

Number 160
June 2010

VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

Published in
Chinese and English

CONTENTS

Fiftieth Anniversary of CLACFA

CLACFA—50 Years' Glorious History	Ji Wei 2
Retrospective on a Brilliant Chapter of Non-Governmental Diplomacy Between China and Latin America	Tang Mingxin 4

In Other Lands

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Mali, Togo and Angola	Tang Ruimin 8
CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Her Party in Japan	Xia Guozhu, Wang Heshan 9
Second China-South Asia Cultural Forum and China-Nepal Conference on Cultural Exchanges	Gao Hui 11
CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Visits Japan	15
CPAFFC Delegation Visits Thailand	16
CPAFFC Delegation Attends Global Zero Summit	Ji Yongjun 17
CPAFFC Delegation in the Philippines	Hu Yang 27
Fushun High School Students' Homestay Visit to the U. K.	Lan Yan 44

In Celebration of 60th Anniversary of China-India Diplomatic Ties

Sixtieth Anniversary of China-India Diplomatic Relations Marked	Our Staff Reporter 18
Selected Speeches at First Sino-Indian University Students Forum	19
Reviving Old Memories of Hindi-Chini Phai Phai Days	Lu Wanru 22

Interviews and Speeches

Working for Peace, Friendship Between China and Japan and Common Development —Interview with Katsuhito Asano	Shen Jing 29
Wish China and Switzerland Have a Bright Future	Thomas Wagner (Switzerland) 32

Friendship Activities

Foreign Friends Celebrate Lantern Festival in Huanglongxi	Chuan You 14
Embrace the World—First China International Spring Festival Gala	Li Lei 34
China-EU 2010 Chinese New Year Party Held	Our Staff Reporter 36
CPAFFC Donates 100,000 RMB to Chilean Earthquake-Hit Area	Ji Wei 39

Cultural Exchanges

China National Peking Opera Company's Performance Tour of Japan	Zhang Yaqin 38
Harmonious Night, Beautiful Singing	Duan Beisheng 40

Friendship Highlights

Build a Better Future with Love —On Kasukabe City JCFA's Donation of a Hope Primary School in Gouxicun Village	Yuan Mindao 41
---	----------------

Front cover: The CPAFFC 2010 Spring Festival Gala held in the National Convention Center (February 6)

Sponsored and published by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Editor-in-Chief: Wang Hong

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

E-mail: yousheng_ys@sina.com

ISSN 1000-9582 CN11-1234/D

Fax: (010)65122782

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

<http://www.qikan.com>

CLACFA—50 Years' Glorious History

Ji Wei

Throughout a turbulent 50-year period in world developments, the China-Latin America and the Caribbean Friendship Association (CLACFA) shines out as a beacon of hope, having contributed much to the history of the people-to-people diplomacy of New China. It was appropriate, therefore, to choose a moment when Spring was coaxing out the first flowers of the year, to celebrate the 50th anniversary on March 15, with not only a normal Council Meeting of the CLACFA but also a commemorative event at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Beijing.

Council members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Culture, Tsinghua University, China.com.cn., China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd., and other provincial and municipal

organizations for friendship with foreign countries, totaling about 60 people of more than 50 units, were present.

Cheng Siwei, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and CLACFA President, and Li Xiaolin, Vice President of the CPAFFC, delivered major speeches on the occasion, and Secretary General Wang Hongqiang read a work report on behalf of the CLACFA to the Council.

In her speech, Vice President Li Xiaolin said that, for 50 years the CLACFA had closely adhered to its aim of promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and the people of Latin America and the Caribbean region, expanding bilateral exchanges and cooperation, and enhancing common

development.

Through exchanging delegations, holding different kinds of cultural, economic and trade symposiums, and pushing forward exchanges between local governments, the CLACFA had made unremitting efforts to deepening mutual understanding and friendship as well as promoting cooperation in various fields of politics, economy and culture and among local governments. She expressed sincere gratitude to the institutional council members and friends of the CLACFA for their long-time support and assistance.

Talking of this year's work plan, Vice President Li said that 2010 was an important year to the CLACFA. During the short period of little more than a month before the Chinese Spring Festival, celebrations had been held to commemorate the 30th an-



niversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Ecuador, the fifth anniversary of the restoration of the diplomatic relations between China and Grenada, and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and Colombia. It had also hosted a lunch reception to welcome the visiting Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding and his party, received a delegation from Honduras, and made a donation of 100,000 yuan each to the earthquake-hit countries of Haiti and Chile for their reconstruction. Later in the year, more commemorative events would be held to mark the anniversaries of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and other Latin American countries. Large-scale conferences would be held, including the China-Mexico non-governmental economic and trade forum, the China-Central Latin America non-governmental economic and trade cooperation forum, and the China-Latin America friendship cities forum. Delegations would visit various Latin American and the Caribbean countries.

During a free discussion, council members representing the educational, academic, art and business circles and the media, as well as local friendship-with-foreign-countries associations offered suggestions and advice on the function of the Council and ways to further enhance exchanges and cooperation. The discussion was very lively, with bursts of laughter and applause for the brilliant remarks made by the participants.

In the evening, the CLACFA hosted a banquet for council members and diplomats of Latin American embassies. It also conferred the China-Latin America Friendship Medal on Guillermo R. Velez Londono, Colombian Ambassador and Dean of the Diplomatic



CLACFA President Cheng Siwei presenting the medal and the certificate of China-Latin America Friendship to Guillermo R. Velez Londono, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps of Latin American and Caribbean countries and Colombian Ambassador to China

Corps of Latin American and Caribbean Countries in China, for his great contributions to the cause of Sino-Latin American friendship. □



Retrospective on a Brilliant Chapter of Non-Governmental Diplomacy Between China and Latin America

Tang Mingxin

On March 16, 1960, the China-Latin America and the Caribbean Friendship Association (CLACFA) jointly launched by the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and 14 other people's organizations was founded. As we now celebrate the 50th anniversary, I would like to reflect on the past as a person who had the opportunity to participate in this exciting and magnificent chapter of history and witness the glorious progress of China-Latin America friendship from a mere trickle of people-to-people diplomacy to the torrential flow of today. So many memories and emotions emerge as a result.

People-to-People Diplomacy Pioneered Under the Instructions of Great Leaders

Contacts between the people of China and Latin America can be traced back to distant times, but only after the founding of New China in 1949 were they able to enter a period of profound development. However, the road was not a smooth one. In the early years, we were faced with a very

complicated and difficult situation in developing relations with other countries, particularly those in Latin America regarded as being in the "backyard" of the United States. But, Chairman Mao Zedong showed great foresight adopting a view of global interests to put forward the principle of uniting with those nations anywhere willing to treat us as equals and with the people around the world loving peace and freedom. On this basis, we could restore and develop all forms of exchanges conducive to consolidation of the fruits of revolutionary victory, growth of production, economic prosperity and safeguarding world peace. Under Chairman Mao's guidance of making a correct assessment of the situation, we surmounted obstacles such as political isolation, economic blockade and military threat imposed by the United States and other Western countries and the "people-to-people diplomacy" between China and Latin America saw vigorous development.

In September 1950, Hugo Batalla, who later served as Uruguayan Vice President in 1996, accompanied a group of progressive young Latin

Americans on a visit to take part in the celebrations of the first anniversary of the founding of the PRC. He once told me with feeling about Chairman Mao's talk with them. You are not afraid of blockade against China imposed by the West headed by the United States, he told them. You disregarded their attacks and slanders against New China, and even less feared being blacklisted by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and at last you have come here after surmounting all obstacles. You should be called heroes who "forced five passes and slew six captains"!^{*} It is thus evident that no one is able to resist the strength of people's solidarity! You are the pioneers of friendly exchanges between the people of Latin America and China. We appreciate your deep friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people. On hearing what Chairman Mao had said, everyone present became very excited and the meeting hall burst into warm applause. Batalla said with emotion that this historical moment recorded the touching scene of irresistible friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Latin

* "Forced five passes and slew six captains" is about the story of Guan Yu, a general under Liu Bei (King of the State of Shu) during the era of the Three Kingdoms. He once fought his way through five strongholds and killed six of the generals of Cao Cao (King of the State of Wei) to reach Liu Bei, hence the modern meaning of "passing through many trials"



Chairman Mao Zedong receiving a youth delegation from Latin American countries in September 1962

American people, and that he would never forget Chairman Mao's breadth of vision.

New Bridges for China-Latin America Friendship Built

Subsequent facts proved the correctness of his prediction. In those years in Latin America, there emerged a number of pioneers who were friendly to China. With friendly sentiments of sympathizing and supporting the Chinese revolution and strong desire to enhance understanding of New China they established friendship-with-China associations and carried out friendly and cultural exchanges. Personages friendly to China including noted figures of various circles such as Salvador Allende, who later became Chile's president, and former Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas, overcame numerous difficulties and obstacles and visited China one after another to deepen friendly ties.

At the same time, the Chinese people also sent their envoys to visit Latin America many times. Among them there were delegations from cultural, art, business and press circles and trade unions, youth and women's organizations. All such activities built a new bridge linking the Chinese and Latin American people across the Pacific Ocean.

Close Neighbors Separated Only by the Ocean

Entering the 1960s, along with China's rising international status and Latin American people's stronger desire for friendly ties, contacts and cultural and trade exchanges expanded rapidly. Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, President Liu Shaoqi, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhu De often met with representatives of various Latin American circles, greatly promoting development of people-to-people ex-

changes and state-to-state relations. I still clearly remember the significant remarks made by Premier Zhou during his meeting with several Latin American delegations. He said: China and Latin America should be considered close neighbors of being separated by a mere pool of water—the Pacific Ocean. An ancient Chinese saying declares: “A bosom friend afar brings a distant land near.” We and Latin America are the best neighbors and friends only separated by a single ocean. So, I hope that we will make concerted efforts to turn the ocean into a really pacific one to bring the peace essential for world progress and human happiness. Premier Zhou's remarks reflected the common aspiration of the Chinese and Latin American people and later became classic famous sayings often quoted by Latin American friends.

Promoting Governmental Relations Through People-to-People Contacts

Fiftieth Anniversary of CLACFA

In view of various factors hindering development of China-Latin America relations at that time, Chairman Mao, Premier Zhou and other leaders put forward the guiding principle of making steady progress on a long-term basis, carrying out both governmental and non-governmental diplomacy and promoting governmental relations through people-to-people contacts. In a meeting with a Latin American journalist, Chairman Mao said explicitly: We welcome Latin American countries to establish diplomatic relations with China. We welcome Latin American countries to do business with us even if they don't establish diplomatic relations. We welcome Latin American countries to keep general contacts with us even if they do not do business with us. This guiding principle of "promoting governmental relations through people-to-people contacts" pushed the friendly contacts between the people of China and Latin America to a new stage.

Guillermo del Pedregal, former

Chilean Minister of the Interior and a former Vice President, always maintained that Chile should develop friendly relations with China. When Chairman Mao, President Liu Shaoqi and Premier Zhou met with him, he said that, to develop relations, the two countries could start with bilateral trade and let the Chilean people see the actual fruits achieved by developing relations with China. When conditions were ripe, the two countries could then discuss establishing diplomatic relations. Our leaders agreed with and appreciated his idea and called it a good method of "kai gou wa qu (digging ditches)" and eventually "shui dao qu cheng (a canal is formed when water comes)". Hearing this, Pedregal was very glad and said he had made up his mind to "dig ditches" and was determined to see the day of "shui dao qu cheng" when the two countries at last established diplomatic relations.

Later, people-to-people friendly contacts and business and trade relations between China and Chile developed continuously. The two

countries formally established diplomatic relations in 1970. So, Pedregal's wish was realized.

An "All-Weather" Friend.

Danillo Santos is an "all-weather" old friend of the China-Latin America Friendship Association. Since serving as a lawyer to the Chinese delegation sent to participate in the Rio de Janeiro's International Exposition in 1963, he has thrown all his energy into the friendly exchange between Brazil and China and forged deep friendship with the Chinese people.

Over the past more than 40 years, he has made painstaking efforts to develop bilateral friendship. Through various ups and downs, he has always worked hard to safeguard and promote the friendship between the people of the two countries.

On November 22, 2003, a CLACFA delegation visited Brazil. Cheng Siwei, then Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and President of the CLACFA, personally conferred the China-Latin America

Friendship Medal upon Mr. Santos in recognition of his outstanding contributions to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship. He, in turn, gave an emotional speech at the conferring ceremony, in which he declared: "By learning the spirit of utter devotion to others without any thought of self advocated by Chairman Mao in his article *Serve the People* and following the example of the hard struggle of *The Foolish Old Man who Removed the Mountains*, we at last broke through the solid ice and greeted the spring of

In 1965, Chinese President Liu Shaoqi having an in-depth discussion with former Chilean Minister of the Interior Guillermo del Pedregal on promoting relations between the two countries



Brazil-China relations. I have great respect for Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping. It is they who changed China from a poor and backward country into a strong and prosperous one. Now, Brazil-China friendship and economic and trade cooperation are developing rapidly. I firmly believe that on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the friendship mansion built by the two largest developing countries in the world will forever stand on the planet."

Jointly Creating the Future of China-Latin America Friendship

In the past 50 years since its founding, the CLACFA has done much work in receiving Latin American personages of various circles, mutually sending cultural and art delegations and conducting economic and trade exchanges and cooperation. It has also carried out activities in extensive areas such as publicizing China's long-standing history, unique culture, policy of reform and opening up, and achievements in its socialist

Premier Zhou Enlai and Gustavo Baz (R.2), former Mexican Secretary of Public Health, having a cordial conversation



Premier Zhou Enlai in company with youth from Asia, Africa and Latin America participating in the celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of New China in 1950

construction to Latin American countries, commemorating Latin American national heroes and cultural celebrities, introducing the fine cultural heritage of Latin American countries and supporting the just struggle of Latin American people for safeguarding national independence and national

sovereignty. The CLACFA has become a large stage to carry out multi-level friendly cooperation and exchanges. China-Latin America relations, after experiencing various ups and downs during the past half century, are now developing rapidly and vigorously. Let us join hands together to create a more brilliant future.

Fifty years have passed. These unforgettable fine memories encourage me to continue to work for the friendship between China and Latin America. When I look at the vast starlit sky, many thoughts flash through my mind: Is the deep friendship between China and Latin America like the stars that shine forever in an infinite space and time?

The author once served as deputy director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC, secretary general of the CLACFA and Chinese ambassador to Bolivia and Uruguay.

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Mali, Togo and Angola

Tang Ruimin



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu with Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure

A CPAFFC delegation led by President Chen Haosu visited Mali, Togo and Angola from December 5 to 16, 2009, taking the opportunity to attend the Fifth Symposium on China-Africa Friendship Cities in Bamako, Mali.

The visits were at the invitation of Kafougouna Kone, Mali Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Communities, Yao Bloua Agbo, President of the Togo-China Friendship Association, and Domingos Da Cruz, President of the Association of Angolan People for Friendship and Solidarity.

In Mali, President Amadou Toumani Toure, Prime Minister Modibo Sidibe, President of the National Assembly Dioncounda Traore and Minister Kone met President Chen. President Toure spoke highly of the contributions made by the older generation of Chinese revolutionaries, especially by Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi during their visit to Mali in 1960.

He thanked President Chen for visiting his country



Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe meeting with the delegation

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Her Party in Japan

Xia Guozhu, Wang Heshan

To consolidate friendly relations and enhance friendship-city ties, a delegation of China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) and China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) headed by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin visited Tokyo and Niigata from January 25 to 28. The delegation was invited by the Niigata Prefectural Government and the Sasakawa

Japan-China Friendship Fund.

Meeting Japanese Leaders and High-Level Political Figures

Meeting Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on the day, Li Xiaolin highly praised his contribution to Sino-Japanese friendship and gave a brief account of the work of the CPAFFC, the CIFCA and CFFPD and their contacts with Japan.

She also informed the Prime Minister of the preparations underway for World Expo Shanghai and hoped that he would attend the Expo's opening ceremony, and discovered a highly receptive listener. Hatoyama said his wife had been born in Shanghai, so he cherished a special feeling for the city and he very much wanted to visit the Shanghai Expo.

The Prime Minister also put

just before the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries and his personal efforts to further the relations at the official level and the understanding between the two peoples.

In Togo, when meeting with Chen Haosu, President Faure Gnassingbe praised the increasingly strengthened relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields between the two countries, saying that he would use the word "friendship" to describe Sino-Togolese and Sino-African relations. The Togolese President expressed appreciation of China's positive measures in coping with the world financial crisis and global environmental issues, noting that a flourishing China was very important to the world economic growth.

The tri-nation visit enhanced the understanding and friendship between the peoples and consolidated the friendly and cooperative relations between China and the three countries. □



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and President Domingos Da Cruz of the Association of Angolan People for Friendship and Solidarity signing a cooperation agreement

The symposium on cooperation between local governments of China and Mali in session





CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (L.1) presenting an album of traditional Chinese paper-cut to Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama (middle)

emphasis on the importance of exchanges between youth of the two countries.

“The CPAFFC was one of the first organizations engaged in people-to-people friendly exchanges with other countries in the history of New China,” said Li. “We always attach great importance to contact between the Chinese and Japanese young peo-

ple. Only when they learn to understand each other and live as friends can there be bright future for Sino-Japanese friendship”.

She said that, every year, the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) organized hundreds of Chinese middle school students to visit Japan and, in turn, hosted Japanese school visits to China. In this way it hoped the younger generation of the two countries would ob-

serve and understand each other with an objective eye and a peaceful mindset so as to create a strong foundation for further developing bilateral interpersonal relations.

Regarding the work of the CIF-CA, she said it currently oversaw 1,600 sister city arrangements, of which 248 involved Japanese cities. Encouraged by the late Premier Zhou

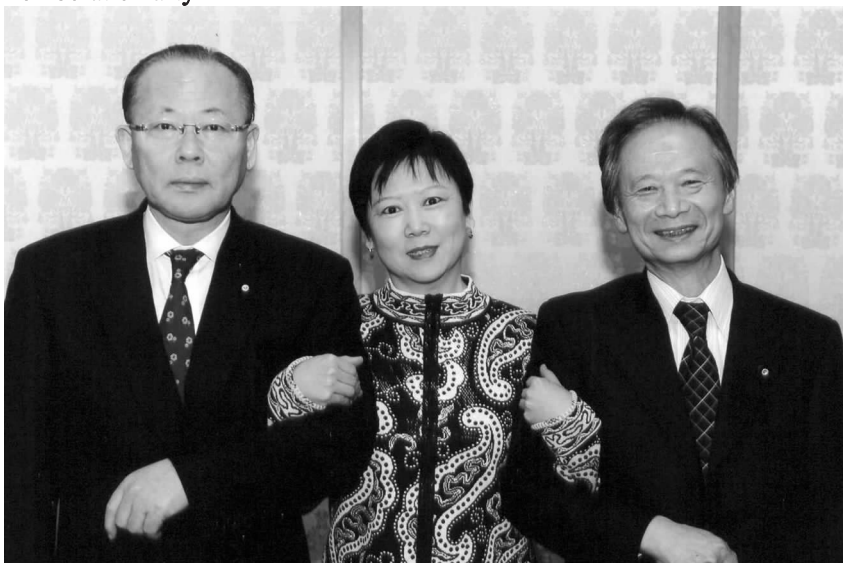
Enlai, the ports of Tianjin and Kobe had pioneered friendship-city relations in 1973, and they had maintained close friendly relations and co-operation ever since.

When meeting with the visiting delegation, Satsuki Eda, President of the House of Councilors, talked about his own experiences in China. He went to China for the first time in 1943 with his father who had escaped from imprisonment for his anti-war views and finally reached the northern Chinese city of Shijiazhuang, where he worked as a laborer. The child returned to Japan after the war at the age of four. Eda’s second visit to China was in 1978 at the invitation of the CJFA. He made a special trip to Shijiazhuang where his parents had worked in the hope of finding traces of the past. Things had changed with the passage of time and he could not recognize the place, he recalled.

President Eda said that China was his second motherland and he was glad to see the country progress with each passing day. He expressed admiration for China’s eye-catching achievements and suggested it make careful use of its resources as well as protecting the environment. He told the delegation that Japan had suffered serious cases of pollution during its rapid economic development in the 1960s and 1970s and learned many hard lessons. Through years of arduous efforts, improvements had been obtained, but he hoped China would not repeat Japan’s mistakes.

Li Xiaolin also called on Kenji Yamaoka, Chairman of DPJ’s Diet Policy Committee; Yoshihiro Kawakami, member of the House of Councilors; Chinami Nishimura, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs; Natsuo Yamaguchi, Chief Representative of the New Komeito Party; Tomoko Ukishima, member of the House of Councilors for the NKP;

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin with Satsuki Eda (right), President of the House of Councilors, and Yoshihiro Kawakami (left), Dietman of the Democratic Party



Second China-South Asia Cultural Forum And China-Nepal Conference on Cultural Exchanges

Gao Hui

The visit to India and Nepal by a CPAFFC cultural delegation led by Vice President Jing Dunquan in December provided an outstanding opportunity to review the future shape of non-government relations of these two countries with their northern neighbor in both the short- and medium-term.

An important purpose of the visit from December 4 to 12 was to attend

the Second China-South Asia Cultural Forum in New Delhi and the China-Nepal Conference on Cultural Exchanges in Kathmandu. However, the delegation also took the opportunity to pay an official call on Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, and hold substantive talks with leading officials of their respective friendship organization in the two countries.

The Second China-South Asia Cultural Forum was co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the India-China Institute and co-organized by Peking University, the Beijing Foreign Studies University, Shenzhen University, the University of Delhi and the Jawaharlal Nehru University of India. Its theme was "Looking at China and South Asia in the Modern World from the Perspective of Geo-Civilization".

Ryotaro Tanose, Chairman of LDP's General Council, and Katsuhito Asano, member of the House of Councilors for the LDP. These meetings enabled the Japanese political figures to get to better the work of the CPAFFC, CIFCA and CFFPD, and helped enhance CPAFFC's links with Japan while further consolidating the friendly relations between the two countries.

Visiting Local Authorities

The delegation was accorded warm welcome by the Niigata Prefectural Government when it arrived in the western Honshu coastal region. Li Xiaolin had meetings with Governor Hirohiko Izumida, Deputy Governor Kunio Mori, Mayor Akira Shinoda of Niigata City, President Michiei Takahashi of the *Niigata Nippo* and President Matsuji Takeishi of the Broadcasting System of Niigata. Governor Izumida thanked China for giving Niigata two crested ibises. He said, 2009 was the 25th

anniversary of the twinning between Niigata Prefecture and Heilongjiang Province, during which the two sides had carried out fruitful exchanges. China would open a consulate-general in Niigata within 2010 and he looked forward to this day. The Governor was inspired by China's economic takeoff and wished great success of the Shanghai Expo.

Li Xiaolin said many cities in China wished to further their contact and cooperation with Niigata. This September, the China International Friendship Cities Conference would be held in Shanghai, and 300 to 500 representatives from cities around the world would be invited to attend the conference. She hoped that Governor Izumida would head the Niigata delegation to the conference and, together with other delegates, explore common issues such as climate warming, resources protection, low-carbon life, urban planning and construction, etc. faced by humanity. □

Calling on Friends Old and New

In Tokyo, the delegation paid a visit to Soka Gakkai, an old contact of the CPAFFC and was given warm reception by Kenji Yoshigo, its Vice President, and other members. Yoshigo conveyed to Li Xiaolin greetings from Daisaku Ikeda, founder of Soka Gakkai International.

The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund, the largest one committed to promoting exchanges between the two countries, was set up in 1989 and later established links with the CPAFFC and CFFPD. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and Adviser to the Fund. The two sides exchanged information about their respective activities in charity and public welfare and their views on how to further the friendly contacts between the two countries in an amicable atmosphere. They agreed to make more efforts for youth exchanges to increase the fields and scale of such contacts. □



Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal meeting with the delegation

Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC Vice President, Zhang Yan, Chinese Ambassador to India, Veerappa Moily, Union Minister of Law and Justice of India, Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Co-Chairman of the Indian Institute of Chinese Studies, and noted Chinese scholar Professor Tan Zhong attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. In his speech, Jing Dunquan reviewed the history of friendly exchanges between China and India over two millennia and noticeable

achievements in the political, economic, trade, cultural and tourist exchanges in recent years. He put forward the following four suggestions on future China-India cooperation and exchanges: to enhance trust and reduce misgivings and strengthen cooperation; increase youth exchanges and create a future of friendship; carry out cultural exchanges as the central work so as to create multi-directional exchanges; revive oriental culture and jointly build an Asian epoch. He also

briefed the participants about the contents and aim of CPAFFC's work, pointing out that the conducting of friendly exchanges with South Asian countries was an important component part of this work. The cultural forum they were all attending was a specific example of this.

About 100 scholars on international relations and personages of cultural circles from China, India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong held three days of academic discussions around the theme. To support the successful convening of the forum, the CPAFFC cultural delegation held a photo exhibition Confucianism. The exhibition, in the form of photos combined with texts, displayed the life story of Confucius and the founding, inheritance and evolution of Confucianism. Through the exhibition, many visitors came to know about Confucius and got a deeper understanding of his philosophy. The exhibition helped popularize and publicize ancient Chinese civilization.

To enliven the forum, the delegation held a show of dresses with traditional Chinese paper-cut patterns.



Besides inviting local Indian female university students who loved Chinese culture to act as models, female members of the delegation also took part in modeling. The audience was attracted by the dresses with unique and beautiful paper-cut patterns and warmly applauded the show. The Chinese and Indian models' excellent performance in a lively atmosphere was a delightful climax to the opening ceremony.

The successful convening of the forum in India on the occasion of the upcoming 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic relations will deepen understanding between the two countries, enhance trust, reduce misgivings and impact profoundly on the development of a long-term good neighborly and friendly relationship between China and India and other South Asian neighboring nations as well.

After the forum, the delegation went to Nepal to attend the China-Nepal Conference on Cultural Exchanges. During the two-day visit, the delegation met with personages of Nepalese friendship-with-China organizations and friends of various circles and carried out rich and colorful cultural exchange activities.

On December 12, Nepalese Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal cordially met with Jing Dunquan and chief members of the delegation. Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Qiu Guohong was also present. The two sides exchanged views on promoting Sino-Nepalese friendly relations. Prime Minister Nepal noted that his country and China had enjoyed traditional friendship and friendly contacts since ancient times and these had stood the test of time. He pointed out that, no matter how the Nepal Government might change, the friendship between the Nepalese and the Chinese peoples remained unaltered. He also

briefed about the development of Nepal and expressed his thanks to China for its support and aid. Jing Dunquan expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Nepalese side for its consistent support for China's stance on the questions related to Tibet and its vigorous support for China's efforts to crack down on Tibetan separatist activities.

The China-Nepal Conference on Cultural Exchanges was held in Kathmandu December 11 to 12. Chinese Ambassador Qiu Guohong and leaders and members of about 20 Nepalese friendship-with-China organizations including the World Cultural Net of Nepal (WCNN), the Nepal-China Friendship Association, the Nepal-China Friendship Youth Association, the Nepal Arniko Society, the Nepal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Nepal-China Media Association, the National Council of CRI (China Radio International) Listeners' Clubs, as well as overseas Chinese in Nepal and friendly personages totaling more than 110 people attended the conference.

In his speech, Jing Dunquan reviewed recent years' exchanges and cooperation between the CPAFFC and various Nepalese friendship organizations and briefed about the CPAFFC's work particularly the China South Asia Friendship Organizations' Forum held in Beijing in October 2009. He expressed his appreciation of Nepalese friendship organizations for their many years of contributions to the cause of friendship between China and Nepal and suggested that the friendship organizations of the two countries strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields on the occasion of 55th anniversary of the establishment of China-Nepal diplomatic relations in 2010. Dipak Sarkar, President of the

WCNN, on behalf of all the Nepalese friendship organizations, responded. He expressed his welcome to the CPAFFC cultural delegation, saying their visit gave Nepalese friendship organizations greatest encouragement and support in their work. He said the CPAFFC had played an indispensable role in promoting the development of relations between China and Nepal and enhancing friendship between the two peoples. Members of the delegation from Haikou, Guizhou, Foshan and Zhengzhou spoke at the conference, briefing the Nepalese participants about developments in culture and tourism in their respective cities and provinces and expressing their willingness to conduct exchanges and cooperation with Nepalese local organizations to promote the development of the cause of friendship between China and Nepal.

At the conference the Department of Cultural Exchange of the CPAFFC and the WCNN signed a memorandum of cooperation in cultural exchanges.

During its visit to India and Nepal, the delegation paid attention to promoting people-to-people exchanges and interactions from cultural perspectives aiming at enhancing mutual understanding, deepening friendship and boosting a sound development of the relations between China and South Asian countries. The delegation consisted of 44 members from 11 Chinese provinces and 14 cities. Most of the members selected from their local cultural, publicity and foreign affairs departments and had intimate knowledge of the culture of their respective provinces and cities. The visit helped them broaden their vision and make more friends, laying a foundation for future exchanges between local governments of China and India and Nepal. □

Foreign Friends Celebrate Lantern Festival In Huanglongxi

Chuan You

The Chinese Lantern Festival of the Year of the Tiger—marking the traditional end of the New Year festivities—fell on February 28 this year. The Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) in cooperation with the Tourism Bureau of Chengdu and the Shuangliu County People's Government held the 2010 Friendship Spring—Huanglongxi Lantern Festival Cultural Fair to give foreigners living and working in the region an opportunity to join the Chinese people in their celebrations.

Among the approximately 100 people invited to the

celebration were diplomats from the consulates-general of the U.S., Pakistan, France, the Republic of Korea and Germany based in Chengdu, and representatives of business offices, experts and scholars from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Russia, Canada, U.K., Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Iceland, Poland, Australia and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Xue Kang, Deputy Secretary General of the provincial government, extended warm Spring greetings to the guests and gratitude to them for their care for the development and progress of Sichuan and their valuable support and assistance to its opening up to the outside world and reconstruction after the May 2008 earthquake.

Huanglongxi, an ancient town in western Sichuan 42 km from Chengdu city proper, has a history of over 1,700 years. The foreign guests toured the town enthusiastically, fascinated by the ancient folk residences, temples, stone bridges and piers, the making of traditional folk arts and handicrafts and local delicacies, the colorful lanterns of different shapes and sizes and bustling streets. At the Lantern Festival Show, items such as unique skills of Sichuan Opera, high-pile lion dance, the Fuhe River boatmen's chant were performed. The fire dragon dance, characteristic of Huanglongxi, presented a magnificent scene of a dragon dancing amid exploding fireworks, which brought the celebration to a climax. Some foreign friends joined in the dance to experience the joy.

Lantern Festival symbolizes reunion, the return of Spring and a fresh start for all things living. SIFA President Qin Lin said at the celebration that SIFA organized this event to provide an opportunity for foreign friends living in Sichuan to spend a genuine Chinese New Year in Huanglongxi and to see for themselves the unique features and charm of traditional Chinese culture. This will help enhance mutual understanding, strengthen contact and promote friendship and cooperation. □

Joining in the festivities in Huanglongxi



Foreign friends learning to make *yuan xiao* (small dumplings made of glutinous rice flour with sweet stuffing)



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Visits Japan

To further exchanges and cooperation between the people of China and Japan and enhance ties between the CPAFFC and Japanese non-governmental friendly organizations, President Chen Haosu visited Japan at the head of a CPAFFC delegation from February 7 to 12. The visit was made at the invitation of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association. Satsuki Eda, President of the House of Councilors, and Takahiro Yokomichi, Speaker of the House of Representatives met with Chen Haosu and his party. The delegation attended a welcoming reception given by the JCCEA and made extensive contact with friendly personages from various circles. □



Top: President of the House of Councilors Satsuki Eda (right) with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu



Middle: CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting a calligraphic work to Takahito Yokomichi, Speaker of the House of Representatives

From left: Artist Yao Yuan, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, JCCEA President Takashi Tsujii and Director General Senji Kuroi at the reception





CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku (left) presenting a souvenir to Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Thailand

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand. The two countries enjoy close relations and their peoples long-standing friendship. Over the past 35 years great progress has been made in the exchanges and cooperation in various fields between them. A CPAFFC delegation led by its Vice President Feng Zuoku went

to Thailand on January 18 at the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association to coordinate with the latter on a series of activities in celebration of the anniversary and reached consensus on joint programs. The delegation called on Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya and held meetings with other Thai organizations. □



Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya (L.5) meeting with the delegation

(Continued from p.26)

join hands to create a better life for their peoples in a world of multi-polarization and economic globalization. The Indian national anthem was composed in 1911 after British colonialists' brutal suppression of the nation-wide struggle waged by the Indian people in 1908, which opposed the British policy of "Divide and Rule" and boycotted British commercial products. Tagore wrote the song to encourage all Indians irrespective of

their ethnicities and religious beliefs to unite as one, pull through the cold night and get prepared for the coming of the dawn. This patriotic song became popular among the Indian people and was made the national anthem after the country's independence. I believe should Tagore hear the Chinese soldiers singing this song after a China-India joint military exercise today, he would be gratified.

China and India are both countries of brilliant ancient civilization.

The cultural exchanges of over 2,000 years between the two peoples have made it possible for the two cultural systems to embrace a common ground □ the philosophies of "Nature and Man are One" in China and "Brahmatamikyam" in India. I am confident that the younger generations of both countries will inherit their great cultural tradition and work closely together to build a better and harmonious world.

Dec. 31, 2009

CPAFFC Delegation Attends Global Zero Summit

Ji Yongjun

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu led a delegation to attend the Global Zero Summit in Paris, France from February 2 to 4. The event aimed to promote a new phase in the “Global Zero” movement: working to reach a binding and verifiable agreement on elimination of all nuclear weapons worldwide. More than 200 public figures from around the world participated. US President Barack Obama, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon sent messages to the conference. Among the political, military and business leaders present and delivering speeches were George Schultz, former US Secretary of State; Mikhail Margelov, Member of the Federation Council and Vladimir Lukin, Chairman of the Constitutional Commission of Russia; Malcolm Rifkind, former UK Foreign Secretary; Michel Rocard, former French Prime Minister; Yasuo Fukuda, former Japanese Prime Minister; Jaswant Singh, former Indian Minister

for External Affairs; Sartai Aziz, former Pakistani Foreign Minister; Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; Jordan Queen Noor; and Ernesto Zedillo, former Mexican President. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu spoke at the Plenary Session on February 4 and signed the Global Zero Declaration in his own name.

“Global Zero” is an initiative for worldwide total nuclear disarmament first put forward by some well-known American personages. It was founded in Paris in December 2008. In June 2009, Global Zero offered a four-phase action plan for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons by 2030, including specific goals for each phase.

At the current conference in Paris, the participants mainly evaluated and discussed the possibility of implementing the action plan and hoped to elicit greater support worldwide. In view of the possible conclusion of a new round of the strategic nuclear

arms reduction treaty between the U.S. and Russia, they worked to drive forward the Global Zero initiative so as to achieve the desired target in 20 years.

Most of the participants affirmed the Global Zero initiative as good news for humanity. They gave many suggestions concerning the realization of the Global Zero Action Plan, the popularization of the Global Zero concept among youth and the general public, effective interaction with governments of various countries, etc.

This was the first time that the CPAFFC sent a delegation to attend the conference. During the meeting the delegation made full use of every opportunity to meet delegates from other countries to exchange information and views and publicize China’s nuclear policy and its practices.

In his speech Chen Haosu voiced his support for the Global Zero initiative. He stressed that the Chinese Government and people have always called for complete prohibition and

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the conference



Sixtieth Anniversary of China-India Diplomatic Relations Marked

Our Staff Reporter

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will make great efforts to further the friendship and cooperation between the people of China and India working together with personages of all circles," pledged President Chen Haosu, speaking at a reception in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The reception was jointly held by

the CPAFFC and the Indian Embassy in Beijing on April 6. State Councilor Dai Bingguo was among those present. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Indian Minister of External Affairs S. M. Krishna made speeches on behalf of the two sides.

On April 1, 1950, India became the first non-socialist country to forge diplomatic ties with China. The two countries, both ancient civilizations in the world, are traditional friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers; direct contacts have a history of over 2,000 years. In the 1950s, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

put forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence* in line with the cherished sentiment that "Chinese and Indian people are brothers". Since entering the new century, the two countries have witnessed enhanced friendly exchanges and cooperation in all fields. They established a strategic cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity in 2005, signed "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century" in 2008, and have deepened their cooperation in the fields of trade, science and technology, energy, counter-terrorism and fight against transnational crimes.

President Chen Haosu said: "With increasingly deepened official ties between China and India, people-to-people exchanges have also been thriving. The number of students going to study in each other's countries increases every year. The scale of tourism between the two countries expands rapidly and there is a growing popularity of Indian songs, dances and



State Councilor Dai Bingguo (right) and Indian Minister of External Affairs S. M. Krishna at the reception

thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and have been making unremitting efforts over the years. Chen proposed that a precondition should be set for Global Zero Action Plan, that is all countries with nuclear weapons should make solemn commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, thus leading to the for-

mation of an internationally recognized political-military mechanism to lower the possibility of using nuclear weapon to zero. The United States and Russia, the biggest nuclear powers possessing over 90% of all nuclear weapons in the world, have special and foremost responsibility, he said. If they would commit themselves not to

be the first to use nuclear weapons, then peoples in other countries with or without nuclear weapons would feel much relieved. When there was no possibility of using nuclear weapons, it would be easier for countries with nuclear weapons to abandon them, for no one wanted to pay dearly for something useless. □

Selected Speeches at First Sino-Indian University Students Forum

Editor's Note: The First Sino-Indian University Students Forum jointly sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China-India Friendship Association, and the Center for India Studies under Peking University, was held at Peking University from May 20 to 23, 2009. Seventy students from top Indian and Chinese universities took part in the forum. With the theme of "China-India cooperation is in our hands", the participants exchanged views on issues of common concern including politics, economy and culture and held discussions.

Speech by Zhang Minyu of Peking University

I am Zhang Minyu, an undergraduate majoring in Hindi enrolled in the Department of South Asian Studies of the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University in 2005. I feel honored to stand here today to share with all of you my excitement to speak on behalf of the 70 student representatives to the forum and on behalf of about 30 Indian and Chinese university students who helped organize this forum.

films in China. Academic and cultural exchanges between the two countries such as forums and symposiums sponsored by non-governmental organizations are on the increase. As one of the first people's organizations engaged in non-governmental diplomatic work in China, the CPAFFC is committed to promoting exchanges between the people of China and India. It has organized a series of activities which were rich in content and had far-reaching significance." In Chinese culture, he noted, the number 60 carries a special meaning. It represents the end of a cycle and heralds the beginning of a new chapter. He called for joint efforts for ever deep-

The friendship between China and India has a long history, and the Sino-Indian relationship has experienced rapid development in the past four years since I started learning Hindi in Peking University. Now, I need no longer to explain to whomever I meet that my major is a language used by people in India, not by the North American Indians. More and more students begin to follow with interest and learn about India, and a trip to In-

ening relations.

Indian External Minister Krishna said that the friendly cooperation between India and China not only conforms to the interests of both countries, but is also conducive to world peace. There were broad prospects for closer cooperation and India would take the opportunity of the 60th anniversary to enhance cooperation, contacts and understanding between the two countries and their peoples.

The External Minister unveiled a logo specially designed for the 60th anniversary celebrations.

Jiang Zhenghua, President of the China-India Friendship Association, Zhang Zhijun, Vice Minister of For-

dia is no longer regarded as a "legendary experience".

Accordingly, the Indians are paying more attention to China, which was reflected from my personal experience in India.

In 2006 when I studied in India on a government-funded student exchange program, I often met curious Indians who asked me: "Are you Japanese?" "No." "Korean?" When I told them I came from China, they

oreign Affairs, Nirupama Rao, Indian Foreign Secretary who accompanied the External Minister Krishna on his visit to China, S. Jaishankar, Indian Ambassador to China, were among more than 200 people attending the reception, which was filled with a friendly and happy atmosphere. Chinese and Indian artists and Chinese students performed Indian songs and dances.

***Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.**

would look surprised.

However, when I revisited India as a member of the China National Youth Delegation in November 2008, I was astonished that many Indian people immediately figured out we were from China, even vendors outside the Taj Mahal could speak some simple Chinese in doing their business such as “yi bai kuai qian” (“one hundred yuan”).

With a background as such, this forum is undoubtedly a splendid gathering of young students of the two countries. I would like to thank leaders of the CPAFFC, the China-India Friendship Association, the Center for India Studies under Peking University, the Indian Embassy in China, the Huawei India Foundation and the teachers for their offering us the opportunity to participate in the prepara-

tion for the forum and to be part of this important historical moment.

Finally, I extend to you, my Indian friends the warmest welcome, for your coming to China and Peking University. I hope the forum in the next few days will become one of the most unforgettable periods of our lives, and we may contribute a glorious page marked with our vigor in the annals of Sino-Indian relationship.

Speech by Indian Student Binod Singh at First Sino-Indian University Students Forum

(Excerpts)

How beautiful and awesome it is to see such a beautiful gathering of students from India and China. At the very outset, on behalf of Indian delegates, I would like to congratulate the organizers from Peking University, especially the Center of India study for hosting this historical conference.

Friends, I personally believe that this conference is an excellent opportunity for all of us from India to share our vision with our Chinese friends for a peaceful and harmonious global society. Right from this afternoon and in the following two days we are prepared to have an open, very candid and frank discussion about what we think of India-China bilateral relations in the 21st century. We are also delighted to have Prof. Jiang Jingkui and Madam Anita Sharma to guide us throughout this forum.

Friends, today, for me it's a dream coming true to see so many smiling faces in the beautiful campus of China's most elite institution for erudite scholarship. I mean welcome to Peking University because this is the only university in China

where Indian students are the least represented. For the last five years I have been celebrating the International Cultural Festival along with one or two Indian students who come here on the exchange program. In the long history of Peking University, this is the first time to see a gathering of the two oldest and living civilizations on the earth. I wish you all will fall in love not only with your counterparts, but also with the campus and with this beautiful city of Beijing. I take it for granted that you all love China and that's why you have worked hard to come here and take part in this forum.

To my friends from China, whom I know even before this conference, I would like to hug you all for such a hard work in putting this forum together and giving the current shape of the forum. I would warmly invite them to visit India anytime during their student life or working life in order to discover personally that India is not just all about Buddhism and IT but it is very diverse and dynamic. It is the museum of humanity, and it is also a world in itself. It is very hard to

conceive for many in the west that how 2% of a particular nationality in India can produce a president, and a prime minister for second term. Indeed it's a miracle that happens only in the Indian democracy.

Dear friends, I would also emphasize today that this forum is indeed convened at a very right and urgent time when the world economy is facing a severe recession due to the financial crisis which has its origins in the US sub-prime crisis. We the young students are at the receiving end of this crisis, when the companies are either not hiring or just firing. Certain governments in the West are thinking that we the young people from China and India are eating their lunch. We need to prove them wrong. Since, we belong to the two countries where almost forty percent of the humanity lives a constrained life under the conditions of undersupplied resource. Therefore I believe, this is a forum where we the young people need to decide our future together in this new emerging economic world order. Indeed, the future of India-China bilateral relations lies on

our shoulders.

I am confident to tell you that my other friends from India are very excited and well prepared to learn from you about your culture, your political system and decision making and about your economic achievements. We are here to learn from you with a very open mind, and in return we do hope to clear your certain stereotypes perceptions about India. As our first Prime Minister Pundit Nehru rightly observed that:

“During these thousand years... each country (China and India) learned something from each other, not only in region of thoughts and philosophy, but also in the arts and science of life. Probably China was more influenced by India, than India by China, which is pity, for India could well have received, with profit to herself...”

The whole world is suppose to benefit when China and India cooperate on various issues such as energy

resources, scientific research, epidemic controls, global warming and including security issues related to regional and international terrorism. The mutual distrust and hate against each other could be just thing of the past, when the two countries pursued diametrically opposite political ideologies in the cold war era. Therefore, I end this speech with the optimism that the 21st century could go down in history as CHINDIA's century.

Reflections on First Sino-Indian University Students Forum

Liang Bing

In warm May, several dozen Chinese and Indian youth sharing the same dream gathered at Peking University to attend the first Sino-Indian University Students Forum sponsored by the university's Center for India Studies.

China and India, the two largest developing countries in the world, have many similarities: they are the world's two most populous countries; both have achieved high GDP growth and both are carrying out market-oriented economic reforms. Inevitably, therefore, the relations between the two countries, especially in terms of closer cooperation, attract much international attention. It is not only the leaders of the two countries that pay close attention to each other's development, but ordinary young people, like those attending the Forum, have also begun to ponder their common destiny. We youth, as the mainstay of the country's future, should also concern ourselves so as to have a deeper understanding of the problems and the opportunities to be faced.

The forum, therefore, gave us a

unique opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other. Our views might have been somewhat superficial, but the open discussion helped focus our attention to our common destiny. As for me, this forum enabled me to have a deeper understanding of the current situation in China and India, and stimulated my interest in learning more.

On May 19, 2009, we groups of Chinese and Indian youth arrived at Peking University one after another. Hardly had we settled down in the hotel that we began to make preparations for the forum. We were divided into several groups. The economic group that I was in prepared four topics for discussion: namely macro-economy, bilateral trade, cooperation in the IT industry and how to work together to address the financial crisis.

Every group made full preparations. Representatives of each group presented their own distinctive views. This inevitably provoked some heated discussion, argument and counter-argument all of which had something to

recommend. We might agree or disagree, but the main thing was that we learned much from the experience.

The 10 % and 8% GDP growth rate that China and India have respectively registered on average in the past five years have attracted worldwide attention. China has focused its efforts on developing its manufacturing industry while India has focused more on the service sector. However, the different paths of development taken by our two countries have brought almost the same results. It is this difference in choices that has produced so many complementarities between our two economies. To cooperate for a win-win result is the best option. There exists a huge space for cooperation in the IT industry and bilateral trade. During discussions, all the participants presented their views from different angles, but arrived at the same conclusion: namely, that China and India should cooperate more closely with each other economically and to “seek common ground while shelving differences” where there is a divergence in our views.

Reviving Old Memories of Hindi-Chini Phai Phai Days

Lu Wanru

At the end of 2008, while browsing the Internet, I was attracted by a piece of news: At a party in celebration of the successful conclusion of a China-India anti-terrorism military exercise, the Indian soldiers sang *Three Main Rules of Discipline and Eight Points of Attention*—a popular Chinese Red Army song, while the Chinese PLA men sang in Hindi the Indian National Anthem composed by great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore. The news was a pleasant surprise to me and aroused my curiosity and nostalgia. I continued my search on the net for this famous Tagore song so familiar to me 50 years ago. Eventually, I found a video recording on the Indian Culture page. The music had been beautifully rearranged by a young producer. By using Indian classical, folk and electronic musical instruments, he created a brand new musical appeal. The 13 vocalists, sometimes singing solo, sometimes as a trio or chorus, added a unique charm to this song composed within one scale in range. The song brought back my memories of India over half a century ago to the days when the

song of *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* could be heard over the vast land of China and the Indian Peninsula.

India, An Unexpected Encounter

When I graduated from university in 1953, I was assigned to work in the Chinese People's Committee for the Defence of World Peace located at 1 Taijichang in Beijing which had formerly been the Italian Embassy. The Committee had three sections in its International Liaison Department: American and Oceania Section responsible for world peace movement and American-Oceanian affairs, Japanese Section for Japanese and Korean affairs, and the Indian Section for South and Southeast Asian affairs. I was put in charge of India, Pakistan and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). As a student majoring in English, I was not very happy about this assignment since my goal was to become a good interpreter. I was ignorant about the history of these countries. The first time I saw Indians and Pakistanis was during the Peace Conference of Asian and Pacific Regions held in Beijing only five

months before, at which I saw on one occasion, delegation members walking into the Conference Hall hand in hand, scattering colourful petals on each other and then embraced with tears in their eyes. All the delegates stood up, clapped their hands and cheered them for a long time. It was a very moving scene, but at that time I did not know what it really meant. However, in the early years of Liberation, "submitting oneself to the assigned job" and immersing oneself in whatever task one was allocated was a "matter of principle". So I settled into my job and started to learn my work. The Committee was one of the first national people's organizations in China engaged in exchanges with foreign countries in many fields except economic affairs. It was privileged to subscribe newspapers and magazines of other countries. The staff in the Liaison Department was required to follow closely developments in the world peace movement in the countries for which they were responsible. Hence, reading newspapers, keeping clippings, taking

Through the two-day forum, we—Chinese and Indian, participants and organizers—got acquainted with each other. We no longer felt reserved and became good friends. Even after returning to Shanghai, scenes of heated discussions, of happily taking pictures together, of forming the famous "group of singles" at the

forum remained vivid in my mind. We young people born in the 1990s have lofty aspirations, pay great attention to the issue of people's livelihood and are ready to make contributions to the development of our two countries.

We said goodbye to each other at the end of the forum with reluctance.

We all expressed the wish to meet again some day, but, deep down, we know that such chances are rare. What we can do is to put the passion displayed at the forum into practice and follow with interest the common development of our two countries. This might be the best legacy and good memory of the forum. □

In Celebration of 60th Anniversary of China-India Diplomatic Ties

notes of the activities of various peace organizations and personages became my routine work. I worked pretty hard and soon developed a great interest in India. I read all the books and newspapers that I could get hold of about this fascinating country in the hope of becoming an “expert” some day.

The early 1950s were a golden era for Sino-Indian relations. China had just overthrown the oppression of the “the three big mountains” — imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism—and established the PRC in 1949, while India had also gained national independence from British colonial rule of over two centuries and established its own destiny as the Republic of India in 1950. Both countries were faced with great tasks of reconstruction and developing friendly relations with other countries, particularly in the economic and cultural areas. Contacts between China and India, both large countries in Asia, dated back 2,000 years. Eminent Buddhist monks, Faxian in the Han Dynasty

and Xuanzang in the Tang Dynasty, travelled thousands of miles to India and to introduce Buddhism to China. It was regrettable that such exchanges did not go far as a result of the decline of Buddhism in India. The old relationship was renewed in the early 20th century when China and India rose to fight against the oppression of colonialism and imperialism for national independence. In 1924, Rabindranath Tagore made a special trip to China when he was already over 60. He came with genuine goodwill and enthusiasm to “repair” the two thousand-year-old bridge between the two great nations. He spoke at numerous meetings to Chinese youth trying to win sympathy and remove prejudice. Unfortunately, China was then on the eve of the military activity known as the Northern Expedition. The country was virtually in chaos and Tagore failed to attract much attention among young people. After the outbreak of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, China appealed to peoples throughout the world for aid and support. In response

to the requests from Mme. Soong Ching Ling and Zhu De, Commander-in-Chief of the Eighth Route Army, Jawaharlal Nehru, later to be independent India’s first prime minister, sent a five-member medical team to Yan’an, in the name of the Indian National Congress. The team worked at the guerrilla battle front in Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei region. One of its members, Dr. Kotnis, laid down his life for the cause of Chinese people’s liberation. He had worked at the front for four years under extremely dangerous conditions. His sacrifice added a new brilliant chapter to the annals of Sino-Indian friendship. The birth of New China made Prime Minister Nehru realize the importance of the two independent Asian nations “speaking with one voice” in the international arena. This led to India’s recognition of the PRC two months after its founding and, in April 1950, the country became the first in the non-socialist camp to establish diplomatic relations. Since then, exchanges between the two governments and two peoples grew fast. A large Chinese

The Chinese delegation comprising such public figures as Guo Moruo, Ba Jin, Ji Xianlin, Hua Luogeng and Wang Tieya visiting the Taj Mahal after attending the Conference of Asian Countries in New Delhi in 1955



In Celebration of 60th Anniversary of China-India Diplomatic Ties

cultural delegation visited India in July 1951 and a grand Chinese Culture and Arts Exhibition was held at the same time, arousing tremendous interest among the Indian people. In October 1952, a big peace delegation headed by the INC leader Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew came to attend the Peace Conference of Asian and Pacific Regions in Beijing. The delegation toured a number of cities and saw with their own eyes the zeal and determination demonstrated by the Chinese people in national reconstruction. The peoples of China and India marched into a new era of friendly exchange and cooperation.

The First Indian Artists Performance Tour in New China

Against such a historical background, the Indian government sent an art delegation to visit China in summer 1953. Led by prominent cultural figure Sachin Sen Gupta, the delegation consisted of over 20 famous musicians and dancers from Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and some other states. The repertoire included classical

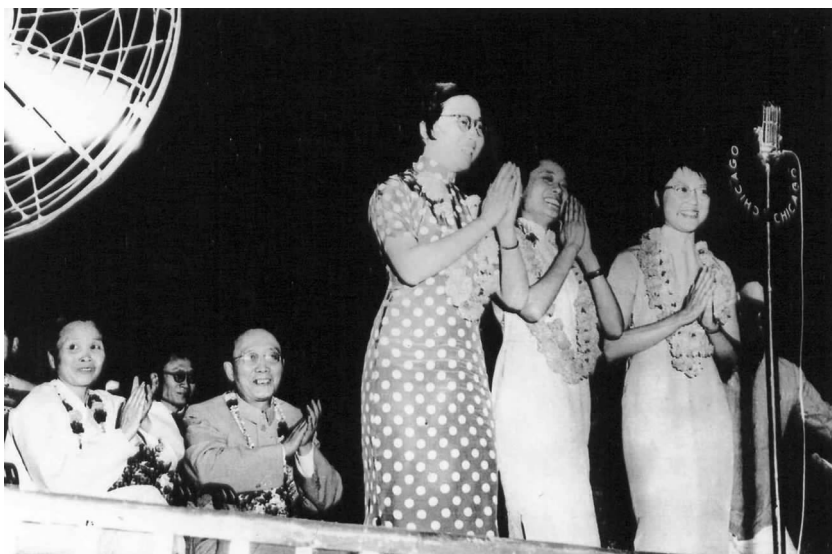
instrumental solos of Sitar, Sarangi and Tabla; solo dances of Khatak, Bharat Natyam and dances based on the two great Indian epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* performed by a Katakare dance group. There were also solo performances of traditional Indian songs, Punjabi folk songs and Bengali Tagore songs. For the Chinese audience it was the first time to get in touch with Indian culture and enjoy such diverse and high-leveled performance of Indian music and dance.

India is a country of an ancient civilization where many ethnic groups of different religions holding different beliefs lived together for thousands of years. Such diversity has made the country somewhat mysterious. Indian music and dance are well-known in the world for their miraculous skill, subtlety and unique charm. But back then, ordinary Chinese were not familiar with them. They knew very little about the fact that Indian performing arts reflected in one way or another stories from legends and Hindu religious ceremonies. In view of these factors, it was very important

for the Chinese host organization to make adequate preparations to help Chinese audience understand and enjoy the performance, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and friendly sentiments. In fact, both the Chinese and Indian governments paid great attention to the visit. Premier Zhou Enlai took personal supervision of the reception work. After careful consideration, the Peace Committee was chosen to be the host, and I myself was to serve as the interpreter for the stage managers of both sides.

The Indian artists toured Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Wuhan and Guangzhou from June to August, the hottest summer months in China. They entered into and departed from China at Luohu Customs, then a little village between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. Since there was no regular civil air service in those days, the delegation was privileged to travel from city to city by a special train with four compartments plus a dining car and a luggage car. Being interpreters and liaison officers, we staff of the Peace Committee, escorted the Indian guests for the whole trip. Before long we became good friends. A few Katakare dancers were not English speakers. We would communicate with them through sign language, a mixture of Chinese, English and Hindi words and imitations of certain movements from their Katakare dance which always provoked laughter. By and by, we got used to the Indian way of saying yes by a shake of the head in contrast to the Chinese way of nodding agreement. Sometimes a clumsy imitation of pronunciation or movement became a joke. The memories of these interesting times of traveling together remain fresh in my mind. It was my first time to work with Indians, I was much surprised to find that

Three interpreters of the delegation singing in Hindi *Hindi Chini Phai Phai*



their lifestyle was completely different from Westerners—women wearing colourful *sari* and men white *dhoti*. No one wore Western suits, ties and leather shoes. As for food, many of them preferred Indian curried rice the Chinese cook had just learned to make to Chinese delicacies or famous French cuisine. They always put their palms together when greeting people and never said hello or shook hands with strangers. In a word, they stuck to the deep-rooted Indian tradition and lifestyle despite the influence of two centuries of British colonial rule.

As the host organization, the Peace Committee sought to meet the needs of our guests in terms of food, accommodation, stage property and travel arrangements and to make them feel at home. To our surprise, their requests were very simple. The musicians went on stage without any make-up and dressed as usual. They only asked for two or three microphones for the show and a small piece of carpet to be placed in the stage center for singers and instrumentalists to sit on. Once they started singing or playing, they would concentrate on what they wanted to convey to the listeners and fully immersed themselves in the world of music. The dancers just wanted some flowers to be laid out at the bottom of the blue background screen as decoration, some adjustable lights and a spotlight to follow the dancer. All the dancers would handle their own make-up and costume dressing. The only thing that bothered us was the supply of fresh jasmine flowers for their hair dressing. Jasmine was an easy growing all-season plant in India, but, it was not the case in Beijing even in summer. We underestimated the difficulty in obtaining them and failed to get enough for the premiere. Later, I real-

ized that the Indian music and dance were mostly performed at religious ceremonies and traditional festival celebrations, the performers paid more attention to conveying respect for gods and making a joyful atmosphere than setting up fabulous stage properties.

The experiences of working with the artists proved to be my primary lesson in Indian culture. As the stage managers' interpreter, I had the advantage of watching the show closely from the wings. I found myself completely absorbed by the fascinating performances. I learned to appreciate the delicate and dazzling movements of fingers and eyes of the classical dance of Bharat Natyam, the graceful Khatak dance with dozens of foot and arm bells miraculously controlled by the dancers, the wonderful Sitar solo with so many chord strings resounding to the main string, the sweet and beautiful Punjabi folk songs and the Bengali Tagore songs. I could also feel how the audience responded with tremendous curiosity and amazement and how the artists tried their best to win the heart of the audience. I arrived at the conclusion that music and dance could serve as bridges for spiritual communication among the peoples. Though the words of the songs had not been translated nor the stories behind the dances introduced, the sweet melodies and beautiful movements could always reach the hearts of the audience.

***Hindi Chini Phai Phai* Resounding Over Beijing and Delhi**

Among all the programs, the Indian artists performed, the most popular item had been *Hindi Chini Phai Phai*, a song sung in chorus by Debabrata Biswas, the popular Bengali singer of Tagore songs, and

Surunder Kaur, the famous "nightingale of Punjab". People in the audience did not understand the words in Hindi, but the repeated "*Phai, Phai*" (brother, brother) seemed to touch the emotional chord of brotherhood in the hearts of our two peoples who had shared the past experience of being oppressed and were facing a common task of rebuilding their own countries. The song always brought about a climax in the performance. Biswas, the stage manager of the Indian side, suggested that we escorts learn the song so that it would stay in China. He was a warm-hearted, enthusiastic and straightforward person. He insisted that I join him and Surunder in singing *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* at the closing concert. When we went on board the train to our last stop Guangzhou from Wuhan, he took me to the dining car, showed me the song sheet with English alphabet marked under Hindi verses and started to teach me word by word. His effort paid off and the final performance in Guangzhou turned out to be the most exciting and successful one. Cheers rose from the audience when the song was jointly performed by two Indian artists and a Chinese. *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* became a set phrase in Chinese frequently used as an expression showing the friendship between the Chinese and Indian people.

In April 1955, on the eve of the Bandung Conference, a Chinese delegation, consisting of over 30 public figures and led by Dr. Guo Moruo, President of the China Peace Committee, went to New Delhi to participate in the Peace Conference of Asian Countries. This aimed at exchanging ideas and creating public opinions for the convocation of the Bandung Conference at which the prime ministers

of China and India would put forward the Panchasila Principles (i.e., the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence). A mass rally of over ten thousand people was organized by the Indian hosts in Delhi Square in celebration of the successful conclusion of the conference. Dr. Guo Moruo made a speech on behalf of the Chinese delegation, after which he turned to us interpreters urging us to sing *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* at the rally. When the three of us walked onto the stage and began singing the song in Hindi, waves of cheers and applause from the audience turned the square into a scene of jubilation. As my eyes met those of ordinary Indians, men and women, young and old, I saw in them sincerity, goodwill and friendliness.

I went to India again to attend the All-India Peace Congress in November 1956 working as an interpreter for Deputy Secretary General Zheng Senyu of the Peace Committee. I learned how the India Peace Committee and India-China Friendship Association functioned and met their leaders and staff. As a result of the historic Bandung Conference, non-governmental exchanges and co-operation in various fields between China and India kept growing. A minor episode: On our return trip, I carefully carried four gramophone records (including two Tagore songs by Biswas) as my hand baggage when I boarded the plane. We arrived at Rangoon at about 3 a.m. and were taken to the Chinese Embassy for a rest before boarding the next plane for Beijing. The car sped on the road for there was little traffic. Suddenly, the driver saw three men in white crossing the street. He hit the brakes immediately to avoid a crash. The car dashed towards an open ditch beside the road before it stopped on its

wheels after a 360-degree somersault. No one was injured except the driver who was slightly bruised. My first reaction after calming down: "My goodness, the records are finished!" I searched for the record box under the seat. To my surprise, they were intact! The records are still with me. Only there is no gramophone to play them. They are mementos from my early years.

Perhaps this accident after my departure from Calcutta signalled the end of my involvement in Indian affairs in the Peace Committee. From then on, my life and work went on a completely different course.

Friendship to be Regenerated Amidst the Lingering Song

Beginning from 1959, drastic changes had taken place both in China and in the world. Following the "struggle against the bourgeois Rightists" in 1957, a large scale organizational restructuring was carried out in the Peace Committee. In 1972, the Peace Committee merged with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. My work was no longer associated with India.

It was only after my retirement from the Friendship Association in the 1990s that I began to revive my old interest and hobbies. Once when I read the memoirs of Ji Xianlin, the noted Chinese scholar of oriental cultures, I was attracted by an article he wrote about his revisit to India in 1979. In this article, Ji Lao (Venerable Ji, as all Chinese call him) depicted with deep affection the warm friendship and hospitality of the Indian people towards the Chinese people which aroused the fond memories of my visits to India. I was touched in particular by the scene of

his departure at the Calcutta airport. When he was saying goodbye to his Indian friends, he heard the song *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* by Biswas:

The song of friendship arises from all sides

Indians and Chinese are brothers

The dawn has come to the great earth

With morning glow over the horizon

The song of friendship arises from all sides

Indians and Chinese are brothers

The two peoples must shake off the yoke of the old world

Tell me now

Who can match our heroes

...

This was the first time for me to know the words of the song in Chinese. I guess it must have been translated from Hindi by Ji Lao himself. Describing his emotions on hearing the song at the airport, Ji Lao used one Chinese phrase "dong ren xin po" (striking a deep chord in one's heart) and said: "It speaks out what we wish to say in our heart." "It has been a long time since we heard this song," responded his Indian friend, "it's a real delight to hear it again!"

Since entering the 21st century, China and India have become emerging economies in the world. The great achievements have been the results of the sacrifices made and prolonged struggles waged by several generations. From the time when the Indian friends brought *Hindi Chini Phai Phai* to China, to the time when the Chinese PLA men learned to sing the Indian national anthem, Sino-Indian relations, having gone through ups and downs in mid 20th century, have entered a new era of cooperation in the 21st century. The two countries will

(Continued on p.16)

CPAFFC Delegation in the Philippines

Hu Yang

The signing of a cooperative agreement on comprehensive cooperation was one of the main fruits of a visit made to the Philippines Feb. 28-March 3 by a goodwill delegation led by Luo Qin, Secretary General of the CPAFFC.

The participants in the program are the China Service Center for Friendship and Cooperation with Foreign Countries and the South East Asia-China Economic and Cultural Center.

The invitation for the visit came from the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU). During their stay, the delegation met with Alfredo S. Lim, Mayor of Manila, Benjamin Defensor, Chairman of APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force, as well as leaders of friendship-with-China organizations and enterprises, and made study tours of enterprises and educational institutions. Leading members of the China Service Center for Friendship and Cooperation with Foreign Countries in the delegation held a working meeting with the South East Asia-China Economic and Cultural Center that led to the signing of the framework agreement.

Manila Mayor Meets the Delegation

Accompanied by Mr. Lorenzo Ku, Honorary Chairman of the APCU, the delegation paid a call on Mayor Alfredo S. Lim at the City Hall on the afternoon of March 2 where they were greeted by a 100-strong band playing both Philippine and Chinese music.

The high-spirited, 80-year old mayor, warmly welcoming the delegation members, recalled he had visited China several times and seen many changes each time. He said that he was happy to see the rapid growth of the Chinese economy and the continued improvement of people's life. He added that contacts between the Philippines and China had existed for thousands of years and Chinese Filipinos had made great contributions to their country's development and the friendship with China.

Luo Qing briefed the Mayor on the work of the CPAFFC and told him that, entrusted by the Chinese Government, the CPAFFC coordinates and oversees the work of establishing friendship-city relations between localities in China and their counterparts in other countries. The CPAFFC hoped to strengthen cooperation with

Mayor Lim in this regard. The latter showed interest in forging relations of friendship and cooperation with Tibet when he learned that Lhasa, the region's capital, had not yet established friendship-city relations with any localities in the Philippines.

Mayor Lim took the delegation to visit a photo exhibition on the history of Manila and presented a Golden Key of Manila to Luo Qin, who responded by giving the Mayor his calligraphy work with the words: Everlasting is the friendship between China and the Philippines.

Signing a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Cooperation

On the evening of February 28, about a hundred representatives of various circles gathered at a reception jointly hosted by the APCU, the Philippines-China Economic and

Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim presenting a Golden Key of Manila to CPAFFC Secretary General Luo Qin



Trade Council, the South East Asia-China Economic and Cultural Center and the Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Firefighters of the Philippines (AVFCFP). Present were Benjamin Defensor, Chairman of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Task Force; Edgar B. Aglipay, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Philippine Retirement Authority; and leading members of friendship organizations.

Mr. Lorenzo Ku, Honorary Chairman of the APCU, gave a brief introduction to the friendship organizations at the reception and expressed his confidence in ASEAN-China cooperation. He noted the launching of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area not long ago, and said, it is the third biggest FTA in the world covering the largest population and embracing developing countries. He believed that with the gradual elimination of tariffs, Chinese and ASEAN enterprises would see faster growth with the FTA serving as a convenient platform.

Luo Qin spoke highly of the close relations between the CPAFFC and the APCU and the Symposium on China-Philippines Friendship Cities born of the successful cooperation between the two organizations. He said, the CPAFFC is committed to promoting exchanges and cooperation in the

political, economic, cultural, trade and other fields between China and other countries and willing to cooperate with more friendly organizations and personages to contribute to furthering the understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Philippine peoples.

Friendship Envoy Lorenzo Ku

Mr. Ku is also Chairman of LK Global and the Textile Producers Association, and President of the Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Firefighters of the Philippines, Inc.

Born into a well-to-do business family of Chinese origin 70 years ago, he learned a love for China from his father. To develop friendly relations, he, together with people of the same ideal, founded the Philippines-China Sports Association and the Association for Philippines-China Understanding successively in the early 1970s. He has done a great deal to advance the cause of friendship between the two countries and created many firsts: in 1972, when China and the Philippines had not yet established diplomatic relations, he started trade contacts by bringing to the Philippines many Chinese industrial products. In 1976, he was put in charge of the reception of a Chinese delegation head-

ed by Vice Premier Li Xiannian, the first Chinese leader to visit the Philippines. He was the chairman of the first meeting celebrating the National Day of the PRC. In 1987, he organized the first delegation of members of the House of Representatives to visit China, referred to as "ice-breaking visit". In 1988, Luzon Spinning Mills, the first joint venture with an investment of US\$5 million, was built in the Philippines. In the latter half of 1989, he hosted a delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress led by its Vice Chairman Yao Guang, and in 1991, he called on the Chinese community in the Philippines to donate for the victims of the Yangtze River floods, raising over 1 million RMB on the first day.

Ku has also made great efforts to develop friendship-city ties between the two countries. With his help, Henan Province, Fushun City and Suzhou City were twinned with counterparts in the Philippines. To promote exchanges and cooperation in the field of education, he and some famous Philippine institutes of higher learning including Ateneo University set up the LK Global University City.

Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Firefighters

A large-scale volunteer firefighters' day was held in Manila on February 28. At the headquarters of the AVFCFP, more than 100 fire engines parked in lines and hundreds of volunteer firefighters were ready to go. The delegation visited the headquarters and listened to the briefing by Mr. Ku. Then, the fire engines embarked on a two-hour parade in the city. The delegation followed the motorcade which was led by Mayor Al-

The delegation members with their Philippine hosts and volunteer firefighters at the headquarters of the AVFCFP on the volunteer firefighters' day



Working for Peace, Friendship Between China and Japan and Common Development

——Interview with Katsuhito Asano

Shen Jing

Editor's Note: At the invitation of the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), Katsuhito Asano, former Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, visited Beijing from September 29 to October 2, 2009 to attend celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin held talks with him on Sino-Japanese people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. During his stay in Beijing, he was interviewed by the reporter of the magazine *Friendship Cities*. Asano is now a Dietman and Director of the Personnel Bureau of the Liberal Democratic Party. The following is an excerpt of the interview:

Question: When visiting the exhibition on the achievements of New China to mark the 60th anniversary

of the founding of the PRC, you said that you had met all the Chinese leaders of several generations and had

contacts with some of them. Who has impressed you most?

Answer: When I was a reporter

with a supermarket, a bowling center, a billiard hall, and cinemas.

fredo S. Lim and Lorenzo Ku in an open car. The "three valuable acts", namely, setting up volunteer fire brigades, donating to build schoolhouses in rural areas and giving free medical services to poor people carried out by the Chinese community are well-known in the Philippines.

Mr. Ku holds that knowledge is power. Therefore, a few years ago he started to build the University City to accommodate the needs for English language learning by Chinese students and Chinese language learning by people from other countries. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sent a congratulatory message for the University City, saying that this would further strengthen trade and cultural relations between the Philippines and China.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the social status of Chinese Filipinos was low. Whenever there was a fire they could hardly get timely help from the government-run fire brigades. The Chinese Filipino volunteer fire brigades were set up to meet an urgent need. In 1976, volunteer fire brigades in various localities joined together to form the Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Firefighters of the Philippines, Inc. The AVFCFP has built fire stations and purchased firefighting equipment out of the fund contributed by the Chinese Filipinos and offers 24-hour vol-

untary service.

The fire brigades have seen rapid development in the past 30 years. In Manila alone, there are more than 2,000 volunteer firefighters. The purpose of the AVFCFP has changed from self-assistance to rescuing others. When there is a report of fire, fire brigades will set off immediately. They enjoy high reputation among the people. Many volunteer firefighters have been injured, some even laid down their precious lives during rescue operations.

In 1993, the Philippine President issued a certificate of merit in recognition of the outstanding contributions made by the AVFCFP for saving people's life and property.

LK Global University City

On March 2, Lorenzo Ku took the delegation to visit the LK Global University City, about an hour's drive from Manila. It has a shopping mall

The short visit ended. The friendship forged on the trip with personages of various circles will grow with each passing day. We will remember the great contributions made by overseas Chinese to increasing friendship between the people of China and other countries. Their spirit of striving for ceaseless self-improvement is a constant inspiration. □

The short visit ended. The friendship forged on the trip with personages of various circles will grow with each passing day. We will remember the great contributions made by overseas Chinese to increasing friendship between the people of China and other countries. Their spirit of striving for ceaseless self-improvement is a constant inspiration. □

The short visit ended. The friendship forged on the trip with personages of various circles will grow with each passing day. We will remember the great contributions made by overseas Chinese to increasing friendship between the people of China and other countries. Their spirit of striving for ceaseless self-improvement is a constant inspiration. □



Katsuhito Asano writing a comment on the visitors' board after visiting the exhibition on the achievements of New China

with the Japanese NHK TV Station in the 1970s, I met Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Liao Chengzhi, and Huang Hua. After I entered politics, I met Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders. What I feel most proud of is that I am the only living member of the Japanese Diet to have met Zhou Enlai. I met him when I came with Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira to report on his first visit to China in the 1970s. Premier Zhou was a very great man. He was able to gain an insight into both macroscopic history and the microscopic subtleness of man's mind. He was gentle and cultivated and had elegant manners. In him there was a spirit of perseverance and unique charm. His appealing and encouraging words inspired me greatly and I was determined to work for the development of friendly relations between Japan and China. In the hearts of the Japanese people, Premier Zhou is very great. The Japanese people will never forget his great kindness.

When I worked as a correspondent, I reported on the signing of the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement and the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and

Friendship and witnessed the history of resumption and normalization of Japan-China relations. After entering politics, I have been doing what I can for the development of exchanges and cooperation between the two countries no matter whether in or out of political office. During the 2005 Nagoya World Expo, I assisted the construction of the Chinese pavilion. I support Shanghai's effort to hold the 2010 World Expo. When I served as Parliamentary Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations, I helped the NHK TV Station film a TV special on Nanjing and organized a Japanese chorus to give performance there. Recently, I helped the NHK produce and show a TV series about the story of how the Chinese people helped and brought up Japanese war orphans. The series educates the Japanese people to oppose war and love peace forever and praises the Chinese people's great humanitarian spirit. I hope this series will have free access in China. Now, I am using my own influence to promote

people-to-people exchanges and cooperation between Japanese and Chinese small cities.

Q: Mr. Asano, you are an old friend of the CPAFFC and the CIFCA and have visited China many times. This time, as a personage friendly to China, you were invited to attend the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China. Compared to your previous visits, do you have any different feeling about your current visit?

A: I have visited China more than 10 times and been to a number of Chinese cities. Every time I visit China, I have new experience. This time I am particularly excited and feel highly honored to be invited to attend the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China and witness, together with the Chinese people, this glorious and unforgettable moment. Sixty is a lucky number. New China, having traversed a glorious 60 years, occupies a pivotal position in the present world. I am sure that in the next 60 years it will certainly become a country playing a leading role in the world. I was deeply moved and amazed after visiting the exhibition on the achievements of New China in the past six decades. The Chinese people are really great. China has made tremendous achievements in its rapidly growing economy.

Q: You have visited China many times in the capacity of correspondent and statesman. What changes do you think have happened to China's image?

A: When I was in Beijing in 1972, along the whole Chang'an Avenue there were only two hotels—the Nationalities Hotel and the Beijing Hotel—both with rather obsolete facilities. At that time, there were no direct flights between Japan and China. Accompanying Foreign Minister

Masayoshi Ohira, we had to first fly to Hong Kong, then went to Shenzhen and Guangzhou by car and finally flew from there to Beijing. At that time, Shenzhen was a small fishing village. The highest buildings there were two-storey houses. The speed of construction and development of many Chinese cities and their tremendous changes over the past more than 30 years are amazing. The Chinese leaders are committed to reform and opening up and developing economy and have led the Chinese people to turn China into an economic power that attracts worldwide attention. The facts of China's reform and opening up tell the world that with the concerted efforts of the Chinese Communist Party, government and people, the Chinese people have been working hard for the prosperity of the country. Now, China, with a brand-new image, stands up in the world.

Q: What do you think China should learn from Japan's path of development?

A: After Japan's defeat in World War II, the Japanese people went all out to make the country strong. Though living a very hard life, everyone worked very hard for a common goal of turning Japan into a world power. But, nowadays, Japanese young people seem to lack a spirit of hard work and dedication to society. Looking at the current development of China and Japan, Japan can be compared to a person who has begun to go downhill after having climbed to the top of the mountain. The Japanese don't have much sense of crisis, thinking they can live quite well without working hard. China is going uphill in its development, climbing one peak after another. China can learn from Japan's experience in development. In my view, it is man's nature to seek material wealth,

an affluent life and good food and clothes, but we should let the people know that all these things are hard-earned. Public opinion should guide the thought of the people and let them understand it, and educate the people to work hard and place the interest of the state above that of individuals. Only when the country becomes strong, can people lead a happy life. No country, no people's happiness.

Q: What is your view on the development trend of China-Japan relations?

A: The Japanese Government thinks that Japan-China relations and Japan-United States relations are both very important. Because Japan and China are neighboring countries, their relations are more important. From the perspective of the development trend of the global international relations, China, Japan, the United States and the EU, the four poles of the world, are playing very important roles in the world. In terms of geography, Japan and China are close neighbors separated only by a narrow strip of water. In terms of economic relations, the two countries are inseparable and their economic cooperation and exchanges are mutually beneficial. During his visit to Japan in 2007, Premier Wen said that China and Japan will both gain from peaceful coexistence and lose much from any conflicts. In my view, it is easy for Japan and China to become enemies, but very difficult to become friends. If the two countries become enemies, both will lose. If the two countries become friends, both will win.

We should treasure the hard-won current mutually beneficial friendly relations between the two countries. At present, to make a steady and friendly development of Japan-China relations and carry out mutually bene-

ficial economic cooperation have become an irresistible historical trend. Under the new historical conditions, the two countries are able to share increasing common interests but faced with important issues that need to be commonly addressed. Japan and China with strong economic complementarities have great potential and bright prospects in cooperation. The two countries should strengthen cooperation in the fields of energy, environmental protection, finance, high and new science and technology, information and communication and intellectual property rights. Japan-China relations will march towards a new historical stage of development featuring mutual benefits and all-win.

Q: In recent years, in the China-Japan relations there have been some focal issues such as the Japanese new history book that beautifies Japan's aggression against China, the issue of the Diaoyu Islands, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni Shrine, etc. What is your view on these issues?

A: In history, Japan did wrong to China. Its war of aggression against China caused untold sufferings and psychic trauma to the Chinese people, and also brought huge sufferings and pain to the Japanese people. The Japanese government and leaders have expressed their attitudes towards this history many times and openly admitted the aggression and expressed deep remorse and apology to the victim countries. We should take history as a mirror and face the future. Just as Premier Wen said, peace and friendship between China and Japan concern the fate of the two countries and well-being of the two peoples. We deem that history is always history. People living in the modern times should not distort history and pass on wrong information to the next genera-

Wish China and Switzerland Have a Bright Future

Thomas Wagner (Switzerland)

Editor's Note: February 14 was the first day of the Chinese lunar Year of Tiger. The Chinese Spring Festival Folk Concert, as one of the activities in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Switzerland diplomatic relations, was held in the famous Zurich Concert Hall. Among those present were Dong Jinyi, Chinese Ambassador to Switzerland, Liang Jianquan, Chinese Counsel General in Zurich, Erika Forster, President of the Council of States of Switzerland, Dr. Anton Thalmann, Deputy Secretary of State of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Martin Dahinden, Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation under the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Regine Aeppli, Governor of Zurich Canton and Ruth Genner, Vice Mayor of Zurich. At the invitation of the Switzerland-China Association (SCA), Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC Vice President, traveled to Zurich to attend the celebration activities. The following is the speech given by Thomas Wagner, former Mayor of Zurich and President of the SCA, prior to the concert.

Here, on behalf of the Switzerland-China Economic Association and the Switzerland-China Association, I am happy to express my warm welcome to all of you. According to the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, today, February 14, 2010 happens to be the Chinese Spring Festival, the most important festival for

the Chinese people. From today, the Chinese lunar Year of Tiger begins. Please allow me to express my warmest best wishes to all the Chinese friends here for a happy New Year and every success in the Year of Tiger.

Today's gala concert marks the formal beginning of the activities in

celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and China. On January 17, 1950 the Swiss Federal Council officially recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC). On September 14, 1950, the two countries established diplomatic relations.

tion. We should accurately explain the history to the next generation and let them judge it by themselves. The editors of history books could put a country's and government's view in their books, but should not distort history.

Yasukuni Shrine is where the Japanese worship gods. This is a Japanese national custom. The memorial tablets of some of my deceased relatives are also placed there. But some Japanese politicians, taking advantage of our national customs, have placed the memorial tablets of war criminals in it, greatly hurting Asian people's feelings. We oppose it. No Prime Minister after Junichiro Koizumi has visited the Shrine.

Q: What impact will the change

of the Japanese administration have on China-Japan relations?

A: The new administration is committed to the reform of domestic policies. In terms of foreign affairs, it will keep the continuity of the Japanese diplomacy and follow the current foreign policies. Therefore, the Japan-China relations will surely become even better. The new Japanese Prime Minister attaches great importance to China, and the new administration will not change Japan's policy towards China. During the transition process, the new administration is pledged to do better. Japan will expand exchanges and cooperation with China and strive for peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and

common development between the two countries.

Q: As director of the Personnel Bureau of the Liberal Democratic Party, what ideas do you have on political party building?

A: At present, Japan is undergoing a regime change from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to the Democratic Party. The end of the history of the LDP holding power almost uninterruptedly for 50 years and the formation of a new administration by the Democratic Party is a lesson to the LDP. Political party building is a very important issue. We will seriously review the cause of our electoral defeat. I believe that, before long, the LDP will return to the center of the political stage. □

China has never forgotten this act of Switzerland. It is on this basis that our two countries have always kept friendly relations and continuously carried out bilateral exchanges in the economic, scientific, cultural and tourism fields.

When the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, I was only a six-year-old child. Therefore, I can't remember this historical event that has great impact on the international community. However, I still remember clearly that since Switzerland recognized the PRC in the following year, this event became a topic for discussion in my home. Since then, two names—Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, who once visited Geneva and the then head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Max Petitpierre—have been engraved on my memory.

At that time I did not have the least idea that I would have a chance to visit China—a vast, exciting, mysterious great country—many times over a 30-year period and be able to personally witness the course of its development.

Over the past six decades, many impressive things have happened in China:

1. Since its foundation 60 years ago, and particularly since reform and opening up initiated by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, the PRC has been developing rapidly and on an amazingly extensive scale. The Chinese people, in particular the younger generation, are very confident about the future. All around the world, no other country has been able to achieve such a rapid development.

Despite the short time involved in its development, China has also unavoidably experienced painful internal contradictions, which have left their traces.

But, today China has become a



In March 2009, Dr. Thomas Wagner receiving the certificate of the title of Friendship Ambassador from CPAFFC President Chen Haosu

world power and is playing a stabilizing role in the world particularly Asia. China is a member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and also a trustworthy partner in many international organizations. A few years ago, China joined the World Trade Organization. Therefore, China also shoulders important tasks in safeguarding world peace.

2. In retrospection of the 60-year course that China has traversed, we will find that it is the 1.3 billion Chinese people who have first enjoyed the fruits of China's economic growth. Their life is being improved continuously.

We also see that there exist huge gaps between the coastal and interior regions and between the eastern and western parts of China, and there are many difficult problems to be dealt with in environmental protection. However, the Central Government several years ago already realized these problems threatening the country. It has allocated enormous funds for economic adjustment and investment and carried out necessary infrastructure construction so as to eliminate the gaps long-term.

3. In 2005, the Chinese State Council issued a White Paper on the development of the cause of human rights, stating frankly that there is incompatibility between the current political system and economic growth and that more efforts should be made to enhance the whole Chinese society's democratic and legal awareness and respect and protection of human rights.

Indeed, China's economic achievements will not spontaneously lead to the fulfillment of the above goals. We should also realize that it will take a long time to realize the rule of law and political development that have a far-reaching significance. In this process, a country's history and tradition must be respected and given full consideration to.

We greatly admire the achievements the PRC has scored since its founding in 1949. In the process of building a "harmonious society" (advocated by President Hu Jintao), China is still facing numerous difficult challenges. Only by conducting dialogue, having the aspiration of cooperation and enhancing mutual understanding can people around the world come together and work with concert-

Embrace the World——First China International Spring Festival Gala

Li Lei

Red drums, red lanterns, red well-wishing couplets, red ribbons; red was indeed the dominant color of the night at the CPAFFC 2010 Spring Festival Gala—First China International Spring Festival Gala held in the National Convention Center in Beijing on the evening of February 6.

The Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, begins on the first day of the first lunar month. It is the most important of traditional Chinese holidays. It is also a time of

family reunion. All people living away from home go back for a reunion meal on New Year's Eve and set off fireworks and firecrackers at midnight to ring in the New Year.

The Spring Festival fell on February 14 this year. To let foreign friends living in China enjoy the Chinese New Year together with the Chinese people and share the festive atmosphere, the CPAFFC, in cooperation with the Beijing Yamei Time International Public Relation and Consultation Co., Ltd., invited Chinese

and foreign artists to present the Spring Festival Gala.

Dai Bingguo, State Councilor; Uyunqing, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Bai Lichen and Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairmen of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Buhe, Tomur Dawamat, Ismail Amat, He Luli, Cheng Siwei and Gu Xiulian, former Vice Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee; and Wang Wenyuan, former Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, were among those watching the performance. Envoys to China from 127 countries were invited to the activity to celebrate the festival together with over 1,000 people from all walks of life in the capital, enjoy the friendship and receive best wishes from the Chinese people.

As contacts between China and other countries of the world grow increasingly closer, exchanges in the political, economic, cultural, sports and educational fields have been deepened continuously. Countries learn from each other in mutual emulation in the field of culture in particu-

Butterfly Lovers presented by famous violinist Lu Siqing



ed efforts to create the future. Switzerland and China have formed close ties in the political, economic, cultural and scientific fields. The establishment of friendship-city ties between Zurich and Kunming in 1982, the launching of direct flight between Zurich and Shanghai by Swiss Inter-

national Air Lines and the successful holding of Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, and the upcoming 2010 Shanghai Expo this year are the epitome of this mutual understanding and dialogue.

Here, I would like to wish that our two countries will continue to im-

prove bilateral friendly relations in all fields in the principle of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. I sincerely wish that our two countries have a better and happier future and our two peoples continue to coexist peacefully, help each other and march forward hand in hand. □

lar. The program of the gala fully reflected this, as it included traditional Chinese items like Peking Opera, acrobatics, songs and dances of different ethnic groups, and foreign songs sung respectively by foreign and Chinese artists and music played with both Chinese and Western instruments. The excellent performance intoxicated the audience who repeatedly gasped in admiration.

Peking Opera is the quintessence of Chinese culture, and children are the country's future. *The Charm of Peking Opera* performed by pupils of the Beijing Haidian Xiyi Primary School won high praise for excellent singing, skilled acting and fine make-up. The youngsters showed the charm of Peking Opera with their marvelous performance from which we saw the future of Peking Opera and the tradition continuing.

Carnival, sung by a Cuban singer and accompanied by her rhythmic dance, took the audience to Latin America, while *Pour Que Tu M' Aimes Encore* (So that you'll love me again) by a French singer introduced a touch of romantic France. The singing not only enabled the audience to appreciate art from other countries, but also conveyed their aspiration for peace and friendship. Mo Li and Jin Xiaoyu, the Chinese names of the two singers will long be remembered.

Swallows are envoys of spring. On the stage singer Wu Tong and the music group *Chinese Magpie* presented the song *Swallow*. Wu's singing, sometimes loud and sonorous and sometimes low and soft with violin, guitar, *pipa* and *sheng* in accompaniment, created a strong image of Spring. The music was so well arranged that Western instruments violin and guitar and the Chinese *pipa* and *sheng* produced harmonious melodies.

The Chinese concerto *Butterfly*



Rhyme, a performance art item

Lovers is well known in the world. The story of the lovers Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai turning into butterflies has touched people's hearts just like Romeo and Juliet in the West. The famous violinist Lu Siqing told this beautiful and sad story with his violin. A ballerina playing the part of a butterfly displayed the unswerving love of Zhu Yingtai. The purple sleeves fluttered with her graceful movement. It was a feast for both the ear and the eye.

World Classical Music performed by Robert Wells from Sweden brought the evening gala to a climax. With his deft fingers and magnetic voice, he showed the audience the charm of the music. *The Yellow River Cantata* and *The Jasmine*

Flower played in between Western classics evoked warm applause. The audience clapped to the rhythm of the music as he played the piano.

Beyond the Limit, an artistic contortionist item presented by Bai Chunpu and Liu Jiayin of the Beijing Acrobatic Troupe stunned the audience with their unimaginable acting. Their high acrobatic skills were demonstrated in every stunt.

With its beautiful melody and profound implication, the theme song *Embrace the World* sung by

French singer Jin Xiaoyu singing at the gala



China-EU 2010 Chinese New Year Party Held

Our Staff Reporter

On the afternoon of January 27, the banquet hall of the Double-tree by Hilton hotel in Beijing was scene for a happy and relaxed occasion involving more than 120 Chinese and foreign guests.

This was the China-EU 2010 Chinese New Year Party, jointly hosted by the Department of European and Asian Affairs of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China-EU Association (CEUA) and the Construction Committee of China-EU Forum (CCCEUF).

Chen Haosu and Li Jianping, President and Vice President of the CPAFFC and the CEUA respectively, Meng Xiaosu, CEUA Vice President and Director General of the CCCEUF, and 32 envoys and their families from 22 European and Central Asian coun-

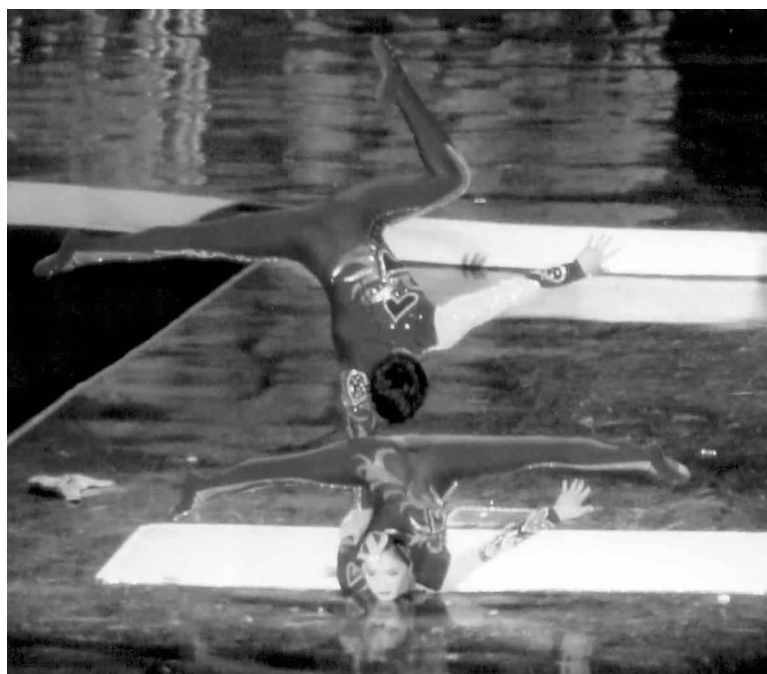


Proudly showing their works of art

tries as well as the Delegation of the European Commission to China gathered to celebrate the Chinese New

Year.

The party sparkled with witty creative ideas including singing and



well-known Chinese singer Wei Wei expressed the aim of the gala and conveyed to the people of the world Chinese people's aspirations for enhancing understanding and friendship and building a harmonious world, bringing the evening show to another climax.

In sponsoring this event, the CPAFFC hoped to further state-to-state and enterprise-to-state exchanges and cooperation and demonstrate the new look of the Chinese people. The gala was tailor-made for international friends with the aims of enhancing people's friendship, furthering international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. □

magic performances, floral designing and dumpling making competitions, drawing lots and puzzle games. All guests took part in these activities and had a good time.

Before the floral designing competition started, a professional designer gave everyone a short instruction about the aesthetic principles of flower arrangement and demonstrated some useful skills. The guests then divided into groups for the competition. Many of the ladies, who had a good knowledge of the art, had already started on their designs even before the lecturer completed his presentation. They used the flowers well to present unique art themes according to their personal understanding of the festival. Their works showed their enjoyment in the traditional Chinese festival celebration as well as special ways of expression by people with different cultural backgrounds.

Finally, the professional designer gave his judgment. He was so impressed by the brilliant works of art in front of him that he expressed high appreciation even amazement at some of the wonders on display, while the banquet hall was filled with applause and cheers for the most beautiful de-

sign that won the hearts of the audience.

In North China, speaking of food, people say “nothing is more delicious than dumpling”. Yet, the foreign friends, while familiar with eating dumplings, might have little idea of how to make them. Hence, a competition was held to provide an opportunity for foreign diplomats to overcome this deficiency. To begin with, a notable chef was invited to the stage to give a demonstration.

His good sense of humor and clever explanations amused the guests. Hardly had he finished his instructions than most of the guests put on an apron and decided on a division of labor and how they would work together. The competition was launched in delightful atmosphere. In every six-member group of the competition, Chinese and foreign guests cooperated quite efficiently, fully enjoying the happy festival.

Although the size and shape of the dumplings they made varied greatly, the participants all displayed a happy, smiling face. According to the chef's strict professional judgment, awards for the best quality and the greatest number produced by a team

were presented to the winners, and all were much amused by the different creative shapes of dumplings on the table which once again evoked much laughter to bring the party to a happy conclusion.

In the warm celebratory atmosphere, Chen Haosu and Meng Xiaosu delivered speeches, expressing thanks to the guests for their cooperation and support in the past year, which had promoted further development of non-governmental relationship between China and Europe, especially through holding forums and launching new projects mutual understanding and friendly feelings were deepened.

With the coming of the Year of the Tiger, they expressed their best wishes and hoped to jointly explore better future for the Sino-European relations. At the party, the Chinese and foreign guests had cordial chats recalling worthy memories of their cooperation in the cause of people-to-people friendship in the past year, sharing a good deal of happiness and good wishes, saying “happy New Year” to each other with lovely handmade cloth tiger puppets in their hands. □

The chef making judgment in terms of size and shape of the wrapped dumplings



China National Peking Opera Company's Performance Tour of Japan

Zhang Yaqin

On November 26, 2009, more than 2,000 theatre-goers filled Sun Plaza Theatre in Nakano, Tokyo to full capacity. They were avidly reading the finely printed program or cartoon strip of the play, waiting with great interest for the curtain to rise on the Peking Opera *The Water Margin*. The story is well-known in Japan where, apart from a great number of readers, there are scholars researching the book and even authors rewriting the story. On that day, the audience was anxiously waiting to see the new production *The Water Margin—the Vows of Song Jiang and the Heroes of Mount Liang Shan Po* co-produced by the China National Peking Opera Company (CNPOC) and the Min-On Concert Association (Min-On) of Japan. The curtain with 108 life-like hand-painted heroes of Liang Shan Po finally rose.

The Water Margin (*shui hu zhuan* in Chinese) is one of the four classic novels of Chinese literature, and is also known as *All Men Are Brothers*, *Outlaws of the Marsh*, or *The Marshes of Mount Liang*. This folk story describes the outlaw Song Jiang and his 108 bandits, many of whom suffered as a result of the Song Dynasty's corruption and decadence at the height of its reign. The bandits



The theatre filled to its full capacity

gather under the leadership of Song Jiang in the mountain fortresses of Liang Shan Po, surrounded by marshes. They become vigilantes vowing to defy imperial authority and battle against the imperial army to bring about the salvation of the oppressed people. The play script of *The Water Margin—the Vows of Song Jiang and the Heroes of Mount Liang Shan Po* was newly written for the performance tour by Wu Jiang, President of the CNPOC, who is one of the most renowned Chinese playwrights.

The organizer, Min-On Concert Association, had made meticulous preparations to ensure the success of the performance tour. It had the lines of the actors and actresses translated, polished by Japanese dramatists, and projected on both sides of the stage during the show. It also provided simultaneous English interpretation to

15 ambassadors to Japan and dozens of diplomats watching the show on Nov. 26.

The closely-knit story, the gorgeous costumes, the beautiful singing and the marvelous acrobatics brought waves of prolonged applause. The audience was still intoxicated in the story when the curtain fell for the last time. The performance let them see the richness of the traditional Chinese culture.

On the evening of the same day, all the members of the opera troupe, diplomats from various countries, officials of the Chinese Ministry of Culture, and staff of the Chinese Embassy in Japan attended a reception to celebrate. Many foreign diplomats said that though they could not understand the singing directly, they could still appreciate the emotions and personality of different characters through their acting, and that Peking Opera was profound and easy to understand.

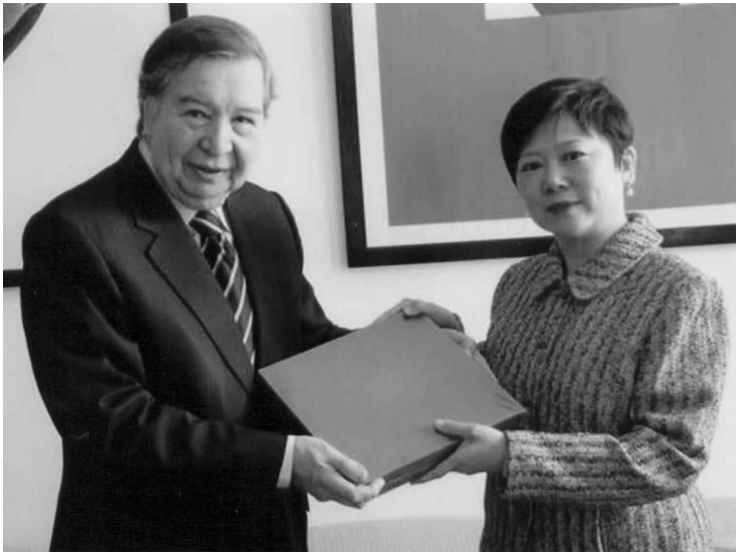
Sent by the CPAFFC, the 60-member CNPOC performance troupe toured 38 cities, staging 63 shows with a total audience of 130,000 in the 73 days following its arrival in Japan on October 4. Their enthusiasm and high artistic attainment received warm acclaim and the show drew a large number of Japanese drama fans, researchers in

CPAFFC Donates 100,000 RMB to Chilean Earthquake-Hit Area

Ji Wei

The CPAFFC has donated 100,000 yuan to the people of Chile, who suffered an earthquake measuring 8.8 on the Richter scale on February 27, to help with the recovery work.

Entrusted by President Chen Haosu, Vice President Li Xiaolin went to the Chilean Embassy in China on March 1 to express solicitude for the disaster.



Li said an earthquake of such magnitude inevitably had caused a great loss of life and property, for which the Chinese people felt sad.

She handed the check to the Chilean Ambassador and asked him to pass it on to the Chilean Government and at the same time convey the CPAFFC's sincerest sympathy to the Government and people of Chile. She expressed the belief that under the leadership of their government, the Chilean people would surely overcome the difficulties and rebuild their home at an early date.

Ambassador Fernando Reyes Matta expressed his heartfelt thanks to the CPAFFC for its generous donation at a time when the Chilean people most needed after the earthquake. Chile and China were close friends sharing weal and woe who were celebrating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2010. The CPAFFC donation fully showed the profound friendly sentiment of the Chinese people, and also further enhanced the Chilean people's confidence and determination to overcome the disaster, he added. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin handing over the donation to Chilean Ambassador Fernando Reyes Matta

the field of drama and the Chinese community in Japan. In cities such as Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka, it was hard to get a ticket. The audience used the words "excellent", "refresh-

ing" to describe the show.

This was the third performance tour by the CNPOC in cooperation with the CPAFFC and Min-On in the past decade. The Min-On Concert As-

Performers looking at the caricature portraits of themselves drawn by an Osaka couple for each of them



sociation introduced the China National Peking Opera Company to the Japanese audience for the first time in 2002 with its performance *Peking Opera Omnibus* and for the second time in 2006 with the performance *Romance of the Three Kingdoms—Zhuge Kongming*, both of which achieved huge successes. Since then, Min-On has collaborated with the CNPOC in producing the new work for its third Japan tour.

Peking Opera (or Beijing Opera) has existed for more than two hundred years and has been widely regarded as the highest expression of Chinese culture. It is a form of traditional Chinese theater that combines music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics. □

Harmonious Night, Beautiful Singing

Duan Beisheng

An 80-member Chinese delegation consisting of the Red Star Chorus and reporters arrived in Singapore on March 1 for a performance tour. It was headed by Li Yonglong, Political Commissar of the People's Liberation Army Academy of Arts with the famous tenor Li Shuangjiang as art director.

Coming from snow-bound, freezing North China, the delegation was greeted by tropical weather and engulfed in a warm reception comprised of smiling faces, applause, flowers and welcoming banners.

Many members of the chorus were first-time visitors to Singapore, but they had already heard a great deal about the "Lion City" renowned for its highly harmonious society. They were first impressed by the good environment—blossoming flowers lining the streets, verdant lawns and luxuriant trees growing everywhere.

When we told our Singaporean friends our admiration of the city's environment, they said building a harmonious society has always remained an ideal pursued by the local people. This harmony was exemplified by the performance on March 3.

Big red lanterns hung high outside the Singapore Conference Hall that evening as the curtain rose on the concert by the Red Star Chorus.

My Motherland and Me and *Oh, the Sea Is My Hometown*, the familiar melodies and the touching choruses of the first two songs immediately evoked a great response from the audi-

ence and brought the two peoples closer together. The songs that followed such as *Road to Heaven*, *A Glass of Mellow Wine*, *Love Song of the Xiajiang River* and *Jasmine Flower* provided the audience with both musical enjoyment and a taste of the long and glamorous Chinese culture and the happy life led by all ethnic groups in China. The singing of *The Soldier's Song*, *Dies Irae*, *Tuba Mirum*, etc. showed the superb performance skills and impressive vigor of the Red Star Chorus. When it sang a Malay folk song in perfect Malay, a wave of thunderous applause broke out in the concert hall, and some audience hummed and kept time to the singing. *Roar, Yellow River!* jointly performed by the Chinese and Singaporean choruses with supreme power and grandeur expressed the unyielding spirit of all people of Chinese origin. The solos such as *My Motherland*, *Ode to the Yellow River*, *My Deep Love Waits for You* and *Singing with the Drum Beats*, showed the unique grace and artistic charm of Chinese vocalists. Li Shuangjiang, the famous tenor was called several times for an encore by the audience so that he sang five songs in total including *Joyous Sunrise*, *The Girl from Dabancheng*, *O Sole Mio* and *Night on the Prairie*. The concert ended in the chorus of *On the Field of Hope* by all the Chinese and Singaporean performers. There was a standing ovation and tears welled up in the eyes of many people present.

Poh Choon Ann, Honorary President of the Choral Association and the Association of Composers of Singapore, said the Red Star Chorus was the largest Chinese art troupe ever to visit Singapore as far as he could remember. The performance was a great impetus to the development of music especially chorus in Singapore. The event not only showed the profound friendship between the people of the two countries, but also highlighted the all-dimensional and multi-level cooperation and mutual trust between the two countries in the fields of culture as well as economy and trade. It had special significance for the art circles of Singapore and China.

As Chinese Ambassador to Singapore Zhang Xiaokang observed, the fascinating performance by the Red Star Chorus gave people artistic enjoyment and left them beautiful memories, and served as a wonderful start of the celebrations for the forthcoming 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Singapore.

The delegation made the visit at the invitation of the Bel Canto Philharmonic Society of Singapore with the active coordination and arrangement by the CPAFFC. □



Build a Better Future with Love

—On Kasukabe City Japan-China Friendship Association's Donation of a Hope Primary School in Gouxicun Village

Yuan Mindao

If everybody dedicates a little love to others, the world will become a delightful Eden.”

On a winter weekend, bright sunshine warmed my room. When I turned on the radio, a familiar song wafted from the speaker. The passion of the performer in singing the above words took my mind back to a certain group of friends; familiar faces and moving scenes flashed before my eye.

The song reminded me of friends of the Kasukabe City Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) and the touching story of their efforts to build a Hope primary

Shizuo Teshima (R.1), President of the Kasukabe City JCFA, unveiling the plaque of the Hope Primary School



school. Kasukabe is a charming city located in the eastern part of Saitama Prefecture about 30km from Tokyo. The JCFA branch in Kasukabe has only a few members, but they always unite as one to frequently organize performances of Chinese traditional musical instruments, exhibitions and lectures to introduce Chinese culture to local people. Very often, they warmheartedly help and care for young Chinese students studying in Japan and living in the city. What is most touching is that through more than three years of efforts, fund-raising and soliciting of donations they helped to build a Hope primary school in a poor mountainous area in northwestern China. A few years later, they visited the school, bringing with them stationery and toys, to see the pupils studying there—a touching tribute to China-Japan friendship.

The story started six years ago. In the autumn of 2004, Shizuo Teshima, President of the Kasukabe JCFA, (and currently Vice-President of the Saitama Prefecture JCFA) contacted me through the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo to tell me that, through three-and-a-half years of efforts, the association had finally managed to raise enough money to build a Hope primary school. The Council of the association had decided it should be built as soon as possible in a poverty-stricken area so that local children could study in bright and spacious classrooms. I was deeply touched by this gesture. I know that most of the members of the local JCFA are pensioners and not necessarily very well-off, and some of them even have to live on a very tight budget. But they love China and like Chinese culture, and are willing to work for Japan-China exchanges and help to publicize Chinese culture. They think that cultural exchanges between the two countries will help deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promote good relations between the two countries.

After careful consideration and investigation, we chose a primary school in Gouxicun Village, Zhaozhuang Town, Dengcheng County, Shaanxi Province, and recommended this to the Japanese friends. Gouxicun Village is a provincial-level poor village. In the previous year, the vil-

Friends of the Kasukabe City JCFA
visiting children of the Hope Primary
School in Gouxicun Village



lage had suffered a once-in-a-100-years storm disaster and three primary schools there were seriously damaged. There were cracks in the schools' gates and many parts of the walls surrounding the schoolyards had collapsed; classroom roofs were leaking badly, seriously threatening the safety of the pupils. Indeed, the school authorities had moved some classes to rented farmers' houses, and pupils of two classes had to study in temporarily set-up tents.

The Kasukabe JCFA accepted our suggestion. One month later, Shizuo Teshima and three other members of the association came to Beijing, briefing us about how their fund-raising was carried out. Mr. Teshima said modestly that their association was not a big organization and did not have the ability to carry out influential activities. But the members hoped to do something concrete and make some practical contributions to Japan-China friendship. After much discussion, they unanimously decided on the Hope school project and began seeking funds. They held a series of activities such as Chinese film shows, *erhu* recitals, lectures on Japan-China relations, etc. At every activity, they placed a donations box in a prominent position and members of the association often met expenses from their own pockets. In this way, through unrelenting efforts and with the generous help of about 5,000 local people of various circles, the association raised three million Japanese yen needed for building a Hope primary school. Mr. Teshima said they now wanted to build the school with the money as soon as possible so that children in the poor area could have their lessons in bright and spacious classrooms.

I felt even more surprised when I learned that, in or-

der to save money, he and his party didn't stay in a hotel in Beijing, nor did they try to fly to Xi'an. Instead, regardless of the fatigue from the journey, they took an overnight train to Xi'an, followed by a very bumpy ride along country roads to Gouxicun Village. The local leaders showed them around the school construction site. Later, during the actual construction, the village authorities reported by letter at regular intervals to the association. Mr. Teshima himself visited the construction site three times and wrote articles with illustrations and photos about the construction progress for the *Good Friends*, a newspaper published by Kasukabe JCFA so as to keep everyone fully informed how the project was progressing. When the construction was completed, the association provided new desks, chairs and lecterns for the school. On September 1, 2005, children in Gouxicun Village attended school in the beautiful new building for the first time. The children who had been transferred to the schools in a neighboring village returned. The school campus was once again filled with youthful laughter.

At the end of November, a 13-member delegation of Kasukabe JCFA led by its President Shizuo Teshima visited Gouxicun Hope Primary School. On the gate of the new school was hung a shining brass plaque on which was written "Kasukabe Japan-China Friendship Association Gouxicun Hope Primary School". On one side of the gate was the slogan: "Always Remember the Japanese Friends' Kind Deeds" and on the other side: "Welcome Japanese Friends of the Kasukabe JCFA". All the teachers and pupils of the school lined up at the gate to welcome the delegation. The school specially held an inauguration cere-

mony. Local leaders also made a special trip to the school to express their thanks. At the ceremony, Mr. Teshima said he was deeply moved by the warm welcome extended to them by the teachers and pupils of the school and villagers. He gave a briefing about the fund-raising activity carried out by the Kasukabe JCFA. He hoped that the children in Gouxicun Village would study hard in the safe classrooms and become useful to society and contribute to China's development and the friendship between Japan and China when they grow up.

Time flies. Five years have passed in the blink of an eye. Currently, Shizuo Teshima serves as Vice President of the Saitama Prefecture JCFA. Yuji Tominaga, who visited Gouxicun Hope Primary School together with him, has taken over the presidency of the Kasukabe JCFA. They have always shown concern about the Gouxicun Hope Primary School and care for the pupils there. So, the Kasukabe JCFA organized a delegation to visit the school again. They brought with them not only stationery and toys but also their warm hearts.

After returning from the visit to Gouxicun Hope Primary School, the delegation specially came to the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) in Beijing. They told us what they had seen and heard in the school, and how deeply they were moved when having talks and exchanges with the children there. Mr. Tominaga said with emotion that, this time, they specially brought some paintings and calligraphy works created by children of a primary school in Kasukabe. After studying them, the children in the Gouxicun Hope Primary School produce their own calligraphy to be carried back to Japan. This was a very meaningful exchange, he said. He hoped that these Chinese and Japanese youngsters would become friends in the future and a bridge for the exchanges between the two countries when they grow up. Members of the delegation who visited China for the first time said, they felt very happy when seeing the children study very hard at school, and from children's rubicund faces and clear eyes they seemed to find a long-lost feeling. They would continue to bring books and stationery to the children and visit them again. The Japanese friends also expressed their thanks to the CJFA for the help it rendered to them during the construction of the school.

I listened to their story earnestly and was deeply touched by these friends with such kindness. I remember in 2004, at the

time when they suggested building a Hope primary school in China, Sino-Japanese relations were somewhat troubled, as the then Japanese leaders stubbornly persisted in erroneous practice related to historical issues. Affected by it, the friendly feelings between the two peoples declined obviously, and it was extremely difficult to carry out friendship-with-China activities in Japan. But, the friends of the Kasukabe JCFA, holding firmly to a belief in friendship with China, went ahead with their dream to build a Hope primary school and thus have a guaranteed place in the history of China-Japan friendly exchanges. Today, with concerted efforts of the two countries, China-Japan relations present again a good momentum of development and are facing new opportunities and broad space for development. However, we shall never forget these friends who still adhered to and had great enthusiasm for the cause of Japan-China friendship and earnestly practiced what they advocated at the time when the relations between the two countries were in difficulty. It should be said that it is the numerous Chinese and Japanese people with dedication, persistence and efforts like the friends of the Kasukabe JCFA that have laid foundation for and enhanced confidence in the bilateral relationship and helped it overcome difficulties, return back to the track of sound development and advance further.

More than three months have passed since the friends of the Kasukabe JCFA returned home. How are you going on, my friends?

Beijing, March 4, 2010



Fushun High School Students' Homestay Visit to the U. K.

Lan Yan

Hello, duck," the residents of the town of Leek in the central England county of Staffordshire greeted 10 Chinese children who went there on a six-day visit at the end of January. They were students of Fushun No. 2 Middle School and were in the United Kingdom for the first time. Their arrival enlivened this small town of some 10,000 people.

Arranged by Keith Hollins, Executive Head Teacher of Westwood College and Cheadle High School, the 10 Chinese students attended classes at the Westwood College to gain a personal experience of the way of teaching and learn about the educational system in the U. K. The Chinese and British students lived, studied and took part in other school activities together. All this enhanced the Chinese students' un-

derstanding of this strange and far-away country and they arrived at the conclusion that education in the U. K. is well-developed.

They were immersed in culture wherever they went and whatever they did. They visited Oxford University, art museums and the Beatles Exhibition in Liverpool, sitting in on a drama class, or cooking the traditional British meal "sausage and mash" (sausage and mashed potato) together with their British peers.

In Leek, the students of Fushun No. 2 Middle School saw the ease and freedom with which their British companions studied, which would surely fire their imagination and creativity in future. In the present world of high-level economic development, imagination and creativity are of great importance to the development of a country.

The homestay visit was short and it was difficult for the Chinese students to part with their host families after such a delightful time.

"Fushun No. 2 Middle School is the first school we has cooperated with China and all the exchanges are impressive," said Keith Hollins.

Cooperation started in 2008 when the Fushun City People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries contacted Leek Town for educational exchanges. Westwood College then sent people to Fushun No. 2 Middle School to discuss the matter and contacts between the two sides grew increasingly frequent. In October 2009, Westwood College sent the first delegation of teachers and students to Fushun for a week-long study and homestay visit. It turned out to be a full success.

A Fushun student making "sausage and mash" together with his British peers

