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Front cover: The CPAFFC 2011 Spring Festival Party held in the Great Hall of the People (January 24)

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CLACFA Delegation Visits Three Latin American Countries

Chen Kuanghuai

A 14-member delegation of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association (CLACFA) led by its President Cheng Siwei paid a goodwill visit to Mexico, Costa Rica and Guyana at the invitation of the Mexico-China Center for Economic and Cultural Exchanges (MCCECE), the Costa Rica-China Friendship Association (CRCFA) and the Guyana Association for Friendship and Culture with China (GAFCC) from November 15 to 29, 2010.

In Guyana

On behalf of the CLACFA, Cheng conferred the China-Latin America Friendship Medal on Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, who is also honorary president of the GAFCC.

He has profound feelings for China and the Chinese people and has worked hard for many years for the cause of friendship between Guyana and China. He has visited China several times. In 1996, invited by the CPAFFC, he led a delegation of Guyana-China Friendship Association on a visit during which he paid a courtesy call on Chinese Premier Li Peng; in July 2005, he came again in his capacity as prime minister. He has received Chinese delegations many times and is concerned about Chinese-Guyanese organizations and enterprises. He gives active support to and participates in people-to-people friendship activities between the two countries, and has made outstanding contributions to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship be-

tween the two peoples.

The China-Latin America Friendship Medal, an honorary title set up by the CLACFA, is conferred upon Latin American and Caribbean friends who have committed themselves to friendship with China and made prominent contributions to enhancing the understanding and friendship between the people of their respective countries and China, and who have for a long time performed leadership role in friendship-with-China organizations. This was the first time the medal had been conferred upon an incumbent State leader.

The delegation also paid an official call on Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, to discuss the idea of the China Friendship Art Exchange Association sending artists to Latin American countries to paint from life and mounting an exhibition of their works after they return home. Dr. Anthony promised a warm welcome to the idea, saying it would help more Chinese people know about Guyana and further deepen the friendship between the two peoples.

The delegation also had a discussion with the GAFCC, and paid a courtesy call on Guyanese President Bharret Jagdeo.

In Costa Rica

Cheng Siwei, on behalf of the

CLACFA President Cheng Siwei presenting the medal and certificate of China-Latin America Friendship to Guyanese Prime Minister Samuel Hinds



CLACFA, presented books and compact discs to the University of Costa Rica to set up a “Window of Friendship”, the first in Latin American and Caribbean Region. After the presentation, the delegation visited the Confucius Institute set up in the university in 2009.

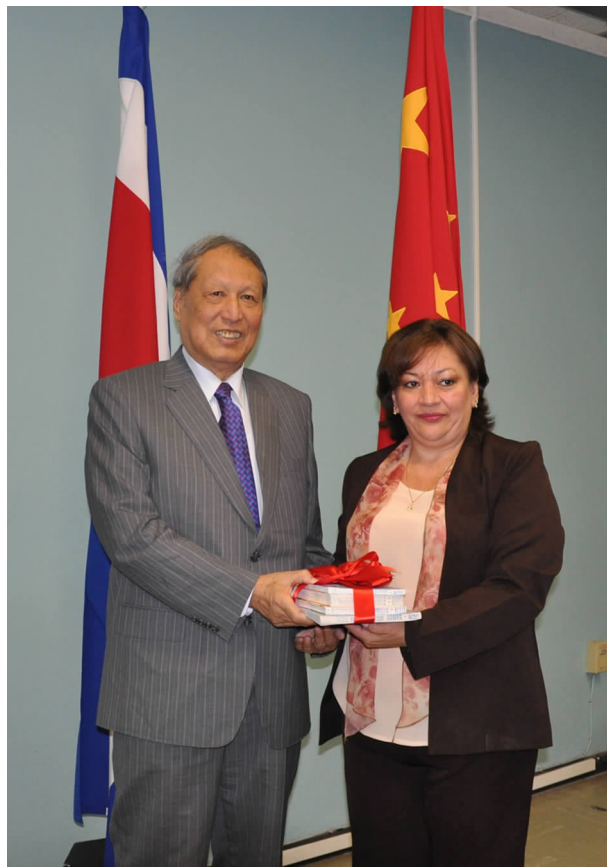
Costa Rica is the first country in Central America to establish diplomatic relations with China—in 2007. Since then, it has been carrying out closer cooperation and exchanges with China in various fields. The founding of the Confucius Institute has promoted Chinese language learning and knowledge of Chinese culture among young people. The Window of Friendship set up this time will facilitate the Costa Rican people, particularly youth to learn more about China, its history, culture, economy and people’s life, as well as promoting friendly contacts between the two peoples.

In Mexico

Cheng Siwei visited former Mexican President Luis Echeverria Alvarez, an old friend of the Chinese people. During his tenure from December 1, 1970 to November 30, 1976, President Echeverria committed himself to developing bilateral relations. Under his leadership, the Mexican Government supported

the PRC in its efforts to restore its legitimate seat in the United Nations, and established diplomatic relations on February 14, 1972.

Cheng and Wang Hongqiang, secretary general of the CLACFA, respectively called on Ramon Galindo Noriega, President of the Mexican Senate Commission for Municipal Development, and Ms. Betina Claudia Chavez Soriano Rojo, Director General of the Department of Policy Coordination under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and briefed them on the CPAFFC’s main tasks and in particular its work of friendship-city and local government exchanges between China and other countries. Until now, 30 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government and 371 cities have established 1,743 pairs of friendship-city (province/ state) relations with 398 provinces/states and 1,231 cities in 127 countries in the world. Among them 126 pairs have been twinned between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries, accounting



CLACFA President Cheng Siwei donating books to the library of University of Costa Rica

for a small portion.

Cheng also had a breakfast with the representatives of the Nicaragua Association of Friendship with the PRC and Her People (PRO-NI-CACHINA) who were on a visit to Mexico and discussed relevant issues with them. ■

CLACFA President Cheng Siwei (R.6) and Secretary General Wang Hongqiang (R.2), Chinese Ambassador to Guyana Yu Wenzhe (R.4) with members of the Guyana Association for Friendship and Culture with China



CPAFFC and CRFA Delegation in Russia

Zhang Hualu

Invited by the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), a delegation of the CPAFFC and the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) led by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu paid a visit to Russia from October 7 to 13, 2010. In Moscow it attended the launching ceremony of a Russian-Chinese bilingual poetry collection *60 Contemporary Chinese Poems* and the opening ceremony of Zhang Tongsheng's photo exhibition *Facing Disasters*. It also signed the CRFA and RCFA Cooperation Plan 2010-2011, before going on to visit Kursk and St. Petersburg.

CRFA's Activities for the Year of Chinese Language in Russia

The *60 Russian Lyrics* published under the auspices of the CPAFFC in 2009 during the Year of Russian Lan-

guage held in China has been favourably received. Initiated by the CPAFFC, the bilingual poetry collection *60 Contemporary Chinese Poems* was published during the counterpart year in Russia in 2010. This collection of poems, edited by Zhang Tongwu, a famous Chinese poetry theorist and Secretary General of the Poetry Institute of China, and translated under the direction of the well-known translator Li Yingnan, includes works by 30 representative poets of different historical periods over the past century. These poems from different angles and in different artistic styles reflect the Chinese people's pursuit of bright future and love of peace. The collection reveals the spirit of the modern Chinese nation and is also a condensed history of the development of contemporary Chinese poetry.

RCFA President Mikhail Titarenko speaking at the launching ceremony of the Russian-Chinese bilingual poetry collection *60 Contemporary Chinese Poems*

The launching ceremony was held in the China Hall of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences on the morning of October 8. Present were RCFA President and Director of the Institute Mikhail Titarenko, Chinese Ambassador Li Hui, representatives of Russian literary and press circles, veterans of the Great Patriotic War and young students, totaling about 70 people.

Mr. Titarenko said the two collections of poems would help readers of the two countries to know more about the literary achievements of each other's country and contribute to promoting cultural exchanges and mutual understanding. He also gave a briefing on the six-volume *Encyclopedia of Chinese Spiritual Culture* compiled by the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, just completed after much effort, and presented a set to the CPAFFC.

"With the deepening of bilateral relations, cultural cooperation between China and Russia is showing more vitality and increased quality," Chen Haosu said in his speech. "This collection of poems is a gift to the Year of Chinese Language in Russia." He expressed his thanks to the RCFA for organizing the launching ceremony and to the Institute of Far Eastern Studies for its outstanding contributions to publicizing China, to enhancing the ordinary Russian people's understanding of China and to



promoting the cultural exchanges between the two countries.

At the launch ceremony, Zhang Tongwu, editor-in-chief of the collection, made a speech, and Chinese poets Li Xiaoyu and Gu Zixin recited their own works. A Russian poet recited in Russian Chen Haosu's poem *Song of China-Russia Friendship*. The ceremony was permeated with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

At the welcoming reception hosted by the RCFA, Vasily Ivanov, first Vice President of the organisation and head of the China Group of the Russia's War Veterans Committee, conferred the medal in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War on Chen Haosu and Ambassador Li Hui.

On the afternoon of October 8, Zhang Tongsheng's photo exhibition *Facing Disasters* opened in the State Museum and Humanistic Center "Preodolenie" in Moscow. Zhang is vice president of the China Photographers Association and council member of the CRFA. Eighty photos of the Wenchuan Earthquake that rocked Sichuan in 2008 were displayed in four themed parts — memory of Wenchuan, Orphans of Beichuan in Beijing, the Russian rescue team in the quake area and the quake area today — to show the indomitable spirit of the Chinese nation in face of catastrophic natural disasters and the loving care given to the orphans in the disaster-hit areas by people of all walks of life, as well as the precious touching moments of the Russian team's rescue efforts in the disaster-hit area fully demonstrating the profound friendship between the Chinese and Russian people.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Ambassador Li Hui, RCFA President



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu showing the two poetry collections

Titarenko, the curator of the Museum G. Khrabrovitskaya, and the director of the relief center of the Russian Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disaster gave speeches. Zhang Tongsheng also made warm remarks. He particularly mentioned that under the effective leadership of the Chinese Government and with great support from the international community, the reconstruction of the quake area, originally planned to be completed in three years, had been completed one year ahead of schedule.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to cultural exchanges between China and Russia, Zhang Tongsheng was conferred upon the Ostrovsky Medal at the exhibition's opening ceremony.

The exhibition was due to tour other Russian cities after closing in Moscow.

Visits to Russian Universities

In Moscow Chen Haosu visited the Russian State Social University where he was warmly received by V. I. Rukov, Rector of the university and given an honorary doctorate. The uni-

Curator of the State Museum and Humanistic Center Galina Khrabrovitskaya presenting the Ostrovsky Medal to Zhang Tongsheng



A Trip of Cultural Exchange for Enhancing Friendship

—Vice President Li Xiaolin Leads CPAFFC delegation to Japan

Yuan Mindao

Tokyo in Autumn: the air is fresh and the streets lined with golden-leaf ginkgo trees look as if they are gilded. Invited by the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association (JCCEA), a CPAFFC delegation headed by its Vice President Li Xiaolin arrived in Japan last November 10 on a six-day visit focusing on cultural exchanges. The delegation included Yin Tao and Zhou Yiwei, leading actress and actor of the Sino-Japanese jointly-produced TV series *The Firmament of the Pleiades* broadcast on NHK TV and an instant hit. The visit aimed at furthering mutual understanding and deepening friendship.

Emphasizing friendly cooperation and pushing forward a sound development of Sino-Japanese relations by promoting governmental ties through people-to-people contacts. On the morning of November 11, Vice President Li and her party called on Takahiro Yokomichi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, at his residence. Mr. Yokomichi was formerly deputy leader of the Democrat-

ic Party of Japan (DPJ). He served as governor of Hokkaido for three consecutive terms, during which he helped Hokkaido and Heilongjiang establish friendship-province ties, making valuable contributions to exchanges and friendship between the localities and people of the two countries. Upon the delegation's arrival, Mr. Yokomichi happily shook hands with everyone, and joyfully recalled his past contacts with China.

Vice President Li thanked Mr. Yokomichi for the meeting. She said, owing to his care and the efforts made by people of all circles of the two countries, gratifying progress had been made in Sino-Japanese relations since the normalization of diplomatic relations 38 years ago, bringing concrete benefits to the two countries and their people. Chinese leaders always attached great importance to the bilateral relations. The older generation of Chinese state leaders including Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and her father Li Xian-nian had undergone the trauma of

war. From a strategic perspective, they took a far-sighted view of the Sino-Japanese relations and advocated that the two countries should take history as a mirror and look into the future. They made the great decision to normalize diplomatic relations between China and Japan. Japanese former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was one of those sagacious politicians in this respect. The great foresight and strategic resolution of the older generation of statesmen made it possible for the restoration, improvement and development of Sino-Japanese relations after the war. Currently, bilateral relations had encountered some difficulties, but, compared with the period before the normalization, these were much less severe. Li expressed the hope that the two sides would use their wisdom and solve these problems properly on the basis of the principles and spirit of the four political documents signed between the two countries, so that China and Japan would continue to move forward along the right track of building

versity is RCFA's important activity base. Rector Rukov also serves as the first vice president of the RCFA.

In Kursk, the delegation paid a visit to the South-West State University where the Kursk Branch of the RCFA is headquartered. Professor Sergej Emeljanov, Rector of the university and President of the RCFA's

Kursk Branch, warmly welcomed the delegation. At a special meeting of the university's Academic Committee, Chen Haosu and Titarenko were bestowed upon the title of honorary professor. Chen Haosu presented *60 Russian Lyrics* and *60 Contemporary Chinese Poems* to the university. The students performed with sincere feel-

ings songs and dances specially choreographed to welcome the Chinese delegation, which touched every member.

During its stay in Kursk, the delegation had a meeting with governor of Kursk and paid homage at the memorial dedicated to the Russian troops killed at the Kursk Battle. ■

a strategic mutually-beneficial relationship.

Vice President Li said, culture was an important bridge to link different nations and hearts of their people, and cultural exchange was an important channel to deepen mutual understanding and enhance friendship. This was why the two leading role players in the TV series *The Firmament of the Pleiades* had been invited to join the tour party in the hope to having heart-to-heart communications with Japanese friends and expanding mutual trust, truly realizing friendship between the two people.

Mr. Yokomichi expressed his welcome to his Chinese visitors and spoke highly of the unremitting efforts and contributions by the CPAFFC to promoting non-governmental exchanges and cooperation between the two countries over the years. He said, the Japan-China relationship was a key one and the maintenance of sound relations between them would not only benefit the people of both countries, but also the peace and stability of Asia and the world at large. He told Li of his concerns about the difficulties that had recently emerged and expressed his happiness at the resumption of cultural, economic and youth exchanges between the two sides. He examined a chart showing



From left: Zhou Yiwei, Yin Tao, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, Japanese House Speaker Takahiro Yokomichi, JCCEA President Takashi Tsujii

the relationship among the characters in *The Firmament of the Pleiades* with great interest. "It is really important for the Chinese and Japanese people to further their understanding of each other's history and culture, which will help promote bilateral relations and their friendship," he said. "I will follow the TV series with interest and watch it when I can spare the time." He added: "Autumn in Japan is delightful. I hope that your visit will be pleasant and successful." After the meeting, Mr. Yokomichi

took the delegation to his garden to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Exchanges with personages of the cultural circles to enhance friendship. Exchanges with personages of Japanese cultural circles were an important part of the visit. On the afternoon of November 11, the JCCEA hosted a welcoming reception for the delegation, with active participation by personages from the cultural circles and friendship-with-China organizations. The total attendance amounted to 260, compared to the o-

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin speaking at the reception





CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin with well-known Japanese actress Yuko Tanaka

original expectation of 200, creating a very warm atmosphere. In his speech, JCCEA President Takashi Tsujii said that with the concerted efforts by far-sighted personages of various circles of both countries, friendly exchanges and cooperation between Japan and China in all fields had achieved fruitful and satisfying results. He noted that at present, bilateral relations suffered setbacks. However, it was at such time that both sides should fortify their conviction to further strengthen non-governmental friendly exchanges including cultural exchanges so as to increase the friendly feelings between the two peoples.

Vice President Li said that, in the world today, exchanges and dialogue between different civilizations had become increasingly active, and the importance of culture and cultural exchanges in promoting world peace, development and cooperation was increasingly obvious. China and Japan shared similar cultural origins and had a long history of friendly exchanges. The two sides should work

together and actively carry out non-governmental cultural exchanges diversified in form, up-to-date in contents and acceptable to different groups of people, to consolidate the public opinion basis for the development of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries to achieve new glory in the non-governmental cultural exchanges between the two sides. At the suggestion of Vice President Li, Yin Tao and Zhou Yiwei, the two leading players in *The Firmament of the Pleiades*, made impromptu speeches on their good memories of working together with their Japanese counterparts during the filming. They said, they were happy to hear that the TV series was well received by the Japanese audience as it was really an outstanding historical story. They told those present that during the filming they made friends with their Japanese colleagues and acquired more knowledge about Japan. At the beginning, due to language barrier, they could hardly communicate with each other and could only practice lines on each other with

the help of interpreters. Later, through more interactions, they could cooperate better. This proved that as long as the two peoples worked together, they would surely be able to enhance mutual trust and pass on the friendship from generation to generation. They voiced the hope that they would have another chance to work together with their Japanese counterparts and produce more films favored by the people of the two countries, and serve as a bridge of exchange between China and Japan. After the speeches, many participants of the reception came up to the delegation members and chatted with them enthusiastically. Many of those who had watched *The Firmament of the Pleiades* were eager to take photos with the actor and the actress, making a warm and moving scene.

During the visit, the delegation also met with Mr. Jiro Maeda, the scenarist of the TV series and Ms. Yuko Tanaka, the leading actress. Mr. Maeda said that he felt delighted that the drama was popular in both Japan and China, and that the actors and actresses did excellently in portraying the characters which made the film a good show. He told the delegation that beside *The Firmament of the Pleiades*, he had also written some other books about the historical events in China and hoped that the readers would like them as well. Ms. Yuko Tanaka who plays the part of Empress Dowager Cixi in the series is widely known in China for playing the role of Oshin in the Japanese TV series of that title. She received the



Third China-Arab Friendship Conference

A delegation of the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) led by its president Tomur Dawamat attended the Third China-Arab Friendship Conference in Tripoli, capital of Libya from October 24 to 25, 2010. The conference with the theme of creating a

better future of Chinese-Arab friendship was co-sponsored by the CAFA and the League of Arab States (LAS) and hosted by the Libya-China Friendship Association. Representatives of the LAS, the Federation of Arab-China Friendship Associations and 11

other friendship organizations of Arab countries participated in the conference featured by four forums respectively on China-Arab relations, China-Arab trade and economic relations, China-Arab academic exchange, and open dialogue.

Shijuhosho (Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon) given by the Japanese government during the delegation's stay in Japan. Coming to the meeting with the delegation straight from the award ceremony in her beautiful and formal kimono, she was all smiles. Vice President Li, Yin Tao and Zhou Yiwei greeted her with congratulations and wished her more success in creating vivid characters and good films. Smilingly, Ms. Tanaka thanked them and had photos taken with them. There and then, one felt a feeling of harmony and the affection brought about by cultural exchanges.

Appealing for lasting friendship between China and Japan. Vice President Li gave several interviews to the Japanese media and Chinese media in Japan to convey to the Japanese people of various circles that China values cultural exchanges and wishes for lasting friendship between the two countries. She called for strengthened

exchanges and cooperation and deepening friendship that was in the fundamental interests of all. China and Japan were close neighbors and very influential countries in Asia and the world. Sticking to the major orientation of Sino-Japanese strategic relations of mutual benefit was conducive to peace, stability and development in Asia as well as the world. She told the reporters that the young actress and actor on the delegation had very friendly conversation with Mr. Jiro Maeda and Ms. Yuko Tanaka and that, through these lively exchanges, they hoped to hear the views of friends of Japanese cultural circles on how to carry out non-governmental exchanges under the new circumstances. On learning that the "Sunday Chinese Language Corner" sponsored by *The Duan Press* (an overseas Chinese newspaper) was very popular among the Japanese people, Vice President Li specially inscribed for the

paper "Spreading Chinese language culture and making more contributions to China-Japan friendship" to encourage them to continue to work hard. At the well-known Hakone Hotel Kowakien, at the request of the hotel's manager, Vice President Li wrote the inscription "May China-Japan Friendship last from generation to generation" to express her sincere wishes. In the ancient city of Kyoto, Li and Mr. Soji Suzuki, the famous pottery expert, talked about the culture of China's ancient Silk Road and the long history of cultural exchanges between the two countries. She drew a picture entitled "Friendship" on a semi-finished pottery to express good wishes for future glorious success of Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges.

Short as it was, this trip was substantial in content and very fruitful. May the Chinese and Japanese people live in friendship forever! ■



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Attends 15th Conference of Arab Towns Organization

Dr. Fadhil Safar, Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works, and Abdul Aziz Al-Adsani, Secretary General of Arab Towns Organization (ATO), met with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party who were on a visit to Kuwait to attend the 15th Conference of Arab Towns Organization at the invitation of the ATO.

Chen Haosu gave a brief introduction to China's urbanization and Chinese local governments' exchanges and cooperation with other countries.



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the 15th Conference of Arab Towns Organization



3



1. Muftah Kaiba, President of the Libya-China Friendship Association, speaking at the opening session
2. Tomur Dawamat, President of the CAFA having a conversation with Mohammed Zawei, Secretary of Libya's General People's Congress during the interval of the conference
3. Xinjiang art delegation giving a performance

Chinese-Arab Friendship Delegation Visits Saudi Arabia



A Chinese-Arab friendship delegation paid a visit to Saudi Arabia from October 29 to November 1 last year. Prince Satam bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Acting Emir of Riyadh Region and Abdallah bin Zaynal Ali Reza, Minister of Commerce and Industry, met with Tomur Dawamat, leader of the delegation and President of the China-Arab Friendship Association, and other chief members of the delegation. The delegation was present at the ninth meeting of the Saudi China Business Council and the reception in celebration of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Saudi Arabia.

Prince Satam bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Acting Emir of Riyadh Region, meeting with CAFA President Tomur Dawamat and his party

The delegation attending the opening ceremony of China Mart



Third Mexico-China Seminar: Strategic Partners of 21st Century Held



The Third Mexico-China Seminar: Strategic Partners of the 21st Century in Economy, Commerce and Tourism was held in Mexico City, capital of Mexico on November 26, 2010. Cheng Siwei, President of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association and former Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, attended the meeting and made a key-note speech on the formation and development of China's market economy as well as conditions for and practices in bilateral exchanges.



Delegates from Latin American countries attending the meeting



CAFA President Tomur Dawamat with children at the National Museum of Saudi Arabia

Second Forum on China-Central America People-to-People Friendship

The Second Forum on China-Central America People-to-People Friendship, jointly organized by the CPAFFC and the Central American Federation of Friendship with China, was convened in Mexico on November 25 last year. At the forum, the delegates explored the fields of economic and trade cooperation between China and Central America and their prospects, and how to further promote their economic and trade exchanges through non-governmental channels. The forum provided a platform of exchange for the Central American delegates.



CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Attends Third World Congress of UCLG

A CPAFFC delegation headed by President Chen Haosu attended the Third World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) held in the capital of Mexico from November 17 to 22, 2010. About 3,000 local government representatives from 114 countries were present. A new UCLG presidency was elected.



Above: CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the session "Life in the City"

Right: The meeting of UCLG World Council



Speech by FFCA President Alain Labat at Unveiling Ceremony of Victor Hugo's Bust in Yuanmingyuan

The proposal of donating a bronze bust of Victor Hugo to Yuanmingyuan was initiated by the Federation of the French-Chinese Associations (FFCA). Today we feel fortunate to see this bust standing here and on its base carved the famous "Letter to Captain Butler" written by Hugo to strongly condemn the outrageous looting of Yuanmingyuan committed by the Anglo-French allied forces in 1860.

This bust is donated by the FFCA together with the CPAFFC and the Association of the Chinese of the East of France. Through the extraordinary sculpting technique of Ms. Nacera Kainou, we can clearly see Hugo's great foresight. Here, perhaps, is the most symbolic place where oriental and western cultures fused in the mid 19th Century. Emperor Qianlong had built a complex of European-style palaces here that unfortu-

nately were wantonly destroyed along with the imposition of the unequal treaties that ended the Second Opium War.

Thus, we are pleased to see that the bust of Victor Hugo will stand here from now on to remind us of this.

By the end of the 19th century, Hugo and his works had already been known and spread in China, and his *Les Miserables* and *Notre Dame de Paris* were widely known. Hugo's political ideas also influenced China's early reformers and revolutionary pioneers such as Liang Qichao and Chen Duxiu.

Please believe that at that time in France Hugo was not the only person who condemned the type of relations between the West and China. In 1861, a book was published in Paris by Pierre Lafitte, a disciple of philosopher Auguste Comte. In it he

wrote,

"Let us respect this noble and great civilization. She represents an unknown world. Only by having a profound knowledge of that corresponding society can we fill the gap in our comprehension. This civilization is at a starting point of a great systematic modification. To change this nation by violent means will only perturb them and demoralize us. Let's respect a spontaneous evolution of this great civilization. In the course of free contacts brought about by trade, our prejudice against it is really dangerous, — thus, on a liberal and voluntary basis, the established commercial relations should let the regenerated West to spontaneously take actions consistent with its reputation."

The reason why I have quoted the above paragraph written in 1861 is that the words have special significance to France. I want to tell the Chinese people that whether in the past or in the future, there were and will be some French people, famous or completely unknown, who desired and will desire to know about and understand China and establish solid friendship and cooperation with the Chinese people.

(Translated from Chinese text)



From right: FFCA Secretary General Alain Caporossi, FFCA President Alain Labat, ACEF First Vice President Lin Yinxing, He Jifeng, sculptor Nacera Kainou and Chen Mingjie

For Unforgettable Memory

— Victor Hugo's Bust is Erected at Yuanmingyuan

Liu Yuting

The year 2010 marked the 150 anniversary of the sacking of Yuanmingyuan (the old Summer Palace) by Anglo-French forces and was a suitable occasion for the unveiling of a bronze bust of Victor Hugo there on October 16. It was sculpted by the noted French sculptor Nacera Kainou.

On its base was engraved Hugo's "*Letter to Captain Butler*" in commemoration of this French literary giant who raised the voice of justice against the wanton destruction and plunder of Yuanmingyuan in 1860.

Under the care of CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and with the joint efforts by the CPAFFC, the Yuanmingyuan Administrative Office (YAO) and the Federation of French-Chinese Associations (FFCA), the bust was erected. Joining them in the unveiling ceremony was the Association of the Chinese of the East of France (ACEF).

Alain Labat, President of the FFCA, noted Victor Hugo was the first person in the West at that time to strongly condemn the atrocities committed by the Anglo-French forces and who also predicted that China would surely rise in the future from its existing moribund state. The commemorative activity was not only an instructive reflection of history, but also an appeal for peace and friendship. He believed remembering this historical tragedy would help further promote mutual understanding and friendship between the French and

Chinese people.

A number of media including China Central Television (CCTV), China Radio International (CRI) and Xinhua News Agency covered the activity, allowing it to exert widespread influence and positive results.

On October 18, Chen Haosu and Ms. Nacera Kainou attended a gala entitled "Yuanmingyuan in My Heart — Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Sacking of Yuanmingyuan" held at the ruins of the Great Fountain. President Chen presented to Hong Kong film star Jackie Chan the certificate of Ambassador for the Return of Yuanmingyuan

Relics. Interviewed during the event, Ms. Kainou expressed her respect for Hugo and thanks to the CPAFFC and other relevant Chinese organizations. She said, in sculpting the bust, she gave him a firm face and an expression of farsightedness to show the literary giant's courage and resolution to fight against all evils and his strong aspiration for peace and civilization of humankind.

Many people, in their high-school days, read Victor Hugo's *Letter to Captain Butler*, from which they came to know that the author of the world-famous works *Notre Dame de Paris* (Hunchback of Notre Dame)

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu (L.1) presenting the certificate of Ambassador for the Return of Yuanmingyuan Relics to Hong Kong film star Jackie Chan



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin Participates in Global South-South Creative Week

Jia Ling

Invited by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC) under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), a 50-member delegation of mayors of small and medium-sized Chinese

cities led by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin participated in a series of events of the Global South-South Creative Week from October 20 to 24, 2010 in Shanghai. The UNDP, the UN-Habitat, the UN Alliance of

Civilizations and the UN South-South News jointly organized the event. By holding the Creative Economy Forum, the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE) Convention 2010, and the

and *Les Miserables* had great admiration for China, an ancient oriental country that he had never been to, and its splendid and long-standing civilization, and that out of this feeling and his pursuit of truth, virtue and beauty of humanity Hugo strongly condemned the atrocities committed by the Anglo-French forces. In the *Letter to Captain Butler*, he wrote, "One day, two bandits entered the old Summer Palace. One plundered and the other set fire to it. It seems that this is a victory, but it's thieves' victory. The two victors jointly devastated the old Summer Palace... We Europeans think of ourselves as the civilized, and in our eyes the Chinese are barbarians. But this is what civilized people have done to barbarians. In history, one of the bandits was called England and the other France... I hope that one day will come when France, liberated and cleansed, will return the booty to despoiled China."

Today, 150 years later, the World Expo was held in Shanghai. Last May, a Hugo's bust was placed in the French Pavilion in the Shanghai

World Expo. That bust was donated by the city of Besancon, Hugo's hometown and the Franc-Comtoise Association of French-Chinese Friendship (FCAFCF), with a plan for its subsequent permanent erection on the "Drama Road" in Pudong, Shanghai. Chen Haosu attended the unveiling ceremony and gave a speech. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Alain Caporossi, President of the FCAFCF and Secretary General of the FFCA, made contacts with the CPAFFC and proposed donating a Hugo's bust to Yuanmingyuan to reflect this period of history when he learnt that October 18, 2010 was to be the memorial day for marking the 150 anniversary of the cultural atrocity. Chen readily accepted the proposal and instructed the staffers concerned in the Department of the European and Asian Affairs of the CPAFFC to implement the proposal as quickly as possible.

After consulting with the Yuanmingyuan Administrative Office, the CPAFFC, the FFCA and the YAO reached an agreement on cooperation. The YAO thought that Caporossi's proposal was not only con-

sistent with the theme of the commemoration, but also very instructive.

In the following three months, Nacera Kainou sacrificed her holidays to sculpt the bust day and night. With the concerted efforts by the CPAFFC, the FFCA, the YAO and the ACEF, such problems as funding, transportation, completion of customs procedures were solved in a short time. At last the bust of Victor Hugo was smoothly erected in Yuanmingyuan.

Today, amid green pines and cypresses at the eastern side of the ruins of the Great Fountain, the bust of Hugo with deep and incisive look in his eyes is gazing at this "Miracle of the East" that has been left in ruins. He with a firm look and radiant eyes seems ready to fight for protection of this fruit of human civilization. The purpose of memorizing history is to give warnings to the later generations instead of prolonging hatred, and to appeal for mutual respect and tolerance between different civilizations in the world for peace so that such historical tragedy will never repeat. ■

Creative Initiative for Peace — Mayor's Forum during the week, the sponsors aimed at tapping the potential of the creative economy in promoting sustainable urban development and peace culture, facilitating countries throughout the world to share new technologies and fruits of the creative economy with the aim of promoting a sustainable urban development and technology in developing countries.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin attended the flag-raising ceremony of the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and the UN Pavilion Day celebration, met with Awni Behnan, UN Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs and Commissioner General of the UN Pavilion, and other leading officials of a number of UN organizations and several countries' ambassadors to the United Nations. She also attended the roundtable meeting held by the UN Alliance of Civilizations and gave speeches at the opening ceremony of the Mayor's Forum and the welcoming dinner hosted by the UN South-South News. Through a multimedia display, she briefed the representatives of various countries on years' efforts made by the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) to promote cultural exchanges between China and other countries and friendly and practical cooperation at the local government level. Her speeches were well received and many participants hoped to know more about the CPAFFC. The UN-Habitat and the

Alliance of Civilizations expressed their wish to cooperate with the CPAFFC and invited Vice President Li to lead delegations to take part in relevant activities in 2011.

During the Creative Week, five former presidents and seven ministers of foreign countries, 30 ambassadors to the UN, dozens of Chinese and foreign mayors, and leading officials of UN organizations as well as leaders of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign

Qingdao of Shandong Province, respectively representing China's central cities, western inland cities, cities in the Special Economic Zones that opened to the outside world earliest, and eastern coastal cities, spoke about local achievements and experiences in the development of a creative economy, sustainable ecological construction and protection of historical cities. In addition to Chinese mayors and representatives of the mayors

of foreign countries, world-renowned experts on urban development, UN officials and ambassadors of various countries to the UN also spoke on such topics as global market, information and telecommunication technology, healthy and sustainable urban development, creative economy, culture of peace, etc.

Rapid development of cities has become a salient feature of

the new century. Cities attract investment, create wealth, promote social progress and bring about an unprecedented development of human and technological resources. The international community is attaching more and more importance to the development of cities and cooperation between them. Many UN organizations are planning and carrying out cooperation projects geared to cities of various countries, particularly cities and local governments of developing countries. This Creative Week has enabled the CPAFFC and the CIFCA to establish closer ties and enrich the contents of its cooperation with the UN and its relevant organizations. ■



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin speaking at the opening session of Mayors' Forum

Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and the Shanghai Municipal Government participated in the relevant events of the Week. The SU/SSC invited the CPAFFC to be its partner of the activity, and invited Chinese mayors to attend the Mayor's Forum and the UN Day celebration. The CPAFFC invited mayors of prefecture- and county-level cities to the activity to provide them with a broader platform for international exchange.

Geng Yanbo, Mayor of Datong of Shanxi Province, Hou Xiaochun, Mayor of Guang'an of Sichuan Province, Chen Honghui, Vice Mayor of Zhuhai of Guangdong Province, and Wu Tiejun, Assistant Mayor of

Dr. Charles M. Grossman Conferred Title of Friendship Ambassador

Shu Zhang

At a meeting cosponsored by the CPAFFC and China Society for People's Friendship Studies (CSPFS) held in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on November 17, 2010, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping, on behalf of the CPAFFC, conferred the title of Friendship Ambassador upon 95-year-old Dr. Charles M. Grossman, an old friend of the Chinese people.

Dr. Grossman cherishes profound feelings for China and has been engaged in the cause of friendship between the American and Chinese

people all his life. He was the doctor of Brigadier General Evans Carlson, an old friend of the Chinese people. Carlson, who passed away in 1946, had told the young Grossman what he had seen and heard in China and his contacts with the leaders of the Communist Party of China. Influenced by him, Grossman was determined to carry on the cause of friendship between the American and Chinese people that Carlson had been engaged in. It was not until the early 1970s, when Sino-US relations were normalized, that he got such a chance. To

perpetuate the memory of Evans Carlson, and further promote friendship between the American and Chinese people, he set up Evans Carlson's Friends of the People's Republic of China in the US state of Oregon. From 1974 to the end of the last century, he organized more than 20 tour groups to China and did a great deal of work to spread friendship. He has visited China more than 30 times and he also edited the writings and reports contributed by members of his China tours and compiled them into a book *Evans Carlson's Legacy of Friendship*, which was published in 2005. In 2009, to express his love for the Chinese people, he specially came to China to join in the

celebration for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

Dr. Grossman once served as Vice Chairman of the National Committee on US-China Relations. Some noted Chinese personages visited the U.S. at his invitation. He also hosted visits to Portland and received Chinese students studying there. He has taken an active part in the activities of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, advocating that people should live in harmony instead of fighting, and worked hard for world peace. He has made active efforts to promote the friendship between the people of the U.S. and the DPRK. He visited the DPRK several times at the invitation of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of the DPRK, and organized donations of books and medical publications to the DPRK. When US President Barack Obama lifted the ban on contacts with Cuba in 2009, he set out for a visit to the island in early May on his own despite of his old age. He said: "If I don't get arrested, I hope many more people will follow this example."

To look for the five Chinese young men appointed by Chairman Mao Zedong to accompany Evans Carlson to go to the base areas behind the enemy lines for inspection, Dr. Grossman brought with him old photos during his visits to China. With the help of the CPAFFC, in 1986, he finally found Liu Baiyu, Ouyang

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping presenting the medal and certificate of Friendship Ambassador to Dr. Charles Grossman



CSPFS President Jin Yongjian presenting a calligraphy work to Dr. Charles Grossman



Shanzun, Wang Yang, Jin Zhaoye (who was confined to bed with serious illness) and also the relatives of Lin Shan (who had passed away). He at once invited the first three named to visit the United States, and carried out a series of activities to enhance US-China people's friendship in the name of Evans Carlson. In 1995, on the occasion of the centennial of the birth of Evans Carlson, he came to Beijing to participate in a commemorative activity in the Great Hall of the People. He also organized commemorative events in Portland, Carlson's hometown, and invited Ouyang Shanzun and his wife and a Chinese artists' group to take part.

Dr. Grossman is the first person in the world to use penicillin clinically. On March 14, 1942, when he was a young assistant doctor in Yale-New Haven Hospital, he cured a woman suffering from septicemia, for which he was commended by the American Medical Association.

Jin Yongjian, President of the CSPFS, said: "We warmly congratulate

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Receives Ukrainian Order of Merit

Zhang Hualu

Yurii Kostenko, the Ukrainian Ambassador to China, presented the Order of Merit Third Grade to CPAFFC President Chen Haosu at a ceremony held in the CPAFFC Peace Palace on the afternoon of November 3. This was conferred according to the decree of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych in recognition of Chen's great contributions to the exchanges between the two countries. In response, Chen said it was an expression of sincere friendship of the State and the people of Ukraine for the Chinese people and also an affirmation and commendation of the CPAFFC's

achievements in people-to-people diplomacy with Ukraine. Chen said he would make continued and unremitting efforts to consolidate and develop China-Ukraine friendship and strengthen friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two peoples. He wished Ukraine every success in making new achievements under the leadership of President Yanukovych.

Present at the ceremony were Zhang Zhen, President of the China-Ukraine Friendship Association, diplomats of the Ukrainian Embassy in China and journalists from the Chinese and Ukrainian media.

Ukrainian Ambassador to China Yurii Kostenko presenting the Order of Merit of Ukraine to CPAFFC President Chen Haosu



late Dr. Grossman on being awarded the title of Friendship Ambassador, the highest honor given to international friends by the CPAFFC, in

recognition and appreciation of his years of outstanding contributions to the friendship between the Chinese and American people." ■

2010 China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo & Experts' Forum Held

Wen Xin

Yangzhou City was built along with the birth of the Grand Canal of China. Over more than 2,000 years, the canal has witnessed the city's growth and its progress in civilization. The ancient city has attracted the world's attention time and again since 2007 as the host of an annual event — China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo.

The 2010 China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo & Experts' Forum was jointly held by China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Yangzhou Municipal People's Government and the World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organization from September 25 to 27. More

than 50 Chinese and foreign canal cities and Yangzhou's international friendship cities gathered to seek new ideas and new ways of development in the post-financial crisis era.

With the theme of developing a "Low-Carbon Economy", the forum drew about 400 representatives and experts from 34 Chinese cities such as Beijing and Hangzhou scattered along the Grand Canal, and canal cities from 15 foreign countries, including Panama City; also present were the three friendship cities or friendly exchange cities of Yangzhou, nine international organizations and three world top-500 companies. Among the guests were Tang Kai, Chief Planner of the Ministry of

Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Gu Yucai, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, Chen Yonglong, Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, Zhou Changyi, Director General of the Department of Energy Conservation and Resources Utilization of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, Karla Peijs, Commissioner of the Queen and Governor of Zeeland Province of the Netherlands, Dave MacDougall, Secretary of Inland Waterways International, Mel Rice of the US-China Partnership for Climate Action, Jose Alberto Garibaldi, Director of Energia of London and a Senior Policy Advisor

2010 China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo



to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of the U.K. and mayors of Chinese and foreign canal cities.

Yangzhou was brightly lit on Sept. 25. At 8 pm, all the Chinese and foreign guests, on board six painted boats set sail from Dong-guandu (East Passage Port) along the ancient canal with 16 decorated boats in accompaniment to reach the venue of the opening ceremony: the South-Gate Relics Site. Yangzhou Mayor Xie Zhengyi and Handan Mayor Guo Dajian jointly opened the Low-Carbon World Canal Cities Expo by pushing the button to ignite fireworks.

On September 26, all the participants gathered together to discuss the great significance and ways that canal cities could develop a low-carbon economy and how to further promote sustainable economic growth and the coordinated development of economy and society.

In his speech entitled “Promote Low-Carbon development and Build Yangzhou into a Happy City”, Xie Zhengyi pointed out that this was not only to protect the environment but also an important opportunity for canal cities to regain vitality and renew their glory in modern times. Taking into account the need for sustainable urban growth, the Yangzhou Municipal People’s Government gives priority to developing a low-carbon economy when making all major decisions. Since it put forward the goal of building an “innovative, exquisite and happy Yangzhou” in the latter half of 2009, the city has adopted the following measures: actively developing a low-carbon economy; vigorously promoting cultural and ecological tourism, software and information services, modern logistics and other industries; in the inter-



Decorated boats parading along the Canal

ests of energy conservation, to eliminate backward production capacity, push for technical renovation, popularize recycling technology and promote energy-saving buildings.

At the panel discussions in the afternoon, the participants spoke on four topics of “low-carbon and industrial development”, “low-carbon and urban construction”, “low-carbon and city transport” and “low-carbon and urban life”. They explored the trend, direction and ways of low-carbon development for canal cities and exchanged their experiences. After a day of enthusiastic discussion, the participants reached the consensus to

further disseminate the concept of environment protection and low-carbon economy by enhancing the publicity, drawing plans and cultivating industries of low carbon and advocating a low-carbon life.

During the expo, the Chinese and foreign guests visited the South-Gate Relics Site, a photo exhibition on the protection of the Grand Canal, the Yangzhou Intelligence Valley Exhibition Hall, a painting and calligraphy exhibition “Love the Grand Canal, Yangzhou and Life”, took part in the Expert Forum and watched a large-scale cultural performance. ■

The gala



Fruit of Cooperation and Friendship Between China and Germany

—Ceremony Celebrating Publication of Chinese Version of *Daughter of the Yellow Land — Princess Jincheng*

Yin Shenglun

On October 19, 2010, a ceremony celebrating the publication of the Chinese version of the book *Daughter of the Yellow Land — Princess Jincheng* was held in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC. The book is written by Countess Graefin Monika von Borries, President of the Germany-China Friendship Association Rheinland-Pfalz and recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC, translated by Professor Du Wentang and Mr. Li Shixun, and published by the China Social Sciences Press.

The ceremony was presided over by CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Madame Monika von Borries, President of the China Social Sciences Press Meng Zhaoyu, and Pro-

fessor Du spoke on the occasion. A letter of congratulation sent by Li Shenming, Executive Vice President of the China Academy of Social Sciences, was read out. Ms. Li Guozhu, wife of Yin Fatang, former First Secretary of the CPC Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region and Commander of the Tibet Military Command; Ms. Ma Lihua, Editor-in-Chief of China Tibetology Publishing House; former Chinese ambassadors to Germany Yang Chengxu, Hu Benyao, Liu Changye, Lu Yonghua as well as members of the China-Germany Friendship Association and the Germany-China Friendship Association among over one hundred people attended the ceremony.

In his speech President Chen spoke highly of Countess Monika von

Borries' dedication with perseverance and consistency to the cause of friendship between Germany and China. She wrote the book on Princess Jincheng after previously writing *Princess Wencheng*, making a new contribution to further promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between China and Germany and between the people of the two countries.

In her speech, the Countess told the audience why she, a German, had overcome numerous difficulties to write these two Chinese historical books. She and her husband had traveled in Asia many times. When they stepped on Chinese soil for the first time in 1985, they were deeply touched by the historic, splendid Chinese culture and the simple and industrious Chinese people. At that time, they already felt that China had a promising future, but didn't realize that trip was the turning point of their life. Through the CPAFFC, she made more and more friends who deepened her affection for China. When she was exposed to Chinese culture, she occasionally heard the tales about Princess Wencheng and Princess Jincheng, and she wondered how could the two princesses, who married someone in a faraway land where natural conditions were harsh, the culture was different and there was a language barrier, had become so loved even by Tibetan people today.

From left: Ma Lihua, Li Guozhu, Meng Zhaoyu, Chen Haosu, Monika von Borries, Du Wentang, Yang Chengxu, Hu Benyao, Liu Changye



Graefin Monika von Borries' Speech at Launching Ceremony of Chinese Version of *Daughter of the Yellow Land — Princess Jincheng*

October 19, 2010

You may ask what has motivated a European to carry out years of research on the two princesses of the Chinese Tang Dynasty. To explain

Thus, she overcame numerous difficulties and, helped by Ms. Yang Lihua from the CPAFFC, collected and read a great many historical records and went to Tibet seven times, where she talked with Tibetan monks and ordinary people and learned more about Tibetan history, religion and ancient legends. At last, she found the answer that the two princesses, showing great tolerance for the exotic culture and magnanimity of Tibet, had won love and understanding from the local ethnic group and with their indomitable spirit, willpower and infinite faith helped the Tang Dynasty and Tubo regime to turn hostility into longstanding friendship. They fulfilled their mission as envoys of friendship. Their story is a mirror of history that should continue to illuminate the present course. Through a decade of painstaking efforts, the Countess finished the two historical novels of Sino-Tibetan friendship. The two books written in a unique style display a gorgeous picture of Tibetan history and tell touching stories about admirable and praiseworthy heroes of ancient times. The Countess also praised the great support she got from her husband.

Professor Du Wentang and Mr. Li Shixun should also be given great credit. It is well known that to trans-

late a good literary work one needs to have a thorough understanding of the historical background of the events described in it and that only by so doing can the translation reflect the essence of the original work. That is where the difficulty lay especially in translating the book *Princess Jincheng*. Madam Borries tried to find some translators to do the work, but needless to say, most of them quit after learning of the difficulties. At this time, Professor Du, despite his advanced age, took up the work. He spent most of his time in finding out the historical background instead of in translating the text. He had to learn a lot of knowledge from scratch. He modestly consulted historians, scholars in religion and Ti-

betologists, and carefully read the original work and a great amount of background materials, trying to know the ancient plateau from the spiritual and emotional perspectives so as to make his translation attain the acme of perfection. It can be said that the publication of the Chinese version of *Princess Jincheng* is saturated with the sweat of

been interested in Asia and have traveled in many Asian countries. Friendship with many people of other countries taught us we should re-examine

these two senior translators.

Besides writing, Countess Monika von Borries as well as her friends show great care for the healthy growth of the Chinese children. Under her impetus, members of the Germany-China Friendship Association have made donations to the Chinese Youth Foundation and the Hope Primary School in Hui County, Shaanxi Province to help the school improve its teaching facilities and pupils in financial difficulties finish their study. They also help the Chinese students studying in Germany overcome all kinds of difficulties. When China suffered the worst flood in a century, they donated money to China's disaster-hit areas. ■

Yin Shenglun (L.3) and Yang Lihua (L.1) with Countess Monika von Borries



Publication News

our own views and respect other's culture. But, no other country has fascinated us for so long a time as has China. When we came for the first time, we already felt that its long-standing culture and industrious and friendly people would surely have a bright future. But we never imagined that one day we could do our bit to help clear up misunderstanding and prejudice brought by media reports.

Gradually, through cooperation with many friendship organizations, we came to know more and more people and made more and more friends. We share our work, support each other and also learn from each other. Most of them, including all of you present here today, work hard for the same goal, i.e. to promote mutual understanding between the German and Chinese people. Like me, you know that winning friends can bring great joy.

Many of you have become a role model. Here today I extend my gratitude to you, for I have learned a lot from you. Your generous friendship and sincerity have enriched my husband's and my heart and our brains. Here, I also express my gratitude to the members of the Germany-China Friendship Association. They have shared the workload and

some of them are also present here today.

I often think that we are working for a common goal. We and Princess Jincheng have the same dream, i.e. turning hostility into friendship.

If Princess Jincheng were among us, would she be chosen as the laureate of the title of Friendship Ambassador? It's a pity we know too little about her time. To us Europeans, Tibet is a mysterious and wondrous land. I think that the Chinese may have the same feeling when talking about Tibet. What we have in common is that we have little knowledge about the culture of this ancient land, and even less about the history before the Dalai Lama began his rule there. But the period of history that comes down to us today as mainly myth or legend still exists in culture and art and continues to have influence.

In that little-known time lived two princesses of the Tang Dynasty. I came to know their stories by chance and was amazed at their lives. Though outsiders, they were respected and worshipped as goddess by later generations.

What can people learn from their examples? Can people really learn something from history? I hope that my book can give an answer to these questions. It seemed that Princess Jincheng was not as successful in her life as Princess Wencheng, but, she also

held a respected place in history. She bravely and firmly pursued her own path. She enriched Tibetan culture and made important contributions to the spreading of Buddhism, though in her short life she could not see the achievements for herself. History always produces great figures who can transcend their own fate and care for the fate of the broad masses.

Though the two women were different, their lives have set an example for us and transmitted us a message that we should have an open mind, respect unfamiliar cultures, examine our own views, learn from other cultures and combine our own culture with them, and work for the well-being and progress of future generations.

During the writing of the two books, I learned a lot and hoped that what I had learned could be absorbed by my readers. These two books should not be measured by the criteria of academic works. However, I did carefully collect and collate all the materials that could be uncovered. What I wanted to do was to shed light on this period of history that we know so very little about. For this reason, I am looking forward to the day when not only these two princesses of the Tang Dynasty, but also the period in which they lived can be studied thoroughly.

Thank you for your attention to these two books.

(Translated from Chinese text)

The author is president of the Germany-China Friendship Association Rheinland-Pfalz



Countess Monika von Borries speaking at the ceremony

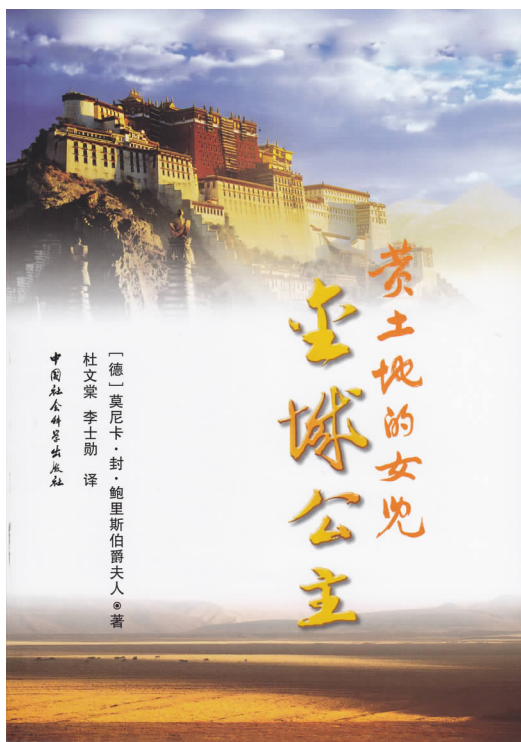
Chinese Version of *Daughter of the Yellow Land—Princess Jincheng* Published

Li Shixun

The Chinese version of the novel *Daughter of the Yellow Land—Princess Jincheng* was launched at a ceremony in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on the morning of October 19, 2010. The author is Countess Graefin Monika von Borries, President of the Germany-China Friendship Association Rheinland-Pfalz, who has also written *Princess Wencheng*.

The story of Princess Jincheng is more intricate than that of Princess Wencheng. In 710 C.E., sent by the Emperor of the Tang Dynasty, the beautiful 14-year-old Princess Jincheng left the prosperous capital Chang'an for faraway Lhasa, capital of Tufan (the Tibetan regime in ancient China), to marry the Tibetan king. In Tibet where natural conditions were harsh and customs very different, plus language barrier and distrust among the members of the royal family, the princess experienced humiliation and bitterness and several times faced an impasse. But she kept firmly in mind her mission to bring peace between the Tang Dynasty and Tufan. With indomitable willpower, she struggled and overcame numerous difficulties and finally won the trust and love of the people there. According to the Tibetan folklore, Princess Jincheng gave birth to a son—Trisong Detsen, a very impor-

tant figure after Songtsan Gampo in Tibetan history, who was revered as one of the Three Dharma Kings and played a key role in consolidating the Tibetan regime and introducing Buddhism to Tibet.



Reviewing Tufan's history of about 300 years from rise to disintegration, its relations with the kingdom in the Central Plains determined its development trend and ending. The relationship between the Tang Dynasty and Tufan, sometimes at war and sometimes at peace by marriages, eventually led to unification. Tibet

joined the big family of the Chinese nation and became an important member, making a unique contribution to the formation and development of its brilliant civilization. Princesses Wencheng and Jincheng deserved the credit for bringing peace between them.

The two princesses had the same mission, but their lives were entirely different, as things had changed with time. Princess Wencheng was sent to Tibet when the Tang Dynasty was in its heyday. Emperor Taizong arranged for her to marry Songtsan Gampo, a national hero of Tufan. It was an alliance between two powers. For Princess Wencheng, it took her a short time to bring about friendly ties between the Tang Dynasty and Tufan. She helped promote an all-round social development and laid a foundation for the founding of the Tibetan Buddhism. Deified by the people as White Tara, Princess Wencheng's influence can be found everywhere. There are numerous sculptures, paintings, Tangka (traditional Tibetan scroll paintings), Tibetan dramas and dances extolling her outstanding achievements.

Seventy years later, when Princess Jincheng went to Tibet, things had changed greatly. After the death of Emperor Taizong, the Tang Dynasty was in decline. For the first

Bilingual Poem Collection *Breath of China* Published by Ukrainian Poetess Liudmyla Skyrd

Zhang Hualu

The presentation of the Chinese-Ukrainian bilingual book of poetry *Breath of China* by famed Ukrainian poetess Liudmyla Skyrd was held in the CPAFFC Peace

Liudmyla Skyrd at the presentation



Palace on November 3, 2010.

Skyrd is also literary critic and specialist in literature well known throughout Eastern Europe. She has published 30-odd books and has been awarded the Gold Medal of Italy's Dante Alighieri Society. Her poetry has been translated into many languages.

Breath of China, her first work on China, has been translated into Chinese by Gao Mang, a well-known translator of literature. The work was pub-

lished to mark the Ukrainian President's visit to China in September.

In his speech at the presentation, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu expressed his warm congratulations and spoke highly of Skyrd's poetry in lauding China's history and culture and its current dynamic development. He said, the author was good at finding the beauty of China, and from a friend's angle, eulogizing with deep emotion and in a lively style the happy life of the Chinese people and the progress of present-day China that was most moving. Thus, the publication, a first in cultural exchanges between the two countries, was of great significance. He hoped that Ms. Skyrd

time a deep social crisis emerged in the country. First, Empress Wu Zetian reigned, and then Empress Wei seized power. Coup d'états occurred repeatedly, and the country was drenched in blood and shrouded in terror. Six coups occurred during the decade after the reign of Empress Wu. Such a political situation greatly weakened the national strength of the Tang Dynasty. It was a miserable time when Jincheng departed from Chang'an. At that time Tufan was also mired in turbulence. After the death of Songtsan Gampo, there were fierce power struggles among chiefs of different tribes. Zhanpu (the highest ruler of Tufan) died young. Conservative tribal chiefs seized the opportunity to make a comeback. They opposed Tibet maintaining good relations with the

Tang Dynasty, stood for expanding, by force, Tufan's territories into the Tang and its other surrounding small states, and resisted Buddhism that began flourishing since the age of Princess Wencheng by retaining the ancient Bon religion. To them Princess Jincheng was an object of hate. Then, a fierce struggle over how to "punish" Princess Jincheng was staged, threatening her life. She, daughter of a "guilty subject" deposed by Empress Wu Zetian, could not get full understanding and strong support from the Tang Dynasty as Princess Wencheng had enjoyed. Surrounded by vicious powers, in a state of apprehension, she struggled hard and spent her 30 years in loneliness. Though she was in agony and sometimes reduced to despair, she never

gave up. She sacrificed her youth and life for the lofty mission she shouldered and ended her extraordinary life as a martyred saint.

Countess Graefin Monika von Borries was deeply moved by Princess Jincheng's life so full of misfortune. She wrote the book in elegant German, vividly depicting Princess Jincheng and the history of the Tang Dynasty and Tufan. This book will help people in Germany and the West understand Chinese history and culture, exchanges and integration between the Han and Tibetan nationalities, and play a role in enhancing mutual understanding and harmony among different Chinese ethnic groups.

The book is translated by Professor Du Wentang and Mr. Li Shixun. ■

Guangzhou Mayor Wan Qingliang Elected UCLG Co-President

Guo Lei

United Cities and Local Government, founded in 2004, is the largest organization of cities and local governments in the world with more than 1,000 cities in 136 countries and regions and 112 local government associations as its members. The Third UCLG World Congress was convened in Mexico City, Mexico from November 17 to 21, 2010. Over 3,000 mayors or their representatives and officials from the UN-Habitat, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Bank and other international organizations attended the Congress titled "Local and Regional Leaders World Summit".

A new executive was elected with Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, as President and Wan

Qingliang, Mayor of Guangzhou, Antonio Costa, Mayor of Lisbon, Johnny Araya Monge, Mayor of San Jose of Costa Rica, Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare of Zimbabwe, and Ilsur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan of Russia as Co-Presidents.

In his speech after the election, Mayor Wan said that UCLG's

big family would surely resolve the difficulties and problems arising in the process of globalization, industrialization and urbanization with wisdom, because the members had confidence in the future world and future cities. He ended his speech with the words: "Let us work hard together to make an even better tomorrow."



A new leadership of UCLG elected

da would create more passionate poems for China-Ukraine cooperation. At the meeting, Chen recited the poem *Vigor of Ukraine* he had written for the occasion.

Ukrainian Ambassador Yuri Kostenko said publication of *Breath of China* was of special significance and a successful experience in providing a Ukrainian perspective on Chinese history and modern life. The book was an important contribution to literary and cultural exchanges between Ukraine and China. He expressed the hope that, in the future, there would be more similar cooperative projects to strengthen the cultural

exchanges between the two countries and friendship between the two peoples.

Ms. Skyryda thanked Chen Haosu and others who had rendered assistance to the publication of the book. China was one of the world's leaders not only in economic terms but also in its people's potential spiritual power, she said. To express her respect, she recited, in Ukrainian, one of the poems in Chen Haosu's collection of poetry *Poems Written in Flight*.

At the presentation Su Shuyang, Li Xiaoyu and some other famous writers and poets recited poems from *Breath of China*. Students of Peking

University recited in both Chinese and Ukrainian poems by famous Ukrainian poet Taras H. Shevchenko. Ukrainian artists sang their local folk songs. The activity was immersed in a joyful, friendly atmosphere.

Also present at the presentation were representatives from the cultural, press and business circles in Beijing, students and teachers of Peking University as well as diplomats from the embassies of Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. ■

Tenth *Hands Across the Pacific* Show Held

Sun Kang

The 10th *Hands across the Pacific* show co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Canadian International Cultural Exchanges (CICEX) was held respectively in Tokyo, Japan from September 1 to 6, 2010 and in Wuhan, China, from September 27 to October 2. More than 140 pieces of exquisite works made by Chinese, Japanese, Canadian, the ROK and Mongolian artists were displayed, reflecting the artists' love of art and aspiration for peace. The show attracted over 6,000 visitors.

CICEX is a non-profit organization for international cultural exchanges. It was founded by Ms. Hoi Sai Wu-Brandt, a Chinese-Canadian, in Canada in 2000. Since July 2004, the CICEX and the CPAFFC jointly held exhibitions in China, Japan, Canada and the ROK, contributing to the enhancement of understanding



CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan visiting the exhibition

and friendship between the people of different countries. *Hands across the Pacific*, the most representative exhibition among them, has so far been

successfully held for ten times. The show toured several countries each time it was held, and has always been well received by the public. ■



The Tenth *Hands Across the Pacific* Show held in Japan

CIFCA Granted Observer Status with Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Of Council of Europe

Jia Ling

On October 5, 2010, a letter from Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, informed CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin that the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) had been granted observer status. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Bureau of the Congress on September 17, 2010. In future, the CIFCA will receive invitations to Congress sessions as well as to any conferences organized by the Congress. It will have the right to speak at the Congress sessions with

the Chairman's consent.

The Council of Europe, founded in May 1949, has 47 member states. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, an arm of the Council, has 318 members each in its Chamber of Local Authorities and Chamber of Regions, representing over 200,000 local and regional authorities in 47 member states.

It convenes spring and autumn sessions every year. The participants are mayors and regional and municipal councilors of the member

states, representatives of European organizations, as well as guests and observers from non-member states. Currently, organizations from regions and countries outside Europe including the Arab Towns Organization, the Union of Local Authorities in Israel and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) have been granted observer status.

The CIFCA's observer status with the Congress will facilitate the development of its friendship-city work.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin meeting with Ian Micallef, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe





“Roots-Finding Voyage” —A Courageous Act in World Navigation

Hao Zhongwei

November 19, 2010 is a day that can go down the history of world navigation. Six brave men from French Polynesia and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific Ocean eventually arrived at Mawei (see the photo above) of Fuzhou City, China in a canoe, covering a distance of 16,000 kilometers. They had set sail four months earlier. The voyage completed their goal of retracing the migration route of their ancestors 5,000 years ago.

A Dream Fulfilling Voyage

The idea of the sea voyage, dubbed “Roots-Finding Voyage”, came from a long-cherished dream of Hiria Ottino, president of the Sino-Polynesia Friendship Association. His eight years of experience of studying, touring and working in China made him fall in love with the country. His interest in the history of human migration grew from his anthropology student background and the archaeological studies conducted by his mother and brother. By

chance, he read an article written by a professor in Hawaii putting forward the argument that the ancestors speaking one of the Austronesian languages came from China originally. Then, an idea of building a replica of an ancient canoe to sail along the migratory route came to him. Having spent a long time studying the feasibility of the voyage and looking through relevant material, he decided to start the voyage in 2010. For this, he made a special visit to China to consult with the CPAFFC and expressed the hope that the canoe would arrive in China during the Shanghai World Expo. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Li Jianping voiced their firm support. The latter also accompanied Hiria to Shanghai to hold consultations with relevant departments and to confirm the technical arrangements for the reception when the canoe reached Shanghai. With great assistance from Oscar Temaru, President of the Assembly of French Polynesia, all the funds needed for the voyage

were raised and the crew recruited. The canoe set sail from Tahiti in July.

Braving the Wind and High Waves

Hiria was the only non-professional among the six-member crew. And his first voyage has been made in the most primitive way, that is, to navigate by observing the astronomical phenomena and ocean currents. One can well imagine the difficulties they must have encountered. In the first two weeks he was tormented by sea sickness. Immediately after that, the motor-powered supply ship that sailed together with the canoe turned back due to strong winds and big waves. On its way to the Solomon Islands, the canoe began leaking due to damage from the out-rigger. It took more than three hours for the sailors to bail it with buckets. These difficulties and danger were nothing compared with the ones caused by a typhoon. On October 17 when they were on their way from Palau to the Philippines, Typhoon Megi swept over the area, whipping up waves

Reflections of American Students' Home Stay in Sichuan

Editor's note: A 15-member delegation of Lakeside School in Seattle, Washington visited Sichuan from June 20 to July 10 last year at the invitation of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The visit was part of a global service learning tour. The 12 students and three teachers lived in the homes of 14 farmers in Shuangquan Village of Xiushui Township in Anxian County, an area devastated

by the May 2008 earthquake. They were treated as members of the host families, working in the fields and doing house chores together. The American students ran an "English immersion camp" in the village for two hours every afternoon, drawing over a hundred village children. The group also visited the ruins of Beichuan County to see the devastation caused by the earthquake and the rebuilt Beichuan and Anxian towns. Together

with the children of their host families they planted ginkgo trees as part of a reforestation effort. The students made a wall painting entitled "Growing Together" as a memento of their stay. The trip gave the American students an opportunity to learn about the conditions in the Chinese countryside and the reconstruction of the earthquake-hit area in Sichuan, and increased their feelings for China and the Chinese people.

eight meters high. Even the most seasoned sailor among the crew was convinced of impending death. But through many struggles they finally came through unscathed. The pity is they failed to reach China before the Shanghai World Expo ended. Hiria admitted that the voyage was extremely dangerous and difficult and several times he and other crewmen wanted to give up; but encouraged by families and friends, they collaborated well and held out to the end. It was the greatest happiness for them to reach destination safe and sound.

A Courageous Act

"We have made it, sailing from Tahiti to Fuzhou. Our great grandparents and grandparents all had Chinese blood. Now, we have come to the land where they had lived, we feel very proud." These were the remarks Captain Tamaehu Punoa made when he stepped onto Chinese soil. Hiria noted, the success of this roots-finding voyage proved that it was possi-

ble for earlier generations to migrate from China to the South Pacific Islands. He would contact specialists in the field in the South Pacific Region to join hands with Chinese scholars in studying the historical origins between Euro-Asian Continent and South Pacific Islands.

To express their gratitude to the CPAFFC for its great support, Hiria and all the other crewmen presented the Five-Star Red Flag that had been hung on the canoe for over four months to Vice President Li Jianping at a welcoming reception hosted by the CPAFFC in Shanghai. Li said the CPAFFC would keep this precious national flag in its collection and display it at the Exhibition of the History of the CPAFFC to commemorate the contribution the "Roots-Finding Voyage" had made to enhancing friendship between the people of China and South Pacific Region.

Six brave men made history by drifting on the ocean in a canoe.

The "Roots-Finding Voyage" is a courageous act in the history of navigation and has added an extraordinary chapter in the annals of China's people-to-people friendly exchanges with foreign countries. ■

The canoe



Reflections

I came and left the village with overturned assumptions, all pointing to my same mistake—that I had underestimated the village people. Upon arrival, my first sweeping view of Shuangquan was that the life there was rudimentary. But after living side by side with the villagers, I realized that their community was not only self-sufficient, but impressively sophisticated. Take, for example, the level of trust between families. Although the fields are a sea of crops,

the people know their place and trust each other not to steal their produce. In fact, a person could simply approach a neighbor and ask to take a few strands of string beans and all would be well.

In the community, there is a kind of esoteric liveliness that thrives in the seemingly isolated location. Every day, I could feel an ambient friendliness around me, even while merely walking along the main road. The level of generosity blew my mind. The evening before my depar-

ture, my family bombarded me with gifts, gifts, and more gifts—two cross stitches, a set of pens, a bracelet, and even a porcelain bowl... I felt overwhelmed, knowing that my gifts to them were no match for their hospitality. Back in Seattle, I found myself in the mindset that gifts were just material objects that may or may not be useful or pleasant to my home stay family. My family proved me wrong. My host mother helped shed light to the idea that every gift they gave me was meaningful because of whom it was from. Each gift symbolized a connection between the giver and the receiver. And thus, I decided to give my brother my Frisbee, scratched and worn on the sides from a long afternoon of Ultimate during our sports camp. Why? It brought to life precious memories of fun and laughter that we shared during our less than 20 days together. I feel like generosity is something that the villagers take pride in.

Marjorie X.

My notions of rural China were turned on their head as I experienced a generation of rural Chinese youth plugged into the world via the Internet, and constantly under the pressure of the next major exam; a generation of ageing veterans of a bygone day hoping to preserve the old ways while respecting the influx of global influence; and a generation of middle-aged parents whose worlds were turned inside out by a major disaster (earthquake) and whose future, though still uncertain, looks bright. I saw the true China and in a way became a part of it.

Aran K.

Although I had heard from previous GSL students that the home

American and Chinese students together in Anxian County, Sichuan



Planting trees



German Journalists of *Nurnberger Nachrichten* Visit China

Sun Kang

In order to promote the friendly exchanges between China and Germany and enhance mutual understanding between specific localities, the CPAFFC, the municipal government of Nuremberg, and the Nuremberg-Erlangen Confucius Institute initiated a new activity entitled “China through the eyes of German journalists”. The regional newspaper

Nurnberger Nachrichten sent two of its journalists to visit Beijing, the prefectural-level city of Jining in Shandong Province and the southern economic powerhouse city of Shenzhen from October 18 to 31 last year. They made a thorough and objective inspection and study of government organizations, schools, enterprises, communities, etc. through visits and

discussions.

Experiencing Chinese traditional culture. The two journalists were very interested in Chinese culture and had long expected to make such a tour. In Beijing, they first visited the headquarters of the Confucius Institute to be briefed on the organization’s operations around the world, especially cultural and educational exchanges.

stays were the best part of the trip, I didn’t expect that I would ever really become close with my family in such a short amount of time, especially since I don’t speak the language at all. When we arrived at the village many of us noticed that there was more technology than we had expected, but I still felt that our homes were not as up to date. For the first few days, I was still really uncomfortable with things like my new bed, squat toilet, and the many, many pigs that made the house smell, so it really didn’t seem like I would ever become close with my family. I still don’t know what changed, but by the time our group came back from the retreat I started to talk with my sister and mom more at dinner and wanted to help out with their chores so I could spend time with them. Luckily my sister Jane spoke very good English so she could even help translate what I said to my host mom. However, I found that even though communication became easier as time went

on I also was able to interact with my mom without speaking. One of my favorite memories was learning to make dumplings with her one night for dinner. She had already made the filling so all I had to do was put a small amount in the dough casing and fold it like she taught me to. She had to slow down many times to re-teach me and even then my dumplings came out looking so strange. You could tell that all the ones that broke while cooking were mine. But she kept telling me in Chinese what I have now learned means “clever”, I’m still not sure why after all my ruined dumplings, but after that she treated me like I was a part of the family. On our last full day in the village she and Jane gave me a bowl and spoon that Jane’s grandpa gave her on her first birthday that is part of a set of two, she said she wanted me to have one of them because I was like a second daughter. That moment finally proved for the last time that I had really connected with my family and

made me very determined to keep in touch with them.

Abby O.

At first, coming to China and getting ready for our three weeks of English camp disappointed me. I was so pumped up for physical activities like earthquake rebuilding or planting trees, so learning that the main project was teaching brought down my excitement level. Little did I know, at the end of these three weeks, I would change and accept that this English camp was one of the best things that we could have done. ... I made lifelong connections with my students and felt so appreciated when they bought me popsicles or drew me a going away picture. We laughed and joked, and from all this I knew that this was a great experience for them as well as me. I will miss them greatly and will always know that I did not have the “rejects”: they were all amazing kids that wanted to learn and bond with us Americans. ■

At the Chinese Cultural Experience Center, the journalists delightedly joined with others to experience the charm of Chinese culture represented by traditional operas, painting, musical instruments and handicrafts. They also visited the Great Wall, the Palace Museum, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, and other representative historical cultural heritage sites. They were amazed to hear the long history and saw the glorious achievements of the Chinese civilization. Thus, they could gain a deeper understanding of the rich and profound Chinese culture.

In Jinling, they went to Jiaxiang County and visited the Museum of Han Dynasty Stone Reliefs at the Wu Family Shrines and Stone Carvings Park. They appreciated the glamour of Jinling known as the “Home of Stone Carvings”. At the Wu Family Shrines, the vivid stone relief carved on stones in the first century CE during the Han Dynasty, showed the long history of Chinese culture. At the Stone Carvings Park, the artistic stone carvings, big and small, caught their eye. They watched with great interest the production process of stone carving and asked about the history of the Wu Family Shrines and the historical legends recorded by the carvings. At Qufu, home town of Confucius, they visited the Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong (surname of Confucius) Family Mansion and were impressed by the profound cultural atmosphere. They also had discussion with Yan Jingshan, Director of the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Qufu, and Yang Jinqun, Director of the World Heritage Monitoring Office of the Qufu Cultural Relics Administrative Committee about the inheritance

of Confucianism and the protection of world cultural heritage.

Better understanding China’s social and economic development.

The journalists already had interest in China from a distance but their understanding of its current development was incomplete. In Beijing, through visits and interviews, they saw the development of the city and improvement of its environment since reform and opening-up, especially in the post-Olympic period. In Jinling, they visited an ordinary “new countryside” community of Jiaxiang County. They toured an apartment building for the elderly, and knocked at doors for random interviews. Hearing that the old people of the countryside could move into that apartment building free, they were very surprised and expressed sincere admiration for the great achievements made by China in building a new countryside. In Shenzhen, they visited ZTE Corporation and were amazed at the level of technology and creativity of such a Chinese enterprise. They also interviewed German enterprises in China and talked with their representatives and employees in order to understand better economic development and social improvement through foreign eyes.

Investigating education in China.

The journalists visited Beijing Foreign Studies University and had a discussion with students and teachers of the German Department, to which German overseas students at the university were also invited. They talked about future career plans, birth control, left-behind children in the countryside (when their parents move to the cities to seek work), admission to nurseries and schools, etc. Speaking in German, the journalists got direct

information of the condition on today’s university students in China. After the discussion, they had a look round the classroom buildings, the gymnasium, and related facilities.

In Jinling, they visited Qufu Experimental Primary School. It was Monday, when the school was conducting the weekly routine of raising the National Flag. The activity with particular Chinese characteristics excited the journalists to busily click away with their cameras to record the unforgettable moment. After the ceremony, they interviewed the Headmaster Ma Xianyu, and asked many questions about China’s education system and methods, study of Confucianism, life and mental health of the pupils, home education, etc. The headmaster gave them detailed explanations and briefed them on the idea of “harmony and happy education” adopted and having been persisted by the school for a long time.

In Shenzhen, they visited Yantian Foreign Languages School and interviewed the students and teachers of the German class. The journalists asked them their motives of learning German, their ideals and the problems they faced in study. The students took it as a good opportunity to practice conversation and answered questions straightforwardly.

Through those visits and interviews, the journalists gained in-depth knowledge of the primary schools, middle schools and universities in different parts of China, and a rather comprehensive understanding of the education system. They expressed appreciation of the Chinese Government for attaching great importance to education and affirmed the high quality of the faculties and students. ■

Lasting Memory

Centennial of Dr. Kotnis—Father's Comrade-in-Arms

Richard Frey Jr.*

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Dwarkanath Shantaram Kotnis is approaching. I have read many relevant articles about him on the Internet bringing back memories of past events and my father.

October 10, 2010 marks the 100th birthday of Dr. Kotnis. I found on the bookshelf a book given to me by his younger sisters many years ago, and carefully opened it at the title page. The paper had already turned yellow and fragile, but the message the ladies had written could still be seen very clearly. The book was written in English by Uma Mangesh Kotnis in his early years in memory of his beloved younger brother. It described family life, the growth of Dr. Kotnis, the years he spent in the base area during China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and his last days.

I opened a box and, among a pile of old documents, I dug out letters and greeting cards sent by his sisters over the years, and saw some old photos of my father and his comrade-in-arms Dr. Kotnis. I also found letters from his wife, Guo Qinglan, sent to me from the 1970s to the years after my father's death, and photos of their son Yinhua... Many past events surfaced in my minds.

When I was a child, Mom told

me that Yinhua was four years older than my elder brother. He was very cute with big, clear and bright eyes



Dr. D. Kotnis

and long eyelashes.

In the early 1970s, I was sent to a military hospital in Zhangjiakou as I had fallen ill when I served in the army. I stayed there less than a week when I was informed that the hospital had decided to send me to Beijing for treatment. I thought that I was suffering from an incurable disease. The director of the hospital told me secretly that Yinhua had died of medical neg-

ligence in Xi'an two years before which made Premier Zhou Enlai very angry, and that this time the hospital authorities were worried; hence, the transfer. That night I gazed at the white snow on the treetops outside of the window with my eyes wide open.

Later, I returned to the army after I was fully recovered. Auntie Guo Qinglan wrote to encourage me and send me photos of Yinhua studying at the military medical college. I looked at the big-eyed boy in the photos. His father, my father's close comrade-in-arms, fell ill in the anti-Japanese base area and died at the age of 32 despite the best efforts of my father and others to save him. His son, not yet 25 years old, died of medical negligence during the "cultural revolution". Both Dr. Kotnis and his son passed away before my father and me respectively.

Dr. B. K. Basu came to China for a visit. That evening after we met him, my father told me for the first and the only time about Dr. Kotnis. He told me about the days when they worked together in the Norman Bethune Medical School in Gegongcun Village of Tangxian County and the last days of Dr. Kotnis. My father didn't talk much, but his words were loaded with deep feelings. He never talked about these things to me again.

* The author is the second son of Dr. Richard Frey, an Austrian and staunch internationalist fighter who came to China in 1939 and assisted the Chinese people in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, and in their cause of liberation and socialist construction with his medical knowledge and skills until his death in 2004.

My Admirable Comrade-in-Arms

Richard Frey

People especially like to recall things of the past when they reach 60 or 70. The past events that one still remembers or have faded from one's memory would come back clearly when mentioned by others. However, as these things happened long time ago, when one wants to commit them to paper, these memories will become incoherent fragments. In memory of my deceased friend Dr. Kotnis, I am writing down

In those years, my father lost many of his comrades-in-arms. Perhaps, they who had experienced wars had special feelings and special ways to handle their emotions.

Later, Dr. Basu came to China again and I also arrived in China from Bonn. This time we only had a brief meeting. He passed away shortly after.

Then, my father passed away. After his death, I visited for the first time the anti-Japanese base area in Tangxian County, Hebei Province where he and Dr. Kotnis fought shoulder to shoulder. With the help of the comrades from the County CPC Committee, in Gegongcun Village where the then Norman Bethune Medical School was located, I found the house where my father and Dr. Kotnis had once stayed. The dilapidated farmhouse still stood. The left wing room where my father had lived was now filled with piles of firewood. The right wing room that Dr. Kotnis had once lived in was turned into a storeroom for old farm tools. When the daughter-in-law of the landlord

these lingering fragments of life for today's young friends.

Learning Chinese with a Strong Career-Dedication and Perseverance

I am an Austrian. In the first days of my stay in a foreign country, what I felt saddest was that I could not "say out my say". This was not because I had something that would be awkward to disclose, but it was because I could not speak Chinese.

pushed aside the dried tree branches in the courtyard, a big millstone they had once used appeared. Sixty-eight years ago, Dr. Kotnis' heartbeat died under my father's stethoscope. Then, people placed him on a piece of blue slabstone in the courtyard. Before leaving Gegongcun Village, I stood in front of it for quite a long time.

Later, a dozen relatives of Dr. Kotnis came to Beijing. We celebrated together the 60th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

Later, his younger sisters sent me the photos taken with President Hu Jintao when he called on them during his visit to India with the inscription he wrote on them.

Three years after the death of Dr. Kotnis, the Japanese aggressors were defeated. The Communist Party of China that he and my father had joined established new China. Today earth-shaking changes have taken place in China. A strong China is no longer trampled over by imperialist powers as it was in the past.

Over 68 years since the death of

Very often I wanted to tell many things to my comrades, but I could not express or fully express what was in my mind. If I happened to meet someone who spoke the same language as I, I felt very excited as if "I met an old friend in a distant land". So, when I met Kotnis for the first time and exchanged greetings in English, my excitement was beyond description.

It was winter of 1941. At that

Dr. Kotnis, China and India have always been commemorating him. Though conflicts have occurred between the two countries in the past several decades, Dr. Kotnis has always served as a bridge of friendship linking the people of the two countries. We are commemorating him today, but I wonder if he were still alive today and worked and lived among us, how he would think of the present society, and what spiritual strength we can draw from him, an internationalist fighter born a hundred years ago.

The centennial of his birth is approaching. What can I do for my father's comrade-in-arms on that day? I will write a letter to his relatives in India to express my solicitude and I will surely make a phone call to his wife Guo Qinglan who is already 95 years old and confined to bed to express my sympathy and solicitude. As to Dr. Kotnis, I will use the article written by his contemporaries to express my lasting memory to him.

Written in Dusseldorf, Germany

October 8, 2010

time, Dr. Kotnis served as director of the Norman Bethune International Peace Hospital. I was assigned to work as a teacher teaching infectious diseases in the Norman Bethune Medical School. The hospital and the school were actually located in the same village. At first, I lived in the south of the village. Later, the leaders arranged me to live next to Dr. Kotnis, so it would be convenient to take care of us. Thus, we had more chances to talk with each other. At the beginning, what we talked most was the ABCs of learning the Chinese language.

Kotnis arrived in China one year earlier than I. At the time we met, he was able to give lectures in quite fluent Chinese and even prepared his lessons in Chinese. I had to go through three steps when preparing my teaching notes: first in English, then in Chinese and then, marking them with phonetic symbols, i.e. to ask comrades to help me mark these Chinese words that I didn't know with the English alphabet. I admired Kotnis who had made rapid progress in learning Chinese. Shaking his head, he said, "I have made progress because I was impelled by circumstances." He told me some interesting stories. When he was in Guangzhou, he, Dr. B.K. Basu and Dr. Deben Mukejee once had a dinner in a restaurant. As they didn't know how to say grilled chicken in Chinese, they had to draw a picture of a chicken on paper. As the drawing didn't resemble chicken, the dish brought to their table was fried frogs. On his way to the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei border region, he had a meal at a villager's home. When the host asked him whether he had had enough, he misunderstood him and replied no,

no, no, for he confused the word of “没”(not have) with the word “不”(no) and thought that the host was saying that he didn't have enough to eat. Then, the hospitable host gave him a second serving, which made him feel rather awkward. He said with deep feeling, “At first, I thought it was easy to learn Chinese, for in the Chinese language there is no inflection of words in number and gender as English. Actually this is not true. Speaking may be a bit easier, but reading and writing are very difficult.” He told me he was most afraid of writing on the blackboard. Very often he made funny mistakes simply because he either added one more stroke or missed a stroke to a Chinese character. For example, he was unable to differentiate “般” from “股”, and “球” from “救”. As a result, he would write “一般”(generally) as “一股”(a stream of) and “急救”(emergency treatment) as “急球”(emergency ball). I said that I was afraid of writing Chinese and speaking as well. I had also made laughable mistakes. Once some students asked me whether in my hometown there were high mountains, I answered, “Yes, there are, and they are several-folds higher than the mountains here.” In German, “次”(times) and “倍”(fold) are expressed by the same word. But in Chinese the two words have different meanings and used in different cases. Hearing this, Kotnis roared with laughter.

Nevertheless, we all felt that we were lucky to live in good surroundings where there were many com-



From left: Yin Xipeng, Dr. D. Kotnis, Dr. Richard Frey, Jiang Yizhen in 1942

rades who were ready to help us. Their warmth made it impossible for us to slack. For instance, the children of our landlord often forced us to say this or that in Chinese. After all, we should have perseverance and be prepared to work in China for life.

Since reading and writing were difficult for both of us, we then put a lot of efforts into them. Half a year later, I found that Kotnis had made remarkable progress. He could write Chinese characters very beautifully. In the summer of 1942, the leaders asked every cadre to write an autobiography and fill a resume form. Without any hesitation, he wrote them fluently in Chinese. He also made a lot of study notes during the Rectification Movement and copied down many documents issued by the leadership in Chinese. We need not make special comment on his writing from a calligraphic perspective, but I could say frankly that his handwriting looked better than some of us. At least there were not many misspelt characters. I wondered how great an effort he had made!

I again asked him for advice. He assumed a prim expression, saying, "You ought to have a Chinese missus!" By the way, it was impolite to call wife as missus. However, as at that time we wanted to show that we were as unrefined as native villagers, we tried to imitate the villagers' wording. This was a digression. I understood that his teasing remark simply meant constant teaching and practice. It is a pity that the two high mountains of reading and writing have not yet been removed though later on I also had someone by my side to teach me, because I haven't practiced as much. Now that I can write articles in Chinese, I always try to write short and simple ones so as to cover up my poor command of the language. Had I worked as hard as Kotnis then, I would not have felt so difficult in writing this short article!

Not Because of Innate Advantage

In life, there were many things I admired and envied Kotnis. I admired him that he could wear sandals plaited with straws or cloth strips and he felt comfortable in them. I couldn't. The straw sandals would make my feet blister whenever I wore them. Once I tried very hard to walk in them; in a few hours, I could hardly move. I simply had to give up. He could even barefoot. We lived at the foot of Qingxu Mountain. What things weren't there on the mountain paths? We did not worry about pig manure and dog shit. What troubled us most were small stones and dried briars. But he didn't care. I admired him that he could eat dried red chilies. Just the spicy smell from their baking was fearsome enough for one to take in. He munched them together with rice or bread. At that time we didn't have much edible oil, salt and

vegetables for our dishes. The only thing that could work up an appetite was these chilies. The president and teachers of the school ate them. I also learned to eat them, but not as easily as Kotnis. I admired him that he could get used to sleeping on a *kang* (brick bed). The brick beds in a villager's house were mostly linked with a kitchen range. The heat from the cooking fire would be channeled in to heat the brick bed. As the landlords were always worried that we foreign comrades in the Eighth Route Army would feel cold, they would burn more firewood when cooking meals. Sometimes the heat even turned the mat on the *kang* brown. How could one sleep on such a hot and hard brick bed? Besides, everyone had only one cotton-padded mattress. After a night's sleep, one felt hot and aching all over. But, Kotnis could adapt himself to it. Even if the brick bed covered with only a piece of mat was very hot and hard, he could fall into very deep sleep. It was his "advantage" to bear hardship. I was no match for him. Did he really have this innate advantage? His family was not very rich, but was well enough to afford sufficient food and clothing and his higher education. I once saw his family photo on which everyone was decently dressed. His "advantage" reminded me of an old Chinese saying "入乡随俗" (Do in Rome as the Romans do). Looking at it today, it can be referred to as to be one with the masses. Kotnis knew very well the relationship between sharing hardships with the masses and being of one heart and one mind with them.

After all, we were foreign comrades and given special care in our life. Instructed by Commander Nie Rongzhen, wheat flour and rice were

rationed to us from time to time. We lived in the defense area of the Third Military Subarea. Comrade Wang Ping, Political Commissar of the subarea, often sent us some spoils of war. Even in the hard days when the army had to live on black soya beans and herbs, we were still provided with millet as staple food and black soya beans as vegetable. We felt grateful and also uneasy for such special treatment. Kotnis once requested that this special treatment be abolished, but his request was turned down. He went his own way. For example, when we had something especial such as a dish of pork with vegetables, he would share it with nurses. He did not seek special treatment in other aspects either, doing morning drills, performing duties and taking part in production campaign just as others did. He treated others equally and never put on airs as the president of the hospital. There was always smile on his face when he assigned tasks and gave instructions.

His Humor and Firm and Cheerful Character

Looking at his photos, one may assume that he was a shy person for his genteel look lacked vivid expressions. As a matter of fact, he was humorous and often made witty remarks, making everyone convulsed with laughter.

We, in the Eighth Route Army, had a good tradition. The harder the life became, the more optimistic we were. In 1941 and 1942, the troops were always on the move. It was a common occurrence that soldiers marched a hundred *li* (half of a kilometer) or more a day. Even under such a circumstance, whenever there was a chance, we would have a get-together. At that time officers and

soldiers were encouraged to join the fun. No matter how high your rank, people in the audience would urge you to perform on the stage. We were no exception. Kotnis was good at performing solos. He had a good voice and could sing many songs. What impressed me most was an American song *Old Black Joe* he sang in Chinese and English alternately:

Gone are the days

When my heart was young and gay;

Gone are my friends

From the cotton fields away;

Gone from the earth

To a better land I know;

*I hear their gentle voices calling
"Old Black Joe"*

He sang the song in a low and deep voice melancholy, expressing the miserable life of the American black slaves. The song made those present deep in thought.

He not only could sing English songs, but also tried to understand Chinese ancient art forms. The comrades in the dean's office of our school were good at Peking Opera and even could put up a good play. For instance, Comrade Kang Ke who now serves as advisor to the Norman Bethune University of Medical Science was able to play not only an elder male role, but also a female role in Peking opera. He acted as Xiao Guiying (a female role) in the Opera *The Fisherman's Revenge*. He not only sang beautifully but also cut a good figure when in costume and makeup. Kotnis liked to join with him in singing Peking opera. Once he even sang loudly. But, as he sang in a strong South Asian accent and out of tune, no one could tell what he was singing.

Kotnis knew very well the importance of publicity work and was

good at arousing the masses. Once, we went to a village not far from the enemy's blockade line to carry grain. It was already after midnight when we were to return each carrying a pair of trousers filled with grain around our necks. At first, we were fine; but, after walking for several dozen *li*, we were so sleepy that we kept yawning and our steps faltered. At this moment, Kotnis suddenly proposed a race between him and me. I with a height of 1.92 meters was naturally not afraid of walking competition with him, a small fellow with a height of less than 1.70 meters. Then we went to the front of our contingent to start the race. He walked as fast as his legs could carry him, and now and then he put the load on top of his head in imitation of Indian women and stretched out his arms for balance to amuse us. In order to see the fun the comrades at back tried to get ahead, laughing and chatting along the way. Before we knew it, we had walked another dozen *li*. When we arrived at the destination, I saw that his face was pale and beads of sweat on his forehead. I couldn't help feeling regretful. I should not have responded to his challenge.

Who would have expected that such a good comrade with a firm and cheerful character and absolute sincerity to the Chinese people's cause of liberation would die of epilepsy? At about 9 o'clock on the night of December 8, as soon as I learned that he suffered a relapse, I immediately went over to his house. By the time I got there, Jiang Yizhen, President of the school, the assistant manager of the hospital, doctors and nurses had already got there. In the beginning, the interval between two epileptic seizures was about one hour, and then the seizure occurred around ten min-

utes. After midnight, convulsions could no longer be eased. Though we tried all the methods that we could think of and used all the medicines that could be used, we still failed to save him. At 6:15 on the morning of December 9, his heartbeat stopped under my stethoscope.

He was only 32 years old! He left us at such a young age. How could he feel reconciled to this? Not long before his death, I asked him whether he missed his motherland and family. He was lost in thought for a while and then told me that he missed them and missed them very much. Particularly after the outbreak of the Pacific War, India was under threat of being occupied. He had thought of going back home to join the guerrillas. But he also believed that any places occupied by aggressors, be they in west and east, and north and south, were one battlefield. We talked for a long time. He told me about his father's death, his ailing old mother, and his brothers and sisters. What he said showed his love for his family and motherland. But, he could no longer see his motherland and loved ones.

It is gratifying that his yearning has been realized. India has gained independence and China has been liberated. If there were really a next world, he would feel happy about it there. However, would he feel contented? Would he have more hopes on us? What would he expect? I think we should ponder over these questions when we cherish the memory of this pioneer who sacrificed his life for the friendship between India and China.

(Revised and reorganized by others in 1982)

Program on Low Carbon Economy and Regional Sustainable Development Held in Georgetown University, U.S.

Mei Qiaopei

Transformation of the economic pattern to protect the environment and ensure sustainable development was the focus of an exchange of experiences and ideas lasting three weeks among a group of American specialists and Chinese cadres at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 2010.

The “Program on Low Carbon Economy and Regional Sustainable Development”, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the university, was held at the university from October 16 to November 6, and was the second such advanced study program designed for Chinese middle level cadres. Six cadres of CPAFFC and 18 Party secretaries of county, district and municipal governments of Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province took part. They learned about America’s advanced concepts of development and enriched their knowledge with some new concepts and became more determined to realize sustainable economic and social development in China by accelerating the transformation of the pattern of economic development. The participants listened attentively to the lectures and had lively and in-depth discussions with US officials, congressmen, specialists and scholars. Their performance received good comments by the host university.

Georgetown University attached

great importance to the program and especially arranged a series of briefings by high-level US present or former government officials, including Kathleen A. Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture talking about US agricultural policies, Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, speaking about American housing policies and urban development plans, Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad briefing about the current situation of agricultural development of his state, Mr. Bradley A. Blakeman, senior advisor to former US President George W. Bush, and Mr. Chris Kofinis, former communications director of John Edwards’ 2008 Presidential election campaign on Republican and Democratic party policies respectively, Mr. Spencer Abraham, former Secretary of Energy, lecturing on US energy policies, and Mr. William H. Hudnut III, former mayor of Indianapolis, talking about his experience of leadership in local government. The participants visited the US Congress and learned about US Congress system, called on the US Green Building Council and inspected the Bank of America Tower to experience the use and implementation of environmental protection and low-carbon concepts and high technology, and went to Iowa to see the modern agricultural facilities

in the state. Through these briefings and visits they gained a comparatively thorough understanding of US policies and practices in the fields of politics, economy and environmental protection.

After the three-week program, the participants said they had learned many new ideas and methods in urban planning, agricultural development and building of low-carbon economy, which they were keen to put into practice back home.

They said that, in future planning of urban development, they would take into consideration American experiences, encouraging active participation by citizens, private sectors and people of all circles, soliciting suggestions from all sources, and giving full consideration to the interests of different groups, so that the plans could be carried out smoothly. The planning should also adhere to the laws of nature, protect the eco-environment, and strictly abide by various environmental protection and green standards.

The participants were deeply impressed by the keen awareness of Americans of the energy crisis; when they got back to China, they would urge people in all fields of their localities to proceed from their own conditions to find effective ways to reduce carbon emission, save energy and protect environ-

Dr. Kotnis Medical Team Performs Free Medical Service in Inner Mongolia

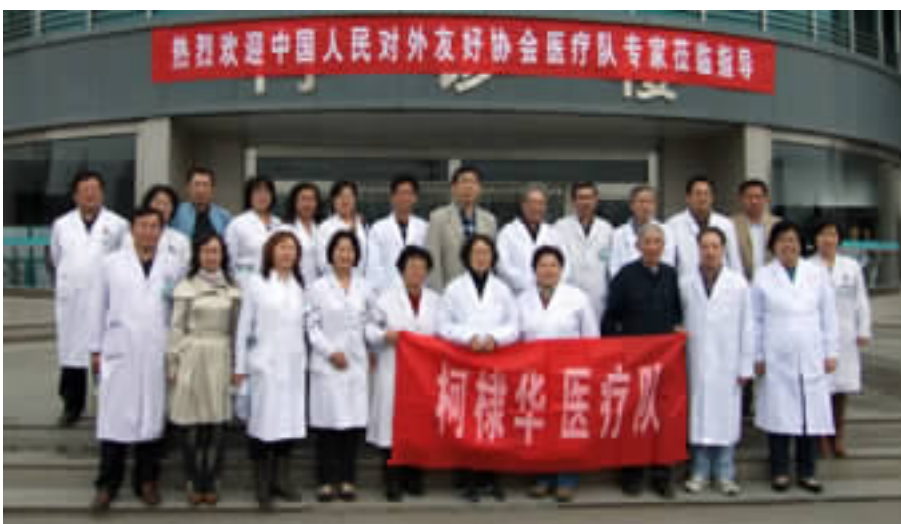
Gan Qianyi

The year 2010 is the birth centenary of Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis, a great internationalist fighter who came to China as a member of the Indian Aid-China Medical Team in the 1930s, for which CPAFFC held a series of commemorative activities.

The opening of the Photo Exhibition of the Life of Dr. Kotnis—100th Birthday Commemoration in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on August 17 launched the series. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Jing Dunquan, Minister Rahul Chhabra of the Indian Embassy in China, were among those attending the event. In his speech, President Chen said the noble international humanitarianism represented by Dr. Kotnis was a landmark of Sino-Indian friendship. Men like him were models in the work to promote Sino-Indian friendship through the ages.

The Dr. Kotnis Medical Team, established in 1996 with the aim of carrying forward the spirit of the Indian surgeon, participated in the activities of the UN International Week

ment. They believed various measures, including tax cuts, investment refunds, etc., should be taken to control the market, encouraging private funds to invest in developing new energies and the public to adopt energy-saving, low-energy-consuming and low-carbon emission



of Science and Peace on behalf of the CPAFFC. Over the years, remembering the old revolutionary base areas and the impoverished mountainous areas and the need to bring advanced medical service to the grassroots, the team has regularly traveled to the areas to provide the local people with free medical service.

From October 9 to 13, 2010, a 12-member team sent by the CPAFFC went to Inner Mongolia to give free medical service. The nine doc-

new technologies, so as to improve the environment and reduce energy consumption.

It was a common recognition by all participants that, in future construction of cities as well as new countryside, top priority should be given to greenery, water resources,

tors of urology, gynecology, pediatrics, orthopedics, oncology, dermatology, and traditional Chinese medicine in the team were from different hospitals in Beijing. They went to Linhe District and Dengkou County of Bayannur City, the northern frontier of China, and brought warmth and health to the local citizens and farmers, which was unanimously praised by local people and medical staff.

Bayannur, meaning “rich lake”

air quality and above all environmental protection. The concept of green GDP and development and use of renewable energies should be emphasized. The much-trodden path of making temporary development at the cost of environment should be avoided. ■

in Mongolian, is located at the Great Band of the Yellow River and enjoys ample water for agriculture and livestock farming; hence, it has a wide range of products known far and wide for many years. Now, this pearl in far north of China is taking advantage of the country's Great Western Development Strategy and its good natural conditions to accelerate the readjustment of its industrial structure, increase the added value of its agricultural and animal husbandry products and upgrade the level of its social and economic development. Its increasing fiscal revenue has become a sufficient insurance of the construction of the new and replacement of its old outdated medical infrastructure. The improvement of both its urban and rural medical systems has facilitated the farmers and herdsman to get medical services, although, compared with coastal cities or large metropolises, the local medical conditions still lag far behind.

Over three days, the medical team overcame various difficulties and fatigue, and treated the patients whole-heartedly, fully displaying the spirit of Dr. Kotnis. The municipal hospital is the only first-class hospital in the city where patients with serious or difficult illness are taken. The medical team suggested that the hos-

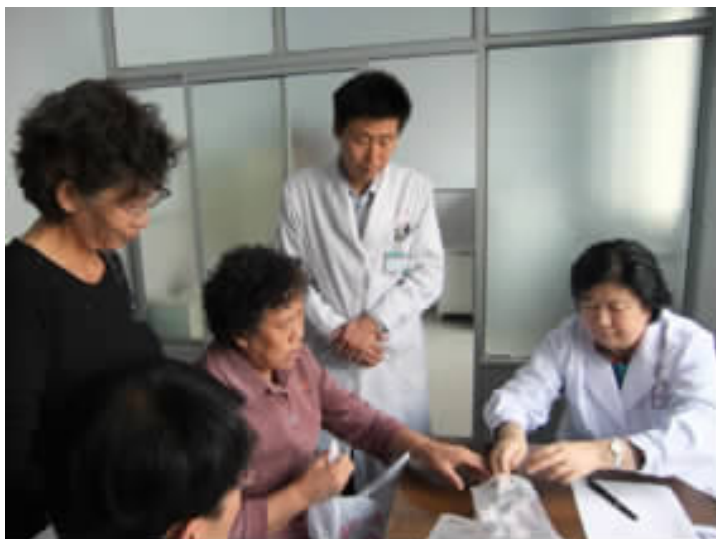
pital speed up the replacement of its old equipment and train more medical workers. In the county hospital of Dengkou, where most of the patients were suffering from common altitude illness, the doctors, taking into account the practical conditions of the patients, gave them easy and simple treatments and economical prescriptions. Their consummate medical skills and ethics and their patient-first attitude immensely moved the local people as well as the medical staff.

Professor Wang Jiabi, well-known dermatologist of the Peking Union Medical College Hospital, received 55 patients in a single morning. Although a younger doctor was appointed to assist him in copying the prescriptions, Doctor Feng Shilun, an expert in traditional Chinese medicine who is over 70, insisted on carrying out the initial inquiry and palpation himself and writing down the patient's symptoms, his diagnosis and the prescription in the case history book while taking the trouble to explain the procedure of decocting the herbs and matters needing attention. Within a day, he treated nearly 70 people. Orthopedist Liang Dong was the most advanced in age on the team and worked just as industriously as the others. He made detailed inquiry of the history of the patients'

Impression of International Youth Peace Festival in India

Wang Erliang

Editor's Note: At the invitation of Yuvsatta, a 30-member youth delegation sent by the CPAFFC visited India from September 24 to October 4, 2010, during which it attended the activities of the Fifth International Youth Peace Festival and had exchanges with young people of India and other countries. Members of the delegation came from Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Liaoning and Shandong provinces. They also took part in the China-India Relations Forum and Welcoming Reception for the Chinese Youth Delegation held by the Friends of China Association (FCA).



illness, performed examination and studied carefully the x-ray results. Sometimes he even asked the patients to have further check-up and come back to him before he finally gave advice.

During the activity, the medical team served the people enthusiastically, carried out exchanges with local medical staff and established links for exchanging medical information.■

As countries of ancient civilization in the East, India and China have enjoyed traditional friendship for long time. In the past struggle against imperialist and colonialist aggressions the people of the two countries supported and helped each other. Today, despite the difference in social system, they are both developing countries and faced with common problems. In order to promote social development, safeguard world peace, consolidate and push forward our traditional friendship, and enhance mutual understanding between the two peoples, we felt honored to go to India to participate in the activities of the Fifth International Youth Peace Festival.

On the first day, I was almost overwhelmed by joy and curiosity. Everything seemed like a dream.

India is a vast country endowed with rich resources and beautiful landscape. It has many ethnic groups and historical sites. As soon as we got off the plane, we were taken to the Taj Mahal on the south bank of Yamuna River in the suburbs of Agra by bus. Here lies the fifth Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Married to the Emperor in 1612, Mumtaz Mahal became a favorite with the Emperor until she died in 1631 at the age of 38. In commemoration of his wife, Shah Jahan built the mausoleum, which became a great building known throughout the world.

Next day, we went to Delhi. In Old Delhi, we visited the Red Fort, the imperial palace of the Mughal dynasty built by Emperor Shah Jahan. The walls and the main interior structures are built with red stones,

from which the palace got its name. The Red Fort is divided into two parts, the inner and outer areas. The outer area was used by the Emperors to meet with subordinate states' princes, ministers, etc., receive official reports and foreign diplomats. The inner area was for the Emperor and his families to stay. There were bedrooms, praying rooms, living rooms, bathrooms, mosques and gardens, etc. The palace has witnessed all the glorious past of the Emperors whose historical deeds are still glamorous today.

On the third day, we flew over one hour from Delhi to Chandigarh. Our home stay hosts had already been waiting for us at the airport. Mr. Simeran was the youngest member of the India-China Friendship Association, and drove us to his home. His family was very friendly and pleasant, giving us a warm welcome.

The family of Simeran has involved in medicine for generations. His grandfather was a doctor trained in Western medicine. His father and one of his uncles took over the business and established five medical schools of traditional Indian medicine with a number of affiliated hospitals. Another uncle was a famous dentist in the district. Simeran was a college freshman, majored in traditional Indian medicine, while his younger sister was studying Western medicine in another well-known medical college. Simeran's mother was a well-educated Indian woman, who talked with us in fluent English. She took care of the affairs of the big family. After we had a short conversation with Simeran's parents, he took us to have a stroll in

the busiest business street of Chandigarh.

On the following days, we started early and came back home late for attending the activities of the Fifth International Youth Peace Festival. We had discussions with students from various parts of the world on water saving, world peace and other topics. At home, we chatted with our hosts about Chinese cuisine and theories of traditional Chinese medicine, and showed them needles used for acupuncture, granules of Chinese medicine, moxa cones, etc. They enthusiastically explained to us the Indian history, religions, festivals, medical system, etc. On the eve of October 1, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India, we were invited by the FCA to an evening party to get together with the members of the society and local students. We enjoyed traditional Indian dances and songs, particularly by the passionate, lively and impressive Punjabi dance. In turn, we demonstrated the Chinese traditional martial art, *Taiji quan*. Our performance was warmly received by the audience, and we felt the profound friendship and kindness of the Indian friends. In the end, all members of the Chinese youth delegation sang the national anthem of China at conclusion of the party. I was very excited and proud to have the opportunity to sing our own national anthem while we were still in India.

How time flies! The ten-day visit to India became the most treasured memory in my life. I would always cherish the little statue of a Punjabi dancer, a souvenir from the

Remarks by V. Bhaskaran on Receiving China India Friendship Award

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and happiness for having invited me to attend this momentous ceremonial occasion and to receive an award from His Excellency, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and China-India Friendship Association, in China.

Four decades have been over since I closely associated with the activities of the India-China Friendship Association, for the promotion of peoples to peoples relationship and cooperation between India and China.

Being one of the oldest civilizations in the world, both India and China have made outstanding contributions in the field of cul-

ture, art and literature, philosophy and medical science. In the past, the Chinese and Indian people have exchanged their treasure house of knowledge and assimilated each others' heritage and ideas and gradually laid the foundations of friendly relations between the two countries. Since then, the centuries-old friendly relationships and cooperation between the two peoples are still continuing like the gentle flow of a big river.

As the biggest populous nations in the world comprising one third of the world population, India and China have a commitment and responsibility to preserve world peace and harmony and to give better living conditions to the millions of poverty-stricken people. Hence it is highly necessary for India and China to strengthen the

peoples to peoples relationships and cooperation on the basis of mutual trust and understanding to maintain a trouble-free and developed Asia.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to record my gratitude to the CPAFFC, China-India Friendship Association, Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, the Consul General Office of the PRC and the Chinese Government for granting me an award like this. As a humble activist and the General Secretary of the India-China Friendship Association, now I feel that I am honoured.

To continue my work to promote peoples to peoples relationship between the two countries the presentation of the award will give me new hope and encouragement in the years to come. ■

Simerans. Before we left, with tears in her eyes, Simeran's mother said to me: "You are the best girl. We will never forget you!" while wiping away my streaming tears. After we had hugged and said goodbye to each of the family, we got on the bus. Turning round, I could still see them waving to us from the distance.

At the farewell, I realized that I not only had experienced Indian culture during this trip to the Interna-

tional Youth Peace Festival, but more importantly, I began to understand people's very soft and innocent heart in people-to-people direct communication. The activity played an effective role in helping the Chinese students understand the Indian people and their culture, especially thanks to the home stay arrangement bringing us close to the local people and vivid experience of all aspects of their daily life and in the meantime we made ourselves more flexi-

ble and adaptable to different cultures and life styles.

In India, we had a taste of modernity of New Delhi streets, and the Indian atmosphere of Agra, appreciated the simple and happy life of people in Chandigarh, and admired the long ancient Ganges River and the tranquil Yamuna River, all of which presented to me a picture of foreign landscape and exotic customs. I have really learned a great deal.

The Legend of a Chinese Centenarian Uniting a Chinese and French City

Xi Wei

Brighter Is The Hometown's Moon—the 2010 China Zhenjiang Mid-Autumn Festival Gala—was held in the evening of Sept. 22 at the city's Beiguwan Square. Over a thousand well-known personages of Zhenjiang origin from home and abroad, including compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan regions shared their homecoming feelings with locals under a bright moon. A highlight of the gala party was a story about an old Chinese laborer residing in France that deeply touched everyone present. This legendary figure whose life spanned three centuries was Tchou Kouei Cheng, who built a bridge of friendship between Zhenjiang and the French city of La Rochelle.

Legendary Experience

He was the last surviving Chinese laborer living in France, who died in 2002 at the age of 106, and he featured in a documentary about Chinese laborers sent to France in World War One, which was shown by Phoenix TV of Hong Kong in May 2009. Born in Danyang, Zhenjiang on December 24, 1896, he was named Kouei Cheng because there was a hundred-year-old sweet-scented osmanthus tree in front of the Tchou Family Temple. After war broke out, the 20-year-old youth went to France in 1916 to take part in the war service

together with 140,000 laborers sent by China's Northern Government. In 1917, after the Chinese Government declared war on Germany, they were assigned respectively to the infantry and artillery units of the British and French allied forces. When the war ended, Kouei Cheng stayed in the southern port city of La Rochelle and married a French girl. They had a son and two daughters.

In May 1939, the flame of war flared up again. In September of that year, Tchou Kouei Cheng and his son joined the armed forces and he once again became a courageous anti-fascist fighter. The father worked in a

logistics unit and was in charge of dispatching horses. His 19-year-old son died on a battleship, leaving indelible memories of the cruelty of war.

After the Second World War, Tchou Kouei Cheng settled again in La Rochelle. He was forthright and cheerful by nature and willing to lend a helping hand. He got along well with his neighbors. A man from a foreign land who had taken up arms to defend France in two wars was always the talk of the town. As he had been born on Christmas Eve, local people called him Santa Claus when he achieved his century. On his every

Tchou Kouei Cheng (R.4 in the back row) among other Chinese laborers who participated in the First World War (photo provided by the daughter of Tchou Kouei Cheng)



Friendship Highlight

birthday, La Rochelle's newspapers would run special reports about him and the mayor would come to his home to offer congratulations. The mayor said he was not only a man of great longevity, but also a fine example of immigrants who blended well in French society and that he was the pride of the people of La Rochelle.

Tchou Kouei Cheng's parents died when he was young. He lost contact with his hometown during the long war years, but he never for a minute forgot his motherland and the osmanthus tree in his hometown. His French wife changed her nationality into Chinese, declaring: "I'm married to a Chinese man, which means that I'm married to China. China is also my home." The two spent the next 75 years together deep in love. Kouei Cheng was especially happy to see someone from China. Once he saw at the local port a cargo ship from Hong Kong. He invited the ship's crew to his house. The picture taken then hung in his living room throughout his life. In his late years, he often told his daughters that he missed his homeland and the ancestral home of Danyang. His daughters, who were born and brought up in France and did not speak a word of Chinese, well knew their father's wish and could pinpoint Danyang on the not-so-familiar map of China.

Root-Tracing Trip

On learning that the last Chinese laborer in France was from Danyang, people of the broadcasting and television department of Zhenjiang immediately contacted Ye Xingqiu, an expert on the history of overseas Chinese in France through a Phoenix TV resident reporter in France, and interviewed him on the phone. They learned from him that Kouei Cheng's

daughters had always wanted to visit China to discover their roots and that the old man's greatest regret was that he had not been able to go back and take a look at his hometown himself. The daughters knew nothing more than that their father was from Danyang. So, a special group was set up at the Editorial Board of *Zhenjiang Broadcasting and TV Weekly*

return to their roots, we should let him return to his ancestral home." After more than half a year of searching in the archives to trace the Tchou family tree and talks to old residents, the blood relations of Tchou Kouei Cheng were found.

The friendly relations deepened between Zhenjiang and La Rochelle as the search in China progressed. The Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal People's Government conducted a study on the French city. La Rochelle is the capital city of Charente-Maritime and a port well-known for its trade and tourism. It is one of the production areas of brandy and has advanced technology and experience in the protection and development of ecological environment. The city is also known as the "capital of electric cars" of France for its years of research, development and utilization in this field. The geography, cultural environment and industries centering round tourism and environment protection are highly complementary with Zhenjiang. Tchou's children looking for their family roots provided a good opportunity for the two cities to establish ties and further the friendly sentiments between their peoples on the one hand and for Zhenjiang to learn from La Rochelle's experience in city governance to promote new industries and a low-carbon society on the other. Hence, it sent a letter to Mr. Maxime Bono, a member of the French National Assembly and the Mayor of La Rochelle, expressing Zhenjiang's desire to establish a friendship-city relationship. On November 24, 2009, during an interview by the resident reporter of Phoenix TV, Mayor Bono wrote a letter to the Mayor of Zhenjiang, expressing his agreement based on the

101 ans

Monsieur Jean TCHOU KOUEI CHENG a fêté ses 101 ans le 24 décembre 1997.
Nous lui souhaitons un bon anniversaire.



A French newspaper report on the 101st birthday of Tchou Kouei Cheng

writing reports to solicit clues of the old man's relatives to help the daughters to fulfil their wish.

These reports caught the attention of local people and a dozen of them provided clues. Many readers were deeply touched by the feelings expressed by Kouei Cheng and his daughters and some wrote: "Tchou Kouei Cheng had lived in a foreign country for nearly a century and can only look at his hometown from heaven today. Like fallen leaves that

ties provided by Tchou Kouei Cheng.

Ties Forged

In March 2010, a goodwill delegation headed by Xia Xinping, Vice Mayor of Zhenjiang, visited France at the invitation of the city government of La Rochelle. It saw the municipal works and learned of measures taken in environmental protection, traffic control and urban security, furthering its understanding in these areas. On March 16, the city government held a welcoming ceremony in the Town Hall. As the mayor was accompanying the French President on his inspection of the city's hurricane-stricken area that day, the first vice mayor presided over the ceremony. The children and grandchildren of Tchou Kouei Cheng were present. Leaders of both cities briefed each other on the economic and social development of their respective cities and candidly exchanged views on establishing and developing friendship ties between them in the future.

Mayor Maxime Bono rushed back before the end of the ceremony. He extended a warm welcome to the delegation once again and together with Vice Mayor Xia Xinping signed a letter of intent on the establishment of exchange relations, thus launching friendly contacts and cooperation in the economic and cultural fields. Vice Mayor Xia said during an interview by local media that the signing marked a substantial progress of the two cities in their relations through the link provided by Tchou Kouei Cheng, and that their contacts would further deepen the friendship between the people of the two cities as well as between the two countries.

Unending Friendship

On September 22, at the

Mid-Autumn Festival Gala, 81-year-old Simone, daughter of Tchou Kouei Cheng who had come from France to fulfill her father's long-cherished wish of returning to his ancestral home, and her French husband, told the audience of this century-old story. The mayor of La Rochelle, through video, extended festive greetings to the people of Zhenjiang. He said: the Mid-Autumn Festival was a grand occasion of family reunion in China. "I'm very happy that the children of Tchou Kouei Cheng have finally returned to their ancestral home; Mr. Tchou was a down-to-earth citizen of La Rochelle, but he never forgot his home back in China. He had always been a Zhenjiang (Danyang) man. To the citizens of La Rochelle, this is the most treasured feeling. Mr. Tchou has brought our two cities together. I will arrange a visit to Zhenjiang as soon as possible to discuss friendly exchange and cooperation programs so as to bring closer the ties of France-China

friendship Mr. Tchou had forged."

The mayor also extended invitation to the people of Zhenjiang. "La Rochelle always welcomes you!"

On the following day, Simone, her husband and other kinsfolk of the Tchou family, went to the Tchou Family Temple at Ruli in Yaoqiao Township, Simone handed over to the head of the temple his father's photos which would be made into a tablet and placed in the temple so that this son of China who had wandered in a foreign land would join his ancestors forever. Simone was moved to tears. "My biggest wish is to leave my father's photos here. He has returned home at last," she said. The 300-year-old osmanthus tree in front of the Tchou Family Temple welcomed the returning children with the fragrance of its blooming flowers. With consent, Simone broke a branch from the tree to take back to France and place it on her father's tomb to console the old man in the other world.

Zhenjiang Vice Mayor Xia Xinping and Mayor Maxime Bono of La Rochelle signing an agreement on friendly exchanges between the two cities



Flowers of Friendship Bloom in Yangzhou

—Notes on Yangzhou Friendship Day·Shanghai World Expo

Zhou Zhiping

The activity of Yangzhou Friendship Day·Shanghai World Expo initiated by the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination (BSWEC) was organized by the Yangzhou Municipal Government July 7-9, 2010. Some 77 representatives from 44 Expo-participant countries, as well as officials from the BSWEC, took part.

In order to show the tremendous changes and rapid development in Chinese society and its economy, the BSWEC takes the cluster of cities in the Yangtze River Delta as a key area for introduction to Chinese and for-

eign visitors. Yangzhou, as a model of fast economic development and harmonious urbanization in Jiangsu Province, was selected by the BSWEC as one of the cities to be introduced to foreigners.

On July 8, the World Expo delegation arrived in Zhenjiang from Shanghai by a “Harmony” EMU train and then went to Yangzhou by car, returning to Shanghai July 9. During their stay in Yangzhou, the delegation experienced great hospitality and friendship from the local people and felt the charm of this famous modern city where ancient culture shines alongside modern civilization.

The delegation toured Slender West Lake, the ancient Grand Canal, Shuangdong Old Streets District, He and Ge gardens, and visited the new urban district, the economic and technological development zone, the Yangzhou Block Printing Museum and Yangzhou Museum. The delegation

members thus saw the beauty of Yangzhou and experienced the local people’s simplicity and hospitality and were deeply impressed by the city’s long history and rich culture. They also marveled at the city’s tourist environment and protection and development of the ancient parts.

The reception in honor of the delegation on the evening of July 8 was a climax of Yangzhou Friendship Day activities. Vice Mayor Wen Dao-cai hosted the reception. Deng Qing, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yangzhou Municipal Government, gave guests a briefing about the city. The Municipal Bureau of Culture organized a wonderful exotic art performance for the guests, who also enjoyed delicious Yangzhou cuisine.

Though the activity only lasted two days, the memory left on the Chinese and foreign guests will be ever-lasting. In history, Monk Jianzhen and Marco Polo introduced Yangzhou culture to the world, and today Yangzhou takes the opportunity of the Shanghai World Expo to spread the seeds of friendship worldwide. ■

Learning to make a blockprint at the Yangzhou Block Printing Museum



The news of Tchou Kouei Cheng’s daughter visiting her ancestral home to fulfill her father’s long-cherished wish and Zhenjiang and La Rochelle forging friendly ties spread far and wide in the world as these stories were reported by the

media including the International Channel of CCTV and Phoenix TV’s Europe and America stations. China and France will remember those Chinese laborers who fought the fascists shoulder to shoulder with the French people. Zhenjiang and La Rochelle

will continue this friendship between the two peoples and embark on the road of friendly cooperation in the new century.

October 12, 2010 in Zhenjiang