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**Front cover:** The representatives to the Second Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations heading for the conference hall (June 20, 2007)

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# China-ASEAN Association President Gu Xiulian Visits Myanmar, Indonesia and Brunei and Attends Second Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations

**Zhu Dan**

**A**t the invitation of the Union Solidarity and Development Association of Myanmar (USDA), the Association of Indonesia-China Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation (AICESCC) and the Brunei-China Friendship Association (BCFA), Gu Xiulian, president of the China-ASEAN Association and vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, led a delegation of the China-ASEAN Association to pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar, Indonesia and Brunei from June 10 to

21 and attended the Second Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.

It was the first time that the China-ASEAN Association organized a delegation to visit ASEAN countries since its founding and also NPC Vice Chairperson Gu Xiulian's first visit to ASEAN countries in her capacity as president of the China-ASEAN Association. The delegation was accorded warm welcome and reception by the governments and the people of the above three

**Gu Xiulian, president of the China-ASEAN Association, and U Htay Oo, secretary general of the Union Solidarity and Development Association of Myanmar, signing the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organizations**



**China-ASEAN Association President Gu Xiulian and Acting Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Muhaimin Iskandar exchanging souvenirs**



countries. During the visit, Vice Chairperson Gu had friendly in-depth talks with the leaders of the three countries, and met with personages of various circles including government officials, parliamentarians, businessmen and women as well as representatives of the people-to-people friendship organizations. During the visit, 4 memorandums on bilateral cooperation and the Plan of Action on the 10+1 People-to-People Cooperation were signed.

### **Political Mutual Trust Enhanced**

Lt. Gen. Thein Sein, acting prime minister and secretary general of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of Myanmar; Yusuf Kalla, vice president of Indonesia; Muhaimin Iskandar, acting speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, and Crown Prince Al-Muh-tadee Billah, Acting Sultan of Brunei, met with Gu Xiulian and her party on separate occasions.

Myanmar's Acting Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Thein Sein was particularly happy to meet with the high-level Chinese delegation for he had just returned from his visit to China and expressed his thanks to China for its aid and support for Myan-

mar in the country's national construction and in the international arena. He hoped that high-level leaders of the two countries would further strengthen exchanges to push forward bilateral friendly relations.

Indonesian Vice President Yusuf Kalla said, the Indonesia-China strategic partnership jointly formed by the heads of state of the two countries should be realized through concerted efforts by the governments, enterprises and non-governmental organizations of the two countries. He expressed his belief that Vice Chairperson Gu's visit would further strengthen bilateral friendly cooperative relations particularly in the economic field.

In his meeting with Vice Chairperson Gu, Brunei's Acting Sultan Crown Prince Al-Muh-tadee Billah expressed his gladness at the convening of the Second Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations in Brunei and hoped that more international conferences would be held in Brunei.

In her meetings with the leaders of the three countries, Gu said, in achieving its development China not only relies on its own efforts but also needs to strengthen international cooperation.



**China-ASEAN Association President Gu Xiulian and Princess Hajah Masna of Brunei visiting the Exhibition on ASEAN-China Friendship**

China implements the policy of “friendship and partnership with neighbouring countries” and “fostering a friendly, secure and prosperous neighbourly environment” and is willing to strengthen cooperation with its neighbouring countries to achieve common development.

### **Role of Nongovernmental Diplomacy Highly Appreciated**

In her meetings with the leaders of the three countries, Vice Chairperson Gu briefed about the work of the China-ASEAN Association. Myanmar’s Acting Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Thein Sein spoke highly of the rich and colourful activities carried out by the China-ASEAN Association and the ASEAN countries’ people-to-people friendship organizations in the past few years. He believed that under Gu’s leadership, the China-ASEAN Association would surely make greater achievements. Indonesian Vice President Yusuf Kalla said, he was happy to see China’s efforts to promote the development of its relations with ASEAN, and praised the role played by the China-ASEAN Association in enhancing understanding between the Indonesian and the Chinese people and promoting economic and trade ex-

changes and cooperation between the two countries. Princess Hajah Masna, Brunei’s ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said, she believes that the people-to-people friendly exchanges between ASEAN and China will help lay a solid foundation for the cooperation between the two sides in the future. She hoped that China’s and ASEAN’s people-to-people friendship organizations would further support the governments to deepen bilateral strategic partnership.

### **Nongovernmental Cooperation**

1. Meeting with women representatives. Vice Chairperson Gu had cordial meetings and talks with Daw Khin Thet Htay, vice president of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Linda Agum Gumelar, chairperson of the Indonesian National Council of Women’s Organization, and Brunei’s Princess Hajah Masna. Gu briefed them on the development of the cause of women in China since the Fourth World Conference on Women and activities carried out by the All-China Women’s Federation under the new situation, detailing the China-ASEAN Women’s Forum and “10+3” women affairs personnel training programme, and



2. Signing or witnessing the signing of memorandums on bilateral cooperation. Vice Chairperson Gu and USDA Secretary General U Htay Oo of Myanmar signed the memorandum on cooperation between the China-ASEAN Association and the USDA. In Indonesia, Gu witnessed the signing of the memorandums of cooperation and understanding for 2007-2008 between the Association of China-Indonesia Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation and the Association of Indonesia-China Economic, Social and Cultural Cooperation, between the China-ASEAN Association and the Indonesian Municipal Councils Association and the Indonesian Regencies Cooperation Agency, and between the Beijing Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the AICESCC-West Java Representative. The signing of these memorandums has provided a strong guarantee for conducting coop-

3. Promoting “10+1” nongovernmental cooperation. At the initiation of Vice Chairperson Gu at the Conference, the representatives of the ASEAN people-to-people friendship organizations fully expressed their views on the draft of the “Plan of Action to Implement the Declaration on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship and Cooperation” drawn up by the Chinese side and finally reached consensus. The representatives of the three countries responded actively to the proposal put forward by the Chinese side, and through warm discussions, finally signed the Plan of Action on “10+1” People-to-People Cooperation. The signing of the document has provided a specific plan for promoting friendly cooperation and exchanges between China and ASEAN, and made the Conference actually become an important platform for strengthening dialogue between the Chinese and the ASEAN nongovernmental organizations and an important channel for enhancing mutual understanding between the people of China and various ASEAN countries.

4. Promoting exchanges and cooperation between local governments of the two sides. In Myanmar, Vice Chairperson Gu led the delegation to have talks with Mayor of Yangon Brig.

The 2nd Conference on ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organizations  
第二届东盟中国民间友好组织大会  
Opening Ceremony  
开幕典礼  
Date: 20/6/2007  
Guest of Honor:  
Yang Jiemian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China  
Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam  
Dumai, D.M., PH.D.  
Brunei Darussalam

# CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Leads Delegation To Russia, Latvia and Lithuania

**Kang Jingyuan, Lu Aizhen**

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its president Chen Haosu paid a friendly visit to Russia, Latvia and Lithuania from May 31 to June 9 at the invitation of the Russian Centre for International Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, the United Latvian Friendship Society with Foreign Countries and the

Lithuanian Parliament.

In Russia, the delegation attended the 12th Symposium on China-Russia Regional Cooperation, one of the activities of the Year of China. Leaders of friendship organizations and relevant departments, representatives of local governments and small and medium-sized enter-

prises, totaling over 70 people, attended the symposium.

In his letter of congratulations to the symposium, Sergei Mironov, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly, said, the Symposium on Russia-China Regional Cooperation has become an important mechanism

Gen. Aung Thein Lin and other officials of the municipal government. Mayor Aung Thein Lin said, since Yangon and Yangzhou twinned friendship-city ties in 1997, personages of the two cities have had frequent, pragmatic and fruitful exchanges. Yangzhou has provided much aid to Yangon in its construction and development.

At the meeting on exchanges between the local governments of China and Indonesia, Pan Yousheng, vice president of the BMPAFFC, Wu Dalai, vice president of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Gong Zhaoxiang, council member of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, respectively briefed about the development of their city, region and province.

In Brunei, Wang Yunze, deputy head of the delegation and vice president of the China-ASEAN Association, led some members of

the delegation to pay an official call on Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adanan, minister of home affairs, who said that his visit to Shenzhen last year at the invitation of Mayor of Beijing Wang Qishan left a deep impression on him, and hoped that Brunei would have cooperation with China in many fields in the future.

## **China-ASEAN Friendship Exhibition Held**

During the Conference, the CPAFFC and BC-FA jointly held an exhibition on China-ASEAN friendship entitled "Join Hands with ASEAN, Get Together in Brunei" in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN. Vice Chairperson Gu Xiulian and Princess Hajah Masna cut the ribbon for the exhibition, at which beautiful photos of important events of China-ASEAN friendly cooperation, the Olympic Games and the ASEAN, the China-ASEAN friendship tour and art exchanges were displayed. □

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the Symposium on China-Russia Regional Cooperation**



for implementing the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. The present symposium would make significant contributions to further expanding regional cooperation and promoting economic and social development of the two countries.

President Chen Haosu said in his speech, the activities of the Year of Russia and the Year of China that China and Russia hold in succession in each other's countries cover all areas of bilateral cooperation. Regional cooperation is one of the major areas and the important basis of the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation. In recent years, the two economies have kept the momentum of rapid development. There is much space and potential for regional cooperation between China and Rus-

sia. Such cooperation would contribute to common prosperity and development.

Representatives of relevant departments, local governments and enterprises of the two countries were eager to speak at the symposium. They introduced their respective organizations and explored areas and projects for bilateral cooperation.

During their visit in St. Petersburg, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party were given a cordial reception by Ilya Klebanov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian President for the Northwest Federal District. Klebanov pointed out, economic and trade cooperation between the Northwest Federal District and China has seen fast growth. Chinese investments in the District continued to increase. The large-scale invest-

ment project—The Baltic Pearl— would be unveiled soon. President Chen happily recalled the large-scale activity jointly held by the CPAFFC and the Northwest Federal District to introduce the District to China during the Year of Russia in 2006. He said that the CPAFFC would, as always, work to promote the mutually beneficial cooperation between the provinces and cities of China and the Northwest Federal District.

In Latvia, Erika Zommere, chairperson of the Latvia-China Friendship Parliamentary Group, and Rihards Pīks, former vice president of the Latvian Parliament and member of the European Parliament, met with Chen Haosu and his party.

Zommere said during the meeting, the friendly relations between Latvia and China are



**Erika Zommere (L.3), chairperson of the Latvia-China Friendship Parliamentary Group, meeting with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party**

developing vigorously. There are regular meetings between the two governments, frequent exchanges between the localities and strengthened cooperation between the two countries. After Latvia became a formal member of the EU, cooperation between Latvia and China entered an important period. She stated, the Latvia-China Friendship Parliamentary Group is the biggest bi-

lateral friendship groups in the Parliament and its members have visited China several times, who marveled at the great changes in China. Now, more and more young people in Latvia are learning Chinese, eager to know more about China.

President Chen Haosu said, the CPAFFC is an organization engaged in people-to-people diplomatic work in China. In re-

cent years, it has actively promoted contact with the people and localities of Latvia. He noted, the world today is not harmonious; there are still wars. The Chinese people will not only realize national reunification and work for the harmonious development of their own country, but also push for the establishment of harmonious international relations. Big countries

**Ceslovas Juršenas, vice chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, meeting with the delegation**



should respect small countries instead of bullying them. China and Latvia have set an example of harmony between a big and a small country.

Ceslovas Jursenas, first vice chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament and chairman of the Lithuania-China Friendship Parliamentary Group, met with President Chen Haosu and his party on the day of their arrival in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. Alfredas Pekeliunas, vice chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament, hosted a banquet in honour of the delegation. Bronislovas Genzelis, president of the Lithuania-China Friendship Association, and members of the Association met with and entertained the delegation. While in Lithuania, the delegation met with Juozas Imbrasas, the newly-elected mayor of Vilnius, Ricardas Malinauskas, mayor of Druskininkai and president of

the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, Dr. Benediktas Juodka, rector of Vilnius University, and Algimantas Akstinas, general manager of International Chamber of Commerce Lithuania.

First Vice Chairman Jursenas said when meeting with the delegation, Lithuania follows closely China's achievements in construction, attaches importance to carrying out exchanges with China and works hard to promote the all-round development of relations between Lithuania and China. He himself has visited China several times and seen the tremendous changes that have taken place in the country. At present, more and more Lithuanians started to learn Chinese. He added that Lithuania followed with interest China's preparations for the Beijing Olympic Games and expressed the belief that Chinese

and Lithuanian athletes would achieve good results.

At the meeting with the delegation, LCFA President Bronislovas Genzelis said with emotion that he was especially happy to meet Chinese friends and that he felt a surge of warm feelings upon seeing old friends, for he had visited China several times when he served as chairman of the Lithuania-China Friendship Parliamentary Group. He told the delegation that members of the LCFA come from different political parties with different political views, but they hold the same view on the question of developing friendly relations with China. The LCFA members present at the meeting all said that they would make positive contributions to the deepening of friendship and cooperation between the people of Lithuania and China. □

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**(Continued from p.20)**

On April 9, Ma Kaiming, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, met with Dr. Taylor and Stephen Chan (Singaporean), chief representative of the Sichuan Office of MSI, in Chengdu. The vice chairman spoke highly of the positive contributions Dr. Taylor has made to the economic and social development of Liangshan and expressed his great pleasure at Dr. Taylor's reception of the title of Honorary Citizen of Zhaojue County. He pointed out that Dr. Taylor has

shown concern for and given support to the development of Liangshan over the years and that his deeds would go down in the annals of Liangshan's friendly relations with other countries.

SIFA President Qin Lin was present at the meeting. On behalf of the SIFA, she presented the Certificate of International Friendship Envoy to Dr. Taylor. She wished him good health and a long life and expressed the hope that the friendly cooperation between the SIFA and MSI would continue to develop and benefit the people. □



# Eleventh Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges Held in Chengdu

Guan Yong



The 11th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges jointly sponsored by the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) and the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) was held in Chengdu from May 23 to 24. This was a large-sized meeting held by the nongovernmental organizations of the two countries in the wake of Premier Wen Jiabao's successful visit to Japan in April. The theme of the conference was "Sino-Japanese Strategic Relations of Mutual Benefit and the Role of Nongovernmental Exchanges". Song Jian, president of the CJFA, Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CJFA, Jiang Jufeng, governor of Sichuan Province, Huang Xiaoxiang, deputy governor of Sichuan Province, Chen Jie, vice chairman of the Sichuan Provincial

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Qin Lin, president of the SIFA, and Hiromu Nonaka, honorary adviser to the JCFA and former chief of Cabinet Secretariat, among about 200 representatives, attended the conference.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Song Jian said, under the situation when the premiers of the two countries have paid successful visits to each other's country and the two countries reached consensus on the contents, framework and main tasks of the strategic relations of mutual benefits to be established between the two countries, and the Sino-Japanese relations gain the momentum of improvement and development, the convening of the conference has great significance in promoting people-to-people exchanges and healthy development of the bilateral relations. The

year 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan and the Year of China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchanges. The nongovernmental friendship organizations of the two countries should have new thinking on friendly activities, implement the consensus reached by the heads of government of the two countries from the nongovernmental angle, promote the healthy and steady development of bilateral relations based on the principles set by the three political documents including the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, and realize the lofty goals of “peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development”. This is conducive to deepening mutual trust and friendship between the two peoples and in keeping with the fundamental interests of the two peoples.

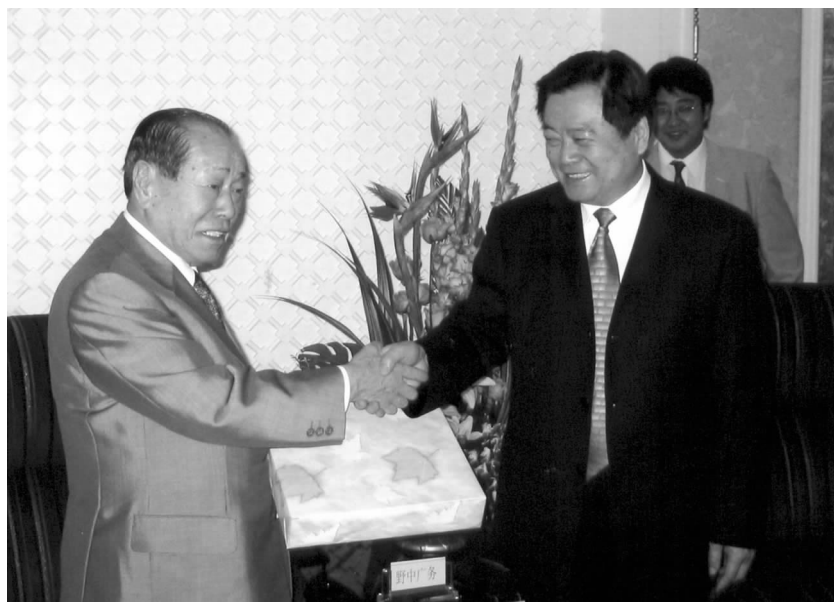
Hiromu Nonaka said in his speech, Premier Wen’s successful visit to Japan last month has achieved important results and is welcomed by the majority of the Japanese people. Japan-China relations now face a completely new situation. The governments of the two countries have signed various kinds of agreements on cooperation centering on the establishment of strategic relations of mu-

tual benefit between the two countries. It is really gratifying that the spring breeze of friendly cooperation blows again and everybody is happy. But, we should not forget that in Japan there are still some forces that do not want to see the improvement and new development of the relations between the two countries. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations and the Year of China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchanges, and also the 70th anniversary of the Lugouqiao Incident and Nanjing Incident. The colonial rule and aggression that Japan carried out in a period of the past brought tremendous losses and sufferings to the people of China, the Korean peninsula and various Asian countries. The people of Japan, China and various Asian countries who suffered enough from the war earnestly long for peace and stability. Today, after seventy years, we should continue to keep a modest attitude, learn from history, strengthen friendly forces, resolutely fight against the forces that attempt to hinder Japan-China friendship and strive to maintain the hard-won friendly relations between the two countries.

CJFA Vice President Jing Dunquan made a key-note speech on behalf of the Chinese side. He

**The meeting in session**





Jiang Jufeng, governor of Sichuan, meeting with Hiromu Nonaka, honorary adviser to the Japan-China Friendship Association

reviewed Sino-Japanese relations and the nongovernmental exchanges in the past two years, saying, when Sino-Japanese relations met with serious difficulties, the nongovernmental organizations of the two countries gave play to their traditional advantages of promoting governmental relations through nongovernmental channels and carried out a series of practical exchanges. Through unremitting efforts, they made valuable contributions to alleviating antagonism and misunderstanding between the two peoples, maintaining the basis of Sino-Japanese relations and improving bilateral relations. Under the new historical condition, the nongovernmental friendship organizations of the two countries should carry forward the fine traditions, further carry out extensive people-to-people exchanges in a down-to-earth manner so as to enhance mutual understanding and trust between the two peoples, consolidate the mass base for the development of bilateral relations and promote a great new development of the relations between the two countries. In his speech, Jing Dunquan put forward three suggestions i.e. on the basis of the principles set in the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement and the other two

political documents, the nongovernmental organiza-

tions of the two countries energetically carry out exchanges in the economic and cultural fields and between the localities, strengthen exchanges between the young people and make efforts to foster successors to the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship. These suggestions were unanimously approved by the participants of the conference.

In his key-note speech, on behalf of the Japanese side, JCFA Vice President Shoichi Ide said, the decision of establishing relations of mutual benefit on the basis of common strategic interests is made by the two countries from the overall interest and has great significance. He hoped that the two countries would strengthen exchanges between the peoples, the nongovernmental organizations in various areas and the local governments at different levels, particularly between the young people.

In his speech, Sichuan Governor Jiang Jufeng briefed about the great achievements the province made in recent years in the economic and social development and opening up to the outside world. He said, while persisting in scientific way of development and building a harmonious Sichuan, the Provincial Government is ready to promote

# “I Am a Friend of Chinese People Forever”

—On Iraqi President Jalal Talabani

**Jia Ling**

As we were walking into the meeting hall of No. 18 Building at the Diaoyutai State Guest House on the morning of June 22, an old man with a benign smile on his face rose from the sofa to greet us. He was Jalal Talabani, president of Iraq who was on an official visit to China. He was going to meet with Tomur Dawamat, president of the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) and CAFA council

members there that day. Being the deputy secretary general of the CAFA, I would be present at the meeting and had the honour to meet President Talabani for the second time.

The first time I met President Talabani was on August 6, 2003. He was then chairman of the Iraqi Interim Governing Council visiting China at the invitation of the CPAFFC. I still remember that during the ban-

quet given by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Chairman Talabani happily recalled his first visit to China in 1955, which, he said, had left an unforgettable impression on him. From then on, he has been following closely what's happening in China and rejoiced at China's every achievement. To increase the Iraqi and Kurdish people's understanding of China, he opened a book store in Baghdad, selling

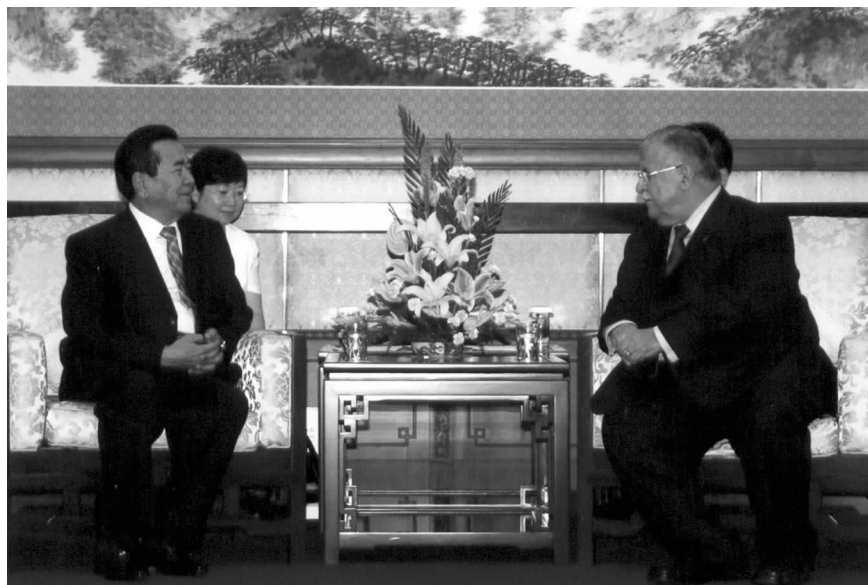
exchanges and cooperation in various fields between Sichuan and Japan.

At the panel meetings, participants had in-depth discussions centering on the theme of the conference, and made suggestions on further strengthening nongovernmental friendly exchanges. They said that they would overcome difficulties to push forward the exchanges between the young people and friendship cities and in the fields of culture, economy and environmental protection.

Representatives of the two sides said that the conference is an important channel for nongovernmental friendly exchanges between the two countries and has played an important role in promoting the development of bilateral relations. They said, since Liao Chengzhi, the then CJFA presi-

dent, and Tokuma Utsunomiya, the then JCFA president, initiated the first conference in 1983, at every conference, the participants from the two countries have had in-depth discussions and exchanged views on the situation and problems of Sino-Japanese relations, playing a positive role in better carrying out exchanges between the nongovernmental organizations, enhancing mutual understanding and friendly sentiments between the two peoples and promoting the development of the relations between the two countries. Particularly in recent years when bilateral relations met with serious difficulties, the last two conferences have played an important role in uniting friendly forces, actively carrying out friendly activities and enhancing the faith of friendly personages in the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship. □





**Iraqi President Jalal Talabani having a cordial conversation with Tomur Dawamat, president of the China-Arab Friendship Association**

books on China. He wrote many articles about China for magazines and translated *Selected Works of Mao Zedong* into Kurdish. At the banquet he recited many quotations from Chairman Mao, making us gasp in admiration. Even senior comrades present had to admit that they could not do better, not to mention young people like me. Talabani said that the Iraqi people and the Kurdish people cherished very friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people and that he believed such friendship would be further consolidated and develop in the new period, for which he himself would make unremitting efforts.

Four years had elapsed before Talabani visited China again. This time he came as the first head of state of Iraq ever to

visit the country since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Iraq 49 years ago. He said during the meeting with CAFA President Tomur Dawamat that his visit was very important, for he and President Hu Jintao had held very successful talks, and that it let the Iraqi people realize the importance of further strengthening friendly relations with China. President Talabani thanked the CPAFFC and the CAFA for the significant contributions they had made to promoting the friendly and cooperative relations between the people of China and Arab countries including Iraq. He said, the Iraqi Government attaches great importance to the work of people-to-people friendship. In 1958 when the two countries had just estab-

lished diplomatic relations, the Iraq-China Friendship Association (ICFA) was founded in Iraq, and he himself was one of the founding members. The reorganization of the ICFA will be carried out soon and its members will include representatives of all ethnic groups and all parties. The ICFA will send a delegation to attend the Second China-Arab Friendship Conference in Syria next year. He expressed the hope that the Third China-Arab Friendship Conference would be held in Iraq. At the end of the meeting, President Talabani said to all present: "52 years ago when I visited China, I was in my prime, and today I am an old man of 74. I am an old as well as a new friend of the Chinese people. I will remain so forever." □



# CPAFFC Delegation Visits Italy and Portugal

**Yang Yingzi**

**A**t the invitation of the Italian Union of Provinces (Unione delle Province d'Italia—UPI) and the League of Portugal-China Lasting Friendship (LPCLF), the Chinese People's Friendship Delegation led by Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, and Shi Zuofeng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress, paid friendly visits to Italy and Portugal from June 15 to 24.

## **In Italy**

In Rome, the delegation met with UPI President Fabio Melilli and Director General Piero Antonelli. The two sides exchanged views on further strengthening the cooperation between their organizations. President Melilli warmly welcomed the delegation. He believed that the

exchange of visits between the two organizations is very important to the promotion of cooperation between the localities of the two countries and friendship between the Chinese and Italian people. He hoped that both sides would maintain and strengthen contact and cooperation and add more substantial and concrete contents so as to achieve fruitful development. President Chen said, 2006 was the Year of Italy in China, and a series of activities introducing various aspects of Italy including art, economy and tourism were held in China, which furthered Chinese people's understanding about Italy. He believed that this visit would further enhance the cooperation between the two organizations and mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. When mentioning the cooperation

**Bruno Marziano and Giovanni Franco Antoci, governor of Siracusa and Ragusa, Italy with the delegation**





**General Goncalves and Chung Su Sing, president and vice president of the Board of Directors of the League of Portugal-China Lasting Friendship, meeting with the delegation**

between the two organizations, President Chen said, in the past 26 years since the CPAFFC had contacts with the UPI, the two sides have made unremitting joint efforts to promote mutual understanding between the people, cooperation between the local governments, and peace and development in the world. In the new historical era, our cooperation should be upgraded to a new level along with the development of the times, reinforcing substantive cooperation in all fields between the two countries by implementing concrete programmes.

The delegation attended the banquet celebrating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Italy-China Association in Rome. In her speech, President Vittoria Mancini said, in the past 45 years, with the great support of the CPAFFC, the Italy-China Association has always been committed to uphold Chinese people's interest and safeguard the friendship between the two peoples. Now China is undergoing rapid changes, and the Italy-China Association has adopted new working mode. It will continue to keep in contact with the Italian

government and maintain its cooperation with well-known scholars in the cultural circles of China, promote dialogue between the Italian side and the Chinese in Italy so as to contribute to the further integration of the Chinese communities and enterprises with the Italian mainstream society. President Chen highly appreciated the contributions made by the Italy-China Association to Sino-Italian friendship and expressed that the CPAFFC would continue to support the association in its work as always.

The delegation visited the provinces of Siracusa and Ragusa of Sicilia region, and had meetings with governors and officials of the provincial governments. During these meetings and interviews with the local media, President Chen made a brief introduction about the CPAFFC, its aims and tasks, emphasized the purpose of the delegation's visit to Italy, expressing the hope to enhance exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese and Italian local governments through the efforts of CPAFFC.

Governor Bruno Marziano of Siracusa and Governor Giovanni Franco Antoci of Ragusa said,

# CPAFFC Delegation in Cuba

**Liu Fang**

Invited by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the Cuba-China Friendship Association, a CPAFFC delegation headed by Zhang Enxiang, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Jilin Provincial People's Congress and honorary president of the Jilin Provincial People's Asso-

ciation for Friendship with Foreign Countries, paid a friendly visit to Cuba from May 29 to June 3, during which it participated in the celebrations of the 160th anniversary of the Chinese arrival in Cuba.

On the occasion of the Chinese arrival in Cuba 160 years ago, the House of Chinese Arts

and Traditions and the Centre of Studies on the China Immigration in Cuba of the University of Havana co-sponsored the 10th Overseas Chinese Festival and a series of celebration activities. At a symposium held on May 31, Zhang Enxiang, leader of the delegation, Gen. Moises Sio Wong, president of the Cu-

they hope that the CPAFFC would find Chinese provinces or cities with characteristics complementary to their provinces for twinning friendship ties so as to further strengthen cooperation in economy, trade and culture and between enterprises of the two countries.

## **In Portugal**

On the day of their arrival, the delegation met with President General Goncalves and Vice President Chung Su Sing of the Board of Directors of the LPCLF. The Portuguese side expressed, this visit of the Chinese delegation has great significance and such exchange of visits not only promotes mutual understanding and strengthens mutual respect and cooperation, but also helps the friendship between the two peoples to last generation after generation.

President Chen thanked the League for their warm invitation. He said, the CPAFFC attaches great importance to the friendly cooperation with Portugal, and is happy to see the smooth return

of Macau to its motherland in 1999 and the beginning of a new era in the Sino-Portuguese relations. In recent years, the relationship between the two organizations has developed smoothly with the joint efforts by both sides. The LPCLF has done a great deal of work for the friendly cooperation between the two countries. In response, we established the China-Portugal Friendship Association at the beginning of the century, and our relationship has thus become closer. This time, the CPAFFC delegation has included representatives from Gansu Province and Shanghai Municipality, and our purpose is to find new areas of cooperation and the direction of our work is to promote cooperation between provinces and municipalities of the two countries. We should learn from the Portuguese forerunners' pioneering spirits, with which they opened up the road from Portugal to the world.

The delegation attended the celebration of the 16th anniversary of the establishment of LPCLF. □



**The Cuba-China Friendship Association holding a commemorative meeting at the Regla Port in Havana where the first batch of Chinese labourers landed**

ba-China Friendship Association, among others, spoke, recalling the history of the Chinese since they arrived in Cuba and the contributions they have made to the Cuban Society. Zhang Enxiang stressed, in the past years, the Chinese worked together with the Cuban people to create social wealth and waged struggles against slavery, oppression and colonial rule. They have made due contributions to the economic development, social progress and independence of Cuba. Just as what is inscribed on the Monument in Memory of the Chinese Who Fought for the Independence of Cuba erected in downtown Havana, which reads: In Cuba not a single Chinese was a deserter, not a single Chinese a traitor. The delegation also attended the ceremony of the first issuance of

the commemorative stamps for the 160th anniversary of the Chinese arrival in Cuba held by the Cuban Ministry of Post.

On June 3, the CPAFFC delegation and representatives of various circles of Cuba gathered at the Regla Port in Havana, where the first batch of Chinese labourers landed in Cuba 160 years ago. Through the hard work of 160 years, the Chinese have taken roots in Cuba, merged into the Cuban society and become members of the Cuban people and an inseparable part of the Cuban history.

The delegation was present at the premiere of the documentary film *The Thriving Fame on Roots* made by Chinese Cuban director Angel Ma Argudin, visited the exhibition of plastic arts by artists of Chinese descent and the exhibition of Chinese and

Cuban cuisine, and attended the 10th Overseas Chinese Festival Closing Cultural Gala at the Antonio Maceo Theatre.

The sincerity of the Cuban people left a deep impression on the members of the delegation. Buenaventura Reyes, vice president of CCFA, said, he was proud of a quarter of the blood flowing in his veins being Chinese. Through the one-week visit, the members of the delegation deeply felt the friendship the Cuban people cherished for the Chinese people and the Chinese-Cubans fully displayed Chinese spirit. On June 3, 1847, the brigantine *Oquendo* loaded with goods and Chinese labourers that set sail in Xiamen, China arrived at the Regla Port in Havana, Cuba, marking the beginning of the Chinese establishing themselves in this Caribbean



# Let Love Be Spread All Over Daliang Mountains

Shen Zaiwang

A 70-member delegation of MSI Professional Services headed by its honorary president Dr. James Hudson Taylor visited Sichuan from April 1 to 9, during which it attended in Liangshan Prefecture the tea party co-sponsored by the local government and MSI and the ceremony held by the Zhaojue County Government to confer the title of Honorary Citizen of Zhaojue County on Dr. Taylor. The members of the delegation came from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan of China. Most of them were medical professionals who came to provide their services. Also on the delegation were overseas Chinese, Chinese descendants and friendly personages who have financed the MSI projects, and specialists and scholars from

the mainland who volunteered to take part. Qin Lin, president of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), was present at these activities.

Dr. Taylor was born in Kaifeng, China in 1929. His great grandfather, grandfather and father were British missionaries. Under the influence of his family, he loved China and could speak fluent Chinese since his childhood. He had great sympathy for the Chinese people who suffered from hardships and the impact of westernism. Dr. Taylor lived in different places in Southeast Asia after the founding of New China. In 1994, he founded in Hong Kong the non-profit organization—Medical Services International (MSI), which was renamed MSI Professional Services later. MSI is committed to providing profes-

country. In 1868, the war for independence broke out in Cuba, which brought hopes to the Chinese labourers. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese fought bravely at the forefront. Since then, they have taken part in all the struggles for the indepen-

dence of Cuba. After years of hard work, the Chinese now have already merged into the Cuban society and live in harmony with the Cuban people. The China Town in Havana has

grown in scale, where one can find all kinds of shops, restaurants and recreational facilities. It has become one of the most bustling areas of the city. □

Members of the delegation with Cuban children at the opening ceremony





sional services and assistance to poor areas of China's mainland. Its members are professionals from countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia as well as from regions of Hong Kong and Taiwan. It carries out medical, educational and poverty-relief programmes and finances social welfare undertakings in poor areas of China's west with the funds raised overseas. The SIFA, as MSI's contact for all its programmes in Sichuan, provides policy guidance and coordination.

With the support of the governments of Sichuan Province and relevant cities and counties and the assistance given by the SIFA, MSI has, in the past dozen years, provided professional services in Chengdu, Ya'an, Leshan, Meishan, Ziyang and Liangshan and achieved remarkable results. In Zhaojue County of Liangshan Prefecture alone, MSI has put in a total of 1.4 million RMB yuan for the purchase of medical equipment and medicine, sending dozens of specialists both from China and other countries to give free treatment and surgery to local patients. In the past decade and more, it has treated patients totaling 30,000 person/times, performed 400 surgical operations, and given training to over 600 rural doctors and mid-wives. The SIFA has also allocated special funds to launch the rural marsh gas demonstration projects in Zhaojue County in cooperation with MSI, which is warmly welcomed by the masses.

As MSI president, Dr. Taylor has made inspection tours of Zhaojue County several times despite the long distance, high mountains and hard living conditions to see how the poverty-relief programmes are going. At his suggestion, MSI set up a youth training centre in Zhaojue County, for which it put in a total of more than 5 million RMB yuan to build a classroom building, a dormitory building, a workshop and a farm. The centre has successively opened 120 courses in computer,

practical agricultural techniques, tailoring and sewing, ethnic folk arts and handicraft, home economics, English language, building, beauty treatment and hair dressing, etc., training a total of 3,200 person/times. The centre is fully affirmed by the Sichuan Provincial Government and relevant state departments. With 12 million yuan put in by the Liangshan Prefectural Government for its expansion, the centre has become a job-training demonstration base in Liangshan.

The foreign specialists recruited by MSI have won Friendship Award conferred by the State Council and Golden Summit Award in five areas by the Sichuan Provincial Government. American doctor Tami Fist who was the first to work in Zhaojue County unfortunately got skin cancer and passed away after returning home. To commemorate the doctor who was deeply loved by the local people, the MSI delegation held a memorial meeting in Liangshan, recalling many touching stories of the doctor.

Dr. Taylor, a compassionate and charitable old man, has done a lot for the development of Sichuan Province, Liangshan Prefecture and Zhaojue County. He is very modest and never talks about his achievements. Due to overwork, Dr. Taylor unfortunately developed liver cancer and had an operation. He is still concerned about the poverty-relief projects in Liangshan and is determined to devote his remaining years to do whatever he can for Liangshan. In recognition of what he has done, the Zhaojue County Government conferred on him the title of Honorary Citizen of Zhaojue County and held a grand conferring ceremony. SIFA President Qin Lin attended the ceremony and expressed respects and warm congratulations to Dr. Taylor. She said that Dr. Taylor is worthy of the title of Honorary Citizen of Zhaojue County.

**(Continued on p.9)**

# Delegation of Maldivian Ministry of Atolls Development in China

**Li Sanghua**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, the delegation of the Maldivian Ministry of Atolls Development led by its Deputy Minister Fathimath Sheereen paid a visit to Beijing and Jiangsu from April 24 to 30. This was the first substantial exchange aiming at strengthening friendly contacts since the CPAFFC and the Ministry of Atolls Development established links last December.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Wang Yunze met with the delegation on different occasions. Lian Yuming, director of the Beijing International Institute for Urban Development, had an informal discussion with the delegation. The delegation visited Tuanjiehu Elementary School whose corresponding country is Maldives in the Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme entitled the “True Love Knot” organized by the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), and the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall.

The delegation’s visit to

China has helped the two sides have a deeper understanding of the social and economic situation and people’s life of each other’s country, and enhance the friendship between the people of the two countries. During her visit to China, Deputy Minister Fathimath Sheereen said on several occasions, the Maldivian and Chinese people are not separated from each other by the distance for their hearts have been already linked together.

The Maldivian guests were very much interested in their discussions with the Beijing International Institute for Urban Development and the Jiangsu Province Construction Department and in their meetings with the municipal leaders of Wuxi and Yangzhou. They listened to what the Chinese hosts said attentively and asked many questions. Deputy Minister Sheereen said, China’s experience of development is worth learning by the Maldives. She also hoped to know more about the Chinese local governments and said that her ministry would send delegations of its officials to China for

study or training.

The “True Love Knot” activity is an Olympic educational exchange launched by the BOCOG on December 18, 2006. More than 200 middle and primary schools in Beijing take part in the activity. These schools will enter partnership with the Olympic Games Committees and the Paralympic Games Committees of the countries or regions whose athletes will participate in the 2008 Olympic Games. And it is planned that each school will form friendship school ties with a school in its partner country or region. Beijing Tuanjiehu Elementary School’s corresponding country is the Maldives. The School held a ceremony to warmly welcome the delegation. The Maldivian guests were very happy to have a chance to visit a Chinese school and expressed appreciation of the “True Love Knot” activity. They presented the school with booklets and audio and video products about the Maldives, and said that after returning home they would try to find a primary school to twin

# CPAFFC Agricultural Delegation Visits Germany and Austria

**Wang Wei**

At the invitation of the Germany-China Friendship Association-Stuttgart (GCFA-Stuttgart) and the Austrian-Chinese Friendship Association (ACFA), a delegation for studying agriculture composed of members from localities organized and sent by the CPAFFC paid a visit to Germany and Austria from June 11 to 23. The delegation visited farms and farmers' homes in Germany and paid an official call on the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture and had talks with the experts. Rainer Dold, president of the GCFA-Stuttgart, Walter Strutzenberger, former president of the Austrian Federal Council and president of the ACFA, and Gerd Kaminski, vice president of the ACFA and adviser to the Austrian president on Chinese affairs, met with the delegation on different occasions.

The delegation visited Unterschneidheim Town, Ostalb County of Baden-Wuerttemberg State. The town is located in the Schwaben region and consists of 7 villages under the jurisdiction of Stuttgart Administrative Area. In Germany the people of Schwaben are known for their hard-working and honesty. This impression was

confirmed by what we saw when we drove into the town. That day happened to be the day for collecting garbage. In front of the door of every house we saw classified garbage bags of different colors and sizes being put in good order. A big tree at the entrance of the town drew the delegation's attention. It was a "May Tree" peculiar to Schwaben. Every year on May 1 the villagers would cut down one tree and erect it at the entrance of the village. On the tree were hung small flags with pictures of local customs and specialties. The moment we got off the car, we were deeply impressed by the simple and honest folkways there and the local people's love for their tradition.

Guenther Schenk, former head of Unterschneidheim Town, warmly welcomed the delegation. He briefed us about the town's history, tradition, religion and culture. Johannes Strauss, secretary general of the Farmers Association of Ostalb County, gave a detailed briefing about the German Farmers Association and its important role in the country's agricultural development and farmers' self-government. The Association has organiza-

pairs with Tuanjiehu Elementary School.

To Deputy Minister Sheereen and all other members of the delegation, this was their first visit to China. In Beijing and Jiangsu, they highly praised China's booming economic development and clean cities, and particularly

admired the Chinese government's ability and the Chinese people's diligence, self-discipline and devotion to work. Before departure, the Deputy Minister said, the Chinese leaders are great. It is really extraordinary that China with such a huge population has achieved so remarkable devel-

opment in the past 30 years. She said with emotion, every Chinese she met with is friendly, warm-hearted and very conscientious in work. The active, forward-looking and enterprising attitude of the Chinese people deserves praise. The future of China will surely be very bright. □

tions at federal, state and county levels. Subordinate to the Farmers Association of Baden-Wuerttemberg State there are 26 county-level associations with 50,000 members, and several specialized committees, the young farmers association, the women farmers association, agricultural training schools and newspapers. The main tasks of the farmers association include: in the interest of the farmers exerting pressure on the parliament and the government in formulating and amending agricultural policies; providing consulting service on economic, enterprise, taxation, law and welfare problems for its members; conducting cooperation with other agricultural and forest organizations; providing training for youth and adults on agricultural technique and supporting women engaged in agriculture.

The delegation visited the Schneider pig farm, which occupies an area of 123 hectares and has 450 pigs, a granary with a capacity of 1,500 tons, a methane tank of 1,500 cubic metres, a complete set of modern agricultural machinery and computer-controlled pigsties. Only Mr. Schneider, his wife and two sons worked at such a large pig farm, showing high productivity. During the visit the delegation got to know that Germany attached great importance to environmental protection in its development of agriculture. All the environmental targets at the pig farm had been checked by the professional environmental organizations.

The delegation visited the Kleinhans cattle ranch which was also a household farm commonly seen in southern Germany. Mr. Kleinhans showed the delegation around the modern cowsheds, milk storage tanks and the fodder base. During the visit, the delegation noticed that every cow carried an "electronic identity card" recording its basic data and that the fodder feeder would automatically give the cow different quantity of

fodder according to the data it got through scanning the card. Mr. Kleinhans told the delegation the problem in the development of dairy industry in Germany. In Europe there is a quota system for output of milk; that is to say, every farm can only produce a certain amount of milk according to the quota, thus, seriously, restraining the development of the industry. After the visit, the hospitable hosts invited the delegates to have a taste of chocolate milk and yoghurt made of the milk produced at their ranch.

In Vienna, capital of Austria, the delegation paid an official call on the Ministry of Agriculture where they listened to the briefing made by a leading official of the Ministry's Department of International Exchanges on the current situation of Austria's agricultural development. Thanks to a mild climate, plentiful rainfall and fertile soil, Austria has fairly developed agriculture and animal husbandry. Though agriculture is only of secondary importance in the country's national economy, its mechanization level and productivity are very high. Austria practices the private ownership of land, but the government divides the land into nature preservation zone and non-nature preservation zone according to plan. The land in the nature preservation zone is managed by the government. The delegation had discussions with the officials of the Agricultural Ministry about Austria's agricultural products' subsidies and varieties. Besides, the delegation also visited some agricultural projects.

This tour of agricultural study in Germany and Austria, short as it was, left a deep impression on all the members of the delegation. Through the visit, they got to know about Europe's advanced agriculture and also witnessed the role played by people-to-people friendship work in building a bridge of friendship between the people of various countries. □

# Contacting Japanese Enterprises And Experiencing Japan

—First Chinese university students' delegation visits Japan

Guo Ning

After half a year's preparation, the first Chinese university students' delegation of 32 members with the aim of contacting Japanese enterprises and experiencing Japan jointly organized by the CPAFFC and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in China (JCCC) paid a goodwill visit to Japan from May 28 to June 6. The delegation led by Wang Xiuyun, deputy secretary general of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), was composed of students and teachers of the

Renmin University of China, the University of International Business and Economics, the Beijing Normal University, and the Beijing International Studies University. The delegation visited Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Chiba and Gunma where they went to enterprises, universities and people's homes, making extensive contacts with the Japanese society. The visit broadened their vision, enriched their experience and enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the two

countries.

## Japanese Prime Minister's Wife Akie Abe Meeting with the Delegation

In her meeting with the delegation on the noon of June 1, Japanese Prime Minister's wife Akie Abe said, Japan and China have a very close relationship, particularly in the economic field; the two countries are dependent on each other and bilateral cooperation is further deepening. This time the delegation will visit many enterprises and



Akie Abe (middle), wife of the Japanese prime minister, with the Chinese university students





**The delegation visiting the Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation**

contact ordinary citizens. She hoped that the Chinese students would take this opportunity to make extensive contacts with various circles in Japan, experience a completely new Japan and become the future envoys of Japan-China friendship. She stressed that the Chinese students could serve as a window through which the Japanese people learn about China, and hoped that while increasing knowledge about Japan, the delegation would introduce a true China to Japan so as to enhance mutual understanding between the two countries.

Shinji Fukukawa, chairman of the Committee for the Prospects of the Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century under the Japan-China Association for Economy and Trade and

former vice minister of international trade and industry, and Chikako Ono, official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present at the meeting. In his speech, Chairman Fukukawa said, if Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China is regarded as an "ice-breaking visit" and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Japan an "ice-thawing" visit, what we should do hereafter is to "raise the water temperature". We should make joint efforts to promote a healthy development of Japan-China relations.

#### **Visiting Enterprises to Experience Corporate Culture and Advanced Technology**

One of the important contents of the delegation's visit to Japan was to visit Japanese en-

terprises to know about Japan's economic and social development. Assisted and arranged by the member enterprises of the JCCC, the delegation visited some of the typical Japanese large-sized transnational corporations including the Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation, the Nippon Steel Corporation, the Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation, the Japan Airlines, the Wacoal Holdings Corporation and the Marubeni Corporation.

During the visit, the Chinese students were deeply impressed by the corporate culture and high technologies of the Japanese corporations, the concept of "ever advancing in a pioneering spirit" upheld by the Marubeni Corporation, the attitude of "regarding customers as

gods, and serving them conscientiously" displayed by the Japan Airlines, the products meticulously designed by the Wacoal Holdings Corporation for breast cancer patients, the technological research and development made by the Hitachi High-Technologies Corporation, the advanced technologies of steel making and the successful recovering of "white garbage" for environmental protection developed by the Nippon Steel Corporation, and the technology of recycling used household electric appliances developed by the Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation. The students were especially touched by Japanese enterprises' people-oriented approach and strong consciousness of environmental protection. In the Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation and the Nippon Steel Corporation, the students visited the places where Deng Xiaoping once inspected. When they saw the inscription: "The way of friendly cooperation between China and Japan is widening. Let's make joint efforts." written by Deng Xiaoping sincerely for the Nippon Steel Corp, the students keenly felt that they were shouldering the important task of promoting the future development of Sino-Japanese re-

lations.

### **Visiting Ordinary People's Homes and Making Friends of Wide Circles**

During the delegation's visit, the Japanese side arranged for the students to stay at ordinary people's homes. 27 students from 4 universities stayed at the homes of 27 Japanese people, all of whom worked for the member enterprises of the JCCC and knew China fairly well as most of them had lived and worked in China. The home of Koreshige Anami, former Japanese ambassador to China and advisor to the Nippon Steel Corporation, also put up one student as a guest for the night. Every Japanese home made ample preparations beforehand and arranged a rich schedule. Though staying at Japanese people's homes only for a short time, the students formed profound friendship with the hosts. On their departure many students and their hosts were reluctant to part.

The delegation also visited the Premier Zhou Enlai Poem Tablet at Arashiyama in Kyoto, watched traditional Japanese cultural performance such as court music, tea ceremony and flower arrangement, enjoyed typical mountain hot spring and

toured the Disney Amusement Park.

At the farewell reception held by representatives of various circles of Japan in honour of the delegation, Wang Xiuyun, head of the delegation, said, the 10-day visit enabled the Chinese students to have a new understanding about Japan and the Japanese people to know about Chinese university students. China-Japan friendship depends on the people particularly on the young people of the two countries.

During their stay in Japan, the students were eager to learn wherever they went. They asked many questions, had warm discussions and made careful notes. They had a tight itinerary with rich and colorful contents. Through the exchanges, the students broadened their vision and learned much new and fresh knowledge which they would treasure for life. □



# CPAFFC Delegation Attends Forum on Creating World-Famous Brand Names for Chinese Enterprises Through Olympic Marketing in Spain

**Our Staff Reporter**

From April 10 to 15, the Forum on Creating World-Famous Brand Names for Chinese Enterprises through Olympic Marketing jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Samaranch Foundation was held in Barcelona, Spain. Director General of the Cultural Exchange Department of the CPAFFC Chen Xiaoming as the head of a delegation attended the forum and paid visits to Barcelona and Madrid.

The year 2007 is the “Year of Spanish Culture” in China. Aiming at promoting nongovernmental exchanges and friendly relations between the two countries, and developing and popularizing the Olympic culture, the CPAFFC was invited to jointly sponsor the Forum, while the Bei-

jing Splash Events Communication and Advertising Co., Ltd. planned and carried it out. The Samaranch Foundation was established and presided over by Juan Antonio Samaranch, honorary life president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Ever since its establishment, the foundation has been focusing on the promotion of China’s sports development, the practice of Olympic concepts and the popularization of the Olympic spirit, and has conducted exchanges and cooperation to realize the Olympic ideals.

On April 10, J. A. Samaranch, president of the Samaranch Foundation, Wang Shixiong, Chinese consul general in Barcelona, Chen Xiaoming, head of the CPAFFC delegation, Juan

J. A. Samaranch, honorary life president of the IOC, Wang Shixiong, Chinese consul general, and members of the delegation at the opening ceremony



# Delegation of Palestinian City of Ramallah Visits China

**Jia Ling**

Invited by the CPAFFC, the delegation of the Palestinian city Ramallah led by its mayor Janette Nicholas Michael paid a goodwill visit to China from June 11 to 17. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Feng Zuoku met with the delegation. Zuo Huanchen, vice chairman of the Shanghai Municipal People's Political Consultative Conference, met with Mayor Janette Michael and her party.

The City of Ramallah covers an area of 19,000 dunums (one dunum is about 1,000 square metres) with a population of 35,000 in the city proper.

The population of the Ramallah area, which includes the surrounding villages, reaches 220,000. The city is the seat of many departments of the Palestinian National Authority. In the city there are the biggest hospital in West Bank and one of the best universities in Palestine with nearly 52,000 students. Ramallah has forged sister-city ties with cities in Italy, France, Norway, Spain and other countries. Ms. Janette Michael was elected mayor of the city as an independent candidate in 2005.

It was the first visit to China for all the members of the delegation. They marveled at the

great achievement China had made in its modernization drive. One of the members who had once lived in the Soviet Union said, before he came to China he had thought that things in the socialist China would be more or less the same as those in the Soviet Union where consumer goods were in extreme short supply. What he has seen in China is an unexpected scene of abundance and people living in comfort and affluence. Take for example the City of Yiwu, Zhejiang Province. It has turned from a poor county where people did not have enough to eat into the world's largest small

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M. Tintore, president of the Barcelona Royal Tennis Club, Juan Dedeu, council member of the Samaranch Foundation, and Juan Lawrence, president of the SEAT Automobile Group, attended the opening ceremony of the Forum. Chen Xiaoming, Wang Shixiong and Samaranch delivered speeches.

At the forum, Chinese and Spanish entrepreneurs spoke about how to take the opportunity of the Olympic Games to show the world their companies' products and culture

and to expand their influence wider with the help of an efficient marketing mechanism so as to achieve win-win results through providing service to the sports events. Participating sports officials briefed about their experiences in commercial cooperation and operation. President of the SEAT Automobile Group J. Laurence and CEO of the Beqi Foton Motor Co., Ltd. Wang Jinyu had a discussion on advertising, promotion and marketing strategies of automobiles. □





**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu chatting cordially with Ramallah Mayor J. N. Micheal**

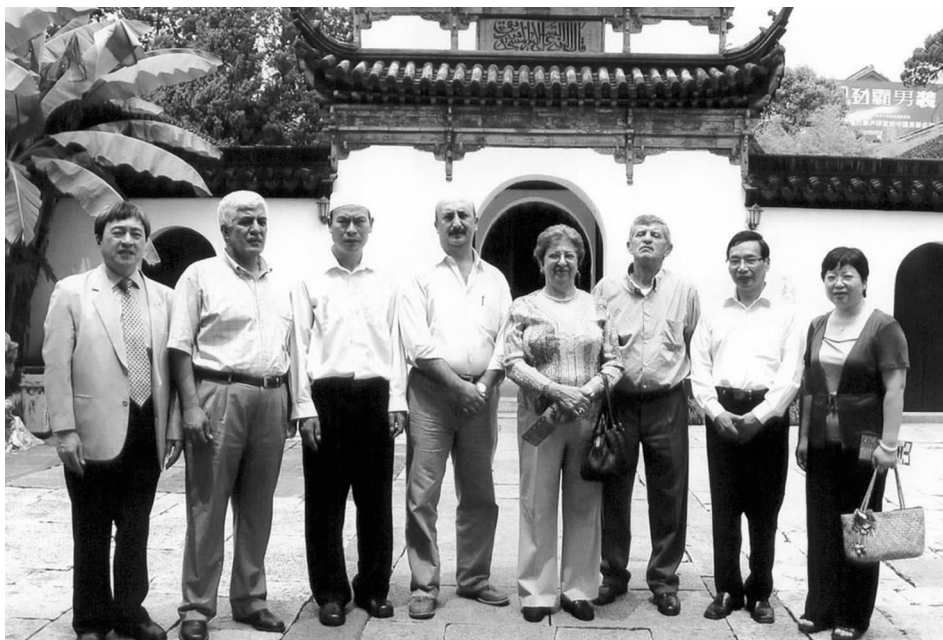
commodities wholesale centre and a modern and prosperous city in a short time of some 20 years. This fully demonstrates that China's reform and opening-up is a correct road consist-

tent with the country's actual conditions.

Fu Zhimin, vice mayor of Yiwu, exchanged views on the establishment of friendship-city relations with the

delegation. The two sides agreed to establish links and carry out exchanges first, and discuss the twinning of friendship cities when conditions are ripe. □

#### **The delegation visiting a mosque in Shanghai**





# SCFA President Jesus Osuna Sanz Visits China

**Yu Shunji**

**J**esus Osuna Sanz, president of the Spain-China Friendship Association (SCFA), paid a friendly visit to Beijing, Chongqing and Tibet from May 9 to 27. It was the first visit to China he made at the invitation of the CPAFFC with the purposes of furthering mutual understanding and discussing future cooperation between the two organizations.

In his meeting with President Osuna, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said that the SCFA has for years done a great deal of work to promote the friendship, understanding and contact between the people of China and Spain. He expressed the hope that the SCFA would play a more important role in bilateral exchanges. President Osuna thanked President

Chen for the invitation and said that 2007 saw the 20th anniversary of the SCFA and that the SCFA would take it as a new starting point to advance in a comprehensive way the friendly and cooperative relations with the CPAFFC.

When meeting with President Osuna, Vice Chairman Nima Ciren of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Government briefed him on the tremendous achievements Tibet has scored since reform and opening up. The two sides had in-depth discussions on matters of cooperation such as encouraging the Potala Palace in Tibet and the Alhambra Palace in Spain to twin friendship ties, inviting the Tibetan folk art troupe to make a performance tour in Spain, promoting Spanish tourists to come to Tibet,

etc. They were fully confident in the bright prospects of cooperation between the SCFA and Tibet.



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu meeting with SCFA President Jesus Osuna Sanz**

# New Zealand-China Friendship Society Delegation in China

## Ba Cuicui

**A**t the invitation of the CPAFFC, the delegation of New Zealand-China Friendship Society (NZCFS) led by Trevor Linyard, member of the Executive Committee of the NZCFS, visited Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu and Shanghai from May 27 to June 5. The delegation is composed of those who have been actively engaged in promoting people-to-people friendship between China and New Zealand.

When meeting the delegation, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Liu Jieyi, director general of the Department of

North American and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke highly of the bilateral relations that have been growing steadily over the past 35 years and regarded such relationship as a perfect example of practical cooperation between countries.

The two countries have had fruitful cooperation in economy, trade, education and culture. The two sides agree on many issues, closely collaborate through multinational channels and keep regular consultations on providing development aid for South Pacific island countries and han-

dling the humanitarian problems in Darfur, Sudan, etc.

Trevor Linyard, the delegation leader, said that the bilateral relations are very satisfactory; people of the two countries are sincere to each other and there is fruitful cooperation in personnel and economy. He believed that as long as the two sides hold goodwill towards each other and seek mutual benefit, they will be able to overcome challenges and achieve win-win results. All the delegation members were fully confident about the future development of bilateral relations and willing to continue to make con-

**Liu Jieyi, director general of the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meeting with the delegation**



# Beijing Press Conference of American WWII POWs Memorial Visiting Group

**An Xin**

Organized by the Truth Council for WWII in Asia, a 10-member delegation of American WWII POWs and their relatives visited China, during which they gave a press conference at the CPAFFC on May 25. The American veterans spread friendship between the American and Chinese people, and the love of world peace by reviewing history and sharing their experience during WWII. Journalists and photographers from dozens of news agencies, namely Xinhua News Agency, People's Daily, CCTV, Beijing Youth Daily, Reuters, etc. attended the conference.

The Veterans told the journalists that they

were sent to Shenyang POW camp by Japanese forces in 1942. 65 years later, they returned to the site of the POW camp and donated valuable personal artifacts such as the uniforms they wore in those years, dog tags, etc. to the exhibition hall of the WWII Shenyang Allied POW Camp. During WWII, Americans fought shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese people against the Japanese aggressors till the final victory. The veterans also expressed their love for the hard-fought peace and their sincere friendship with the people of China, both of which came at the cost of great sacrifice of both nations.

tributions to the cause of friendship between the two peoples.

As it is the first trip to China for most delegates, they were deeply impressed by the booming economic and social development wherever they visited. In Shanghai the delegation called on the government of Pudong New Area where they learned a general picture of the area and the preparation for 2010 Shanghai World Expo. The great achievement that Pudong had made in a short span of little more than 10 years was a great surprise to them and won their admira-

tion.

In the view of the delegation, economic cooperation and trade is only one sphere of the friendly relations between New Zealand and China. They hoped that the two countries could strengthen exchanges and interaction in much broader fields such as education, culture and art. The three high school principals in the delegation (including a lady who is the honorary principal of Rewi Alley Chinese School) expressed their wish to have more exchanges of teachers. In their visit to Pinghe Bilingual School of Pudong New Area,

the delegation had friendly conversation with the school principal and students. They were impressed by the advanced facilities, regular teaching and learning system and qualified faculties and students.

To some members who had been to China before, they were very glad to notice the considerable improvement of environment of Beijing, Xi'an and other cities. The air was fresher and greenery obviously increased. They once and again expressed appreciation of the efforts that the Chinese government had made in recent years to improve environment. □



At the press conference, though some of the veterans spoke with a mumble, the three and a half years' miserable experience as POWs was lucid in their minds. Roy Weaver, camp number 610, recalled, "It was extremely cold, several dozens degrees below zero when we arrived in Shenyang. We were starving. Troopers fell one by one... We were weak, ailing and without any medical care. We lost more than 200 people in that single winter."

Among all the veterans, Harald Leith is very special. He was a U.S. paratrooper sent to rescue the POWs. He said, "As soon as Japan surrendered in August 1945, we arrived in Shenyang. But the Japanese soldier had not yet learned the news of surrender. We were only able to meet all the American POWs on the next day when the Japanese forces in Shenyang finally received the surrender order from Tokyo."

Mr. K. L. Wang, president of the Truth Council for WWII in Asia, introduced the organization as a non-governmental academic group, with a task to unveil the atrocities committed by the Japanese troops during WWII. Over the past

60 years, there was no compensation received by the POWs from the Japanese government. The Truth Council will continue urging a formal apology from the Japanese authorities. At present, the organization is seeking support from the U.S. Congress, demanding the U.S. government to raise the compensation issue with their Japanese counterpart through formal diplomatic channels. President Wang extended sincere gratitude to the Chinese leaders and people who demonstrated a great respect for history by erecting a museum on top of the cluster of brick buildings of POWs Camp.

After the press conference, Mr. Wang Hongqiang, deputy director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC, entertained the veteran group. He spoke highly of the veterans who left home and fought for justice at the risk of life and expressed gratitude for their great contributions to fighting against the Japanese aggression. Their visit to China no doubt demonstrated the everlasting friendship between the American and the Chinese people. □

# Delegation of Leaders of Australian Sister Cities Association Visits China

**Liu Yanling**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, from May 21 to 31, president of the Australian Sister Cities Association (ASCA) Kevin Hill led a delegation of leaders of the Association to visit Beijing, Huhhot, Baotou and Shanghai, and attended the Seminar on China-Australia Friendship Cities. The delegation consisted of members of the Board of Directors of the ASCA and the chief editor of *Sister Cities News*. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu met with the delegation.

## **The Seminar on China-Australia Friendship Cities**

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia. Leaders of the China International Friendship Cities Association, the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs of Chinese Foreign Ministry, the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of CPAFFC and foreign affairs offices and friendship associations of provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Tianjin, Shaanxi and Shandong attended the seminar. Minister Graham Fletcher of the Australian Embassy in China was invited and participated in the

seminar. During the seminar, the participants took the floor one after another, and the two sides reached consensus on the following points: The seminar as such held at the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations is proved to be very necessary and timely. The exchanges between friendship cities should focus on establishing mutual understanding and trust and making friends extensively. They need not be limited in economy and trade but may include the fields of culture, sports, education etc. Youth are the future of the world, thus, exchanges between the youth should be strength

**The Seminar on China-Australia Friendship Cities in session**





# 2007 International Children's Day & Children's Articles Expo, Jinan, China Held

**Xu Ciming**

On the morning of July 6, the 2007 International Children's Day & Children's Articles Expo, Jinan, China with the theme of "Harmonious World and Joyful Childhood" was opened at the Shungeng International Exhibition Centre in Jinan. 330 representatives from 18 countries and regions including Germany, Russia, Be-

larus, France, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia, India and Ukraine and the Chinese children's delegation attended the grand opening ceremony. Huang Sheng, deputy governor of Shandong Province, declared the inauguration of the Children's Day activities. Zhang Jianguo, mayor of Jinan, delivered a speech.

ened to guarantee the sustainability of exchanges between friendship cities. The CPAFFC and the ASCA have played important roles in promoting friendship cities' sustainable exchanges between China and Australia. Both sides should further strengthen their communications and exchanges. The Australian side also said, China and Australia are relatively close neighbours, and since the ASCA has shifted the focus of its work from Europe and America to the Asia-Pacific region, it hopes to further promote the economic, trade and cultural exchanges with the region. The ASCA will continue to invite the CPAFFC to attend its annual meeting and consider to open international

forums during the event to provide all international participants a special opportunity of exchanges.

## **Discussing Establishment of Friendship-City Relations**

During their visit to the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the delegation met with Ren Yaping, executive vice chairman of the Autonomous Regional People's Government, Bo Liangen, executive vice mayor of Huhhot, and Liu Kai, vice mayor of Baotou. They said, up to now, cities of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have not established friendship-city relation with any Australian cities, and they keenly hoped that the ASCA would help

make some match. The delegation went to visit the Yili Group and the Baotou Iron and Steel (Group) Co., Ltd. (Baogang), and learned that the stud dairy cattle used by Yili Group and the iron ore used by Baogang were all imported from Australia. President Hill said, there existed many similarities in natural conditions between Australia and Inner Mongolia, and the two sides are complementary in economy and trade. He is willing to help the two sides to twin friendship-city ties. The delegation also had contact with representatives of the city of Ordos, exploring the twinning of friendship-city relations between Ordos and Christmas Island of Western Australia. □



From left: Mayor of Jinan Zhang Jianguo, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku and Governor of Shandong Huang Sheng at the opening ceremony

Feng Zuoku, vice president of the CPAFFC, attended the opening ceremony and pointed out in his speech, children are the future of the world. Children of different nationalities and skin colours, speaking different languages and from different countries gathered in Jinan, the city of springs, to conduct exchanges, deepen understanding, increase friendship and sow the seeds of lasting friendship. Such friendship activities will further enhance solidarity among all nations of the world and help build a harmonious world. Jinan in the coming years will surely embrace the world with a more open attitude, open wider to the outside world and further raise its publicity and influence in the world

After the opening ceremony, Deputy Governor Huang Sheng, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, Mayor Zhang Jianguo and others visited the Children's Articles Expo. Feng Zuoku wrote in the visitors' book his wish for the children of all countries: "Joyful childhood and healthy growth", bringing about a round of applause.

Centring round the themes of children's happiness and exchanges and environmental protection, the Jinan International Children's Day was

the largest children's festival held by Chinese cities till now. The Children's Article Expo focusing on the hot topics of "health and education" chose "let children grow up healthily" as its theme. The Chinese children and those from other countries gathered in the city of springs from July 6 to 8. Together they toured the scenic spots and places of historical interest in Jinan, planted trees, watched acrobatic shows, made a handprint wall and sang songs of friendship. It was a meaningful grand gathering of children. The event was jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the China Youth Palace Association and the Jinan Municipal People's Government. The International Children's Day has become Jinan's unique brand, and a cultural window through which the world learns about the city. It has expanded channels for exchanges between Jinan and its friendship cities in other countries and enriched the contents of such exchanges so that contacts between friendship cities are more of nongovernmental nature, thus building a new platform for exchanges and cooperation between the citizens of the twinned cities. □

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# First Training Course for Leading Members of Arab Countries' Friendship-with-China Organizations Held in Beijing

**Jia Ling**

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From May 21 to 30, a training course for leading members of the Arab countries' friendship-with-China organizations jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) was held in Beijing. This was the first training course ever held by the CPAFFC for leading members of a group of friendship-with-China organizations of foreign countries, and of the 22 Arab countries in particular.

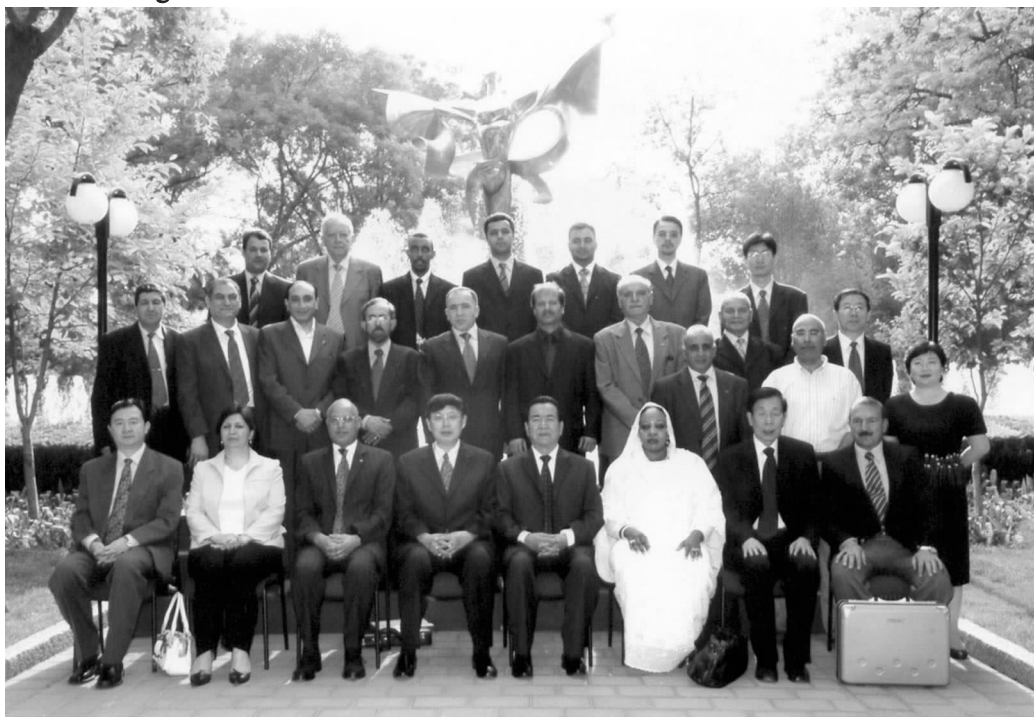
On May 21, the opening ceremony of the training course

was held in the CPAFFC. Tomur Dawamat president of the CAFA, Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, Mhd Kheir Al-Wadi, dean of the diplomatic corps of Arab countries and Syrian ambassador to China, Mohamed El-Hassan Shabbo, head of the Beijing Office of the Arab League, attended the ceremony and spoke on the occasion. Leading officials of the Office in charge of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and counsellors of the Department of Asian and African Af-

fairs of the Foreign Ministry, council members of the China-Arab Friendship Association in Beijing and diplomatic envoys of Arab countries to China, totaling over 70 people, attended the opening ceremony and the reception.

This training course is one of the activities within the framework of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the follow-up action of the First China-Arab Friendship Conference held in Khartoum of the Sudan in December 2006. Twenty two

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and CAFA President Tomur Dawamat with the participants of the training course**





**The participants of the training course having a discussion**

leading members or representatives of the friendship-with-China organizations of 18 Arab countries attended it. Most of them were secretaries general of the friendship-with-China organizations. There also were presidents and vice presidents of 4 such organizations as well as diplomats of some Arab countries' embassies in China. Among the participants, there was a former minister, an incumbent leader of the parliament, a high official of foreign ministry, a member of the central committee of the ruling party, a secretary of the provincial committee of the ruling party, as well as a senior professor, a member of the municipal council, a mayor and an entrepreneur.

At the class, some experts gave reports on Sino-Arab relations, the China-Arab Cooperation Forum, China's political

system, economic reform, and Middle East policy, and China-Arab economic and trade relations. In its report entitled "Reflection and Exploration—How Do the Friendship-with-China Organizations of the Arab Countries Carry Out People-to-People Friendly Exchanges with China?", the CPAFFC put forward practical suggestions and ideas on cooperation with the Arab countries' friendship-with-China organizations of different types based on the experience and successful examples achieved by the CPAFFC in the past 53 years since its founding and by the CAFA in the past 6 years since its establishment. The trainees gave warm response to these reports and had thorough discussions on the above topics. They also visited Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Zhai Jun, assistant foreign minister, Liang Pingbo, executive vice chairman of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Song Yiqiao, vice chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of

the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, respectively met with all the trainees.

Leading members of the Arab countries' friendship-with-China organizations said that it was very necessary for the Chinese side to hold such a course which was a great success. The trainees, though coming from different countries and different social circles and standing, all gained a lot from it. Through 10-day studying, they not only systematically learned about China's national conditions and foreign policy, but also learned a lot of experience from China in carrying out people-to-people friendly exchanges with other countries, which could help them greatly in their future people-to-people friendly exchanges with China. □



# Forty-Sixth Anniversary of Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Between China and DPRK Celebrated

## Our Staff Reporter

The CPAFFC and the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA) jointly held a reception at the auditorium of the CPAFFC to mark the 46th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 9. DPRK Ambassador to China Choe Jin Su, CKFA President Li Shuzheng and CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku attended the reception.

In her speech, Li Shuzheng said the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance Between China and the DPRK has successfully stood the tests of volatile international situation in the past 46 years and made important contributions to maintaining regional stability and promoting regional development, showing its strong vitality in maintaining the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK. Both countries have upheld the spirit of the Treaty in strengthening unity and friendship and developing cooperation, which not only enhances the overall development of the bilateral relations and continuously pushes forward the cause of socialist construction in both countries, but also plays an important role in safe-



guarding peace in Asia and the world. The recent years have witnessed frequent exchange of visits and communications between high-ranking leaders of China and the DPRK, which has further enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the two governments and peoples. The friendship between China and the DPRK is the precious common wealth of the two peoples, and the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government will stick to their consistent policy of continuously consolidating and developing the friendly cooperative relationship with the DPRK.

Ambassador Choe Jin Su said, he was very pleased to see China's outstanding achievements in its modernization drive and rising international status. Although faced with certain difficulties, the

**(Continued on p.54)**



# Fifteenth Anniversary of Zhenjiang China-Japan Friendship Garden

**Xi Xianghong**

In April, the China-Japan Friendship Garden permeated with fragrance of flowers and thronged with visitors became the place where people in Zhenjiang felt most strongly that spring was in the air. The spring of 2007 happened to be the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Zhenjiang China-Japan Friendship Garden and also the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. In the past 15 years, though China-Japan relations experienced

twists and turns, the friendly exchange activities at the Garden never stopped. The recent “ice-breaking” and “ice-thawing” visits exchanged between the leaders of the two countries have signaled that the spring of China-Japan relations has come, and also added vitality to the friendly exchanges between the localities of the two countries. In such a season, activities in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the China-Japan Friendship Garden were grandly held in Zhenjiang.

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On April 16, cherry trees all over the hills were in full bloom under the warm sunlight. The citizens of Zhenjiang in folk costumes lined the streets to welcome the guests from the Japanese friendship cities. Leaders of Zhenjiang among more than 1,000 people of various circles including nearly 100 Japanese guests who formed the 24th citizens delegation of Tsu, the 28th goodwill delegation of Kurasiki, the Mimasaka City friendship delegation, the dele

**The Chinese hosts and the Japanese guests celebrating the 15th anniversary of the China-Japan Friendship Garden**



gation of the Toyo Calligraphy Art Association, and representatives of the Japanese-funded enterprises, Japanese experts, scholars and friendly personages in Zhenjiang gathered at the Friendship Square of the Garden to take part in the celebration. That day the Garden became an ocean of great joy. People were all smiles and their hearts brimming over with friendship. The opening ceremony of the 15th China-Japan Friendship Garden Festival was presided over by Xue Feng, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal Government. Vice Mayor Chen Jianshe gave an ebullient speech. Li Guozhong, secretary-general of the Zhenjiang Municipal Government, and Kaori Ito, vice mayor of Kurasiki, unveiled the first-day cover in celebration of

the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Garden. With passionate mixed chorus *My Home Is in Zhenjiang* as a prelude, wonderful performances with either distinctive Chinese Jiangnan folk features or Japanese flavour won bursts of applause. Accompanied by the melodious folk music, folk artists demonstrated their skill of making clay figurines and paper cuts and gave what they had just made to the Japanese guests. Among the souvenirs there was a piece of paper-cut with the designs of the Great Wall, plum blossoms, the Fuji Mountain and cherry blossoms expressing the Chinese and Japanese people's common aspiration for friendship between the two countries. When the music of joyous dance *The Happy Setting Sun* was played, the Chi-

nese and Japanese guests as well as local people joined in the dance, pushing the atmosphere of friendly reunion to a height. After the performance, the guests and hosts together planted plum and cherry trees symbolizing China-Japan friendship. Mayor Xu Jinrong gave a speech at the reception in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Garden that evening.

Among those from Japan who took part in the celebration were old friends who had deep affection for Zhenjiang as well as new ones who came to Zhengjiang for the first time out of admiration of this famous city, hale and hearty old people as well as lovely and cute children, government officials who shouldered the tasks of exchanges as well as nongovernmental personages who worked

**Planting a tree of friendship together**



hard for Japan-China friendship. Kenmei Harada, member of the Kurasiki City Assembly (former deputy speaker) and secretary general of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), has taken part in the activities related to the Garden for 11 times since he began in 1997. He is not only a zealous participant, but also an active organizer. In the past 11 years, he successively organized more than 600 Japanese people to visit Zhenjiang and take part in these activities. He said that he had fallen in deep love with Zhenjiang and that each time he visited Zhenjiang, he had expectations and got fulfillment. He said that each year the Garden got more beautiful and Zhenjiang more prosperous. Every time he took part in the activity, he would make a video recording of the whole activity. After returning home he would produce a documentary by editing the recording, and give it to the two TV stations in Kurasiki for broadcast so that more people would learn about the Garden and the changes in Zhenjiang. Through such efforts by enthusiastic friendly personages like Mr. Harada, more Japanese citizens came to know Zhenjiang better and began to like the city. Motoo Moritoki, head of the Mimasaka City friendship dele-

gation, said, in addition to adults they also had 12 primary school pupils on the delegation in the hope that through taking part in the activities at the Garden, having get-togethers and football matches with the pupils in Zhenjiang and staying at the homes of the Chinese pupils, the Japanese children would foster consciousness of international exchanges and experience the friendliness of the Chinese people so as to let the cause of China-Japan friendship last for generations. A citizen from Tsu who visited China for the first time said with emotion that he knew very little about China in the past, but through the activity, he had a new understanding about China and began to like the country. He said that he was deeply touched by the warmth and friendliness of the Zhenjiang people, and that this was really a "happy visit". The citizens of Zhenjiang were also full of expectation and enthusiasm for the activity. That day they were in their holiday best and came to the Garden together with their friends. Zhao Yuefen, a retired teacher, was one of them. As a member of the Waist Drum Dance Team of the Jingkou Retired Teachers' Association, she had taken part in the activity twice. She made video recording of the activity and

wrote articles and uploaded them onto the internet. After the opening ceremony, the Japanese guests and the citizens of Zhenjiang toured with great interest the Pagoda Hill where the Garden was located. On the top of the hill stood a brick pagoda built in the Ming Dynasty. On the walls of the pagoda were inscribed names of the people who made donations for planting plum and cherry trees each year. They looked for their names and felt very happy that they had done their bit for the construction of the Garden. To commemorate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Garden, the China (Zhenjiang) Postal Service issued on the spot the first-day covers. The Japanese guests and the citizens of Zhenjiang lined up for the postal workers to stamp the specially made Garden postmark on their first-day covers to keep as a lasting "then and there" memento.

## II

In 1984, Zhenjiang and Tsu established friendship ties, becoming the first pair of friendship cities between Zhenjiang and Japan. Since then, Zhenjiang has carried out friendly exchanges with several other Japanese cities. In the course of long-term contacts, both sides felt that it was necessary to have

**A postal worker stamping the specially-made post-mark on the first-day covers issued on the spot**



a fixed base and a regular programme for friendly exchanges to further consolidate and develop China-Japan friendly relations. In 1992, the Zhenjiang Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries put forward a proposal to build the China-Japan Friendship Garden and received positive response from Japanese friends in Tsu, Tokyo, Tsuyama, Atsugi and Shibatomachi. The Toyo Calligraphy Art Association put a fund-raising advertisement with the title of "Do You Want to Plant Your Cherry Trees in China" in the Asahi Shimbun. In the following several months, the citizens of these cities donated money for purchasing cherry saplings (including planting and looking-after fees). The first batch of donators reached over 700, among whom there were celebrities of high prestige, old friends of the Zhen-

jiang and also many people who had never been to Zhenjiang. At the same time the Zhenjiang Municipal Government went into action and selected Dingshishan Hill in the city's eastern suburb as the location of the Garden, and called on the citizens to donate money for planting plum trees. On April 7, 1993, the opening ceremony of the China-Japan Friendship Garden funded by both the Chinese and Japanese sides and the First Tree-planting was held on the Dingshishan Hill. Chikoho Matsumoto, president of the Toyo Calligraphy Art Association; Kanji Horozawa, president of the JCFA of Atsugi; Shigeo Katsurayama, executive director of the Tsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Shinsen Hashimoto, famous Japanese painter, and Shunichi Wada, principal of the Tsu City Ozono Popular Song School, led delegations to attend

the opening ceremony. Qian Yongbo, the then secretary of the Zhenjiang Municipal Committee of the CPC, and Fang Zhizhuo, the then mayor, and the Japanese guests respectively unveiled the stone tablet with the name of the Garden and the stone monument of tree-planting on the centenary anniversary of the establishment of the Tsu Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chinese and Japanese representatives planted plum and cherry trees in front of the stone tablet and the monument. The leaders of the Zhenjiang Municipal Government presented the Japanese representatives with honorary certificates for participation in the first tree-planting. The two sides decided to designate a day in April as the Garden's "tree-planting day" and commemorative activities would be held jointly in Zhenjiang.



Since then, every spring, the Garden becomes the place where the Chinese and Japanese citizens gather together to have cultural exchanges for peace and friendship. On April 11, 1994, Tsu City organized 7 delegations consisting of 175 people to visit Zhenjiang to attend the second tree-planting in the Garden to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning of friendship-city ties between Zhenjiang and Tsu. When SARS was spreading in China in 2003, the government of Tsu and the JCFA of Kurasaki still sent delegations to Zhenjiang so that the activity of the 11th Plum and Cherry Blossoms Festival could be held as scheduled. At the 12th Festival, the Sahoyama Bass Drum Team of the Nara Social Welfare Institute gave wonderful performances, the resounding drum beats well expressing the indomitable spirit of the humankind struggling against the turbulent sea. That year the Zhenjiang-Mimasaka Friendship Library with a collection of 8,000 books built with donations totaling 1.11 million Japanese yen by Mimasaka City was opened. In the spring of 2006 when China-Japan relations suffered setbacks, Zhenjiang continued to develop friendly relations of mutual trust

and benefit with the Japanese local governments and non-governmental organizations. Japanese friends including Mayor Naohisa Matsuda of Tsu, Mayor Kenzo Furuiti of Kurasaki, Mayor Toshiro Miyamoto of Mimasaka as well as speakers and deputy speakers of the city assemblies and presidents and vice presidents of the JCFA from Zhenjiang's friendship cities and cities with friendly relations gathered in Zhenjiang to celebrate the 14th Plum and Cherry Festival. These plum and cherry trees that have experienced wind and rain are now growing sturdily under sunshine.

### III

The Dingshishan Hill where the Garden is located lies in Zhenjiang's ancient canal scenery belt. During the reign of Emperor Wanli of the Ming Dynasty, the Dingshishan Hill became an important landmark of the eastern entrance of Zhenjiang since the Sengjia Pagoda named after Sengjia, an eminent monk from the Western Regions who was buried beneath the pagoda, was moved there. But for a long time, the hill was left in desolation. Though it was not far from the downtown, few people went there. After the opening of the Garden, the

Zhenjiang Municipal Government formally renamed the area Pagoda Hill Park (also known as the China-Japan Friendship Garden) and began to build it up according to plan. So far, about 5,000 plum and cherry trees donated by the Chinese and Japanese citizens have been planted. The Gong Zizhen Poem Tablet, the Student Pavilion, the Red Plum Blossoms Pavilion, the Nanmu Fragrance Pavilion, the Qitian Lake and the Cherry Blossoms Pavilion interspersed among the trees, presenting the features of both Chinese and Japanese gardens. In February, the plum trees blossom charmingly despite coldness. In April cherry trees bloom in profusion. To enjoy plum and cherry blossoms in the Garden has become a fashion. The Garden is becoming more and more well-known. This friendship theme park and the base of international exchanges, built with funds from both the Chinese and Japanese side for the good of the public, is an ideal place of leisure for the citizens of Zhenjiang. Its building has become a much-told tale of friendly exchanges between the two countries. Near the Friendship Square of the Garden there is a pavilion named "He" (Harmony)

**(Continued on p.46)**



In Paris flowers are in full bloom in May and the weather is pleasant. The Heze Peony Cultural Festival was held in Yili Garden in Rambouillet on May 8.

Yili Garden,

France's first Chinese-style garden, is located in Rambouillet, 40 kilometers southwest from the centre of Paris. Three years after its construction, a new scenic spot—the Heze Peony Garden—was added to it. The Heze Peony Garden has an area of 3,000 square metres with 800 peonies of more than 30 varieties and 8 colours presented by “the Home of Peony” Heze City of Shandong Province.

After a rain, the air was clean and fresh in Yili Garden with its green grass, red flowers, pavilions and small zigzag bridges. But what was most attractive was the Eight-Trigram Peony Pavilion built of marbles. 800 Heze peonies that had already taken root deeply in the soil of Paris were fully blooming, demonstrating their exuberant vitality and innate ethereal colour and celestial fragrance. The Garden was decorated with lanterns and coloured streamers. More than 50 lifelike traditional Chinese paintings and photos of peonies were hung in the Chinese-style long corridor. Everywhere was permeated with a joyous festive atmosphere with happy laughter and cheerful singing.

At 4 o'clock sharp in the afternoon, accompanied by the lively dance music played by the French military band, the Heze Peony Cultural Festival was formally opened. Chinese Ambassador to France Zhao Jinjun and his wife, French minister for labour relations Gerard Larcher,

# Heze Peony Cultural Festival Held in Paris

**Xiang Linshuang**

members of the National Assembly, the vice president of the Assembly of Department 78, the mayor of Rambouillet, mayors of 15 cities in the metropolitan area of Paris, leading officials of the French Horticulture Association and enterprises as well as representatives of the Chinese community in France and reporters of ten-odd major Chinese and French news media, among 450 people, attended the opening ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, Ambassador Zhao Jinjun and Minister Gerard Larcher gave enthusiastic speeches. Minister Larcher spoke highly of the friendship and cooperation between the French and Chinese people. He said, Heze has a long history of growing peonies and has cultivated rich varieties. Peonies symbolize wealth and peace. The Heze peonies that have already taken root in the soil of Paris and are in full bloom in Yili Garden have added new vitality and vigour to the friendship between the two peoples and enabled the French people to fully appreciate the friendliness and fine values of the Chinese people and brought them an aesthetic treat. He believed that the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples would be as gorgeous as flourishing peonies year after year and generation after generation. Ambassador Zhao said with emotion, the Heze peonies are in full bloom in France, embodying the profound friendly sentiments of the Chinese people including the 93 millions people

of Shandong towards the French people. Zhao continued, today I feel particularly happy because the Heze peonies come from China's Shandong Province, my home place. I, as Chinese ambassador to France, feel heartily gratified and proud to introduce China's and my hometown's envoy of beauty to the French people. I hope that with peonies as medium the understanding and friendship between the Chinese and French people will be further enhanced and exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the two countries promoted. In his speech, Zhao Runtian, mayor of Heze, briefed about the city's economic and social development as well as the history and features of the Heze peonies. He hoped that the Heze peonies in Yili Garden would add more beauty to Paris and Rambouillet, cities of flowers.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Governor of Shandong Han Yuqun sent messages of congratulations to the Peony Cultural Festival.

Under the traditional Chinese archway in Yili Garden, exhibitions of photos of Shandong Province and Heze City, Shandong traditional handicrafts, calligraphic works plus paintings of peonies and Chinese bonsai were held. There were also Chinese traditional instruments perfor-

mance and *taijiquan* (traditional Chinese shadow boxing) show. The calligraphers demonstrated their skill on the spot. People streamed to buy bonsai and peonies. The festival enabled the French people to fully appreciate the width, depth and charm of the Chinese and Shandong culture. The whole Yili Garden was filled with a rich Chinese cultural atmosphere.

Before the opening ceremony, the French Minister for Labour Relations, the deputy president of the Assembly of Department 78, and the mayor of Rambouillet cordially met with the delegation at the City Hall. Jean-Frederic Poisson, mayor of Rambouillet, and Zhao Runtian, mayor of Heze, signed the Summary of the Talks on the Establishment of Friendly Cooperative Relations Between Rambouillet and Heze. Mayor Poisson said, Rambouillet now have 800 well-grown Heze peonies. The two cities have already begun substantial exchanges. He hoped that friendship and cooperation would be expanded to more fields. Mayor Zhao Runtian said, in the future Heze would send a delegation to Rambouillet every year in the season when peonies are in full bloom to hold activities to promote and develop friendly relations between the two cities. □

#### (Continued from p.44)

ny) built with the fund donated by Kurasiki on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the twinning of friendship-city ties, reflecting the Chinese and Japanese people's common ideal and pursuit of peaceful coexistence and harmonious development.

Peace is the tide in the world, and friendship the aspira-

tion of the people. As long as the people of various countries with different cultures communicate with one another sincerely, the wounds caused by wars can be healed and the bridge linking the people's hearts built. All the more so are China-Japan relations. At the opening ceremony, Ms. Shinsen Hashimoto said with emotion: "We come here in a very happy mood like

the cherry blossoms in full bloom. May the friendship between the people of our two countries ever develop with the growing prosperity of the Garden." The history of the Garden in the past 15 years has fully proved it. The friendly exchange activities at the Garden will continue, adding a beautiful page to the annals of China-Japan friendly exchanges. □

# Seminar on Cooperation Between Chinese and African Local Governments Held in Beijing

**Wang Kai**

On May 15, the Seminar on Cooperation Between the Chinese and African Local Governments, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), was held in Beijing. Representatives of the CPAFFC, the CIFCA, 25 provinces and cities that had formed friendship-city ties with African countries, member units of the Council of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), the local government associations of South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique and Botswana as well as diplomats of some African embassies in China, totalling 90 people, attended the seminar.

Since Changsha and Brazzaville formed the first pair of friendship cities in 1982, by the end of 2006, China had twinned 73 pairs of friendship cities with 28 African countries. The exchanges between the two sides are becoming more and

more frequent, expanding from exchanges of visits in the beginning gradually to the fields of economy, culture and various aspects of social life.

At the seminar, the participants had in-depth discussions on the current situation and prospects of Sino-African friendship cities, how to improve the work of the friendship cities' administrative departments, successful experience and problems in such exchanges between friendship cities, and how to solve the problems existing in such exchanges. CPAFFC Vice President Wang Yunze and UCLGA President Smangaliso Mhkatshwa made key-note speeches. Representatives of Sichuan, Guangzhou and Gansu spoke on the exchanges between their provinces/cities and their African counterparts. After the seminar, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and UCLGA President Smangaliso Mhkatshwa, on behalf of their organizations, signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation. □



The 8th Western China International Economic and Trade Fair (WCIETF) was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province from May 24 to 28. During the fair, the South Pacific Island Forum on Trade and Investment

jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries was held successively in Chengdu and Yibing on May 26 and May 27. Invited by the CPAFFC, ambassadors or charge d'affaires of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu that had set up embassies in China and the representatives of the Trade Office of the Pacific Islands Forum attended the fair and the forum.

**Contents of the WCIETF Enriched.** The South Pacific Island Forum on Trade and Investment as a part of the contents of the WCIETF was the first ever held in the history of the WCIETF centring on the South Pacific island countries and drawing about 200 people from China's western provinces, cities and areas. Leaders of relevant departments of Sichuan Province and ambassadors or charge d'affaires of the four South Pacific island countries, gave briefings about their

## South Pacific Island Forum on Trade And Investment Held in Chengdu

**Qing Boming**

own departments and countries and sought opportunities of co-operation. Lo Chi Wai, ambassador of Vanuatu to China, said, South Pacific island countries boast rich natural and tourist resources and have preferential policies towards foreign investments. The people of these countries are friendly towards China and warmly welcome the Chinese people to make investment or travel in their countries. The Chinese participants at the forum spoke about many problems concerning tourism and investment. The forum enriched the contents of the WCIETF, which for the first time expanded its coverage to the vast South Pacific region and played a positive role in promoting the ties between China's western region and the South Pacific island countries.

**Mutual Understanding between South Pacific Island Countries and Schuan Province Enhanced.** Though the diplomatic envoys of the four South Pacific island countries

who attended the forum had worked in China for several years, this was their first visit to Sichuan. Through the two meetings of the forum and visits to various places, they got an initial knowledge about Sichuan, while the business circles of Sichuan got a better understanding about South Pacific island countries, laying a foundation for future cooperation between the two sides. Emeline Tuita, ambassador of Tonga to China, said, the visit to Sichuan this time has left a deep impression on them. The local people are as warm, friendly, hard-working, sincere and honest as the people of South Pacific countries, laying a solid foundation for the cooperation between the people of South Pacific island countries and Sichuan. The distance between the two sides can't stop the friendship between the peoples and their enthusiasm for cooperation. As long as the two sides make joint efforts on the basis of mutual benefit and aiming at win-win results, cooperation will surely succeed. □

# Reception Marking Establishment of China-Oman Friendship Association, Oman-China Friendship Association And China-Oman Friendly Exchange Fund Held

## Our Staff Reporter

On June 28, the CPAFFC and the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) jointly held a grand reception celebrating the establishment of the China-Oman Friendship Association (COFA), the Oman-China Friendship Association (OCFA) and the China-Oman Friendly Exchange Fund (COFEF). Tomur Dawamat, president of the CAFA, Yang Fuchang, president of the COFA, Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi, Omani ambassador to China, Mhd Kheir Al-Wadi, dean of the diplomatic corps of Arab countries in China, and Feng Zuoku, vice president of the CPAFFC and chairman of the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD), attended and spoke at the reception.

In his speech, Tomur Dawamat thanked Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi and well-known Omani entrepreneur Dr. Omar Zawawi for what they had done for the establishment of the COFA, the OCFA and the COFEF as well as their full support and financial assistance for the cause of people-to-people friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Arab people. He said, this is a



Omani Ambassador to China Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi presenting the donation to CFFPD Chairman Feng Zuoku

milestone in the history of Sino-Omani non-governmental friendly relations, a result of the development of friendship between the two peoples, clearly reflecting the concern and importance given by the two governments to the promotion of the nongovernmental friendly relations. He believed, the two friendship associations and the Exchange Fund would become the windows and bridges of nongovernmental exchanges between the two peoples, and make contributions to the development of Sino-Arab nongovernmental friendly relations.

Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi said, the exchanges between the Chinese and Arab people could be traced back to thousands of years a-



An unveiling ceremony of the statue of international friend William Howard Hinton, was held in Zhangzhuang Village of Changzhi City, Shanxi Province on the morning of July 11.

W. H. Hinton, born in Chicago in 1919, passed away in Concord of Massachusetts, the U. S. at the age of 85. He came to China in 1945 and then in 1947. In 1948 when working as professor of English at the Northern University, he joined, as observer, the land reform team consisting of the university teachers and staff at Zhangzhuang Village where he forged profound friendship with the peasants through living and working together with them. He wrote the book *Fanshen*, a realistic novel of the land reform in

## Statue of W. H. Hinton Unveiled in Zhangzhuang Village of Changzhi City, Shanxi Province

Ni Yuan

Zhangzhuang Village, which was adapted into a play and staged in many parts of the world. In 1971, he wrote *Shenfan*, another realistic novel about the changes in Zhangzhuang in the period of collectivization. Zhou Enlai, Li Xian-nian, Deng Yingchao and other national leaders had cordial meetings with him. Premier Zhou Enlai called him “an old friend who shares weal and woe with the Chinese people”.

Hinton had served as the first president of the US-China

Peoples Friendship Association and an expert of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. He set up the Shanxi Long Bow Malleable Iron Co., Ltd., a joint venture with Zhangzhuang Village, which helped Zhangzhuang realize farming mechanization. Through his help, Reading of Massachusetts, the U. S. has established friendship-city relations with Changzhi and carried out fruitful exchanges and cooperation. He was conferred the title of Honorary Citizen of Changzhi City.□

go; there used to be close communications in the fields of economy, trade, culture and knowledge. Sohar of Oman once was the passageway to the Arab region from China. He hoped the two newly established friendship associations would set up an efficient cooperation mechanism for mutual exchanges. In order to expand the basis for friendly exchanges, the COFEF was jointly established by the two sides, aimed at increasing exchange of visits between youth and art organizations and strengthening cultural exchanges.

At the reception, Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi announced that Dr. Omar Zawawi donated 500,000 RMB yuan through his company to the COFEF as the starting fund.

Upon receiving the donation, CFFPD Chairman Feng Zuoku said that the establishment of the two friendship associations and the Fund would further enhance the development of bilateral relations, and especially, money raised by the Fund would ease CAFA's shortage of fund, enabling it to carry out various activities such as nongovernmental exchange of visits and forums. He hoped that both sides would make efforts to encourage more donations from personages of all circles to the cause of development of Sino-Arab friendship.

At the reception, CFFPD Chairman Feng Zuoku presented the Omani Ambassador the Certificate of Gratitude and the Award for Contribution to Peace and Development. □

# USGreenwich High School Band in China

**Zhou Jianping**

A 229-member Greenwich High School (GHS) Band of Connecticut, the U. S., organized and sent by the Chinese Cultural Exchange of the U. S., visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Suzhou from April 13 to 24 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. The Band gave performance at the Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall in Beijing, the Sofitel Grand Theatre and the City Wall Park in Xi'an, and at get-together with students in five schools in the cities they visited.

The GHS Band has a history of 25 years. It is one of the best high school student bands in the United States and has won several awards in national competitions. The Band is composed of eight individual music groups, namely: the Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra, the Jazz Band,

the Wind Ensemble, the Marching Band, the Jazz Experimental Band, the Percussion Ensemble and the Clarinet Ensemble. John Yoon and Ben Walker, conductor and deputy conductor of the Band, have rich experience in teaching music and conducting. They can fully tap the potential of every member of the Band, and thus, have kept the Band's performance at a high-level for a long time. The aim of the Band's visit to China was to promote understanding and friendship between the youth of the U. S. and China through music.

On the afternoon of April 14, the CPAFFC welcomed the teachers and students of the GHS Band and several dozen students' parents at its compound where the Chinese and American youth rang the Peace Bell together symbolizing the start

**The GHS Band performing at the Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall in Beijing**





**The Band members and the pupils of the Primary School Attached to Shaanxi Normal University exchanging books**

of the Band's China tour. Li Liguo, deputy director general of the Department of Cultural Exchange read out the message by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu at the bell-ringing ceremony, in which, Chen said: "The future of the world belongs to you young people. Cultural exchange is the best way to increase mutual understanding. I believe that the students of China and the United States will get a good harvest from this trip both in friendship and music." Conductor John Yoon spoke on behalf of the Band. He said that the visit would enable the students of the Band to have personal experience of China and enhance the understanding and friendship between the American and Chinese youth. The American students and the students of the Beijing No. 80 High School Band struck the peace bell together, marking the beginning of GHS Band's music tour of China. The chime of the bell expressed the desire of the Chinese and American students for friendship and world peace. After the bell ringing, the Chinese and American students put on a 30-minute joint performance. The singing and playing together the

song *Jasmine Flower* brought closer the students of the two countries who met for the first time.

On the evening of that day, the CPAFFC hosted a banquet at the Friendship Hotel to welcome the Band. Leading members of both sides made warm speeches. The banquet proceeded in a friendly and lively atmosphere lasting nearly three hours, during which a birthday celebration was held for an American student. With tears in her eyes, she said: "It is the most meaningful birthday that I have ever had. I will never forget it." At the banquet, the Chinese and American students volunteered to perform. The humorous playing of wind instruments by the Beijing No. 80 High School students and the excellent performance of Jazz by the Greenwich High School students received favourable comments. The students of the two countries chatted warmly and exchanged gifts.

April 15 was an important day for the students of GHS Band. They climbed up the Great Wall and performed at Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall for more than one hour. The excellent performance by the Wind Ensemble, the Sympho-

The GHS Band giving a performance at the City Wall Park in Xi'an



ny Orchestra, the Jazz Band won warm applause from the tourists at the Great Wall and the parents of the students. After the performance, the American students told us excitedly that they would never forget their day on the Great Wall, and expressed gratitude to the CPAFFC for helping them realize their dreams.

Xi'an and Huxian County were important legs of the Band's China tour. Sharon Crain, Honorary Farmer of Huxian County, is an ordinary American from Connecticut. She has for years devoted to promoting China-US friendship and become deeply attached to Huxian County. It was due to her efforts that the Band's tour of China could be materialized. Unlike the itinerary we arrange for other visiting delegations, Sharon insisted on giving priority to the visit to the rural area of Huxian County as well as the get-together with the students of the local school. She believed that only such exchanges at grassroots could enable the youth of the two countries to learn the actual conditions, customs and culture of the other side.

The Band arrived in Huxian County on April 17 and was enthusiastically greeted by the farmer's

drum team and the students of Huxian No. 4 Middle School. Perhaps this would be the only time in their lives that these American teenagers could experience such rousing reception characteristic of the countryside of China's northwest. There was no need for language. They were deeply touched by the hospitality of the hosts. Before the joint performance, Deputy County Magistrate Ding Jingxi, the conductor of the band and Sharon made speeches. They all spoke highly of the visit to Huxian by the American students. Sharon recalled the history of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U. S. and China, and her ties with Huxian. She expressed the belief that the seeds of friendship sown that day in the hearts of these American youngsters would take roots, grow, bloom and bear fruit. The Band donated 10,000 US dollars to the Huxian No. 4 Middle School as students' subsidies and 100-odd English books.

After the speeches, the American students played *Hill Country Holiday*, *The Golden Age of Rock and Roll*, *Music of the Beatles*, and Chinese songs *Where is the Spring*, *Nanni Wan*, etc. Dur



ing the performance, a high wind sprang up and blew away their sheets music. Many Chinese students rushed onto the stage to help hold the sheets. Braving the fierce wind and dust, the students persisted in the cooperation till the end. This scene moved all the Americans present. Conductor Ben Walker said emotionally: "This is true US-China friendship."

When the performance ended, the American students went to visit farmers' homes in Handong Village, experiencing the life of Shaanxi farmers and tasting *jiaozi* (dumplings) and other local specialties the villagers had prepared for them. The American students were not used to the Chinese food, but they showed great interest in everything there. George who played saxophone said: "People here are very hospitable. I am very happy that I've come here. I will tell those who have not come everything I've seen here." The American students also visited the exhibition of the famous Huxian farmers' paintings. The farmers' paintings were familiar to some of the students, for a few years ago Sharon had introduced them to Greenwich, Connecticut and invited the well-known farmer painter Fan Zhihua and others to the United States.

The Primary School Attached to Shaanxi Normal University is a sister school of the Parkway Primary School in Greenwich, and so it was the first stop of the Band's visit to Xi'an. The Band was once again accorded warm welcome at the primary school on the morning of April 18. All the pupils of the school, in school uniforms, lined up to welcome the American guests. The Jazz Band gave a 40-minute excellent performance for the teachers and pupils of the school. Though due to their young age, the pupils were unfamiliar with the music played, happiness was shown on the face of every child. The pupils also showed their talent in painting and calligraphy. That afternoon,

the Band came to the Xi'an City Wall Park. Despite the scorching sun, the performance by the Band drew hundreds of local residents and tourists. When the Band played the familiar Chinese folk songs, applause broke out from the audience.

That evening, Liu Shimin, vice chairman of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference met with all the members of the band at the Shangri-La Golden Flower Hotel.

The Band staged a formal show at the Sofitel Grand Theatre on the evening of April 19. It was a tri-party joint performance. In addition to the GHS Band, the Symphony Orchestra of the Middle School Attached to Xi'an Conservatory of Music and the Primary School Attached to Shaanxi Normal University also participated in the performance. The 2-hour excellent performance won repeated applause from the audience.

The Band visited the Shanghai Conservatory of Music on April 23. Together with the band of the conservatory they had exchanges on techniques in playing music.

Apart from giving performances, the GHS Band also visited the historical and cultural sites including the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum, and watched the Chinese martial arts, acrobatics and the performance of Tang Dynasty music and dance, through which they gained preliminary knowledge of China and its culture. □

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**(Continued from p.39)**

people of the DPRK will also strive to strengthen national defence and upgrading their living standards. The DPRK has always insisted on strengthening the traditional friendship with China and is willing to make every effort to further broaden consensus with China and develop the bilateral relations. □



# BYU-Hawaii Concert Choir in China

**An Xin**

**B**righam Young University Hawaii Concert Choir of 107 members headed by its President Eric Shumway paid a visit to Urumqi, Xi'an and Beijing from May 8 to 24, 2007. Kurax Mahe-sut, vice chairman of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Liu Jingcai, vice chairman of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Political Consultative Conference met with and entertained the president of BYUH and the university board members. The BYUH Concert Choir gave wonderful performance in each city and had exchanges with the Chinese universities and friendship organizations during their stay in China.

The CPAFFC enjoys good cooperation relations with BYUH. Over the past 10 years, the CPAFFC dispatched two groups of outstanding middle-school students every year to participate in BYUH summer and winter camps. This well-re-

ceived programme has greatly promoted the youth contact between our two countries.

During their visit, the BYUH Concert Choir introduced Hawaiian music culture and local customs to Chinese audience in their performance in Xinjiang University, the Great Hall of the People in Xinjiang, Shaanxi Normal University, Beijing Forbidden City Concert Hall, Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall, Central University for Nationalities, etc. They performed a cappella and accompanied choral literature ranging from classical oratorio literature as well as international folk music, and art music of Europe, the Americas, and the South Pacific.

The unique performances were warmly received by the audience, giving them strong cultural impact as well as audio-visual enjoyment. Climax arose one after another during these perfor-

**BYU-Hawaii Concert Choir giving a performance in Beijing Forbidden City Concert Hall**



# A Ninety-Year-Old American Lady

## Eunice Moe Brock

——I Am a Happy Ambassador of Friendship  
Between the American and Chinese People

**Wang Zengqin**

(Continued from the previous issue)

### II

When Eunice arrived at Liumiao Village, the villagers vacated the best courtyard in the village for her and equipped her house with household electric appliances and furniture including refrigerator, colour television, telephone, computer, and sofa. As she had lived in the United States for about 70 years, she forgot almost all the Chinese she had known, the villagers' committee

hired a woman interpreter for her. She was grateful for the meticulous arrangements made by the village cadres and villagers, and insisted that she pay up the electric appliances and furniture with her own money and that from then on she herself pay all the fees including electricity fee and the interpreter's salary, not wanting to add any burden on the villagers' committee.

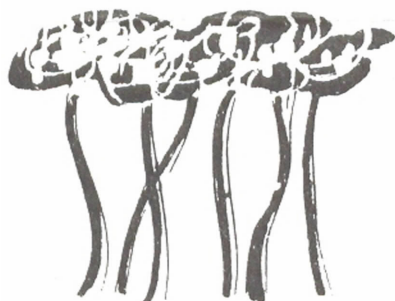
When the children in the

village learnt that an American granny had come to live there, they went to see her curiously. Eunice liked children very much. Holding children's hands in her own, she asked about their well being with loving care. In these children she seemed to see herself, Xiao Lin and her other young friends, reminding her of her happy childhood. She said to these children with emotion: "From now on, I am your granny!"

manes. Their joint-performance with the Youth Choir of the China Central Conservatory of Music became a part of "Meet in Beijing" Festival.

Besides the performances, members of the choir had gatherings with students of Xinjiang University, Urumqi Senior Middle School, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an International Studies University and the Central University for Nationalities. They enjoyed joint-performance, calligraphy show, oral practice in English and played basketball and ping pong together. The cultural ex-

changes between the Chinese and American students deepened their mutual understanding, laid the foundation for future cooperation. □



Eunice likes children, and the children also like to play with her. In her house often gather many children. On the floor of the sitting room toys lay everywhere and on the roof of her house there are shuttlecocks that fall on it when the children play badminton. Every now and then she has to ask someone to climb up the roof to collect them.

Not long after she settled down, Eunice visited the primary school in the village. When she saw that the teaching facilities were simple and crude, and the school lacked modern teaching facilities, at once she donated 30,000 US dollars for building a computer room and a teacher's room, and buying sportswear for the sports teams. In the following three years she successively donated about 20,000 RMB yuan to the kindergarten in Liumiao Village and other schools in the town for purchasing toys, musical instruments, and things used in sports and fine arts classes. Meanwhile, she worked as an English teacher in Liumiao Primary School. Even the English teachers in the town's middle schools often came to Eunice's home to attend English training course she opened free of charge. Every Spring Festival,



**Eunice Moe Brock at the China True Love 2006 Awarding Gala Night**

she would give all the teaching staff in Liumiao Primary School some money and souvenirs for the lunar New Year.

She has subscribed some educational newspapers and periodicals from abroad, and made research on the ideal of "letting every child be successful". She often sends emails to her friends abroad to get to know their ideas about education and tell them about the changes in China's rural education. She gives the results of her research to Liumiao Primary School.

To express their thanks to Eunice, Liumiao Primary School was renamed China-US Friendship Primary School and she was invited to serve as its honorary principal. She once worked in Liaocheng University to help raise the English level of

the English teachers of senior middle schools in the city, and many times gave lessons to the students in Wuxun Senior Middle School, Guan County, Liaocheng City, and encouraged them to study English well.

Despite her advanced age, Eunice leads a busy life. In the daytime she likes to sit among the children, studying and playing together with them. At home she is busy planting flowers and grass that she has ordered from abroad, turning her courtyard into a garden. Every evening she surfs on the internet for hours, chatting with her friends abroad and asking them to care and help the children in China's backward areas.

Every Christmas she would ride a pedicab and go from house to house to give gifts to

the children in the village. Every Spring Festival she, like an ordinary Chinese lady, would stick up New Year couplets and make dumplings and offer them to the villagers.

Last year on learning a primary school pupil in Liumiao Village who left home because of high pressure in study, and a pupil in the neighbouring village who committed suicide because of poor results in the exam, Eunice began to pay more and more attention to children's mental health and make investigation and study their psychological problems.

This year, what she wants to do most is to buy with her own money an instrument for psychotherapy which she once saw in the Colorado State Medical College in the United States. This instrument, similar to the brain wave instrument, can detect signs of trouble in a person's mind and consciousness so that it can help doctors to diagnose and treat patients' psychological problems and ease students' pressure in study and dispel their nervousness in exams.

It is out of her own experience many years ago that she decided to purchase this instrument for the Chinese children. Thirty years ago she knew a small boy who was very naughty

and did not study well. Other people's gossip gave him great psychological pressure. One day a teacher gave him a book and asked him to write a composition within three days on what he thought of after reading. He said to the teacher that he at least needed three weeks to finish the book. The teacher asked him whether he wanted to be a good pupil, and the boy said yes. Then, the teacher resorted to the above-mentioned instrument to treat his psychological problems. After the treatment, the boy spent only one day finishing the assignment given by the teacher.

Eunice said, though this instrument is rather expensive, she herself can afford it. If it can ease children's psychological pressure and let them keep a healthy and happy mentality, this will affect their whole lives, and maybe the tragedy of young students committing suicide because of psychological problems will never happen again.

Every year Eunice is elected as "advanced individual who respects teachers and values education". Every time she receives the red certificate, there is a gratifying smile on her face: "I feel so proud that I can get an award in China."



When asked whether she had got accustomed to the simple rural life in China, she answered, "I don't want to lead an extravagant life. I want to spend my limited savings and remaining energy to do something I can for the Chinese people—to do good things makes one's life more meaningful."

Eunice spent her childhood in China and the poverty and sickness that the Chinese peasants had suffered left deep impressions on her. Since then, she made up her mind that when she grew up she would earn money to help those poor people. Now, at last she has got the chance to realize her childhood dream.

At the time when Eunice just came to Liumiao village, the village was planning to build large-sized orchards of pear and date. For this, she donated 41,000 RMB yuan. Since then, every year she donates some money to help Liumiao Village to develop economy. In order to help the villagers in Liumiao Village to become prosperous through production, she has asked her relatives and friends in the United States to send her by post books about how to grow fruits, vegetables, and crops with which she can help the villagers to grow American crops with higher economic re-



**Eunice Moe Brock on her pedicab**

turns. She asked one of her American friends to send her 7 seedless pomegranate saplings which she planted in her own garden. The pomegranate wine made from this kind of seedless pomegranate is very good for old people's health. She said, if her experimental planting was successful, she would recommend the villagers to plant them and make planting and processing a coordinated process, which would soon make the villagers rich. In 2002 she introduced from the United States a kind of "PAW" fruit tree that have purple-coloured blossom and bear big fruits. She said, If this rare kind of fruits is sold at the market, they surely can sell well at a good price." She is al-

so planning to introduce from the United States a kind "of cauliflower that is both decorative and edible and recommend the villagers to grow them which after being processed can add a new variety of products for export.

Eunice who has received higher education and has a wide range of interest wants to make contributions to the Chinese people with her knowledge; therefore, she wishes to continue to live in China so that she can work for the Chinese people she loves. She once served as president of a children's hospital and chairwoman of the nurses' association in Denver, Colorado State of the United States. Using her special skills, she often or-

ganizes free medical treatment for patients. She now concurrently serves as honorary president of the Liaocheng International Peace Hospital. Every Friday afternoon, she will come from Yanggu County to Liaocheng City on time and give medical and nursing lessons to the young doctors in the hospital. She encouraged her friends to donate some expensive medical instruments to the hospital. In November 2003, she invited British doctor Harry Oldfield and two Canadian partners to come to China to display two latest medical inventions, for she believed that the new inventions would help improve human body's circulation and health, hence reduce people's



medical expenses. In April 2006, she financed the Liaocheng International Peace Hospital to build rockeries, pavilions and a fish pond in the hospital compound for the patients and the doctors to enjoy a beautiful environment.

Caring about the health of the villagers in Liumiao Village, in April 2000 she provided funds to invite doctors in the Liaocheng International Peace Hospital to give health check-up for the old people in the village, finding that five old people needed to have cataract extraction. Soon, she paid for all the five to have the treatment. In September 2005, she bought more than 110 pairs of glasses for short-sighted villagers in Liumiao village.

When SARS was spreading in China in 2003, through the charity organization Eunice donated 10,000 US dollars to the local government for fighting off SARS. On November 30, 2003 she was invited to attend a conference on legal aid for the old people in Diaoyutai State Guest House, Beijing where she gave a speech. In 2005 after Indonesia suffered from a powerful earthquake and tsunami, she donated some money through the Liaocheng charity organization.

Now she has already got

used to Chinese rural life. She plants vegetables by herself and enjoys doing it very much. She told me that because she loves China, the Chinese people and lively children she will permanently live in China, in Liumiao Village where she leads a meaningful and happy life. She also told me that she and her husband had made a will on the donation of their remains to the hospitals. Her husband's remains have been donated to the United States, and she would donate her remains to China, thus fully realizing her "China dream".

Eunice has won respect and love from the villagers of Liumiao and neighbouring villages. Whenever the latter come to Liumiao Village, they will call at her home. On festivals the villagers will spontaneously call on her and send greetings to her in different ways.

Eunice's deeds have evoked great repercussions in Shandong Province and all over China. In May 2006 she was invited by the Shandong Charity Federation to attend the "2006 Shandong Charity Evening Party" and was conferred upon the title of Shandong Philanthropy Ambassador. At the end of June, 2006 she was invited to attend the "2006 Conference on the

Welfare Undertaking" and was conferred upon the title of China Philanthropy Ambassador.

At the beginning of 2007, she won the title of "Ten People Moving Shandong, 2006" and the title of "Ten People with Their True Stories Moving China, 2006." At the "Ten People Moving Shandong, 2006" prize-awarding ceremony sponsored by the Shandong TV Station, on receiving the prize cup, she said excitedly: "Come back to China and settle down here is the thing I like to do most in my life."

A netizen wrote in his blog: "What kind of life is meaningful? I think, at a tranquil night when we recall the past and compare it with the present and ponder over our pursuit of life in depth, we often ask ourselves the similar question. Eunice, the old American lady has told us everything with her own deeds—the meaning of life is, not in chanting impassioned slogans, but in doing good deeds earnestly, wholeheartedly and devotedly!" □

