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Front cover: CPPCC National Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin and the visiting Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa lighting a traditional Sri Lankan oil lamp at the reception in celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Sri Lanka jointly held by the CPAFFC and the Sri Lankan Embassy in China (February 28, 2007)

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Editor-in-Chief: Wang Hong

Address: 1 Tai Ji Chang St., Beijing, 100740, China

E-mail: yousheng@cpaffc.org.cn

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Fax: (010)65122782

<http://www.cpaffc.org.cn>

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Japan's LDP Diet Policy Committee Chairman Toshihiro Nikai and His Party Visit China

Zhang Zhenxing

At the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), Toshihiro Nikai, chairman of the Diet Policy Committee of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party, and Yoshio Urushibara, chairman of the Diet Policy Committee of the Japanese Komei Party, paid a visit to China from January 20 to 23, 2007. Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Tang Jiaxuan, state councillor, met with them. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with and entertained them.

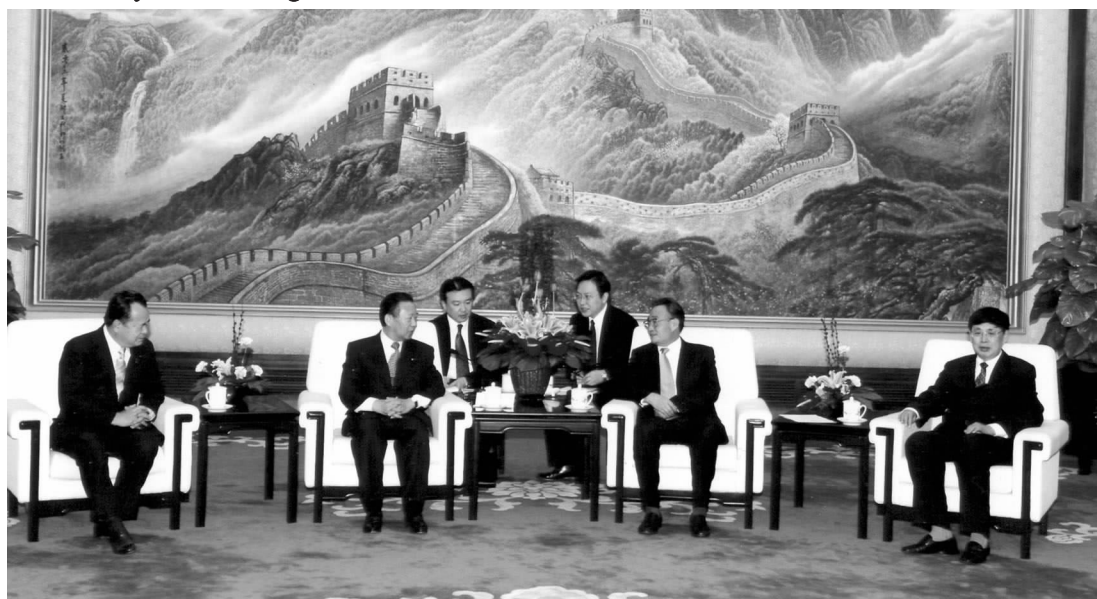
Toshihiro Nikai and his party paid official calls on the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, the National Tourism Administration and the *People's Daily*.

Chairman Wu Bangguo Meets with Toshihiro Nikai

On the afternoon of January 22, Wu Bangguo met with Toshihiro Nikai and his party at the Great Hall of the People. Chen Haosu, CPAFFC president, Jiang Enzhu, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC, Cao Weizhou and Sun Wei, deputy secretaries general of the NPC, Cui Tiankai, assistant foreign minister, Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC vice president, and Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese ambassador to China, were present at the meeting.

Chairman Wu Bangguo said, the Chinese Government always attaches great importance to Sino-Japanese relations and actively promotes bi-

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, meeting with Toshihiro Nikai, chairman of the Diet Policy Committee of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party and his delegation



lateral cooperation and development of the relations between the two countries. But, for the reason known to all, Sino-Japanese relations have met serious difficulties in recent years and were once in a deadlock, resulting in the leaders of the two countries failing to visit each other in the past five years, making the people of the two countries feel greatly worried. With concerted efforts made by the two countries, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited China in October 2006. The leaders of the two countries reached extensive consensus on overcoming obstacles to bilateral relations and a series of other issues, and broke the political deadlock. Since then, President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on many multilateral occasions. Premier Wen Jiabao will pay a formal visit to Japan upon invitation in April. Sino-Japanese relations, on the whole, maintain a momentum of good improvement and development, which is generally welcomed by the people of the two countries and the international community. This situation hard won through tremendous efforts made by numerous Chinese and Japanese friendly personages including Mr. Nikai should be dearly treasured. Both China and Japan are influential major countries in the world. Sino-Japanese friendly relationship conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples and is conducive to peace, prosperity and stability of Asia and the world at large.

Chairman Wu pointed out, in order to develop Sino-Japanese relations, the two countries should energetically strengthen mutual trust and enhance friendship between the two peoples. Currently, Sino-Japanese relations have turned to the better and the two sides should increase exchanges between the political circles, particularly the younger statesmen so as to enhance political mutual trust. Now, most of the Japanese dietmen and members of the Cabinet were born after the

Second World War. The contingent of Chinese cadres is also getting younger. The younger generation is full of vigour and has the global vision, but they are not familiar with the development course of Sino-Japanese relations and have little knowledge about the hard efforts made by the older generations of the two countries to establish Sino-Japanese friendly relations. Last year, I had talks with president of the House of Councillors and with speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, and decided to establish mechanism of regular exchanges between the Chinese National People's Congress and the Japanese Diet. In the future this channel of exchanges should be fully used to strengthen mutual visits and exchanges between the statesmen, particularly the younger ones of the two countries so as to increase mutual understanding and trust and lay a good foundation for the long term development of Sino-Japanese relations.

Chairman Wu continued, economic and trade cooperation is an important component part of Sino-Japanese friendly cooperation. The two countries should earnestly implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state and further deepen and expand exchange and cooperation in economic and trade fields. The two countries enjoy a good basis of economic cooperation, and bilateral trade volumes have been increasing continuously. On this basis, the two sides can promote cooperation in some large projects and improve the quality of cooperation. Japan has advanced technology and experience in the major fields of China's current economic construction, particularly environmental protection, energy saving and high-speed railway. The cooperation between the two countries has huge potential and broad prospects.

Chairman Wu said, the Chinese side appreciates the peaceful road Japan has taken and the



State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan shaking hands warmly with Japan's LDP Diet Policy Committee Chairman Toshihiro Nikai

lor Tang Jiaxuan met with Toshihiro Nikai and his party. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Assistant foreign Minis-

ter Cui Tiankai, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan and Japanese Ambassador to China Yuji Miyamoto were present at the meeting.

State Councillor Tang expressed his welcome to Toshihiro Nikai leading a delegation to China and appreciated the efforts he had made for a long time to promote Sino-Japanese friendship, non-governmental friendly exchange as well as exchanges and cooperation in the economic, trade and tourist fields.

Nikai expressed his thanks to Tang for meeting with them in the midst of his pressing affairs, and passed on the letter from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Nikai said, in 2000 and 2002 I successively led two delegations, one of 5,000 people and the other of 13,000 to China. Grand commemorative activities held in the Great Hall of the People achieved great success. Many members of the delegations were deeply moved, and even now still can not forget the Chinese people's friendliness. They often gathered together to recall the scenes of direct contact at that time. The year 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Chi-

State Councillor Tang Jaxuan Meets with Toshihiro Nikai and His Party

On the morning of January 22, State Council-

Fifty Years of China-Sri Lanka Friendship

Tu Lili

The year 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka, and is also the Year of China-Sri Lanka Friendship designated by the governments of the two countries. On this occasion, the CPAFFC and the Sri Lankan Embassy in China jointly

held a celebration reception at the Diaoyutai State Guest House on the evening of February 28, 2007. Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and the visiting Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa were present at the reception.

China-Sri Lanka friendly contacts have a long history. In Chinese historical records China

called Sri Lanka the Lion Country. In 410 AD Chinese Buddhist Monk Faxian of the Jin Dynasty went from India to Sri Lanka where he stayed for two years, and brought back many Buddhist scriptures and wrote the book *Record of Buddhist Kingdoms*. Zheng He, navigator of the Ming Dynasty, had been to Sri Lanka many times. In the 15th century, a Sri Lankan prince visited Beijing. On his

na-Japan diplomatic relations. Nikai hoped that the two countries would take this opportunity to carry out a new round of large-sized bilateral personnel exchanges to further enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and build a solid China-Japan friendly relationship.

Tang appreciated Nikai's good idea of promoting exchanges between the two countries. Tang said, since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited China last October, Sino-Japanese relations have a turn for the better, and on the whole, present a tendency of development. Not long ago President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe respectively at the APEC meeting and the ASEAN Summit, and achieved positive results. Invited by Prime Minister Abe Premier Wen Jiabao is going to visit Japan this April. This is a matter of great impor-

tance in bilateral relations. We believe that through this visit the two countries can make an all-round plan for the development of bilateral relations, further strengthen the political basis, consolidate the economic basis and expand the social and public opinion basis for the development of bilateral relations. This visit will surely exert important and far-reaching influence on Sino-Japanese relations.

State Councillor Tang said, currently, Sino-Japanese relations are faced with both opportunities of development and challenges. We need to grasp this opportunity, further consolidate and strengthen the momentum of improvement and development and push bilateral relations of mutually beneficial cooperation to a higher level, and meanwhile properly handle the relevant problems so as to prevent the overall Sino-Japanese relations from being disturbed. □



Jia Qinglin, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, speaking at the reception

way home he settled down in Quanzhou of Fujian Province and was given the surname *Shi* by the emperor of the Ming Dynasty. His descendants continued to stay in Quanzhou and Taiwan. In 1950 the Sri Lankan Government recognized new China. On February 7, 1957 the two countries established diplo-

matic relations, turning a new chapter in China-Sri Lanka friendship. Since then, the two countries have kept friendly relations with frequent high level exchanges.

The reception was presided over by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu. CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin and Sri Lankan Pres-

ident Rajapaksa spoke on the occasion.

Jia Qinglin, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people expressed his sincere congratulations on the 50th anniversary of China-Sri Lanka diplomatic ties and the China-Sri Lanka Friendship Year. He reviewed the course of the development of



CPPCC National Committee Chairman Jia Qinglin and Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa visiting the photo exhibition on China-Sri Lanka relations in the past five decades since the two countries forged diplomatic ties

NPC Vice Chairman Cheng Siwei Leads CLAFA Delegation to Three Latin American Countries

Ji Yongjun

Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and president of the China-Latin America Friendship Association (CLAFA), led a CLAFA delegation to visit Jamaica, Cuba and Venezuela from January 2 to 16 at the invitation of the Jamaica-China Friendship Association (JCFA), the Cuban Institute of Friendships with the Peoples (CIAP) and the Association of Venezuela-China Friendship.

It was Vice Chairman Cheng's third visit to Latin America since he became president of the CLAFA. Jamaican Governor General Kenneth Hall and Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller, Cuban National Assembly of People's Power President Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada and Minister of Government Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, and Venezuelan National Assembly Vice President Roberto Hernandez met with the delegation on separate occasions. Governor General Hall and

China-Sri Lanka relations and affirmed the fruits of the cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He said, China is willing to work together with Sri Lanka to earnestly materialize the extensive consensus reached at the talks between President Hu Jintao and President Rajapaksa, and push forward China-Sri Lanka all-round cooperative partnership of sincere mutual support and ever-lasting friendship.

In his speech, President Rajapaksa spoke highly of China-Sri Lanka friendship and cooperative partnership of mutual support, and said, Sri Lanka will make joint efforts with China to promote the existing friendly re-

lations to an even higher level.

Before the reception, Chairman Jia Qinglin and President Rajapaksa visited the photo exhibition on the 50th anniversary of China-Sri Lanka diplomatic relations. At the reception Chairman Jia Qinglin and President Rajapaksa drew winning numbers for the Knowledge Quiz on Sri Lanka. The five winners would have a five-day free travel to Sri Lanka. The quiz which lasted one month was jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Sri Lankan Embassy in China and organized by the reading channel of sina.com. According to the statistics, the amount of browsing through the quiz was averagely 30,000

person/times every day, and the accumulated amount of browsing was more than 700,000 person/times. The number of participants in the activity accumulated to 60,000 person/times, covering 26 Chinese provinces, cities and regions. The Knowledge Quiz on Sri Lanka helped the youngsters as well as all the Chinese people increase their knowledge about Sri Lanka and enhance the friendship between the two peoples.

At the reception the Chinese and Sri Lankan art troupes gave wonderful performances.

Over 550 Chinese and Sri Lankan representatives of various circles attended the reception. □



Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, speaking at the Pedro Gual Institute of Higher Diplomatic Studies in Venezuela

Sergio Corrieri Hernandez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the CIAP hosted banquets in honour of the delegation.

Vice Chairman Cheng Siwei made speeches in Spanish at the University of Havana in Cuba and Pedro Gual Institute of Higher Diplomatic Studies in Venezuela, on China's current economic situation and social conditions, the political, economic, cultural and nongovernmental exchanges between China and Latin American countries and their development prospects, and answered questions raised by the audience about China's political and economic relations with Cuba and Venezuela, economic globalization, etc.. About 200 teachers and students of the University of Havana and over 100 personages of various circles in Venezuela were present. The speeches were warmly received.

The vice chairman also had interviews with reporters from the ANTV and other media in Venezuela, during which he talked about the activities organized by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and

the China-Latin America Friendship Association.

During the delegation's visit to Jamaica, Vice Chairman Cheng Siwei presented a medal and certificate of China-Latin America Friendship to Howard Cooke, the 90-year-old former governor general of Jamaica and former patron of the JC-FA, in recognition of his contributions over the years to the promotion of friendship between the people of Jamaica and China. Howard Cooke who lived far away from the capital could not come to receive the medal due to advanced age. The current governor general Hall accepted the medal on his behalf. It was the first time that the CLAFA conferred such medals upon friendly personages in the Caribbean region.

Vice Chairman Cheng and his party attended a welcoming reception given by the China-Latin America Chamber of Commerce in Miami, the U. S. during their stopover in the city. The government of Miami presented a golden key symbolizing friendship to the vice chairman.

Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC, accompanied Vice Chairman Cheng Siwei on his visit to the three Latin American countries. Dur-



The delegation with Jamaican Governor General Kenneth Hall

ing the visit, Li Xiaolin briefed the friendship-with-China organizations in the three countries on the friendship activities the CPAFFC conducted with countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region in recent years, and invited the Jamaica-China Friendship Association, the Cu-

ba-China Friendship Association and the Association of Venezuela-China Friendship to send delegations to the Fourth Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference of Friendship Organizations with China that would be held in Beijing in September this year. □

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power, meeting with NPC Vice Chairman Cheng Siwei



First Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk And His Party in China

Chen Lei

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, the first Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk led a 9-member delegation of the Ukraine-China Society (UCS) visited China from January 23 to 29, 2007. Besides Beijing the delegation visited Shanghai and Suzhou.

Kravchuk is friendly towards China and now serves as honorary president of the UCS which is a Ukrainian non-governmental friendship-with-China organization and CPAFFC's main cooperative partner

in Ukraine. Members of the delegation included former Ukrainian foreign minister Anatoly Maximovich Zlenko and former Ukrainian ambassador to China Mykhailo B. Reznik.

January 4, 2007 marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Ukraine. President Hu Jintao and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko sent messages of congratulations to each other. Leonid Kravchuk and his party attended the celebration held by

the CPAFFC. Before the celebration, Uyunqing, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with the delegation. Qian Qichen, former vice premier and foreign minister, Chen Haosu, CPAFFC president, and Dai Bingguo, vice foreign minister, separately met with and entertained the delegation. Kravchuk and his party also attended the opening ceremony of the China-Ukraine Economic and Trade Talks, visited the Beijing Economic and Tech-

Uyunqing, vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, meeting with Leonid Kravchuk, honorary president of the Ukraine-China Society, and his party



nological Development Zone and were interviewed by the correspondent of the Xinhua News Agency.

When meeting with Kravchuk, the Chinese leaders all spoke highly of the work he had done for years for the development of Ukraine-China relations and praised him as the founder of China-Ukraine friendship. As the first Ukrainian president, his visit to China on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of China-Ukraine diplomatic relations has a special significance. In the past 15 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-Ukraine relations have developed steadily with frequent high-level visits, further deepening mutual political trust, close cooperation in international affairs and rapid development of economic and trade ties. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said, the CPAFFC is willing to further strengthen its contacts with the Ukrainian friendship organizations, promote non-governmental cooperation in various fields and make greater contributions to the development of traditional friendship between the two countries.

During the meeting, Kravchuk expressed his thanks to the CPAFFC for inviting him

to visit China on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He said, since his last visit to China more than ten years ago, great changes have taken place in China. This time he visited China in the capacity of honorary president of the UCS, hoping to further develop Ukraine-China relations, particularly economic and trade cooperation. Grigori Surkis, president of the UCS and entrepreneur, and other leading officials of the UCS also expressed their hope to strengthen exchanges with Chinese friendship organizations.

Zhou Muyao, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and president of the Shanghai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, met with and entertained the delegation. The delegation was invited to pay a visit to the Administrative Committee of the Pudong Development Area for they wanted to know about the Area. Kravchuk and Zlenko expressed great interest in the mode of developing economy by setting up development zones. They got detailed information about the Pudong Development Area's taxation policy, infrastructural construc-

tion, investment, administrative division, etc. Kravchuk said, China's practice of establishing development zones is pioneering work which has played a great role in China's rapid economic growth. Ukraine can learn from it.

Also accompanying Kravchuk on his visit to China were 21 representatives of Ukrainian business circles. On January 24, the China-Ukraine Economic and Trade Talks organized by the CPAFFC were held in Beijing, with more than 60 Chinese enterprise representatives attending. The entrepreneurs of the two sides at the talks reached several letters of intent on cooperation. During the delegation's stay in Shanghai, the Shanghai Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Association invited over 40 Chinese enterprise representatives to have exchanges with their Ukrainian counterparts.

On January 25, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and UCS First Vice President Yevhen Rashutin signed the programme of cooperation between the two organizations for 2007-2008. According to the programme, the two sides agreed to further develop people-to-people friendly contacts through various forms of exchanges. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin Leads Delegation to Pakistan and India

Li Sanghua

At the invitation of the Pak-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) and the Indian Association of Friendships with Foreign Countries (IAFFC), a CPAFFC delegation headed by its vice president Li Xiaolin paid a friendly visit to Pakistan and India from December 18 to 26, 2006.

During its visit in Pakistan, thanks to the meticulous arrangement made by the host organization, the delegation was accorded high courtesy. Pakistani Acting Parliament Speaker Sardar Y.

Khan, Cultural Minister G. G. Jamal, Foreign Secretary Riaz Khan, Tourism Secretary Salim Gul Shaikh, Governor of Northwest Frontier Province Lt. Gen. Ali Muhammad Jan Aurakzai and Governor of Punjab Lt. Gen. Khalid Maqbool met with the delegation on separate occasions. Inam Haque, president of the Pak-China Friendship Forum, Sardar Muhammad Idrees, minister for local government and rural development of NWFP, Lt. Gen. Javed Hassan, principal of Pakistan Administrative Staff College, and Dr. Anjum Amjad, Punjab minister for environment protection, respectively hosted banquet in its honour. The delegation also held talks with the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in NWFP.

In India, the delegation called on Madam Meira Kumar, minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission of India, the All-India Institute of Local Self Government and the India-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and held talks with friendship-with-China organizations including the Indian Association of Friendships with Foreign Countries, India-China Society and the Unity International Foundation of India. The delegation visited the relatives of the late Dr. Dwarkanath S. Kotnis.

Pakistan and India are close neighbours of China and there exists profound traditional



Pakistani Acting Parliament Speaker Sardar Y. Khan presenting a plate with traditional Pakistani design to CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin

Madam Meira Kumar,
minister for Social Justice
and Empowerment, having
a cordial conversation with
CPAFFC Vice President Li
Xiaolin



Lt. Gen. Ali Muhammad
Jan Aurakzai, governor
of NWFP of Pakistan,
meeting with the delega-
tion at the Governor
House in Peshawar

CPAFFC Vice President
Li Xiaolin and her party
visiting Manorama and
Vatsala, sisters of the late
Dr. Dwarkanath S. Kotnis
in Mumbai





**Woman members
of the delegation
with Pakistani
school girls at
Lahore Port**

friendship between the people of China and these two countries. The visit by the CPAFFC delegation to them has forged stronger ties between the CPAFFC and the friendship-with-China organiza-

tions of the two countries, increased mutual understanding and friendship between their peoples, made new friends and partners. The visit was a full success. □

The delegation with friends from the IAFFC



CPAFFC Vice President Wang Yunze and His Party in Cambodia and Thailand

Zhu Dan

At the invitation of Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, president of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association (CCFA), and Nuttapash Amnuay Intuputi, president of the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, a CPAFFC delegation headed by its vice president Wang Yunze paid a friendly visit to Cambodia and Thailand from January 10 to 20, 2007.

Long Visalo, secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, president of the CCFA, Tep Ngorn, vice president of Senate and vice president of the CCFA, met with the delegation together. Vice President Tep Ngorn and Congressman Khek Vandy, husband of Princess Buppha Devi, entertained the delegation on separate occasions. The delegation also called on the China Hong Kong and Macau Expatriate and Business Association of Cambodia and the Association of Khmer Chinese in Cambodia.

Nuttapash Amnuay Intuputi, president of the National Council

on Social Welfare of Thailand, had a working conference with the delegation and hosted a banquet in its honour. Dr. Ackaratorn Chularat, president of the Supreme Administrative Court, Paisal Puechmongkol, vice president of the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association, Maleeratna Plumchitchom, president of Business and Professional Women's Association of Thailand, Anan Pummawan, president of the Advisory Committee of Burapha Alumni Association, respectively hosted banquets in honour of the delegation. The delegation went to Chiang Rai where it visited the Sirindhorn Centre on Chinese Language and Culture at Mae Fah Luang University and Chonburi Province where it toured Burapha University.

Traditional Friendship Further Enhanced

In his meeting with the delegation, Long Visalo, secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, first

of all, extended warm welcome to the delegation on behalf of the Cambodian foreign minister who was attending the ASEAN Summit in the Philippines. He said, the people of Cambodia and China sympathized with and supported each other when Cambodia was under the French colonial rule and China suffering from the Japanese aggression. With the concerted efforts made by King Norodom Sihanouk and Premier Zhou Enlai, the friendly relations between the two countries developed by leaps and bounds. After the civil war in Cambodia, the Chinese Government provided a large amount of assistance to Cambodia with no strings attached, which made it possible for Cambodia to score major achievements in rebuilding its economy and infrastructural facilities. He added, Prime Minister Hun Sen speaks highly of China's contributions to the political stability and economic development of Cambodia. Long Visalo stressed, China's selfless assistance to Cambodia has set an example for other



CCFA President Princess Norodom Buppha Devi (L.5) and Tep Ngorn, vice president of the Cambodian Senate and the CCFA, meeting with the delegation

countries in giving aid to Cambodia and the development of China will benefit the poor countries in the world.

CPAFFC Vice President Wang Yunze said, the friendship between China and Cambodia dates back to ancient times. Norodom Sihanouk, former King of Cambodia, main-

tains good relations with several generations of Chinese leaders. Since the beginning of the new century, there have been continuous high-level exchanges of visits between the two countries. In April 2006, Premier Wen Jiabao visited Cambodia. The two sides issued the Joint Communiqué, announcing the

establishment of a comprehensive cooperative partnership, which signaled a new period of development of bilateral relations. At the end of October 2006 Prime Minister Hun Sen went to Nanning to attend the Commemorative Summit Marking the 15th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations



Nuttapash Amnuay Intuputi (L.4 front row), president of the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, meeting with the delegation

and paid a visit to China marking a new step forward in strengthening Sino-Cambodian friendly relations.

In meeting with the delegation, Nuttapash Intuputi, president of the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, said, Thailand and China are close neighbours. There is a long history of friendly contact between the two

peoples. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, both governmental and nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation in all fields have developed rapidly. The frequent exchanges of visits between the leaders of the two countries have played an irreplaceable role in deepening bilateral relations. The contact between the Thai and Chinese people is as frequent as between kinsfolk. Such friendly exchanges have laid a solid foundation for the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Thailand-China relationship has become an example of good-neighbourly friendship between countries in the world.



Long Visalo (L.5), secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, with the delegation

Vice President Wang said, being close neighbours with ties of kinship and cultural contact, China and Thailand have enjoyed good-neighbourly and friendly relations since ancient times. In the past 30 years and more since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have always trusted each other and treated each other sincerely despite the volatile international situation. China attaches great importance to Sino-Thai relations and is willing to make concerted effort with Thailand to raise the level of bilateral cooperation so that the two countries will remain good neighbours, good friends, good partners and good broth-

ers.

While in Cambodia and Thailand, Wang Yunze reiterated on many occasions China's policies of "pursuing good neighbourly relations and partnership with neighbours" and "fostering a harmonious, secure and prosperous neighbourly environment". He said, China and ASEAN countries are either joined by land or by sea. An old Chinese saying goes: "A close neighbour means more than a distant relative." China's development can not be separated from a peaceful surrounding, and a developed China will benefit the development of its neighbouring countries. Whether in the past, present, or future,



Dr. Ackaratorn Chularat, president of the Supreme Administrative Court (L.5) meeting with the delegation

we are committed to developing friendly relations and cooperation with ASEAN countries and working together with them to create a peaceful and tranquil regional environment for common development.

Enhancing Exchanges with Friendship Organizations

The delegation had extensive contact with friendly personages of various circles in Cambodia and Thailand, calling on those in the political, judicial, women and academic circles and in friendship organizations, chambers of commerce, overseas Chinese associations, visiting old friends that had maintained contact with the CPAFFC for several decades,

and making new friends. CPAFFC Vice President Wang Yunze briefed them on the work of the CPAFFC in the new period, especially people-to-people friendship activities carried out with ASEAN countries. He said, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of dialogue relations between China and ASEAN, to further strengthen the strategic partnership between China and ASEAN and usher the good momentum of bilateral cooperation between them into the future 15 years, the CPAFFC and the China-ASEAN Association held three multilateral activities including the First Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations that established the mechanism

of nongovernmental cooperation between China and ASEAN, the reception marking the 15th anniversary of dialogue relations between China and ASEAN jointly hosted by the CPAFFC and the ASEAN Committee Beijing, and the China-ASEAN Friendship Tour that covered six ASEAN countries. Friendship organizations of all ASEAN countries attended the Conference and friendship groups of six ASEAN countries took part in the Friendship Tour. These activities are new models of “promoting bilateral relations through multilateral interaction” created by the CPAFFC in its people-to-people contact with ASEAN countries. □

Dunhuang Friendship Delegation Visits Japan and ROK

Wang Binyin

A friendship delegation of Dunhuang City, Gansu Province paid a visit to Japan and the ROK from January 12 to 25, 2007. During its visit to Japan and the ROK, the delegation signed agreements on establishing friendship-city ties between Dunhuang and Nikko City of Japan and between Dunhuang and Namhae County of the ROK, and visited Kamakura and Usuki, Dunhuang's two friendship cities in Japan, and held meetings in Tokyo and Seoul to advertise Dunhuang's tourist products.

The Dunhuang friendship delegation led by Mayor Sun Yulong consisted of 34 members from the city's tourist, urban construction, agricultural and animal husbandry, forestry, educational, commercial, scientific and technological sectors. The delegation first visited Tochigi Prefecture, Japan and signed an agreement on establishing friendship-city relations with Nikko City. Then the delegation arrived in the ROK and signed an agreement on forming friendship-city ties with Namhae County. The two sides, on the basis of equality and mutual benefits, decided to establish friendly cooperative relations, seek exchanges and cooperation in the fields of administration, economy, trade, tourism, science, technology, culture, education, sports and health and promote common prosperity and development in economy and society.

The delegation visited Kamakura and Usuki, Dunhuang's friendship cities, and attended the



Sun Yulong (left), mayor of Dunhuang and Takao Saito, mayor of Nikko, Japan at the signing ceremony of the agreement on the establishment of friendship-city relations between the two cities

unveiling ceremony of the Dunhuang Park in Usuki. Since Dunhuang and Usuki established friendship-city ties, the two cities have carried out increasingly frequent people-to-people exchanges and deepened mutual understanding. In order to promote Japan-China friendly relations, Mr. Seiya Oho, with the fund he collected from the Japanese people, had over 50 tablets erected in the Shazhou Park in Dunhuang with inscriptions engraved on them, most of which are poems, well-known sayings, aphorism and mottos to encourage young people to study hard and make determined efforts



Mayor Sun Yulong (left) and Ha Young-je, governor of Namhae County of the ROK, shaking hands after signing the agreement on the twinning of friendship-city ties between Dunhuang and Namhae

to grow up to be useful. These tablets have now become a tourist attraction in the Shazhou Park and are very much liked by the people. This year Seiya Oho again used the fund he collected to have tablets made out of the huge rocks from the North Hill and the Danghe River in Dunhuang with inscriptions engraved on them and had them transported to Usuki with the aim of increasing exchanges and cooperation between the people of

the two cities and encouraging the young people in Usuki to be determined to become accomplished persons, and make contributions to the construction of their hometown. At the unveiling ceremony, Mayor Sun Yulong made a speech, expressing his hearty thanks to Seiya Oho and other Japanese friends who cared for and supported friendly exchanges between China and Japan.

During its stay in Tokyo, (Continued on p.41)

Dunhuang Mayor Sun Yulong (left) having a cordial conversation with JCFA President Ikuo Hirayama



CPAFFC Sends Student Delegation On Winter Camp Tour of the U. S.

An Xin

Invited by Brigham Young University (BYU)-Hawaii of the United States, a 21-member middle school student delegation, organized by the CPAFFC with the aim of enhancing friendship between the Chinese and American students, made a winter camp tour of the United States from January 29 to February 12.

Brigham Young University-Hawaii is a comprehensive undergraduate institution in west U. S.. It has cooperated for years with the CPAFFC in sponsoring middle school student exchange programmes and achieved fruitful results. This was the 13th middle school student delegation the CPAFFC sent to the U. S..

The delegation consisted of students from the Middle School Attached to Renmin University (People's University). They spent the first five days in BYU-Hawaii, taking English classes including situational dialogue, impromptu speeches, word games, etc. in the morning. The students liked the American teachers' open and new teaching methods, and saw for themselves the facilities and environment of the American universities. After the morning classes, they returned in groups to their respective host families. The warmth and kindness shown by the host families deeply touched the Chinese students and teachers, who in the short stay of five days forged profound friendship with them. The Chinese students said



The student delegation on the BYU-Hawaii campus

that they got the feel of speaking English. They enjoyed talking with the local people, introducing themselves and publicizing China.

Apart from the regular English classes, the students visited Hawaii's Kahuku High School, took a vocal motion lesson together with the local students and established contact with them. Participating in the Gunstock Ranch activities, the students experienced the American-style education and learned the importance of team work through these activities. The students were invited to watch a basketball match between two American universities, visited the Polynesian Cultural Centre, and learned first-hand the life and customs, the living style, social and cultural environment of the United States which were so different from those of China.

Having completed the study programme of the tour, the delegation visited Los Angeles, New

Sichuan Youth Friendship Troupe Visits the United States

Shen Zaiwang

Invited by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government of Kentucky, U. S. and the Explorium of Lexington, the Sichuan Youth Friendship Troupe sent by the Sichuan Provincial Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) made a performance tour of Lexington from January 29 to February 8.

The Troupe gave 10 performances at the theatre, the University of Kentucky and four middle schools, which were warmly received. Jim Newberry, mayor of Lexington, proclaimed

the Sichuan Youth Friendship Troupe "Cultural Ambassadors" and presented Shen Zaiwang, leader of the Troupe, with the golden key of Lexington that symbolizes friendship and trust. The mayor pointed out that it was the first time that the city had ever presented a golden key to a foreign friend.

In coordination with the local activities in celebration of the Spring Festival in the city, the Troupe performed traditional Chinese dances, Sichuan Operas, acrobatics and martial arts, and gave two Chinese dance

York and Washington D.C.. In Los Angeles, the delegation had a dinner together with the teachers and students of a local Chinese school. The Chinese and American students chatted amiably in their second languages and gave each other encouragement. Some Chinese students made short speeches in English, telling their American peers what they saw and heard in the U. S. and their experiences at the BYU-Hawaii. Their speeches drew warm response. Wang Naidong, a Chinese teacher at the local Chinese school who had lived in the United States for over a decade, told the

members of the delegation that the overseas Chinese were proud of their motherland. She encouraged the students to study hard and win honour for the country.

Through the various activities, the members of the delegation saw the cultural difference and the gap in science and technology between China and the United States. The visit has broadened their horizons and inspired strong desire in them to learn from other's strong points to rejuvenate the motherland. □

Participating in Gunstock Ranch activities in Hawaii



training sessions. The Troupe was composed of only five performers, but they all had superb skills. The 11 items they performed lasted over an hour, bringing one climax after another.

Apart from giving performances, the Troupe also participated in the governmental and people-to-people activities held in the city and had extensive contact with people of all circles.

The Troupe sat in on the council meeting of Lexington upon invitation, handed the letter from the vice mayor of Meishan to Mayor Newberry and expressed Meishan's wish to establish friendship-city relations with Lexington, which received



Mayor Jim Newberry of Lexington meeting with the members of the troupe

positive response from the city's mayor.

The Troupe also attended the reception hosted by the LexArts of Kentucky Arts Council, at which the leader of the Troupe briefed the personages of the economic and cultural circles present at the reception on Sichuan's cultural exchanges with other countries and proposed to carry out more exchanges of visits between the youth and children of the two countries.

The Troupe was invited to the home of John M. Rogers, circuit judge of US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mrs. Rogers was a Chinese American and their

daughter acted as the English announcer for the Troupe's performances. The whole family liked the Troupe's performance very much. They watched their shows three times and presented bouquets of flowers to the performers three times.

The Troupe also visited the city's library, Carnegie Centre for Literacy and Learning and University of Kentucky, and attended the luncheon given by the Library and the evening banquet by the Asian Centre of University of Kentucky. The two sides discussed many exchange programmes including the establishment of friendship relations between the libraries and museums of the two places and the exchange of visits between middle school students. □



Chinese and American children performing Chinese gongfu (martial arts) together

Farmer Training Fund Set Up

Gong Zengying

On the afternoon of February 12, 2007, the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) held the inauguration of the Farmer Training Fund and a press conference. Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC vice president and chairman of the Board of Directors of the CFFPD, who announced the inauguration, said, the Farmer Training Fund is set up by the CFFPD timely in response to the Party's call of "building a new socialist countryside" and a new measure to help farmers in China's rural areas master scientific knowledge and skills to become prosperous and to train personnel in poor areas who will take the lead in building a new socialist countryside.

In recent years China has implemented many policies supporting agriculture and benefiting farmers; as a result, agriculture and rural development have experienced a positive change and greeted a new opportunity of development. But, to completely change the appearance of Chinese countryside, the problem of

lacking skilled personnel, the bottleneck that strains the sustainable development of rural areas, must be solved. The key to solution of the problem lies in education. For this reason, the CFFPD sets up the Farmer Training Fund, and will gradually carry out skill training in various ways among farmers in China's poor areas to help them become leading personnel needed in building a new socialist countryside and attain prosperity through science. The Fund is donated by friendship organizations and companies both at home and abroad that are earnest to make contributions to China's rural development. Chen Zongbing, vice president of the Beida Jade Bird Group, attended the inauguration, and, on behalf of the Group, donated 200,000 RMB yuan as the starting funds. Chen said, as an enterprise that is aware of its social responsibility, the Beida Jade Bird Group will continue to make contribution to building a new socialist countryside and harmonious society in China.



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin presenting the certificate of donation to Chen Zongbing, vice president of the Beida Jade Bird Group

Forum on Coordinated Ecological and Social Development Of World Heritage Sites Held at Mount Emei

Chuan You

The Forum on Coordinated Ecological and Social Development of World Heritage Sites, a project under the 2006 cooperation programme between the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of Germany and jointly sponsored by the SIFA, Sichuan University and Chengdu University of Information Technology, was held at Mount Emei from December 9 to 10, 2006. Specialists, scholars, leading members of heritage sites and relevant government departments as well as researchers of institutes of higher learning and scientific research from home and abroad, totaling over 50, attended the Forum.

By 2006, five heritage sites in Sichuan Province have been included on the World Heritage List, namely: Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area, Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area, Mount Emei Scenic Area including Leshan Giant Buddha

Scenic Area, Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, and Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries. They take up 15.6 percent of the total number of the world heritage in China and 60 percent of the country's world natural heritage. In recent years, a provincial world heritage management office in charge of resource investigation, appraisal, application for the inclusion on the World Heritage List, monitoring, protection and management of world heritage in Sichuan has been set up, and Regulations on the Protection of World Heritage in Sichuan Province have been promulgated. Efforts have been made by the heritage sites in the province to explore new ways to protect and manage these sites.

Convened on the basis of the 2005 Forum on the Protection and Management of World Heritage Sites, the Forum aimed at providing a theoretical basis and support for the decisions made by the relevant de-

partments, especially the local governments, management agencies and enterprises of the world heritage sites through the cooperation and exchanges among the Chinese and foreign research institutes, and at the same time promoting academic exchanges among relevant institutes and their scientific researches by utilizing both domestic and foreign resources.

The participants discussed at the Forum topics such as ecology and society, protection and tourism development, ecology and cultural diversity, application for the inclusion on the World Heritage List and the responsibilities after the inclusion, and policies, strategies, measures, ways and modes to be adopted to promote the coordinated ecological and social development of world heritage sites. They put forward many innovative ideas. The Forum received more than 40 theses, which reflected the latest achievements in research on world heritage in Sichuan Province. □

2007 Chinese and Japanese Businessmen's Friendly Spring-Greeting Party Held in Beijing

Guo Ning

On the evening of March 22, the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in China (JCCC) held the 2007 Chinese and Japanese Businessmen's Friendly Spring-Greeting Party at the Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong in Beijing. Song Jian, president of the CJFA, Makoto Isogai, president of the JCCC, and Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese ambassador to China, other diplomats of the Japanese Embassy as well as representatives of the relevant Chinese departments, organizations and research institutes, Japanese enterprises in China and the Chinese and Japanese media, about 150 people in total, attended the party.

In his speech at the party, CJFA President Song Jian affirmed the positive contributions made last year by the friends who worked at the forefront of China-Japan economic cooperation to the improvement and development of Chi-

na-Japan relations. Song said, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China last year resulted in a favourable turn of the relations between the two countries. Bilateral trade volumes for the first time topped US\$ 200 billion. The year 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations and is also the Year of China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchanges. Premier Wen Jiabao's coming official visit to Japan in April is an important opportunity for promoting the development of bilateral relations and will definitely give new impetus to their development and open up new prospects. In the new year the CJFA is willing to make joint efforts with the friends in the Japanese economic circles to further develop China-Japan economic and trade cooperation, continuously safeguard the overall interests of China-Japan relations and enhance friendship between the two peoples.



CJFA President Song Jian speaking at the spring-greeting party

Israel Epstein and Gung Ho In His Late Years

Lu Wanru

On May 26, 2006, sad news passed on to me: another witness of modern Chinese history, the esteemed old comrade Israel Epstein passed away.

Only a month ago, his friends and former colleagues had gathered in Beijing in the Great Hall of the People to celebrate his 90th birthday, listening attentively to his speech and en-

joying the gift copies of his newly published memoirs and selected reportage. The familiar voice seems still resounding in my ear, yet all that has turned to be part of one's remembrance...

Comrade Epstein is a renowned journalist in international media circles, highly regarded as a well-informed and knowledgeable veteran news-

man with remarkable achievement in this field. However, very few people have noticed that he had also been a sincere supporter of the Gung Ho movement initiated by Rewi Alley and Edgar & Helen Snow during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

In addition, he had played an important part in his late years in serving the revived Gung Ho as vice-chair of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ICCIC) in Beijing.

During the 1930s, Epstein, while working for the China Defense League (CDL) under

JCCC President Makoto Isogai said, while the Japanese enterprises in China make contribution to China's development, they also enjoy the benefits brought about by China's rapid economic growth. The Japanese enterprises in China hope to become excellent "corporate citizens" in the Chinese society.

In his speech, Japanese Ambassador Yuji Miyamoto said, thanks to the political resolution made by the heads of state of the two countries last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a successful visit to China and Japan-China relations have seen an improvement. The Japanese Government and people are looking forward to Premier Wen's official goodwill visit to Japan and are sure that the visit will be a success. Ambassador Miyamoto extended his respects to the CJFA for its unrelenting efforts for the development of China-Japan relations over the years.

At the party, both sides announced the "Contact Japanese Enterprises and Experience Japan" programme for Chinese university students' visit to Japan which will start in May, 2007. This programme is an activity of exchanges between the Chinese and Japanese youth jointly sponsored for the first time by the CJFA and the JCCC. For 5 consecutive years starting from 2007, every year 30 to 60 Chinese university students will be sent to visit Japan for a short time with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding between the younger generation of the two countries through visiting Japanese enterprises, conducting exchanges between universities, investigating rural areas and staying at ordinary Japanese people's homes so as to establish a more stable good-neighbourly friendly relations between China and Japan. □



The author and Israel Epstein at the Rewi Alley's tomb in Shandan in 1997

for all ICCIC officers.

When the ICCIC resumed its activities in 1987, everyone was doing his/her job in a way of “feeling stones when crossing the river”. I presume even Rewi Alley who had experienced the rise and fall of Gung Ho and spared no efforts to revive it in his last years, was not sure about how to adapt Gung Ho to a China in transition from planned economy to socialist market economy, and what would be the best way to further the cause. The glorious success of Gung Ho movement was a past. The major leaders of Gung Ho and the people Gung Ho served during the War of Resistance have gone through 1-2 alternations of generations. The difficulty and complexity of restarting the

movement from scratch was understandable. When Eppy was elected vice-chair of the ICCIC, he began playing his role by doing petty affairs, giving substantial help to what the coop needed most. He assisted the Beijing Handicapped Youth Paper-cut Cooperative by purchasing one to two hundred New Year cards they made each year for his own use, and setting up a stand at the Friendship Hotel. Eppy lived in the hotel then, and with his help, the coop got special permission by the hotel manager to sell the cards in the lobby to foreign residents and tourists at good price. The cards with beautiful traditional Chinese designs were very popular among foreigners that the coop won quite a number of orders later from lovers of

Chinese handicrafts overseas. The coop members were so pleased and most grateful for Eppy's promotional efforts. It was also a good publicity for people to know that Gung Ho was in action again.

The ICCIC started in 1989 its first major project of promoting 3 Gung Ho experimental cooperative centres in Shandan (Gansu), Honghu (Hubei) and Longkou-Penglai (Shandong). Eppy participated with great enthusiasm in various activities for inspection and experience exchange, and helped introduce channels for overseas support. He took lead in spreading the traditional Gung Ho slogans of “work & work together” and “all for one & one for all” to inspire the coop members. At the

executive meetings, he always stressed the need for ICCIC to persist in promoting genuine cooperatives along the line of international acknowledged coop principles, and, explored together with other Committee members the theoretical and practical problems in promoting cooperatives in China today. In August 1993, Eppy went to Baoji in Shaanxi on behalf of the ICCIC to attend an international forum on Gung Ho sponsored by the Party Committee and the Government of the city. Baoji was where the northwest Gung Ho headquarters located during the War and was known as “Gung Ho Garden City” for organizing diversified coops for production and community service. The Bailie School for training Gung Ho workers was in Shuangshipu (now Fengxian County), a small town southwest to the city. Both Rewi Alley and George Hogg, the English headmaster of the school, lived once in a cave dwelling there. Eppy was keen to attend the Forum in the hope of revitalizing this old Gung Ho centre. To his disappointment, he saw the local authorities had little awareness of the differences between the Gung Ho coop based on “of the people, by the people and for the people” principles, and the collective enterprise or shareholding

coop then prevailed in the area. Their real interest lay in making Gung Ho an access to attract foreign investment for boosting the local economy. Apparently there is a long way to go before anything like a Gung Ho garden city can be reproduced in Baoji.

In autumn of the same year, Eppy led an ICCIC delegation to Spain for a survey tour of the Mondragon Cooperative Corporation. This visit had a great impact on Eppy's hope for furthering Gung Ho in China. He was much inspired by their admirable achievements: no workers in the MCC cooperatives lost their jobs during the postwar depression in Spain; the automobile parts they manufactured had good market for they were up to the standard for use in Ford and Benz cars; the MCC set up its own cooperative bank to provide financial services not only to the MCC cooperatives but to the local community; the coop members got an income higher than those in similar enterprises as a result of their system of distribution—to each according to his work plus dividends from his shares, while the managers were paid relatively less than those in private enterprises, thus reducing the income gap between workers and managers. In a word, by relying on its economy scale, elastic

strength, high efficiency, fine quality of products and democratic management, the MCC has proved that cooperative economy can be equally competitive in the market economy in the West. If this can be done in capitalist country, why not in socialist China? He believed we could do it even better!

Soon after this visit, Eppy wrote in the CPPCC journal (*Zhengxie Bao*, Dec. issue, 1993) that cooperative economy belongs to the sector of socialist economy under collective ownership by the working people according to the Constitution (1982). But there is no Cooperative Law to define the nature, the rights and obligations of cooperative, as well as to whom the property of cooperative belongs. Now it is an urgent matter to have the status of cooperative legislated by the state. Having elaborated the nature and principles of cooperative, and the historical role of wartime Gung Ho, he proposed that the current relationship between the cooperative and the state should be one based on “run by the people, support by the state”. This relationship should be clearly stated in the Cooperative Law of the PRC. Although this proposal has not yet been brought into the agenda of the CPPCC and the NPC, it healds the persistent ap-

peals in the cooperative economic circle demanding the legislation of cooperative economy in China.

Despite the project of writing the biography of Soong Ching Ling which was prior to all other things in his late years, Eppy managed to put on his work agenda as many as possible ICCIC meetings, workshops and even trainings for the coop members at grassroots. At these gatherings he would be found listening to every speaker very attentively and taking down notes when necessary. In August 1997, ICCIC executive members and leading members of the 3 experimental cooperative centres met in Shandan to celebrate the centenary of Rewi Alley's birth. Eppy was 82 then and had difficulty in getting about, yet he insisted in traveling with us for over 20 hours from Beijing to Shandan by train. The train arrived at 2 o'clock in the morning. With little sleep, he joined us in the visits to the Shandan Bailie School, Rewi's former residence, the museum for Rewi's donated historical relics, and Alley and George Hogg graveyard all in one day, unwilling to miss any of them. In a moving speech he made at the commemoration, Eppy summarized his views on the significance and the necessity for pro-

moting cooperative today, repudiated the argument that Gung Ho success was possible only because of the lack of commodity supply in wartime, and that it could no longer work as China was getting modernized with abundant commodities and growing market competition. He listed a number of positive roles that cooperative can continue to play, for instance, providing job opportunities to the laid-off workers and rural surplus labour, producing simple farm implements and daily necessities in the low-income region, participating in modern scientific and technical activities in urban areas, and engaging in service trades like maintenance, transport, and processing, etc. Since the workers are concurrently share holders in the coop, and democratic election of managing committee and open accounting and distribution systems must be practiced, it is more secure for the coop to prevent the corrosive influence of bribery, corruption and waste in management. Eppy also mentioned the problems confronting Gung Ho: lack of publicity of cooperative's role in the media; shortage of young coop workers; no sufficient financial resources for coop promotion and for organizing training of trainers, and, no access to get administra-

tion expenses for the ICCIC office as a NGO. He ended his speech by calling on once again: "We need a Cooperative Law"!

In the past 20 years, the older generation of Gung Ho leaders like Rewi Alley, Dr. Chen Hansheng, and Lu Guangmian (K.M. Lu) had gone one after another. The good efforts of Eppy in revitalizing Gung Ho in his later years will remain an everlasting memory on and encouragement to all Gung Ho workers. I believe Eppy would have been happy to find that the new leadership of ICCIC elected at the 3rd General Assembly is advancing with full confidence to meet all challenges and opportunities in developing cooperative economy in the future. The recent promulgation of the Farmers Specialized Cooperative Law of the People's Republic of China has greatly invigorated the spirit of all cooperative supporters. The characteristic role of cooperative in economic, social and educational fields has begun to draw more public attention to China's new socialist village construction programme. The dream of Eppy that "China must have a Cooperative Law" is bound to realize one day in this land he dearly loved.

(Revised on March 2, 2007)

An Outstanding Record

Edmund H. Dale (Canada)

We first visited Shanghai in 1989 when the city was in the throes of redevelopment, a response to Deng Xiaoping's modernization programmes in agriculture, industry, science and technology, and national defence. Becoming leader of the country in 1978, Deng Xiaoping and the post-Mao leaders immediately put to flight China's old "closed door" policy, created four Special Economic Zones in South China, designated 14 coastal cities for redevelopment, and opened the redevelopment to both local and foreign investors. Shanghai was one of the 14 coastal cities and part of the new development of the Yangtze River Delta and the Yangtze River Basin. When we arrived in May 1989, the waterfront of the "Bund" (waitan), the downtown commercial area, was then undergoing rigorous redevelopment.

Our second visit was in 1994, one year after Pudong, then the undeveloped area opposite the Bund, began to be developed. On our arrival, it was a seeming forest of building cranes, scaffolding and infras-

tructure constructions, in fact, a flurry of building activities. The air was heavy with dust, as indeed in other urban areas undergoing redevelopment.

On our third visit, in 2000, the Pudong New Area, now the official name, was a going-economic concern, a sleek, ultra-modern development, with industrial, manufacturing, financial, trading, residential activities, among others. To those of us who had visited Shanghai only a few years before, the development, the scale and speed of it, were altogether bewildering.

Now we come again, six years later, it seems that the redevelopment of Shanghai is complete, or almost complete, and has fulfilled the dreams of the political leaders. It seems the city has become a modern, international trading-centre of the first order, a shining beacon in China's southeast.

The development, not only of the Pudong New Area, but, as we have seen all over China—North, South, East and West, NE, SE, SW, NW—during the years we have been coming, is nothing short of the

miraculous. It speaks eloquently of the genius or dexterity of the Chinese people, their hard work, their inventiveness and their tenacity. Their performance since the early 1980s may be likened to the sudden outburst of a volcano which had been lying dormant for years. They have performed construction feats that are absolutely astonishing:

—sending man into outer space safely and bringing him back safely;

—damming the Three Gorges of the mighty Yangtze River (third largest in the world) to control flooding, to provide electricity for the rest of the nation, to divert water via the Grand Canal, itself a magnificent early achievement, from south China to north China where it is needed for irrigation and industrial purposes—a spectacular feat;

—leaping gorges, ravines, large expanses of water with spectacular bridges, notably the 7,000 metre-long, double-decker Nanjing Bridge;

—tunneling lofty mountains with railways, even up to Tibet, so-called "Roof of the World";

—firing up skyscrapers to kiss the clouds, an intelligent use of vertical space—Shanghai soon to have the tallest building in the world, a 101-storey World Financial Centre;

—covering vast tracts of land with freeways to facilitate freer movement of people and goods; (China now said to have the second most extensive highway network in the world);

—establishing and implementing a Western China Development Project, embracing 6 provinces (Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou), 3 autonomous regions (Ningxia, Xinjiang, Tibet), and the huge Municipality of Chongqing with over 30 million people, also encouraging foreign enterprises to participate in the development, comparable with the development of the Special Economic Zones in south China;

—putting an end to perennial famine in the country and housing its huge population of 1.3 billion—now every one is being housed and fed;

—making available to millions, rich and poor alike, university education, even as a so-called Third World country. And turning out trained engineers, designers and planners to meet existing demands. Also improving greatly the standard of living of millions of people, to say nothing of securing the

admiration of developed countries and the inclusion of China's membership in international organizations, like the World Trade Organization (WTO); also obtaining the globally competitive invitation to host the 2008 Olympic Games, and Shanghai to host the 2010 World Exposition;

—offering humanitarian aid (it sounds ironic) to the United States after Hurricane Katrina blatantly revealed to all the world the woeful lack of a well-developed, universal social system in the highly-touted American Dream ... And so the list goes on.

All this and more since the early 1980! An outstanding record by any measure, absolutely impressive, and certainly enviable! It has unmistakably shown the outside world that China and its people are still able to produce wonders and inventions comparable with those they devised in earlier times, and from which the Western world profited so greatly. But wait for China's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games!

True there is much yet to be done in China, especially in the rural areas, and in tackling and overcoming the new and crippling problems that modernization has wrought or intensified, but all cannot be done at once, and a great deal has been done already. Indeed,

we are greatly impressed by the economic progress your country and your city have made since the 1980s, and the whirlwind, meteoric, almost frightening speed of it, which has left the rest of the world almost completely stunned. Continued for the next decades under similar, relative stability and intelligent leadership, China's growing world-power status should be greatly enhanced, and the new problems, numerous as they are, and gigantic as they seem, will in time be tackled and removed. That is the fervent hope of friends of China who are truly interested in the progress of the country. And there is already good news! At the recent meeting of the National People's Congress, the government announced it will now be turning its attention to the development and improvement of the rural areas.

I have said it before and will say it again: we like coming to Shanghai, and always look forward to coming, for we know we have good friends here. Thank you very much for receiving us so graciously and for making such excellent arrangements for our stay.

These are excerpts of the speech Prof. Edmund H. Dale made at the banquet given by the Shanghai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on May 11, 2006.

Founder of Sino-Canadian Friendship —Chester Ronning

Liu Gengyin

For years I have been engaged in foreign affairs, and thus, have a lot of foreign friends. Chester Ronning, the well-known Canadian ambassador, is one of these most unforgettable old friends.

Since 1945 when Ronning entered the diplomatic circles, he had been appointed first secretary, chargé d'affaires ad interim, minister, ambassador, high commissioner and special envoy, and retired from the Canadian Foreign Ministry in 1965. All through the 20 years, he worked hard for the establishment of diplomatic ties between Canada and China, appealed to the U.N. for the restoration of the legitimate seat of China and enhanced the western countries' understanding about China. He had published many articles and delivered several speeches on these issues. In June 1968, he published an article in *Vancouver Sun* explaining how to understand Chinese people and their aspirations. In October of the same year, when he received the honorary doctor's degree from the University of Calgary, he said in his speech that it was crucial to the maintenance of peace in the Far East to establish diplomatic relations with China. In March 1969, at the Symposium on U.S.-China Relations he appealed to the U.S. government to correct errors in its policies towards China. In October of the same year, at the



The author (R.2) with Chester Ronning (R.5) and his children in Xi'an in October 1983

celebration of the 20th National Day of the People's Republic of China held in Montreal, Ronning pointed out that it was wrong of the U.N. to exclude China which had a population of 700,000,000.

In 1972, the governor general of Canada, on behalf of the government, issued Ronning the Companion of the Order of Canada for his contributions to Canadian diplomacy, especially his efforts to develop friendly relations between Canada and China.

In 1974, Ronning's book, *A Memoir of China in Revolution*, was published in the U.S.. In the book, he tells how the Chinese people suffered from aggression and oppression by western powers, exposes how Chiang Kai-shek betrayed the revolution in the 1920s, describes the process of the Chinese Revolution and makes a comparison between the new and the old China.

The publication of the book evoked great repercussions in the U.S. and Canada. Former Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Paul J. J. Martin commented, “Chester Ronning’s *A Memoir of China in Revolution* is interesting and absorbing, which vividly records the pursuit of national liberation by the Chinese people, and written by a wise and insightful Canadian. The book, between the lines, expresses his sympathy. Of all the counterparts, Ronning is always the most excellent narrator who tells about the attracting progress made by the Chinese Communist Party.”

Born in 1894, Ronning spent his childhood in Xiangfan of Hubei Province, China, where his father served as a missionary. Ronning’s mother died young and was buried in Xiangfan. It was until 1908 when the father finally took the family to settle down in Alberta of Canada.

After he attained his degrees in the universities in Canada and America, Ronning returned to Xiangfan in 1922. He taught at the Hongwen Middle School for 5 years, during which under the influence of progressive students and his fellow colleagues of the school he became very sympathetic with China’s national democratic movement. He went back to Canada in 1927 and joined the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) which advocated democratic socialism. In 1932, Ronning ran for Alberta provincial legislative assemblyman as a UFA candidate. During the election campaign, one of his rivals mocked at him, saying that Ronning was born in China and breast-fed by a Chinese, he had got Chinese characteristics. Immediately Ronning fought back, saying that truly he was breast-fed by a Chinese nurse for his mother did not have enough milk to nurse him, and he would feel grateful to the nurse forever. If one who is breast-fed by a Chinese got Chinese characteristics, what characteristics the person who

believes so and is fed on cow milk will have? Finally, Ronning won the election and became the youngest member of the provincial legislative assembly.

In 1942, Ronning was recruited by the army. After the Japanese surrendered in 1945, he was sent to Chongqing by the Canadian Department of External Affairs and worked as first secretary of the Canadian Embassy in China. There, he got to know many leaders of the Chinese Communist Party including Zhou Enlai, Dong Biwu, Wang Bingnan, Zhang Hanfu, Qiao Guanhua, Gong Peng, etc..

After the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, Ronning, then the chargé d’affaires ad interim of the Canadian Embassy, was told to stay in Nanjing and assigned to discuss with Huang Hua, chief of the Foreign Affairs Division of Nanjing Military Control Committee, about establishing diplomatic relations. He proposed to the Canadian Department of External Affairs to immediately give diplomatic recognition to the People’s Republic of China and invalidate its recognition of the Kuomintang government. In his telegraph to the department, Ronning stated, since the CPC was in power, facts showed that China had got a clean government. Corruption was diminishing in Chinese officialdom. The new regime received active support from the majority of the population, and as the general situation was getting better, there would be more supporters. ... The restoration of political, economic and trade relations with Western countries was important to China to solve its economic problems. The earlier the restoration of such relations the better, which would help our efforts to contain Soviet Union’s influence.

The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs replied that, the Cabinet agreed to recognize the People’s Republic of China, but it con-

sidered that it was better to do so after Great Britain's recognition.

In 1950, the Korean War broke out. Since Canada supported the U.N.'s resolution on Korea, the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada was shelved. It was not until October 1979 that the two countries finally established diplomatic ties. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau once said, "We were all very glad to see the establishment of diplomatic ties between Canada and China and the happiest Canadian should be Chester Ronning, the retired diplomat who for years had been tirelessly advocating the recognition of China by the Canadian government."

In May 1961, I met Ronning for the first time when the International Conference on Laos was held in Geneva. China sent a delegation of over a hundred people headed by Chen Yi, vice premier and foreign minister. Some delegates were old friends of Ronning, including Wang Bingnan, Qiao Guanhua, Zhang Hanfu, Gong Peng and Gong Pusheng. As a staff member, I was also involved in the delegation's work while Ronning attended the conference as the head of the Canadian delegation. The Geneva Conference opened on May 16. A week later, Chen Yi entertained Ronning at Huashan Villa where the Chinese delegation stayed and Ronning's old friends including Zhang Hanfu, Qiao Guanhua, Wang Bingnan and Gong Pusheng were present.

The Geneva Conference lasted several months but no agreement was reached. During those days, Ronning paid many visits to the Chinese delegation to exchange views with his friends. I was impressed by the tall and slim scholarly Canadian's sense of humour and his fluent Chinese with a strong Hubei accent. He was proud of being born in Hubei, China, and often cited to the people he met Hubei people's com-

mon saying, "In the sky is the nine-headed bird. On the earth are its equals the Hubei guys."

From 1972 to 1978, I worked for the Chinese Embassy in Canada and had many opportunities to meet with Ronning. Though he had retired for many years, he always tried to attend and spoke on occasions related to China such as celebration of China's National Day, celebration of anniversaries of diplomatic ties between China and Canada, the annual conference of the Canada-China Friendship Association, etc..

In August 1975, I accompanied Ambassador Zhang Wenjing to Ronning's hometown for a visit. He lived in the city of Camrose of the province of Alberta which was the main agricultural area of Canada. In my view, it was actually a small town with a population of less than 20,000. Ronning lived alone in a simple two-storey house with small rooms. On entering the living room of only a dozen square metres, one first noticed that Chinese antiques and handicrafts were found on tables, walls and hanging from the ceilings. A stranger might mistake it for a Chinese antique shop when he came in.

Ronning was 81 years old at the time and enjoyed good health. He could look after himself and cook some Chinese dishes. Sylvia, his oldest daughter who lived nearby often came to see him. As the town had a small population, people knew each other well. His neighbours always came to have a chat and listen to his stories about China, and the old man was not lonely at all.

Before we left, Ronning showed us round the city of Camrose. Small as it was, the city had all kinds of public facilities including hospitals, schools, the old-aged homes and especially several huge granaries, impressively showing the characteristics of the Canadian agricultural area. It was a quiet city without noises of cars or machines. Ronning greeted everyone he came across

which showed he was really popular in this place. He told us that he gave Camrose a beautiful Chinese name—Meilong Town. It was originally the title of a Peking Opera telling the story about Emperor Zhengde of the Ming Dynasty meeting the beautiful young woman Li Fengjie. This shows Ronning's rich knowledge of Chinese culture.

Ronning came to China four times after he retired. At the first two of his visits, Premier Zhou Enlai met with him. The last time was in 1983 when he was 89. As his health was not as good as before, he missed China even more and often dreamed that he was back in China. Before he made the visit, he summoned his six sons and daughters telling them that he had three last wishes—first, to visit his mother's tomb in Xiangfan of Hubei Province; second, to visit the Dunhuang Caves for which he had longed to see for many years; third, to see the Jiayu Pass, the west end of the Great Wall. At first, there were different opinions. Some worried that their father was too old to take such a long and hazardous journey; others held that they should let him fulfill his dreams. In the end, it was decided that except the youngest son who could not leave his work, six of the family members (including four daughters and the oldest son with his wife) would accompany Ronning to China and celebrate his 90th birthday at his birthplace. Hearing that Ronning decided to visit China again, Wang Bingnan, president of the CPAFFC at the time, sent him an invitation and asked me to look after them and make all necessary preparations.

In mid-October 1983, on a fine day of autumn, Ronning arrived at the Beijing Airport and his two daughters helped him walk down the plane. I welcomed him there. The old man was very excited and hugged me immediately when we met, shouting out in Chinese with his Hubei accent: "Here's back the old Hubei guy!"

I took them to the Friendship Hotel of the CPAFFC and told Ronning that the house had been used by Chiang Kai-shek before 1949. He was so surprised that without taking a rest he had a look at every room. The next day, President Wang Bingnan entertained Ronning and his party at the Great Hall of the People. The last time they met was in 1961 at the Geneva Conference, and after 20 odd years, the reunion was surely very delightful for the two old friends. In his toast, Wang Bingnan said to Ronning, "It is our honour that you revisit China at such an advanced age of 89." Smiling, he replied, "I am not sure if it is an honour that you put me up in the house which used to be the residence of Chiang Kai-shek, your old opponent." Wang burst into laughter saying, "We make such arrangement because you are an old friend of the new as well as the old China." His witty reply aroused laughter among all present.

Ronning numbered his children from one to six and made a roll call before they set off every morning to see to it that no one was absent. Then he would shout in Chinese, "March!"

He stayed in Beijing for 3 days mainly to meet his old friends. After that, I accompanied them to visit other cities. As Ronning had wished, we went to Xi'an, Dunhuang, Jiayu Pass, Lanzhou and Bingling Temple. He was very healthy and vigorous all through the trip and he told us many Chinese stories and puzzles.

While visiting the Dunhuang Caves, the old man looked at the ancient sculptures and mural paintings carefully. He told his children the history of the caves and the stories depicted in the murals like a tour guide. The local staff specially carried a seat for the old man in case he needed to take a rest after climbing up and down. But he preferred to see more and only used it for a few minutes.

The journey ended at Ronning's birthplace

New Zealand Revisited

Shu Zhang, Cai Furu

as kiwifruit (New Zealanders call themselves Kiwis.). Having worked at the Chinese Embassy in New Zealand and stayed in Wellington for three years, we feel an attachment for this country and her sincere and honest people. After leaving New Zealand, we always long to revisit it.

New Zealand, composed of two big islands at the southernmost of the Pacific Ocean, is a beautiful country with an area of 270,000 square kilometres and a population of less than 4 million. Having a vast territory, a sparse population, beautiful natural scenery and being far away from the turmoil of the world, it is reputed as a haven of peace. New Zealand is an agricultural and livestock

farming country. The number of sheep and cattle it has is respectively 25 times and 3 times more than its population, so its cattle and sheep breeding and dairy industry are particularly highly developed. The country also has many kinds of fruits. The Chinese gooseberry introduced from China at the beginning of the last century after improvement has become New Zealand's national fruit known

At last we got a chance. The statue of Rewi Alley sculptured by Lu Bo, a Chinese sculptor, was unveiled in North Shore, Auckland on March 25, 2006. We joined a group sent by the CPAFFC to attend the unveiling ceremony. In our group there were Lu Wanru and Yao Mingyu who once worked at the side of Rewi Alley and Nie Guangtao and Nie Guangpei,

in Xiangfan of Hubei Province. In 1971 and 1975, he came here to pay respect to his mother at her tomb. This time, he was aware that it could be his last visit, so unlike the days before when he was quite lighthearted he became rather silent. On the day of their arrival in Xiangfan, Ronning led his children to the tomb to pay respect, and thus, he realized all his last wishes.

In that evening, the mayor of Xiangfan hosted a grand banquet to celebrate his 90th birthday (his nominal age according to the Chinese traditional way of counting). There were birthday peaches and longevity noodles specially prepared for the celebration and some of his local acquaintances came to express their congratulations. There were also fireworks making his last visit to China end in a warm and happy atmosphere.

After he went back to Camrose, the state of his physical and mental health declined. He could no longer look after himself and soon was sent to a nursing home. On December 31, the last day of 1984, the old man eventually completed his life's journey of 90 years and peacefully left the world. Chinese chargé d'affaires ad interim to Canada attended Ronning's funeral and in his memorial speech, praised him as a "great friend of the Chinese people". Fred Bild, former Canadian ambassador to China, regarded him as "the man who actually devotes all his life to the cause of the Chinese people", while former Canadian prime minister acclaimed him as the "founder of Sino-Canadian friendship".

Written in Beijing in February 2006

adopted sons of Rewi Alley. As they were very much familiar with Rewi Alley, we had more chances to know about him and felt more of this international friend's greatness.

Rewi Alley was a symbol of friendship between New Zealand and China. He came to China in 1927, lived there and made great contributions to the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, War of Liberation and cause of construction until he passed away in 1987. Madame Soong Ching Ling called him "an honest, loyal and dauntless friend of new China". Deng Yingchao praised him "In long years of struggle, he did not fear hardships and devoted all his enthusiasm and energy to the cause of liberation of the Chinese people." On the occasion of celebrating Rewi Alley's 80th birthday, Deng Xiaoping said, "It is not easy for him to consistently do a great deal of work for the Chinese people at the time when we were in great difficulties, when we were doing pioneering work and after we have won victory; therefore, he naturally deserves the Chinese people's respect."

New Zealand established diplomatic relations with China in December 1971. But, long before that, in 1954 New

Zealand friends founded New Zealand-China Friendship Society (NZCFS) and began friendship activities with China to promote understanding of the Chinese people. New Zealand people are honest, live a simple life and treat others sincerely like Chinese farmers and herdsmen. They are particularly friendly with the Chinese people. Wherever we went, we were accorded warm welcome. Our many friends in the NZCFS cherish special friendly feelings towards China. Some of the old members of the NZCFS have thrown their energies of a lifetime into the work of promoting New Zealand-China friendship, winning our admiration from the bottom of our hearts. Though they are advanced in age and feeble, even unable to take part in activities, they are still very concerned about the work of NZCFS, and prize their membership of the NZCFS. As an organization, the NZCFS has not forgotten the contributions made by these old members and made them lifetime honorary members or lifetime honorary secretaries. On March 15, 2006, the Wellington Branch of the NZCFS held its annual meeting. We happened to be in Wellington and were invited to the meeting, at which a seeing-off was given to Gwen Ryan, an old

member of the NZCFS and an old friend of ours, who was to move to Tauranga in northern New Zealand and would become a member of the Tauranga Branch of the NZCFS when she settled there. Two days later, we went to North Palmerston and called on Nancy Goddard, lifetime honorary secretary of the NZCFS. She lived in an old people's home to enjoy her remaining years. When seeing us, she was very happy. Other old people there joined our chat and we were as happy as celebrating a festival. Nancy has been to China many times and was conferred upon the title of Friendship Ambassador by the CPAFFC in 2001. She still has a good memory and is nimble in movement, and asked us to send her regards to her Chinese friends.

The first leg of our visit in New Zealand was Christchurch where Rewi Alley attended school in his early years. Because of Rewi Alley's special relations with China, the city also has special relations with China and formed friendship ties with China's Gansu Province. Christchurch takes pride in Rewi Alley. In the museum there are collections donated by Rewi Alley. In the boy's school where Rewi Alley once attended a stone monument was erected in memory of

him. A park in Hurunui District, 60 kilometres north of Christchurch, is named Rewi Alley Park, where a ginkgo tree planted by Rewi Alley when he visited the district in 1971 is growing strong and sturdy. We visited all these places and were warmly received by the local government officials and people. We specially went to Springfield where Rewi Alley was born, and visited the town's central park where there was a relief sculpture of Rewi Alley and a photo exhibition about Rewi Alley whose life and deeds were told through microphone.

In Christchurch we visited the Rewi Alley Cultural Centre where more than ten teachers and staff under the leadership of Principal Qiangfu Jin conscientiously do a lot of work to help New Zealanders know about Chinese culture, such as publishing periodicals and teaching Chinese language. After returning home, we have received *Rewi Alley Education and Culture Newsletter* they sent.

On March 25, we attended the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Rewi Alley in North Shore, Auckland. The statue was sculptured by Chinese sculptor Lu Bo. Her husband Deng Bangzheng became a painter with the help of Rewi

Alley. Now the couple live in Auckland. The statue is erected in the Rewi Alley Park in North Shore. Over 100 friends of the Auckland Branch of the NZCFS and local people attended the unveiling ceremony presided by mayor of North Shore. A photo exhibition about the life and work of Rewi Alley was held on the spot. The staff of the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland also attended the ceremony. We talked about the development of New Zealand-China relations in recent years, Rewi Alley's contributions to the friendship between the New Zealand and Chinese people. An overseas Chinese traditional instruments orchestra gave performance to liven things up. On the evening of that day the Auckland Branch of the NZCFS held a reception to entertain us and a Chinese delegation that came to study education in New Zealand. Margaret Cooper, national president of the NZCFS, was also present at the reception.

H. Nyarene Masson (Chinese name Li Ming), a member of the NZCFS at the advanced age of 81, invited us to a tea party at her home. She volunteered to teach in Shandan in 1947 and has a deep affection for China. George Hogg was the then principal of the Shandan

School, and later passed away in China. At her home I saw the book *I Have Seen New China* written by George Hogg. The book was published by the China Society for People's Friendship Studies the year before last as one of the *Light of China Series*. It's a pity that it has not yet been translated into Chinese.

Invited by Derek Challis and his wife Ellyne, friends of Nie Guangpei, we visited them at their house in Waitakere, a forest area about 50 kilometres north of Auckland. Their house is in the forest. From outside we could not see any houses, only a small path leading there. Many New Zealanders live in the depths of the forest, but their houses are equipped with modern facilities. There was not a speck of dust on the thick carpet, and it was quiet and comfortable in their house. They really know how to enjoy life. Mr. and Mrs. Challis took us to the Waitakere Forest Park where we saw the Kauri tree which had grown there over 1,000 years. It was so thick that even 5 or 6 persons were unable to encircle it with their arms. Mr. Challis, a botanist, taught us how to tell Ponga, the New Zealand's national tree, from Wheke, an ordinary kind of pteridophyte, for their leaves look similar.

Having got acquainted with

Mr. Challis, we came to know his friendship with China. He has written *The Book of Iris, A life of Robin Hyde*, giving an account of his mother's life. His mother Iris Wilkison (1906-1939) was a New Zealand journalist who had been to China to gather news. Her Chinese name was Wei Airui and pen name Robin Hyde. When she came to China to cover the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in the 1930s, she was unfortunately arrested in Xuzhou by the Japanese army, and later was rescued by the Chinese an-

ti-Japanese forces. Then she went to Britain and not long after she suffered from depression and passed away in 1939. Mr. and Mrs. Challis long to visit China, particularly Xuzhou.

Our visit to NZ left some impressions on me. New Zealand attaches great importance to the protection of natural environment and never carries out development for short-term success and quick profits at the cost of environment. It would rather slow down the speed of development than destroy any plants and trees; therefore, the environment of

the whole country is very beautiful with green hills and clear waters. New Zealand values all historical remains, and even tries every possible way to preserve the small buildings less than 100 years old on Rewi Alley's farm. In New Zealand there is not much difference between city and country. Everywhere, whether it is a pasture or a factory, is clean and tidy without any pollution. People like to live in the "countryside". Hence, the cities are not crowded. The difference between mental and physical labour also seems to have disappeared. The

(Continued from p.20)

the delegation paid an official call on Ikuo Hirayama, president of the Japan-China Friendship Association, president of the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and goodwill ambassador of the UNESCO. Ikuo Hirayama has dedicated himself to the cause of Japan-China friendship for a long time and is a famous painter who first introduced China's Silk Road culture to Japan. In September 2002, the Chinese Government awarded him "the Prize for Contribution to Cultural Exchanges". He always holds, "Though with the changes of the times Japanese culture has formed its own characteristics, every Japanese knows that Japanese and Chinese cultures are of the same origin. That is why the Japanese have the feeling of returning home when they visit Dunhuang and Xi'an." Ikuo Hirayama said, the delegation's visit to Japan has played a positive role in promoting exchanges and friendly contacts between the two peoples, particularly in enhanc-

ing the Japanese people's understanding of Dunhuang which has a profound significance and values.

At the meetings advertising Dunhuang's Tourism held in Tokyo and Seoul, many Japanese and Korean representatives from the tourist industry, the press and airline companies were present. Mayor Sun Yulong introduced Dunhuang's tourist products. He said, Dunhuang's development needs care, support and help from friends at home and abroad. Our visit to Japan and the ROK has given us a good opportunity to study, and have exchanges with Japanese and Korean friends. The purpose of these meetings is to let the friends from the tourist and press circles know more about Dunhuang. We warmly welcome friends from various circles to visit Dunhuang, make investments and seek common development. The meetings attracted attention among people of various circles and effectively publicized Dunhuang. □

Delegation of Datong City Visits Its Japanese Friendship City Omuta

Ni Yuan

The year 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of twinning friendship-city ties between Datong, Shanxi Province and Omuta, Japan. A goodwill delegation of the Datong Municipal Government paid a visit to Omuta and participated in a series of celebration activities.

The two cities reached agreement on the programme of friendly exchanges in 2007, and decided to continue exchanges and cooperation in the technology of environmental protection, and through exchanging information and research findings they hoped to raise the level of environmental protection and improve the quality of environment. They also decided to continue their friendly exchanges in urban gardening and greening and

cherry tree planting.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the friendship ties between the two cities, a photo exhibition about Datong City and a Datong coal exhibition were held in the Omuta Museum of Coal Science. Zhang Fuwen, vice mayor of Datong, and Nichio Koga, mayor of Omuta, jointly inaugurated the exhibitions.

The Datong delegation attended the dinner party and the ceremony in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of friendship ties between the two cities. In his speech, Vice Mayor Zhang Fuwen recalled the achievements of friendly exchanges between the two cities in the past 25 years, and on behalf of the Datong citizens, expressed

his best regards to the citizens of Omuta and his aspiration of promoting friendly exchanges between the two cities. The celebration was carried out in an enthusiastic and friendly atmosphere. Personages of various circles present at the celebration said that they would like to visit Datong in 2007 and make contributions to strengthening friendship and exchanges between the two cities. During the dinner party the folk art performing group of Omuta City gave wonderful performances.

The delegation paid official calls on the city governments of Takadamachi and Arao that kept friendly relations with Datong.

friends who received us are professors, experts and scholars. When working at their offices, they are well dressed. When returning home or their own pasture, they change into working clothes, sweep the courtyards, drive tractors, clear away sheep

and cattle droppings and do everything by themselves, just like farmers or herdsmen. They don't regard mental labour as something high and noble, physical labour low and humble. As to civility, in New Zealand we didn't see any un-

sanitary habits such as spitting or littering anywhere, neither saw people push and squeeze nor young people hug in buses and other public places. On the whole, the general quality of the people of New Zealand is high. □

Poems From Geneva

Gu Zixin

A Three-legged Chair in Geneva*

Standing high, it keeps you in a constant worry
Lest it should fall instantly or turn over any time
Though the hills and lake are as charming as a dream
Yet on its sight, you seem to view a warning of danger

It's always vacant, there's nobody on its seat
With no support around, it often sways in storm
But isn't it just a symbol of the fate of humanity?
Does the world today witness an hour of tranquility?

We are all, in fact, seated on a dangerous chair
Whether it be New York, or cottages in Africa
Don't let greed and hatred grow unbridled
If the chair falls, won't all in all come to ruins?

Think it over, we hurry and scurry day and night
When shall we the three-legged chair put to right?

**On the square leading to the United Nations Building in Geneva, there is a sculpture in the shape of a three-legged chair, symbolizing turmoil in the world, and calling for concern and endeavour from the people of all nations.*

The Lion Monument*

With the head of a broken spear in its left rib
A dying lion painfully lies in a large grotto
Its cross shield and weapon already cast aside
Its eyes half shut, its head pillowing on its mane

Its companions died fighting in battlefields of other lands
In the suburbs of Paris, in front of the Tuileries Palace**
Or, to defend homeland and blue sky of other peoples

They shed blood on the barren mountains of the Alps

Is it a shame to serve as mercenaries because of poverty?
Can it be deemed as an honor to fight bravely out of loyalty?
The lion is groaning and shedding tears, in behalf of a nation

Now, its own household is rated as one of the richest
But still with a broken spear in its body, it lies among flowers
Beside a pond of clear water, and inside the soul of a nation

**In the past, because of poverty, Switzerland exported mercenaries (guardsmen) to various European countries; and they mostly died fighting on battlefields of those countries. In 1821 The Lion Monument was erected in their memory in the Glacier Garden of Lucerne, in the shape of a lion with a broken spear in its body.*

***On August 10, 1792, to protect the French King Louis 16th, 786 Swiss guardsmen all died fighting in the French palace.*

A Linden Tree in Fribourg*

That courier with a linden sprig on his hat fell down and died
When, running all the way fast, he arrived at Fribourg
And when he shouted loudly, "We've won the victory!"
Yet that linden sprig is still alive, growing on his tomb

I've come to the small town to look for that linden tree
And I see it standing straight and luxuriant on civic centre
And the town with castle and church as beautiful as a painting
And a swift river like waterfall flowing into a deep ravine

I then turn to the church square, and see military training**
Soldiers carrying guns and knapsacks are all assembled
And an ancient bronze cannon is roaring in autumn rain

Only by a martial spirit can neutrality and peace be maintained
After five hundred years, that linden tree is still living
Young soldiers set out again to run over green hills and valleys

**This story took place on July 22, 1476 during a battle between the Swiss and French armies.*

***In order to honor the memory of this courier who died gloriously, Switzerland holds long-distance running competition in every September in five places of the country, of which the competition in Fribourg is on the largest scale.*