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**Front cover:** The bell-ringing ceremony held by the CPAFFC to mourn for the compatriots who died in the Wenchuan Earthquake, Sichuan (May 19, 2008)

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# Miracles Born of Love

## Our Staff Reporter

Time stopped at 14:28 on May 12, 2008. Wenchuan of Sichuan Province, an unknown small county hidden in the mountains became the centre of attention in China and the world as well. An 8.0-magnitude earthquake struck Wenchuan, ripping open the ground, causing landslides that blocked highways and rivers, collapsing buildings, and sending tremors across the country. This tranquil county town was reduced to ruins in a couple of minutes. The earthquake affected a total area of 410,000 square kilometres including provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Yunnan, and Chongqing Municipality, of which an area of 100,000 square kilometres suffered devastating damages. By June 4, the earthquake has claimed 69,122 lives, injured 373,606 people and 17,991 were still missing. The estimated direct economic loss reached 600 billion yuan (86 billion US dollars).

In face of this unexpected natural calamity, Chinese leaders responded promptly.

At 15:55 on May 12, Chinese President Hu Jintao who is also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee issued an order to make all-out efforts to rescue the injured as soon as possible and ensure the safety of people in the disaster areas.

At 16:40, Premier Wen Jiabao boarded a plane bound for the quake-hit areas. The premier stressed that saving lives should be taken as the top priority during quake relief and that making every effort to save those buried in the rubble by all means and at any cost.

At night, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee convened an emergency meeting. General Secretary Hu Jintao presided over the meeting and the all-round relief work was arranged.

At 21:42, Premier Wen Jiabao was directing relief work in Dujiangyan, one of the worst-hit areas.

In this race against time to rescue those stranded in the rubble, the government's concepts of "putting people first" and "exercising state power for the people" have manifested to the full in the relief work. No one found under the rubbles was abandoned. "As long as there is a slim hope, we will try our best to save everyone buried in the rubble," said President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao time and again. It was this conviction that life is higher than heaven gave hope to those trapped in the rubble; it was this firm determination that soothed the survivors. A kiss on a child's cheek from Hu Jintao, the consoling words from Wen Jiabao at the scene of rescue, cadres at various levels plunging themselves into the most dangerous front of disaster relief, all of which induced unprecedented great strength from the people that quickly turned into action.

In face of this unexpected natural calamity, the army, the armed police, the militia and reserve forces and medical personnel under the unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council rushed to the rescue in the quake-hit areas.

After the earthquake occurred on May 12, an Armed Police Detachment in Beichuan County that had just escaped from the ruins immediately went into the work of rescuing and evacuating local people, becoming the first rescue team in the quake-hit areas.

At 23:15 on May 13, after a forced march of 90 kilometres on the rugged mountain path blocked in many parts by massive landslides, a 200-strong armed police vanguard entered the seat of the Wenchuan County Government, the communications with which had been cut off for over 30 hours.

On May 14, risking their own lives, 15 paratroopers parachuted to Maoxian County from an altitude of 5,000 metres under extremely bad weather conditions.

On May 14, a medical team from Chongqing

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Municipality arrived at Yingxiu Town by boat, becoming the first medical team in the epicentre.

At 21:30 on May 15, under the direction of the Ministry of Transport and the Sichuan Provincial Government, more than 4,000 road repair workers who had worked around the clock for over 70 hours reopened the national highway G317 from Maerkang via Lixian to Wenchuan. It is the first highway, the lifeline, to the epicentre repaired after the massive earthquake.

At 17:30 on May 17, the second lifeline—national highway G213, the southern route from Dujiangyan City to Yingxiu—was reopened. Thus, rescue workers and materials could enter the worst-hit Wenchuan and Beichuan through the two lifelines in an endless stream.

As of June 4, a total of 160,000 rescue personnel have been dispatched to the affected areas.

In so many days and nights after the earthquake, rescuers in green, white and orange uniforms searched laboriously for survivors in the rubble. As long as there was any sign of life, they would not give up their efforts no matter how difficult the rescue might be. The selfless dedication of rescuers touched the hearts of so many grieving survivors who had lost their loved ones. Thanks to their perseverance more and more people escaped death. It is their spirit of daring hardship and fatigue that made miracles of life appear one after another.

After tense and difficult rescuing, He Chenxi, 26 years old, was retrieved from the rubble after being trapped for 104 hours, Li Mingcui, 61, dug out after 164 hours, Wang Youqiong, 61, relieved after 196 hours, Cui Changyou, 35, saved after 216 hours ...

To persist in the rescue effort means saving more lives from the rubble. The total number of survivors helped out of the rubble reached 6,541.

In face of this unexpected natural calamity, the hearts of the people of the whole country were linked closely together. Everyone donated money or materials showing concern, care and love for the compatriots in the disaster areas.

On May 18, at *Dedication of Love*, a fund-raising event jointly sponsored by the publicity and cultural circles, representatives of the performing artists, sportsmen, calligraphers, opera singers and writers went up the stage to make donations to the disaster

areas and many from the business circles also joined in. A total sum of 1.514 billion yuan was raised at the event.

On May 30, *In the Name of Life*, a special concert to pay tribute to the relief workers of the earthquake, was held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. More than 60 well-known singers and performers took part in the show, hoping to help relieve the pain of those traumatized survivors with their performance.

By June 4, China had received donations worth 38.972 billion yuan in cash or materials for earthquake relief from all social strata in the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and the Chinese communities across the world.

Sharing weal and woe, the people of the whole country are united as one. Everyone contributes his/her bit to the relief efforts. The Chinese all over the world—old and young, able-bodied and disabled, from the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, or residing in other countries—all extended a helping hand. They donated money, relief material as well as their blood. At this moment of disaster, all did their utmost, rich or poor making no difference. All this testifies that blood is thicker than water.

On May 19, a week after the devastating earthquake hit Wenchuan, flags flew at half mast and public entertainment was suspended all over China as the country began a three-day mourning period for the victims who had lost their lives in the quake. This is the first national mourning ever held for victims of natural disasters since the People's Republic was founded in 1949. At 14:28, the people of China stood for three minutes in silent tribute to the tens of thousands died in the Wenchuan earthquake while sirens, car, train and ship horns wailed in grief. It was the most grand and solemn mourning ceremony, at which the people of the whole country expressed their deepest sorrow for their dead compatriots. May the dead rest in peace and the survivors stand firm!

After the earthquake occurred, emergence aids and assistance flowed into China from various countries, regions and world organizations in a steady stream. The Chinese Government for the first time welcomed all forms of assistance and aids from the international community.

After the earthquake struck, rescue teams from Japan, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and Russia

# Love Shown by People of the World In Face of Calamities

## —On CPAFFC's Earthquake Relief Efforts

**Geng Zifeng**

Up to 12:00, May 31, the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that jolted Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province had left 68,977 people dead, 367,854 injured and 17,974 missing. The total number of people affected by the earthquake reached 45,547,565. The earthquake brought grave damages to the infrastructural facilities, cutting off road communications and electricity and water supplies and leveling almost all the buildings in the affected areas. This is the biggest casualty China has suffered in the past 30 years since reform and opening up.

This sudden natural disaster drew keenest attention of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council, and gripped the hearts of the people of all ethnic groups in China, China's friends in various countries as well as all the staff of the CPAFFC. The CPAFFC immediately set up a leading group to direct its earthquake relief work. It collected donations among its staff for the quake-hit regions. While receiving messages of condolences from international friendship organizations and personages, it provided

information on China's relief efforts to win international assistance. It did its best to collect material most needed in the quake-hit areas, and organized its staff to observe the national mourning at its compound. Through what it has done, the CPAFFC has demonstrated to the compatriots in the quake-affected areas that in face of calamities they are not alone and that under the firm leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, with the assistance and support of the people the world over and the efforts made by the

as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan regions rushed to the worst-hit areas to help save more lives. Medical teams from Japan, Russia, Italy, Cuba, the U.K., Germany, Pakistan and Indonesia successively arrived in the devastated areas to provide the most needed medical services. As of June 4, these medical teams had given treatment to over 6,400 people injured in the earthquake and performed 386 operations.

Up to June 4, 166 countries and 16 international organizations had provided aids and assistance to China, of which 3.555 billion yuan in cash and 1.154 billion yuan worth of various relief materials.

In time of ultimate crisis or challenges from nature, compassion makes all the differences people may have such as race, social system, ideology, etc. irrelevant; kindness and sympathy prevail. The strength of a pair of hands is limited, but all hands

joining together will produce indestructible strength. Confronted with natural calamities, people of different skin colours, races, social systems and ideologies should stand together, for we live on the same earth, breathe the same air and share the same sunshine.

The trauma caused by earthquake may not be healed in a short time, nor the reconstruction of the quake-destroyed villages, towns and cities. And the survivors will never see their loved ones died in the quake. But we believe there will be a rainbow after the storm and a future filled with joy and happiness, because in the rescue and relief efforts of this devastating disaster, we have seen the great love in the world, a love that moves all the living souls and gives the greatest solace to the victims. This love has convinced us that miracles can be created by those who are courageous, persevering and united. □

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people of the whole country including comrades in the CPAFFC, a total victory in earthquake relief will surely be achieved.

### Setting Up Relief Work Leading Group

After the earthquake struck, the Executive Committee of the CPAFFC National Council gave great importance to it and took prompt action.

President Chen Haosu telephoned Qin Lin, president of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) on the evening of May 12. The line had been cut off by the earthquake. He tried time and again and finally got through on the morning of May 13. President Chen inquired about the damages in Sichuan and expressed solicitude to the comrades of the SIFA. He promised to mobilize all the comrades in the CPAFFC immediately to join the country's relief efforts.

In the meantime, Vice President Li Xiaolin who was on a visit overseas called in, requesting that everyone in the CPAFFC closely follow the situation of the

quake-ravaged areas and provide assistance as required by the overall relief efforts.

At 8:30 on May 13, the Executive Committee convened an emergency meeting, at which a decision was made to allocate 300,000 RMB yuan for disaster relief. The money would be passed to the quake-hit areas through the SIFA.

At 8:45, President Chen Haosu called an emergency meeting of directors and directors general to arrange the work of disaster relief.

After the meeting, the 1st class emergency response plan of the CPAFFC was activated. CPAFFC president headed the earthquake relief leading group and the secretary general, a member of the leading group, led the disaster relief office.

At noon on May 13, a notice to raise money for the quake-affected people was issued.

At 15:00, a day after the massive earthquake, the staff of the CPAFFC donated the first sum of 25,435 yuan to the people in the quake-hit areas.

At 16:00, the CPAFFC sent

a letter of condolences and made a telegraphic transfer of 300,000 yuan to the SIFA.

The disaster relief work carried out in the CPAFFC for just over one day aroused the enthusiasm of all comrades for further relief efforts.

### Mourning for the Quake Victims

May 19 started the first national mourning period announced by the State Council. In that period, the whole country expressed grief over the death of quake victims. To express our deep sorrow, a solemn bell-ringing ceremony was held at the CPAFFC.

At 14:20, all the staff of the CPAFFC gathered around the Peace Bell Pavilion. The ceremony was presided over by CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping. Sim Jae-duck, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, who was in Beijing on a visit, and his party, also attended the ceremony.

All present watched CCTV's live broadcast programme on the relief and rescue efforts at the epi-

**CPAFFC staffers making donations for the earthquake-hit areas**





## United as One in Earthquake Relief Efforts

centre. At 14:28, the staff of the CPAFFC, together with the people throughout China, observed a three-minute silence for those who died in the earthquake. Seven young staffers walked up and struck the bell. The chimes of the bell joined the sound of sirens and car horns reverberating over Beijing to express the profound grief for the victims who died in the earthquake.

In his speech made after the silent tribute, President Chen Haosua expressed condolences over the death of our compatriots in the Wenchuan earthquake and great respect for the commanders and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army and the Armed Police and the medical personnel who were working at the rescue and relief front as well as people across the country who were making arduous relief efforts. President Chen also expressed gratitude to China's foreign friends who rendered us valuable assistance in times of distress and who extended condolences for our compatriots who died in the devastating quake. (Full text of the

speech on p.7)

At the end of the ceremony, a box was placed at the Peace Bell Pavilion to collect money for the earthquake-affected people. CPAFFC staffers lined up in a long queue to put their donations into it.

### More Tents Needed

By May 31, the staffers of the CPAFFC had donated 305,745 yuan and the CPAFFC 335,000 yuan to the quake-hit areas. The CPAFFC had received 137 messages of condolences from friendship organizations and friendly personages in 74 countries and regions. Through the CPAFFC, friendship organizations and personages both at home and abroad had donated money and material reaching a total value of 2,110,500 yuan. In addition, it had also received 2,607 tents of different sizes, medical supplies, blankets, drinking water and other needed material from our friends in various countries. They have let us feel that the sympathy of the world people is the most valuable support.

**Comrades of the CPAFFC's Earthquake-Relief Office carrying tents that will be transported to the quake-hit areas**



On the evening of May 20, the CPAFFC received an extra urgent telegram from the Sichuan Provincial Government. As the relief work was entering a critical phase, 3 million tents were needed in the quake-hit areas to make temporary shelters for people displaced by the earthquake, and at the time the Ministry of Civil Affairs had only 200,000-odd tents at hand for distribution.

There was a shortage of more than 2.7 million tents. What could be done? At this urgent moment, the Sichuan Provincial Government thought of the CPAFFC, through which to seek help from the international community. As one of the major people-to-people organizations in China with a history of 54 years, the CPAFFC has established long-term close friendly relations with 458 friendship organizations in 158 countries and regions in the world and oversees the work of establishing friendship relations between provinces/cities of China and their counterparts in other countries, the number of which has reached more than 1,500 pairs. This is indeed a tremendous resource.

It was the unshirkable duty of the CPAFFC to answer to the request by the Sichuan Provincial Government. Early the next morning, President Chen Haosua called an emergency meeting of director generals to arrange the work of seeking assistance from foreign friendship organizations and friends. In the afternoon, letters and telegrams asking for urgent assistance of relief tents were sent out to various parts of the world.

# Speech by President Chen Haosu at Ceremony Held by CPAFFC on the National Mourning Day

May 19, 2008

Comrades,

A week has passed since the grave Wenchuan earthquake of magnitude 8. Today on the first of the three days of national mourning, together with all the Chinese people, we are mourning for the more than 30,000 victims of the earthquake, and expressing our sincere sympathy and solicitude for our more than 200,000 wounded compatriots, and pay our highest respect to the officers and men of the PLA, the armed police and medical and health staff who are still working courageously on the frontline of disaster relief, as well as people of all walks of life of our country who have made persevering efforts to fight

against the disaster.

The sudden earthquake adds a new catastrophe to the list of miseries the Chinese people has suffered. It gave all of us a shock, but instead of shaking our determination of marching on, it gives us a lesson and encourages us like a baptism which makes us more mature and determined. Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Hu Jintao as general secretary, the entire Communist Party of China, the whole armed forces and all the Chinese people calmly face the disaster and carry out disaster relief quickly and orderly. The entire country is united as one with a common iron will to win victory

Realizing that time was pressing and the international help could not meet the immediate needs of the people in the disaster areas due to long distance, the CPAFFC then sent out its staffers to look for tents in the Beijing markets. They obtained 38 of them. When the tents were carried to the CPAFFC, they were packed with well-wishing words sewn on the wrappings showing care and love from the CPAFFC. The 38 tents left for the quake-hit areas on May 25 in a train loaded together with other relief material Beijing provided for Shifang City.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin was on a visit overseas when the earthquake struck. She closely followed the situation and the relief work in the earthquake-stricken areas. When she

learnt that tents were in urgent need, she immediately contacted Mr. Zhang Xueyuan in the United States, through whom she got the information of a supply of 30 tents. With the enthusiastic help of Hong Kong friends Mr. Lam Kin Chung, Madam Chan Fusheng and Dr. Ho Hau Wong, she soon got the sum of 500,000 Hong Kong dollars (about 60,000 US dollars) needed for the purchase of these tents. The tents were transported to Sichuan by UPS of the United States free of charge. To buy the 30 American military tents, Vice President Li Xiaolin resorted to all her connections from the government departments to charity institutions, logistic companies and even her personal friends. It took less than two days from looking for supply to getting them sent to the

quake-hit areas in Sichuan.

At present, the CPAFFC still receives messages of condolences and relief material from friendship organizations and friendly personages of various countries, who in different forms express their profound sympathy and solicitude for the people in the disaster areas.

**Though 20 days have passed since the earthquake struck Wenchuan, the Earthquake-Relief Office of the CPAFFC is still operating. The staff of the CPAFFC will translate their concern and care for the people in the quake-affected areas into action in their everyday work, take the relief work as a long-term task, and exert persistent efforts till the day of final victory. □**

## United as One in Earthquake Relief Efforts



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the ceremony**

over the disaster, demonstrating to the world the firm, indomitable and heroic spirit of our people. The unity of the Chinese people can conquer all the difficulties and obstacles in our way of progress. We are making wonderful achievements that move the world and feel proud for being sons and daughters of the Chinese nation. Under the leadership of the CPC and the Government, we will stand together with all our people facing various tribulations and striving for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the great success of the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics!

Since the disaster, the Chinese people have received sympathy and support from people of all countries in the world, which reminds us that the Chinese people are not alone in our just cause. The people of China and other countries in the

world are supporting each other; the prospect of common development is most bright. We are grateful to our friends of all countries who have given us valuable help when the disaster falls upon us. We believe this great spirit of solidarity and friendship that transcends various differences and divergence will be powerful enough to push us forward in steady steps towards a bright future.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, as a people-to-people diplomatic organization, has been working hard ever since its establishment to realize the great solidarity of people of the world, enhance people's friendship and safeguard world peace. We will stick to our glorious mission and our aims, and unite with all people of China and the whole world to strive unrelentingly for a better future of China and the world until the day of final victory! □

### **(Continued from p.12)**

Tokunaga; Nanen Kitamuro, president of Hokushi Seal Cutting Society; Masashi Shingu, president of the Hokkaido Association of City Mayors; Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese ambassador to China; R. Bogatyreva and A. Trigubchak, president and vice president of the Ukraine-China Innovation Association; the delegation of the University of Regina, Canada; Constantin Lupeanu, president of the Romanian-Chinese Association for Cultural and

Economic Exchanges; Jin Wen Lin, chairman of the Aus-China Interchange Inc. of Australia; Dr. Zdzislaw Goralczyk, president of the Poland-China Friendship Association; Francois Bognini, president of the Forum of Sino-Burkinan Friendship; Yoshiyasu Sato, acting president of the Japan-China Friendship Association and former Japanese ambassador to China; N. Ivanova, chairperson of the Presidium of Belarusian Society of Friend-

ship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; N. Mizina, secretary general of the Belarusian-Chinese Friendship Society; the Barbados Association of Friendship with China; Alicia Corredera, director general of the Department of Asia-Pacific Affairs of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples; Diogenes Martinez, president of the Paraguayan Association of Friends of the People's Republic of China. □



# International Friendship Organizations and Personages Send Letters of Sympathy to People In Earthquake-hit Areas

**Geng Zifeng**

An earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale hit Wenchuan of Sichuan Province, China at 14:28 on May 12. In terms of its destructive intensity, areas affected and difficulty in rescue, it has been the biggest earthquake ever occurred in China since the founding of the People's Republic.

This unexpected natural disaster received full attention from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, and struck a sympathetic cord in the people of all ethnic groups of China as well as friendship organizations and personages of other countries the world over. Many friendship organizations and personages that have maintained close links with the CPAFFC sent letters of sympathy to the CPAFFC and through it to express their sympathy and solicitude to the people in the disaster areas.

Up to May 31, the CPAFFC has received 137 letters of sympathy from 74 countries and regions. Among them are friendship-with-China organizations engaged in people-to-people diplomacy, world-famous corporations, cultural and art organizations, old friends of the CPAFFC, ordinary farmers ... These letters, full of concern and solicitude and filled with heart-warming and sincere

words, have greatly inspired us and strengthened our resolve to restore production and rebuild our homeland.

Ikuo Hirayama, president of the Japan-China Friendship Association who attended the Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges in Sichuan in 2007, said in his letter that he was very much concerned with the life and safety of the people in Sichuan. He also mentioned the fact that after the earthquake struck, Premier Wen Jiabao immediately set out for the quake-ravaged areas and the spirit of Chinese people united as one to fight against the natural disaster is worthy of esteem.

A few hours after the earthquake, Jebali Ezzeddine, secretary general of the Association of Tunisia-China Friendship, sent a letter of sympathy to the CPAFFC to express their immediate support for the Chinese people in times of great difficulty. He was very concerned about the situation of the quake-hit areas and followed the development closely. He hoped that the loss caused by the disaster could be reduced to the minimum. He was confident that China has the ability to overcome the disaster.

In his letter, Peter Woods, secretary general of the Asia-Pacific Regional Section of United Cities and Local Governments (U-

CLG ASPAC), said: "On behalf of UCLG ASPAC and local authorities in the region, I am sure our many and diverse members would like to express their sympathy with the communities affected, and offer their thoughts and prayers to those who suffer due to the earthquake." He also expressed the confidence that the Chinese Government and people will be resolute in their actions to assist the affected population.

Karl-Heinz Gass, a German friend who has received the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC, said in his letter, this unexpected earthquake has brought great misfortune to the people in Sichuan and to the whole of China. It has caused unpredictable damages and tremendous economic losses. The most urgent task at the moment is to take every measure to provide assistance to those innocent people fallen into great difficulty.

In his letter to the China-ROK Friendship Association President Luo Haocai, Park Sam-koo, president of Korea-China Friendship Association of the Republic of Korea, wrote, in the long history the Chinese people have gone through trials and tribulations and have always reemerged. He expressed the belief that this time they would sure-

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ly win victory over the disaster and elevate themselves to a high level.

In the message signed by all the family members of the late Japanese friend Kinkazu Saionji, they expressed profound condolences for the victims died in the earthquake and sincere solicitude to the families and friends of the affected people. They said that the Chinese people have battled against countless difficulties up to now, overcome them and won independence, stability and prosperity of their motherland. They are convinced that through the test of earthquake the Chinese people will be more united. They wished from the bottom of their hearts that life in the quake-affected areas will return to normal at an early date and the Beijing Olympic Games will be a full success.

Alfred Bobson Sesay, chairman of the Sierra Leone-China Friendship Society, extended sympathy and solicitude to the Chinese people on behalf of the Executive, Management, Staff and membership of the Society. He wrote: "We particularly extend our deepest sorrow to the bereaved families as they mourn the untimely departure of their loved ones, and to those innocent and unsuspecting victims who met their death. We also pray that never will this happen again in the history of the People's Republic of China!"

Kozo Ito, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japan Iskra Industry Company Ltd., said in his message to the China-Japan Friendship Association, "Though we live in Japan far from the earthquake-stricken areas, we still

worry about the people in the quake-affected areas. To support the relief efforts, we have started full scale fund raising in various forms in Japan... What we have contributed to the relief efforts is limited and it is not enough to show our concern for the affected people. We are deeply honoured to be able to do our bit for the relief efforts."

Bill Willmott, former national president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society who was visiting China at the time, was just on his way to the airport in Guilin to take a flight to Chengdu on May 12 when the earthquake rocked Wenchuan. Therefore, he felt the tragedy all the more real and shocking. In his letter to the CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, he extended his gratitude to the CPAFFC for its quick and timely adjustment of his itinerary. He hoped to give his sincere solicitude to the people in the quake-stricken areas through the CPAFFC. At the same time, he was also inspired by the rapid and effective rescue and relief efforts by the Chinese Government and the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

In his letter to CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, Toshinobu Kawagoe, executive director of Japan Broadcasting Services, said: "Seeing scenes of the earthquake-ravaged villages, towns and cities on TV every day, I can not utter a word, feeling only sorrow and pain in my heart. Thirteen years ago (1995), we suffered the same grave damages caused by the Osaka-Kobe earthquake. Thus we know exactly how horrifying an earthquake can be and the pain

brought by the disaster... Thinking of the difficulties and hardship then and severe suffering your people are experiencing now, I feel all the more heart breaking... I wish, from the bottom of my heart, full success of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Beijing Paralympics, which will give encouragement to the people in the earthquake-affected areas."

These words of affection, sympathy and encouragement and best wishes show the profound friendly feelings the friendship organizations and personages cherish for the people in the quake-affected areas. We believe that with the care, support, solicitude and blessings of the people of the world we will achieve a total victory in our earthquake relief work.

Up to May 31, friendship organizations and personages in other countries that have sent message of sympathy to the CPAFFC include: Takashi Tsujii, president of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association; Francisco Ribes, president of the Valencia-China Friendship Association of Spain; Jesus Osuna Sanz, president of the Spain-China Friendship Association; Bayardo Arce, adviser to the Nicaraguan President and president of the Nicaraguan Association of Friendship with the People's Republic of China and Her People; Pierre-Claver Ndayiragije, president of the Sino-Burundian Friendship Association; Korn Dabbaransi, president of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association; Jebali Ezzeddine, secretary general of the Massoud Daher, president of the Lebanese-Chinese

## United as One in Earthquake Relief Efforts

League for Friendship and Cooperation; the Sinota Friendship Association of Tanzania; Mohammed Saeid Bekheitan, president of the Syria-China Friendship Association; Jacques Law-ye, Association des Commerçants, Chefs d'Entreprises et Cadres Chinois de la Reunion; Ikuo Hirayama, president of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA); Akio Tanii, president of the Osaka Prefecture JCFA; Tetsuo Kando, president of the Tokyo Metropolitan JCFA; Mitsuyuki Nagao and Yoshitaka Tanaka, president and director general of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCP); Shoichi Ide, president of the Nagano Prefecture JCFA; Fumio Ueda, mayor of Sapporo; Yuzan Fujita, governor of Hiroshima; Okitsugu Nieda, chairman of Tokokosen Corp. of Japan; S. Hadzic, secretary general of the Society of Friendship of the People's Republic of China and Republic of Montenegro; Alain Caporossi, secretary general of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations; Peter Woods, secretary general of the Asia-Pacific Regional Section of United Cities and Local Governments; Mikhail Titarenko, president of the Russia-China Friendship Association; N. Popov, president of the Federation for Bulgarian-Chinese Friendship; Alain Roy, secretary general of the Connaissance de la Chine Lausanne of Switzerland; Inaki Aguirre, secretary general for external action of Basque government of Spain; Kemal Baytas, president of the Turkey-China Friendship Association; Lee Si Young, chairman of Korean Cultural Exchange Foundation, Inc.;

Tan Sri Law Hieng Ding, honorary life president of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association; Salim Sabah Sarai, president of the Iraq-China Friendship Association; Ahad Mohammadi, president of the Iran-China Friendship Society; Balraj Singh Shergill, president of Friends of China Association of India; Indrananda Abeysekera, president of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation; Karim Deme, vice president of the Forum of Sino-Burkinan Friendship; Hideo Watanabe, member of the Japanese House of Councillors; Tetsuo Sakai, president of the Fukui Prefecture JCFA; Yoshio Nakadaï, president of the Yotsukaidoshi JCFA and all its members; the family of the late Japanese friend Kinkazu Saionji; Tatsumi Murakami, director general of the Japan-China Friendship Centre; Norihisa Satake, president of the Japan Association of City Mayors; Gian Franco Terenzi, president of San Marino-China Friendship Association; Manuel Colomina of the Supreme Council of Sports of Spain; the Austria-China Friendship Association; the Secours Populaire Français; Elisabeth Gateau, secretary general of United Cities and Local Governments; Oscar Vega Lopez, president of the Bolivian Society of Friends of China; Ximena Barrientos, president of the Bolivia-China Chamber; Ninfa Marin, vice president of the Association of Venezuela-China Friendship; Leonard C. Johanns, president of the Suriname-China Friendship Association; Jorge Mondal Chew, president of Chinese-Guatemalan

Chamber of Culture, Commerce and Industry; Mario Murillo, president of the House of Costa Rica-China Friendship; Natsagiin Jantsannorov and Menerliin Chimedtseye, president and secretary general of the Mongolia-China Friendship Association; Park Sam-koo, president of Korea-China Friendship Association and Kumho Asiana Group of the Republic of Korea; Mumtaz Hussain Shah, secretary general of the All Pakistan-China Friendship Association; Dr. Puneet Goyal, leader of Indian Doctors of the China-India Joint Medical Mission; S. A. Sikder, secretary general of Bangladesh China People's Friendship Association; Yao Bloua Agbo, president of the Association of Sino-Togolese Friendship; Dr. Bosaykham Vongdara, president of the Lao-Chinese Friendship Association; Kazuo Inamori, honorary president of Kyocera Corporation of Japan; Wataru Aso, president of the Japan National Governors' Association; Japanese farmer Yoshikazu Nagahama; Maj. Gen. Mannuel Joaquim A. Maria Gonçalves, president of the League of Portugal-China Lasting Friendship; Edmond Pele, president of the Atlantic-China Association of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations (FFCA); Cesare Romiti, president of the Italy-China Foundation; Daniel Bedos, director of the Spring of Comedians of France; Arlette Laramas, president of the Lyon-China Association of the FFCA; Jean-Claude Levy, special adviser to the representative for external action of local authorities of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of

## United as One in Earthquake Relief Efforts

France; Bill Willmott, former president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society; Oyden Ortega Duran, president of the Panamanian Association of Friendship with China; Jose Jacinto Barraza, president of Rosario Institute of Argentine-Chinese Friendship; Alfred Bobson Sesay, chairman of the Sierra Leone-China Friendship Society; the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the Korea-China Friendship Association of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Jean Paul Neyer Anguile, secretary general of the Gabon-China Friendship Association; Lucien Rabarijohn, president of Madagascar-China Friendship Association; Kozo Ito, president of the Japan Iskra Industry Company Ltd.; Akira Shinoda, mayor of Nigata of Japan; Michihiro Kayama, president of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations of Japan; S. Guliamov and Z. Abidov, chairman and vice chairman of the Council of Friendship Societies and Cultural-Enlightening Relations with Foreign Countries of Uzbekistan; Mrs. Ulla Bekel of the Beijing Office of Hanns-Seidel Foundation; P. Kreitzberg, chairman of Estonian-Chinese Union; V. Evlanov, mayor of Krasnodar of Russia; Seiichi Miyamoto of Noto Travel Centre of Japan; Jyo Okada of Sakamoto Juku of Japan; Peng H. Tow, treasurer of the National Council of the Australia-China Friendship Society; Atsushi Igarashi, honorary president of TonTon Art Cultural Society of Japan and all its members; the

Foreign Affairs Office of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Tamara Yaron, secretary of the Council for the Promotion of Israel-China Relations; Alain Labat, president of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations; the Cultural and Industrial Centre of Champéry of France; Gerald Beroud, secretary general of Vaud-Shaanxi Association of Switzerland; Milagro Camacho of World Citizen Foundation; Marcellus Widdlef, president of the Association of Haitian-Chinese Friendship; Luddy Setiady, president of the Association for Indonesia-China Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation (AICESCC), West Java and all the members of its Executive and Supervisory Committees; So Tho Hem Ming, president of the AICESCC, Baili and all the members of its Executive and Supervisory Committees; Hon. Absalom Sikosana, president of Zimbabwe-China Friendship Association; A. Maliev, president of the Union of Kyrgyz Societies for Friendship and Cooperation with Foreign Countries; Hans Uli Aman, former president of the Switzerland-China Association; Vasily I. Zhukov, first vice president of the Russia-China Friendship Association and rector of the Russian State Social University; Kjetil Krane, president of the Norway-China Association; A. Salihbaev, vice foreign minister of Uzbekistan; the Foreign Affairs Department of Community of Towns of Lille, France; Dr. Rainer Gepperth, deputy secretary general of Hanns-Seidel Foundation of Germany; Andrija Karafilipovic, president of Croatian-Chi-

nese Friendship Society; Kadir Topbas, co-president of United Cities and Local Governments and mayor of Istanbul, Turkey; Organization of Latin American Intermediate Governments; Cali Branch of the Colombia-China Friendship Association; Mexican Association of Friendship with China; Nobuhiro Kume, President of NPO RBA International; Toshinobu Kawagoe, executive director of Japan Broadcasting Service for the Disabled Persons; Olafur Egilsson and Arnthor Helgason, chairman and vice chairman of the Icelandic-Chinese Cultural Society; Richard Frey, son of Austrian friend Dr. Richard Frey; Jacques Atlan, vice president of the General Council of Hérault of France; Graciela Gomez de Moreno, executive director of the Association of Colombia-China Friendship Association; Mercosur Chamber of Commerce with China; the Jamaica-China Friendship Association; Danilo Santos, president of the Latin America and Caribbean Federation of Friendship with China; Mrs. Julie Brink, president of the Denmark-China Friendship Association; D. Tsakhilgaan, president of the Union for Peace and Friendship of Mongolia; TongMyong College of the Republic of Korea; Mrs. Louding Lammel-Rath, president of the German-Chinese Friendship Association Leipzig; Mrs. Barbara Harrison, former president of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association and recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador; Eiichi Hisanaga, president of the Japan-China Sousyoku Association; Japanese friend Kimiko

**(Continued on p.8)**



# One World One Love

## —International Friendship Organizations and Individuals Give Aid and Assistance to Earthquake-hit Areas via CPAFFC

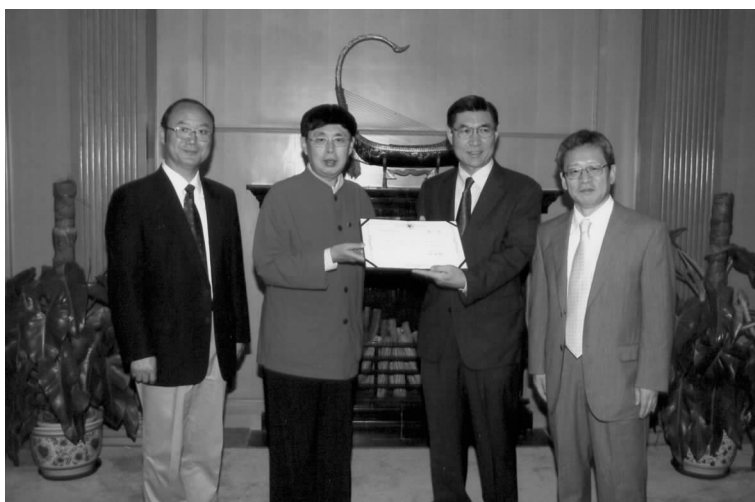
**Geng Zifeng**

In the wake of Wenchuan earthquake, many international friendship organizations and friends extended their helping hands and via the CPAFFC donated money and various relief materials to the people in the earthquake-hit areas. Up to May 31, the CPAFFC has received altogether 606,310 RMB yuan, 24,850 US dollars, 100,500 euros and 3,854,000 Japanese yen, as well as 2,607 relief tents and other materials urgently needed in the devastated areas including medicines and nursing materials, blankets, drinking water, etc.

On May 14, Japanese friends Mr. and Mrs. Shiro Minamimura handed over 100,000 Japanese yen to the CPAFFC, hoping through the association to express their sympathy and solicitude for the people of the disaster areas. This was the first sum of donations from foreign friends that the CPAFFC received.

On May 19, a visiting delegation of state commercial officials of the United States specially came to the CPAFFC to offer their condolences to the victims of the earthquake, and via the association donated a box of medicines and nursing materials. This was the first batch of relief materials donated by international organizations that the CPAFFC received.

France's Hérault Department paid a good deal of attention to the Wenchuan earthquake. Immediately after the quake occurred, it was ready to give aid to the quake-stricken areas. On May 20, the Assembly of Hérault sent the CPAFFC a letter expressing their sympathy, saying that a few days ago it had passed a resolution to donate 100,000 euros to the quake-hit areas via the CPAFFC for the after-quake



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the certificate of donation to Shigenobu Sakashita (R. 1) and Nobuo Ochiai (R. 2), vice presidents of the Shenzhen Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

reconstruction of schools, hospitals and other infrastructures. This is the largest sum of donated money from foreign local governments that the CPAFFC has so far received.

After the CPAFFC sent letters to relevant international friendship organizations and friends seeking help of relief tents on May 21, the friendship organizations and individuals maintaining close contacts with the association replied one after another and through much effort collected a large number of urgently needed tents for the people in the earthquake-affected areas. These tents could be used as classrooms, wards for patients or temporary homes for the survivors, effectively helping solve the urgent problem of temporary relocation of the victims of the earthquake. Many friendship organizations not only donated tents, but also bore the expenses of transporting these tents from their countries to China.

The Japanese SG Holdings Co., Ltd. has always

# A Sad Song of Wenchuan (Two Poems)

Gu Zixin

## Her Little Hand Holding a Pen Is Already Cold

So many scenes are too horrifying to look at  
Again and again eyes are blurred with tears  
One picture especially pains the heart  
A girl student is buried deep in the ruins  
Her little hand holding a pen is already cold

Is this a broken arm? No. It's a tender  
Lotus root, a green bamboo shoot  
But it's crushed now before its growth  
And it's scarred and tainted with blood  
Her little hand holding a pen is already cold

But she's still unwilling to give up  
She's still holding tightly a pen in hand  
Holding her dream, holding the entire world

With her life that has just departed  
Her little hand holding a pen is already cold

With the pen, she paints flowers and butterflies  
With the pen, she does mathematics and writes  
compositions  
And will draw her beautiful hometown  
But the hometown has become a heap of ashes  
Her little hand holding a pen is already cold

Remember her, though you cannot  
See her face, nor her eyes  
Remember every arm that has fallen down  
And every youth that will not blossom  
Her little hand holding a pen is already cold

supported China's reform and opening up and donated 3,000 reconditioned trucks to China's poor areas. Every year it gratis trains car maintenance techni-

cians for China and so far has trained about 200 technicians. When learning that the quake-stricken areas urgently needed tents, the company immediately decided to donate 1,200 tents worth of 600,000 RMB yuan via



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the certificate of donation to German friend Karl-Hein Gass

## There Is Great Love in Humanity

Wenchuan, a place that can hardly be found on a map  
Concentrates the greatest pain, and focuses the greatest love  
For you, compatriots' feelings and humanity's conscience  
Rise high on a sudden, and shine with unusual splendours

In the blood bank, the blood donated almost spills over  
And donations are from billionaires as well as beggars  
To save life, this is a supreme order  
Don't ask: Who I am? Where I come from

Or say who are saviors and who are the saved  
In fact, to save Wenchuan is just to save ourselves  
In the dark, we had long agreement and watching  
I could have no paradise, if you were in hell

The tiny globe is illumined by myriads of praying candles  
Wenchuan has become a vocabulary in different languages  
We thank rich countries for their helicopters and field hospitals  
But the donation of poor small nations is even more touching

Calamity is equal; calamity has no boundary  
Before nature, anyone is so weak and helpless  
Yet Wenchuan has confidence, so does China, and the world  
Though nature's cruel sometimes, there's great love in humanity

the CPAFFC to the disaster areas. The donation expressed the company's and all its staffers' affirmation of the friendly cooperation of more than 20 years with the CPAFFC, their friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people and care for the victims of the disaster areas.

Karl-Hein Gass, a German friend and recipient of the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador, showed great care for the people in the earthquake-hit areas, particularly the children who had lost their parents and homes. On May 27, he called on CPAFFC President Chen Haosu. He said, when seeing on the TV the people in the Sichuan earthquake-affected areas suffering terribly, he felt so sad as if his own loved ones were suffering; particularly those children victims who could become future pillars for the development and construction of China's

western region. Mr. Gass, though not well off, donated 2,000 US dollars, his two months' pension, hoping that the CPAFFC would help him send the money to the disaster-hit areas for the reconstruction of schools. Besides, with his help, the German Lufthansa gratis airlifted a total of 70 tons of tents from Germany and its surrounding countries to China.

The international friendship organizations and friends rendered their most precious aid and assistance to China's rescue and relief efforts and after-quake reconstruction, and gave the people there fighting will and confidence in self-reliance to prevail over the disaster. We believe that with their selfless aid and great support, the people of Sichuan will definitely restore production and rebuild their homeland early. □

# Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition Held in Beijing

**Guan Yong, Zhang Zhenxing**

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, the Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition jointly sponsored by the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), the China International Culture Association (CICA) and the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), was held in the National Art Museum of China from April 17 to 26. At the invitation of the CJFA, Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese prime minister, and Ikuo Hirayama, president of the JCFA and famous painter, who led a delegation of over 200 people of various circles, paid a visit to China to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition and take part in the relevant activities from April 16 to 20.

On the afternoon of April 17, Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese

People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and met with Tomiichi Murayama and his party. Sun Jiazheng, vice chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC; Song Jian, president of the CJFA; Cai Wu, minister of culture; Wu Dawei, vice foreign minister; Zheng Xinmiao, vice minister of culture; Liu Deyou, executive vice president of the CICA; Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC and the CJFA; Shan Jixiang, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage; Jin Shangyi, president of the Chinese Artists Association; Fan Di'an, curator of the National Art Museum of China, and Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese ambassador to China, were present on the occasion.

CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin expressed his congratula-

tions on the opening of the Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition in Beijing and spoke highly of the contributions made by Tomiichi Murayama and other Japanese friends to the development of China-Japan friendly relations. Jia said, China and Japan have a long history of friendly contacts, and cultural and art exchanges have played an important role in promoting friendship between the Chinese and Japanese people. The current bilateral relationship as a whole is gaining momentum and facing a new opportunity for development. He stressed, to develop long-term stable China-Japan good neighbourly cooperative relationship is the common aspiration of the people of the two countries and conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples.

Tomiichi Murayama expressed his thanks to Chairman



**Jia Qinglin, chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese prime minister, and other Chinese and Japanese distinguished guests cutting the ribbon for the opening of the Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition**



Front row from left: CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, JCFA President Ikuo Hirayama, former State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei at the ceremony, at which Ikuo Hirayama donates his painting to the Diaoyutai State Guest House



Jia Qinglin for attending the opening ceremony. He said, Ikuo Hirayama is a renowned artist and has created quite a great number of excellent art works about the long history of cultural exchanges between Japan and China. This exhibition held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty and on the eve of the upcoming President Hu Jintao's state visit to Japan is of special significance. He expressed his belief that the exhibition would enhance bilateral cultural exchanges and contribute to the building of Japan-China strategic mutually beneficial relationship.

After the meeting, Chairman Jia attended the opening ceremony and cut the ribbon. Song Jian, on behalf of the Chinese sponsors, spoke highly of Ikuo Hirayama's brilliant artistic talent and lofty spirit of pursuing truth, loving peace and persistence in achieving high artistic attainments. Song said he was sure that the exhibition would achieve a full success and play a positive role in strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two

countries and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

After the opening ceremony, Chairman Jia accompanied by Ikuo Hirayama visited the exhibition with great interest. Over 600 Chinese and Japanese people of various circles were present at the opening ceremony.

In the evening a reception in celebration of the opening of the Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition and the publication of the Chinese version of Hirayama's book *The Age-Old Long River My Personal Experience of East-West Cultural Exchange* was held at the Great Hall of the People.

On the morning of April 18, a ceremony was held in the Diaoyutai State Guest House, at which Ikuo Hirayama donated his painting *Horyuji Temple in Nara Bathed in the Morning Sun* to the State Guest House. former State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, CPAFFC Vice Presidents Li Xiaolin and Jing Dunquan as well as Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka and Ikuo Hiraya-

ma attended the ceremony.

On the afternoon of April 18, Xi Jinping, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Political Bureau and Chinese vice president, met with Tomiichi Murayama, Ikuo Hirayama and the delegation they led. Vice President Xi expressed his congratulations on the opening of Ikuo Hirayama Painting Exhibition in Beijing and appreciation of the long-term efforts and contributions made by Tomiichi Murayama and other Japanese friends to the development of Sino-Japanese friendly relations. Xi said, in recent years the leaders of the two countries have made successful "ice-breaking" "ice-thawing" and "spring-heralding" visits to each other's country. Sino-Japanese relationship is facing a new opportunity for development. The two sides should make concerted efforts and seize the favourable opportunity to further strengthen mutual political trust, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and build and improve mechanisms in various areas so as to push the Sino-Japanese good-neighbourly cooperative relationship to a new height. □

# Bahamas Deputy Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes Visits China

**Ba Cuicui**

From March 29 to April 7, Sir Arthur Alexander Foulkes, deputy Governor General of the Bahamas and director of Bahamas Information Services, visited Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai with his wife and assistant at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Uyunqing met with him.

In her conversation with Sir Arthur Foulkes, Vice Chairperson Uyunqing highly appraised the development of friendly ties between China and the Bahamas since the two countries established diplomatic relations eleven years ago. She said, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two sides have grown steadily over the years and political mutual trust has been enhanced. She expressed appreciation of the Bahamian government for adhering to the One-China principle and the wish to further improve bilateral relations and friendship under the principles of treating each other as equals, enhancing friendship and expanding cooperation.

At their meetings with Sir Arthur Foulkes, both Vice Foreign Minister Li Jinzhang and CPAFFC

President Chen Haosu expressed their gratitude to him for his long consistent support for and contribution to promoting friendship and cooperation between the two countries. They also spoke highly of the Bahamian government's consistent stand on no official or semi-official relations with Taiwan.

Sir Arthur Foulkes said he was pleased to see the bilateral relationship between the Bahamas and China developing very well. He said that the Bahamian people cherish profound friendly feelings towards China and admire the great achievements that China has made in recent years in the economic, political and diplomatic fronts. The Bahamas is grateful to China for aiding it with the construction of the National Stadium. He believed that the bilateral relations will become closer in the future.

Sir Arthur Foulkes reiterated that the Bahamian government will continue to adhere to the One-China principle. He believed that different nations should respect each other's sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. Most countries in the Caribbean region regard China as a friend and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has consensus on the One-China principle. China is a true friend of the Ba-



Uyunqing (L.5), vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, meeting with Bahamas Deputy Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes (L.4) and his party

# Second Congress of China-EU Association Held

## Our Staff Reporter

On May 12, the Second Congress of the China-EU Association (CEUA) was held in Beijing. Chen Haosu, president of the CEUA and the CPAFFC, council members and representatives of group members of the CEUA from all circles of society, totaling nearly 160, attended the congress presided over by Vice President Li Jianping.

The Congress consists of a plenary session and a council meeting. President Chen Haosu made a work report on the plenary session, in which he made an analysis of the current situations and looked into the prospect of China-EU relations. In the report he reviewed the progress of various work of the CEUA and its activities held in the past six years. The report affirmed all the efforts made by the CEUA to enhance social recognition, perfect its rules and regulations and working mechanism, establish project platforms for promoting substantial exchanges and cooperation, and proposed the framework of work for its second council. He Jifeng, director general of the Department of European and Asian Affairs of the CPAFFC, briefed on the re-election of the second council of the

CEUA and put forth for examination by the congress the name lists of members of the second CEUA council and candidate-leaders of the second council, the draft of the amended CEUA Statutes and the regulation on the handling of financial support received from society. The work report by the president and the draft of the amended CEUA Statutes were approved at the plenary session.

At the second council meeting, the new leadership of the CEUA was elected. He Luli, former vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, was the honorary president of the CEUA; Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, was elected president; Li Xiaolin, Li Jianping, Wang Hongjian, Zhou Hong, Lan Weiban, Zheng Quan, Hao Ping, Feng Jun, Shu Xiaofeng, Wu Zhenmian and Meng Xiaosu vice presidents, and He Jifeng secretary general. The Regulation on Handling Financial Support CEUA Receives from Society was approved at the meeting. Secretary General He Jifeng, in his briefing on the work plan of the second council, proposed to better use various resources, improve the structure of the organi-

zation, open up new sources of financial support for holding activities, strengthen construction of working units, establish, if possible, the system of holding annual meeting so as to upgrade the CEUA's function, expand its influence in society, keep close communication with the EU and the institutions of EU members in China. The work plan got favourable response from the council members and was thoroughly discussed at the meeting. They put forward a lot of ideas and suggestions on direction, contents and forms of future work.

In the evening, a reception was held to celebrate the success of the council meeting. Present were He Luli, honorary president of the CEUA, Chen Haosu, president of the CEUA, Dr. Michael Pulch, deputy head of the Delegation of the European Commission to China, French and Romanian ambassadors, diplomats from embassies of Spain, Czech, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, Ireland, Bulgaria, Malta, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary and Estonia, and vice presidents and council members of the CEUA. He Luli, Dr. Michael Pulch and Chen Haosu made speeches at the reception. □

hamas and China's development is beneficial to the Bahamas and the whole Caribbean region. Sir Arthur Foulkes expressed his hope that the two countries would strengthen cooperation in media, tourism, trade and other fields.

Sir Arthur Foulkes called on the Shanghai World Expo Coordination Bureau. He said that after returning from this trip, he would discuss the Bahamas' participation in the Shanghai World Expo

with the prime minister and the newly-appointed Bahamian Ambassador to China.

Sir Arthur Foulkes together with others founded the Bahamas-China Friendship Association in 2004 and has served as its vice president. During this visit, he expressed his hope that the Bahamas-China Friendship Association and the CPAFFC would strengthen cooperation and academic, cultural and educational exchanges. □

# EU Climate Change Exhibition Held

**Zhang Ruoning**

On April 25, the CPAFFC, the China-EU Association (CEUA) and the Delegation of the European Commission to China jointly held the opening ceremony for the EU Exhibition on Climate Change in the CPAFFC.

He Luli, former vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee and honorary president of the CEUA, Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, and Li Jianping, vice president of the CPAFFC, attended the opening ceremony and made speeches. Honorary President He Luli highly praised the achievements made by China and the EU in their longtime cooperation of mutual benefits in various fields including environmental protection. She said, for many years China and EU have both committed to the development of all-round strategic partnership and establishment of a multi-level mechanism of political dialogue. She expressed, with increasing enthusiasm the CEUA would continue to actively carry out nongovernmental exchanges between China and the EU, and promote cooperation between the two sides in the fields of economy, society, environmental protection, science and technology, culture, etc.

In his speech, President Barroso said the climate change is one of the most important challenges faced by all humanity. Countries all over the world should work hand in hand to tackle this challenge. The current meeting between the European Commission and China was of great significance. Both sides realized the urgency of the prob-

lem of climate change and we should make clear each other's responsibilities and take measures together. The participation of the CPAFFC in this activity fully expressed China's willingness to cooperate with EU in the regard. He hoped the exhibition would help the Chinese public understand better the issue of climate change.

In his speech, Vice President Li Jianping said, ever since its establishment in 2001, the CEUA has carried out a great deal of meaningful work which has helped enhance the Chinese public's understanding of the EU and promote the exchanges and cooperation in various fields between China and the EU. We would continue our active efforts to push forward the development of the relations and friendship between China and the EU.

Honorary President He Luli, President Barroso, Vice President Li Jianping, European Commissioner for External Relations Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to China Serge Abou, and Ambassador Marjan Cencen of Slovenia, country in presidency of the EU Council, together cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony. Representatives from relevant government departments and research institutes, CEUA council members, diplomats from embassies of EU member countries, personages of the economic and trade circles and Chinese and foreign media, totaling about 150, were present at the opening ceremony and viewed the exhibition. □

**European Commission President J. M. Barroso speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition**





# RCISCC Chairperson Eleonora Mitrofanova Visits China

**Chen Lei**

Zhang Meiying, vice chairperson of the CPPCC National Committee, shaking hands warmly with RCISCC Chairperson Eleonora Mitrofanova (left)

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Eleonora Mitrofanova, chairperson of the Russian Centre of International Scientific and Cultural Cooperation (RCISCC), paid a visit to Beijing, Sanya of Hainan Province and Shanghai from March 21 to 30.

The RCISCC has set up its representative offices in 60 countries, including 43 Russian Scientific and Cultural Centres. The RCISCC and its overseas agencies dedicate to publicizing Russia's current situation and reform, its history and cultural heritage. It coordinates and cooperates with the central and local authorities, the Federal Assembly as well as various scientific, cultural and social organizations. It is CPAFFC's important long-term cooperative partner in Russia. Every two years the two sides sign a cooperation plan stipulating the concrete cooperation projects including holding regular forums aiming at promoting economic, trade, scientific, cultural, educational and regional cooperation between China and Russia, sending professional delegations to each other's coun-

try and carrying out commemorative activities.

Zhang Meiying, chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met with the delegation. On March 22, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and RCISCC Chairperson Eleonora Mitrofanova signed the 2008-2009 plan of cooperation between the two organizations. Chen Haosu mentioned, the year 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the founding of the China-Russia Friendship Association. The two sides designated 2009 as the year of Russian language in China and 2010 the year of Chinese language in Russia.

Wang Cheng'an, vice mayor of Sanya, met with Eleonora Mitrofanova and her party. The two sides held that to run a Russian training course in Sanya to raise the local tour guides' language level would help attract more Russian tourists. In the city the Russian guests visited Sanya College of Hainan University. □



# CCAFA President Zhang Deguang Leads Delegation to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

**Lu Aizhen**

A delegation of the China-Central Asia Friendship Association (CCAFA) headed by its president Zhang Deguang paid a goodwill visit to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan from April 8 to 13 at the invitation of the Council of Friendship Societies and Cultural-Enlightening Relations with Foreign Countries (CFSCERFC) of Uzbekistan and the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan. It was the first CCAFA delegation to visit the two Central Asian countries since its founding at the end of last year.

The friendship organizations and relevant government departments of the two countries attached

great importance to the visit. Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Kasimov, Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov and Vice Foreign Minister Anvar Salikhbaev of Uzbekistan had friendly meetings with the delegation and hosted grand receptions to welcome the delegation. S. Gulyamov, chairman of the CFSCERFC, and activists of China-Uzbekistan friendship greeted the delegation with bouquets of fresh flowers at the airport. The two friendship organizations held a cordial and friendly meeting on the day of the delegation's arrival and a working meeting on how to carry out friendly cooperation. The CFSCERFC gave the delegation a sumptuous reception and arranged students and teachers of the Institute of Oriental Studies and well-known singers to perform light and cheerful folk songs and dances for the delegation. The delegation also had an interaction with about 100 teachers and students of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. CCAFA President Zhang Deguang made a speech on China-Uzbekistan relations and answered questions the participants raised. The meeting was filled with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

In Kazakhstan, Kasymzhomart Tokaev, chairman of the Senate, E. Tugrannov, vice chairman of the People's Assembly, Bulat Sultanov, director of the Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of



Kazakh Senate Chairman K. Tokaev (M) with CCAFA President Zhang Deguang (R.1) and Vice President Zhou Xiaopei



**Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Kasimov (centre) meeting with the delegation**

Kazakhstan, and Serik Seidumanov, vice mayor of Alma-Ata, met with the delegation on separate occasions.

At the above meetings, Zhang Deguang talked about the aims and tasks of the CPAFFC and CCAFA, China's social and economic development and the preparation for the Beijing Olympic Games. He spoke highly of and expressed gratitude to the leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for their firm support for China on the questions of Taiwan, Tibet and the Beijing Olympics. The delegation held talks

with personages concerned on academic exchanges and regional cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Kasimov and Vice Foreign Minister Salikhbaev said that the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan would give full support to the exchanges between the CFSCERFC and the CCAFA. They believed that as a nongovernmental organization, the CCAFA would give great impetus to cooperation in various fields between the two countries, increase personnel

**(Continued on p.43)**

**The delegation with the students of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy of Uzbekistan**



# Groundless Censure of China by Western Media

**Chuan You**

The Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) received Ms. Janice Dickson, president of the Scotland-China Association (SCA) from April 3 to 5. Ms. Dickson, an old friend of the CPAFFC and the SIFA, leads a delegation to visit China every year and has been to Sichuan several times. She came this time at the head of a China-Britain Business Council delegation that had come to study the investment environment of Chengdu. She stayed in Chengdu for two more days after the delegation left the city and had working meetings with SIFA leaders.

SIFA President Qin Lin met with Ms. Dickson and briefed her on the economic and social development of Sichuan in the past 30 years since China's reform and opening up and the situation of the Tibetan-populated areas of Sichuan. Ms. Dickson was very concerned about the beating, smashing, looting and arson taking place in Tibet and Tibetan-populated areas of Sichuan in March this year and

stated her disagreement with the groundless censure of China by the Western media.

Ms. Dickson said, Tibet is an inalienable part of China. The riots in Lhasa and Tibetan-populated areas of Sichuan and Gansu were not accidental, but organized and prepared with the aims of harming China's image and disrupting the Beijing Olympic Games. She said that she had read a lot of reports in the Western media before the visit. After arriving in China she read reports in the Chinese media, and learned a different picture of what had happened in Lhasa. She was convinced that the reports by the Western media were one-sided and their conclusions wrong. What happened in Lhasa are violent crimes. Such violence is not tolerated in any country and the government must intervene to stop it.

She noted, questions concerning ethnic groups and religions exist in many countries. The British people are victims of terrorist organizations; the majority of the British people oppose using sanguinary acts of violence to split the country.

The SCA has organized its members to visit Tibet several times. They have seen with their own eyes the changes in Tibet and held that the Chinese Government shows concern and care for the Tibetan people and respects and protects the Tibetan religion and culture.

She said, many members of the current delegation visited China for the first time. They had good impressions of the Chengdu High-New Technology Development Zone West Area, where they saw good planning and management. Especially after listening to the briefing by a British venture there, they concluded that the investment environment in Chengdu is good.





# Seychelles Minister of Finance Danny Faure Visits China

**Tang Ruimin**

**D**anny Faure, Seychelles minister designate and of finance, together with his family paid a visit to Beijing, Hainan and Shanghai from April 26 to May 3. He is of Chinese extraction and his great-grandmother was a Chinese who settled down in the Seychelles in the 18th century and did business there. This time he brought his four children to China to seek the root of his ancestors.

Minister Danny Faure said that this was his fifth visit to China and found that the traffic network in Beijing had made great progress, modern means of transportation had replaced numerous bicycles in the streets seen in the past. He said, Beijing's air quality and environment have been notably improved and there are beautiful gardens and modern buildings everywhere. He believed that the Olympic Games would attract more foreign tourists to visit China and China's tourism would have a rapid development. He also hoped that the Seychelles would strengthen cooperation in tourism with China.

The Seychelles is an island country on the Indian Ocean. Its land area is 455 square kilometres and territorial waters area 400,000 square kilometres. Its main industries are tourism and fishery. In recent

years its economy has developed significantly. Danny Faure said, "The Seychelles, though small, is a vigorous country with high-calibre people. Its potential should not be underestimated." The country is reputed as a "pearl on the Indian Ocean and paradise on the earth". With a population of only 85,000 people it receives 160,000 tourists every year. Last year about 5,000 Chinese tourists visited the country.

During their stay in China, Danny Faure and his family paid a special visit to Yihai residential quarter. Linda Wang, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Yihai Property Holding Group, is the first Chinese private entrepreneur who has invested in Seychelles' tourist sector. This year she will build there a 4-star seaside villa hotel which will be run by the Chinese side and offer Chinese meals. Danny Faure expressed his belief that after the completion of the hotel more Chinese tourists would visit his country.

Recent two years have witnessed a rapid development of China-Seychelles relations. Before 2007 among Asian countries only in Malaysia the Seychelles had set up its embassy and sent a permanent ambassador; in Beijing it only had a roving ambassador. After exchanging visits by high-ranking lead-

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu with Minister Danny Faure (L. 4, back row) and his family**



# Panglin Bringing Light Tour Launched

Wu Jiong

On March 28, jointly held by the CPAFFC and the Shenzhen Yu Panglin Social Welfare Fund, the press conference and the launching ceremony of the large-scale transnational philanthropic activity “*Pass on love, Be friendly neighbours*”—Panglin Bringing Light Tour was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, Feng Zuoku, vice president of the CPAFFC, Yu Panglin, noted Chinese philanthropist and diplomats of Mongolia, DPRK, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were present at the occasion.

In his speech, President Chen Haosu said the *Panglin Bringing Light Tour* co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Yu Panglin Social Welfare Fund aimed at bringing light, love and friendship to China’s neighbouring countries so as to truly realize the concept of “friendship and partnership with neighbouring countries” and the advocacy of

“fostering a friendly, secure and prosperous neighbourly environment” and make contributions to establishing more harmonious good-neighbourly relations as well as common prosperity of Asia, and harmonious development of the world.

As the organizer of the activity, from June to December, the CPAFFC will organize a Chinese medical team to go to Mongolia, DPRK, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and to help cataract patients regain their eyesight through eye surgery given free. The medical team will go to 12 cities in the five countries for six months, covering 16,000 km in their tour.

Besides the surgery, the Chinese team will also present “souvenirs of light” and medical kits of “love” to the patients as gifts, donate stationeries to local students, collect patients’ signatures on the “Book of comments and love left by good friendly neighbours”, hold performances

together with the local artists, etc. The various cultural activities and philanthropic donations will help encourage the participation of the local people and convey to them the friendship of the Chinese people.

Now, the activity has won wide support of personages of all circles at home and abroad. Sisavath Keobounphan, central chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction, and Nguyen Thi Doan, vice president of Vietnam, highly praised the activity. Relevant friendship organizations and Chinese embassies in the five countries as well as their embassies in China, the China National Guiding Committee for Blindness Prevention, the WHO Collaborating Centre of the Prevention of Blindness in China, the Beijing Tongren Hospital, the Beijing Bei Ao Incorporation, the Saint Paul Hospital of Vietnam, and the Ophthalmology Centre of Vientiane of Laos have all expressed active support.

ers of the two countries, in September 2007 the Seychelles sent its first ambassador Philippe Le Gall to China. Ambassador Philippe Le Gall accompanied Finance Minister Faure on the visit in Beijing. He is working enthusiastically to promote the relations between the two countries. He said, in the past 32 years since the two countries established diplomatic relations, the people of the Seychelles greatly appreciated China’s aid in their country’s education, infrastructure, and housing construction. Chinese watermelon was successfully planted in the Seychelles, now the people there can enjoy watermelons grown on their own land for the

first time in history.

During his stay in Beijing, Danny Faure signed an agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China on purchasing Chinese airplanes on preferential loans, and had contacts with the China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation, the China National Complete Plant Import & Export Corporation Limited and Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. Danny Faure and his family were very satisfied with their visit in China, particularly the children like the mascot Fuwa of the Beijing Olympic Games very much. They wish the Beijing Olympic Games success. □

# San Marino-China Friendship Association Delegation in China

Yang Yingzi

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the San Marino-China Friendship Association (SMCFA), a 26-member delegation of the Association headed by G. F. Terenzi, president of the SMCFA and former captain regent of San Marino, visited China from May 16 to 28.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with the delegation on May 16. During the meeting, President Terenzi invited Chen Haosu to visit San Marino in 2008 to start a series of activities in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the SMCFA. The CPAFFC conferred the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador on President Terenzi in recognition of his contributions to enhancing friendship between San Marino and China.

President Terenzi who served as captain regent (head of state) of San Marino for three terms has actively promoted the exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields between San Marino and China. The SMCFA he founded has been a cooperative partner of the CPAFFC for years. In the 20 years since its founding, the SMCFA has organized a series of activities to increase friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries and the two peoples. It has carried out friendly exchanges in various areas with the CPAFFC and warmly received Chinese delegations many times. At recommendation by President Terenzi, San Marino Postal Authority issued commemorative stamps for the occasions of the 50th an-

niversary of the CPAFFC and the 55th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

On the morning of May 19 before leaving Beijing, President Terenzi specially came to the mourning hall set up for the victims of the Sichuan earthquake in the CPAFFC to mourn for the dead. He wrote in the visitor's book: "On the day of national mourning, the SMCFA delegation joins the Chinese people in expressing our profound condolences for the victims of the Wenchuan earthquake."

The delegation arrived in Xi'an on the same day. The members of the delegation were deeply moved by the scene of the national mourning observed at 14:28 when people stopped whatever they were doing for a three-minute silence while sirens and vehicle horns wailed in grief. They started to raise money among themselves and handed over their donations to the Shaanxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to forward to the quake-hit areas. President Terenzi said, he was greatly shocked by the earthquake. He had confidence in Chinese Government's ability to handle the disaster relief and admired the Chinese people's tenacity. He added, the amount they donated was not much, but it represented their feelings. □

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the certificate of Friendship Ambassador to SMCFA President G. F. Terenzi (right)



# Second Council Meeting of China-ASEAN Association Held

**Wu Jiong**

On April 29, the China-ASEAN Association held its Second Council Meeting in Beijing. 70 council members from the ministries and commissions of the central government, local governments, enterprises, and economic, trade, academic and educational circles attended the meeting.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Second Council were elected at the meeting. Gu Xiulian, former vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, was reelected president. Shi Guangsheng, former minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation; Wu Tao, former assistant foreign minister and ambassador; Zhao

Shaohua, vice chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation; Li Zibin, president of the China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises; Wang Yunze, former CPAFFC vice president, and Feng Zuoku, CPAFFC vice president, were elected vice presidents.

The proposal of establishing three special committees was approved at the meeting. Wu Tao, Wang Yunze and Shi Guangsheng were elected chairman of the Committee of Experts, the Committee of Culture and the Committee of Entrepreneurs respectively. The Report on the Work of the First Council of the China-ASEAN Association and the motion of amending the Statutes of the Association were

approved at the meeting. In the panel discussions, council members aired their views freely and gave suggestions on the work of the new Council and friendly cooperation between China and the ASEAN.

On the evening of the same day, a reception marking the founding of the Second Council of the China-ASEAN Association was held. About one hundred people including the council members of the China-ASEAN Association and ambassadors of the ten ASEAN countries in China were present. President Gu Xiulian and Vichit Xindavong, chairman of the ASEAN Beijing Committee and Lao ambassador to China, spoke on the occasion.□

## Australia China Friendship Society Supports Beijing Olympics

**Editor's note: The following is the full text of a letter CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin received on May 5 from Australia**

Dear Madam Li Xiaolin,

As the national body representing friendship between Australia and China, we confirm our strongest support for the Olympic Torch Relay and Beijing's hosting of the Olympic Games. Considering the difficulties that have been occurring and controversial media coverage we believe that Chi-

na has set a good example. The Torch Relay has been a success in its own right and we are confident that the Olympic Games will be successful.

In the spirit of international friendship and sportsmanship, we support the Australian and Chinese athletes competing in this Olympics and wish them every success.

Tom Loy  
National President  
Australia China Friendship Society



# ***Expedition Paris-Beijing by Bicycle 2008 Launched***

**Hao Zhongwei**

From March 15 to 17, at the invitation of the Euro-Chinese Friendship Association (ECFA) of France, a CPAFFC representative attended the launching ceremony of the *Expedition Paris-Beijing by Bicycle 2008* in Paris, during which he met with officials of the National Commission on Decentralized Cooperation (Commission Nationale de la Coopération Décentralisée-CNCD) of France.

The *Expedition Paris-Beijing by Bicycle 2008*, organized by the French Cycle Touring Federation (FCTF) and sponsored by the ECFA of France, is a large-scale nongovernmental friendly sports activity. The CPAFFC is one of the presidents of the Committee of Honour of the activity. 118 amateur cyclists aged 59 on average from over 10 countries will travel 12,000 km by bicycle for about 4 months from Europe to Asia and arrive in Beijing before

the opening of the 2008 Olympic Games. This activity has won support of the Office of the French President, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Youth, Sports and Community Life, and the French National Olympics and Sports Committee (Comité National Olympique et Sportif Français-CNOSF). The launching ceremony was held at the Chaillot Palace Square, opposite the Eiffel Tower on March 15 and 16. Present at the ceremony were Qu Xing, chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in France, Pu Tong, minister counsellor of culture of the Chinese Embassy in France, Sophie Dion, adviser for sports to the French president, Christine Lagarde, economy and finance minister, Bernard Laporte, secretary of state for sports, Jean-Francois Lamour, former minister for youth, sports and

community life, and Henri Serandour, president of the CNOSF. In his speech, president of the FCTF expressed his sincere gratitude to the CPAFFC for its valuable support for the activity.

The CNCD of France, initiated and established by the Office of French President, with its secretariat in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a central consultative institution for coordinating cooperation between local governments of various countries. In November 2007, the Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation jointly sponsored by the CNCD and the CPAFFC, was successfully held in Bordeaux. The CPAFFC representative had a working meeting with the CNCD Secretary General Antoine Joly about the Third High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation. □

**Amateur cyclists on *Expedition Paris-Beijing by Bicycle 2008* setting off at the Chaillot Palace Square in Paris**



# Y's Fashion Show and Auction for Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace Held in Beijing

**Dong Sijia**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Yohji Yamamoto, internationally known Japanese fashion designer and his 40-member entourage, paid a visit to Beijing from April 22 to 27, during which they attended the Y's Fashion Show and the Auction for Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Yohji Yamamoto Inc. State Councillor Liu Yandong met with Yohji Yamamoto and some members of his entourage.

Yohji Yamamoto is a world renowned fashion designer. As early as in the 1970s and 1980s, his unique designing style and exquisite tailoring made a big splash throughout the world and became the representative of the avant-garde of the Japanese wave in the global fashion circles. Over the past 30 years, in the spirit of transcending tradition and making innovation, he has created such brands as Y's and Y-3 that lead the global fashion trend and won fans from many countries in the world including China. His father died during the war, and his mother who started

to live in widowhood early bore hardships to bring him up. He knows profoundly the preciousness of peace and thus, has donated money to the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) under the CPAFFC to set up the Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace.

On the afternoon of April 25, State Councillor Liu Yandong met with Yohji Yamamoto and chief members of his entourage. State Councillor Liu said, Yohji Yamamoto and the Yohji Yamamoto Inc. have achieved great success in the clothing industry and are farsighted to conduct international exchanges and cooperation in clothing culture. She appreciated and spoke highly of their friendly act of donating 8 million RMB yuan to the CFFPD to set up the Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace for the purpose of giving financial aid to brilliant young Chinese fashion designers and models for further training in such countries as France and Japan that set the fashion. Liu said, China very much welcomes Yohji Yamamoto and friendly personages like him. She hoped that Yohji would use his influence in Japan and the world to make contributions to friendly exchanges between China and Japan and other countries in the world, and that Yohji would help China train fashion designers with his superb designing talents. Yohji Yamamoto said, it is his greatest dream to visit Beijing and hold Y's Fashion Show on the eve of the Beijing Olympic Games. In future he will do his utmost to promote Japan-China friendship and the development of China's clothing industry.

On the evening of April 24, Y's Fashion Show was held in the Imperial Ancestral Temple (the Beijing Working People's Cultural Palace). CPAFFC Vice Presidents Li Xiaolin and Feng Zuoku, Secretary General Luo Qin and diplomatic envoys in China from 17 countries including Japan, Italy and Spain, among over 600 Chinese and foreign guests, attended it. At the show sixty suits of men's and women's autumn and winter wear including everyday clothing, evening dress and a variety of dresses for social life specially designed for this show were



CPAFFC Vice Presidents Li Xiaolin (L.4) and Feng Zuoku (L.2) with Yohji Yamamoto (L.5), his mother and his agent



displayed. Yohji applied the concept of “costumes shape a graceful figure” to his unconventional designs. By dividing and combining various textiles such as calf leather, woolen cloth, cotton cloth, diaphanous laces, etc. in irregular shapes he created elegant women’s costumes. Most of his women’s costumes are of a combination of black and bright red, blue and yellow colours, and men’s basically of black colour; some dotted with red and blue. All his costumes were exquisitely tailored looking at once respectable, tasteful and lively.

To better convey his design concept and show the environment that suits his costumes, Yohji Yamamoto made meticulous arrangements for every detail of the show including selection of models, the catwalk route, and the background music, and even added some plots to the show, making it seem like a play so that the audience could better understand the intention of the design. He invited 33 first-class male and female models from France, Britain, the Nether-

lands, Russia and Ukraine to give the performance.

The whole fashion show was in a gentle and yet gorgeous atmosphere, simple and yet tasteful, with every detail richly permeated with philosophical flavour confirming the immense intension of this global top-notch brand.

On April 26, Yohji Yamamoto and the Y’s Asia Ltd. held the Auction for the Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace in Beijing Hotel, auctioning the 60 suits displayed at the Fashion Show on April 24 and donating all the proceeds to the Yohji Yamamoto Fund for Peace under the CFFPD to help China raise the level of its fashion design and train world top models. CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku attended the auction and expressed his congratulations and sincere thanks to Yohji Yamamoto and his company for their kind help and the spirit of peace and friendship. The auction attracted crowds of Y’s fans from Spain, Russia, Japan and Hong Kong and achieved full success. □

A powerful cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on May 2, leaving tens of thousands of people dead and millions homeless and causing heavy damages to power and water supply, transport, telecommunication and other infrastructural facilities. The life of the people in the disaster-stricken areas was seriously affected. To express Chinese people’s kinship for the people of Myanmar, the CPAFFC and the China-ASEAN Associa-

## CPAFFC and China-ASEAN Association Make Donation to Myanmar’s Cyclone-hit Areas

### Our Staff Reporter

tion donated 10,000 US dollars to the cyclone-hit area through the Union Solidarity and Development Association of Myanmar.

On May 6, a representative of the CPAFFC went to the Embassy

of Myanmar to hand over the donation and convey to the Myanmar people the sincere solicitude from CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and the China-ASEAN Association President Gu Xiulian. □

# Chinese Feelings Cherished By Canadians

**Shu Zhang**

**O**n March 30, “The Chinese Feelings Across the Pacific—The Century Exhibition of the Old Photos Treasured by the Canadians” was open in the Lu Xun Museum in Beijing. The exhibition lasted for one week. At the exhibition some old photos taken in the early 20th century were on display, showing James G. Endicott, envoy of world peace, together with Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai; the family of O.

L. Kilborn, one of the founders of West China Union University, together with Chinese women with bound feet: O. L. Kilborn treating the wounded soldiers during the Revolution of 1911; Leslie Earl Willmott in Chinese tunic suit and his wife reluctant to bid farewell to China, as well as photos of Ashley Woodward Lindesay, founder of China’s modern

dentistry; dental expert Dr. Harrison J. Mullett; Walter Small, who once served as chief architectural engineer of West China Union University; Dr. William Edward Smith and professor of biology Frank Dickinson. These photos showed their life and work in China. There were also quite a number of precious photos taken by Albert French Lutley, a professor of West China Union University who loved photography very much, when he visited the ethnic minority area in the western mountainous area of Chengdu and traveled along the Yangtze River in 1937.

All these photos were provided by Canadian friends who were born in China. Calligrapher Zhang Biao and research workers Xiang Suzhen and Zhang

Yingming in Chengdu got these precious photos in the modern Chinese history from over 100 Canadian old people who were born in Sichuan. With the support of Sichuan University and the China Society for People’s Friendship Studies, the exhibition of these photos was held, which let us see the forgotten years and the long-standing friendship between the Chinese and Canadian people.



In the early 20th century some Canadians who worked in Chengdu set up a Canadian School to solve the problem of their children’s education. The school didn’t close until 1950. The children who once studied in the school now have all reached old age. They had an indissoluble bond

with Chengdu for they were born, grew up, got education and raised their families there. They and their descendants lived and worked in China for decades. Two or three generations of these families served in China. They carried out education, practiced medicine and did scientific researches, sharing weal and woe with the Chinese people. When they saw China ridden with calamities and the people in dire poverty, they felt that their destiny was closely linked with that of the Chinese people. Some helped us during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the War of Liberation. Though later they with their children returned to Canada in succession, the passing of the years can’t wipe out these old peo-



# Ikuo Hirayama—the Builder of Cultural Silk Road

**Chen Yongchang**

Several years ago, one evening I went to Beijing Hotel to see Mr. Ikuo Hirayama. I showed him a painting just given to me by Wang Chuanfeng, a young Chinese painter residing in Japan, and asked him to write an inscription on it. When seeing the lifelike fish on the painting, he gladly wrote down three words *yu shui qing* (meaning a relationship as close as that between fish and water). He said, “*yu shui qing*” expressed the aspiration of the Japanese and Chinese people for peaceful coexistence and everlasting friendship.

ple’s attachment to China. They have never forgotten China and regard China as their second home place. Every mid-October these old people who are now scattering in various places of Canada and the United States will drive or go in wheelchairs accompanied by their sons or daughters to an unattractive Chinese restaurant in Toronto to have a get-together. While enjoying Chinese dishes, they took out old photos and slides of Chengdu and things related to Sichuan collected by their families for about a hundred years and talked about their ever-lasting attachment to Sichuan. Their stories have moved many Chinese. In 1997, Xiang Suzhen flew to Canada to visit them and took part in their get-together. When the old people and their offspring saw her who came from Chengdu, they treated her affectionately as their own daughter and showed her the photos and souvenirs they collected and gave her slides replicas of some photos. Hence there came this photo exhibition.

Eight Canadian friends specially came to China to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition, namely Don Willmott, son of Leslie Earl Willmott; Glenn Willmott, son of Don Willmott; Steve Endicott, son of James G. Endicott; Steve Douglass, son-in-law of Steve Endicott; Marion Walmsley

I have known Ikuo Hirayama for about 30 years. Particularly in the past more than ten years since I became vice president of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), I had more chances to meet him on work grounds. Every time I met him, I felt the fragrance of culture around him. Hirayama is a renowned artist with moral integrity and great artistic attainments. His paintings have both realistic and dreamy features, showing rich history and culture and expressing humankind’s aspiration for peace. I like his paintings very

much and have fortunately visited the art museums that collect a large number of his paintings including the Ikuo Hirayama Museum of Art in Setoda-cho of Onomichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture, the Sagawa Museum of Art at the side of Biwa Lake, Shiga Prefecture, and the Ikuo Hirayama Silk Road Museum in Kitamori City, Yamanashi Prefecture. The Silk Road is the theme of his paintings and also his lifelong cause. In 1959, at 29 he created the painting *The Propagation of Buddhism* which was displayed at

Walker, granddaughter of O. L. Kilborn, one of the founders of West China Union University; Debbie Kirton, daughter of Marion Walmsley Walker; Elizabeth Roberts Leach, daughter of Albert French Lutley, professor of West China Union University and Jessica Leach, granddaughter of Elizabeth Roberts Leach. They expressed their gratitude to the Chinese people for holding the exhibition and gave warm and moving speeches at the opening ceremony. Isabel Crook, retired professor of Beijing Foreign Studies University and her two sons Michael and Paul Crook who were born in Beijing also attended the opening ceremony.

The Canadian friends also visited Chengdu where they relived the old experience of their families.

When Leslie Earl Willmott’s second son Bill Willmott and his wife Diano learnt that the exhibition had been successfully held, they were very happy and sent us a letter of gratitude. Bill Willmott is former president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society and has received the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC. He brings New Zealand friends to visit China every year and would lead a 19-member delegation to China in May this year. □



Former State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan (R.2) and CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan (L.2) visiting the Ikuro Hirayama Painting Exhibition held in the National Art Museum of China in April 2008

the Japan Fine Arts Academy Exhibition. This painting, which portrayed Monk Xuanzang on a white horse returning to Chang'an where he left for India and brought back Buddhist scriptures after going through innumerable hardships, won favourable comments from the art circles and thus, he gained prominence as a painter. I remember that in the spring of 1990 at the well-attended Exhibition of Ikuro Hirayama's Paintings on a Trip to Loulan held in Takashimaya, Tokyo, Guan Shanyue, Hirayama's friend and famous Chinese painter, wrote a poem praising his artistic attainments after visiting the exhibition.

The Yakushiji Temple in Nara is the headquarters of the Hosso Sect of Japanese Buddhism. Master Xuanzang was the founder of the Hosso Sect. In a building of the Xuanzang Sanzang Complex behind the Yakushiji Temple grounds, some *sarira* of Xuanzang's skull are enshrined. To extol Xuanzang's great deeds, Hirayama decided to create the mural *A Series of Paintings of Western Regions in the Age of the Great Tang Dynasty* on the north wall of the ground floor of the

Xuanzang Tower. For this, he traveled along the Silk Road dozens of times, exploring historical remains and looking for his dreamland. He threw great energy into its creation and spent 30 years on it from on-the-spot exploration, sketching, designing and painting to its final completion at midnight of December 31, 2000 on the advent of the new millennium.

Ikuro Hirayama is an envoy of culture. He has served as UNESCO goodwill ambassador and president of Japan's Foundation for Cultural Heritage and Research for many years and done a great deal of work for and made important contributions to preservation of world cultural heritages and international cultural and art exchanges. In 2002 at an international academic seminar on the Silk Road in Xi'an sponsored by the UNESCO, Hirayama together with Ahmad Jalali, president of the General Conference of UNESCO, signed the Xi'an Declaration, calling on all countries in the world to promote dialogue and understanding among different cultures through preserving world cultural heritage. Hirayama actively advocates the "Red Cross spirit for cul-

tural heritage" calling on all countries to transcend the differences in political system, ideology, nationality and religion and save and preserve cultural heritages in the spirit of universal love. During Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's visit to China in 1988, Hirayama accompanied the prime minister to visit Dunhuang and acted as a guide for him. Prime Minister Takeshita decided to aid China to establish a centre for preservation, research and exhibition of the cultural relics in the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes. In October 2004 when Hirayama took part in the activities in commemoration of the 1,200th anniversary of Master Kukai's visit to China in Shaanxi, he was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Northwest University Museum had preserved the epitaph of Manari Ino, a Japanese student studying in China during the Tang Dynasty, and suggested that the news be published at home and abroad as soon as possible. There was good repercussion when it was published by major media. Hirayama said that Japan-China relations had met some difficulties and personages of insight of various circles were worried about it. The

discovery of the epitaph made us seem to hear the voice of over 1,000 years ago calling on the Japanese and Chinese people to keep friendly relations. He said that seeing such historical evidence of friendship between the peoples of the two countries in the ancient times further strengthened our resolve to uphold friendship between our two countries.

Ikuo Hirayama is an envoy of friendship. In 1992 at the national conference of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) he was elected its president. Since then he has devoted greater enthusiasm to the cause of Japan-China friendship. He supports and encourages everything that helps Japan-China friendship. When some people in the world raised a hubbub of "China threat", he would cite the contributions of the culture of the Tang Dynasty to the world civilization to prove that China's current rapid economic growth is a peaceful development. The JCFA under the leadership of Hirayama has repeatedly carried out rich and colourful activities to further expand and deepen the friendship between the two peoples. On May 20, 2000 Ikuo Hirayama and Toshihiro Nikai, the then minister of transport, led a 5,000-member Japan-China cultural and tourist delegation composed of personages of various circles to visit China and held a rally for Sino-Japanese friendly exchanges at the Great Hall of the People. The then Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Vice President Hu Jintao and Vice Premier Qian Qichen were present on the occasion. President Jiang Zemin delivered an important speech on Sino-Japanese relations. In his

speech Hirayama recalled the 2,000-year history of friendly contacts between Japan and China and hoped that while experiencing China's long-standing history and culture, the personages of Japanese various circles would join the rank of Japan-China friendship. This activity of unprecedented large scale and number of people was a new creation in the history of China-Japan friendly exchanges. Hirayama loves Chinese culture as well as the Chinese people. When the Chinese people suffered from SARS, he took the lead in donating one million Japanese yen and through the media called on the Japanese people to help the Chinese people prevail over the sudden outbreak of severe SARS soon. He follows the development of education in China with great interest and has established the Hirayama Education Fund and invited Chinese youth to pursue their further study in Japan. He donated money to build several Hope primary schools in Yunnan, Tibet, Hebei and other Chinese poor areas.

Hirayama is an envoy of peace. When he studied in a middle school in Hiroshima at 15, he experienced atomic bomb attack and since then suffered the aftereffect of nuclear radiation. Hence, he has realized more deeply the preciousness of peace and taken every chance to call for world peace. In 1995 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, he called on the Japanese young people of various circles to take part in renovating the city wall of Nanjing. The JCFA took this activity as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the post-war cause of

Japan-China friendship. He said, "To help renovate the ancient city wall of Nanjing is not an act simply for preserving cultural relics, but of extraordinary significance. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we should look squarely at history of the past war and never let the aggressive war be repeated. Future belongs to the young people, but they know little about history. The 21st century needs more young people to know about history and engage in the cause of Japan-China friendship."

The history and culture in Asia and Europe are linked and have historical origin. The Silk Road is an important bridge facilitating the economic and cultural exchanges between the East and the West in the ancient times. Hirayama advocates all countries in the world to make concerted efforts to build a cultural Silk Road linking Asia and Europe, which can help push forward China's large-scale development of its Western region, promote economic growth of various countries and maintain peace in the region and the world at large.

I greatly admire Hirayama's noble moral integrity, broad and profound knowledge and superb painting skill. He is our old friend and a comrade of us Sino-Japanese friendship circles. The friendship between the Chinese and Japanese friendly personages has substantial contents. Just as Chinese literary giant Ba Jin once said, "Friendship is not an empty word. It is like a tie binding our hearts fast with the hearts of the Japanese friends."

**The author is former vice president of the CPAFFC and vice president of the CJFA**

# China-South Africa Friendship Association Founded

## Our Staff Reporter

On April 24, the founding ceremony of the China-South Africa Friendship Association (CSAFA) was held in Beijing on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa.

The CSAFA, a bilateral organization under the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association (CAPFA), aims at enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and South Africa and promoting the exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological, sports, health, tourism and other fields between the two countries. Abdul'ahat Abdurixit, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of the CAPFA, serves as its president; Feng Zuoku, Liu Guijin and Jiang Hong its vice presidents and Lin Yi its secretary general. Abdul'ahat Abdurixit, former Chinese ambassador to South Africa Liu Guijin and South African Ambassador to China Ndumiso N. Ntshinga attended the founding ceremony and spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Abdul'ahat Abdurixit said, though far apart, friendly contacts between the people of China and South Africa began as early as 500 years ago. Over the years the Chinese people have actively supported and provided assistance to the South African people in their just struggle against

racism and apartheid, and forged profound friendship with them. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in January 1, 1998, the friendly exchanges and traditional friendship between our two peoples have been further enhanced and developed. The Vice Chairman added, in the past ten years, China and South Africa have witnessed rapid and all-round development of their bilateral relations, featured by frequent exchanges of high-level visits, deepened mutual political trust, fruitful cooperation in the areas including economy, trade, science, technology and culture, and close consultation in international and regional affairs. He expressed the hope that the CSAFA would carry out varied, rich, colourful and lively activities with the aim of promoting friendship and cooperation between China and South Africa, and serve as a bridge and tie between our two peoples.

Abdul'ahat Abdurixit and Ambassador Ndumiso N. Ntshinga unveiled the plaque of the CSAFA together.

Former Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang, CAPFA Vice Presidents Feng Zuoku, Wang Yunze and Huang Zequan, and its council members in Beijing, diplomats from the embassies of the African countries in China and representatives of the media circles in the capital, totaling over 100, attended the ceremony. □



Abdul'ahat Abdurixit (L.), vice chairman of the CP-PCC National Committee, and Ndumiso N. Ntshinga, South African Ambassador to China, unveiling the plaque of the China-South Africa Friendship Association



# Japanese Panasonic Choir's Performance in China

Ma Yuhua

Invited by the CPAFFC, an 87-member Panasonic Choir of Japan paid a visit to Beijing and Dalian from April 17 to 22 and gave three concerts which won acclaim from an audience of over 3,000.

## Spreading China-Japan Friendship and Promoting Cultural Exchanges

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, on April 18 the Panasonic Choir and the Red Star Chorus of the PLA Art Academy jointly held a concert in the Beijing Forbidden City Concert Hall. CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan, famous singer Li Shuangjiang, President of the Chorus League of the Chinese Musicians' Association Xu Xiyi, diplomats of the Japanese Embassy in China and wife of the

Japanese ambassador attended the concert. Panasonic Corporation, a world well-known enterprise and a full global cooperation partner of the Beijing Olympic Games, actively participates in the cultural exchanges and public welfare programmes. The Panasonic Choir composed of about 100 staffers of the Corporation and founded in 1974 is a famous amateur choir in Japan. Every year it holds regular concerts in Japan and takes part in the country's amateur choir competition that reflects the level of choir singing in Japan. So far it has won the golden prize 17 times and the championship of the competition 11 times in secession.

The Red Star Chorus of the PLA Art Academy, a chorus composed of young singers whose average age is under 20, has considerably high chorus singing skill and won the golden

prize in the chorus part of the just concluded 13th National Young Singers Competition hosted by the CCTV. These two choruses that represent the highest level of the Chinese and Japanese amateur chorus sang folk and popular songs of their respective countries and won waves of applause. About 150 singers of the two choruses standing side by side on the stage sang in unison the Chinese song *Jasmine Flower* in Chinese and the Japanese song *Sakura* in Japanese. The familiar beautiful melodies and good harmony echoed in the hall and entered the hearts of the audience. Bursts of warm applause pushed the concert to its climax.

On April 21, the Music of Sakura—Concert for Spreading Sino-Japanese Friendship was held in Dalian for the workers and staff of China Hualu Panasonic AVC Networks Co., Ltd.

**The Japanese Panasonic Choir and the Red Star Chorus of the PLA Art Academy singing together the Chinese song *Jasmine Flower* and the Japanese song *Sakura***



# Exhibition of Western China Photos By C.G. Mannerheim Held in Xi'an

Sun Kang

The Exhibition of Western China Photos by C. G. Mannerheim jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Finland-China Society (FCS) and the Shaanxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPPAFFC) was held in the Xi'an International University from May 13 to 17. As the third leg of its China tour, the exhibition in Xi'an, supported by the SPPAFFC and the Xi'an International University, drew attention from the teachers and students and won acclaim. On the day of its

opening about one thousand people visited it.

Carl Gustaf Mannerheim who served as president of Finland from 1944 to 1946 had a Chinese name Ma Dahan. During his journey in China's western regions from 1906 to 1908 he explored history, customs and habits of the ethnic groups, collected ancient cultural relics and took about 1,300 photos. All the 60 photos on display at this exhibition were chosen out of the 1,300 which are now preserved in the National Museum of Finland. The

When 200 staffers of the Company and the Japanese choir sang together *Jasmine Flower*, and the audience of 2,000 waved jasmine flowers in their hands to the melody of the song, the gymnasium of the Company decorated with large posters on which were written "Spreading Sino-Japanese Friendship and Promoting Cultural Exchanges, Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty", etc., where the concert was held, became a sea of jasmine flowers, songs and friendship. The singers on the stage were moved to tears. After the concert, members of the Japanese choir said, this was the most unforgettable and touching performance they had ever experienced. One member of the choir said excitedly, "I have begun to like China."

## Willing to Strengthen Cultural Exchanges with the CPAFFC

In his meeting with the

Panasonic Choir, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan affirmed the contributions made by Panasonic Corporation to the development of China's electrical appliance industry and expressed his welcome to the Choir's visit to China on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty. He said, art without national boundaries transcends races and all cultural backgrounds and can link people's hearts without the help of language. He hoped the Choir's performance in China would become a bridge for the cultural exchanges between China and Japan. Yukio Shohtoku, head of the Japanese delegation and former vice president of Panasonic Corporation, said that he felt greatly honoured to visit China on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty and the cooperation between Panasonic Corporation and China and

in the year of the Beijing Olympic Games. 30 years ago His Excellency Deng Xiaoping visited Panasonic Corporation and had talks with Konosuke Matsushita, founder of the Corporation. The two sides reached the consensus that "The 21st century is the era of Asia, particularly the era of Asia with China and Japan as the centre." Today 30 years later, Panasonic Corporation is willing to continue to strengthen friendly relations with China. Yukio Shohtoku hoped that the concert would promote the development of friendship between the two countries. Wang Xiaoxian, vice president of the China-Japan Friendship Association, entertained the head of the Japanese delegation and the choir master. Li Shuangjiang and Xu Xiyi attended the banquet and the concert. The Chinese musicians praised the singing skill of the Japanese choir and welcomed them to have more exchanges with Chinese choruses. □



**The opening ceremony held in the Xi'an International University**

well-preserved black-and-white photos with captions showed from multiple perspectives the folk customs and natural scenery of China's western regions 100 years ago. Among them there were two photos showing the social life in Xi'an at the end of the Qing Dynasty. One was *Infantry Drill at Xi'an*; the other *Prince Yang Zhonglai from Tibet at Xi'an on His Way to Wutai Mountain*. The former one was particularly precious, showing the viewers that the infantry were already equipped with firelocks in the Qing Dynasty. The teachers and students were very much interested in these old photos. The students of the news photography programme carefully reproduced them

for their future study and research. Huang Teng, president of the Xi'an International University, fully affirmed the values of these photos, saying, "The displayed photos with excellent pictures and texts, which vividly and truly reflect the natural scenery and folk customs in western China at the end of the Qing Dynasty, have high historic and cultural values. They not only show us what the old China looked like from a foreigner's unique perspective, but also enable us to see and appreciate the tremendous changes of our great motherland over the past century." The Shaanxi TV Station and other media gave a special coverage of the exhibition. □

***Infantry Drill at Xi'an***



# CPAFFC Working Group Visits the United States

**Li Sanghua**

From April 13 to 21, a CPAFFC working group led by Yao Mingyu, director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC, visited the United States, attended the 18th Forum on US-China Relations sponsored by the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) and had talks with the USCPFA, the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, the Richard Nixon Centre, the Sister Cities International of the U.S., the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the Business Council for International Understanding and the UN Staff Union.

The USCPFA, the largest nongovernmental friendship-with-China organization in the US, holds a forum on US-China relations every two years with the aim of discussing hot issues in the bilateral relations and enhancing mutual understanding. At this year's forum held in Washington with the theme of Synergetic Connection: US-China Relations, over 60 people including representatives from branches of the USCPFA, American scholars, US government officials as well as personages from China, Canada and the Netherlands were present. Subjects under discussion at the forum involved the trend of US-China po-

litical relations, the US-China cooperation in environmental protection, the framework of modern Chinese business, the Chinese government's trade subsidies, China's foreign exchange strategy, China's intellectual property rights, immigration and urbanization, etc. The participants, as a whole, affirmed the importance of US-China relations and China's increasingly important role and reckoned that the development of US-China relations is irresistible.

In his speech entitled Neces-

sity of Enhancing Mutual Understanding between China and the United States, Yao Mingyu said, in the past about 30 years since the establishments of diplomatic relations, bilateral exchanges have developed to an unprecedented level in width and depth, but mutual understanding between the two countries is still not enough. He pointed out, China-US relationship is one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. In today's trend of globalization, China and the United States should further deepen mutual understanding and cooperation so as to make the two countries play a more constructive role in safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. The CPAFFC wishes to continue its unremitting efforts to that end. □

## Recitation of Chinese and Arabic Poems Held in Beijing

**Our Staff Reporter**

On May 7, the Recitation of Chinese and Arabic Poems jointly sponsored by the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) and the Arab Ambassadors Council in China, and organized by the Arabic Literature Association (ALA) of China, the Chinese Society for Arabic Language Teaching (CSALT), and the Arab Student Union in China, was held in the auditorium of the CPAFFC.

Tomur Dawamat, president of the CAFA, Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, vice presi-

dents and council members of the CAFA in Beijing, diplomats from embassies of Arab countries in China, teachers and students from the Arabic departments of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, Peking University, the Beijing Language and Culture University, the Beijing International Studies University, the China Islamic Institute and the University of International Business and Economics, and students of Arab countries in China, totaling about 130 people, were present on the occasion. Li Cheng-



# George Hogg Forever Lives in Chinese and British People's Hearts

Shu Zhang

To trace George Hogg's deeds, some teachers and students of St. George School in Harpenden of Britain, George Hogg's Alma Mater, led by the members of the Board of Directors and principal of the school, came to China. They interviewed the people who knew Hogg including the Nie brothers who were adopted by Hogg to get more knowledge about him, and also visited the Shandan Bailie School to which Hogg dedicated all his life.

George Hogg was born in Britain in 1915 and studied in St. George School in Harpenden, his hometown. After he graduated from middle school, he went to study in Wadham College, Oxford, where he got the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In 1937, 22-year-old Hogg together with his aunt went to the United States and Japan. In that year Japan started the aggressive war against China. In 1938, he came to China after passing through different places and first arrived in Shanghai which had been already occupied by the Japanese aggressors. In the city he saw houses destroyed by the flames of war, soldiers struggling for existence in hunger and pain, street

urchins, homeless pregnant women who were about to give birth on the street. The sufferings of the Chinese people aroused his great sympathy. He asked himself what he could do for the Chinese people. In Wuhan he got acquainted with Agnes Smedley and Rewi Alley, and through their introduction he went to Yan'an, the strongest centre of the anti-Japanese aggression movement at that time, where he saw that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), young people with high ideals and great fervour were determined to drive the Japanese aggressors away, rejuvenate China and fight for their motherland. Soon afterwards he went to the frontline and anti-Japanese guerrilla battlefield where he witnessed the fights between the Eighth Route Army and the Japanese aggressors. Thereupon, he wrote the book *I See a New China* exposing the corruption and decline of the Kuomintang bureaucratic rule and praising the spirit of resistance against Japanese aggression under the leadership of the CPC.

He decided to stay in China and joined the Gung Ho movement run by Rewi Alley and others.

ren, vice president of the CAFA, Zhong Jikun, president of the ALA, and Mhd Kheir Al-Wadi, chairman of the Arab Ambassadors Council in China and Syrian ambassador to China, delivered speeches at the recitation, affirming and praising the activity of its active role in promoting cultural exchanges between China and Arab countries as well as the study of Arabic literature in China.

The activity aimed to illustrate achievements in the study of

Arabic literature in China, enrich the contents of cultural exchanges between China and Arab countries, and enhance Chinese students' interest in learning Arabic poems. At the recitation, Chinese and Arab students recited famous poems of China and Arab countries both in Chinese and Arabic. Based on their own study and understanding, they demonstrated the charm of the two languages and cultures with their emotions and voices, making the audience indulge in the beautiful, dream-

like, thought-provoking and philosophical poetic realm. Song and dances were also performed at the occasion. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, various talents of the students were fully displayed.

After the recitation, Chen Haosu, Li Chengren, Wang Yunze, Feng Zuoku, Zhong Jikun, CSALT President Xie Zhirong, and Syrian Ambassador Mhd Kheir Al-Wadi presented souvenirs to student representatives and had photos taken with them.□



**The delegation of St. George School with representatives of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies, Huiwen Middle School and the CPAFFC, and comrades who have worked with Rewi Alley**

Not long after he went to Shuangshipu, a small town south of Baoji, and took charge of Bailie School at the invitation of Rewi Alley. The students of the school were mainly refugee children. The guiding principle for running the school was geared to the needs of production and not disengaged from the local people's struggle. Hogg lived together with the students and helped them to master practical skills for serving the people and their motherland. At that time he adopted four orphans of the Nie family: Nie Guangchun, Nie Guranghan, Nie Guangtao and Nie Guangpei. The eldest of the four was only 12 years old. He let the eldest and the second one study in Bailie School and brought up the third and the youngest all by himself, acting both as their father and mother. Once the third boy was seriously ill, he carried him in a handcart pulling it over the Qinling Mountain to a hospital in Baoji. The children took him as their own father.

In 1943 Rewi Alley accompanied Dr. Joseph Needham, a noted British scientist, to give a lecture in the Yumen Oilfield. On the way they passed Shandan, a small town at the western Gansu corridor. This remote small town far from the war front with rich resources, suitable conditions for developing agriculture and animal husbandry and some vacant houses was an ideal place for carrying out Gung Ho programmes. Thus, Hogg together with dozens of students put the school's equipment on several mule carts, and set off from Shuangshipu. After an ardu-

ous journey of several hundred miles they came to Lanzhou where they got on trucks and finally arrived at Shandan.

There Hogg took the school as his home and became one with the students who loved him very much. Unfortunately, once when he played basketball with the students, his toe was cut and he suffered from tetanus. On July 22, 1945 he passed away at the age of 30. His last words were: "Give my all to Bailie School."

In Beijing, the China Society for People's Friendship Studies and Huiwen Middle School invited comrades in the CPAFFC and those once working with Rewi Alley and particularly Nie Guangtao and Nie Guangpei to attend a meeting with the British friends. They told the British friends that the Chinese people would never forget their old friends who had made contributions to the Chinese revolution and construction and one of these international friends was George Hogg and that Hogg's book *I See a New China* was being translated into Chinese and was to be published.

The teachers and students of St. George School were warmly received by the teachers and students of Bailie School in Shandan. The British guests listened to the account of Hogg's moving deeds with tears in their eyes and were deeply touched. They visited the places where Hogg worked and lived and his tomb, the memorial stone tablet and square pavilion at the side of the Shandan River, and expressed

The author giving an account of Hogg's moving deeds at the meeting



their high respect and memory of him.

After the delegation returned home, Norman Hoare, principal of St. George School, sent us a letter saying: "I enjoyed it (the trip) enormously. It was an amazing experience and I need time to let the wonderful experience 'sink in'." He told us that they would continue to publicize Hogg's deeds to let

more people know that the friendship between the British and Chinese people had lasted for a long time, and that the Chinese Embassy and the Association of Chinese Teachers in Britain asked them to give reports about what they had seen and heard during their trip for tracing Hogg's deeds.

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### (Continued from p.23)

contacts and serve as a bridge for the enterprises of the two countries to cooperate and establish joint ventures. CFSCERFC Chairman Gulyamov hoped that the two friendship organizations would deepen practical cooperation, promote cultural, educational, scientific and technological exchanges, and build a good platform for cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises.

Kazakh Senate Chairman Tokaev said that non-governmental diplomacy is an important and glorious work and that the fact that senior diplomat Zhang Deguang serves as president of the CCAFA will carry out well the people-to-people friendship work between China and Central Asian countries.

E. Tugrannov, vice chairman of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan, said, Kazakhstan is a country of many ethnic groups. The aims of the People's Assembly are to maintain harmony among ethnic groups, ensure the stability of the country and promote economic development. The Vice Chairman said that there was very much to learn from China. He wished to have more exchanges with the CCAFA on issues of common interest in the future.

Senate Chairman Tokaev spoke highly of the

continuous and fast development of relations between China and Kazakhstan, which has ushered bilateral relations to a new stage.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Norov expressed the willingness to help promote the establishment of friendship ties between China's Henan Province and Uzbek Samarkand State. He said that China's construction materials, small machinery, household electrical appliances enjoy good reputation in Uzbekistan. He welcomed Chinese enterprises to make investment or set up joint ventures in his country. Hamidullo Karamatov, rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, hoped to twin friendship ties with a Chinese university. The Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan expressed the wish to establish links and carry out academic exchanges with the China Foundation of International Studies and Academic Exchanges.

The delegation also exchanged views with relevant leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on bilateral economic and trade cooperation, international and regional situation, the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, water resources in Central Asia, reforms in social fields, etc. □

# Preparations for “Guangzhou International Friendship Cities Conference 2008”

**He Guoyou**

Guangzhou plans to hold “Guangzhou International Friendship Cities Conference 2008” in the later half of this year to further communication and cooperation with its friendship cities. In preparation, a meeting of friendship cities’ representatives was held by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangzhou Municipal Government from March 13 to 15. Forty-nine representatives from 26 cities that have friendship-city relations or friendly cooperation with Guangzhou in 22 countries took part in this meeting. Chen Mingde, vice mayor of Guangzhou, Fu Lang,

director general of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangdong Provincial Government, and heads of other relevant departments of Guangzhou attended the meeting and related activities.

The participants visited cultural, educational and infrastructural projects including Guangzhou Development Zone, Nansha Development Zone, University Town, Zhujiang New Town, and Exhibition Centre, to get a general picture of the city’s economic and social development. At the meeting, the participants exchanged views on holding the

Guangzhou International Friendship Cities Conference, and explored ways to strengthen economic, scientific and cultural cooperation and exchanges between Guangzhou and its friendship cities.

During the meeting, the Guangzhou Municipal People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries conferred the title of Friendship Envoy on 38 friends from Guangzhou’s friendship cities. The Guangzhou Municipal Government Foreign Affairs Office also conducted bilateral talks with representatives of some of its friendship cities.

