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2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference Held in Shanghai

Our Staff Reporter

The 2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference under the theme of “City Cooperation Leads to a Better Life” convened in Shanghai September 8-10, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship-Cities Association (CIFCA) and hosted by the Shanghai Municipal Government. A total of 427 representatives from local governments, local governments’ organizations, friendship-city organizations and friendship associations in 47 countries as well as 144 Chinese local government officials from 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government) participated.

Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Confer-

ence (CPPCC), met with chief representatives from other countries and attended the closing ceremony. Yu Zhengsheng, Secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, attended and spoke at the opening ceremony. Cheng Siwei, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and Xu Kuangdi, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, attended the opening ceremony and gave keynote speeches at the panel discussions. Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Li Xiaolin, and Shanghai Vice Mayor Tang Dengjie participated in conference-related activities. The chief foreign guests included former US President Jimmy Carter, former Togolese

Prime Minister Edem Kodjo, Tonga Princess Piloevu Tuita and former French Prime Minister Alain Marie Juppe.

When meeting with chief foreign representatives, CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin spoke highly of the important significance of the conference. He analyzed the current international situation, briefed about China’s current economic and social development and its foreign policy, saying it could not develop in isolation from the rest of the world and the world could not enjoy prosperity and stability without China. It would unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening up and promote building a harmonious world, lasting peace and common prosperity. (See

Yu Zhengsheng, Secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, speaking at the opening ceremony

The conference in session



the report on page 5)

Addressing the opening ceremony, Yu Zhengsheng said a multi-polar world was making progress and economic globalization developing in depth; openness, cooperation, mutual benefits and win-win results had promoted understanding in the international community. The World Expo was currently being held in Shanghai and this fact showed that China sought a broad vision of “understanding, communication, happy gathering and cooperation” with the people of all countries. A conference that focused on the problems and challenges cities faced in the process of globalization and urbanization, and helping to spread advanced theories of city development, was of practical significance and conducive to deepening and elaborating the expo theme and promoting further development of the cause of international friendship cities.

These provided an important platform for cities of China and elsewhere to conduct bilateral and multi-lateral exchanges and cooperation. The development of international friendship-city ties was an important indicator of the level of a city’s openness, inclusiveness, civilization and prosperity. Shanghai was in the vanguard of China’s opening up and reform and also a pioneer in promoting friendship-city ties, actively carrying out cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, science, technology, culture, sports and personnel exchanges. It has established 69 pairs of friendship-city relations and friendly-exchange ties with its counterparts in 52 countries. As it is now accelerating the process of building itself into an international economic, financial, trade and shipping center and a modern international metropolis, it urgent-



ly needed to learn successful experience of city development from other countries. Yu hoped that the participants would give suggestions and contribute their wisdom to its development.

Addressing the opening ceremony, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said friendship, cooperation, peace and development were the four major purposes of China’s people-to-people diplomacy. Through the important platform of the International Friendship Cities Conference it hoped to join friends from different cities, lo-

calities and nations to discuss problems facing city development, exchange experience of success and find solutions for development problems. (See the full text on page 6)

In their speeches, former US President Jimmy Carter and former French Prime Minister Alain Juppe spoke highly of the efforts made by the CPAFFC and the CIFCA for promoting international friendship-city ties and enhancing friendship among the people of the world. Carter said countries all across the world currently faced such difficulties and chal-



Peter Woods, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific Regional Section, leaving a comment on the guestbook after visiting the Exhibition “Better Cities Through Cooperation”. First from right is CPAFFC President Chen Haosu

lenges as climate change, shortage of resources, urban poverty, cultural friction, war, diseases, etc. The solution of these issues needs countries across the world to transcend national boundaries, closely linked up, make greater joint efforts and strengthen cooperation and exchanges so as to together realize peace and sustainable development of the world. The friendship cities conference provides a good platform for exchanges.

Chinese and foreign participants at the conference discussed and studied such topics as how to tackle the global financial crisis, urban environment protection, energy conservation and emission reduction, exploration and utilization of new energy resources, urban infrastructure construction, public transportation, new city brand creation and construction of community cultural, sports, health and sanitation facilities.

While cities are enabling the people to enjoy a good life, they also give rise to many acute difficulties and challenges such as population ex-

plosion, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, climate change, resource scarcity, urban poverty, cultural friction, employment difficulties, etc. To realize city harmony and sustainable growth is a prominent and pressing issue. In their panel speeches, Cheng Siwei, Xu Kuangdi and Alain Juppe all elaborated the relationship between sustainable development and human survival, pointing out that human progress should be made by relying on advancement of science and technology, maintaining an ecologically friendly lifestyle and in a manner of sustainable development.

Everyone agreed that cities in countries across the world shared common responsibility for economic growth, public service, city management and environmental protection. International friendship-city activities can help cities strengthen cooperation, open new areas of cooperation, learn from each other successful experience in urban construction and explore new roads for urban development. They

can help cities increase their strength for sustainable growth and promote countries in the world to rejuvenate their economy and develop cultural and social undertakings along the road of development they choose, thus, further improving their people's well being.

During the conference a signing ceremony was held for the newly-twinning friendship cities of Xi'an of Shaanxi Province and Cuenca City of Ecuador, Jinzhong of Shanxi Province and Hoi An City of Vietnam, Jincheng of Shanxi Province and Cacadu City of South Africa and Jiading District of Shanghai and Hauraki City of New Zealand. From the first pair of international friendship cities twinned in 1973 to September 8, 2010, altogether 1,721 pairs of friendship-city relations or friendship-province/state relations between China and 126 countries were established.

At the conference the friendship-city exchange and cooperation award to foreign cities (provinces or states) that have twinned friendship-city or friendship-province/state ties with their Chinese counterparts was set up for the first time in recognition of the outstanding contributions to exchanges and cooperation with their Chinese counterparts made over years. Eighty provinces, states and cities of 22 countries received awards. The friendship-city exchange and cooperation award was conferred to 30 Chinese provinces and cities, and special contribution award to 7 provinces and cities.

During the conference, four bilateral regional forums, namely China-Africa, China-the United States, China-Latin America and the Caribbean, and China-Canada and Oceania Region forums were held. □

CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin Meets with Representatives Attending China International Friendship Cities Conference

Our Staff Reporter

On September 10, Jia Qinglin, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met with chief representatives of local governments and friendship cities organizations from more than 40 countries and from Chinese local governments and friendship cities organizations.

He noted that the 2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference was being convened at a time when the World Expo was being held in Shanghai and both focused on the same theme of a better city-based life. The success of the conference had not only enriched the Expo's connotation, but had spread and carried forward its spirit and concept, and also promoted the progress of the cause of

international friendship cities and world peace.

International friendship cities activities had expanded from initial bilateral cooperation to multilateral cooperation with the areas of cooperation extending from politics, economy and trade to culture, education, urban construction, environmental protection and personnel exchanges. These activities greatly boosted exchanges and cooperation among cities of various countries in the various fields, enhanced understanding and friendship among different peoples and made important contributions to promotion of unity and progress of humankind. The friendship-city relations between China and other countries over 37 years had become an important bridge and platform for China to develop and consolidate bilateral relations and carry out multilateral and regional coop-

eration, and enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and other countries.

The Chinese Government attached great importance to the international friendship cities activities, encouraged local governments to conduct substantive exchanges and cooperation with their foreign counterparts, build platforms for exchanges and cooperation such as the international friendship cities conference, actively explore new areas of cooperation, seek new ways of cooperation and foster new points for the development of this cooperation. Cities in various countries should conduct cooperation in a friendly, practical and reciprocal manner, improve substantial exchanges in an all-round way, enhance understanding and friendship among peoples so as to promote civility and prosperity of cities and



Speech by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu at the Opening Ceremony

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), I'd like to express our profound respect to our state leaders present here today, a sincere welcome to the delegates and guests representing various cities in China and other countries around the world, and, finally, cordial greetings and heartfelt thanks to all the friends who have over the years made unremitting efforts to the development of the cause of international friendship cities.

The theme of our conference, "City Cooperation Leads to a Better Life", is obviously highly relevant the

Shanghai World Expo slogan "Better City, Better Life". While we are using the platform of the Expo to convene our conference, we wish to extend our warm congratulations on the successful, exciting and unforgettable Expo.

We wish to combine the four major aims of China's people-to-people diplomacy i.e. friendship, cooperation, peace and development with the common desire of mankind i.e. building a harmonious world. On the important occasion of the International Friendship Cities Conference, we can join our friends from different cities, localities and nations to discuss issues facing city development, exchange experience of success, and find solutions to development prob-

lems. Making use of the stage of the Shanghai World Expo which reflects global wisdom, focuses international perspectives, and spreads advanced concepts, we also wish to create more exchange and cooperation opportunities for the common development and prosperity of the cities in the world, explore more new areas for the exchange and cooperation between cities, and instill freshness and vitality to the enhancement of understanding and friendship between the people in the cities of all countries. In the course of globalization, local governments and cities of all countries have actively carried out their external contacts, and international friendship-city activities have developed from bilat-

achieve common development and progress.

In briefing on China's economic and social development, Jia said that, over the past 60 years since the founding of the PRC, and in particular three decades or so of reform and opening up, China had made outstanding achievements that captured worldwide attention in its economic and social development. Earthshaking historic changes had taken place. Its comprehensive national strength had increased markedly and people's life had constantly improved. Reforms were being carried out in every sector and new achievements made in all aspects of the country's modernization

drive. Now, China, with its economic aggregate ranking third in the world, had become the world's largest and most influential emerging economy. But, it remained a developing country. By the end of 2009, its per capita GDP was US \$3,700, 30% of the world's average level. Measured by the UN standard of US\$1.25 per person per day, China still had 150 million people living in poverty. Its economic and social development was unbalanced between urban and rural areas and among regions. There existed acute structural imbalance in economic and social development and many "short boards" hindering development. It would take the Chinese

people several decades of unremitting efforts to achieve common prosperity and realize modernization.

On China's foreign policy, China unswervingly followed the path of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening up and would strive to build a harmonious world featuring lasting peace and common prosperity.

Yu Zhengsheng, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee; Han Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai; Chen Haosu, CPAFFC President, and Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC Vice President, were present at the meeting. □

eral cooperation to multilateral collaboration; the cooperation content, meanwhile, has been extended from politics, economy and trade to culture, education, talents, city construction, environment protection, and low carbon economy and so on. Up to the present 21st century, international friendship-city activities have helped ensure the sustained prosperity of city diplomacy, and exerted significant impact on international exchange and cooperation.

China's international friendship-city work started in 1973. It has received much care and great support from the central government, state leaders and all social circles. With the deepening of China's reform and opening up, the number of Chinese friendship cities has rapidly increased, and their quality has been improved. So far, China has established 1,717 pairs of friendship-city (province/state) relations with 126 countries in five continents. Thirty Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and 369 cities have participated in the movement. Their external counterparts include 394 provinces, states, regions and prefectures and 1,216 cities. International friendship-city activities have become the principal channel for Chinese localities and cities to have exchange with other countries and the main content of city diplomacy with Chinese characteristics. It is playing an irreplaceable role in our socialist modernization drive.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Cities in all countries and regions are the center of economy, politics, culture, education, science and technology, and, on the whole, they give expression to the State's comprehensive strength and global com-

petitiveness. Along with industrialization and urbanization, 50 percent of world's total population now lives in cities. This figure is predicted to climb to 70 percent by the end of 2050. The rate of urbanization in China has already exceeded the world average. This means that, in China alone, urban population growth will reach 10 million to 12 million per year. While the cities are enabling people to enjoy good life, they also give rise to many serious problems and challenges such as population growth, traffic congestion, environment pollution, climate change, resources scarcity, urban poverty, cultural friction, employment difficulty, etc. To realize city harmony and sustainable growth has become a prominent and urgent issue facing all nations. It is, therefore, especially important to strengthen cooperation between cities, to blaze new fields for cooperation, learn from each other successful experience in city construction, explore new road for city development and enhance the city development sustainability.

On the basis of "stressing friendship, stressing practical results and stressing mutual benefit", we wish to promote the exchange and cooperation in economic, political, cultural and social fields so as to enhance people's friendship, safeguard world peace, and advance common development.

The successful convening of the Shanghai World Expo proves to the people of the whole world the fact that city is playing a remarkable role in boosting the progress of civilization. The development of cities is the



driving force of social progress, and city cooperation is a major stage of international cooperation. In the new century, international friendship cities have formed a large family of mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win, and permeated with affection and love. Let us join hands and strive for the realization of the grand goal of the friendship cities cause, and work even harder to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. Let us share the success and glory of the Shanghai World Expo, and welcome better life and bright future. □



Opening Ceremony Speech by Former Togolese Prime Minister Edem Kodjo

My theme is “Strategic Thinking for the protection of the urban environment, energy conservation and reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, the exploration and use of new energy sources”.

Behind these statements, it is the question of human survival on our planet. Our various projections of the coming decades suggest a disaster, given the current damage that we have caused and the consequences of which now seem all too predictable.

Another reason for our anxiety comes from the common and recurring reminders and violence of nature. We still recall the appalling earthquake in Haiti, torrential rains in Mexico, devastating mudslides in Portugal and the melting of the polar ice caps — events in which we seem

to be “powerless” witnesses. The consequence of all this is palpable rising waters and tsunamis whose tragic experiences of Sumatra and Aceh in Indonesia, are permanently etched in our memories and raise serious questions we must answer. If human does not respond, it means at least the destruction of the economic fabric of our countries, at worst, the destruction of life on Earth. Former US Vice President Al Gore, in the documentary entitled “An Inconvenient Truth”, demonstrates forcefully that all signals are at red and that humanity and life on Earth are hanging by a thread, if by behavior we continue to accelerate global warming.

Protection of the Urban Environment

The growth of population in

cities—Beijing in 2010 has 19 million inhabitants, New York 26 million, Cairo 16 million, Lagos 12.5 million, Rio 12 million, Paris 12 million (all in round figures)—is accompanied by various requirements that municipal authorities are facing. They have to respond to such primary and practical needs as housing, transportation, employment, treatment of domestic and industrial waste, the production of drinking water, etc. New technologies allow us to propose various solutions. But solutions based on definite situations, unfortunately, is not without brutal consequences for the environment. How to make the difficult choice between food, clothing, comfortable living and protection of nature?

There is really not much choice, and we must do both simultaneously, with discernment and a lot more wisdom than hitherto. Every choice we make must reflect the will to take care of nature and our environment, even the planet. Some subjects such as quality of the air we breathe, the mode of agricultural production, safe drinking water we provide to people, the type of insulation material or ventilation we use in the construction of our homes are concerns that must now guide the urban projects, from conception to realization. Are plastics, glass and paper that we use everyday recyclable? Will the exhaust gases from our cars and electric ap-



pliances saturate the urban environment?

City life in future will, of course, be different from now. We must learn to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Conserving Energy and Reducing Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

The international community, through the Kyoto Protocol that 182 countries have ratified, has set a target of the reduction of six kinds of greenhouse gases as below:

- Carbon dioxide,
- Methane
- Protoxyde of azote,
- Hydrofluocarbons,
- Sulfur hexafluoride
- Perfluorocarbons

Indeed, according to the World Meteorological Organization, nine of the ten warmest years in the world since 1860 have occurred since 1990. Global warming is not inevitable, and even less the effect of the anger of gods. It can be controlled.

Reducing energy consumption is the most effective way to reduce GHG emissions, which would add to financial gains. In this regard, acts as simple and practical as to be taken now in our homes and our workplaces: using energy saving light bulbs under 60 watts, modernizing our heating installations, not using the instant water boilers except when really necessary, washing the dishes in the sink, not under running water, and trying to plug in the electrical equipment only when necessary as a computer needs about 150 watts to run and printers are even more greedy, using about 300 watts. If possible use the stairs instead of the elevator, and take advantage of natural light as much as possible. This should be done immediately since ev-

ery bit counts.

It is also recognized in many industrialized countries that the automobile is the biggest polluter, followed closely by industry. It is also established by rigorous studies, that the auto pollutants have an impact on health. Thus, dioxins are the basis of the occurrence of cancers, sulfates the cardiovascular diseases, nitrates the respiratory diseases, and ozone the mortality, respiratory diseases and irritation of the eye.

According to the OECD, two-thirds of the efforts need to be made in environmental technology. The manufacture of hybrid (gasoline-electric) automobile is part of the current solutions and more and more automobile manufacturers with competitive imagination will come to conquer this new market. The ultimate invention is a 100% electric car with 0% emission of carbon monoxide. Although it is not yet popular among consumers, it is economical, with less pollution and is surely one of the perspectives that we can already celebrate. That is one reason that encourages the exploration and use of new technologies to continue.

The Exploration and Use of New Technologies

We know about the fossil energy, such as coal, oil and natural gas, the three raw materials from living matter, plant or animal. Today, nuclear energy is one way to meet demand even though for many it remains a last resort.

Everyone is aware of the need to invest in green energy to deal with the free movement of people, which induces a need for mobility and growing energy demand. There is in this area a vast field of opportunities and choice: solar power, wind power,

hydropower to name just a few. We need the real involvement of policy makers to choose a different orientation of future development. Therefore, instead of an urban transport policy which increases the expressways around our cities, we should give priority to railways, water-borne transport, tramcars and public transport service.

Africa is not excluded from this fight. With the support of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), a specialized agency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was founded on July 6, 2010 in Cape Verde.

Yoshiteru Uramoto, Deputy Director General of UNIDO, said, "The current energy system in ECOWAS cannot meet the growing demand of 262 million inhabitants of the region, particularly the needs of the poorest. The creation of this center is a key step in the efforts to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and the energy efficiency technologies throughout the region. Investing in renewable energy and applying energy efficiency technologies will contribute to economic and social development of the region, while preserving the environment."

Ladies and gentlemen, with six billion people on the planet and more and more people moving into cities rather than rural areas, it's not a choice but something we should be conscious and deal with wisely with existing ways, while we are thinking about our children, their children's children and all those generations who have not yet but will surely be born on whichever the continent you are and wherever on earth. □

Speech by Tonga Princess Pilolevu Tuita At the Opening Ceremony

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be here again in Shanghai, in this energetic and ageless city, and in particular to participate in a conference that promotes the opportunity for a better tomorrow through the collective cooperation of individuals and organizations present here today. I am especially delighted to speak at this conference as the theme focuses on city cooperation for a better life. This is a concept that is personally familiar to me as the Tongan way of life, and indeed the Pacific way of life, is a family orientated and community founded way of life, where the individual's obligations to the immediate and extended family, and of course the broader community, is of paramount value in defining a successful and productive life. It's a way of life where we rely on and take care of each other. It's a way of life that suggests no one person, community, or indeed a country for that matter, is big enough to be independent of each other. This is the perspective I wish to emphasize in the spirit of the conference theme.

The very notion of working together across countries is made more profoundly important when we consider the global issues we face together as peoples of the one global constituency. As we can all appreciate, governments across the world are responsible for a great number of public services for their citizens, whether it is education, health, private sector development, or waste management,

these services make up an essential component of improving the standard of living, or quality of life, for citizens.

This responsibility was recognized at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, the largest gathering of world leaders in history and where



our leaders committed their nation to a new global partnership to combat and reduce extreme poverty; hunger and disease; and to reduce the inequalities between developed and developing countries. The outcome of this summit is enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals, a set of 8 objectives to be achieved by 2015. These objectives are about people and human development. The aim to improve human well being through improving access to clean water and proper sanitation; basic health and education services; equal employment opportunities, safe, clean and secure

living environments. This is a tall order for most governments around the world, and in particular the developing countries. The Millennium Development Goals can indeed be achieved, although it requires a whole of society effort to work in unison and contribute to the development of their own country and in particular to those less fortunate. This is, in my view, where Sister City arrangements or City Cooperation can greatly contribute to economic and social development.

For Tonga, a Sister City arrangement would provide complimentary assistance to the development efforts undertaken at a national level. This was recognized by the Tonga-China Friendship Association, and as a consequence has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Fuqing City as a Sister City of the Tonga-China Friendship Association in Tonga. For the Tonga-China Friendship Association, we see our Sister City arrangement as a prominent partnership that can assist in all of Tonga's priority development areas, but especially in the areas of

1. Rejuvenating the primary economic sectors of tourism; agriculture and fisheries; and
2. Investing in renewable energy sources and energy efficient mechanisms to reduce dependency on diesel fuel.

From a people to people friendship perspective, a deepened understanding and cooperation cannot be

Sustainable Development, Priority of Cooperation Between French and Chinese Local Governments

Alain Juppe (France)

In the context of crisis which we face today, in France as well as in China and around the world, it can be tempting to adopt a posture of withdrawal: withdrawal into national borders, and withdrawal based on the revenue of the conventional economy, abandoning the turning point that we were reaching out for in terms of more sustainable development.

Cities are places witnessing the problems of development, but they are also formidable experimental laboratories where the solutions to these problems are found. And because, it is not always in the richest countries where the best solutions are developed most creatively, everyone has the greatest interest in resisting the

temptation to retreat, as well as taking the opportunity to listen to others, to facilitate the exchange of good practices in all directions, east and west, from south to north.

Cities have demonstrated that they were often ahead of governments in this regard. Last December in Copenhagen, when our governments struggled hard to find agreement on fighting climate change, I attended a meeting of more than sixty mayors of large cities in the world who had shown by example that it was possible to achieve ambitious targets to slow and hopefully stop the mechanism of climate change.

From this, I found the expression of enthusiastic commitment of their

people who are a real driving force towards building a more balanced world. At the city level, the awareness among all citizens, that their urgent environmental and behavioral changes imply, is a refreshment of sincerity and spontaneity, which contrasts with the complex power struggles and calculations in which the delegates of governments meeting at COP-15 were involved.

Personally I add my voice to all citizens of the world who still depend on the upcoming negotiations at COP-16 in Cancun, Mexico in late November, for the simple and strong message of the citizens conveyed to their senior representatives to overcome resistance and to transform into

underestimated. It can provide the critical bridges for overcoming differences and enhancing mutual trust and respect, which will lead to greater unity and confidence of society to pursue progress and prosperity for all. This is the need that spearheads our desire to partner with China at a people to people level and engender assistance through city cooperation.

Sister City arrangements present a dynamic potential to reach all parts of the community. It has the opportunity to change lives and bring about a better tomorrow through sharing our combined resources and knowledge.

It can strengthen economic cooperation; it can deepen cultural understanding; and it can provide a model for long term sustainable partnership at a people to people level. Most importantly, it is a model for allowing individuals and communities to take active participation in deciding the development of their community and the opportunity to create a brighter future for their children. This ideal is perhaps best captured in the way that the celebrated philosopher Bertrand Russell put it, "Contacts between different civilizations have often in the past proved to be landmarks in human progress." As history has shown us,

human progress and development have come to fruition through great sacrifice and even greater innovation. It is perhaps our time in history for extending our imagination and to think boldly as we consider throughout the conference the challenges we collective face.

In closing, I extend heartfelt appreciation to the organizers for the invitation to participate in this prestigious opening ceremony and conference. I wish the conference great success and productive exchange as we deliberate on how City Cooperation may indeed create a Better Life for all. □



a historic agreement, the hopes expressed by their people.

However, I will continue to work with people of Bordeaux and the Bordelais to find the ways of “happy modesty”, the moderation of behavior in terms of consumption, pollution, social disruption and governance; as Confucius said: “That which makes prosperity of country, it is not wealth, but it is justice”.

We work in Bordeaux especially according to our Agenda 21, which has been developed in consultation and gives visibility and coherence to our sustainable development policies. But I am well aware that we will work even better through cooperation with other cities of the world. Of course we do so bilaterally with partner cities such as Quebec, Fukuoka, Los Angeles, Munich, St. Petersburg, Casablanca, or, in China, Wuhan where I have just spent two days to sign a new program of action involving 40 partnerships, targeting cooperation priority for sustainable development: environment technologies, urban planning, management of lakes, waste treatment, energy efficiency, social innovation, carbon schedule, etc.

Of course, Bordeaux also participates in dialogues of much larger communities such as among ICLEI network members, or of United Cities and Local Governments.

But today I’d like to share with you a very specific idea of cooperation with China, which was launched by the city of Bordeaux several years ago, and has continued its path with great success: meetings of local governments’ cooperation between France and China.

When I was Foreign Minister from 1993 to 1995, I worked hard for the cooperation between local governments to be structured legally and “city diplomacy” playing an important role alongside state-level cooperation. We have thus created in France the National Commission on Cooperation of Local Governments, chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising representatives of cities, counties and regions of France, as well as representatives of ministries concerned with international cooperation, such as the ministries of foreign affairs, economy, culture and education.

Bordeaux has a seat in the National Commission, where it repre-

sents all French cities. In addition, Bordeaux has helped to create a “China Committee” which I chair, with the aim of facilitating dialogue between French and Chinese local governments.

It is with this objective that I proposed, in 2001, that Bordeaux should organize for the very first time, large community meetings between the two countries. Eventually the idea took shape in 2005 with the support of foreign ministries of both countries.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of President Chen Haosu, and Mr. Jacques Valade, whom I’d like to salute here, the city of Bordeaux and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries gathered in Wuhan with representatives of 40 local governments across China and 40 from all over France for the First China-France Forum, discussing the themes of environmental protection, economic development and urban management, with dynamic and original ideas.

In the panels of the forum, it was forged as a common conviction among the participants that the issue of sustainable development was a priority for cooperation between French and Chinese cities.

On this basis, the Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation was held in Bordeaux in 2007 with the theme of “Towards a harmonious society through sustainable development”. I was pleased on this occasion to welcome political leaders from more than 100 local governments of both countries, and in total 850 representatives of 180 organizations—primarily economic, but also educational and other associations—who attended the two-day forum. More than 80 participants made contributions in the pan-

Premier Wen Meets with ROK and Chinese Children

Han Guangming Wu Yu

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a group consisting of 20 orphans from the Republic of Korea organized by the Korea-China Friendship Association of Culture and Economy (KC-FACE) paid a visit to Beijing and had friendly exchanges with Chinese children from the Wenchuan and Yushu earthquake-hit areas of Southwest China from June 9 to 13. This activity was the sequel of last year's visit to the ROK by a 20-member delegation of teenagers from the Wenchuan area led by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin on the first anniversary of the

devastating earthquake. On the afternoon of May 17, 2009, ROK President Lee Myung-bak and his wife cordially met with the Chinese delegation and children from ROK orphanages at the Cheongwadae Presidential Palace. The deep friendship forged in Seoul between the children of the two countries led to this year's get-together in Beijing.

In order to let the ROK orphans and Chinese children from the earthquake-hit areas have a good knowledge about China's long history and culture and the brilliant culture of

China's ethnic groups, the CPAFFC arranged rich and colorful activities such as a sightseeing tour of the Palace Museum, the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and Tiananmen Square as well as watching a Chinese acrobatic performance. When Premier Wen Jiabao learned of the activity, he kindly invited the children to Zhongnanhai on the afternoon of June 11. Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC Secretary General Luo Qin, ROK Ambassador to China Yu Woo-ik and Minister-Counselor of the

els, thus, an in-depth dialogue was created. Everyone showed good confidence with each other; no one had come to give lessons: "It's better at home," instead, each came modestly to find specific areas of cooperation, including some very new fields of cooperation such as the integration of vulnerable population groups (the elderly, the handicapped), ethnic minorities, participatory democracy, etc.

During the meetings, new agreements were signed between the Centre Region and Jiangxi Province, the Burgundy Region and Heilongjiang Province and the city of Tours and the city of Shangrao. Cooperation projects were launched between Lille, Nantes and Shenyang, Qingdao, as well as between the Auvergne Region and Liaoning Province.

The proceedings of these meet-

ings were recorded and I have brought a few copies of the DVD for those who want to learn more about it.

Shortly after, the French and Chinese Governments signed a framework agreement for sustainable urban development cooperation. And I am delighted that this agreement has recently found its first practical application, in Wuhan.

As I said in my introduction, cities are often ahead of the governments! This adventure of High Level France-China Forum on Local Government Cooperation still continues. Recently the third meeting held in Nanjing was a great success, and the next is already scheduled for 2014 in France.

So, my dear friends, this dynamic experience of cooperation which is a bit special is what I want to testify about before you. Local governments

are the heart, the engine and the beneficiaries. And it is not a mere coincidence that the dynamic theme of sustainable development has emerged as the priority of local governments' cooperation between France and China.

I hope this experience will inspire you to rise to meetings for cooperation of local governments between China and the U.S., China-Japan, China-Russia, etc. And that these meetings will allow everyone to find, to quote Mr. Chen Haosu, "the best possible balance in the relations between men, and the relationship between man and nature."

The author is the Mayor of Bordeaux, Chairman of the China Committee of French National Commission for Local Governments Cooperation. He served as French Prime Minister from 1995 to 1997.



Two girls of Qiang ethnic group presenting a vest to Premier Wen Jiabao

ROK Embassy in China Shin Bong-sup were also present.

A total of 20 Korean children from three orphanages and 19 Chinese youngsters, including orphans, from the Sichuan and Qinghai earthquake-affected areas were welcomed.

At about 3 o'clock, as Premier

Wen appeared, the Chinese and Korean children in colorful national costumes cheerfully flocked to his side. Premier Wen amiably inquired about their life and study. When he learned that a Tibetan boy had lost three of his family members in the earthquake, his eyes were filled with tears.

“What’s your name?” Premier Wen bent forward and asked a Korean boy standing next to him. “My name is Kim Jee-eun. I am a boy. I am a pupil.” The boy answered in virtually the only Chinese he knew without stopping. It set everybody laughing. Premier Wen’s kindness quickly dispelled any suggestion of formality. The youngsters eagerly extended their greetings to him.

Surrounded by the young visitors, Premier Wen walked towards the hall for receiving foreign guests. He had not gone many steps before he suddenly stopped, and then looked around, asking, “Zhixiu, where is Zhixiu?” An aide took Duan Zhixiu, a student of Beichuan Middle

School, up to Premier Wen. The Premier took her hand and asked her how she was, and then gently held her arm as they walked slowly into the reception hall.

Duan Zhixiu lost her left leg in the Wenchuan earthquake. Premier Wen visited her when she was in hospital and wrote the following words to encourage her, “Hold high your unyielding head and straighten up your unbending back.”

The reception hall, decorated with colorful balloons and ribbons, did not look as solemn and formal as usual and was permeated with a rich festive atmosphere.

Premier Wen looked at the painting entitled *Bright Future* presented to him by Hwang Da-hye, a 12-year-old Korean girl, saying, “It’s a nice painting. Green represents vitality and children represent the future and hope.”

After taking their seats, some children began to whisper to each other, and some held hands. These Chinese and Korean children did not feel at all strange.

Li Xiaolin told those present about the background to the activity. In May last year, at the invitation of the KCFACE, she led a group of 20 orphans from Sichuan earthquake-affected area to visit the ROK, though

Korean children giving a demonstration of Taekwondo



at that time she was in wheelchair and suffered pain due to an ankle injury.

KCFACE Chairwoman Kim Young-ae briefed about the friendly exchanges with China carried out by her association in recent years and particularly highlighted the fruits of its cooperation with the CPAFFC. She said that her association would make great efforts in future to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation between the ROK and China. She told Premier Wen proudly that, through these two successful activities, “The Chinese children call me ‘Momma Kim’, and the Korean children call CPAFFC Vice President Li ‘Momma Li’.”

Kwon Cho-hwi, a 14-year-old Korean girl twinned with a girl from Sichuan in the last year’s activity, recalled: “In May last year, I spent a happy time with the children from the Sichuan earthquake-hit area during their stay in my country. Though we didn’t understand each other’s language, we knew each other’s feelings, for we had suffered the same misfortune. In the future, I must study hard and strive to become a good person that can help others.” She told Premier Wen sincerely: “It is the most unforgettable and happiest time in my life to get together with you in Beijing.”

Duan Zhixiu recalled with emotion the scene when Premier Wen visited her and encouraged her. She said with sobs, “Dear Grandpa Wen, I have never dreamed that I would have a chance to come to Zhongnanhai to see you again. Your words have given me warmth and strength. Your teaching has taught me to be strong to live on. In September, we will move into a new school. We will study hard. We welcome you to visit us again.”

Amid cheerful music, the Korean children performed a Taekwondo dance and sang a Chinese folk song

Jasmine Flower. Premier Wen watched the performance, smiling and clapping his hands. When the Taekwondo dance was about to start, Ko Min-seok, a Korean boy, who sat next to Premier Wen tried to take off his Korean coat in a great hurry so as to join the dance in performance costume. Premier Wen could not refrain from smiling and helped the boy. Amid melodious music and beautiful songs, the hall was permeated with deep

friendship between China and the ROK. Premier Wen was deeply touched, and then walked and stood in the midst of them. He affectionately held an eight-year-old Korean girl in his arms to show his affection for the Korean children. Premier Wen’s smile together with the girl’s face showing small missing teeth and big dimples is a lasting photographic memory.

At this happy moment, the children in Qiang ethnic costume from the Sichuan earthquake-hit area presented Premier Wen with a Qiang ethnic vest, and performed a dance *Qiang Children*. Tibetan girl Yangchin Drolghar from Yushu, Qinghai Province recited a short poem *Mother* written by herself. The poem with simple sentences and true feeling moved everyone present. Premier Wen went to her side and praised the poem as “well written”, while bending down and pressing his cheek against the girl’s. After the Tibetan children performed the dance *Snowland Step Dance*, Premier Wen invited Chinese magicians to perform.

Their wonderful performance brought an outburst of laughter and applause. The Chinese and Korean



Premier Wen Jiabao handing a Korean girl the dictionary with his autograph

children enjoyed this happy get-together. At this moment, the seeds of friendship crossing the national boundary and transcending language barriers were sown again in the young hearts of the Chinese and Korean children.

Premier Wen said: “I feel very happy at seeing you have a good time and enjoy this wonderful performance. Your innocent hearts are just like gold threads, linking the children and people of the two countries. The difference in language and culture does not constitute an obstacle. You are on very intimate terms through your hearts. This is to say ‘you understand each other tacitly’.”

Looking around at the children, Premier Wen continued, “In fact, there is one thing which needs no translation, i.e. hearty laughter, smiling friendship. Friendship is the common language of our two countries and the whole world. I know that all the children present here have unusual experience. All the Korean children here are orphans and the Chinese children come from the Wenchuan and Yushu earthquake-affected areas. Some of them have lost their parents or other loved ones. All of you have

Third High Level China-France Forum On Local Government Cooperation Held in Nanjing

Kang Jingyuan

The Third High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the French Foreign Ministry and Le Comite national de Cooperation decentralisee (CNCD), and organized by the Jiangsu Provincial Government and the Government of Alsace Region, was held in Nanjing from June 18 to 19, with the theme of “facing the challenges and realizing harmonious society and sustainable development”. This was a grand event of local government cooperation jointly held by the two sides after the previous Wuhan and Bordeaux forums. Leaders and representatives of local governments and organizations from 73 provinces/autonomous regions and cities of China and 64 regions and cities of France, totaling about 500, attended the forum, among whom 17 were governors and 45 mayors.

After the opening ceremony,

suffered fear and pain, and experienced difficulties and hardships after losing your homes. But you have also experienced warmth and sunshine of love. After the disasters, you have known better that life is most precious and that you should have a grateful heart and always remember those who have helped you. I am sure you will study harder and grow healthily and repay society with your own ability.”

“My dear children, your lives have just begun. But I hope that you are strong, happy and fear no difficulty.

there was a round-table meeting, special topic workshop, briefing on Chinese and French local governments’ cooperation, briefing on results of the special topic workshop and agreement on a final report. The closing ceremony was preceded by the presentation of the Award of Cooperation between Chinese and French Local Governments.

At the opening ceremony, Uyuning, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC, spoke highly of the important role played by the cooperation among local governments in the development of a Sino-French comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership, and hoped leaders of the local governments of both countries, through the High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation, would maintain communications and dialogue, and further exchange experiences of local government adminis-

Everyday the bright sunshine belongs to you, and China-ROK friendship also counts on you. I hope you will keep fraternal unity and help each other. Finally, I wish everyone a happy life and healthy growth.” The Premier expressed his thanks to the friendship associations of the two countries for hosting this activity and to Momma Kim and Momma Li. From Premier Wen’s kind words and smile, the children felt the love and care that he gave them on behalf of the entire Chinese people.

tration, so as to bring their cooperation to a new high and consolidate the social basis for Sino-French friendship.

Chen Haosu, President of the CPAFFC, Zhang Weiguo, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu Province, Charles Josselin, President of the French Cities Union, Jacques Valade, Roving Ambassador for Asia of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and Gilbert Meyer, Mayor of Colmar also spoke. At the round-table meeting, Hua Jianhui, Deputy Governor of Anhui Province, Wang Zhuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of Liaoning Provincial People’s Congress, Claudy Lebreton, President of the Assembly of Departments of France, Jean Germain, Mayor of Tours, and Jean-Paul Bachy, President of the Champagne-Ardennes Region, delivered speeches on the role of local governments in dealing with the financial

After that, to the strains of *Auld Lang Syne*, Premier Wen presented the Chinese and Korean children with copies of *The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary* and *The Contemporary Korean-Chinese and Chinese-Korean Dictionary* with his autograph to encourage the children to study hard and grow into successors to the cause of friendship between China and the ROK in future.

The Zhongnanhai meeting lasted an hour and a half, much longer than expected. □



crisis and strengthening social security, and the trend of Sino-French local governmental cooperation, and answered questions raised by the participants.

The special topic workshop drew 90 representatives from the two sides divided into four panels covering the environment, economy, society and cooperation between local governments. Li Jianping, Vice President of the CPAFFC, read out the Conclusion of the Third High Level China-France Forum, which was approved by all the participants by a show of hands, and signed by President Chen Haosu and Ambassador Jacques Valade.

In order to recognize the great achievements made by the local governments of China and France in their substantial cooperation in various fields, the forum conferred the Award of Cooperation between Chinese and French Local Governments on 12 pairs of friendship cities (provinces, regions) including Liaoning-Auvergne, Shandong-Loire, Anhui-Franche-Comte, Jiangsu-Alsace, Hubei-Aquitaine, Beijing-Paris Region, Shanghai-Rhone-Alpes Region, Shanghai-Marseilles, Wuhan-Bordeaux, Guangzhou-Leon, Hangzhou-Nice, and Changzhi-Brie. CPAFFC

President Chen Haosu and Senator Jean Besson of Drome and President of the France-China Friendship Group of the Senate presented certificates and cups.

During the forum, a signing ceremony for the establishment of friendship cities between China and France, meetings between the leaders of the local governments, and between entrepreneurs of the two countries as well as a photo exhibition about cooperation were held. Folk artists of Jiangsu Province and the Alsace Region gave performances.

Forum topics were closely related to the global financial crisis. The participants exchanged detailed experiences of success in maintaining sustainable development of their cities and regions, and made many concrete

suggestions on strengthening substantial exchanges and cooperation between local governments of the two sides.

The Conclusion approved at the Forum summarized the consensus reached at the meetings on environmental protection, economic development, social security and exchanges and cooperation, and put forward future targets and tasks of cooperation between local governments of China and France, such as holding special topic symposiums between forums, and establishing an evaluation mechanism for local government cooperation projects. It was decided that the Fourth High Level China-France Forum with the theme of “building up cities’ capability”, would be held in 2014 in France. □



Second China-India Forum

Zhang Peng

The Second China-India Forum sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China-India Friendship Association (CIFA) was held in Beijing May 15-16. CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua, CIFA Advisor Wang Maolin, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, and Indian Ambassador to China S. Jaishankar attended the opening ceremony. Over 200 officials, scholars, businessmen from the political, economic, cultural and environmental sectors of China, India and some other countries as well as reporters were present at the forum.

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India was recognized in the content of keynote speeches and scholars' comments.

The meeting established political and cultural, economic and social, and environmental sub-forums.

Consensus was reached at the forum on the following points:

1. Rapid development of China-India relations is of global significance. Jiang Zhenghua said that, since entering the 21st century, with the rapid development of bilateral relations, issues of common concern have increased and China-India relations have entered a new stage of close cooperation and all-round development. Bilateral communications and coordination are being further strengthened and steady progress is being made in realizing strategic goals. Areas of bilateral cooperation are expanding and exchanges be-

tween the two peoples increasing. The importance of the relations between China and India has gone beyond the purely bilateral level. Mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries is of great importance to the peace and stability of the whole Asia, and, indeed, even the world. Former Chinese Ambassador to India Cheng Ruisheng pointed out that, if peace cannot be maintained between China and India, it will harm the development of the two countries, and even the stability of the region. Professor Jonathan Burton-MacLeod at the Indian O. P. Jindal Global University put forward the view that India and China are faced with a new opportunity for dialogue in the context of changes of the strategic triangular area. He stressed the two countries should grasp the opportunity to conduct closer cooperation for mutual benefit; at the same time, they should also carry out multilateral cooperation.

2. Cultural exchanges between China and India should be elevated to a higher level and touch the hearts of the people. Mao Xiaoyu of the China Art Academy said, cultural exchanges should not be limited to ceremonies and activities; it should touch the hearts of the people. China-India cultural exchanges should not be confined to such contents as Buddhism, songs, dances, music, painting, photography, etc.; it should be expanded in breadth and depth such as introduc-

Jiang Zhenghua, President of the China-India Friendship Association and S. Jaishankar, Indian Ambassador to China walking into the conference hall



ing to each other works that can reflect the philosophical, social and cultural heights of the two great civilizations.

3. The two countries should carry out cooperation in environmental protection. Environmental issues are of common concern. At the forum, consideration was given on how the two countries should innovate public policies to tackle global environmental changes and protect water resources. Suresh Prabhu, India's former Minister for Environment and Forests, said, India and China are both developing

countries joined by common mountains and rivers. As both countries face the common issue of ensuring environmental protection, they can cooperate in many fields such as protection of water resources, fauna and flora. Prof. Dong Shikuei of Beijing Normal University, who has been engaged for many years in the research on cross-border protection of animals and plants in the Himalayan Area, spoke about the impact of climate change and suggested that the two countries conduct regional cooperation on the basis of equality and sustainability such as sharing information, carrying out technological exchanges, protecting cross-border water resources, fauna and flora and helping the local people better tackle climate change.

4. The two countries should strengthen dialogue between their media and establish an interaction mechanism. Relations between the media of the two countries became another issue that attracted much attention. Yuan Yue with the Horizon Research Consultancy Group of China said, the two countries should particularly strengthen dialogue between their media, for many crises in the re-



The Second China-India Forum

lations between the two countries were triggered by them. Ma Jiali of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations hoped that the media would play a more constructive role, do more work to promote relations and less to impede them. Only by doing so could they create a good atmosphere for steady progress of China-India relations. Peng Jing of Sichuan University suggested that the two countries should establish a media interaction mechanism, increase cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two peoples, expand people-to-people contacts and strengthen the efforts to establish a popular basis for China-India strategic partnership.

A total of 38 Chinese and foreign experts from the political, cultural, economic and trade sectors spoke at the forum, among whom many were famous experts including Professor Li Dun of the Center for the Study of Contemporary China of Tsinghua University; Mei Xinyu, research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation; Huang Yasheng, professor of Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of

Technology; Suresh Prabhu, former Indian Minister for Environment and Forests, and Professor B. S. Butola of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Experts from Canada, Australia and Cuba were also invited to attend. They looked at Sino-Indian relations from the perspective of third countries, which helped expand the vision of the forum and lift its international popularity.

In addition, there were many new subjects for discussion at the forum. Besides traditional subjects such as China-India bilateral relations and comparison between the political, economic and cultural systems of the two countries, many new subjects such as those on transportation, environmental protection, regional cooperation, and development of software industry, rural areas and agriculture as well as comparison between values were added for discussion at the forum. It reflected that both Chinese and Indian nongovernmental sectors have more concerns for each other and want to look at the development of China-India relations from various angles and explore new ways and directions for bilateral cooperation. □

Speech by Indian President Pratibha Patil

Editor's Note:

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Indian President Pratibha Patil paid an official visit to China from May 25 to 31, during which she attended in Beijing a reception jointly hosted by the CPAFFC and the Indian Embassy in China. The following is the speech she made at the reception.

It is a pleasure to be amongst all of you here today, many with old and cherished associations with India.

India and China have a time-tested friendship. It is a friendship forged in the crucibles of civilization. In the long course of history, we have enriched each other through centuries of contact, free flow of goods, peoples and ideas. The rich grottos of Dunhuang and Yungang, the historical records of Fa Xian and Xuan Zang and the distinctive Chan Buddhist philosophy of Damo, are both a product of such civilizational intercourses and a common heritage of our two nations. One cannot but marvel at the spirit of ingenuity these

early ambassadors of India-China amity embodied in themselves.

The torchbearers of modern nationalism in India and China at the end of the 19th Century continued to draw inspiration and learn from each other. Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao in China and Gurudev Tagore in India, sought each other out in search of a modernity that did not disown our illustrious past. The establishment of Cheena Bhavan in Gurudev Tagore's Shantiniketan, to impart knowledge of China and Chinese language, and similar early initiatives at the prestigious Peking University to facilitate study of Indian history, philosophy and languages, signified con-

tinued relevance of each nation to the other. I am particularly glad that in Shanghai, I will be unveiling a bust of Gurudev Tagore and that China, on its part, will support the setting up of a Tagore and China Gallery in Kolkata.

In fact, the leaders of India's freedom movement and the political leaders of China extended support to each other. In this, I recall the role played by the Aid China Medical Mission sent by India's national leaders, to pledge our solidarity with the Chinese people, in their war of resistance against Japanese aggression in the late-1930s and the early-1940s. The selfless work done by young Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis and his colleagues



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and Indian President Pratibha Patil at the reception marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India

Song Jian Attends Reception for 60th Anniversary of Japan-China Friendship Association

Zhang Xiaoping

At a reception celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), Song Jian, President of the counterpart CJFA, said that, despite numerous difficulties, the former had advanced courageously and made

in those tumultuous years, has become legend in both countries, and continues to inspire us to this day. We are fortunate to have in our presence Dr. Vatsala Kotnis, the sister of Dr. Kotnis, who has come all the way from India to be present with us on this occasion.

I would be remiss if I don't recognize the effort made by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries over the years, in keeping alive the memories of Dr. Kotnis and the Indian Medical Mission in China. Only two years ago, teams of young medical professionals from India and China exchanged fruitful visits, under an initiative launched under the auspices of this institution.

In the more contemporary era, we have overcome difficult challenges to emerge as modern polities and promising economies. Even in my short stay, I have been impressed by the amazing achievements of China on many fronts. This only confirms the prevalent belief in India that much can be learnt from experiences of China, which is a similarly placed emerging economy, with similar aspi-

precious contributions to the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations, including the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship. Song praised the JCFA as a pioneer and exemplary exponent of Japan-China friendship. Song noted

rations. As each of us focus on our national development goals, there is growing scope for cooperation between our two countries. In the international arena too, our common interests and shared concerns provide the basis for working together. I have no doubt that the enormous potential for cooperation can be realized in times to come, and both Governments are working towards that objective.

Being in the company of so many friends of India in China, redoubles my confidence that Government efforts will be reinforced by popular energies that have defined our relations over millennia. In this age of globalization and seamless communication, our vibrant and enterprising peoples still need to remain at the center of our relations. Mutual awareness about each other and mutual understanding of each other's sensitivities, will hold the key to deeper and sturdier friendship. I am sure that the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is dedicated to this, to the same extent that we in India are.

My visit to China is an affirmation of these age-old, but relevant

that, during Premier Wen Jiabao's recent official visit to Japan, he had conferred the Award for Contributions to the Promotion of China-Japan Friendship on various organizations and personages working in this field. The JCFA, its honorary advisor

facets of our relationship. My visit itself takes place on the 60th Anniversary of our diplomatic relations, that brings back memories of our early solidarity and rewarding cooperation as modern nation-states. My discussions, yesterday and today, with the Chinese leadership have emphasized the noteworthy progress that cooperation has achieved in recent years and charted the course for further progress.

Tomorrow, I will be inaugurating the Indian-style Buddhist shrine at the White Horse Temple complex in Luoyang, that is so deeply associated with our historical contacts. This shrine will be a tribute to contacts between the peoples of our two countries.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries plays a vital role, as a bridge and promotes goodwill between our two societies. I am aware of your many commendable initiatives in that regard, including in the form of the India-China Friendship Association. I am, therefore, very pleased to be able to spend an evening with the friends of India in China. □

Michiko Hirayama, and Kazuko Sakada, as representatives of these organizations and individuals, were respectively honored to show the Chinese people's gratitude towards the JCFA.

The bilateral relationship currently enjoyed good momentum and faced new opportunities. He hoped the JCFA would continue to carry forward the fine traditions of the past, make fresh contributions to the lasting friendship between the two countries and "dig wells, plant trees, build bridges and pave the way" for younger generations so that China and Japan can become good neighbors enjoying mutual benefits and respect forever.

The reception was held on the afternoon of June 21 in Tokyo, with the attendance of around 350 personages of various circles from the two sides, including leading officials of the seven friendship-with-China organizations and well-known figures in the political, economic and cultural circles. Apart from Song Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua extended congratulations to Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese Prime Minister and honorary advisor to the JCFA and JCFA President Koichi Kato. Osamu Fujimura, Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Masahiko Komura, President of the Dietmen's League for Japan-China Friendship, also spoke.

Ambassador Cheng said China-Japan friendship was based on, and

motivated by the two peoples. Under the new situation, China hoped the JCFA would continue to innovate in a pioneering spirit and forge ahead with

to continue to uphold Japan-China friendship and work for the development of the relations between the two countries in the same spirit.

Osamu Fujimura said the Japanese Government attached great importance to developing relations with China, which it believed were one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The leaders of the two countries unanimously hold that the two countries should further enrich the contents of their strategic relationship of mutual benefit, deepen mutual understanding and build a long-term stable bilateral relationship. The JCFA and other non-governmental friendship-with-China organizations had played a unique role in this regard. He hoped they would continue to work for further developing exchanges between the two peoples.

The reception was permeated with a warm and friendly atmosphere. Friendly personages of various circles of the two countries had cordial conversations, recalled the extraordinary development course of China-Japan relations and expressed their expectation of and confidence in bright prospects of the relations between the two countries.

Invited by the JCFA and the Japan-China Friendship Center, Song Jian and his party paid a goodwill visit to Tokyo and Hokkaido and attended other celebration activities of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the JCFA from June 20 to 27. □



CJFA President Song Jian speaking at the reception

determination to create new glories in the strategic relationship.

Koichi Kato expressed his thanks to Song Jian for leading the delegation to attend the celebration. He said, friendly relations between Japan and China were of utmost importance not only to the two countries, but also to the peace and stability of Asia and indeed of the whole world. Predecessors in the field had made enormous efforts for today's good situation. The JCFA was willing

(Continued from p.35)

efficient, it is like I am still useful and I feel contented and happy to think of it."

At the meeting with Mayor Koichi Watanabe, Mr. Hara's relatives and friends from the local JCFA, President Song Jian said with emotion that he the late expert brought

Japanese rice to China. "He taught the Chinese farmers the new rice growing technique and spread the use of it in China. Today's good rice harvests in Northern China are inseparable from his contribution, and the Chinese people will never forget him."

As a poem of Zang Kejia, a famous Chinese poet, declares: "A man

lives for making more people live better; they will hold him up very high." The Chinese people will never forget him, who came with the fragrance of rice, surpassing the difference of race and national boundaries. He stands as a monument of modern Sino-Japanese friendship and will stay forever in the hearts of the two peoples. □

Annual Meeting of Iran and China Friendship Associations Held In Tehran

Xu Yan

China and Iran are two cradles of ancient civilization each with 5,000 years of history. Thousands of years ago, the Chinese people began to have communications with Persians through the Silk Road; 600 years ago, Admiral Zheng He, the Chinese navigator brought his fleet to the Persian Gulf to promote friendship.

The Iran-China Friendship Society (ICFS) was founded in 1998. For more than a decade, the CPAFFC and the ICFS have maintained close contacts and made active contributions to enhancing the cause of friendship between the two countries. In December 2008, the China-Iran Friendship Association (CIFA) was established to provide a new channel for the development of the work.

In June, Vice President of the CPAFFC Li Xiaoling led a delegation to Iran on a goodwill visit. The delegation consisted of people in charge of the friendship-city work of the For-

eign Affairs Office of the Xi'an Municipal People's Government, business representatives and specially-invited council members of the CIFA.

On the morning of June 5, Vice President Li and her party arrived at the Imam Khomeini International Airport of Tehran. Forty minutes later, their bus reached the downtown area. What impressed the delegation members most were the clean streets lined with beautiful buildings. They saw the faces of passers-by calm and contented. Gradually, those visiting Iran for the first time felt increasing familiarity rather than curiosity.

The delegation had a tight schedule, and its main purpose was to attend the Annual Meeting of Iran and China Friendship Associations. ICFS President Ahad Mohammadi opened the meeting by saying he hoped to strengthen cooperation in tourism to promote mutual understanding between the two peoples. General Man-

ager Qasemi of the Foreign Investment Office of the Ministry of Finance and Economy gave a briefing on Iran's preferential investment policies and welcomed Chinese enterprises to invest more. Ms. Riahi, in charge of Asia and Oceania at the Ministry of Oil, spoke about the oil projects in Iran's Fifth Five-Year Plan, and hoped that both sides would seize the opportunity to enhance cooperation. Al-e-Eshaq, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Industry and Mines, pledged to make good use of the existing advantages of the chamber of commerce and exert all efforts possible to facilitate the work of the friendship associations of the two countries.

Vice President Li Xiaolin recalled the history of Sino-Iranian friendship, and said the Chinese side would work with its Iranian counterparts to further mutual understanding, broaden consensus, and consolidate

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (L.2) at the annual meeting of Iran and China friendship associations



CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku Leads Delegation to Sri Lanka

Zhang Peng



At the invitation of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation (ASLCSCC), a delegation led by CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku paid a goodwill visit to Sri Lanka June 6-11 during which it attended the inaugural meeting of the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China (OSARFCC).

This was initiated by Indrananda Abeysekera, President of the ASLCSCC, as a non-governmental, non-profit organization among friendship organizations in South Asia to promote regional cooperation and friendly exchanges with China and establishing substantial, long-term friend-

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku presenting a souvenir to Sri Lankan Prime Minister D. Jayaratne

the basis of long-term mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation. Chen Weiqing, Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Iran, pointed out that there were opportunities and challenges in the development of the bilateral relations. Zhang Jianzhong, one of the enterprise representatives and a council member of the CIFA, made some suggestions on the development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Vice President Li and President Ahad Mohammadi signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Further Cooperation between the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Iran-China Friendship Society containing a number of agreements on promoting the work of the two organizations. President Ahad Mohammadi conferred the Persian Rose Award on Lam Kin Chung and Ho Hau Wong, specially invited council members of

the CIFA from Hong Kong in recognition of their contributions to promoting people-to-people exchanges.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Bagher Khoramshad met with the delegation.

After the delegation finished all its scheduled activities in the capital, the ICFS arranged a one-day visit to Isfahan, the capital of two dynasties in the history of Iran and a hub of trade on the Silk Road, summed up by the Persian proverb "Esfahan Nesf-e Jahan" (Isfahan is half the world). On arriving in the city, the delegation members felt the intense liveliness. People were enjoying leisure time in riverside parks. On the 33-Arch Bridge, lovers were whispering. The wide Imam Square reflected the glorious ancient Persian culture. Today, the old city with rich oriental flavor has become an important hub of communication and the center of the iron and steel industry and traditional

handicrafts. Vice President Li Xiaolin met with the Governor of the Province of Isfahan as well as officials of the Municipal Government. The delegation members from Xi'an exchanged views with Isfahan Municipal Government officials on furthering the friendship-city relations between the two cities, and cooperation in excavation and preservation of historic relics.

The visit was covered in a friendly and pragmatic atmosphere, as both sides expressed their firm determination to develop the friendly cooperation between China and Iran. The delegation was also pleased to know that members of the ICFS were not only figures with significant social influence but many of them also experts of the Chinese language. This is a favorable condition for the CPAFFC and the CIFA to carry on their undertakings and a treasure of the cause of Sino-Iranian friendship. □

Heads of friendship-with-China organizations of South Asian countries at the inauguration of the OSARFCC



ship. Representatives from 14 friendship organizations from five South Asian countries attended the inaugural meeting on June 7 and elected Sri Lankan Minister of Fisheries Rajitha Senaratna as its president. Feng Zuoku, addressing the meeting, said the establishment of the OSARFCC would provide an effective platform for South Asian friendship organizations to carry out friendly exchanges and promote pragmatic cooperation with China, open up new channels for China-South Asia cooperation and facilitate the implementation of regional multilateral cooperation projects. The CPAFFC was willing to carry out cooperation and make joint efforts to develop exchanges between the Chinese and South Asian peoples, boost regional cooperation and achieve common prosperity.

During its stay in Sri Lanka, the delegation visited the Sri Lankan Parliament and was received by Prime Minister Dissanayake Mudiyanse Jayaratne. The Prime Minister recalled with feeling the construction of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). He recalled that Premier Zhou Enlai had laid the cornerstone of the BMICH and thanks to its completion, the First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries was able to be staged. Now, Sri Lanka was receiving great support from the Chinese Government and people in the construction

A warm welcome given to the delegation at the Sanghamitta Vidyalaya Girls' School in Colombo



of many of its public facilities such as highways, cultural centers, etc. He expressed his thanks to both for their selfless support and hoped that the two countries would carry out even more cooperation in future.

The Chinese delegation called on Fisheries Minister Rajitha Senaratna and the Governor of Central Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa. Feng Zuoku conferred the Award of Contribution to China-Sri Lanka Friendship upon Senaratna, Justice Minister Athauda Seneviratne and Governor Alavi Moulana of Western Province. The delegation visited the Sanghamitta Vidyalaya Girls' School in Colombo, planted a friendship tree there and donated books to the school library. It also visited the Sichuan Children's Painting Exhibition and the Exhibition on the Life of Arniko and watched a performance by the Tianjin Cathy Future Children's Art Troupe that accompanied the delegation on the visit. □

Diplomatic Envoys of Four African Countries Visit Xinjiang

Tang Ruimin



Nuer Baikeli, Chairman of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, meeting with the ambassadors touring the region

In Xinjiang, the weather is fine and different kinds of melons and fruits have ripened by June, when Ambassador Cesar Freire De Morais of Cape Verde, Ambassador Paul Chong Leung of Mauritius, Ambassador Sedozan Apithy of Benin, along with Aliou Sall, Economic Counselor of the Senegalese Embassy in China, visited the region under CPAFFC auspices to give briefings on the political, economic and trade situation, as well as the advantages, investment policies and opportunities of their respective countries.

About 100 people from the Xinjiang Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Xinjiang Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Xinjiang Academy of Social Science and Xinjiang University of Finance & Economics as well as State-owned and private enterprises

attended. Nuer Baikeli, Chairman of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and Wang Pinghai, Mayor of Shihezi City, respectively met and entertained the envoys.

China has become Africa's second largest trade partner and will soon overtake the United States in front. According to statistics, its exports to Cape Verde, Senegal, Benin and Mauritius now amount to US \$2.5 billion, and the four countries' exports to China have reached US \$80 million. An African products exhibition center will soon be established in Yiwu of Zhejiang Province, and several logistics centers for African products will be set up around the country.

Xinjiang and Africa are similar in many aspects. For example, both have hot weather, poor natural conditions, low living standards, but rich

natural resources. Among the 138 mineral resources in Xinjiang, the reserves of 10 rank the first nationally and 58 rank among the top 10. Its oil accounts for 30% of the country's total continental petroleum resources, and natural gas 34% of the national total. Africa is also a continent rich in natural resources, but backward economically. Therefore, African countries and Xinjiang can conduct cooperation more easily on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

At a recent conference on the work in Xinjiang, the Central Government made major decisions and plans to promote rapid development and lasting stability, and launched a series of preferential policies to support the region's construction and development. Xinjiang is facing a historical opportunity for massive construction, wide opening up and great development. From 2011 to 2020, 19 provinces and municipalities will provide assistance to designated areas in Xinjiang.

At the briefing, Mauritian Ambassador talked about Chinese enterprises developing well in his country's economic development zone where the approval procedures of investment projects are simple and rapid. There are many advantages in his country, such as good infrastructure, social stability and annual 30% rate of growth of IT industry. He welcomed Chinese businessmen to invest in his country. But, he said, 80% of the country's imported oil is used for generating electricity pushing up costs. Tebian

OneSight-China Donation Held in Qingdao

You Xie

“It is the first time that I got a pair of glasses through so many procedures. It sets my mind at rest.” Zhou Peng, a 20-year-old recipient of donated eyeglasses, said excitedly.

From May 11 to 20, 2010, 60 ophthalmologists and volunteers from 11 countries including the United States, Australia, India, Ghana and Thailand gathered in Qingdao and with their loving care took part in the OneSight-China Donation activity to provide clear vision to the disabled and people in need in the city.

The activity was launched at 9:30 am on May 11 in the Gymnasium of

the Qingdao Disabled Persons’ Federation. The place was divided into seven working areas—registration, administering mydriatic, examining visual acuity, reflexivity and eyes, computer recording, and eyeglasses distribution. Foreign doctors and Chinese volunteers shared out the work and cooperated in good order. Helped by the volunteers patients with eye trouble could finish all tests and received eyeglasses in about one hour.

Foreign ophthalmologists and volunteers worked ten hours a day. When there were too many people, they then had to work an extra two or three hours.

They had lunch in turns to save time. There were rooms in the gym specially prepared for them to take a break, yet, hardly anyone went.

A volunteer couple from Australia drew people’s attention especially. Mr. Theunis Prins was already 78 and the couple’s combined age exceeded 150. They covered all their travel and accommodation expenses to take part in this activity. Their work was to select from the 40,000 pairs of glasses the most suitable pair for each recipient who had completed the examination. In order to find the right pair of glasses in the shortest

Electric Apparatus Stock Co., Ltd. (TBEA) headquartered in Xinjiang is China’s largest manufacturer and supplier of solar energy equipment and has promising prospects for cooperation with African countries. Senegalese Economic Counselor Aliou Sall explained that the African Development Bank had initiated a plan to invest in the West African Power System focusing on Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

The Benin Ambassador said labor costs were low in his country and cotton grows in abundance. Due to its good soil and sunshine, Xinjiang is also very suitable for growing cotton in large quantities and has obvious advantages in cotton production and processing. Thus, Benin and Xinjiang have great potential for cooperation in the agricultural field. He also invited agricultural experts from Xinjiang



Ambassador Sedozan Apithy of Benin giving a briefing

Production and Construction Corps to reclaim wasteland and start up farms in Benin.

The Cape Verde Ambassador suggested that direct flights be launched between Xinjiang and African countries so as to build a modern new “Silk Road” to promote economic and trade development. Now, Xinjiang has become a base for China to process and export commodities to its western neighboring countries and a commodity transfer, collection and distribution center, as well as a great international channel for information and material exchanges.

The visit of the African envoys opened a door leading to Africa for Xinjiang. An historic page will be opened in the annals of bilateral cooperation in energy exploitation and agriculture in particular. □

time possible, the two often put their heads together and checked the glasses carefully. They worked more than 10 hours every day, hardly taking any rest.

Mr. Theparak Leungsuwan, chairman of the Gift of Sight Foundation of Thailand, was a well-known figure in the Thai political and business circles. He not only introduced this activity to Qingdao, but also out of his busy schedule led an 11-member team of Thai volunteers to take part in the activity. Among the members were his two sons who put aside their business and study to join their father. Mr. Leungsuwan was often seen explaining the examination results to the recipients, ushering them to the right section or inquiring about whether they felt uncomfortable after mydriasis. He bought pizzas for foreign volunteers and cakes on their birthdays. He also donated money to the needy and eye patients. "I've met many philanthropists, but such philanthropists as Mr. Leungsuwan who personally takes part in the work are

A foreign oculist examining the eyes of a patient



rare," commented the head of the foreign volunteers' team.

The last part of the activity was to select the most suitable pair of glasses for every recipient. Foreign doctors and volunteers let the recipients try out each pair selected for them and took the trouble to change glasses for them till they achieved the right fit. Then, applause and happy laughter would burst out in the gym.

An American volunteer sprained her ankle in an accident on the night before the activity. The doctor asked her to stay in bed for three days. But, on the following day she appeared at the donation site and participated in the activity from the beginning to the end.

Through eight days of hard work, 60 oculists and volunteers from different countries brought clear vision to 15,000 disabled and poor people and diagnosed for hundreds of people glaucoma and cataract, and in cooperation with the doctors of the Qingdao Municipal Hospital they proposed future treatment methods for them.

During the eight days, "Thank you" was heard with the most frequency in the gym. The citizens reciprocated foreign volunteers' kindness with sincere smiles and not so well pronounced "Thank you" in English.

Accompanied by his daughter, He Baozhen, a calligrapher of over 70 and Vice President of the Qingdao Calligraphers Association, came to the venue of the activity several times and wrote inscriptions for the OneSight Foundation and the Gift of Sight Foundation of Thailand. He also wrote "Light-bringer" for each foreign volunteer in different calligraphy styles to express Qingdao people's gratitude to them.

Li Shicai, a poor disabled person, was fond of carving, but he had

to give up this hobby because of poor eyesight. After putting on the glasses he was very excited to see clearly foreign volunteers at the donation site. When he got home, he pried up a piece of floor board and carved: "Solute to the OneSight Foundation and the Gift of Sight Foundation of Thailand" on it and asked the Qingdao Disabled Persons' Federation to give it to the foreign organizer of the activity.

Liu Peng, a child in wheelchair suffering from cerebral palsy, had difficulty in expressing his feelings verbally. After wearing the glasses he expressed his gratitude with the most beautiful smile he could offer and signaled with great difficulty his wish to have a picture taken with foreign doctors and volunteers.

"Wow, it is so clear! From now on, I don't have to squint my eyes to see the words on the blackboard," said a pupil from a poor family, who had never had a test of vision, nor a pair of glasses, though his myopic degree was tested to be 600 degrees this time, as he excitedly put on the pair of glasses specially chosen for him.

A woman working in the department of environmental hygiene invited foreign doctors and volunteers to her home and entertained them with fruits and refreshment to express her gratitude.

An old lady, who had suffered from eye trouble for many years, had never been to an oculist because of her financial difficulty. When foreign doctors examined her eyes and together with the Chinese doctors proposed future treatment for her, she said excitedly: "Oh, great! My eyes can be saved."

This activity was initiated by the Qingdao Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (QDMPAFFC) and jointly sponsored by the OneSight Founda-

Notes on Fifth Jianzhen International Half-Marathon

Ding Hao

In the most beautiful season of the year in Yangzhou, the 5th Jianzhen International Half-Marathon on April 25 drew about 20,000 runners from all parts of the world.

A Fine Occasion of International Exchanges

The monk Jianzhen is a representative figure of Yangzhou, a famous Chinese city in Jiangsu Province. He was an outstanding intellectual of the Tang Dynasty who made five attempts to reach Japan on long voyages across the East China Sea to spread the Chinese culture. He refused to give up despite repeated setbacks including losing his sight on the last voyage and set out for the sixth time and reached Japan after an eventful journey. He is regarded in Japan as the “benefactor of Japanese Culture”, making an important contribution to cultural exchanges between the two countries.

In 2005, Shen Guangwen, a Chi-

nese-born painter residing in Japan came to Yangzhou for a visit. She had long been interested in the exploits of Jianzhen and the idea came into her mind to organize a marathon in Jianzhen’s hometown to promote friendship and commemorate him. Through the joint efforts of the Chinese Athletics Association, the Jiangsu Sport Administration and the People’s Government of Yangzhou, the Jianzhen International Half-Marathon has emerged as a significant regional sports event with ever-growing social influence.

It was launched in 2006, and scheduled to be held every March or April, when the weather would be pleasant for thousands of runners and spectators to enjoy the competition, as well as sightseeing and making friendly contacts in Yangzhou. The event has prospered due to its excellent organization, the large number of participants, mostly ordinary, non-professional runners and its concept

of combining competition, health promotion and tourism in a city where modernity is well blended with venerable history.

A Full Display of People-to-people Diplomacy

The course of the race fully exploits the historical connections as it passes by Xianhe Si (Mosque of Immortal Crane), the ruins of the South Gate, He Garden, the Former Residence of Official Wu, the Tomb of Puhaddin, Dongguan Ancient Ferry, Dawang Temple, Tombs and Ponds of the Han Dynasty, the Relics of Tang City, Song Dynasty Folder City, Slender West Lake, Pingshan Hall, Living Mall, Yangzhou Museum and Yangzhou Block Printing Museum, Yangzhou Sports Park, etc. For the participants, it seems like their every step is taking them through 2,500 years of history of ancient civilization and current cultural prosperity. Some participants said: “Along the way, we

tion, the Gift of Sight Foundation of Thailand, the QDMPAFFC and the Qingdao Disabled Persons’ Federation. □

Mr. and Mrs. Prins selecting the most appropriate glasses for each recipient



China, Children of Hope Primary Schools and I

Shuichi Ito (Japan)

Introduction

I am 72, born in the Year of the Tiger. This year is my own Japanese zodiac year. I had the pleasure to contribute to *Voice of Friendship* in both 2000 and 2005. This time, again with much gratitude, I offer an article reviewing the friendly course I have traversed, however insignificant it may be.

The first I remember China was in 1945, when I was a first-grade pupil. Japan suffered war defeat in that year. Those who had earlier joined the Japan Settler Regiment*

and emigrated to Manchuria and Mongolia returned to Japan in succession. A woman with two small children moved into the staff office of our village elementary school because she had nowhere else to live. "That woman", my mother told me, "had no choice but to leave the baby who had died on her back by the roadside on her way back to Japan from Manchuria." Soon afterwards, a program *Looking for Family Members* was broadcast by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) announcing all day the names and basic information

of relatives who had lived in Northeast China including in Mudanjiang, Harbin, Xinjing (now Changchun), Fengtian (now Shenyang) and Dalian. This program lasted for several years. Talking about the Japan Settler Regiment, I must go back in history. Around 1915, the then Japanese government adopted an erroneous national policy of aggression and blatantly launched war. It set up a rogue state of Manchukuo (i.e. Manchuria) and organized 270,000 Japanese into the Japan Settler Regiment to emigrate to China's Northeast. These settlers

have passed through the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing dynasties as well as modern China. We would like to come again next year!"

The splendid historical heritage, the creativity of the new era, the exquisite humanistic landscape and the happy city life pleased the runners and guests from all over the world. They felt an affinity with the city, feeling they were in communication with its history and culture, while enjoying the delights of modern sport.

This grand international exchange in sports, with culture as its platform and history its attraction, is an attempt to explore further ways of promoting people-to-people diplomacy. It plays the role of radiating, inspiring and promoting friendship among peoples.

An Event with Wide Participation

This year's marathon had the widest range of participation, growing

from a few thousand runners from several countries in the first year to 20,000 competitors from 37 countries in 2010. The ratio of the number of foreign runners to local participants was 7: 3, a rare occurrence. More than 100 colleges and universities in China and other countries sent teams. Domestic professional marathon runners were enthusiastic to take part in the event, while there were 60 high-level international professional runners.

During the race, hundreds of international athletes gave an eye-catching show. "Cheers! Cheers!" a lot of local spectators called out in English to encourage them. A Spanish and a Swiss runner, who had got to know Yangzhou through the World Canal City Expo, felt exhausted when they arrived at Dongguan Ancient Ferry, yet finally made it to the finishing line inspired by the cheering along all the way. "I've been told the unbelievable story of Jianzhen's travel to Japan.

His perseverance and never-give-up spirit will always push me forward," said the Spaniard.

The citizens of Yangzhou not only warmly encouraged the participants, but also joined the race themselves—old and young, calm and high-spirited runners from all walks of life enjoying being together with athletes from all parts of the world.

The Jianzhen International Half-Marathon which reflects the boundless great love and perseverance of Monk Jianzhen gives people a lively and enthusiastic image of the city of Yangzhou and promotes the friendly exchanges between China and the rest of the world, as well as the quality of living of its citizens. It is an event of people-to-people diplomacy featuring friendship, inspiration and having much influence, a grand gathering for international exchange among all people. This is the impression left in all those involved. □

forced local peasants off their land and out of their houses, bringing untold sufferings to the country.

I was very lucky to work as secretary to Kazuo Shionoya, a member of the House of Representatives when I grew up and entered society, and was engaged in the Japan-China friendship movement together with him even before the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. In 1972, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka visited China and diplomatic relations were finally established. Later during the Chinese leader's visit to Japan, I also did my bit as a member of the secretariat of the welcoming committee. In 1975, I headed a secretaries' delegation of the Dietmen's League for Japan-China Friendship to visit China as guests of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA). The "cultural revolution" was still underway then. "In agriculture learn from Dazhai", was the call. So we visited Dazhai and the people's commune. It was my first visit to a foreign country and I was deeply moved by the socialist construction in China.

Years later, my daughter went to study in Nankai University (Tianjin). In 1985 she visited Shanghai, where she was asked by an old man: "Are you Japanese?" She got a slap as soon as she answered "Yes".

"Some one dear to the old man must have been killed by the Japanese army", my daughter told me after she returned to Japan. I believed that from this incident the old man wanted to remind me that I should make greater

efforts to promote Japan-China friendship. From then on, I made up my mind to work for this cause all my life.

Becoming a Student of Chinese Language

In 1999, after I retired, I came to learn Chinese at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), starting my life as a mature student. Among my classmates, there were Japanese, Koreans and Indonesians who were in their twenties. Naturally they made rapid progress in their studies. I worked very hard trying to keep up with them and made painstaking efforts after class to finish homework such as recitation and composition. I spent altogether one year and eight months at the BUPT. In 2003, I went to study at Dalian Jiaotong University at a friend's suggestion. I said to myself that I came to China with the aim of promoting friendship. Since I had not made much progress in classroom language learning, I'd better teach Chinese students Japanese and learn Chinese from them. I noticed then that there were many students majoring in Japanese in every college, but there were not enough Japanese novels in the libraries to go around. The students all knew about Japanese writers such as Yasunari Kawabata and Ryunosuke Akutagawa, but had not read their works. So, I called on friends to donate books to the Japanese language department. Their enthusiasm exceeded my expectation. We donated 2,000 books respectively

to the BUPT and Dalian Jiaotong University. By the way, when I studied at the latter school, demonstrations against Japanese interests were taking place in China. Radical actions appeared in Shanghai, but the students in Dalian were relatively sober-minded. It was during this period that I suggested to Mr. Yu of the university's Office of General Affairs that we plant a cherry sapling symbolizing Japan-China friendship in the campus with the money donated by the students of my class, and got his approval. We named the tree Japanese Students Friendship Commemorative Cherry. Today, the cherry tree decorates the beautiful campus with its blooming flowers every May.

Donating to Hope Primary Schools

In my heart, I have always wanted to conduct more friendly exchanges in China's Northeast, for many people of the Japan Settler Regiment had lived there, and in particular I cannot forget that bereaved woman who had to live in the staff office of the village elementary school. I had many friends in the China-Japan Friendship Association and quite a number of them were from the Northeast. So I told Mr. Xu Jinping my wish to donate to a Hope primary school. I learned from him that a primary school in Shuangyang District, Changchun City, worn down by the passage of time, was to be reconstructed. Changchun was the capital of the puppet Manchukuo state. I immediately agreed to donate money for the construction. In 2003, the school

*** The Japan Settler Regiment in Manchuria and Mongolia was a Japanese emigration organization. It was a military establishment during the period of armed emigration and still adopted a military setup during the period of emigration as a national policy. In 1939, to cover up the aggressive nature of its colonization, Japan called these settlers "pioneers" and the settler regiment "pioneer corps". It was the main organizational form of Japan's large-scale emigration to China's Northeast from 1931. The emigrants could replenish troops during the war and produce war material and help preserve public order during peacetime. Each regiment had 200 to 500 people. By 1945, when Japan surrendered, there were 1,131 regiments with 270,428 settlers. They had taken over about one-tenth of the total area of unclaimed land in China's Northeast.**



The author (center, back row) with the teachers and students of Shahezi Shise School in Harbin when he visited it in 2009

was rebuilt and put into use. It was re-named Shise Primary School for Sino-Japanese Friendship. In early September, Mr. Xu and I went to Changchun to attend the school's opening ceremony. This village school is about 90 minutes drive from Changchun. I felt excited to see the bright eyes of the 250 pupils and happy that my dream came true. In the evening of that day, Vice Mayor An Li hosted a banquet in our honor. She asked what I expected of these children. I replied that I hoped they would like Japan and want to visit Japan when they grew up.

Two years later, through the introduction by Li Tiemin, the second Hope primary school involving my donation was completed in Fangzheng County, Harbin City and was named Shahezi Shise School for China-Japan Friendship. Fangzhen County is located between the cities of Harbin and Jiamusi, where the Soviet army launched an attack on the Japanese

army at the end of WWII, resulting in nearly 5,000 Japanese settlers dying of starvation and severe cold. Local people built a cemetery for them. Every autumn when I visit the school, I always go to the cemetery, placing mineral water, incense and Sake I have brought from Japan before the tombs as sacrifices. I feel relieved by doing so. Shahezi Shise Hope School is close to a coal mine and children of the miners all go to this school for their elementary and secondary education. When the construction was completed, 150 children had eager anticipation. But, later, the mine was closed due to an incident. The number of students decreased year by year. There were 16 students in 2008 and only three last year. Despite this, I think I am destined to donate to a Hope school in Fangzheng County, for this was the starting place of my friendship movement.

Contact with Children

(Continued from p.40)

Cultural Exchanges upon Daisaku Ikeda in recognition of his prominent contribution to China-Japan cultural exchanges. The award ceremony was

held at the Min-On Cultural Center in Tokyo on the morning of April 30. CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan, on behalf of CPAFFC President

The two Hope primary schools and my Alma Mater — Yokoyama Elementary School and Mizukubo Elementary School — maintain contact through exchanges of children's paintings and compositions. I often carry with me children's works from the four schools traveling back and forth between Japan and China like Santa Claus, and I enjoy doing so. The two Hope schools all bear the two characters "至诚 (Shise)". In fact, that was the name of my second son who died in a traffic accident. Seeing the children of these schools today, I have a feeling of being amongst family.

I am now in Japan teaching Chinese to learn Japanese. One of my students is a war orphan about my age. She was adopted by a Chinese couple when she was one year old. She has no memory of her natural parents whatsoever. Whenever she thinks of her adopted parents who have already passed away, she cannot hold back her tears. Today, I still have one wish, which is to open a Japanese school in China's Northeast one day. I will be the headmaster, teaching young people to learn Japanese while discussing with them history and life.

I don't want to say that I am "already 72", but "only 72". I will continue to visit China in my remaining years and carry out friendly activities within my ability so that that unfortunate period of history will never be repeated between our two countries and the friendship between our two countries will last from generation to generation. In 2015 when I am 77, I will write again for *Voice of Friendship*. □

Chen Haosu, presented the award to Hiromasa Ikeda, Vice President of Soka Gakkai, on behalf of Daisaku Ikeda. □

60th Anniversary of Death of Agnes Smedley Commemorated

Zhang Yan

Today's news is tomorrow's history. Journalists who record news day after day often become writers with deep insight. American journalist Agnes Smedley was one of these shining examples.

In the 20th century, turbulent China was the focus of the world attention, attracting a large number of foreign journalists. Some forged indissoluble links with the country. Their works not only spread all over the world, influencing public opinion and having much impact on the course of Chinese history. Edgar Snow, Anna Louise Strong, Agnes Smedley were among many such figures making an important contribution. Their reportage not only helped people around the world have a clear understanding of a real, inspiring and courageously advancing China, but also supported the resolve of a generation of Chinese to embark on the road of revolution. I am one of them. I think that many contemporaries have the same experience and even some foreigners. Today, when we look back the development of that period of history, we are sure that these people's meritorious deeds will never be obliterated.

Agnes Smedley came to China in 1928. As a correspondent of the German *Frankfurter Zeitung*, she came to investigate a country torn apart by warlords and corruption. Later, she served as resident correspondent of Britain's respected *Manchester Guardian*. In 1941 she returned to the

United States because of illness. In her far-too-short 58-year lifetime, this American woman born of a poor family dedicated herself to revolution including 12 years in China.

She witnessed the brutal rule of the Kuomintang, the warlords' extorting taxes ruthlessly and the feudal oppression gripping rural China. She was the first foreign journalist and writer to write about the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, the Chinese Soviet Republic and the leaders of the Communist Party of China — even before Edgar Snow. As early as 1934 her book *China's Red Army Marches* was published in Moscow.

During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, Smedley, invariably wearing military uniform, shared all the hardships and fought together first with the Eighth Route Army led by Zhu De and Peng Dehuai on the battlefields of North China,

and then with the New Fourth Army led by Ye Ting in Central and Eastern China. In this connection, she wrote two famous books of reportage *Battle Hymn of China* and *China Fights Back*.

In her most famous book *The Great Road: The Life and Times of Chu Teh*, she had already extended her vision of China's history back to the Revolution of 1911 and the May 4th Movement. Her book *Chinese Destinies* revealed more of her great insight and thought about the changing Chinese society.

Her increasingly deep analysis of China in her books became inseparable from her efforts to tap into Chinese society and people. Lu Xun, Ding Ling, Zhou Libo... were all close friends. Their deep insight naturally became the nutrient and valuable historical sources for her works. Smedley once said, she often "forgot she was not a Chinese". From this, we

A meeting in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the death of Agnes Smedley held at the former residence of Soong Ching Ling



He Came with the Fragrance of Rice from Japan

Wang Zhanqi

From June 20 to 27, Song Jian, President of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) led a delegation to visit Japan. On June 23, he and his party especially went to the city of Iwamizawa, on the northern island of Hokkaido, to hold a memorial ceremony for an old friend of the Chinese people, Shoichi Hara, buried there. They were warmly welcomed by city Mayor Koichi Watanabe, relatives of Shoichi Hara and friends from the local Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), who accompanied them to the cemetery. It was a drizzling rainy day with thick clouds. President Song Jian took slow steps to

the tomb to present flowers, and, together with all the delegation, paid silent tribute to the deceased showing the long memory and high respect they cherished for the Chinese people's old friend.

After the memorial ceremony, President Song Jian spoke to Mr. Hara's daughter, asking her how her mother and the family were getting on, and wished them good health and happiness.

The city of Iwamizawa, located north of Sapporo, abounds with rice, so it is known as the "granary of Hokkaido". Mr. Hara was born there, and, after his graduation from

Hokkaido University, he served in the prefectural government, and later spent most of his time conducting experiments in rice cultivation and popularizing improved techniques. Thus, he became a famous rice expert in Japan. In 1982, at the age of 65 he was sent as a volunteer rice expert by the Japan-China Exchange Association for Agriculture to visit Hailun County of Heilongjiang Province, China. The visit led to an unbreakable bond between him and China, and launched a 20-year commitment to popularizing in China the technique of raising rice seedlings in dry field and thin-planting.

can see that she devoted herself unsparingly to the Chinese people's revolutionary cause. In the headquarters of the New Fourth Army in 1934, a British correspondent Jack Belden with the book *War and Peace* by Lev Tolstoy in his hand asked Smedley: Who is able to write a Chinese *War and Peace*? She answered: "Only the Chinese who personally fight all through the War of Resistance against Japan are able to write such a monumental book." Smedley regarded her own works as only records kept by an observer; but, Chinese writer Meng Qingzai said that, in terms of both historical and literary value, her writings well deserved the honor of being listed as China's *War and Peace*, providing stronger emotional impact and richer intellectual contemplation particularly to the Chinese people than Tolstoy's *War and Peace*."

In 1950, on her way to China via

Britain, she unfortunately died of illness. To comply with her will, her ashes were buried at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery in Beijing.

She had written: "As my heart and spirit have found no rest in any other land on earth except China, I wish my ashes to lie with the Chinese revolutionary dead."

Zhu De wrote the inscription: "The Tomb of the Chinese People's Friend and American Revolutionary Writer Agnes Smedley" engraved on her tombstone and attended the ceremony to bury her ashes. The tombstone was erected by the China Federation of Literature and Art Circles. Personal items she especially left to China including her camera and typewriter have become precious historical relics in the Museum of Chinese Revolution.

Today, when commemorating the 60th anniversary of the death of

Comrade Smedley, we can feel it a great relief to tell her: "your last wish has become a reality. Around you lie the Chinese revolutionary martyrs, and not far from you lies your old friend Ren Bishi. Very often Chinese or foreigners are seen to stand in front of your tomb to pay solemn tribute to you."

We, in particular, wish to tell you that earthshaking changes have taken place in your beloved China. China has now ascended to the ranks of a world power. The independent Chinese people are fighting shoulder to shoulder with the people around the world for world peace. This might be the happy news you would like to hear. Agnes Smedley, so, you can rest in peace.

(May 5, 2010)

The author is former first deputy editor-in-chief of *China Today*.

This method can save water, seeds, fertilizer and labor, and increase yields. It was developed by Shoichi Hara, among others. The first time he served as the technical director in Hailun County of Heilongjiang Province, in 1982, he achieved a yield of 476 kg per *mu* on an experimental plot, twice that of the local traditional technique. After that, with the concerted efforts by Mr. Hara and relevant Chinese government departments, the new technique was popularized throughout Heilongjiang Province, and then spread to the rest of the country, bringing considerable economic benefits; according to some agriculture specialists, it created a revolution in the history of Chinese rice production. At its peak, the method was applied to 200 million *mu* of farmland. Especially, it promoted the expansion of rice planting in Northern China. For example, in Heilongjiang Province, only a few million *mu* of land grew rice at the beginning of the 1980s; after the introduction of this technique, rice fields increased to about 20 million *mu*, the produce largely meeting the demands of the region. Today, almost all the rice in the market of Beijing comes from Northeast China thanks in large part to Shoichi Hara's efforts.

During the 20 years from his first visit in 1982 until 2002 when he died, he visited China 63 times and traveled to 151 counties of 25 provinces, imparting the new rice growing technique for free. Stories about him can still be heard among the farmers of the places he visited, where he is affectionately called the "Foreign God of Wealth".

In the early 1980s, China was undergoing the initial stage of its reform and opening-up and its level of social economic development was still rather low. Thus, during the first

few years when he was working as a tutor, he had to pay all his own travel expenses; he even borrowed money from his brothers for the purpose. Nearly every time, he headed straight to the fields immediately after arrival at his destination, and began working together with the farmers. He would give demonstrations of the technique and lived in the village with the production team. On an early trip, while staying with the villagers, he could not have a bath for 28 days, and once suffered from incipient diarrhoea for three months yet insisted on staying in the farm until harvest before going back to Japan. It is said that at the age of 65, he was still able to transplant rice seedlings for 4.5 *mu* of land within three days. Such a hard working, serious, and professional Japanese won everybody's heartfelt respect.

Mr. Hara has been regarded as an exemplary foreign expert in China since implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, and has won multiple honors presented by the Chinese central government as well as local governments, including the China Agriculture Award of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Friendship Award of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, the International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award of the Ministry of Science

and Technology, the Major Science R&D Achievement Award and the title of Honorary Citizen of Heilongjiang Province.

To commemorate this old friend of the Chinese people forever, two busts of him were made by the relevant departments of China, one placed at his alma mater, Iwamizawa Agricultural High School, and the other at the China-Japan Friendship Park in Changsha, China.

Mr. Hara devoted the last 20 years of his life to China's rice cultivation and the friendship between China and Japan, and he had served as adviser to the JCFA of Hokkaido Prefecture. Recalling his experiences in China, he once said that, at the beginning, he faced certain problems, but the warmth of the Chinese people helped him cope. It was his greatest happiness and satisfaction when the farmers smiled with joy at a good harvest due to the application of his technique. The Chinese government and people had given him great honors and he would continue to work for Japanese-China friendship. He often said, "Birth, ageing, illness and death as the course of life are inevitable. It is like spiralling smoke disappearing when one dies. However, if people adopt my technique and, it proves

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CJFA President Song Jian having a cordial conversation with the daughter of Shoichi Hara



First Changchun Foreigners Sports Meet

Wang Yu

The first Changchun Foreigners Sports Meet came to a successful close on June 3 after five days of fierce but friendly competition, in which participants showed that they attached great importance to participation and friendship.

A sports meeting held only for foreigners is rare in China. This one, staged by the Changchun Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, attracted 316 participants from 66 countries—students, teachers, experts, engineers, se-

nior managers, business executives and company staff and technicians from 27 universities and colleges, foreign-capital ventures, foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations in Changchun. The youngest was 17 and the oldest 63.

The five events of badminton, table tennis, tennis, football and basketball were chosen based on opinions expressed by foreigners living in the city. The participants were grouped according to age to compete in 22 items. There were eight football teams and over 90 people took part in the table tennis matches.

The participants regarded the sports meet as a grand gathering and a joyful festival. One said it gave an opportunity for people of different nationalities and different beliefs to get together to enjoy “sunshine” and “perspiration”. The sports meet reflected the theme “sports bring fitness and enjoyment” and the Olympic spirit of “faster, higher, and better”. □



Jilin University celebrating its football team's winning the championship



Good coordination demonstrated by the men's double ping-pong players

Xinjiang International Children's Art Festival Held

Zhang Jiahu

From July 19 to 24, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (XUARPAFFC) hosted the China Xinjiang International Children's Art Festival in Urumqi. Thirteen children's art troupes from Xinjiang, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Turkmenistan, India and Pakistan, totaling 260 people, attended the event.

The host organized art performances as well as exhibitions of paintings, calligraphy, paper-cut, handicrafts, etc. and demonstration of skills. The participants visited Hongshan Park and Science and Technology Museum, watched the large-scale musical *Hello, Afanti*, and participated in campfire parties, buffet receptions, friendship parties and fun sport games.

At the opening ceremony of the art festival, Kunduz Yusuf, Vice President of the XUARPAFFC, said that, through various colorful activities, the art festival gathered together children of different countries and cultural background. Through such close contact they could get to know each other and establish friendship. The event would definitely have a broad influence in creating a bridge of friendship in Xinjiang.



A dance performed by the Indian children's art troupe at the opening ceremony



Showing her skills in Chinese calligraphy

China's Three Gorges Dam —Marvel of Technology

R. Jinith de Silva (Sri Lanka)

The Chinese as a nation have performed many wonders from olden days. The Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, underground tombs of their kings are testimony to this fact. The largest dam of the world constructed in recent times should also be an addition to the above list.

The Chinese have been great irrigation constructors from ancient days. They have a history of more than 2,200 years in this particular field. China being an agricultural country from time immemorial has built dams across rivers and constructed tanks to irrigate their agricultural land. In 1997 when I visited China at the invitation of the CPAFFC, I had the opportunity of seeing the Dujiangyan irrigation system in Sichuan Province which was 2,265 years old. It is said to be the oldest irrigation system in the world. The Dam was built across river Minjiang which is a tributary of the Yangtze River. This irrigation system is in use even today.

In this article I am trying to explain a present day irrigation marvel called the Three Gorges Dam. China is one

of the few countries in the world that suffers immensely from floods. The Yangtze River floods that inundated China in 1911, 1931, 1935, 1954, 1991, and 1998, brought untold misery to millions of people.

With the technological advancement of the 20th century many countries built massive dams across rivers to control floods and to harness its waters to generate electricity and for agricultural purposes. The Aswan Dam across the Nile, Hoover Dam across the Colorado River, Bhakra Nangal Dam of India are few examples.

China too planned to build a dam across the Yangtze River since the inception of the 20th century but kept on postponing due to financial constraints. In addition to control of floods this water was needed for power generation and agriculture.

The building of a dam across the Yangtze River was first proposed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1919, in his book *Methods and Strategies of Establishing the Country*. Chairman Mao Zedong too had subscribed to that idea later. In a poem written in 1956 entitled *Swimming*, Mao Zedong envisioned a wall of stone across the Yangtze River after the devastation of 1954 floods.

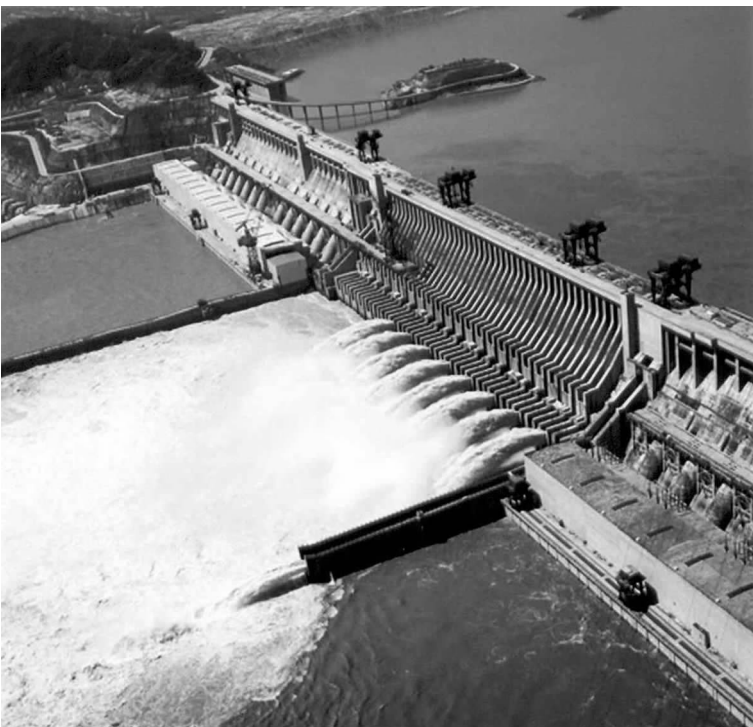
Walls of stone will stand upstream to the west,

*To hold back Wushan's clouds and rain,
Till a smooth lake rises in the narrow gorges.*

This poem is engraved in the 1954 Flood Memorial in Wuhan.

China commenced the construction of the Three Gorges Project in 1994. The dam body was completed in 2006 and the whole project basically finished in 2009. The dam has blocked the Yangtze River at Sandouping of Yichang City, Hubei Province, creating a reservoir of 603 square kilometers. The dam is 2,335 meters in length and 185 meters in height. The Chinese Government has spent 180 billion yuan to construct the dam.

Benefits that China has reaped due to the construction of this dam are manifold. Now the people who live on the banks and the adjacent ar-



China National Acrobatic Troupe's Performance Tour in Japan

Zhang Yaqin

Sixty years ago the China National Acrobatic Troupe was founded. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of cultural exchanges between the Min-On Concert Association of Japan and China. To celebrate these twin events, a 50-member China National Acrobatic Troupe sent by the CPAFFC made a performance tour in 47 Japanese cities from February 20 to May 30.

During the 100-day tour, the troupe gave 96 performances of a newly created series of shows under the title *King of Acrobatics* attracting an audience of 170,000 person/times and being warmly welcomed wherever they went. With an aim of promoting bilateral cultural exchanges and enhancing friendship between the two



The conferring ceremony of the Award of Outstanding Contribution to China-Japan Cultural Exchanges on Daisaku Ikeda, Honorary President of Soka Gakkai at the Min-On Cultural Center in Tokyo

eas of the river could live without any fear of floods during rainy season. In addition to flood control, generation of electricity is a major function of the project. Experts believe when it is fully functional the project could produce 11% of the power requirements of China. The annual power generation of the project at present is 18.3 gigawatts and it is equivalent to burning of 100 million tons of coal to generate power.

The Three Gorges Power Station is the largest of its kind in the world, a remarkable demonstration of how far the country has advanced in this sector. This power station is outfitted with 32 power generating units each with an installed capacity of 700 megawatts. China is on track to rely on hydropower for 28% of its electricity generation by 2015.

Along with the construction of the dam the Yangtze River was deepened and widened to accommodate more water. This enabled ships of 10,000 DWT to carry goods to the western parts of the country from Shanghai in the east. It has also facilitated cheap transport of products from the

west to reach ports like Shanghai in the east for export.

Tourists both local and foreign visit this marvel in their thousands. This has become a main attraction like the Great Wall and a booming tourism industry has developed around the dam. Most tourists visiting the dam use river transport from Shanghai and Nanjing, enjoying the scenic beauty of the countryside.

New settlements have sprung up in the elevated land as the water level of the river rose with the construction of the dam. The government had to resettle about 2 million people in new towns and settlements.

This project has created numerous employment opportunities in the planning and construction industries as well as in the tourism and ancillary industries.

Though the investment was enormous this dam has contributed in many ways for the upliftment of the Chinese economy.

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



Bicycle Skills

peoples, the troupe produced an artistic feast that showed off the charm of Chinese fine traditional arts.

Compared with the series *Legends of the Dragon and the Phoenix* performed three years ago, the *King of Acrobatics* had many novel ideas in program composition, stage design,

music and costumes, with many newly-created items. As to repertory items such as *Tumbling Through Hoops*, height had been raised and the degree of difficulty increase, and *Ball Catching*, elements of tap dance added, giving the performance an entirely new look and demonstrating the spirit of innovation of the Chinese acrobatics. During the tour, the acrobats in the spirit of striving for perfection performed such “golden award” programs as *Diabolo*, *Pagoda of Bowls*, *Bicycle Skills* so marvelously that audiences were overwhelmed with admiration.

During the long 100-day tour, the performers and crew of the troupe defied fatigue, overcame difficulties and worked in unity and cooperation to ensure constantly high-quality performance. Their devotion to work, superb skills, wonderful performance and dauntless spirit moved the Japanese audience who lauded the high artistic level that

was entertaining, interesting and an amazing visual feast. While admiring the strength and elegance of acrobatics, they were also touched by the performers’ spirit of challenging the extremes and indomitable will to turn the impossible into the possible.

The troupe’s performance in Tokyo was watched and applauded by ambassadors from 46 countries and over 100 other foreign diplomats. After the performance, the Min-On Concert Association held a reception to provide an opportunity for the troupe to make direct contact with the foreign envoys so as to deepen mutual understanding. During shows in Kochi, Chiba, Ehime, Niigata, Yamagata, Ibaragi and Kagoshima prefectures, governors and other local officials watched their performance and expressed in different ways their congratulations and greetings to the troupe. Diplomats from the Chinese Embassy and consulates also watched the performance. The Japanese media and personages of various circles followed the successful tour with great interest. The national TV broadcaster NHK and many other Japanese media interviewed the leaders and leading performers about the development of the troupe, characteristics of acrobatic art and highlights of *King of Acrobatics*.

Since the Min-On Concert Association was established by Daisaku Ikeda, honorary president of Soka Gakkai, in 1964, it has carried out rich and colorful cultural exchanges with China. Since 1975, it has invited Chinese art troupes to visit Japan in batches and in a planned way to introduce Chinese culture and art of various types, attracting large audiences and achieving remarkable results.

During the performance tour, the CPAFFC conferred the Award of Outstanding Contribution to China-Japan

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Young Chinese acrobats posing with the children of a Japanese orphanage

