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Dinner Celebrating 30 Years of China-US Diplomatic Ties Held in Great Hall of the People

Our Staff Reporter

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, the CPAFFC, the China-US People's Friendship Association and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs jointly held a dinner on the evening of January 12, 2009 to mark the event. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and former US President Jimmy Carter who came specially to take part in the celebrations attended the dinner and spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Vice President Xi Jinping, on behalf of the Chinese Government, paid high tribute to the personages of various circles of China and the United States who have made long-standing contribution to advancing Sino-US relations.

He said: "In the 1970s, acting in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and people around the world, leaders of our two countries rose above the differences in ideology and social system and broke the ice of estrangement that had existed for years between China and the United States with strategic far-sight and extraordinary political wisdom. Due to the unremitting efforts, diplomatic relations were finally established on 1 January 1979, normalizing China-US Relations and opening a new Chapter in the history of our relations." He pointed out, in the past 30 years, "despite some twists and turns, thanks to the personal commitment of generations of leaders in both countries and the joint efforts of people on both sides, the constructive cooperation between our two



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countries has yielded fruitful results, with a deep impact on both countries and positive implications on the whole world. China and the United States, once locked in mutual antagonism and estrangement, are now stakeholders and constructive partners. The China-US relationship has grown more mature and stable. The understanding between our people has increased and mutual trust deepened.” He called on both China and the United States to “view and handle the bilateral relationship from a broader global perspective and with a way of thinking that keeps abreast of the times”. (Full text of the speech on p.4)

Former US President Carter happily recalled in his speech the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and China and Deng Xiaoping’s visit to the U.S. 30 years ago when he was in office. He said, over the last 30 years, remarkable progress has been made in the US-China relations. The two countries have reaped fruitful results in exchanges and cooperation in various fields. The relationship between the United States and China is the most important diplomatic relationship in the world today. In the meantime, China has made tremendous achieve-

ments in reform and opening up and plays an important role in the world. History has shown that normalization brought greater security and prosperity to more people, not only to the U.S. and Chinese peoples, but also to the rest of the world. The United States and China must respect each other, overcome their differences, increase mutual trust and enhance cooperation.

Carter stressed, there is only one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China. The recent improvement in the cross-strait relations is heartening.

Carter said, the United States would soon have a new President. The two countries must maintain the mutual respect and the founding principles of “understanding, patience and persistence” that began 30 years ago to cope with global challenges and hotspot issues such as climate change, diseases, terrorism, nuclear proliferation and the international financial crisis. It is of great importance for the two countries and for the whole world that the United States and China strengthen their cooperation.

A warm atmosphere permeated the brightly-lit dinner hall where over 500 people of various

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L.3), former US President Carter (L.1), former US Secretary of State Kissinger (R.2) and CUSPFA President Xu Kuangdi (R.1) at the dinner in celebration of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the U. S.



Work Together for a Better Future of China-US Relations

— Speech by Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping at Dinner Marking 30th Anniversary of Establishment of China-US Diplomatic Relations

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, which we celebrate tonight at this dinner. Just now, President Carter made heart-warming remarks and expressed the ardent support and keen aspiration of people with vision from all sectors of Amer-

ican society for the growth of China-US relations.

On behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, I wish to extend a warm welcome to President Carter and other American friends who have traveled great distances to China. I wish to express heart-felt thanks to all of you for your long-standing con-

tribution to the promotion of friendship and cooperation between our two great nations. I also wish to pay high tribute and extend cordial greetings to the people from all walks of life in China who have long engaged in growing China-US relations.

Your efforts have indeed paid off. Over the decades, precisely thanks to the joint efforts

circles of China and the United States gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties. Among them were Tung Chee Hwa, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC); Cheng Siwei, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC); Xu Kuangdi, former vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and president of the China-US People's Friendship Association; Li Zhaoxing, chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee; Chen Haosu and Li Xiaolin, president and vice president of the CPAFFC; Rosalynn Carter, wife of former US President Carter; Clark Randt, US ambassador to China; as well as former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former US National Security Advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft and other Chinese and American distinguished guests who had made important contribution to the establishment of diplomatic relations 30 years ago.

The formal establishment of diplomatic rela-

tions between China and the United States on January 1, 1979, a landmark event, opened a new chapter in the annals of relations between the two countries, and produced a profound and far-reaching impact on the international situation and world pattern. In the past three decades, with the joint efforts made by generations of leaders and insightful people of both countries, historic progress has been achieved in bilateral relations. The two sides have carried out fruitful exchanges and cooperation in a wide range of fields, and the understanding and friendship between the two peoples have increased continuously. The strategic significance and global influence of China-US relations have become more prominent. Facts have proved that the establishment and development of normal state relations between China and the United States conform to the fundamental interests of the two peoples and the trend of the times, which has not only brought great benefit to both peoples, but also contributed significantly to peace, stability and development in Asia and the world at large. □

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of the leaders and the visionary people from all walks of life in our two countries, we have successfully erected bridges for China-US cooperation across the Pacific, leading to today's sound and all-round growth of the constructive and cooperative relationship.

In the 1970s, acting in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and people around the world, leaders of our two countries rose above the differences in ideology and social system and broke the ice of estrangement that had existed for years between China and the United States with strategic far-sight and extraordinary political wisdom. Due to the unremitting efforts, diplomatic relations were finally established on 1 January 1979, normalizing China-US relations and opening a new chapter in the history of our relations.

Thirty years have passed in a flash. Over the years, despite some twists and turns, thanks to the personal commitment of generations of leaders in both countries and the joint efforts of people on both sides, the constructive cooperation between our two countries has yielded fruitful results, with a deep impact on both countries and positive implications on the whole world.

China and the United States, once locked in mutual antagonism and estrangement, are now stakeholders and constructive partners. The China-US relationship has grown more

mature and stable. The understanding between our peoples has increased and mutual trust deepened.

The two-way trade volume has surged from less than US \$2.5 billion in the early days of our diplomatic relations to more than US\$300 billion in 2007, an increase of over 120 times. Cooperation between the two governments was virtually non-existent before the launch of diplomatic ties. Now we have over 30 governmental cooperation agreements and more than 60 dialogue mechanisms. The wide-ranging and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides has continued to expand and deepen in counter-terrorism, law enforcement, energy, environmental protection, science, technology, education, culture, health and other areas.

China and the United States have effective communication and coordination in addressing global challenges like the financial crisis and on major regional and international issues



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping speaking at the dinner

such as the Korean nuclear issue and the Iranian nuclear issue. Our relationship has become more strategic in substance and more global in significance.

Friendly exchanges between the Chinese and the American people have come a long way and cultural exchanges have increased. Given the figures in recent years, more than two million visits are made a year between our two countries and on average over 5,000 people travel across the Pacific Ocean a day between our coasts. In the wake of devastating natural disasters such as the earthquake and the hurricane, our two peoples have expressed sympathy and rendered support

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to each other with a helping hand.

What has happened eloquently proves that the China-US relationship has become one of the most dynamic, vibrant and important bilateral relationships in the world today. It has not only brought enormous benefits to the people of the two countries but has also strongly promoted world peace and development.

Shortly before the establishment of our diplomatic relations, the Chinese people bravely set out on a great historic journey of reform and opening up. Over the three decades, China has made tremendous progress across the board in the economic, political, social, cultural and other areas. Historic changes have taken place in what China and the Chinese look like. Once lacking food and clothing, the 1.3 billion Chinese are now generally living a comfortable life and are working towards the goal of building a moderately prosperous society at a higher level.

On the same day of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China delivered the *Message to Compatriots in Taiwan*, which solemnly stated our overall policy to strive for peaceful reunification of the motherland. A couple of weeks ago, at the seminar commemorating the 30th anniversary of

the *Message to Compatriots in Taiwan*, President Hu Jintao made a six-point proposal on promoting peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, which has opened broad horizons to benefit compatriots on both sides and secure peace in the Taiwan Straits.

Over the thirty years, with the broadening and deepening of China's opening-up, historic changes have taken place in China's relations with the rest of the world. China has closer connections and interactions with the world. China is firmly committed to the independent foreign policy of peace. China stands firm in its commitment to the path of peaceful development and to the opening up strategy that features mutual benefit and win-win outcomes. Under these guiding principles, we have worked with all other countries to help develop a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity and made important contribution to the lofty cause of peace and development for mankind.

Over the thirty years, historic achievements have been made in China's reform and opening up endeavour. And substantial progress has been made in China-US relations over the same period. This is more than a coincidence. It fully demonstrates that China is a staunch force for world peace, that China-U.S. relations are the most important relationship for both sides, that China and the

United States are cooperation partners, rather than strategic rivals, and that the China-US relationship is win-win and mutually beneficial in nature, rather than a zero-sum game. In short, China-US cooperation is good for our two countries, good for the Asia-Pacific and good for the whole world.

The China-US relationship is at a crucial time of transition. Today's world continues to undergo profound and complex changes and particularly the international financial crisis continues to spread fast. Under these new circumstances, both China and the United States need to view and handle the bilateral relationship from a broader global perspective and with a way of thinking that keeps abreast of the times.

We should always approach China-US relations from a strategic and overarching perspective and never waver in our commitment to a constructive and cooperative relationship.

We should keep the momentum of exchanges at the top and other levels, continue and improve various dialogue and cooperation mechanisms and further enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust.

We should actively promote mutually beneficial cooperation, jointly address global issues and challenges, expand common interests and make still greater contribution to world peace and development.

We should strictly follow the three Sino-US joint commu-

Our Common Legacy

——Speech by Former US President Jimmy Carter at the Opening of Exhibition Commemorating 30th Anniversary of Normalization

It is a great honor and privilege for me to open this inspiring exhibition. On November 15, 2008, I opened the exhibit of First Emperor: China's Terra Cotta Army in Atlanta with Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong. If that exhibit reflects the dazzling civilization of China's glorious past, this one documents the ever growing and increasingly important relationship between two great nations, the United States and the People's Republic of China.

I have the same birthday as the People's Republic of China, October 1st. Deng Xiaoping and others have always said that it was a matter of fate that I would re-establish the friendship between the United States and China. When I became

President, I recognized that for 28 years the United States and China had not had diplomatic relations, and I saw the great need for us to change that situation.

Standing here today as a witness to the enormous benefits of a peaceful, constructive, and flourishing relationship of thirty years, I am especially proud of the decision that I made in 1978. At the time, it was not a popular decision, but I was determined to make it. I believed then as I believe today that a peaceful relationship between the United States and China is vital to global peace and prosperity.

Today, China is one of the top trade partners of the U.S., a stabilizing force in the world econo-

nomies, respect and accommodate each other's core interests, uphold and advance the overall interests of China-US relations.

We should increase the friendly exchanges between our peoples and continue to enhance popular support for China-US friendship.

When President Nixon visited China in 1972, exactly here in this Great Hall of the People where we are this evening, he quoted a line from a poem written by Chairman Mao Zedong to describe the urgency of developing China-US relations at that time: "Ten thousand years are too long. Seize the day.

Seize the hour." When Mr. Deng Xiaoping met General Scowcroft in 1989, he said that Sino-US relations must be improved. In 1995 when meeting President Clinton, President Jiang Zemin expressed his hope that China-US relations would always stay on the right course. President Hu Jintao also stated on various occasions that in the new historical era, China and the United States should work together for the sound, stable and comprehensive growth of China-US relations. At this important moment when our relationship is about to start a new page in history, let us join

hands, raise high the sail of friendship and cooperation, and steer the vessel carrying the friendship between our two peoples and ties between our two countries along the course of constructive cooperation to a better future.

Now, I wish to propose a toast,

To the great achievements of China-US relations over the past thirty years,

To an even more splendid future of China-US relations, and

To the health of all friends present,

Cheers!

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Former US President Jimmy Carter speaking at the opening ceremony of the photo exhibition *Looking Back After 30 Years*

my, and an important actor in many of the world's most challenging issues. The relationship between

China and the United States is probably the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Although we may sometimes disagree, we should never be consumed or hindered by our differences. Mutual trust and respect will help us overcome difficulties and move forward.

Normalizing the relationship between the United States and China was an important chapter in my Presidency, a historic moment for China and a momentous change for the world. But this is not only my personal legacy. It is the legacy of many great individuals, some of whom are present here today. It is now a legacy that must be carried on by the future generations of American and Chinese people.

As we mark the 30th anniversary of this friendship, I hope that years from now it will become even stronger, and prosper based not only on material interests, but also on our common belief in the fundamental human values of freedom, equality, and democracy. I wish to express my gratitude to the Chinese people for their many years of friendship. I will continue to serve as a bridge to make sure that the relationship between China and the United States is harmonious and mutually beneficial.

Thank you, and enjoy the exhibition. □

(Continued from p.15)

a place with thriving vitality. The Americans in Chongqing back then were mainly military staff, and now they are entrepreneurs, engineers or technicians. Our two sides are continuing our efforts for common development."

The delegation went to the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution for the *Ode to the Spectacular Space Tour—Photographic Documentary of the Shenzhou 7 Manned Space Mission*, the stadiums and gymnasiums of the Beijing Olympic Games, the Chongqing

People's Hall and the Three Gorges Museum, where they gained new understanding and knowledge about China's science and technology, sports and people's livelihood. They praised the achievements made within the 30 years of China's reform and opening up.

Jeffrey Greene, executive director of the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation and head of the delegation said, though he had come to China for more than 50 times, he could still feel the rapid development underway everywhere in the country, the great changes in the

cities and people's thoughts renewed continuously. At the Beijing Olympic stadiums, all the delegation members were very excited. They said, the Beijing Olympic Games showed the world the long tradition of Chinese culture and set up a friendly and hospitable image of the Chinese people. As old friends of the Chinese people, they felt proud of China's success and would bring home what they saw and heard here, telling their families and friends, so as to encourage more Americans to visit China and learn from China's development experience. □

Looking Back After 30 Years—Photo Exhibition on 30th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations Mounted in Beijing

Our Staff Reporter

*L*ooking back After 30 Years—Photo Exhibition on the 30th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations was mounted in Beijing from January 12 to 17, 2009 at the Cultural Palace of Nationalities in Beijing. Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President George W. Bush made video speeches, congratulating on the great achievements in China-US relations over the past 30 years since the two countries established diplomatic ties.

President Hu Jintao extended warm congratulations on the opening of the exhibition and expressed sincere greetings and best wishes to personages of various circles of the two countries who had worked hard over the years to promote the growth of China-US relations.

Hu Jintao pointed out: "For 30 years, thanks to the concerted efforts of generations of Chinese and American leaders and people of vision from all walks of life, we have made historic achievements in growing these relations. Our two countries have fruitful exchanges and cooperation in a wide range of

areas. Our two peoples are increasing mutual understanding and friendship day by day. The strategic significance and global implications of China-US relations have become all the more evident."

Hu Jintao emphasized: "The world is now undergoing complex and profound changes. Under the new circumstances and in the face of new opportunities and challenges, China stands ready to work with the United States to build on past achievements, sum up and draw on experience in the development of China-US relations, follow the principles of the three Sino-US joint communiques, and remain committed to the development of a constructive and cooperative relationship. China is willing to further strengthen dialogue and exchanges with the United States on the basis of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, enhance mutual trust and cooperation, and continuously expand the basis for cooperation and common interests between the two countries so as to promote sound, stable and in-depth growth of

our constructive and cooperative relationship."

President Bush said: "The decision by the two governments to open formal ties 30 years ago transcended profound differences in our nations' histories, cultures and political systems and bridged a seemingly impossible divide. The people of the United States and China have come to know each other well over the last 30 years. Together, we have built bridges between our two nations in every conceivable field—from commerce and trade to education, science, sports and the arts. ... I hope that over the coming 30 years our governments will build on this foundation of goodwill and work constructively together to advance the causes of peace, stability, and development. I am confident that working with common purpose and determination, the United States and China can successfully address global challenges to ensure that our children inherit a truly better and safer world."

Dai Bingguo, state councillor; Xu Kuangdi, president of the China-US People's Friend-

30 Years of China-US Diplomatic Relations Commemorated



State Councillor Dai Bingguo speaking at the opening ceremony

ship Association; Chen Haosu and Li Xiaolin, president and vice president of the CPAFFC, together with former US President Jimmy Carter, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former US National

calling History", "Friendship between the People", "Economic Exchanges" and "Win-Win Cooperation". Spanning time and space, these photos unfold major events in bilateral exchanges, both gov-

Security Advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft, and US Ambassador to China Clark Randt, among 180 Chinese and American representatives of various circles, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition on January 12.

With friendship as the main theme, the 360 photos on display are arranged into four parts under the subtitles "Re-

enmental and people-to-people prior to and after the establishment of diplomatic relations, show the progress made in the fields of diplomacy, economy, trade, culture, education, sports, etc. by China and the United States in the past 30 years, and vividly record the course of development of China-US relations from the Ping Pong Diplomacy to the smiling Michael Phelps at the Beijing Olympic Games, from the first Chinese share certificate given by Deng Xiaoping to American guest to China's accession into the World Trade Organization.

The year-long exhibition is jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, China Photo Service and Tsinghua University. Apart from Beijing, it will be mounted in some Chinese provinces and cities and tour some US states and cities. The first exhibition in the United States was mounted in the Richard Nixon Library on January 21. The closing ceremony of the exhibition will be held in the Carter Centre in December, 2009. □



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin showing the Chinese and American distinguished guests round the exhibition

Photo Exhibition Celebrating 30th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations Opens in the U.S.

Li Sanghua

On January 21, 2009, *Looking back After 30 Years—Photo Exhibition on the 30th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations* was launched at the Richard Nixon Library (RNL) in Yorba Linda, California of the U.S.. Xu Kuangdi, president of the China-US People's Friendship Association (CUSPFA); Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC; Liu Mingyuan, minister of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S.; Zhang Yun, consul general of the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles; John H. Taylor, executive director of the RNL, Glen Beneda, Flying Tigers veteran; and media representatives of the two countries, totaling about 100, attended the opening ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, the guests first watched the video congratulatory messages made by Chinese President Hu Jintao and the former US President George W. Bush who has just finished

his term of office. And then, honoured guests from both countries spoke one after another. In his speech, President Xu Kuangdi said the establishment of the diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. opened a new era for bilateral relations. Thanks to the concerted efforts made by several generations of Chinese leaders, seven US presidents and the people of the two countries, the Sino-US relations have scored considerable achievements over the past three decades and become one of the most dynamic and important bilateral relations in the world today. The establishment of diplomatic relations not only accords with the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but also greatly contributes to peace, stability and development in Asia as well as the world. At present, China and the U.S. are at a crucial phase of carrying their relationship into the future. It is the

Flying Tigers veteran Glen Beneda talking about how he had been rescued in China during the war at the opening of the exhibition



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People visiting the exhibition at the Richard Nixon Library

common aspiration and in the fundamental interests of the two peoples that China and the U.S. maintain sound and stable bilateral relations in the coming years or even a longer period of time.

In her speech, Vice President Li Xiaolin talked in detail about the preparation and the tour plan of the photo exhibition.

Executive Director of the RNL John Taylor recalled in his speech the extraordinary course China and the U.S. had traversed in their relations since President Richard Nixon opened the door for exchanges between the two countries in 1972. He said, on the 30th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations, it is a great honour for the RNL to unveil this photo exhibition on the west coast of the U.S. together with the CPAFFC. The exhibition, rich in content, presents major events in the history of Sino-US exchanges over the past 200 years and highlights the friendship between the people of the two countries which is the most precious wealth of our two countries and the most solid foundation for the future development of the US-China relations.

Friendship, the theme of the photo exhibition, was perfectly illustrated at the opening ceremony. Accompanied by his family, the 84-year-old US Flying Tigers veteran Glen Beneda arrived at the event in his wheelchair. With deep emotion, he told the guests the moving story

of how villagers of Jianli County in China's Hubei Province risked their lives to rescue him when his fighter plane was shot down by the Japanese army and escorted him to the garrison of the 5th Division of the New Fourth Army commanded by General Li Xiannian, so that he could finally return to the U.S. army barracks safe and sound. As a token of his sincere gratitude to his benefactor, he specially presented CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (daughter of Gen. Li Xiannian) the Blood Chit (a notice in Chinese carried by the Flying Tigers pilots displaying message aimed at the Chinese civilians to help the service member in case of shutdown) he had kept all these years even in the days when he braved untold dangers. Beneda's experience of the Sino-US people's friendship brought the opening ceremony to a climax.

The photo exhibition is scheduled to tour Washington D.C., New York, Houston, Atlanta, and other cities in 2009. □



US WWII Veterans Delegation's Visit to China

An Xin

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, the US WWII veterans delegation with 12 members visited Beijing and Chongqing from November 16 to 22, 2008. In Beijing, the delegation attended the China-US WWII Veterans Peace Forum in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Sino-US Diplomatic Relations and the Friendship Forum of Chinese and American Supporters of the Project of Excavating, Restoring and Preserving Crashed Aircrafts of the US Flying Tigers in Jianli County of Hubei Province sponsored by the CPAFFC, and visited the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance A-

gainst Japanese Aggression, the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution and the stadiums and gymnasiums of the Beijing Olympic Games. In Chongqing, Mayor Wang Hongju and Vice Mayor Huang Qifan met with the delegation respectively. The delegation also visited the Stillwell Museum, Chongqing Museum of the Anti-Japanese War sites and the Three Gorges Museum.

China-US WWII Veterans Peace Forum

January 1 of 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Sino-US diplomatic relations. To commemorate the significant event

and further promote the friendship and cooperation between the military forces and the people of the two countries, the CPAFFC held the China-US WWII Veterans Peace Forum at the Great Hall of the People on the morning of November 18, 2008. Buhe, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, attended the forum. Chai Zemin, the first Chinese ambassador to the U.S.; General Qian Shugen, former deputy chief of the General Staff; Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC; Admiral William Owens, former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Col. Philip Lanman, air attaché of

Richard A. Pandorf making a speech at the forum on behalf of the US veterans





Edward Beneda presenting a scarf to CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin on his father's behalf

the US Embassy in China; J. Vinyard, president of the Hump Pilot's Association; Richard A. Pandorf, representative of the US WWII veterans; as well as Chinese veteran representatives Li Zhongquan and Xia Kui spoke at the forum. Chinese and American veterans and retired generals, and well-known social figures from various circles, totaling about 160, were present at the event.

Looking back, strengthening friendship. Representatives of the Chinese and American veterans said, both Chinese and American military forces and their people paid a heavy price in WWII. The two countries have common interests while their people have forged deep affections to each other. We should cherish this friendship from generation to generation and the hard-won peace.

Li Zhongquan, a Red Army veteran who had gone through

the Long March, showed the forum participants some old pictures taken in the War Against Japanese Aggression as he recalled how for three times he struggled through the hail of bullets and escorted surviving US pilots to Yan'an and Beijing. He said with emotion, "although hundreds of American pilots were saved, a great number of US volunteers gave their precious lives when performing their tasks, who by this very moment are still lying silently on the vast land of China. You shed your blood on the same piece of land, and I miss you dearly, my friends from America!"

Lieutenant Glen Beneda of the 76th fighter squadron of the 14th Air Force could not make his visit this time due to health concerns at his 85 years of age. He specially entrusted his son Edward Beneda with his letter of congratulations to thank the

Chinese soldiers and people who had saved him back in the war time and wish the forum a full success. In 1944, when he was on the way back after completing his task, he was blocked and attacked by Japanese planes, and unfortunately, his plane crashed in Jianli County of Hubei Province. The local army and people gave him disinterested assistance and medical care, and after two-month medical treatment at the garrison of the 5th Division of the New Fourth Army, he was transported to the barracks of the US army. Li Xiannian, the commander of the 5th Division then, came to visit him for several times. In the letter, Beneda mentioned that the Flying Tigers had a deep bound with the Chinese people. At the time, all the members of the Flying Tigers volunteered to come to China to assist the Chinese in their war against Japanese aggression. He believed that those who sacrificed their lives for people they never met symbolized the greatest love. This high affection and profound friendship have lasted unceasingly in the hearts of the Chinese and American people transcending the political boundary, and will surely pass on from generation to generation.

In her speech, Vice President Li Xiaolin praised the sincere feelings of the Chinese and American veterans towards each other, and confirmed that the CPAFFC would as always work to push the continuous development of the people-to-people

The veterans at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression



friendship between China and the United States. After the forum, on behalf of his father, Edward presented Vice President Li Xiaolin a silk scarf printed with the emblem of the 14th Air Force, making a moving scene that led the commemoration to the climax.

Strengthening military mutual trust, developing strategic cooperation. General Qian Shugen emphasized, though same as the bilateral relations between the two countries, the relationship between the Chinese and US armies has undergone twists and turns, the exchanges between the two armies has deepened with widening domains, moving into a new phase for pragmatic cooperation. China's national defence policy has always remained defensive in nature, and it is hoped that the U.S. will enhance its strategic trust in China, and on the base of which, make further efforts to

deepen the relationship between the armies of the two countries. He said, Chinese and American veterans have all suffered from the miseries of war, therefore they know best the happiness that peace brings to the people. It was his hope that, Chinese and American veterans would properly use their experiences to help build the peaceful and harmonious strategic friendly relations between the two countries.

All the delegation members said, the event has evoked their memories of former times, which was significant for deepening friendship and conducting military exchanges. Assistants and descendants of the veterans expressed on many occasions that they were proud of their fathers and willing to make their own contribution to promoting the development of Sino-US relations.

Melvin McMullen, former

president of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association and member of the delegation, said that in the past the Japanese invaders were our common enemies, and now our two countries needed to work together to tide over the global financial crisis. He believed that we could achieve another great victory through our cooperation. Many veterans agreed that China and the U.S. used to be cooperative partners in the War Against Japanese Aggression and we are and will always be good friends and partners in future.

Highly Praising China's Achievements in Reform and Opening up

During his meeting with the delegation, Mayor Wang Hongju said, "It has been 63 years since the end of WWII, and the battlefield where you fought has now been turned into

(Continued on p.8)

Visit to Three East African Countries

Tang Ruimin

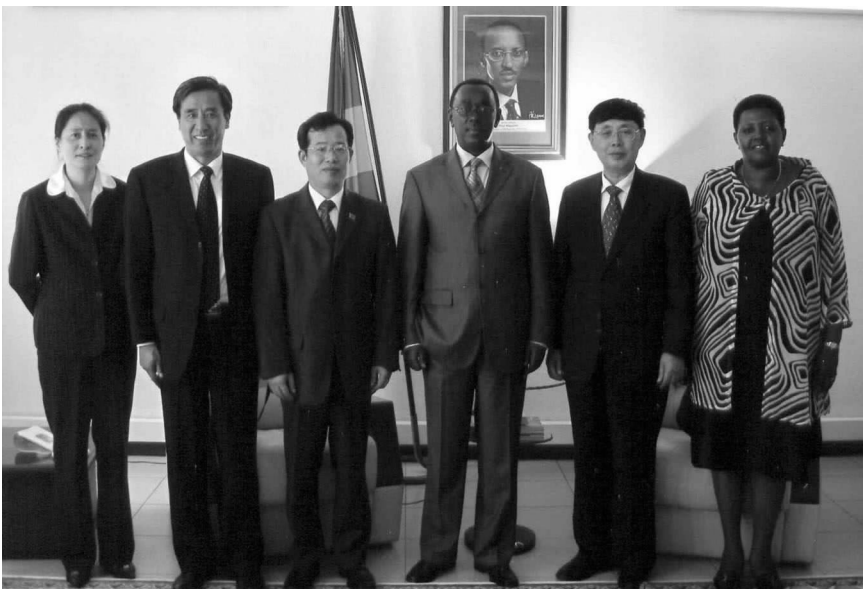
In early December 2008, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu led a delegation to visit Rwanda, a “country of thousands of hills”, Burundi, a “country of drum dance” and Tanzania with ever changing scenery. In a friendly and warm atmosphere the delegation had discussions about work with the relevant organizations of the three countries, enhanced friendship and looked forward to the prospects of cooperation in 2009. This visit permeated with friendly feelings achieved great success.

Revisiting Rwanda

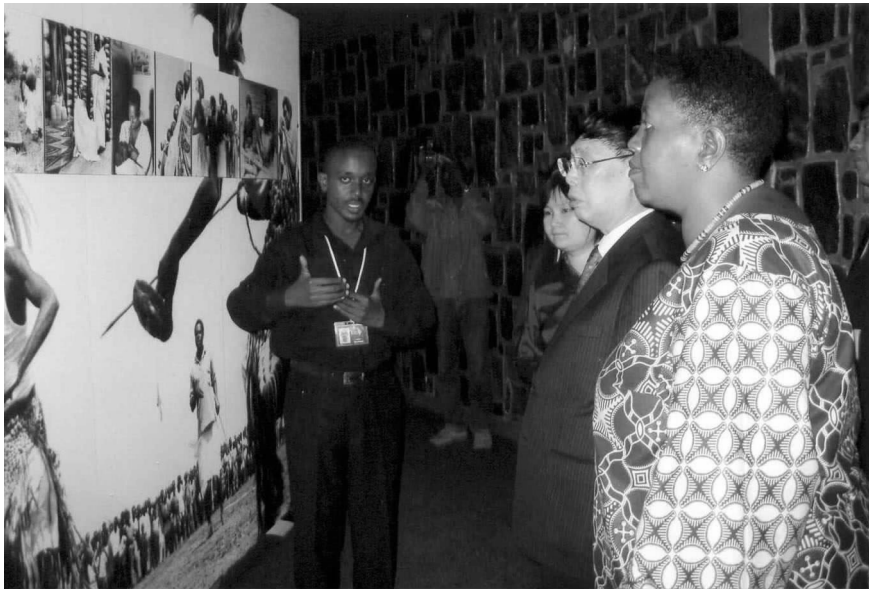
Located in the central eastern part of Africa, Rwanda is a country of high terrain with rolling hills. Endowed with beautiful lakes, green and deep gorges, vast pastureland and high mountains covered with snow all the year round, it enjoys the reputation of “Switzerland in Africa” with unique ecological environment. But the racial genocide in the early 1990s brought utter misery and suffering to over a million people and caused collapse of

the country’s economy. After about 20 years’ hard work and with the aid from the international community, the country has regained its vitality and achieved economic growth at a rate of 6 percent. It was under such circumstances that the Rwanda National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) invited the CPAFFC to visit the country and thus we were fortunate to have a chance to come to Rwanda again. At the end of the 1980s, the CPAFFC received officials and experts of the Rwanda’s agricultural departments and Chinese agricultural experts also visited Rwanda. The Chinese and Rwandan agricultural experts conducted exchanges on growing paddy rice.

Time flies and now the CPAFFC has reestablished relations with the relevant Rwandan organizations. The NURC devotes itself to peace and development of humankind, promoting unity and reconciliation in the country and building a peaceful and tolerant environment where human rights are respected. During its stay in Rwanda, the dele-



Rwandan Prime Minister Bernard Makuza meeting with the delegation



The delegation visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre

gation visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre and presented flowers to mourn over the deceased. When looking at the horrible scene in the pictures, we were greatly shocked. To promote world peace and friendship and jointly build a harmonious society is our lofty cause. We will as always carry on this cause. The delegation donated money to the museum on the spot and expressed the hope that every Rwandan would remember the past and never let the tragedy be repeated.

Though the CPAFFC delegation revisited Rwanda after about 20 years, it was accorded high courtesy. Bernard Makuza, Rwandan prime minister, Ms. Fatuma Ndagiza, executive secretary of the NURC, and Kabaija Ephrain, governor of East Province, met with the delegation on separate occasions. The Rwandan Prime Minister said, Rwanda and China have maintained friendly and fruitful relations for a long time, and the cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic areas has developed smoothly. After the China-Africa summit, China has increased its aid to African countries, particularly to Rwanda. Though the world financial crisis has also affected China to a certain extent, China is still carrying out its cooperation with African countries. He also pledged that the Rwandan Government would always stick to its one-China stand.

Recollecting China-Burundi Friendship

Burundi, located on the southern side of the equator in the central eastern part of Africa, neighbours Rwanda and is averagely 1,600 metres above sea level. With abundant rainfall and dense forests, it is known as the “Kingdom of Forest”. The people are warm and hospitable and their bold and unrestrained “drum dance” enjoys high reputation in the world. At the reception in honour of the delegation held by the Burundi-China Friendship Association (BCFA), the members of the delegation were lucky to enjoy the Burundian folk drum dance. All the performers were robust men wearing beaded belts on their heads and arms in the folk costumes of alternating red, white and green, the colour of their national flag. They took turns to perform various dance movements to the rhythm of the drums, sometimes spinning and sometimes making flying leaps. People around them cheered them on with songs. The intense rhythm of the drum dance, like the rumble of thunder rocking the sky and earth, fully demonstrated the Burundian people’s joyous, resolute, bold and uninhibited character. Over a hundred Chinese and foreign guests at the reception were greatly touched.

The BCFA was reorganized in 2007 and its members are mostly government officials, army men and businesspeople who once studied in Chi-



Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza meeting with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party

na. Ferdinand Nderagakura, minister of agriculture and animal husbandry who graduated from the Zhejiang Agricultural University, is also a member of the BCFA. He is the first African incumbent minister who has studied in China. Thanks to the participation of these influential figures, the BCFA is full of vigour. It has resumed its contact with the CPAFFC that had been suspended for about 20 years, making it possible for the CPAFFC delegation to visit the country.

The Burundian side attached great importance to the delegation's visit. Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza and First Vice President Yves Sahinguvu met with the delegation on separate occasions. President Pierre Nkurunziza expressed his thanks to China for its aid to Burundi and training of personnel, and welcomed Chinese enterprises to make investment in Burundi and accelerate cooperation in financing. First Vice President Yves Sahinguvu said, the Burundian government will give support to the Chinese entrepreneurs who invest and do business in Burundi. In his meeting with them, CPAFFC President

Chen Haosu said, China is a good friend of African countries and seeks common development with them. To support the BCFA in carrying out its activities, the delegation presented it computers, mobile phones and other office equipment.

Blooming Flowers of China-Tanzania Friendship

Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, boasts beautiful natural environment and rich natural resources. It has not only snow-capped mountains, but also vast blue oceans and lakes; not only lush green forests and fields, but also stretches of bare deserts. The country with a total area of 945,000 square kilometres is composed of the Tanganyika Mainland and the Zanzibar Island. The delegation had the chance to enjoy the scenery of both parts of the country.

Lauded as "green island" and "garden on the sea", the Zanzibar Island, with warm sunshine and dense forests, has spring-like climate all the year round. The delegation visited the local museum, the old town and the national park. Zanzibar has a long-standing history. In the 10th century AD, it was developed into a powerful Zanzibar Empire and ruled vast areas of East Africa. When walking in this famous ancient city, we saw broad boulevards and modern buildings, zigzag and narrow old streets and quaint houses with jet-black doors and elaborately carved doorframes, forming exotic and charming African urban scenery. Thanks to its bright sunshine, rich land, beautiful scenery and long history, Zanzibar has been called the "Pearl on the Indian Ocean" for hundreds of years.

But, it was also the centre of the darkest and most barbarous slave trade in the African history. On the dilapidated walls and the ruins of some buildings still remain the iron rings and chains once used to chain slaves. The roaring waves of the Indian Ocean sound like the wails and shouts of black slaves. Today when the people of various countries are jointly building a harmonious world, we will never forget history and will work hard for a better future for humankind and let the world be filled with love.

Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania, lies on the eastern seacoast of Africa and borders on the



The delegation exchanging souvenirs with Celina O. Kombani, minister of state for regional administration and local government

blue Indian Ocean. The city where trees and grass remain green all year round is fresh and elegant. During the delegation's visit in the city, Celina Ompeshi Kombani, minister of state for regional administration and local government, and Dr. Diodorus Buberwa Kamala, minister for East African cooperation, met with the delegation on separate occasions. In his talk with the delegation Minister Kombani briefed on the financial and administrative reform made by the ministry for improving the governance capabilities. In his meeting with the delegation, Minister Diodorus Kamala gave a brief account of the East African Economic Community and expressed the hope that China would help Tanzania develop its shipping industry and build ports on the shore of Lake Victoria.

China and Tanzania have forged fraternal friendship. The world famous Tanzania-Zambia Railway is a milestone project in the history of

China-Tanzania friendship. Shortly before the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games, a stadium that can contain 60,000 people built with Chinese aid was completed in Dar es Salaam. The Olympic torch relay was held here. Tanzania is the only country in Africa that the Olympic torch reached. The officials of the Ministry for Regional Administration and Local Government who accompanied the delegation on the visit still kept a fresh memory of the scene at the time. The Ministry for Regional Administration and Local Government is the new channel that the CPAFFC established in 2007 to promote exchanges between the Chinese and Tanzanian local governments. At present, Zanzibar City and Haikou of China have forged friendship-city ties. The CPAFFC will further its cooperation with the Ministry and discuss with it the prospects of friendship and cooperation during the China International Friendship Cities Conference to be held in 2010. □

(Continued from p.31)

the friendship between the two peoples. And he said, today we don't say goodbye to each other, because we hope that Chinese medical workers will come again next year and bring light to more patients and that the

friendship between DPRK and China will last from generation to generation. The president of Ang Doung Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, said that the China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour had brought light to Cambodian pa-

tients and reflected the spirit of international humanitarianism and Chinese people's friendship with the Cambodian people. He expressed the hope that the friendship between Cambodia and China would last for generations. □

China-NSW Climate Change Forum Held in Sydney

Ye Zi

The China-NSW Climate Change Forum cosponsored by the CPAFFC and the New South Wales (NSW) Government was held in Sydney on November 20, 2008. About 100 people including Deputy Director of the China National Development and Reform Commission Xie Zhenhua, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, NSW Premier Nathan Rees, NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ian MacDonald and representatives from relevant Chinese and Australian research institutes and enterprises attended the forum. The forum provided a platform for the Chinese and Australian representatives to have discussions on and exchanges in the fields of energy conservation, greenhouse gas (GHG) e-

mission reduction and clean development mechanisms, and achieved success.

The China-NSW Climate Change Forum was held in the wake of the Australia-China Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change held in Australia in November 2008. About 30 Chinese representatives from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Global Climate Change Institute of Tsinghua University and other relevant research institutes as well as from enterprises including China Huaneng Group and China Datang Corporation attended this forum. About 70 Australian representatives from the NSW Government, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, the

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, the Price Waterhouse Coopers and other enterprises were present at the forum.

The forum was presided over by Dr. Mary O'Kane, chief scientist of NSW. After CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and NSW Premier Nathan Rees gave welcome addresses, Xie Zhenhua, deputy director of the NDRC, made a key-note speech. In his speech he briefed on the policies and measures adopted by the Chinese Government to adapt and respond to climate change and the achievements made in recent years. He said that as a responsible big country, China attaches great importance to the issue of climate change and always takes a



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (L.4) with some participants at the forum

positive and constructive attitude towards the international cooperation in addressing climate change. In her speech, Vice President Li gave a brief account of CPAFFC's work, and said that the CPAFFC is willing to carry out wide-range exchanges and cooperation including tackling climate change with various circles of Australia. She also expressed the hope that Chinese and Australian friends of various circles would continue to pay close attention to and support other activities of the "action for promoting China-Australia friendly relations" sponsored by the CPAFFC.

Premier Rees said, tackling climate change needs cooperation of all countries in the world. Since New South Wales State and Guangdong Province formed friendship-state province ties in 1979, the two sides have carried out frequent contacts and developed friendly relations continuously. With China's steady rise in its international standing, NSW earnestly hopes to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with China in all fields including environmental protection. Premier Rees stressed that China is NSW's largest trade partner, and the

NSW Government attaches great importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with China, and will as always give help within its power to the work of developing people-to-people friendship between Australia and China. In his speech, Minister Ian MacDonald said that climate change has widely affected every corner of global politics and economy, and the NSW Government, fully aware of the importance of tackling climate change, is actively carrying out actions and has made some achievements in GHG emission reduction and energy conservation. And he added that NSW and China have already signed a number of memorandums on cooperation, and this forum is a very important step in the process of bilateral cooperation.

At the forum, representatives of both sides made speeches on policies to tackle climate change, technological cooperation in reducing GHG emission, research on clean energy technology, clean development mechanisms, etc. During the tea break and lunch time, they had discussions on the fields they were interested in. After the forum, the Chinese representa-

tives visited the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering and had discussions with the school's leading officials on renewable energy and other hot issues.

The China-NSW Climate Change Forum has achieved its desired results and evoked warm repercussions from various sides. The representatives of relevant Chinese departments, research institutes and enterprises attending the forum held that the successful forum has provided a platform for the exchanges and cooperation in addressing climate change between the governments as well as enterprises of the two countries. NSW Premier Rees said that the forum has deepened Australia's understanding of China's policies and stance on addressing climate change, and also made him see the broad prospects of future bilateral cooperation in tackling climate change. Minister Ian MacDonald, who had visited China twice at the invitation of the CPAFFC, spoke highly of the huge success of the forum and expressed his appreciation to the CPAFFC for its efforts over the years to promote people-to-people exchanges between Australia and China. □

(Continued from p.35) ing "happiness and joy" and presented commemorative German marriage certificates to 20 pairs of newlyweds from Guangzhou. The large-scale acrobatic drama *Journey to the West*, which won Splendour Award, the top award for professional theatrical artworks in China, drew forth waves of applause and cheers from the audience with its marvelous performance. The warm and exciting atmosphere

pushed the celebration of the 20th anniversary of friendship-city ties between Guangzhou and Frankfurt to a climax again.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurter Rundschau, Frankfurter Neue Presse, Guangzhou Daily and Guangzhou TV Station reported the spectacular 20th anniversary celebrations and looked forward to a better future of the friendship-city relations between the two cities. □

CIFA Delegation Led by Its President Jiang Zhenghua Visits India

Tu Lili

At the invitation of the India Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Jiang Zhenghua, president of the China-India Friendship Association (CIFA) and former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, led a CIFA delegation to visit India from December 2 to 8, 2008. Jing Dunquan, CPAFFC vice president, and Cheng Hong, CIFA vice president and deputy editor-in-chief of the China Central Television (CCTV), were in company with CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua on the visit.

Enhancing China-India Friendship

On the eve of the delegation's departure, Mumbai was hit by outrageous terrorist attacks. The delegation still visited India as scheduled, which was highly praised by the Indian side. The delegation was accorded warm welcome wherever it went. Dr. Karan Singh, president of the ICCR, and Veeranna Mathikatti, chairman of the Kar-

nataka Legislative Council, met with the delegation. In his meetings with Dr. Singh and Mr. Mathikatti, CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua spoke highly of the friendship and cooperation between China and India. He said, China attaches great importance to cooperation with India in various areas. Jiang expressed his appreciation of the consistent support rendered by the Indian Government and people to China, particularly their selfless aid to China after the Wenchuan earthquake, which reflects fraternal affection between the Chinese and Indian people and lofty spirit of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission. Jiang strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on Mumbai and expressed his sincere solicitude for the victims and their family members.

ICCR President Singh reviewed the history of friendly exchanges between India and China over the past thousands of years. The friendly exchanges between the two peoples from Bodhidharma and Xuan Zang in ancient times to the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission in modern times and to the present China-India Joint Medical Mission demonstrate the profound friendship between the two countries. He said, under the current trend of globalization, the two countries, as emerging



CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua and ICCR President Karan Singh lighting a brass oil lamp at the launching ceremony of the China-India Joint Medical Mission in India



The delegation with legislators of the Karnataka Legislative Council

developing countries, are important forces to promote the development of Asia and the whole world as well. He expressed his thanks to the Chinese people for their sympathy and support when Mumbai suffered terrorist attacks, and his appreciation of the Chinese delegation's visit to India as scheduled when many other delegations either postponed or cancelled their visits to the country. He hoped that India and China would cooperate in fighting terrorist forces.

Chairman Mathikatti expressed his admiration for the achievements China had made in its economic construction, particularly the rapid development of infrastructure, and his congratulations on China's successful holding of the Beijing Olympic Games, saying that it was a high-level sports meet, a milestone in the history of the Olympic Games and the fruit of the Chinese people's hard work and wisdom. He said, Karnataka State attaches importance to mutually beneficial cooperation with Chinese provinces and cities. Since Karnataka State and Jiangsu Province signed a memorandum on friendly cooperation five years ago, the two sides have carried out smooth exchanges in various fields. In recent years, the leaders of the Legislative Council and Government of Karnataka State have led delegations to visit China several times to learn about the country's industrial and agricultural development. Karnataka State will continue to carry out

exchanges with China in the future, and is planning to send a 1,000-member farmers' delegation to China to study its experience in the near future.

Commemorating the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the arrival in China of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission, the China-India Joint Medical Mission (CIJMM) was set up under the initiation of the CPAFFC and the ICCR. It gives free medical treatment and medicine to people in the poor areas of both countries every year. In January 2008, the CIJMM consisting of ten Indian doctors who had arrived in Beijing in company with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and ten Chinese doctors went to Shijiazhuang of Hebei Province to give free medical treatment. This time, ten Chinese doctors came together with CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua to take part in the CIJMM's activities in India.

On the evening of December 2, the inauguration of the CIJMM's activities in India was held in New Delhi. Jiang Zhenghua, CIFA president; Zhang Yan, Chinese ambassador to India; Karan Singh, president of the ICCR; and the joint secretary of the Indian Ministry of Health, among more than 100 people from various circles and the major press of the two countries, attended the inauguration and spoke on the occasion.

In his speech, Jiang Zhenghua said the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission has become a symbol of friendship between China and India. Today the CIJMM which carries forward the spirit of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission reflects the efforts made by the leaders of the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations and helps enhance friendship between the two peoples.

ICCR President Singh said, the visit to India by the Chinese doctors will enable them to get more knowledge about India's medical system in its urban and rural areas, strengthen cooperation in the medical field between the two countries and draw people's attention to the disadvantaged groups in the two countries. Though the Joint Medical Mission may achieve limited practical results in providing medical services, it has a great symbolic significance. It is here today that we prove to the people of the world that India and China can cooperate with each other in various fields and the friendly relations between the two countries will contribute to the development of the world. The small step that we have taken today is a big step in the history of the development of India-China friendly relations.

At the venue of the inauguration, a Photo Exhibition Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Arrival in China of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission was held at the same time. The over 20 groups of photos showing the great humanitarian spirit of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission and the activities of the CIJMM held in China to give free medical treatment vividly reflected the brotherly affection between the Chinese and Indian peoples. The exhibition was well received by the visitors.

Supporting China's Policy on Tibet

During the delegation's stay in India, the India-China Friendship Association (ICFA), Karnataka held a meeting to welcome the delegation. At the meeting Bhaskaran Valiyara, secretary general of the ICFA, Karnataka and V. T. Rajashekar, its former president, condemned the anti-China separatist activities carried out by the forces for "Tibet independence" in India and gave their resolute support to China's stance on the Tibet issue.

Bhaskaran Valiyara said, the ICFA consistently opposes the anti-China separatist activities in any form carried out by the Dalai Lama on the Indian territory and protests against the Indian government giving the Dalai Lama political rights. Rajashekar said, the Indian government's equivocal attitude towards Tibet is a huge hindrance to the development of sincere friendship between India and China.

Promoting Cooperation Between China and India

At the working meeting with ICCR President Singh, CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation project—the "China-India Joint Medical Mission"—carried out by the two organizations. He expressed the hope that the two organizations would continue this project in the coming year. Jiang also gave a brief account of the Sino-Indian University Students Forum to be held by the CIFA in 2009 and hoped to receive cooperation from the ICCR.

The delegation held talks with the leading members of Friends of China Association, Punjab. The two sides agreed to jointly organize the Asian-European Youth Summer Camp and exchange youth delegations in 2009. In its discussions with the ICFA, Karnataka, the two sides agreed that they would continue to organize delegations to visit each other's country in the coming year.

With the further rise of China and India as emerging economies, the similarities and complementarities between them bring numerous opportunities for cooperation. In his meetings with Indian friends, CIFA President Jiang said many times that the CIFA would serve as a tie between people of various circles of the two countries, and a bridge for cooperation between China and India.□



Everlasting China-Cambodia Friendship

Zhan Xiushuang, Xu Yiyi

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia, a delegation of the China-ASEAN Association (CAA) and the Chinese medical team of “China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour” with Wu Tao, vice president of the CAA as the leader, paid a goodwill visit to Cambodia from November 24 to 29, 2008 at the invitation of the Cambodia China Friendship Association (CCFA). While in Cambodia, the delegation donated an electronic library valued at 80,000 US dollars to the Royal Academy of Cambodia and the medical team successfully carried out “China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour” activity, giving free

cataract surgery to about 100 Cambodian patients.

The delegation was accorded high courtesy: King Norodom Sihamoni met with all the members of the delegation; Acting Prime Minister Sok An attended the donation ceremony of the electronic library; Health Minister Mam Bun Heng was present at the conclusion ceremony of the “Bringing Light Tour”; Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, president of the CCFA, and Kao Kim Hourn, secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with and entertained the delegation on separate occasions; and Princess Buppha Devi presented certificate of gratitude to the Chinese organizations taking part in the

“Bringing Light Tour”.

Strengthening Traditional Friendship

During its stay in Cambodia, the delegation had extensive contact with Cambodian friends of various circles through making courtesy calls, taking part in activities, holding working conferences, etc. CAA Vice President Wu Tao spoke highly of China-Cambodia friendship. He said: “2008 is an extraordinary year in China-Cambodia friendly relations. Five decades have passed since the two countries established diplomatic relations. China-Cambodia friendship which is taking root in the hearts of the people has become invaluable wealth treasured by the people

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni meeting with the delegation





Cambodian Acting Prime Minister Sok An speaking at the electronic library donation ceremony

of both countries. Whether in the past, at present or in the future, the Chinese people were, are and will always be good neighbours, friends and partners of the Cambodian people.” When meeting with the delegation, King Norodom Sihamoni thanked the Chinese Government for providing excellent full medical services to the King Father and the Queen Mother over the years and highly praised the important role played by the CAA in promoting people-to-people friendship between the two countries. He expressed the belief that with the joint efforts made by the non-governmental forces of both countries, Cambodia-China friendship would last forever. Kao Kim Hourn, secretary of state of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with the delegation on behalf of Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. He paid high tribute to the achievements of China’s reform and opening up

at the meeting, saying that in recent years China’s comprehensive national strength has been continuously increased and its international standing raised. He extended congratulations on China’s successes in holding the Beijing Olympic Games and its manned space flight by Shenzhou VII. He stressed, the past 50 years witnessed sound Cambodia-China relations which have become increasingly closer in recent years. Cambodia always adheres to the one China stand, and supports China’s position on the South China Sea issue and its development.

Cataract Surgery Given by First Chinese Medical Team in Cambodia

“China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour” has enabled the Chinese medical team to perform cataract operations for the first time in Cambodia. Organized and sent by the CPAFFC, the medical team consisting of the country’s best

ophthalmologists and led by Han Demin and Wang Ningli, president and vice president of Tongren Hospital in Beijing came to Cambodia with the first-class technique and the most advanced medical equipment to give free cataract surgery to poor patients there. Eighty-five percent of the patients were above 60 years of age, the oldest being 94, while the youngest was 37. The Chinese doctors, overcoming various difficulties and assisted by Cambodian medical personnel, successfully performed operations on about 100 patients, which has fully demonstrated the high medical ethics and the excellent expertise of the Chinese doctors and received favourable comments from various quarters of Cambodia.

At his meeting with the delegation, King Norodom Sihamoni highly praised the consummate medical skills and exemplary medical ethics of the Chinese medical team, and

thanked the CAA for the unrelenting efforts it had made to bring sight back to the Cambodian cataract patients. Cambodian Health Minister Mam Bun Heng said at the “Bringing Light Tour” conclusion ceremony that the tour was of great significance. It is a major activity in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the two countries’ diplomatic ties, showing that Cambodia and China have always been good brothers and partners, and will remain so in the future. What’s more important is that it has brought light to the Cambodian patients and enabled them to experience the friendship from the Chinese people.

Donating an Electronic Library

On November 15, the CAA delegation donated an electronic library to the Royal Academy of Cambodia. It was the first such library in Cambodia and contributed to the country’s efforts to modernize education. Acting Prime Minister Sok An made a warm speech at the donation ceremony. He said: “The donation of the electronic library to the Royal Academy of Cambodia by the China-ASEAN Association is one of the many China-aid programmes to Cambodia. In the information age, the birth of

this electronic library is of extraordinary significance to Cambodia. To be equipped with this library means that Cambodia has acquired an inexhaustible source of information. Through the electronic library, the teachers and students can learn about the most advanced scientific and technological achievements of the world, and the latest information and hot topics, which will enable Cambodia to better adapt to the world.” Prof. Sorn Samnang, president of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, acclaimed the electronic library as the most precious gift given by the Chinese people to the Cambodian people on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Exchanges and Cooperation Enhanced

The facts that CCFA President Princess Norodom Buppha Devi attended the activities of the delegation several times and went to the airport to see off the delegation, that CCFA Vice President Tep Ngorn who is second vice president of the Senate and chief of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People’s Party greeted the delegation on its arrival in Cambodia at the airport, and that CC-

FA Secretary General Hor Sothoun who is the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation personally arranged the itinerary for the delegation showed the importance the CCFA attached to the delegation’s visit. At the meeting between the presidents of the CAA and CCFA, the Cambodian side accepted the invitation to visit China in 2009 to further enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two organizations. At the working meeting between the secretaries general of the two organizations, CAA Secretary General Zhu Dan briefed her Cambodian counterpart on the various multilateral and bilateral activities carried out by the CAA since its inception four years ago, and expressed the hope to push the cooperation between the two organizations to a higher level through the present visit and do more practical work for the lasting friendship between China and Cambodia. CCFA Secretary General Hor Sothoun said that he was busy mostly with government work and that because of the importance of the delegation, he took part in the arrangement of its itinerary, from which he gained a deeper understanding of the importance of people-to-people diplomacy. □

(Continued from p.44)

built in Nanjing with 28 steps to approach it. These 28 steps resemble 28 years of his life devoted for expeditions.

Finally we can say he was one of great and legendary navi-

gators in the world and an envoy of peace and friendship of the Chinese people. His voyages were significant in promoting the further development of science and technology in China.

Because of him, China was better known in the world and the world better known in China.

The author is former secretary of the Sri Lanka China Society.

CPAFFC Delegation Led by President Chen Haosu Attends UCLG World Council Meeting

Zhang Ruoning

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its president Chen Haosu attended the UCLG World Council Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey from November 27 to 30, 2008. Over 320 local government leaders from all parts of the world participated in the meeting, at which the nomination of Ted Ellis, mayor of Bafflon, Indiana State, USA, as UCLG treasurer by UCLG-North America was approved. UCLG treasurer Mr. Clarence Anthony submitted his resignation as his tenure of office as mayor of South Bay, Florida, USA had expired.

Discussions on the three main topics—"Local and Regional Governments and the Challenges of Disaster Risk Management", "Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Local Governments", and "Local Social Inclusion Policies"—were held during the meeting. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu made a speech on "Local and Regional Government and the Challenges of Disaster Risk Management". He gave an account of the situa-

tion in Sichuan after the devastating May 12 earthquake, the relief efforts made by the governments at all levels and people of all walks of life in China, the progress of post-quake reconstruction, and the aid and assistance to the quake areas from the international community. He thanked UCLG for the sympathy shown and assistance given to the local governments and people in the quake-hit areas and appealed to the cities and local governments at the meeting to continue to follow with interest and support the quake-stricken areas.

Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning also spoke at the meeting. Citing as an example the Guangzhou Municipal Government's successful handling of the snow disaster that hit large parts of China in early 2008, he expounded on the importance of improving local governments' risk management capability and the measures that should be taken to effectively cope with crises. □



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the UCLG World Council Meeting

People to People Friendship Warms People's Hearts

—Sidelights on China-DPRK Panglin Bringing Light Tour and China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour

Zhan Xiushuang

The year 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA) and the DPRK-China Friendship Association (DPRK-CFA), and also the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia. To celebrate these events and express the Chinese people's profound friendly sentiments towards the people of the two countries, the CPAFFC organized the China-DPRK Panglin Bringing Light Tour and the China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour respectively in September and November 2008, and sent famous oculists from the Beijing

Tongren Hospital to perform about 150 free cataract extraction operations for the local cataract patients of the two countries. I was privileged to take part in the two Bringing Light Tours and personally experienced the profound friendship between the people of China and those of the DPRK and Cambodia.

The Most Precious Birthday Present

During the China-DPRK Panglin Bringing Light Tour, the Chinese doctors successfully performed operations on 50 Korean cataract patients. There were many touching stories during the tour, among which one

story about a Korean girl left the deepest impression on me. Suffering from congenital cataract, since childhood the girl could not see clearly what her parents looked like, let alone the colourful world. Just before the operation, the girl suddenly said that it was her 16th birthday that day, and thanked the Chinese doctors for giving her the operation. Upon hearing this, the doctors and nurses around her were very happy. They expressed that it had a particular significance to perform the operation on the girl on her birthday, and comforted her by assuring that they would certainly cure her eyes. With concerted efforts of the doctors and nurses, the opera-

Chinese ophthalmologists performing an eye surgery on a Korean cataract patient





A Korean girl and her mother expressing their gratitude to the Chinese doctor who has restored the girl's eyesight, a present for her 16th birthday

tion was very successful. When she got off the operating table, she thanked the doctors and nurses time and again. Though at that time the girl could not see their faces, in her heart, these doctors and nurses from China were the most beautiful angels in white.

After the operation, accompanied by her mother the girl came back to the hospital for a check. Wang Ningli, vice president of the Beijing Tongren Hospital, personally gave the girl a checkup, and congratulated her after the checkup. The girl's mother was deeply moved and thanked the Chinese doctors and nurses many times. Upon taking leave, the girl uncovered the gauze on her eyes to see the doctor who performed surgery on her. When she saw the doctor, she took the hands of the doctor and began to cry before uttering a word. She said with e-

motion that this was the most precious birthday present she had ever received. In the future every time she celebrated her birthday, she would remember the angels in white from China. The doctors and nurses gave the girl souvenirs they had prepared for her and wished her good health and happiness in the future. The girl and her mother were so moved that they expressed thanks again and again and were reluctant to leave the hospital.

Patients' Family Members Serving as Volunteers

During the China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour, the Chinese doctors performed about 100 cataract extraction operations for Cambodian patients. There were many patients, most of whom came from the provinces around Phnom Penh. As their homes were

a bit far from Phnom Penh, some of the patients felt anxious and hoped to have operations done soon. When seeing the waiting room was a bit in disorder, a girl who accompanied her grandmother to see the doctor asked the doctors and nurses to let her serve as a volunteer to help keep order. After gaining their consent, the girl took up her position at the door of the clinic and helped the nurses arrange the registration forms and let the patients in accordingly from the beginning to the end of the operations, contributing greatly to raising the efficiency of the work. When the doctors and nurses said thanks to the girl after finishing operations, the girl's grandmother said excitedly, "You've come from such a faraway place Beijing to perform operations free for us and let us see light again. You did good and charitable deeds. We will remember forever that it is Chinese doctors who have cured our eye diseases."

Reluctant to Say Goodbye

During the Bringing Light Tours with busy and full schedule in the two countries, every day the Chinese doctors and nurses gave treatment to many patients and worked very hard, but they felt gratified that they could alleviate patients' suffering. On the last day of the operations, all the patients who had

Chinese Acrobatic Troupe in the Dominican Republic

Wang Qing

At the invitation of Margarita Cedeno de Fernandez, wife of the President of the Dominican Republic, a 52-member Chinese Acrobatic Troupe organized and sent by the CPAFFC made a performance tour of the Dominican Republic from December 15, 2008 to January 13, 2009 and gave 20 performances to an audience of over 40,000 people in the country's capital Santo Domingo and the second largest city Santiago.

The Dominican Republic located in the Caribbean Region and sharing an island with Haiti has a tropical maritime climate. To its north lies the Atlantic Ocean, and to its south the

Caribbean Sea. The country is surrounded by sea on its three sides. Its capital Santo Domingo bordering on the Caribbean Sea boasts vast beaches covered with soft white sands and crystal clear sea water glittering under the sunshine. The sea water over 100 meters away from the shore is less than 1.5 meters in depth. It is a paradise for sunbathers. Despite its location in the Tropics, due to its island climate and cool wind blowing from the Atlantic Ocean in the north and the Caribbean Sea in the south, the country is a great holiday destination enjoying equal popularity as Hawaii and Maldives. Winter is the warmest and the most com-

been operated on came back to the hospital for reexamination. There were grey-haired old men and women and also youngsters at their happy years of life. After the check, none of the patients left immediately. They were waiting to shake hands with and say thanks to the Chinese doctors and nurses who

had brought back light to them. The doctors and nurses shook hands with the patients and wished them a happy life in the future. Though it was only a few words of farewell and good wishes, all the people present were so moved that many had tears in their eyes. Parting is always a sad time. They all hoped

that time would stop and lingered long before parting. The president of Kim Man Yoo Hospital in Pyongyang said affectionately that the Chinese medical team with their superb medical skills and noble medical ethics had brought light to the Korean patients and enriched

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China-ASEAN Association Vice President Wu Tao (L.1) handing out souvenirs to the Cambodian cataract patients





Margarita Cedeno de Fernandez, the wife of the President of the Dominican Republic, with leaders and some performers of the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe

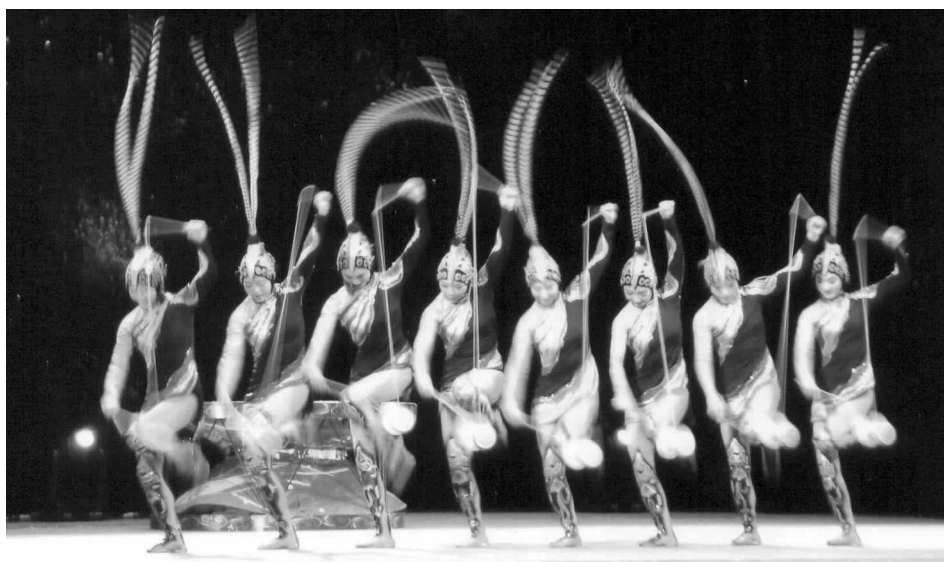
fortable season in the country. Every year during the Christmas holidays numerous North American and European tourists come here to enjoy sunshine and beaches.

The Dominican Republic has quite a few holidays in December such as the Children's Day, the Christmas Day, the New Year, etc. In order to let the youngsters have an unforgettable children's day and the people enjoy high-level traditional Chinese culture, the First Lady invited the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe to make a performance tour in the country. The Troupe was the largest Chinese cultural group that the Dominican Republic had ever received which made the longest performance tour and gave the biggest number of

shows in the country. The Dominican side attached great importance to the Troupe's performance tour, giving the troupe high-level reception and providing good conditions for its performances. The First Lady cordially met with the troupe's leaders and representatives of the performers and thanked them for bringing such excellent art to the Dominican people which is a generous holiday gift to the children.

The troupe had a strong lineup, and many of its programmes had won prizes at international or domestic competitions. The performers' superb acrobatic skills, the splendid lights and decor, and the bright and colorful costumes endowed the 3,000-year old traditional Chinese acrobatics with

Diabolo



China-Iran Friendship Association Founded

Xu Yan

The meeting of the First Council of the China-Iran Friendship Association (CIFA) and the inaugural meeting of the CIFA were held in Beijing on December 23, 2008.

The Council Meeting

The meeting of the First

Council of the CIFA was held in the auditorium of the CPAFFC on December 23, 2008. About 70 council members from China's ministries and commissions, local people's associations for friendship with foreign countries, the press and media, academic institutions, industry

associations and enterprises attended the meeting. At the meeting the Statutes of the CIFA and the list of the executive council members were approved, and its president, vice presidents and secretary general elected. Wang Meng, former cultural minister, became hon-

Leaders of the CIFA and the delegation of the Iran-China Friendship Association at the CIFA inaugural meeting



a flavour of the new era. The audience was almost conquered by the Chinese acrobats' excellent performances. During the performance cheers rose from time to time. When watching the astounding feats, the audience all held their breath and silence reigned in the theatre. When the performers succeeded in challenging extremes, the audience immediately gave them a thunderous applause. To many children the far-away China was an unfamiliar and mysterious country, and such magic performances filled them with curiosity about the country. After the performances they were reluctant to leave. With their thumbs up, they shouted "China". Simple words and gestures expressed the local people's admiration of China. The local

newspapers, radios, TV stations gave extensive coverage of the troupe's successful performances, setting off another China craze in the country after the Beijing Olympic Games.

The Dominican Republic has not yet established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Acrobatic Troupe's performance tour not only brought beautiful Chinese art to the local audience, but also expressed the Chinese people's friendly sentiments towards the Dominican people. This performance tour has enhanced friendship between the people of the two countries and provided a good opportunity for the Dominican people to familiarize themselves with the Chinese culture. □

20th Anniversary of Friendship-City Relations Between Guangzhou and Frankfurt Celebrated

He Guoyou

Guangzhou and Frankfurt established the friendship-city ties in 1988. The relationship has stood the test of time and drastic changes in the world, and traversed an extraordinary course. Over the last 20 years, exchanges between the two cities have reaped fruitful results in the fields of economy, culture, education, sports, etc. In 2008, with the joint efforts of both sides, mayors of Guangzhou and Frankfurt successfully exchanged visits and launched in their respective cities a series of activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their twinning in their respective cities, which has pushed their friendly relations to a new start-

ing point.

In April 2008, headed by Ms. Petra Roth, mayor of Frankfurt, and Mr. Karlheinz Buehrmann, president of the City Parliament Frankfurt, a large delegation consisting of representatives from the government, city parliament and circles of economy, trade and culture visited Guangzhou. "Frankfurt by the Pearl River"—Celebrations for the 20th anniversary of twinning between Guangzhou and Frankfurt were held. In her address at the opening ceremony, Mayor Roth said, despite the vast distance and diverse history and culture, people of the two cities have formed

orary president; CPAFFC President Chen Haosu its president; Fu Chengyu, general manager of the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, Feng Zuoku, CPAFFC vice president, Hua Liming and Liu Zhentang, former Chinese Ambassadors to Iran, and Yang Huaizhong, honorary president of the Ningxia Academy of Social Sciences, vice presidents; and Jia Ling secretary general.

Inaugural Meeting

On the evening of the same day, CIFA's inaugural meeting was held in the auditorium of the CPAFFC. All the members who attended the CIFA's first council meeting; Chian Javad Mansouri, Iranian ambassador to China; diplomats of the Irani-

an Embassy in China; some Iranians who stayed in Beijing, and Ahad Mohammadi, president of the Iran-China Friendship Association (ICFA), and his party who specially came to Beijing to attend the inaugural meeting, among over 90 people, were present at the meeting.

In his speech, CPAFFC and CIFA President Chen Haosu said, China and Iran are two big countries in Asia. China-Iran relations are of great importance to the stability and development of Asia. The two countries have a larger space of cooperation in the new century. The CIFA will make joint efforts with the ICFA to write a new chapter of friendship between China and Iran.

Iranian Ambassador Man-

souri said, both Iran and China are influential countries in the world. The ICFA and the CIFA, a bridge for strengthening contacts between the two peoples, play a vital role in the development of relations between the two countries. The Iranian Embassy in China will continue its support to the CPAFFC's work.

In his speech, ICFA President Ahad Mohammadi spoke highly of the efforts made by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu in initiating the CIFA, and expressed the hope that the ICFA and the CIFA would make concerted efforts to promote friendly cooperation in various areas and solve the problems existing in the tourist and financial fields between the two countries. □

a sincere and profound friendship with a common wish to enhance mutual understanding and friendship and seek cooperation and development. She hoped that Guangzhou citizens would fully experience the open and diversified cultures of Frankfurt through the celebrations “Frankfurt by the Pearl River”.

During the celebrations, the city of Frankfurt held 15 activities, including a symphony concert, Frankfurt Art Exhibition “Man and Environment”, the Exhibition of Works by Frankfurt Artists with disability, the Photo Exhibition “Goethe and the Flora World”, and sports games between Chinese and German schools, which covered the fields of economy, trade, culture, education and environmental protection. These activities aroused the enthusiasm of the people in Guangzhou to learn about Frankfurt.

In November 2008, the Guangzhou Municipal Government Delegation led by Mayor Zhang Guangning visited Frankfurt and held “Guangzhou by the Main”—Celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the twinning between Guangzhou and Frankfurt. Wide-ranging and multi-level exchanges and activities with strong Chinese elements also started a Guangzhou craze in Frankfurt in early winter.

On the morning of November 26, in the Emperor’s Hall inside Frankfurt City Hall, Mayor Zhang Guangning had a cordial meeting with Mayor Roth. They reviewed the development of friendly relations between the two cities and witnessed, together with over one hundred Chinese

and German personages, the signing of the agreements on the establishment of friendship-district relations between Yuexiu of Guangzhou and Nordend of Frankfurt, friendly and cooperative relations between the Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Guangzhou and the Frankfurt Economic Development GmbH, and cooperative relations between CCPIT Guangzhou Sub-Council and Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH. Later at the unveiling ceremony of the Five-Ram Statue presented by Guangzhou to Frankfurt, Mayor Zhang Guangning said that although separated by thousands of miles, Guangzhou and Frankfurt have had a close relationship for a long time and gained great achievements in friendly cooperation in economy and trade, culture and other areas. The agreements on economic and exhibition cooperation and the friendship-district ties will push the friendship-city relationship to a new stage, create new opportunities for the growth of economy and trade between Asia and Europe, and build a new platform for nongovernmental friendly exchanges.

During the celebrations, events such as the Guangzhou Modern Service Industry Promotion Conference and the Photo Exhibition “Guangzhou People’s Life” attracted even more attention. On the evening of November 26, the Guangzhou Gala was grandiously performed in Jahrhunderhalle in Frankfurt. With over 2,300 people present in the theatre, Mayor Zhang Guangning and Mayor Roth lit together a traditional Chinese lantern symboliz-

(Continued on p.21)

Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning and Frankfurt Mayor Petra Roth at the unveiling ceremony of the Five-Ram Statue, a gift from Guangzhou to Frankfurt



Chinese and Foreign Bird Lovers Watch Birds in Deyang

Shen Zaiwang

Invited by the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) and the Chengdu Bird Watching Society, 60 Chinese and foreign bird lovers went to Deyang, a city in Sichuan Province that had suffered grave damages in the Wenchuan earthquake, to watch birds, an activity for ecological reconstruction in the earthquake-stricken areas, on December 6, 2008. Dr. Sethapan Krajangwongs and Mrs. Jiraphan Vorapongse, economic and commerce consul of the Thai Consulate in Chengdu; Ms. Isabel Yeo, vice commerce consul of the Singaporean Consulate in Chengdu, and other 13 specialists and bird lovers from Germany, India, Brazil, the United Kingdom, France and the United States took part in the activity.

Thanks to its fully-developed geological structure and landforms, varied climate, lush vegetation and well-preserved ecological environment, Sichuan is endowed with rich bird resources and has more than 650 kinds of them. Of the 69 varieties of birds peculiar to China, the province is home to 37, ranking the first in the country. Deyang has a large variety of wild native birds and is an im-

portant winter home and stopover of migratory birds. It is one of the best cities for bird watching in Sichuan with over 100 kinds often sighted in the city proper.

Sichuan is accelerating post-quake reconstruction, which also includes ecological recovery. As the cold winter approached, the existence of wild animals drew people's attention. The bird watching held in Deyang provided a good opportunity for the specialists, scholars and bird lovers who were concerned about ecological restoration to conduct scientific study and make environmental appraisal.

Seeing flocks of water birds of various kinds swimming on the clear water surface, Sethapan Krajangwongs, a doctor of ecology and long-time bird lover from Thailand, could not help saying: "It's a feast for the eyes." Everybody was excited when seeing a pair of scaly-sided mergansers listed under Class-A state protection. According to the president of Chengdu Bird Watching Society, only one such bird had been spotted in Sichuan once before. Dr. Krajangwongs said emotionally that this showed that the ecological environment in the worst-hit quake areas was not

only recovering, but also improving.

Mr. Stephen Mohan, a doctor of biology from India said that he had not thought that there would be so many beautiful water birds in Sichuan, nor so many people who cared about the existence of birds and ecological recovery; and that as soon as he got back to school he would tell his students what he had seen and organize them to come to Sichuan to watch birds.

In a few hours, the Chinese and foreign bird lovers saw thousands of birds of about 30 varieties. It was a happy surprise to the foreign participants. They said that it was not rare to sight wild birds in mountains and forests, but to see so many rare birds in the central area of a heavy industrial city was indeed something extraordinary.

After the bird watching in the lake area, the foreign participants visited the office of the Deyang Bird Watching Society where they listened to the briefing given by bird watching societies of Chengdu, Deyang and Mianyang and viewed the websites of these societies. The Thai consuls said that they would publicize bird watching in Sichuan at the Consulate's

The Media Committee of the China-Republic of Korea Friendship Association was set up in Beijing on December 15, 2008. Together with the ROK press corps in China, it held a get-together of the Chinese and ROK media circles on the afternoon of the same day.

The Committee is composed of 22 people, most of whom are reporters of major Chinese media stationed in the ROK. Founded at a time when bilateral relationship between China and the ROK has been elevated to that of a strategic cooperative partnership and the heads of state of the two countries advocate and support exchanges between the media circles to increase mutual understanding and promote friendship between their peoples, the Committee aims to build a platform of cooperation, dialogue and consultation between the media circles of the two countries to strengthen their in-

China-ROK Friendship Association Media Committee Set up

Hong Lei

teraction and exchanges and increase trust and dispel doubts so as to serve the development of China-ROK relations.

Luo Haocai, president of the China-ROK Friendship Association and Shin Jung-Seung, ROK ambassador to China, among over 80 representatives from the Department of Asian Affairs and the Information Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ROK press corps, enterprises and research institutes in China, attended the launching ceremony of the get-together. □

Luo Haocai (centre in the front row), president of the China-ROK Friendship Association, with members of the Media Committee at the launching ceremony



website and organize a bird watching tour from Thailand to take part in the international bird watching festival in

Sichuan in May 2009. Mrs. Inge Dahm from Germany told a reporter from the *Sichuan Daily*: "I am relieved to see that people

in the quake-hit areas have pulled themselves together again and the ecology is recovering gradually." □

Sculpture of Han Suyin Unveiled

Dong Chun

Han Suyin is a famous Chinese British woman writer well known to the Chinese people. On August 29, 2008, the government of Canton of Valais and the nongovernmental Fondation Espace-Enfants of Switzerland erected a sculpture of Han Suyin in Saint-Pierre de

Clages, a small town and one of the European book villages. On the seat of the sculpture was carved Han Suyin's epigram expressing her lifetime aspiration: "I want to introduce universal human nature in my books". At the sculpture unveiling ceremony, the minister of

culture of Canton of Valais spoke highly of Han Suyin as an outstanding woman who takes literature as her bounden duty to promote friendship between the peoples of various countries. The 92-year-old Han Suyin accompanied by her family members attended the ceremony.

Han Suyin and her Swiss friend at the sculpture's unveiling ceremony



By erecting a sculpture of Han Suyin, the government of Canton of Valais wished to express gratitude to her for living on the bank of Lemman Lake and taking Switzerland as her home for several decades. The sculpture stands in Saint-Pierre de Clages, a small town with beautiful scenery. It is one of the 22 European book villages where discussions of various kinds on books are often organized. In the town there is a Roman styled church built in the 11th century. The sculpture under the shade of green pines in front of the church forming a delightful contrast to the brightly coloured glass windows of the church has become natural scenery of the ancient town.

The erection of the sculpture of Han Suyin by Switzerland has reminded people of the hard efforts made by Han Suyin in the 1980s to have a relief of

the late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai made in Paris. "Zhou Enlai is the most outstanding son of the Chinese nation." This is what Han Suyin often says to people. As early as in 1920, groups of Chinese youth went to France on work-study programmes in pursuit of revolutionary truth. Among them was Zhou Enlai who once stayed in a small hotel in Godefoy Street of the 13th District of Paris. Even today on the wall next to the entrance of the hotel is a memorial plaque—Zhou Enlai's relief head sculpture—for later generations to pay respect to.

Ms. Marie-Pierre Bay, former director of the Literature Department of les Editions Stock of France, confirmed to the author of this article that the advocator of making a memorial plaque for Zhou Enlai in Paris was Han Suyin. Ms. Bay is the publisher of Han Suyin's works in France. She recalled that one morning in the 1970s, she was suddenly waken up by a peal of telephone ring and heard Han Suyin's usual resolute voice: "Please come to see me immediately." So she hastened to see Han and learnt why Han was so urgent to see her.

Han Suyin's father was one of the Chinese railway engineers of the first generation, and her mother was from a Belgian noble family. At the time when Japan launched the war of aggression against China, Han Suyin was studying medicine in Belgium. On learning that her motherland was suffering from Japanese army's devastation,

she resolutely decided to return home: "China is my soul, my breath, my life!...Go back to the motherland! Nothing is more powerful than this strength of love!" Since then, she has never stopped for a moment caring about the destiny of China. In her contacts with the leaders of New China, Han Suyin respects Zhou Enlai particularly. In her later years, in order to write *Eldest Son: Zhou Enlai and the Making of Modern China*, she interviewed personages of various circles who had worked for and been close to Zhou Enlai, and also visited Paris to trace Zhou Enlai's life in France.

The place where Han Suyin met Ms. Bay for that appointment happened to be Godefoy Hotel in the 13th District of Paris where Zhou Enlai stayed when he was in France. Han Suyin was very familiar with Zhou Enlai's activities at that time. She gave Ms. Bay a detailed account of them and said that she wanted to have Zhou Enlai's head sculpture placed in his former residence in Paris. Han Suyin's proposal got positive response from the Chinese Embassy in France. After discussion between the Chinese and the French sides, the Paris Municipal Government invited Paul Belmondo, a noted sculptor of Auguste Rodin School, to make the head sculpture.

Paul Belmondo was already over 80 years old at the time. The senior artist said with emotion, "It is not an easy job to show Zhou Enlai's charisma.

I have drawn tens of Zhou's sketches and compared them repeatedly, trying to let more lights focused on Zhou's face so as to reflect the vitality and spirit of his inner world through light." In his meeting with the photographers sent to Europe by the Shanghai TV Station to shoot *In the Footsteps of ...*, a documentary about Zhou Enlai, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Paul Belmondo's son and famous film star, said, "Father said to us many times: 'Zhou Enlai and I are of the same age. It is a great honour in my life to make a head sculpture for such a great man.' The picture of Zhou Enlai provided by the Chinese Embassy was only a front face picture, which was very difficult for sculpting. Father took great pains with the sculpture composition and altered it many times." Finally a lifelike Zhou Enlai's relief head sculpture appeared in Godefoy Street. Han Suyin's long-cherished wish was realized.

Han Suyin's love for China remains unchanged all her life. Almost all her 30-odd works are related to China. Since the 1980s, her works have been successively introduced to China and translated into Chinese. They include *The Crippled Tree*, *Birdless Summer*, *A Mortal Flower*, *Eldest Son: Zhou Enlai and the Making of Modern China*, and etc. In 2007, the Shanghai Century Publishing Group introduced and translated *A Many-Splendoured Thing* into Chinese, making this classic novel about China writ-

Porcelain Builds Bridges of Friendship Between Chinese and Dutch

Xu Nianrui, Chen Ye

Porcelain is a major invention in ancient China. As early as in the Han Dynasty, the celadon ware was fired, which is as crystal and clear as jade. By the Tang Dynasty, the compact pure white porcelain was fired. Ceramics firing technology reached a mature stage. Joseph Needham, a well-known British scientist, honorary professor of the University of Cambridge and the author of *History of Science and Technology of China*, once said in his book: "The porcelain technology in Europe and the U.S. falls behind for 10 or 12 centuries, as compared to China". It was not until the 18th century that Jingdezhen porcelain technology of China was spread to Europe and compact pure white porcelain was produced there. Therefore, chinaware based on Jingdezhen porcelain was exported to Europe through the Silk Road as early as in the Yuan Dynasty. Kings, nobles and ministers in various countries of Europe regarded China's blue and white porcelain as a treasure more expensive than gold. Entrusted by the court, merchants from various countries ar-

rived in China to purchase or order Chinese porcelain. In the Ming Dynasty, to satisfy the needs in the European market, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Holland and other countries established East India Company successively, and sent out large numbers of merchant ships, which arrived in Guangzhou, China, specially to purchase chinaware, tea, silk and other handicrafts, making a 300 percent profit.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, among the various East India Companies of European countries, who bought Chinese porcelain and other commodities, Holland was the biggest purchaser for the longest time. In the 17th century, Holland developed into a ship-building leader in Europe, its fleets and merchant ships substituting gradually for those of Portugal and Spain and dominating the seas, and it became a great power in maritime trade. In 1610 (the 28th year of the reign of Emperor Wanli in the Ming Dynasty), Holland East India Company purchased 10,000 pieces of blue and white porcelain in Guangzhou, while the

ten by Han Suyin in English and enjoying popularity in the West for over half a century at last return to her motherland. The film adapted from the novel won three Oscar awards in 1956.

In 1986 Han Suyin set up "the Han Suyin Fund for Scientific Exchange between China and the West". Through this channel, many young scholars got a chance to visit and study in Europe, and have become the backbone of the relevant frontier disciplines. She also funded the Chinese Writers Association to create the "Nation-

al Rainbow Award for Best Literary Translation" (which is now the Lu Xun Literary Award for Best Literary Translation) to help develop literature translation in China. "Han Suyin Award for Young Translators" sponsored by the China International Publishing Group was also set up by Han Suyin. So far it has given out awards 20 times.

As for a long time Han Suyin has given lectures in many parts of the world and taken a just stand on many issues concerning China including the

Tibet issue and safeguarded the cause of the Chinese people, some anti-China forces in the West have attempted to isolate her and restrict the influence of her activities. The fact that now the Swiss people have erected a sculpture for her has actually returned justice to this gifted woman writer.

Now, the sculpture of Han Suyin is in Switzerland and the relief sculpture of Zhou Enlai in Paris, the two casting light upon each other from distance, symbolizing an eternal friendship. □

Li Fang, mayor of Jingdezhen, and Lian Merckx, vice mayor of Delft of the Netherlands, exchanging souvenirs

amount in 1614 increased to 70,000. According to the statistics compiled by European scholars based on the historical record of Holland East India Company, in the eighty years from 1602 to 1682 AD, Holland East India Company shipped 12 million pieces of chinaware, mostly Jingdezhen porcelain, from Guangzhou, China. In 1669 (the 8th year of Emperor Kangxi's reign in the Qing Dynasty) alone, the Company dispatched 190 merchant ships to Guangzhou to transport chinaware, silk fabrics, tea and other handicrafts, almost monopolizing trade between Europe and China at the time.

With the massive Chinese porcelain shipped to Europe continuously, the needs of European people were met. But the kings, nobles and ministers felt that though Chinese porcelain was incomparably fine in its decorative art, its forms, however, did not quite suit European lifestyle. So in 1635, the Dutch merchants, acting on the requirement of the imperial palace and the market demand, brought to Guangzhou drawings and wooden models of the earthenware household utensils that Europeans liked, such as lunch dish, pitcher, washbasin, small wine pot, double-handle vase, candlestick, etc., and invited Jingdezhen porcelain craftsmen to copy them according to the original patterns. The smart Jingdezhen craftsmen succeeded just by one trial-production, the customers were greatly satisfied, and hence orders came like snowflakes.

In the second half of the 17th century, the Dutch merchants, in accordance with the requirement of the imperial palace, wanted to draw Dutch landscapes and European pattern designs on porcelain. They brought famous paintings of the Dutch painter Rembrandt's and designs of



other artists' to Guangzhou, and specially assigned staff to Jingdezhen to invite the local craftsmen to draw and make porcelain according to the samples. Thus Jingdezhen craftsmen began to draw on porcelain Rembrandt's famous paintings, and Holland landscapes including windmill, Rotterdam streets, tulips, fishermen whaling in the North Sea, polar bear, walrus, etc. They were so vividly portrayed that customers were very contented and orders came in a steady stream. Ordering with samples lasted for over 40 years. The Dutch merchants slowly reduced their orders only when the royal porcelain factory in Delft city, Holland, succeeded in imitating Chinese blue and white porcelain and began to produce it in batches. Nevertheless, the beautiful Jingdezhen blue and white porcelain, rice-pattern porcelain and artistic porcelain still remained the favourites of the Dutch and Europeans. Praised as "white gold" by the Europeans, Chinese porcelains were exported to Holland and then sold to other European countries. They met the European needs and preferences, and introduced Chinese porcelain-making technology, thus impelling the development of the porcelain industry in Holland and Europe as a whole, and promoting friendly exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Dutch people. As early as in 1656 (the 13th year of the reign of Emperor Shunzhi in the Qing Dynasty), Holland sent envoy

Nieuhof to have an audience with Emperor Shunzhi to request for broadening trade. Later, he went to Nanjing to investigate the Porcelain Tower, and wrote a memoir after returning home. In 1794 (the 59th year of the reign of Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty), envoy Houekgoest was assigned to lead seven officials to China. On behalf of King William V, he presented a national gift to Emperor Qianlong, who gave in return refined high-quality porcelain vases and silks, and bestowed on the envoy and officials porcelains from the official kiln. From then on, friendly intercourse continued steadily. In the 17th century, through East India Company, Delft imported white glaze and pigment for blue and white porcelain from Jingdezhen and other places of China, and began to imitate the Chinese blue and white porcelain and make blue and white pottery with white glaze. The kingdom of the Netherlands also set up a Vice Consulate in Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province. In 1764, as a result of the spread of Jingdezhen porcelain technology to Holland, the "Delft Blue", a type of blue and white porcelain, came into being and became popular in the entire Europe.

After the People's Republic of China was founded, especially since the reform and opening up policy was adopted, friendly personages, resident officials in China, ceramic entrepreneurs and ceramic artists from Holland have visited China one after another, and new development has been witnessed in the friendship and the ceramic cul-

tural exchange between the two countries. In October 1980, Yan Changde, a Chinese Dutch and professor of a university in Holland, led a 6-person ceramic study group to visit Jingdezhen and investigate porcelain production. He signed with a ceramic export corporation for importing 27,000 pieces of high-quality Jingdezhen porcelain. In October 1983, Huang Ruipin, vice president of the Netherlands-China Friendship Association, Rotterdam Branch led a goodwill group to Jingdezhen once again to investigate ceramic production in China and carry on scientific and technological exchange between the two sides. In June 1986, Roland Vander Berg, the ambassador of the Netherlands to China, and his wife, visited Jingdezhen, which promoted friendship between the two countries.

In recent years, the China Jingdezhen International Ceramics Fair, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, the China National Light Industry Council, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Jiangxi Provincial People's Government, has been held 5 times in Jingdezhen. More than 300 ceramic districts from European, American, Asian and African countries have participated in the Fair. Dutch ceramic artists have also come to Jingdezhen for this grand event.

In October 2005, the famous Dutch ceramic artist Veide Hungue, participated in the Jindezhen International Fair, visited the Ceramic Museum and ancient kilns, and gave a skill demonstration

Richard Lannoye, deputy general manager of Royal Delft, making a speech at the opening ceremony of the 2008 China Jingdezhen International Ceramics Fair on behalf of foreign participants



Admiral Zheng He

— Legendary Chinese Navigator

R. Jinith de Silva (Sri Lanka)

In the school curricula of the recent past, we were taught of seafaring nations such as the Spanish, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the English and the French and of the feats of their navigators such as Columbus, Vascode Gama, Bartholomes Dias, Magellan, etc., but never of a Chinese navigator called Zheng He, who crisscrossed the Indian ocean and the Arabian Sea several times with a large fleet before these European navigators.

It is believed that Chinese navigators took to sea from the dawn of history. They have sailed up to the Red Sea, visiting

parts of Asian and Arabian countries mainly for trading purposes.

Chinese naval power was at its peak during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It reached its apex during the reign of Emperor Yong Le. He was a firm believer of trade and friendship with other countries and encouraged navigators to take to sea. He also encouraged ship builders to build big and strong vessels that could withstand extreme conditions.

Zheng He whose original name was Ma He, was a Muslim. First he was a general of the Emperor's army. The Emperor

developed a liking to him and made Zheng He an admiral of the Emperor's navy recognizing his abilities.

The Emperor not only changed his name to Zheng He, but also made him an ambassador at large and delegated him powers to represent the Emperor at the courts of the rulers of the countries he visited. His naval headquarters was stationed at the mouth of the Yangtze River close to Nanjing, then capital of China.

This pioneer navigator who was said to be daring, courageous, bold, imaginative and above all tenacious took

with the hope of further enhancing the friendship between Delft and Jingdezhen. In October 2007, Zhao Hui, deputy director of the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the Jiangxi Provincial People's Government, led the Jiangxi friendship cities delegation to visit Delft. Zhao Hui, and Liang Lili, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Jingdezhen Municipal People's Congress, had a friendly talk with Lian Merkx, vice mayor of Delft, on the establishment of friendship-city relationship between the two cities and reached consensus. From September 20 to 21, 2008, Bas Verkerk, mayor of Delft, led a delegation to visit Jingdezhen, had friendly talks with Yu Xiuming, vice mayor of Jingdezhen, and reached agreement on cooperation in education, scientific research and ceramic business, and signed a letter of intent on the establishment of

friendship-city relations between the two cities. Hence friendship and cooperation between the two cities entered a new phase. During the 2008 China Jingdezhen International Ceramics Fair, the royal porcelain factory in Delft was invited to participate in the exhibition. About 60 items of artistic ceramics of Delft Blue were on display, and a senior artist of the factory gave a demonstration. From October 17 to 21, 2008, Vice Mayor Lian Merkx, and Richard Lannoye, deputy general manager of Royal Delft, led a government delegation to take part in the Fair. On October 19, Mayor Li Fang and Vice Mayor Yu Xiuming of Jingdezhen had a cordial meeting with Lian Merkx and other members of the delegation. The ceramic exchange and friendly cooperation between China and the Netherlands have scaled a new height. □

part in seven voyages within a span of twenty eight years. These voyages were recorded in the books of the *History of the Ming Dynasty* and in *Xing Cha Shang Lan* written by Zheng He's interpreter Feixin.

These expeditions not only covered Asian regions but also extended up to the eastern coast of Africa and Red Sea. That means Zheng He extended the silk route up to eastern coast of Africa.

He undertook expeditions of this nature in years 1405, 1407, 1409, 1413, 1417, 1421 and 1431. For every expedition about 60 large ships built to a length of about 120 metres and a fortilla of about 150 small ships with 28,000 men took part. In six of his voyages he visited Sri Lanka and during one of his visits he held Pooja (a religious ceremony) at Sri Pada. The things that were offered at this Pooja were found in a inscription that was erected at the Galle harbour. Presently the said inscription is found at the Colombo museum. This was inscribed in Chinese, Persian and Tamil and among the things donated at the Pooja were some gold plates to light joss-sticks, silver, silk, porcelain and five pairs of golden lotus.

These sea adventures helped China for an enormous reawakening economically. In earlier times pepper was a scarce commodity and was used only in the preparation of medication. After the expeditions pepper was abundantly available in China and Chinese merchan-

dise such as porcelains, found a ready made market in the environs. It is said that as a result of these voyages there was a upward surge in the economic activities of the provinces of China. Nearly 1,000 porcelain factories had sprung up in Jingdezhen area. During this period Chinese porcelain was widely introduced to Southeast Asia, West Asia and Africa by him, and people in those countries it is said acquired a fondness for Chinese white and blue porcelain. Chinese porcelain was introduced to Europe by Muslim merchants from East Africa. Thanks to Zheng He, today Chinese porcelain is extremely popular in those countries.

Chinese silk also become a fashionable commodity among the elite of these countries and it is recorded that more than 500 new silk weaving centres sprung up in China.

It is said that the Asian countries too benefited from the visits of Zheng He. The spices from these countries found a ready made market in China.

On his return from voyages, Zheng He brought large numbers of treasures and lots of valuable things such as rhinoceros horns, ivory, perfumes, hawks bills, turtles, animals like giraffes and zebras which were gifts given by kings and tribal leaders along the way or commodities bartered with porcelain. The first giraffe gifted by Malindu of Kenya in 1414, thoroughly surprised and delighted the Ming court and Chi-

nese people.

It created what was called the "Giraffe Diplomacy". Countries vied with one another to present giraffes to win the favours of the imperial court of the Ming Dynasty.

With every return journey to China after the voyages, diplomatic missions from different countries comprising 50 to 60 and at times as large as 500 to 600 diplomatic personnel accompanied Zheng He to the imperial court of the Ming Dynasty.

Historical records show that in the 21st year of the reign of Emperor Yong Le, 12,000 such diplomatic personnel visited China with Zheng He.

Zheng He encouraged some of his men to remain in the countries he visited and marry local women. Specially he brought Chinese Muslims to settle down in Indonesia and a number of Chinese too migrated to other Asian countries as a result of his voyages. These people practiced various businesses such as textile, making food, traditional medicine clinics with massage doctors in the countries they domiciled. Their houses were similar to ancient Chinese architecture. In Sri Lanka also these Chinese people settled down in Galle, Colombo and Trincomalee.

He is considered a hero in China as well in some Asian countries. There are some places of religious worship named after him in Asia and East Africa. A beautiful mausoleum has been

(Continued on p.27)