

Because of changes in temperature and being unaccustomed to the climate of a new place, a number of Japanese students fell ill. The SIFA took measures immediately and with the help of the Chinese students and their parents, sent the sick Japanese students to hospital without delay for emergency treatment and looked after them in the hospital until midnight, which ensured that they soon recovered and safely and happily left Chengdu. □

Japanese High School Students Experience Friendliness In Chengdu

Chuan You

At the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), a 75-member Japanese delegation composed of students from four senior middle schools in Chiba and Ibaragi Prefectures paid a visit to Sichuan from Novem-

ber 24 to 26, 2006.

It was the first Japanese senior middle school students' delegation invited by China since the new 21st Century Committee for Sino-Japanese Friendship put forward the suggestion of increasing exchanges between the youth of the two countries in 2004 and the governments of the two countries respectively set up the foundation for friendly exchanges. During their stay in Beijing, Lu Yongxiang, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Song Jian, president of the CJFA, and Dai Bingguo, executive vice foreign minister, separately met with the delegation. During their stay in Sichuan, the Japanese students had friendly exchanges with the Chinese students from Chengdu Shishi Middle School, Chengdu No. 7 Middle School and Zongbei Middle School with the aim of increasing mutual understanding and friendship, and enhancing the younger generation's sense of responsibility and mission of maintaining and developing ever-last-

Lu Yongxiang, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, meeting with chief members and student representatives of the Japanese high school students' delegation





The Japanese students performing a chorus at a get-together with the Chinese students in Beijing

ing friendship between China and Japan.

After arriving in Chengdu, the Japanese students divided into groups went to the three middle schools and led by their Chinese counterparts participated in extracurricular activities including pottery making, handicraft art, model-building designing and making, fine arts and calligraphy, drama, singing and dancing, chess playing, Chinese Gongfu, ball games, traditional musical instruments playing, English language, campus sports meeting, etc. Rich and colourful activities and Chengdu students' warmth and friendliness soon ended unfamiliarity and closed up distance between the two sides. Mr. Chisato Akiyama, head of the Japanese delegation and counsellor of the Education Board of Chiba Prefecture, said with emotion, "The moment we arrived in Chengdu, we experienced Chinese students' friendliness."

At the Chinese and Japanese High School Students' Get-together held by Shishi Middle School, Qin Lin, president of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), gave a warm speech. She said, we need to enhance friendship between the Chinese and Japanese people and expand exchanges between them particularly the youth in an effort to nurture intimacy between

them and consolidate the basis of China-Japan friendship so that the goal of peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and common development can be achieved.

In his speech, Akiyama said, Japan and China began friendly exchanges

more than two thousand years ago, and have many things in common in culture. The TV series and computer games adapted from *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Pilgrimage to the West* are very much liked by the Japanese young people. The Chinese dietary culture such as *wulong* tea and the *mapo* bean curd is also popular in Japan. No matter what difficulties Japan and China meet in their relations, the two countries should carry on their friendship. He said, the friendship between the students of the same age group of the two countries forged through mutual exchanges and learning from each other is bound to play a positive role in maintaining stable and friendly relations between the two countries. The students will bring the warmth and friendliness they experienced in China back to Japan and tell their family members, teachers, schoolmates and more Japanese people what they had experienced.

In the following day the Chinese students and their parents came to the hotel to take their paired Japanese students to visit Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, the old Jinli Street, the Sansheng Flower Village, Chengdu Huanhuaxi Park, the Chunxi Road and market of farm produce, and put up the Japanese students for the night at **(Continued on p.24)**

Exhibition of Historical Photos of Jewish People Mounted in Tianjin

Zou Ning

Jointly sponsored by the Tianjin Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TMPAFFC) and the Israeli Embassy in China, an exhibition of historical photos of Jewish people was mounted in Tianjin on December 13, 2006. Zhang Junfang, vice mayor of Tianjin, Zhao Yannan, vice president of the TMPAFFC, Dr. Yehoyada Haim, Israeli ambassador to China, and representatives from all circles of the city, totaling over 100, attended the opening ceremony.

The photo exhibition vividly showed the historical scenes of the period when genocide happened in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp where Jews were being slaughtered by the German Nazis, and the Chinese people gave warm shelter and selfless help to the Jewish refugees.

During WWII, many Jewish refugees escaped from Nazi's genocide and traveled all the way from Europe across the oceans to China. The Chinese people kindly opened the door and provided them sanctuary. In

the meantime, forgetting their personal safety, many Jewish people sojourning in Tianjin courageously helped Chinese people in their struggle against Japanese aggression. Israel Epstein risked his life to go to the front and visited Yan'an. He reported to the world how the Chinese army and people fought against the aggressors. Austrian Jewish doctor Richard Frey joined the Eighth Route Army and moved about with the army at the front to rescue the Chinese wounded fighters. In the anti-Japanese aggression

Zhao Yannan, vice president of the TMPAFFC, speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. Third from left is Israeli Ambassador to China Dr. Yehoyada Haim and fourth from left Vice Mayor of Tianjin Zhang Junfang



Bringing Hopes to Children All Over the World

—On Pearl S. Buck International President

Janet Mintzer's Visit to Zhenjiang

Liu Zhiqiang

I.

On October 9, 2006, a calligraphy, painting and photo exhibition "Pearl S. Buck in Zhenjiang" was held in Perkasio, a beautiful small city in Pennsylvania, the U.S., where the headquarters of Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI) located. The exhibits on display vividly showed the natural conditions, social customs and new development of Pearl Buck's Chinese

hometown, and the friendly exchanges between Zhenjiang and its US friendship city and PSBI.

This was a special exhibition held at the suggestion of PSBI President Ms. Janet Mintzer. All the exhibits were offered to be bought by the viewers and auctioned off on the spot, and the earnings were donated to the Pearl S. Buck International Class in Zhenjiang.

President Janet Mintzer and the Chinese side

battlefield, he was respected as "Doctor Bethune from Austria" by Chinese army and people.

For over a hundred years, lives of the Jewish residents in Tianjin have incorporated in the development of the city, where

traces of their hardworking and happy life can be found in the city's economic and cultural constructions. In streets and lanes, there remain many signs of Jewish culture. Many Jewish people who were born or once

lived in the city, but now have settled in different parts of the world, still regard Tianjin as their hometown and cherished deep affection for it.

The exhibition will further enhance the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Israeli people, promote friendly contacts between the city of Tianjin and the Jewish people who have lived there, and accelerate exchanges and cooperation in economy, culture and other fields between Tianjin and Israel. It will also make us value more dearly today's peaceful and secured life and encouraged us to make joint efforts to build a harmonious and peaceful world. □

Auschwitz Concentration Camp





Pearl S. Buck International President Janet Mintzer giving a lecture to the students of the Pearl S. Buck International Class

decided through consultation on the concrete plan for the exhibition and the charity sales, and meticulously arranged, organized and publicized them. As one of the sponsors, PSBI provided the venue for the exhibition free of charge and affixed the seal of PSBI to the exhibited works. Janet invited local celebrities of various circles including entrepreneurs, state legislators, presidents of banks, presidents of colleges and universities to visit the exhibition and participated in the charity sales. She signed her autograph on the certificates of the calligraphic works, paintings and photos selected for the exhibition.

After the exhibition, PSBI held activities for the China Children's Benefit. On behalf of PSBI, Janet donated 6,750 US dollars to the Pearl S. Buck International Class (PSB International Class) for the newly-enrolled students to start school. The delegation of Zhenjiang City briefed about the PSB International Class and presented PSBI with a school flag of the Zhenjiang No.2 Middle School autographed by the students of the first graduating class of the PSB International

Class and the students' letter of thanks. The two sides decided that the PSBI would contact 30 American families, each of which would form a pair with one of the 30 students in the PSB International Class and every year offer 225 US dollars in aid of its paired student, send him (her) gifts on holidays and help him (her) improve English through emails and letters.

Ms. Janet Mintzer received her master's degree of social work at the US Temple University. She worked in non-profit organizations for 12 years before joining PSBI and has won two national awards. In September 2001, she began to serve as president and chief executive officer of PSBI. In the few years since she assumed the presidency of PSBI she visited Zhenjiang 3 times. It was under her initiation that the PSB International Class was set up.

Ms. Janet Mintzer has a special feeling towards Zhenjiang, where Pearl Buck lived for 18 years and considered her Chinese hometown. Carrying out the behest of Pearl Buck and shouldering the mission of PSBI, Janet shows loving

care for the poor students and helps the orphans.

In October 2002, Ms. Janet Mintzer, in the capacity of PSBI president, attended the meeting in commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Pearl Buck. During the meeting, she visited Chongshi Girls School (it is now called Zhenjiang No. 2 Middle School) where Pearl Buck once studied and finished her middle school education. After graduating from Randolph-Macon Women's College in the United States, Pearl Buck returned to Zhenjiang and worked as an English teacher. The buildings of the school are well preserved as they were a hundred years ago. Looking for the trails left by Pearl Buck in her study and teaching, Janet walked into the classroom where Pearl once studied, and talked warmly with the students about their study and life. She visited the Pearl Buck exhibition in the school. In her talk with the leaders of the school and Zhenjiang's educational department, Janet said, Pearl's precious

18-year experience in Zhenjiang roused her inspiration for creation and her humanitarianism. In order to carry forward Pearl's humanitarian spirit of loving education and caring for the healthy growth of the youngsters, Janet discussed with the leaders of the Zhenjiang educational department and the school and decided to give financial aid to the poor students to help them finish schooling. At Janet's suggestion, in August 2003 the Pearl S. Buck International Class, a loving care project with the aim of providing financial assistance to help the poor students finish their schooling and showing solicitude for the underprivileged people, was set up. It recruits students from the areas where Pearl once lived and worked. The poor students receive a 3-year high school education without tuition fees and with free accommodation and living allowances.

A chance has changed the fate of a group of children. In remote poor areas when students are unable to continue their study in school because

PSBI Chairman John E. Long, Jr. (L.1) and President Janet Mintzer (R.1) with top students of the PSB International Class



PSBI Chairman John E. Long, Jr. speaking to the students of PSB International Class encouraging them to study hard



of poverty, the PSB International Class has given them a new hope. In 2003, 78 students from six cities of Anhui, Jiangxi and Jiangsu Provinces were enrolled in the class. A stu-

dent from a remote mountainous village in Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province, told his story. His father died before he was born and his mother also died only nine days after he was born. Since then he and his aged grandparents were dependent on each other for survival. His grandparents died one after another when he was only seven years old. Aided financially by his relatives, he finished his study in a junior middle school. Though he was a student of good character and fine scholarship, he was unable to continue his study in a senior middle school. When he was preparing to leave school, the PSB International Class reignited his hope. In order to improve the quality of the class, the school has adopted a special policy and provided it with the best teachers and equipment. The school grants each student a scholarship ranging from 500 yuan to 2,000 yuan according to his (her) marks of the entrance examination, and also offers floating scholarships according to the students' performance in the mid-term and term examinations. Over half of the students have won the scholarships. The

school provides part-time jobs for the destitute students to help them solve financial difficulties in their daily life. The PSB International Class also gets support from the Zhenjiang Pearl S. Buck Research Institute and various social circles. These poor students are experiencing the warmth of the Class.

Every time PSBI President Janet Mintzer and Chairman of the Board of Directors John E. Long, Jr. visited Zhenjiang, they would come to see the students of the PSB International Class to learn how they studied and lived. PSBI has donated money several times to help them solve difficulties.

In order to let the students have a chance to know about the education in the U.S., PSBI invited the students of the PSB International Class to visit the U.S. and financed their visit. In September 2005, a six-member delegation of Young Envoys of China-US Educational Exchange paid a two-week visit to the U.S.. They visited Pearl Buck's hometown and the Rock High School, and had exchanges with American students,

which helped them broaden their vision, increase their knowledge and foster lofty aspirations.

In order to improve the teaching quality of the PSB International Class, at the suggestion of Janet, PSBI signed an agreement on cultural and educational exchanges with the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal People's Government which stipulates that PSBI recruits American volunteers to teach and work in Zhenjiang. Since 2003, 19 teachers with the spirit of dedication and shouldering the mission of PSBI were sent in 5 batches to teach in Zhenjiang. Most of them have high academic credentials and teaching experience. Among them, some have master's degree or doctorate in literature, physics and pedagogy, and some have worked as university teachers and professors. They have not only reinforced the teaching staff of the PSB International Class, but also brought vigour to education in Zhenjiang. They have brought Western teaching conceptions and methods. In teaching practice they and the Chinese teachers learn from each other, sum up experience and try every means to improve teaching quality and have really "made foreign things serve the needs of China".

In 2006, over 70 students of the first PSB International Class graduated, among whom 6 were admitted to the country's key universities, 57 to regular universities and colleges and 15 to colleges for professional training. Such a high proportion of students entering schools of higher learning attracted wide attention, making the PSB International Class well-known. The PSB International Class, which has so far enrolled altogether over 300 students in four school years, embodies Janet's deep feelings towards and painstaking care of poor students. In his letter written on behalf of the students to the PSBI

president, Qiu Kuanyong, an orphan who was going to study in Nanjing University, said that he thanked PSBI for giving him the chance to change his fate and that in the past three years the school had exempted him from tuition and accommodation fees. Without the aid from PSBI, he would never have had a chance to study in a senior middle school, still less a chance to enter a university. He wrote in his letter, "From the bottom of my heart I thank PSBI and the PSB International Class which have helped me when I was in the most difficult time of my life. I am sure I will definitely have a chance to repay what society has given to me and let more people get care and help from society when they are in difficulty."

II.

President Janet Mintzer continues the work left by Pearl Buck and faithfully carries out the international mission of PSBI. She tries her best to help those underprivileged children and give disabled children, orphans, children without families and refugee children more chances. She thinks that these groups of people need more help and care.

On the bank of the ancient canal in Zhenjiang there is a social welfare institute which has taken in more than 70 abandoned babies, orphans, disabled and mentally retarded children. One day they greeted a special guest Ms. Janet Mintzer, PSBI president. In the recreation room the children clapped their small hands and sang songs to welcome this foreign aunty coming from the other side of the Pacific. Janet like a loving mother kissed these children again and again. She asked in detail about the process of adoption of these special children, inspected the facilities in the nursery, watched child rehabilitation train-

ing, listened to the briefing given by the head of the welfare institute and praised the institute—the Zhenjiang Children’s Centre—well run. When seeing that the facilities in the Children’s Centre were not good enough, for example, the beds for the children were old plank ones and the boiler room was a bit far from the centre and did not supply enough heat, she said at once that she would help replace the facilities for the centre. Not long after returning home, she sent Laura Paulus and Carole Watters from “Welcome Home” to Zhenjiang to make an inspection and discussed with the persons concerned about further improving the living facilities for the children. PSBI donated 9,505 US dollars and bought 75 stainless steel beds and two sets of solar energy equipment. Though Janet is busy with her charity work in various places of the world, she does not forget the children in Zhenjiang and has phoned from the United States several times to ask about the improvement of the welfare insti-

tute and the life and health of the children. Once she learnt that some of the mattresses of the baby beds needed changing, she specially remitted money for the purchase. She has given financial aids to the Children’s Centre many times for buying medical equipment and nutrient and is keen on helping find American families that are willing to adopt these children.

“To bring hopes to the children all over the world” is the mission undertaken by PSBI. Janet Mintzer is carrying out the mission by taking actions. She said that she would further strengthen cooperation with Zhenjiang, care for and support the cause of children’s education and health in Pearl Buck’s Chinese hometown, “continue the work left by Pearl Buck, and make efforts to build a new bridge of benevolence between the East and the West.”

The author is the deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government.

(Continued from p.36)

sentatives for the State of Mississippi, C.B. “Buddie” Newman drove from Jackson to present to me a silver cup with my name engraved as a token of friendship between the Mississippi people and the Chinese people. However, at the reception for me held in the town hall, most of the 50 participants, predominantly black farmers, were looking steadily at me as if looking at a “monster” from Red China. When on my turn to speak, I told the audience that Mississippi though far away from China but quite

popular there. Our kids begin reading Mark Twain from their textbooks. At our concerts, one often hears singing *Old Man River*. Black American singer Paul Robeson who sang Chinese most popular song “Qi Lai!” all over the world was a hero in China! After all these words, I found the atmosphere in the hall totally changed. Every face was smiling. Most came to shake my hand and ask all sorts of questions. The most asked question was: “Can we sell cotton to China?” At the end, I was treated with a banquet of their delicious

farm-fresh catfishes.

During the visit, Unita and I shared a common thought that friendship comes from understanding and only these two put together will bring us true peace. Rich experiences summarized in Unita Blackwell’s memoir *Barefootin’* are vivid examples. □

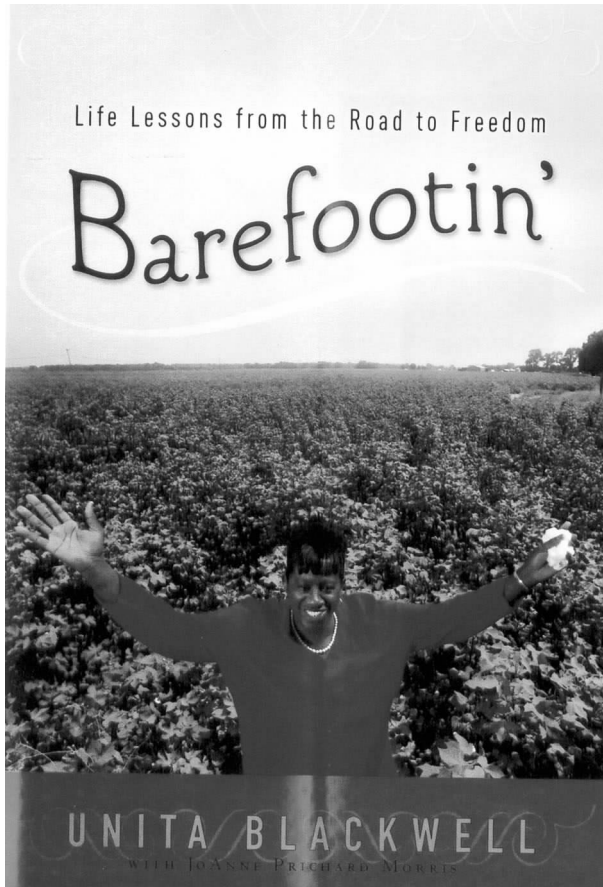
Correction

The name of our Canadian friend and recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador in the article published on p.32 of our last issue is Tsin Van, not Tsin Wan. Our apologies.

Reading *Barefootin'* by Unita Blackwell —

A BLACK AMERICAN AND CHINA

Zhang Yan



"Barefootin' is a way of life for me, an approach to living —my philosophy of life, you may say. To me barefootin' means facing life as it comes, feeling your way along, figuring out things as you go, finding out who you are — searching, stumbling, dancing, learning. Barefootin' means taking risks, being creative,

getting the most out of life, giving yourself to the journey to the world around you. Barefootin' is about stepping out and moving forward; following a new path even you don't know where it will lead you; tearing down roadblocks, cutting new roads, and never forgetting where you started."

These life lessons from the

road to freedom were summed up by black American Unita Blackwell in her memoir *Barefootin'*, with editor JoAnne Prichard Morris, newly published by Crown Publishers, New York. Born in 1933 in Mississippi, Unita experienced a childhood as hard as it gets. She grew up in a sharecropping family riding on her mother's cotton sack before she was old enough to pick cotton herself. Since having to leave school at age twelve, she was trapped in menial jobs and a bright future seemed beyond her reach. But Unita was forever changed in the summer of 1964 when civil rights workers came to her town of Mayersville, Mississippi. Electrified by the movement, Unita transformed her life from one of despair to one of hope. In *Barefootin'* she details her inspirational rise from poverty to power, from silence to outspokenness, from oppression to freedom.

From her rebirth as a freedom fighter and social activist to her tenure as mayor of her home town, to her work as an



Chinese Vice President Soong Ching Ling meeting with Unita Blackwell and her party in 1980

international peacemaker and presidential advisor, the reader encounters all the unlikely turns of Unita's remarkable life. The lessons she shares affirm and motivate us all, whether it's to remember that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, that world-changing movements are the result of many small steps, or that freedom means taking responsibility for our own lives and helping to make the world a better place for all. In a word, without doubt, *Barefootin'* is not only a stirring memoir of an exceptional woman but also a guide to living a full and meaningful life from someone who knows how. As Marian Wright

Edelman, president of Children's Defense Fund, comments: "*Barefootin'* is a vibrant, inspirational memoir from a woman of extraordinary courage, commitment and creativity. This book is required reading for all those who want to make change from the grassroots up."

Unita Blackwell is now a fellow of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In the 1960s she served as a project director for the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and was a member of the Freedom Democratic Party that crashed the 1964 Democratic conven-

tion. In 1976, she was elected mayor of Mayersville, Mississippi, becoming the first woman mayor in the state; she served for twenty years and still resides there. During Jimmy Carter's term, she was a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Women. At the age of fifty, she received a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts. In 1992, the MacArthur Foundation named her a fellow and recipient of its "genius" grant. Unita holds four honorary doctorates and has received numerous awards for her contributions to human rights.

Another major event in her life was her introduction to

China which opened her eyes to the outside world. One January morning in 1973, a quite unexpected telephone call came from movie star Shirley MacLaine, whom she met eight years ago, saying: "We're going to China." "Wait a minute, what 'we'?" Unita was astonished. She was invited to join the first US women delegation to visit China at the invitation from Chinese foreign minister, soon after President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972 after 23 years' cut off between the two countries. "Everybody was in a state of shock," as recalled Unita, "I was going to a Communist country to interpret communism, and people in the state had been calling me a Communist for years. They had called me a Communist when I registered to vote. They called me a Communist when I tried to get our little children a better education. They called me a Communist when I wanted to help people get enough to eat and find houses to live in and when I said we wanted help from programs that were funded by our government. I thought, well, I sure do want to find out what a Communist looks like." When coming back from the trip it did take her a long while to put all pieces together to make sense of what

she had seen and heard in China. She found out that it wasn't the politics but the people that affected her. She saw that a person living in China loves, laughs, cries and needs friends and values family, the same way people do in America. "My first trip to China opened my eyes to the rest of the world—to the need for friendship and understanding with people who live differently from us." Unita concluded. Since then, she has made sixteen trips to China and also traveled to India and many other countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America. She could never have imagined what have influenced her life since she has been "barefootin'" out of the boundaries of her own country.

In China, she and her group chatted with Soong Ching Ling, then Vice President of the People's Republic and a great woman in the world. She met China's President Li Xiannian and all sorts of grass root folks as well. While visiting Tibet on the roof of the world, she was amazed by the warmth of the vibrant Tibetan people cheering her as a "Black Buddha". Becoming an instant expert on China after her return, she received a flood of invitations to speak about

China from East Coast to West Coast. Her China talks around the country marked the beginning of a new career as a public speaker for promoting the normalization of US-China relations and working for world peace. In the year of 1979 when her country formally established diplomatic relations with China, she was elected President of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association, a nationwide popular organization that has played an important role in promoting friendship between the two peoples before and after the normalization of relations between the two countries. In fact, China has become Unita's second home.

As a correspondent of China's leading newspaper *People's Daily* stationed in Washington DC, I had the fortune to visit Unita Blackwell at her home town Mayersville in 1980. I probably was the first Chinese who ever came to this small town on the Mississippi delta. Before my arrival the local newspaper already announced with curiosity: "A Red China journalist is coming!" After the three-day visit, I was impressed by the warmth and hospitality extended to me by the people there. Even the speaker of the House of Repre-

(Continued on p.33)