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**Front cover:** Indonesian youth's enthusiastic performance at the 5th International Youth Dance Festival

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# Foreign Friends Highly Praise Great Achievements of the People's Republic of China in 60 Years

**Geng Zifeng**

The activities in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China were held in Beijing from September 30 to October 1. At the invitation of the CPAFFC, 102 foreign friends from 17 countries and regions watched the military parade at the Tian'anmen Square and joined the masses in the evening gala. Tomiichi Murayama, former Japanese prime minister, Gian Franco Terenzi, former captain regent of San Marino, and other 55 foreign guests attended the National Day reception, as some foreign guests visited the "Splendid

60 Years—Achievement Exhibition on the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China". They all expressed their gratitude and the honour they felt for receiving invitation to these celebrations, and highly praised the great achievements China has made in the past six decades and the hospitality of the Chinese people.

After watching the National Day parade and the evening gala, G. F. Terenzi, president of the San Marino-China Friendship Association, said with excitement that the celebrations were perfect and that they were well-organized and filled with an atmosphere of rejoicing and festivity. Peter Woods, secretary general of UCLG-ASPAC, noted, China used to be in the lead in its splendid history of 5,000 years. Today, China has once again returned to the world centre stage as a lead runner. These celebration activities reflected the confidence and competence of the Chinese leaders and the Chinese people in building a prosperous country and maintaining world peace and social justice.

S. L. Tikhvinsky, honorary president of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), was present at the ceremony of the founding of the People's Republic of China 60 years ago.

**S. L. Tikhvinsky, honorary president of the Russia-China Friendship Association, speaking at the reception marking the 60th anniversary of China-Russia diplomatic relations in Beijing on September 25, 2009**



**CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin with friends from Secours Populaire Français who have come to China to attend the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China**



Despite his advanced years and inconvenience in getting about, he insisted on going to Tian'anmen Square to observe the military parade. He said, he felt incomparably excited that at the age of 91 he was invited to come to China to attend its National Day celebration. He could see a strong, prosperous and progressive China in the military parade. Mikhail Titarenko, president of the RCFA, described what he saw and heard at the Tian'anmen Square as a "dreamily beautiful landscape". He said, the military parade, civilian parade and the evening gala mirrored the changes taken place in China over the past decades, with the military parade demonstrating the growth of China's defence power and its solemn determination to safeguard peace and its territorial sovereignty, the civilian parade vividly displaying the great achievements made in economic development and social life during the past 60 years, and the evening gala helping one truly realize that "the reform and opening up policy opens the heart and soul of the Chinese people", bringing them an affluent material and cultural life. The RCFA delegation highly praised the outstanding achievements made by New China in six decades, and said they saw a country full of vitality and vigour. They believed China has found a suitable road of development for itself, and as long as it continues to go on this road, China will achieve the great goal of building itself into a prosperous, strong,

democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious society in the near future.

Banri Kaieda, member of the House of Representatives of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), said, he felt especially honoured to have the opportunity to attend the celebration marking the 60th anniversary of New China, and the new Japanese administration attaches great importance to its relationship with China. He believed the Japan-China relations would further develop under DPJ's rule. During an interview with CCTV, Yoko Morishita, president of the Matsuyama Ballet Company, said the Chinese people are very passionate. She hoped they would bring this passion to the world and let it be filled with happiness. Yasuhiro Kobayashi, president of the Min-on Concert Association and Takeshi Kosumi, managing director of the Japan Organization of Kansai Unity, spoke highly of the organization and management of the activities on the National Day. They said, the National Day celebrations were tightly administered, secure and orderly, proving that the Chinese government has excellent ability to organize, plan and control. Yoshihisa Akiyama, chairman of the Japan Organization of Kansai Unity, and Kim Young Aeh, president of the Korea-China Friendship Association of Culture and Economy, agreed that China's growth and stability play an important role in world peace and stability, and that China's

## 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

development helps the development of Japan, and Asia, even the world. China's progress and its eye-catching achievements are the pride of the Chinese people and the people of Asia as well.

Charles J. Colgan, president of US Virginia Senate, said, through the military parade, people of the world witnessed the ever growing strength of the Chinese economy, science and technology, defence and its national unity, and experienced the power of China and the hospitality of its people. Seth Hammett, speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, said that it was the most splendid National Day celebration he had seen and that it was a magnificent feat and a miracle that within only 60 years China has turned from an impoverished and weak country into a prosperous and strong one today. Ron Richard, speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, said, peace, harmony and scientific approach to development advocated by China are the common pursuits of all humanity, and the military parade on this National Day displayed a peace-loving emerging power. Ken Smith, member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly of Australia, said, at the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China he visited the country and watched such a large scale and magnificent celebration. This is worthy to remember for life. After visiting the achievement exhibition on the 60th anniversary of the PRC, Dr.

Nelly Ng, president of the Canadian Fund for International Understanding through Culture, said, the abundant results of China's development in the past 60 years, especially the truly upgraded living standards of its people, are impressive. She mentioned, the various high display technologies used in the exhibition are the best evidence of the advancement of China's science and technology, the super extra large overhead ring screen and the temperature and humidity control room representing advanced world level. Eric Livingstone, national president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society, said, today's China, from the 2008 Olympics to the 2009 National Day celebration, presented the audience with grand colourful visual feasts. He believed the coming 2010 World Expo in Shanghai would bring many more surprises to the world. Phil Midland, adviser to the president of US Georgetown University, and Eric Hotung, chairman of Hotung Institute for International Relations, said, the floats contributed by China's provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities showed their respective thinking on development and their local features. They expressed the pride that the Chinese people felt in their hearts, which was really impressive.

Foreign nationality Chinese: Tom Loy, president of Australia China Friendship Society, Tang Jun, senior vice president of the Walt Disney Company of the U.S., Zhang Xueyuan, director general of the US China Economic Development Corporation Ltd., among others, felt proud of China from the bottom of their hearts. They said, as Chinese descendants, they were very excited to see the tremendous changes of their homeland and that the Chinese people have eventually stood up in the world. □



**Friends from Canada and the Oceanian region heading for Tian'anmen Square to view the National Day parade**

# Congratulations to You, My China!

**Galina Kulikova (Russia)**

Three days of great importance in the golden October of 2009 will be marked in China. They belong to different historical categories, but converge because of their political significance.

On October 1, the Chinese people will hold a grand National Day celebration—the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. It is followed by another two important days. What has made we Russians proud is that on October 2, 1949 our country was the first to declare to the whole world that the Soviet Union recognized the People's Republic of China and estab-

lished diplomatic relations with it.

The third major event was closely linked with these commemorative days—the inception of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, the first friendship association with foreign countries in China, whose 60th anniversary will be marked on October 5 this year. Just as what was described in the Chinese press then that it was sincere reciprocity of the Chinese people for the assistance and support our country had rendered them in their struggle to win victory in revolution and powerful proof of the friendly sentiments of the Soviet people

towards the young People's Republic.

The Soviet people hailed the victory of the Chinese revolution and rejoiced on hearing the news of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

I was a middle school student in October 1949, a time of historic significance. What was happening in China was quickly known far and wide through publications and over the radio. Rallies were held at enterprises, universities and middle and primary schools to celebrate the birth of the People's Republic of China, a new country on the world map.

I still remember that the fa-

**From right: CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, the author, Russian Ambassador to China Sergey Razov and RCFA President Mikhail Titarenko**



mous Soviet poet A. A. Surkov was invited to attend the rally held at our school, the Moscow No. 125 Middle School in the city centre. With excitement, all the teachers and students listened to him talking about what the Chinese people had gone through to win victory. He ended his speech with the poem he had written on his impressions of the historical event taking place on October 1, 1949:

*Surmounting innumerable  
difficulties and obstacles,*

*Crossing the sea of blood  
and tears,*

*The heroic people have won  
the rebirth of their country*

*which has a history of 5,000  
years.*

*Freed from the nightmare of  
a century, courageously they  
march forward.*

*To build a better tomorrow  
together with such people,*

*What an honour it is!*

I have kept this poem firmly in mind up to now from my faraway student years. I remember that *Victory of the Chinese People* and *The Liberated China*, films by C. A. Gerasimov as well as the popular song *Moscow—Beijing* by V. Muradeli broadcast over the radio almost every day left such deep impressions on me that I cherished a wish then that I would attend a college for Chinese studies after graduating from the middle school.

My wish came true! I became a student of Moscow State Institute of International Relations. My first contact with Chi-

na was during my university years. There were Chinese students studying together with me at the institute. Their diligence and strong desire to learn compelled our admiration. I was fortunate to work with the Chinese delegates taking part in the Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students and got a general idea of the Chinese national art. They won the gold prize at the festival.

In 1958, together with a small group of students of my grade, I was sent to Beijing to do practice before graduation. There I witnessed the great enthusiasm demonstrated by all the Chinese people for the recovery and development of China's national economy, and the selfless assistance given by the Soviet people to the Chinese people.

After graduation in March 1960, I was invited to work in the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association (SCFA). It was set up on October 29, 1957, the first association for friendship with foreign countries in the Soviet Union.

So I have every reason to say that over the past half a century my life and all my work have been related to China.

The work of the friendship association has given me the opportunity to get to know and meet those senior comrades who have taken part in the heroic struggle the Chinese people waged to win victory in revolution, the Soviet experts who had participated in the construction

of new China and renowned public figures in the fields of science and culture who have voluntarily become SCFA activists. I will never forget my first meeting with well-known Chinese writer, painter and translator Gao Mang in Moscow, who has become a good friend of mine. And also Prof. Ge Baoquan and Prof. Cao Jinghua who were true representatives of the great Chinese culture and envoys of friendship. I was very fortunate to get to know the world-famous Peking Opera singer Mei Lanfang and many representatives of Chinese intellectuals as well as ordinary workers who visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of our Association.

I witnessed the "golden time" of Soviet-Chinese relations in the 1950s and also went through the difficult and sometimes tragic period of our bilateral relations in the 1960s and 1970s, during which I was secretary general of the SCFA. However, the association had never for a day stopped activities and remained committed to maintaining the friendly feelings and respect of people of all walks of life in the Soviet Union for the Chinese people who have made tremendous contributions to world civilization.

Those difficult times have already become history. There is an old saying in China, "Past experience, if not forgotten, is a guide for the future." Therefore, as a person whose whole life is closely connected with China, I

am very satisfied with the smooth development of the present high-level strategic partnership of cooperation based on equality and trust between Russia and China. The Treaty of Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China signed in Moscow on July 16, 2001 laid a solid foundation and provided a reliable legal guarantee for bilateral relations.

The state visit to the Russian Federation by President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China from June 16 to 18 this year as well as high-level meetings and the Joint Statement once again gave powerful proof to this point. The Joint Statement clarifies the direction for further cooperation between the two countries and coordination between them on the international stage. In the meantime, it also stresses the necessity to further consolidate and expand the social basis for the Russia-China strategic partnership of cooperation, which has truly become people-to-people relations in real sense.

I would like to emphasize with great satisfaction that cooperation between our Russia-China Friendship Association and the China-Russia Friendship Association in the past more than half a century has added many brilliant chapters to the annals of smooth growth of Russia-China relations. Our two associations organized innumerable activities over the years to

enable the Russian people better understand China and the Chinese people better understand Russia. In the last dozens of years, our cooperation has seen greater development. With the initiation and joint efforts of our two associations, activities organized to mark days important in the history of our two countries and their relations have become mass activities. The large-scale events in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Alexander Pushkin the CPAFFC and the CRFA initiated and actively participated have achieved great success and produced extensive impact. Through these activities, the whole world will know that China is a country where the works of the Russian poet are better read and understood than any other country.

Our two friendship organizations have worked actively to promote state-to-state and local cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, and culture between Russia and China. Every year the RCFA holds activities to celebrate the founding of the PRC and important dates in bilateral relations, to commemorate leaders of the Chinese revolution and founders of New China—Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De, Chen Yi, Li Fuchun, Cai Chang, Chen Yun, Hu Yaobang and other renowned personages of the Communist Party of China, as well as ancient Chinese poets including Li Bai, Du Fu, Bai Juyi and Li Qingzhao and

modern and contemporary Chinese critics of Russian literature such as Lu Xun, Ba Jin, Ge Baoquan, Cao Jinghua and Gao Mang.

In recent years, we paid special attention to exchanges between children and youth. Children's art delegations from Wenzhou and Dalian not only participated in the VI Moscow International Festival—Contest of Children's and Youth Creative Art "Open Europe", but also won prizes, while Russian children's art troupe successfully took part in the Tianjin International Children's Culture and Art Festival. We proposed to hold in Russia and China all kinds of art festivals and Chinese and Russian knowledge and language contests and vigorously encouraged contacts between university students. We never forget those senior comrades who have been engaged in the cause of friendship untiringly for years. Though advanced in age, they still take an active part in the activities of our association.

This year, our two associations are planning a series of activities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and China. Our association will hold grand meetings in Moscow and 18 local branches and publish books introducing people-to-people diplomacy and its role in Russia-China relations. We will sponsor an international academic meeting

“China, Chinese Civilization and the World” on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and China. We will host a series of activities jointly with other organizations, at which Russian children will be invited to give dance and music performances with China as the theme.

A RCFA delegation and a RCFA activists delegation will attend celebrations held by the Chinese side at the invitation of the CPAFFC and the CRFA.

Here I would like to emphasize especially that the success we have achieved in our work should be attributed, to a great extent, to the help, support and full cooperation from our long-term reliable Chinese partners—the CPAFFC and the CRFA. Chen Haosu, well-known social activist, our old friend, recipient of Friendship Medal of Russia and honorary doctorate of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences, has been leading these two associations for years. We know that over these years President Chen Haosu has provided highly effective leadership to the CPAFFC which occupies a leading place in China's nongovernmental diplomacy, and has also assumed the CRFA presidency. Advocated by him, a variety of friendship activities related to Russia and Sino-Russian relations have been held in China. He enthusiastically supports ex-

changes between youth and children and between older generation friendly personages of the two countries. He is not only a successful diplomat and statesman, but also a poet who dedicates his poems to his dear motherland and to the great friendship between China and Russia and their peoples.

We are very grateful to our Chinese partners who treated our country and people with goodwill when new Russia was experiencing difficulties at the time of transition. When our association was confronted with new and complicated conditions, they not only supported us, but also more actively engaged in cooperation with us. They said time and again that our difficulties were temporary and that my country—Russia—was, is now and will also be a great power and will together with China make tremendous contribution to the development of world civilization and the consolidation of world peace.

China is greeting the advent of its important historical day when it enjoys political stability, increased economic strength, tremendous achievements in social development and rising international status and influence.

We Russians are China's close neighbours and old friends. We have been following with satisfaction the extraordinary achievements China has scored in the past 30 year since it adopted the policy of reform

and opening up. These achievements have enabled the country to leap to the third place in the world in its GDP ranking, maintain world's No. 3 trade power for several consecutive years and No. 1 in foreign exchange reserve. All these achievements have become the most important factors affecting today's world politics and international relations.

It is not without reason that the international community calls China “world factory”. Today the Chinese leaders have put forward new goal: to make another breakthrough which is to excel not in quantity but in quality; to turn the “world factory” into the “world laboratory”; and turn China into an innovation power by vigorously developing “knowledge economy”. During my recent visits to China, I often saw young people carrying laptops. These young people are full of vitality and confidence in their motherland's bright future. This young generation of China shoulders the historical mission of building up their motherland and socialism with Chinese characteristics to realize the long cherished desire of generations of the Chinese people for both material and cultural prosperity.

I extend congratulations to you, my China, to the Chinese people and to all my friends and colleagues! I have full confidence in the success of your reform and your victorious future!

I believe that only when

# The People's Republic of China In My Eye

**Bill Willmott (New Zealand)**

On October 1st, 1949, I was a young college student in Ohio, USA, having left China only four months before, and when I read that Mao Zedong had shouted from the Tiananmen rostrum "The Chinese People have stood up!" I shouted the same in my little dormitory room. After the last dark years of the Kuomintang regime, the Chinese people, I believed, would now have the chance to build a new China, a socialist China where equality and democracy would flourish instead of exploitation and repression.

In 1932, when I was born in Chengdu, China was a poverty-stricken and chaotic country, "The Poor Man of Asia", as Western commentators called it. As a child, I experienced a China where the vast majority of the population were impoverished peasants, dressed in rags and doing back-breaking work from dawn to dusk, yet living on the edge of starvation because they were paying exorbitant rents to ruthless landlords.

Just outside our front gate were the fields of such a peasant, whose family lived in a thatched mud hut down to road. They grew a pig, but they could never eat meat—they couldn't even afford to eat rice because the landlord took their entire crop as rent. The workers in the city lived just as miserably, and many terrible diseases wracked all the poor: dysentery, TB, cholera, typhoid, typhus, schistosomiasis. 60 million people died of infec-

tious and parasitic diseases every year.

Cruel warlords controlled most of the country then, collaborating with a corrupt and repressive government whose secret police spied on everyone; progressives were persecuted, imprisoned or shot for speaking out. In the university where my parents taught, some students just disappeared. The government printed money to finance their operations, creating a hyper-inflation that caused misery for the *laobaixing*, the ordinary people.

In those dreadful times, I learned from my father that only the Communist Party had a programme to change China for the better. We rejoiced at the victories of the People's Liberation Army, and I learned to dance the *yangge* with the progressive student groups meeting in our house. My father arranged for a young woman to listen to the broadcast from Yan'an every evening on our short-wave radio to bring news and instructions to the underground revolutionary movement in Chengdu.

During the summer of 1948, I asked two poor peasants on Mt Emei if they had heard of Mao Zedong. "Oh yes," they replied, "Mao Zhu will come soon with an army to liberate us." (In their lore, alive since the Long March passed through that region a dozen years before, Mao Zedong and Zhu De had become fused into a single

Russia-China relations take root in the minds and lives of our two peoples, only when our two peoples understand that Russia needs a strong China and China needs a strong Russia and that common

development can successfully solve future problems among nations and peoples, can our two countries become "good friends, neighbours and partners" and can "lasting friendship and never viewing

each other with hostility" be achieved.

August 19, 2009  
(Translated from the Chinese text)

**The author is the first vice president of the RCFA.**

# 1949-2009: 60 Years in French Eye

**Alain Labat (France)**

60 years ago, China was a country devastated that had just recovered its national sovereignty after a century of foreign invasions and internal conflicts, and extricated itself from the chapters of a tragic history: the Opium Wars and the unequal treaties, the Taiping Uprising, the Republican Revolution, the “warlords”, the Japanese occupation and the civil war.

But the new People’s Republic of China from the early fifties was not recognized by the UN and became the main target of the U.S. policy of “contain-

ment”.

In 2009 China has, according to the IMF, exceeded Japan and ranked as the second largest world economy. In half a century it has become again a political, economic, financial, scientific and sports power. This summer, it began a “strategic and economic dialogue” with the United States, at which the new president Barack Obama said that the relations between the two countries would “shape the 21st century”.

What a road has been traversed! Last year, China cele-

brated its thirty years of opening and modernization: never had the history of world economy seen a country with such a population achieve such a vigorous growth in such a short period of time. It has gone through deep social transformations and new challenges, and among others, enabled 400 million Chinese out of misery. These sixty years bear the deep imprint of two outstanding leaders: Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping who, through many trials have led their country to what it is today—a nation on the road of

folk hero!). Just before I left Chengdu in July, 1949, I saw Generalissimo and Madam Chiang Kai-shek on our university campus. It was obvious that they had lost the civil war and a communist-led victory was imminent.

We looked forward to great changes, and we were not disappointed. Within two years, my parents saw land reform eliminate landlordism, and peasant livelihood grew by leaps and bounds. Then small-scale and larger-scale co-operatives raised living standards and began the socialisation of Chinese society.

China’s zigzag road to socialism has seen both set-backs and advances, but the overall progress has been immense. Today, despite enormous problems in every sector of society—economic, social, political and environmental—the life of the Chinese people is immeasurably better than in the China I knew as a child. Every time I

visit China, I can see changes for the better. On the Chengdu plain, I have seen peasants turn into farmers and their thatched mud huts replaced by two-storey modern houses. In remote Shandan, where Rewi Alley built his school on the edge of the Gobi Desert in Gansu, I have seen a poor, dirty, ragged population turn into a well-dressed, well-fed, prosperous community living in modern buildings along broad, clean boulevards. Everywhere in China, I have seen people freed from the yokes of repression, exploitation, and disease.

In sixty years the People’s Republic of China has wrought huge changes for the better. May its wise leaders find ways to solve both the internal and global problems it faces and continue along the path to a democratic socialist society.

(17 August 2009)

**The author is former president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society.**

wealth and power, realizing the dream of the reformers and revolutionaries of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Their successors have to manage a new China and its strength and address its specific problems as well as the formidable common challenges of our globalizing world. During these sixty years, the new China has, as any large nation, allies and enemies, supporters and opponents, partners and competitors. But it can always find everywhere in the world friends who might be otherwise reduced to some of the previous categories.

Wherever they are, all share a common conviction.

The friendship among peoples which is much praised in speeches but fragile in fact, requires two conditions. The first is the acceptance of differences, even if they touch on crucial issues such as philosophical and political values or culture. The second is ceaseless efforts to deepen mutual understanding, so that dialogue always prevails, whatever the situation, even when it concerns State relations.

To look back, forty five years ago when France and China just established relations,



**Alain Labat speaking at the symposium in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France**

General de Gaulle wrote: “Who knows if the affinities that obviously exist between the two nations in all that relates to spiritual matters, as shown in the fact that in their depth, they share sympathy and mutual respect, will not lead them to an increasing cooperation?” France and China are now engaged in a genuine “global partnership”: it is also the aim of our national federation to contribute to fur-

ther opening our country to China, this rapidly changing country, to its great people and great culture, by constantly deepening and consolidating our bonds of friendship, and thus prove what Wang Bo, the poet of the Tang dynasty, wrote: “A bosom friend afar brings a distant land near”.

**The author is president of the Federation of the French-Chinese Associations.**

**(Continued from p.54)**

Through my cooperation with the CPAFFC, I feel what I have done for world peace is really insignificant. The enthusiastic spirit of the Chinese people, their love for world peace, and the respect they have shown for the people of other countries are a shining example in the world.

He once said: “I have fallen in love with

China and the Chinese culture. China has become a part of my life and of my family.”

The medal of Friendship Ambassador will shine forever in the life of Mr. Helgason. And it will also add a new chapter to the annals of the friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Icelandic people. □

# People's Republic of China and Me

**Tom Loy (Australia)**

I am one of the many Australian friends of the People's Republic of China, not only because I am the third generation descendant of Chinese settlers in Australia, but also because I see China as an ideal cooperative partner for Australia in the long term economic future. It is therefore my honour to congratulate China on the 60th anniversary since its founding on October 1st, 1949 declared by Chairman Mao Zedong at Beijing Tiananmen Square.

On this historic occasion 60 years ago, the heroic Chinese people, through revolutionary struggles, was finally liberated from external semi-colonial and internal bureaucratic capitalist domination and became masters of their sovereign state. Then, as a student, my heart was so moved with joy and I still remember I took part in dancing in the streets of my birth-place—colonial Hong Kong to celebrate the birth of a New China. This was the first historic date in my life marking the start of my passion of friendship and love for the People's Republic of China.

After I returned from colonial Hong Kong to Australia with my parents in 1950 at the age of 17, I joined a group of friends of the New China in Brisbane to establish a local Australia China Society in 1952, and this was just after the Peking Peace Conference on the Korean War, and the start of my participation in the friendship-with-China movement in Australia and this was scarcely interrupted until now.

Another unforgettable event in relation to China occurred on July 1st 1997 when my birth place, former colonial Hong Kong, was no longer colonial and was returned to China's sovereignty under the new name of "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region", i.e. Hong Kong SAR China. My wife Judy and I were very fortunate to have

the opportunity of witnessing the official transfer of Hong Kong Administration Ceremony, accompanied Mr Guy Brehon and his wife Dr Lian, both members of Australia China Friendship Society Qld Branch.

In 1999, the year of the golden jubilee of the People's Republic of China, Australian Prime Minister John Howard hosted the then President Jiang Zemin's official visit to Australia in September with a state banquet at the Australian National Parliament House which I had the honour to be invited to attend.

Following this historic event in Australia China relationship, friends of China and local Chinese community in Queensland held a combined "China Golden Jubilee Banquet" which was attended by many Australian political and local Chinese community leaders. It was a festive celebration in my home state Queensland while the fifty six nationalities of People's China celebrated with greater fanfares in the national capital's Tiananmen Square, staging a massive colourful parade marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Looking back over the last ten years since China's golden jubilee, I sincerely wish to express my personal reflections on China's economic achievements, inspiring events and domestic and foreign policy which explains why I am proud to be a friend of the People's Republic of China and why I am inspired when other fellow Australians join our Australia China Friendship Society, whichever state or territory they are in.

It is well known around the world that China's annual economic growth has been close to double digits as a result of China's open-door and economic reform policies. China has become Australia's third trading partner during the

nineties and naturally, this is beneficial to the Australian people.

In recent times, there have been two truly inspiring events in China.

The first was of course the Beijing Olympics 2008 with its opening ceremony showing China is not only a nation of rich and long culture, but also a nation promoting world peace, harmony and friendship for the whole world. That is to say, China will not try to create an enemy among other countries in the world for herself, but will resolutely defend herself against any country who wants China to be its enemy.

The second was the successful return of the first Chinese astronaut space flight. This reflected China's rapid advance in space technology. Today in the 21st century, China is in a strong economic position to launch such a huge project. What is most pleasing to know is that the Chinese Government has stated in a State Council publication that China's space technology is for peaceful and cooperative use of outer space in accordance with a United Nations Declaration adopted by the 51st General Assembly (1996), with special consideration of China being a developing country.

It is my strong belief that China with its growing economy will require a peaceful and harmonious domestic environment to further develop the under-developed western regions. I am sure that the Chinese people under the leadership of its Central People's Government will achieve that "Develop the West" goal.

China has a unique minority nationality policy which respects the culture and custom of any minority group. The majority Han people have always been encouraged, as I have been, to learn for example Uyghur, Tibetan, Mongolian etc. songs and dances.

China has chosen in its own right the system of national government led by the Communist Party of China and based on the concept of democratic centralism with the system of consultative conferences with the Chinese people from national level through regional or provincial, metropolitan, down to even lower level. I believe that if China does not interfere with the domestic politi-

cal affairs of other countries in the world, then China should expect that her political internal affairs be duly respected.

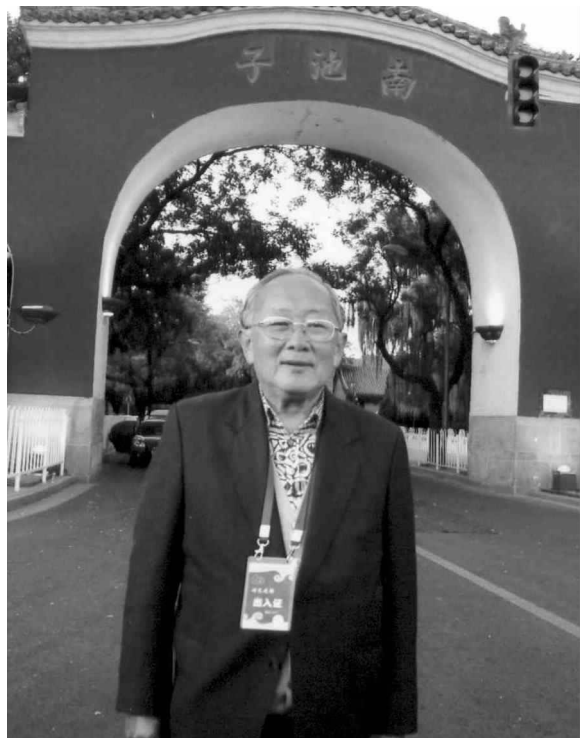
Countries who accused China of lack "human rights" should look at their own internal affairs since China will definitely not interfere with theirs. In my opinion, in defense of majority's interest and/or national interests China should have the rights to over-rule the rights of the individuals or minority.

Our friends in China are extremely courteous and hospitable! This was very conspicuous during the visit of friendship delegations to China attending the Second Friendship Forum in November 2008.

This year in July and August, members of the Australia China Friendship Society are already busy working with the local Chinese community, supported by the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Brisbane, to organize celebration activities in honour of the 60th

**(Continued on p.24)**

**The author on the Chang'an Boulevard in Beijing on the National Day**



# China in My Eyes

**Reno Calleja (Malta)**

## **How I became a fan of China**

Between 1958 and 1964 the Maltese Labour Movement, led by Dom Mintoff, kept Britain under constant pressure to close its military bases and give Malta true independence. After all Malta was the last colony in Europe.

In the turbulent sixties, as an activist in the youth section of the Malta Labour Party, I was gripped by a holy zeal to help Malta get rid of the British and the NATO military bases and see my country become truly independent.

In 1969, as a Parliamentary reporter for the daily workers paper I was on my way to the press box, when Dom Mintoff, the leader of the Opposition, stopped me.

“Young man, I hear you are a fan of the Soviet Union,” said he, “You must look towards China.”

That was the first time I realized that China was a friend of Malta.

In June 1971, Dom Mintoff won the general election and became prime minister. Hundreds of journalists from all over the world were coming to Malta because the Island under the maverick Mintoff, became a hot story.

## **China and Africa**

One of these was Richard Gibson, an Afro-American journalist and writer, who had just written a book *The Liberation Movement of Africa*.

As one of the leaders of the Young Socialist Movement in Malta, he interviewed me for his magazine. We became instant friends and have kept in touch to this day.

What he told me cemented my admiration for China. He had just came from Zambia and Zanzibar (later to become Tanzania) where thousands of Chinese workers were working day and night to complete a railway system to enable these newly independent African states to by-pass South Africa and thereby wrestle itself from the grip of the cruel and ruthless Apartheid system.

## **Mintoff and China**

In March 1972, Mintoff signed a new agreement with Britain and Nato, recognizing that in seven years time they have to close their bases and leave Malta for good. Barely had the ink on this agreement dried, when Mintoff headed for China. He visited China soon after U.S. President Richard

Nixon. He was the first Western European prime minister to visit China. Malta immediately recognized China. The Chinese gave Dom Mintoff and the Maltese delegation a great welcome.

China not only gave Malta a large loan without interest but sent hundreds of Chinese workers and engineers to build Malta's two largest construction projects, the Red China Dock and the Marsaxlokk Port Project. I shall never forget what China did for Malta. China was poor at that time but from the little it had, it helped Malta to wrestle itself out the economic dominance of the West.

Bitter hatred was being fomented against the Chinese people by the right wing press.

It was then that I decided to set up the Malta China Friendship Society. I wanted to show the Maltese people that the Chinese people were a kind and hardworking people, dedicated to peace.

## **China Today**

Since the seventies I have visited China 27 times. The most memorable visit was in 1979 when Prime Minister of Malta Dom Mintoff assigned me to present the highest honour of Malta (The Medal of the

# China, Sri Lanka's Closest Ally

**R. Jinith de Silva (Sri Lanka)**

China-Sri Lanka relations could be traced back to more than 2,000 years. Recorded history reports of Sri Lankan envoys visiting the Chinese court in the 1st and 2nd centuries. Some believe that this practice must have even existed long before that. Sri Lankan delegates who visited Claudius Court had reported of China-Sri Lanka trade relations to the Roman emperor.

The gradual spread of Buddhism to these East Asian regions was also another incentive for the development of this relationship. In 411 AD the famous Chinese Buddhist traveller Fa Hsien visited the Island and stayed here for two years at Anuradhapura doing research on Buddhism. According to him Chinese traders had come to Sri Lanka bringing Chinese merchandise. In his travel account Fa Hsien recorded of an incident that had taken place at Abayagiriya, Anuradhapura.

“When suddenly by the side of this jade im-

age (of the Buddha, of Abayagiri Vihara, Anuradhapura), he saw a merchant make an offering of a white silk fan from China. His feelings overcame him, and his eyes filled with tears.”

The biography of Bikkunis written in the sixth century by Pao Chang refers to nuns who went from Sri Lanka to inaugurate an order of nuns there in 435 AD. This had taken place under the auspices of the Sinhala monarch. When I visited China in 1997 I noticed the following inscription on the wall of a Yuan Tong temple in Kunming.

“A sarira of Lord Buddha's teeth was greeted and once worshipped there.”

I wonder whether this had any connection to the replica that had been sent by King Mahanama to China in 428 AD.

Trade relations had existed from time immemorial between China and Sri Lanka. Ships

Republic) to the widow of a Chinese late engineer Xu Huizhong, who was accidentally killed while working in Malta on the Red China Dock, the largest dry-dock in the Mediterranean. In a moving ceremony I presented the medal to his widow Yu Jin'e.

Since 1978, under the reformist leader Deng Xiaoping, China created a market economy and opened it to massive foreign direct investment.

Since then I have visited China every year. The changes I have seen with my own eyes are

beyond description. In a world gripped by the worst economic recession since the 1930s, China's economy still registered a massive 9 per cent growth.

Chinese thinkers, predict, and I agree, that in a few decades China's economy will become the most sizeable and powerful economy in the world, surpassing that of the United States. This in my view will have profound economic, cultural and political consequences.

What strikes me is that China is destined to become a

global player without causing the terrible sufferings the Europeans caused to hundreds of millions of people when they colonized Africa and Asia and exploited their wealth and resources. Unlike the United States who accumulated enormous wealth and power on the blood of the millions of African slaves, China is expanding and gaining economic strength without waging war or attacking other nations.

**The author is chairman of the Malta China Friendship Society.**

## 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

had arrived in Sri Lanka from Guangzhou with merchandise such as silk and sandal wood, and Sri Lanka had exported gems, precious stones and ivory to China.

Because of Sri Lanka's strategic position in the sea route between China and the West there had been trade links between the Island and China from very early centuries. Admiral Zheng He, legendary Chinese navigator in six of his voyages, visited Sri Lanka and during one of his visits he held a religious ceremony at Sri Pada sacred mountain. The things that were offered at this religious ceremony are found in an inscription that was erected at the Galle harbour.

After the 15th century China-Sri Lanka ties did not take place on a regular basis. But yet there were contacts between the two countries at a low intensity and these were recorded in the accounts maintained by the courts of the Chinese emperors.

China-Sri Lanka relations gathered momentum after both countries gained independence. Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China.

The Rubber Rice Pact signed on December 17, 1951 was another significant event which made the two countries come closer. Sri Lanka signing the said Rubber Rice Pact, irrespective of American opposition was highly appreciated by the then Chinese leaders. When diplomatic rela-

tions were initiated by Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike in 1956 the relations between the two countries became very warm and it laid the foundation for cooperation in several fields.

It was a Chinese aircraft that landed in Sri Lanka before all, when the Tsunami devastated coastal regions of Sri Lanka. The Panadura fisheries harbour that was totally destroyed by the Tsunami was reconstructed with Chinese assistance and was commissioned by the Chinese premier when he visited Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was one of the countries which took the initiative that China should be given the rightful place in the U. N., which China later succeeded.

Premier Zhou Enlai personally thanked Sri Lanka for the role it played during this process. It was China that gave its whole-hearted support to the conception that the Indian Ocean should be declared a peace zone. This concept was mooted by then Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

The bonds of friendship were further strengthened by an array of state visits by leaders of both countries. Premier Zhou Enlai visited Sri Lanka twice in 1957 and 1964. The late Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike visited China in 1963 and 1972. The people of China still hold Mrs. Bandaranaike in very high esteem.

China is one of the main countries that pro-



**Chairman Mao Zedong warmly greeting Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike**

# In Commemoration of PRC's 60th Birthday

**Nanen Kitamuro (Japan)**

I have been engaged in Japan-China cultural exchanges through the platform of calligraphy and seal cutting art for over 30 years. During the past over 30 years I was fortunate to take part in many important cultural exchanges between Japan and China, commemorations and celebrations, which have become most precious memories in my life. In the past more than 30 years, I have witnessed tremendous achievements China made in reform and opening up: not only has the

appearance of cities been greatly changed through construction and ordinary people's lives including food, clothing, shelter and transportation have been remarkably improved, but also people's cultural life has become richer and more colourful. Every time I visit China, I can see China's on-going development and progress. It was a great pity that I did not get the chance to attend the Olympic Games in Beijing last year, but when I watched its grand opening ceremony on TV, tears

welled up in my eyes and I was deeply moved by the development and tremendous changes in China over these years. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. On this occasion I would like to extend my sincerest wishes to China that has made brilliant achievements.

International cultural exchanges mainly take the form of introducing to each other theatrical art and repertoires and giving performances in each

vide aid to Sri Lanka in numerous ways. The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) and Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre bear ample testimony for the excellent relationships between the two countries. The BMICH was built at a cost of around Rs. 35 million in 1971. The superior courts complex that was built on a personal request of the late President J. R. Jayawardena was an embodiment of the success of the China-Sri Lanka relations. Further more China donated USD 20 million for the cultural centre to be built near the Vihara Maha Devi Park.

In addition to that China provides scholarships for Sri Lankan students in the disciplines of medicine, engineering, etc. Up to last year China granted 100 such scholarships and these were the largest number granted by any single country.

While visiting China in 2006 I had the opportunity of meeting 8 Sri Lankan students study-

ing at the Nanjing Normal University. They said that they were extremely satisfied with the facilities provided by their university. There are no strings attached to any of the assistance provided by China to Sri Lanka and their intentions have been sincere and open, right throughout.

Finally I have to say that I have seen so many changes in China. Amidst all these changes there is one element of Chinese life that remains constant. It is the hospitality of the Chinese people.

Economists predict that China would become the economic superpower of the world by 2020, yet with all these achievements the mighty China still remains as the best friend of Sri Lanka who always responds positively to our calls when we are in distress.

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



The author (centre) having an exchange session with Chinese calligraphers

other's country. Exchanges in fine arts more or less take the similar form; namely, to hold exhibitions of art works in each other's country. To add glory to their career and resume, some artists specially hold individual exhibitions in famous art galleries in other countries. Through cultural exchanges including the above type of exchanges, art crosses national boundaries and even without the help of language brings joy and inspiration to the people. True, there are various kinds of art and great numbers of artists. It is an indisputable fact that some positive results will naturally be gained when many exchanges in all forms of art are carried out between countries. Such exchanges were thriving in the 20th century. But now we have come into the 21st century for almost 10 years. Shall we still keep the established form of exchanges without any changes?

Since the normalization of

diplomatic ties between Japan and China, the number of friendship cities between the two countries has been increasing year by year, and now there are over 350 pairs of Japan-China friendship cities. These friendship-city ties were formed after the two sides had made careful study of each other's natural conditions, social customs, history, industries, size, etc. In the beginning, the Japanese side used to make effort to achieve some results in such superficial things as erecting a monument in its friendship city in China. But now China is getting superiority in world economy. I think cultural exchanges should adapt to the situation, and it's time for us to change the way of exchanges.

Here I want to say something about the exchanges with China I have carried out in the past 15 years. The exchanges I have been carrying out are mainly focused on Chinese

ideogram. Everything on the earth is changing all the time. The rate of change and progress of civilization are speeding up simultaneously. The things that have just appeared before your eyes will be changed almost in the twinkling of an eye; therefore the things which change at a slow rate or low degree seem to be more precious in a rapidly changing world. Chinese ideogram is one of them. It is because of this conviction that I have kept up my study of Chinese ideogram and its related fields and carried on exchanges in this field for many years.

The original form of Chinese characters is oracle bone inscriptions in the Shang Dynasty and then followed by inscriptions on ancient bronze objects. In cooperation with the CPAFFC, I invited experts on the above fields to give lectures in Japan, and collected calligraphy and seal cutting works centring on ancient Chinese writing

from both Japan and China, and held exhibitions of these works first in Japan and then in China the next year—the exhibitions were held in Beijing and the birthplaces of Chinese writing. During the exhibition period I specially organized delegations to visit various places in China to explore the origin of Chinese writing.

In China, several kinds of writing have been greatly influenced by Chinese characters. Though they were modifications of Chinese characters, they essentially still resemble Chinese characters, such as the Khitan characters in the 10th century, the Western Xia characters in the 11th century, the Nuzhen characters in the 12th century, etc. In cooperation with the CPAFFC, I once planned exhibitions of these writings, hoping to give these lost ancient writings new life through exhibitions and help them restore vitality as arts of the 21st century. Based on this idea, I, in collaboration with the CPAFFC, held exhibitions of calligraphy and seal cutting works respectively in Japan and the birthplaces of these writings in China.

Of course, in China there are still some ethnic minorities' written languages that have not been influenced by Chinese characters, the best example being Phagspa script in the Yuan Dynasty. The CPAFFC and I once held an exhibition of calligraphy and seal cutting works of Phagspa script in its birthplace Huhhot. I also brought the

exhibition to Japan and invited experts on Phagspa script to Japan to give lectures.

The exhibition that has left the deepest impression on me is the "Exhibition of China's Western Xia Ideogram" cosponsored by the CPAFFC and me and held in the Ishikawa Prefectural Art Museum, Japan in July 2000. In November of the same year we were invited to mount this exhibition at the Second Shanghai International Art Festival. In 2001 we held this exhibition in the Ningxia Museum and the Western Xia Museum in Yinchuan. It was a great event unprecedented in scale in Yinchuan at that time, like a grand festival. Quite a few Japanese mainstream media gave coverage to that grand occasion. It was utterly beyond our expectation and unforgettable to me.

Looking into the future international cultural exchanges, I think that the 20th century has already prepared fertile soil for them, and the important work we are now facing is to put forward a clear proposition and let it grow into a big tree rooted in this soil. This needs us to explore the similarities between nations on the basis of full understanding of their differences, and take the proposition found in the similarities as the new goal for future development and work earnestly towards this goal. Only by doing so could a new culture be born in the course of exchanges.

If one wants to know the

similarities between his own country and others', he must first get a thorough understanding of his own country. Only by knowing fully about his own country, can he have "roots"; and only by taking root firmly, can the big tree grow luxuriant; thus he can better understand the big tree of another country and help it grow luxuriant.

The reason why I have persisted in exchanges for such a long time is that I have never wavered in my recognition of the Chinese ideogram as a big tree, and I firmly believe that I will continue my exchanges in this field in the future, for in the course of exchanges I find more and more clearly that Chinese ideogram has rich contents awaiting our study and exploration.

(Translated from the Chinese text)

**The author is president of Hokushi Seal Cutting Society**



# China Intersections

**Barbara Harbin Cobb (The United States)**

I'm a few years older than the People's Republic of China, but hardly an infant compared to China's vast history and culture. China and I have intersected at many points, and I want to tell you about a few of them.

When I was a child, China was the mysterious other world that missionaries talked about at church, showing pictures of people who looked different but were their friends. The missionaries were talking about, and working in, several Asian countries; but they were all China to me.

As I grew, I learned to distinguish separate countries in Asia, each with its own identity; but I saw that Chinese culture and language permeate the Far East. Later I could see a fuller exchange: the influences of neighboring countries and cultures on China—such as the impact of Buddhism from India and Islam from the Middle East and, later, McDonalds from the U.S. The tide changed again as the migration of Chinese people brought a richer cultural mix to all parts of the world.

People—individuals—have been an important part of my intersections with China. After meeting the people, the place grows in importance.

In the late 1960s in my hometown, my 4-year-old son became friends with a Chinese girl in nursery school, and her mother and I shared conversation and cooking.

I spent much of the 1970s in college and graduate school. During that time, I read a Chinese-American woman's book, describing her feelings and reactions on visiting China for the first time. Seeing China through her eyes gave me a taste of Chinese life.

On the job in the 1980s, I became friends with a Chinese man from Hong Kong as we shared orientation and first projects together, and I

met his wife-to-be, who was from Taiwan. They had met at college in Tennessee; he spoke Cantonese and she spoke Mandarin, so English was their common language at first. I participated in their wedding, and in celebrating the birth of their first child and, later, their U.S. citizenship.

It was because of this couple that I went to China for the first time in 1983. We planned that I would travel with them to China, visit their families in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and spend a week in the PRC. That plan didn't work out, for several reasons, but the planning whetted my appetite to see China through my own eyes. With the help of National Geographic Society's Journey into China, a book (published in 1976) of essays and photographs from all over China, I picked places I most wanted to see and found a tour that would take me to most of them (including Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, and Shaanxi in the north, and Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Guangzhou in the south). The tour was blessed with a tour leader who was interested in the people and culture as well as the places, and it was an eye-opening experience.

Returning home, I wanted to keep learning about China, and I joined the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), whose goal is to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and China. At my first Chinese New Year dinner, I sat next to a Chinese man who came from Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi Province. We became fast friends because I was the only American he knew who had been to Taiyuan, and because I was very interested in learning *taiji*, which he led in Nashville's Centennial Park each Saturday morning.

On my second visit to China, in 1988, I visited my friend and his family in Taiyuan for a few days before joining a tour in Beijing. Ten years

# 60 Golden Years of New China

**Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani (Pakistan)**

Today is October 1, 2009, a day of joy and happiness for the People's Republic of China and friends of China around the world to mark the 60th founding anniversary of the People's Republic. In the past 60 years China has seen several transitional phases and now un-

doubtedly has emerged as one of the world's greatest economic power.

As it is rightly said that nations get leaders they deserve, great leaders like Chairman Mao Zedong, the founder of New China who led the great Chinese nation and its socialist

transformation, worked actively till 1976 and after that another great Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping led the nation for new economic reforms and the open door policy was his brain child which gave a new and modern look to China. These economic reforms are continued under the

later, in 1998, I accompanied a delegation of American women judges to China (hosted by the All-China Women's Federation) and Shanxi was on the itinerary as the site of a new women's court. At my request, this friend graciously brought his family to the hotel to visit with the delegation while we were in Taiyuan. In 2007, I was in Taiyuan as our mayors signed an agreement to link Nashville and Taiyuan as sister cities, and my friend and his wife hosted a part of the delegation in their home for tea. They also showed hospitality to a young Nashville couple in Taiyuan while the husband played professional basketball on the provincial team. Our friendship and the sister city relationship have mutually benefited.

Also through USCPFA, I met a Chinese woman who was a leader in the Chinese student/scholar association at a Nashville-area university. I learned a little Chinese language in the community education class she taught—and could have learned more if I had studied outside class. Over our 20-year friendship, we have shared the art of dumpling-making and our perspectives on business, news, films, family, and other aspects of life.

In the mid-1990s, I retired from paid em-

ployment. As a USCPFA volunteer, I began to organize China tours, mostly through the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC, also called Youxie). Since 1999, I have developed and arranged more than 20 tours to China. Besides the benefit of seeing many places in China, I have had the joy of showing China to first-time travelers, connecting with people we meet, and of getting to know Youxie staff who travel with us. On the streets in China, I learned again and again that people can communicate with little or no common language—with smiles, nods, showing off babies, sharing photos, and taking photos together. The Chinese face no longer appears mysterious; it now looks familiar.

In 2009, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, we also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between China and the United States. Both events are important intersections for our two countries and for the world. May the friendship between our peoples and the connections between our countries grow from strength to strength.

**The author is former national treasurer of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association.**

## 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

third generation and till date under the leadership of Hu Jintao who is working for the harmonious society concept. New China has steered the nation onto a path of national harmony and economic growth. To no surprise China is one of the few nations that have survived the world financial crisis due to its strong forex reserves and manufacturing through rapid industrialization with the policy of a market driven economy.

Pakistan is among those first countries of the world which not only recognize China but have very warm and cordial relations with China, relations considered higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey. The two countries are very close not only due to their geographical closeness but also to the like-mindedness of their peoples for peace in the region and consequently in the world.

On August 8, 2008, the 29th Olympic Games opened its curtain in Beijing. Within 16

days, athletes from 204 countries and regions gathered in China to demonstrate their superb athletic ability as billions of people worldwide participated in the celebration of international sportsmanship and friendship. As the excitement finally concluded in the Bird's Nest Stadium, China received rare reviews from the international community for having staged one of the most successful Olympic Games in history. The 16 days realized a long cherished dream of the Chinese people and the arrangements for the event was admired by all.

1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded, the Chinese economy was on the verge of collapse as the result of long-time war. The per capita GDP was only 50 US dollars. In the 1950s and 60s, China carried out many large-scale heavy-industry infrastructure construction projects, which laid a sound foundation for the economic growth of New China. But due to a low

level of productivity in agriculture and light industry, the market supply of consumer goods was far from enough to meet the needs of the Chinese people.

Following the reform and opening up drive in the late 1970s, China achieved fast economic and social development. The market flourished, with an increasing quantity and diversity of commodities. With the abundant supply of goods, people could buy whatever they needed with ease and convenience.

Statistics show that China's GDP has increased by more than 400 times compared with six decades ago, and the per capital GDP has exceeded 3,000 US dollars. China now ranks third in the world in terms of aggregate economic volume.

An old saying in China goes that food is the first necessity of man, which shows how highly the Chinese people value food. As a basic necessity in life, food has remained an issue of top concern for the Chinese government and common peo-

**The delegation of the Pak-China Friendship Association Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan with Leaders of Kashgar Prefecture during the 5th Central and South Asia Trade Fair in Kashgar, Xinjiang in 2009**



ple.

China is traditionally an agricultural country, with most of its residents living in rural areas. Agriculture has always been considered the lifeline of the national economy. But for a country that has 1.3 billion people, one fifth of the world's total population, addressing the challenge of maintaining an adequate food supply has been an arduous task.

60 years ago, most of the people in China struggled on the verge of starvation and poverty, due to the low agricultural productivity, frequent natural disasters and the continued turmoil of war. Simply having enough food to eat was a dream for most ordinary people.

To further boost agriculture, the government started a series of tax reforms in rural areas eight years ago. In 2006, China comprehensively abolished the agricultural tax. This relieved farmers of a burden of 130 billion yuan, or 19 billion dollars in taxes.

The government has also increased subsidies to help farmers purchase implements needed for their work. Meanwhile, it's also invested heavily in upgrading rural infrastructure and agricultural technologies. So far, the acreage under mechanized farming has occupied 60 percent of the country's total cultivated area.

According to the goals set by the Chinese government, by 2020, Chinese farmers' per capita net income will double

that of 2008, and those who are now living under the poverty line will all be pulled out of poverty. To achieve these goals, China has pledged to further intensify its efforts to develop agriculture and rural areas in the next decade.

At the end of 1953, the central government set up a drafting committee to enact the Chinese constitution. After the draft was laid down, it was released for public discussion. Based on the 1954 Constitution, China adopted a new constitution in 1982 and enacted a few new laws and regulations. In 1999, the National People's Congress approved an amendment to the Chinese Constitution. The principle of "governing the country by law" was included in the amendment. And then in 2004, the article "the state respects and guarantees human rights" was added to the Constitution, which marked a positive sign of human rights development in China.

After decades of endeavor to reform and improve its legal system, China has made remarkable achievements in promoting the rule of law. Currently, 231 laws have been put in force in China. Specific laws have been enacted to protect the rights and interests of special social groups like the disabled, the old, children, women and ethnic minorities.

At the same time, China has joined more than 20 international human rights conventions, and held dialogues on the

rule of law regularly with international organizations.

China was a founding member of the United Nations and one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. After the founding of the People's Republic, however, China's legal seat in the UN was deprived of for two decades due to the obstruction of Western anti-China forces. October 25, 1971 turned out to be a significant day in the history of New China's diplomacy. The UN General Assembly passed with an overwhelming majority of votes a resolution on restoring all the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the UN.

The restoration of China's legal rights in the United Nations was a major breakthrough in China's diplomacy. It also represented a victory for the third world countries, because China always attaches great importance to fostering diplomatic ties with other developing countries and upholds the diplomatic policy of maintaining world peace and seeking common development. With its return to the UN, China could play a bigger role in safeguarding the interests of the third world countries and contribute more to promoting international peace and development.

The 1970s witnessed a big leap forward in China's foreign relations. Following the restoration of its legal seat in the UN, the freezing ties between China and the West began to thaw.

## 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China



Head of the Pakistani delegation cutting the cake symbolizing China-Pakistan friendship

China established diplomatic relations with more nations, including some Western powers. By the end of the 1970s, China had entered into diplomatic relations with some 120 countries, compared with just 50 countries a decade before. The most significant move during this period was no doubt the establishment of diplomatic ties with the United States.

From the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, and from the Sino-African Cooperation Forum Beijing Summit to the Seventh Asia-Europe Meet-

ing last October and the G20 London Summit this year, China has played a positive and constructive role in maintaining world peace and stability, and promoting common development.

China's diplomacy has grown more mature after going through a string of challenges and opportunities over the past few decades. As the largest developing country in the world, China has pledged to shoulder due responsibility to construct a healthy relationship with other countries and make greater contributions to the international community.

China is the third country in the world to develop a manned space flight programme independently.

But the country's great achievements in the space industry haven't come easily. People of Pakistan have cordial attachment with their brethren from China and holds them in great esteem. There is a considerable people to people interaction which is only strengthening with each passing day. We congratulate people of China on their 60th national day because they are a proud nation and we are proud to have such a friend and a neighbour.

**The writer is secretary general of the Pak-China Friendship Association North West Frontier Province of Pakistan.**

**(Continued from p.13)**

anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 150th Anniversary of Brisbane / Queensland.

Typically in Brisbane, these festive activities include a public performance by artists from both China and Brisbane. I am proud to be one of the singers of the Mass Choir to say "Happy 60th Birthday" to the People's Republic of China on the evening of September 19th, 2009.

Similar activities are being organized

throughout Australian capital cities for this historic occasion.

All friends of China and people with goodwill extend a warm congratulation to the Chinese Government and citizens of China on this 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China wishing you many happy returns.

**The author is national president of the Australia China Friendship Society.**

# China, the Most Ideal Partner for International Cooperation

**Smail Debeche (Algeria)**

In recent years, China's development achievements have captured the world's attention and I can feel the vigorous momentum of this development every time I visit China. China is becoming an incomparable power of the world. China's development and advancement are closely related to the following factors:

1. Diligence. The Chinese working people, even the elderly, start to work as early as the sun rises and will not rest until sunset. They are amazingly diligent.

2. Self-control. The Chinese people have high sense of responsibility and the sense of being master of their own affairs, and can properly deal with different matters and always fulfill their duty.

3. Sparing time. Time is money; time is a treasure. The Chinese people nearly utter no meaningless word or take useless action; they plunge into well-arranged working schedule whole-heartedly.

4. Self-confidence. The word China in Chinese means the centre of the world. With the ancient China's four great inventions, the Chinese people are naturally proud of their nation and self-confident.

5. Self-reliance. The Chinese people, men and women, old and young, all strive unceasingly to become stronger, and thus have made numerous inventions and creations.

6. Chinese culture of long tradition and with profound historic connections. The Beijing Olympics in 2008 further boosts the spirit of the Chinese people and enhanced their image.

7. Reform and opening-up have given new impetus to China's development.

8. Incorporating things of diverse nature. China has actively imported brainpower from

abroad, absorbed and learnt advanced technologies and management expertise from countries all over the world to accelerate its own development.

9. Properly coping with blockade. Despite blockade by the West, China helped construct the Tanzania-Zambia railway, and successfully developed its nuclear weapons.

10. Opening to the outside world and keeping up with the times.

Algeria has maintained a long-term, constructive and positive cooperative relationship with China in the past, at present, and will do so in future. The Chinese people are the staunch friends of Algeria and its people forever.

China provided the Algerians with steady economic, military, personnel and material assistance as much as it could during the Algerian revolutionary war, while the Chinese media giving their support for our revolution through active reporting. China is one of the first countries that recognized the Algerian provisional government. The Chinese leaders attach great importance to China's relations with Algeria, and the Algerian delegations' visits to China have always received great care and high courtesy. Leaders of the two countries share profound mutual trust. After President Abdelaziz Bouteflika assumed office in 1999, the development of the relations between the two countries has been more highlighted; the cooperation between the two countries has been upgraded to a new high and the bilateral relations have developed into greater depth and width.

The relationship between the two countries has experienced a healthy progress from the start till now, and the two countries have effectively conducted close coordination regarding national and regional issues. The reasons are as follows:

# Friendship and Diplomacy Leading To Prosperity and Peace

**Amaradasa Gunawardena (Sri Lanka)**

We in Sri Lanka China Society enthusiastically rejoice and celebrate the year of 2009 for two major reasons. It is the sixtieth year of founding the People's Republic of China (1949) which brought about the emancipation of billions of Chinese people thereby opening up a new chapter of the history of mankind of the modern world. Equally important to us is the completion of fifty-five years of the establishment of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) in the year 1954.

We have learnt that the CPAFFC is a very strong and important arm of a vast organization built by the Chinese people to effect all round advance-

ment in every field of development. The statute of the CPAFFC very appropriately states that "The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is a national people's organization of the People's Republic of China".

I am reminded of a statement made by the Chinese President Jiang Zemin regarding the foreign policy of China: "We should further strengthen our solidarity and cooperation with the third world countries. The developing countries share the same fundamental goal of safeguarding their independence and developing the economy. The Chinese people are ready to join hands with the people of other countries in making un-

remitting efforts to promote the lofty cause of peace and development and work for brighter future of mankind."

The solidarity and close cooperation with other countries could be gained by an effective diplomatic service. Yet, the more attractive and effective way of achieving these ends can be through among the informal organizations. I am of the opinion that this role in China is played by the CPAFFC.

"Friendship" has been a keyword inscribed in the line of thinking of the policy-makers of the People's Republic of China. It is very clear that China will always join the vast number of developing countries in mutual support and close cooperation in all areas to safeguard lawful

1. Feeling close to each other. Algeria and China have similar historical experience, and suffered from colonial rule and invasion.

2. Identical claims. Both countries oppose the old unjust world order and hope to establish a just and rational new international order.

3. Sharing the same sense of justice. Both countries support the liberation movement of the people all over the world.

4. Facing similar situations. Algeria and China have been caught in the crack of the Cold War and had common experience.

5. Choosing similar ways of development.

The two countries, which used to be under the highly centralized planned economy of socialist system, are now striding forward to a free and open market economy, only in different steps. China's successful transformation and reform are proved to be valuable experience from which Algeria can learn, and moreover, the two countries are faced with good opportunities of cooperation in multiple areas.

(Translated from Chinese text)

**The author is the president of the Algeria-China Friendship Association.**

rights and interests. With the assistance and support of the Chinese Government and all sections of the society, the CPAFFC has carried out its important role. The member organizations spread all over China and the major social bodies of China nearly 300 in number will extend absolute cooperation to the CPAFFC.

Since the establishment of Sri Lanka China Society on 5th October 1981 we have been in close contact with the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka and friendship which entered our small island of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) through the fabulous and traditional silk route in good old days, has been strengthened mutually. The encouragement and the cooperation extended to us by the CPAFFC in the effort is exemplary.

Our society has annually maintained and executed a meaningful calendar of activities leading to the strengthening of mutual friendship. A meaningful programme to celebrate the Chinese National Day on 1st October was annually carried out with the participation of the Chinese Embassy. Essay competitions among school children, panel discussions, public meetings, photography exhibitions were conducted annually. Ours is the only Chinese friendship organization in Sri Lanka which conducted as many as five Chinese Film Festivals with the assistance of the Chinese Embassy. The completion of 30



**Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Bandaranaike meeting with a CPAFFC delegation in 1998**

years, 40 years and 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries was celebrated in grand scale. In connection with the golden jubilee of diplomatic relations (2007) we released a book written in Sinhala language about China. This was distributed among all schools in the island. This is the first ever book in Sinhala about China.

Once in two years the CPAFFC used to invite a friendship delegation from our Society. We have so far sent 10 delegations and also we have hosted two delegations from China. As a matter of practice we have got all such delegates who visit China to write articles about their impressions and observations. All such articles are published in a small booklet and distributed free of charge. We have already published ten editions of that booklet named *Notes on Travel*.

On my table I have a souvenir presented to me by the CPAFFC in Colombo at the BMICH in May 2007. It is inscribed: “Mr. Amaradasa Gunawardena is granted the award of Contribution to China-Sri Lanka Friendship by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries—May 2007”.

There were as many as 12 awardees in May 2007. I am proud to state that 5 out of 12 were received by members of Sri Lanka China Society. It appears that the CPAFFC has recognized our contribution during the last 27 years continuously. We certainly feel honoured to be with the CPAFFC. All our members whole-heartedly wish a brighter future for the CPAFFC.

**The author is president of Sri Lanka China Society.**

# Fourth Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations

**Xu Yiyi**

The Fourth Conference on China-ASEAN Friendship Organizations was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from July 16 to 17. Gu Xiulian, president of the China-ASEAN Association (CAA), and about 600 leaders and representatives of friendship organizations of the 10 ASEAN countries attended the conference. The Malaysian Government attached great importance to the conference. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak who was on his overseas visit sent a letter of congratulations to the conference. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, Minister of Transport Ong Tee Keat, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Koh Tsu Koon and Minister of Tourism Ng Yen Yen participated in related activities of the conference.

With the theme of "building bridges towards ASEAN-China friendship and prosperity", a meeting of leaders of China-ASEAN people-to-people friendship organizations, an exhibition

of Chinese and ASEAN commodities, China-ASEAN economic and trade talks and the China-ASEAN Education Forum were held during the conference. The conference adopted the 2009-2010 China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations' Cooperation Plan and decided that Singapore would be the host country of the next conference in 2010.

## **Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations**

The main task of this conference was to review the implementation in the past year of the cooperation plan jointly signed at the last conference by friendship organizations and to make suggestions and plans for cooperation in the coming year through extensive discussions. Through exchanging information about each other's work, the participants learned experience and derived inspiration from each other, and through in-depth



**Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin meeting with China-ASEAN Association President Gu Xiulian**



**Leaders of the participating friendship organizations at the Conference**

discussions detailed the cooperation plan for the following year. It was decided that in future the conference would be held around the end of July and the beginning of August every year. The participants worked out feasible plans for cooperation in the economic, cultural, educational, health and sports fields put forward in the last conference. In the economic field, the participants agreed that the exhibition of Chinese and ASEAN commodities and the China-ASEAN economic and trade talks, as parts of the conference's contents, would be held regularly along with the conference every year. Under this mechanism multi-lateral and bilateral economic and trade activities are encouraged. In the cultural and tourist fields, it was decided at the conference that China-ASEAN youth performances would be included in the framework of the conference and held at the same time and place of the conference. The friendship organizations at the conference unanimously held that anniversaries of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and their respective countries would serve as opportunities to vigorously promote cooperation in culture and tourism. In the educational field, the China-ASEAN Education Forum would be included in the framework of the conference. At the same time, personnel exchanges and training would be encouraged. In the health field, the participants highly praised the "2008 China-Cambodia Friendship Bringing Light Tour" and hoped that the Chinese side would not only do a good job in the

"2009 China-Vietnam Friendship Bringing Light Tour", but also carry out cooperation in other health and medical sectors with ASEAN countries such as cooperation in primary health care and health development. In the aspect of sports and youth exchanges, the participants unanimously agreed to organize youth sports matches and summer camps at appropriate time to strengthen mutual understanding and communication between the youth of China and ASEAN countries. This conference has made nongovernmental friendly cooperation between China and ASEAN countries more practical and its contents more enriched. The nongovernmental 10+1 mechanism has been further consolidated and developed.

### **Exhibition of Chinese and ASEAN Commodities and China-ASEAN Economic and Trade Talks**

The exhibition of Chinese and ASEAN commodities with 82 booths and the China-ASEAN economic and trade talks held during the conference attracted over 100 enterprises from China and 6 ASEAN countries, namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. More than 70 Chinese entrepreneurs organized by the CPAFFC took part in the exhibition and displayed their products at 32 booths. The products of the Guangxi Golden Throat Group Co. and the Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd. were highlights among China's self-owned brands. The new energy technology exhibited by the Damei International Information Company and the Sicong Group



**CAA President Gu Xiulian beating the gong to start the cultural performance**

drew great attention from the participants. Jewelry and wood carving products from Laos were welcomed by the Chinese businesspeople. At the economic and trade talks, Chinese entrepreneurs and their ASEAN counterparts had business talks and explored opportunities for business cooperation.

### **China-ASEAN Education Forum**

More than 150 people including leaders of the friendship organizations and representatives and experts from institutions of higher learning in China and various ASEAN countries attended the first China-ASEAN Education Forum. At the forum experts from famous universities including Tsinghua University, Cheng Kung University of Taiwan, the Macau Inter-University Institute and the Singapore Nanyang Technological University gave speeches on the China-ASEAN educational cooperation entitled "Contents and Orientation of the China-ASEAN Cooperation in Education", "Suggestions on Education in China and Singapore", "Universities in East Asia in the 21st Century: Responsibilities and Prospects" and "Development and Challenges of Confucius Institutes in ASEAN Countries". A representative of Tsinghua University said, the universities in China and ASEAN countries which have already acquired the most advanced educational system in the world need to further carry out cooperation and exchanges. Professor Phua Kok Khoo, director of

the Senior Research Centre under Nanyang Technological University and president of the Singapore-China Friendship Association, said, universities and research institutions in Asia must bring the strength of oriental culture into full play so as to keep talented personnel from leaving. Professor Koh Hock Kiat, dean of the Confucius Institute, said, to popularize Chinese culture in ASEAN, the greatest challenge is how to make the Chinese culture integrated into local culture and life. Professor Dominic Lau with the Blue Ocean Strategy Regional Centre of the University College Sedaya International, said, the fact that China and ASEAN recognize each other's academic credentials and degree will play a better role in promoting the development of education in China and ASEAN. Professor Augustine S. H. Ong who is an academician of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and president of the Malaysian Invention and Design Society suggested that ASEAN-China University be established as soon as possible. □



# China-Mongolia Friendship Bringing Light Tour

**Zhan Xiushuang**

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Mongolia and the China-Mongolia Friendship Year, a delegation led by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu made a China-Mongolia Friendship Bringing Light Tour in Mongolia from June 22 to 28. The delegation, as part of the entourage of He Guoqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and secretary of CPC's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection who was on a visit to Mongolia, was composed of a Chinese medical team that gave free cataract surgery to about 50 Mongolian patients during its trip. He Guoqiang attended the inaugural ceremony of the China-Mongolia Friendship Bringing Light Tour and presented medical sterilization equipment as a gift to the Mongolian side.

## **Highly Praised by Leaders of the Two Countries**

In their meetings with He Guoqiang, Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj, Prime Minister Sanjaa Bayar and Chairman of the State

Great Hural Damdin Demberel all expressed their thanks to the delegation of "China-Mongolia Friendship Bringing Light Tour" for bringing light to ordinary Mongolian patients. Speaking at the meeting to welcome his delegation, He Guoqiang expressed the belief that the medical team that came with him would try its best to cure the Mongolian patients suffering from cataract. He said, such activities conducive to friendship and benefiting the people of the two countries would be carried out better and more frequently in the future. At the inaugural ceremony of the activity, He

Guoqiang expressed his sincere solicitude to all the members of the medical team and praised their efforts for China-Mongolia friendship.

Sambuu Lambaa, Mongolian minister of health, said, this "bringing light tour" was of great significance, which has not only brought tangible benefits to the ordinary Mongolian people, but also let them experience deeply the friendship of the Chinese people. Dagva Tsakhilgaan, president of the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations (FMPFO), said, the "Bringing Light Tour" not only brings

**He Guoqiang (R.1) presenting medical equipment to the Mongolian side**



light to dozens of patients, but also to Mongolia-China friendship, reflecting true friendship between the people of the two countries.

### **Welcomed by the Mongolian People**

The doctors of the medical team with exemplary medical ethics, first-rate skills and the most advanced medical equipment successfully performed free cataract surgery for about 50 Mongolian patients, among whom the oldest was 93 and the youngest only six months. The Chinese doctors' selfless spirit and hard work won respect from their Mongolian colleagues and patients. A patient had suffered traumas before the operation. The doctors gave him examination on three consecutive days to ensure the success of the operation. The Mongolian patients expressed their gratitude in different ways to the Chinese doctors. After seeing light again, some patients in beautiful Mongolian national costumes came to the hospital to look for the

doctors who had operated on their eyes and presented flowers to them. An eighty-year-old patient with flowers in his hands said choking with sobs: "You have enabled me to see light again. I will forever remember the Chinese doctor's kindness to me." The grandma of the six-month-old baby who had suffered from congenital cataract said to the doctors with emotion: "Thank you for having cured my grandson of his cataract. When he grows up, I will ask him to go to Beijing to see you, the Chinese doctors who have cured him."

### **Enhancing Cooperation between the Friendship Organizations of the Two Countries**

The "Bringing Light Tour" got support from the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mongolian Ministry of Health, the FMPFO and the Mongolia-China Friendship Association (MCFA). Through this activity, the friendship organizations of the two countries have strength-

ened exchanges and established closer cooperation.

The delegation visited the International Children's Friendship Village managed by a council member of the MCFA in Ulan Bator, where they chatted with the teachers and children. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu talked about the friendship between China and Mongolia and the purpose of the delegation's visit to Mongolia. The Mongolian children spoke in Chinese about their village. When Lam Kin Chung, member of the delegation and council member of the CPAFFC, learnt that the Mongolian-Russian-Chinese Children's Olympic Games to be held in September this year lacked funds, he at once decided to donate 50,000 RMB yuan to the project. Dagva Tsakhilgaan, president of the FMPFO, said, the Mongolian side would take the China-Mongolia Friendship Year as an opportunity to expand exchanges with the CPAFFC and do more work to further increase exchanges between China and Mongolia in the cultural and social areas, particularly between the young people of the two countries so as to foster successors to the cause of China-Mongolia friendship and consolidate the popular basis for China-Mongolia friendship. □



**Chinese medical personnel performing an operation at Ulan Bator No. 1 Hospital**

# CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and His Party in Ukraine

**Kang Jingyuan**

At the invitation of the Ukraine-China Society (UCS), CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party paid a visit to Kiev and Yalta from June 5 to 9. Leonid Kravchuk, honorary president of the UCS and first Ukrainian president, met with Chen Haosu and his party. Grygory M. Surkys, president of the UCS; Evgen M. Rashutin, first vice president of the UCS; Yuriy Kostenko, Ukrainian vice foreign minister; and Mykhailo B. Reznik, former Ukrainian ambassador to China, were present at the meeting.

Leonid Kravchuk said, the important documents signed by him, as the founder of Ukraine-China relations, and the Chinese leaders have become the foundation of Ukraine-China relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, mutually beneficial cooperative relations between Ukraine and China have experienced sustained development. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu's visit to Ukraine also witnesses the good relations be-

tween the two countries. He spoke highly of the role played by friendship organizations of the two countries in promoting friendly relations between Ukraine and China.

UCS President Grygory Surkys expressed his thanks to the CPAFFC for inviting the UCS delegation to visit China and attend the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2007. He expressed his appreciation of and congratulations on the success of the Beijing Olympic Games.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu praised the important role played by Leonid Kravchuk, as the first Ukrainian president, in the establishment

of China-Ukraine diplomatic relations and the development of the relations between the two countries, and the efforts he has made to deepen mutual understanding and traditional friendship between the Chinese and Ukrainian people as a friendship envoy of the Ukrainian people since he assumed the post of honorary president of the UCS.

The CPAFFC delegation paid an official call on the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). The AUC is responsible for contacts between the Ukrainian central and local governments and coordinating the relationship between the two sides. Chen Haosu expressed the CPAFFC's willingness to establish ties and develop cooperation with the AUC. □

**Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk meeting with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu**



# CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin And Her Party Visit Romania and France

Hao Zhongwei



Romanian Senate President Mircea Geoana meeting with the CPAFFC delegation

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its vice president Li Xiaolin made a working visit to Romania and France from August 31 to September 8

**Recipients of the title of Friendship Ambassador President Florea Dumitrescu (L.3) and Secretary General Ion Dobrica (L.1) of the RCFA with CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (L.2) and Chinese Ambassador Liu Zengwen**



at the invitation of the Romania-China Friendship Association (RCFA) and the European Institute of Cultural Action of France.

In Romania, the delegation called on Mircea Geoana, president of the Senate and had meetings with Sorin Oprescu, mayor of Bucharest, and Codrin Dumistru Munteanu, special representative of the Central Government to Covasna. In recognition of the consistent efforts and outstanding contribution made by Florea Dumitrescu and Ion Dobrica, president and secretary general of the RCFA, to promoting friendship between the Chinese and Romanian people over the past dozens of years, Li Xiaolin presented them

# 2009 China-Vietnam Border Friendship Gala

**Zhan Xiushuang**

**I**nternational dragon boat races at sea, youth exchanges, art performances and a symbolic friendship tree planting ceremony were among the many colourful activities held during the 2009 China-Vietnam Border Friendship Gala in June.

Officials and tens of thousands of ordinary citizens living on both sides of the border happily celebrated the growing good neighbourly ties that are strengthening the profound friendship between the two countries.

The gala consisted of a variety of significant activities such as the China-Vietnam Border Friendship Forum and the International Dragon Boat Festival on the Sea held in China, exchanges between the youth of the two countries, art and cultural performances and the planting of “friendship trees” in Vietnam as a symbol for future generations.

It was an opportunity for people at all levels on both sides of the border to make friends and put forward suggestions and

express their best wishes for further deepening friendly cooperation in the border area.

The gala, co-sponsored by the China-ASEAN Association (CAA), the China-Vietnam Friendship Association (CVFA), the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) and the Vietnam-China Friendship Association (VCFA), was a cross-border affair with activities in Fangchenggang City (Guangxi) on the Chinese side and Mong Cai, a district-level city of Quang Ninh Province

medals and certificates of the title of Friendship Ambassador on behalf of the CPAFFC.

In France, the delegation held talks with French local assembly and local government leaders including Vice President Breton and Vice President Guerin of the Midi-Pyrenees Regional Assembly, President Elisabeth Mitterrand of European Institute of Cultural Action, Rocamadour Mayor Jallet, Pompadour Mayor Reillier,

Couffouleux Mayor Pierre Verdier, L’Isle-Jourdain Mayor Alain Tourne, Lisle-sur-Tarn Mayor Jean Tkaczuk, and had extensive contact with friendly personages of the economic and cultural circles. □

**CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin striking the Bell of China-France Friendship at the Bell Museum of Isle-Jourdain**





**The closing ceremony of the 2009 China-Vietnam Border Friendship Gala**

just across the border in Vietnam, from June 5 to 8.

Li Zhaozhuo, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and Huynh Dam, chairman of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), attended the opening ceremony; Sun Guoxiang, Chinese ambassador to Vietnam, and Nguyen Van Tho,

Vietnamese ambassador to China, were also present upon invitation. A 100-member Chinese delegation led by Gu Xiulian, president of the CAA, and a 100-member Vietnamese delegation led by Vu Xuan Hong, president of the VUFO, also participated.

Watched by the representatives of the people living in the border area, Gu Xiulian and Vu Xuan Hong signed and jointly

read out the "China-Vietnam Border Friendship Gala Declaration" at a closing ceremony held at the Beilun River Bridge on the border.

Meeting with Huynh Dam, Li Zhaozhuo said, the gala was of great significance in promoting the stability and development along the border as well as the overall cause of China-Vietnam friendship.

The year 2010 marks the



**Leaders of friendship organizations of both countries ready to do the eye-dotting for the dragon boats**



60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Vietnam and has been designated as China-Vietnam Friendship Year. Li said he hoped that the two sides would take this occasion as an opportunity to look into future, enhance friendship and expand cooperation from the perspective of the overall interests of the two sides and by carrying out various kinds of rich and colourful activities.

These should be designed to further promote all-round development of China-Vietnam friendly relations so as to let the people of the two countries forever be “good neighbours, good friends, good comrades and good partners.”

Huynh Dam responded by saying the VFF was willing to work together with other friendship organizations to vigorously promote friendship between Vietnam and China and play a positive role in enhancing mutual understanding.

CAA President Gu Xiulian

said, she hoped the “gala” would help deepen mutual trust and cooperation between the people living in the border areas and make a contribution to the development of a China-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation to promote common social and economic prosperity and benefit the people of the two countries.

At the China-Vietnam Border Friendship Forum, representatives of 15 cities (counties) and districts of Guangxi Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province, which both border on Vietnam, spoke on various topics. The representatives of the two countries treated each other open-heartedly and offered proposals and suggestions on jointly building a peaceful and stable China-Vietnam border featuring friendship, cooperation and development.

All the representatives held that along with the improvement of the general relationship between the two countries, the friendly relations in the border

areas had developed rapidly. The adjoining prefectures and counties of the two countries have carried out exchanges and cooperation in culture and sports, and deepened friendly sentiments towards each other.

By carrying out important celebrations and other activities and inviting each other to participate in them, the towns and villages along the border of the two countries have deepened understanding and enhanced friendship.

Trade has also been booming, and Mong Cai has become known as the wealthiest city in Vietnam because of the passage of goods to and from China — a trade that reached US\$4.1bn in 2008, the largest amount of any of the border gateways. □



# Activities of China-Russia People-to-People Friendship Month Held

**Hu Chunmei**

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the founding of the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA), the CPAFFC and CRFA designated September 2009 as the China-Russia People-to-People Friendship Month, during which they organized a series of activities including a reception in celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the founding of the CRFA, a forum on China-Russia relations, a photo exhibition on China-Russia traditional friendly relations, a stamp exhibition and a concert of Chinese and Russian songs.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), attended the reception

in celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations held at the Great Hall of the People and spoke on the occasion. Hua Jianmin, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and chairman of the Chinese side of the Sino-Russian Committee of Friendship, Peace and Development; Bai Lichen, vice chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC; Wang Guangya, vice foreign minister; Chen Haosu, CPAFFC and CRFA president; Sergei Razov, Russian ambassador to China; and Mikhail Titarenko, president of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), among about 280 Chinese and Russian representatives of various circles of the two countries attended the reception.

In his meeting with Mikhail Titarenko, presi-

**CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin presenting a souvenir to RCFA President Mikhail Titarenko**



dent of the RCFA, and S.L. Tikhvinsky, honorary president of the RCFA, CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin congratulated Titanrenko on receiving the “Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Sixty Years of China-Russia Relations” issued personally by President Hu Jintao. Jia said, since this year, the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of coordination has maintained a momentum of all-round fast development, and high-level contacts have been frequent. Particularly, President Hu’s successful visit to Russia in the first half of this year has injected new vigour into promoting bilateral pragmatic cooperation in various areas. For a long time, China and Russia have firmly supported each other on the issues concerning the core interests of the two countries such as the Taiwan and the Tibet questions, the eastward expansion of NATO, etc., and closely coordinated on such important international and regional issues as the DPRK nuclear issue, the Iranian nuclear issue, and the Afghanistan problems. The two countries have carried out smooth pragmatic cooperation in various areas and increased their cooperation in social and cultural fields. The idea of “maintaining China-Russia friendship from generation to generation” has gone deeper into the minds of the people of the two countries.

In his important speech at the reception, Jia Qinglin said, the current China-Russia relations are at the best period in history. High-level exchanges between the two countries have become increasingly frequent; political mutual trust has

reached an unprecedented high level and bilateral pragmatic cooperation in various fields has become more mature and strategic coordination closer. China-Russia relations have become one of the most dynamic and influential bilateral relationships in the world, which has not only brought enormous benefits to the people of the two countries, but also effectively promoted world peace and development. The CRFA and the RCFA are active participants and important pushers of the cause of friendship between China and Russia and have made great contributions to promoting the strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia.

Russian Ambassador Sergei Razov, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and RCFA President Titarenko spoke at the reception, highly praising the development of the cause of friendship between China and Russia and between the people of the two countries and enthusiastically expecting brighter prospects of the cause.

At the “Inherit the Past and Forge Ahead into the Future—Forum on the Sixty Years of China-Russia Relations”, speakers reviewed the extraordinary course of the development of China-Russia relations in the past 60 years and through summing up historical experience fully affirmed the current development of China-Russia relations, evaluated the trend of development of the relationship in future, and deeply explored the people-to-people diplomacy between the two countries under the new situation. □

**CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin and other distinguished Chinese and Russian guests with members of a chorus at the reception**



# Looking for “Gung Ho” Spirit in China

**Shu Zhang**

“From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the Shores of Tripoli\*;  
We fight our country’s battles  
In the air, on land and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honour clean;  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marine.

If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven’s scenes;  
They will find the streets are guarded  
By United States Marines.”

The veterans of Carlson’s Raiders from the United States were singing this song when they revisited the Taihang Mountains. This is the US Marine Corps Hymn which they have often sung in their glorious lifetime.

Evans F. Carlson, an old friend of the Chinese people, passed away more than half a century ago. The Chinese people have never forgotten

him, nor have the American people. Invited by the CPAFFC, a veterans delegation of the United States Marine Raider Association headed by Lt. Gen. (retired) Henry Stackpole visited China from June 19 to 30. They went to Beijing, Datong, Wutai Mountain, Taiyuan, Xi’an and Yan’an.

The veterans of the delegation were members of the Raider Battalion led by Carlson. Among them were 93-year-old George MacRae, a Canadian living in the U. S. who had served in the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and whose right hand was deformed by the wound he got in battles; Ken McCullough, 89, who had served in the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion; the 86-year-old Kenneth O’Donnell of the 4th Marine Raider Battalion who had fought shoulder to shoulder with James Roosevelt, son of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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**\* Montezuma (1480-1520) was the last Aztec emperor of Mexico and Tripoli is a port city of Lebanon where the US Marines have been stationed**



**Visiting an Eighth Route Army veteran in Wutai Mountain**



**The US veterans joining the Chinese people in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Gung Ho movement**

and took part in the Battle of Makin; and the 85-year-old Harold Berg of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion who had been president of the United States Marine Raider Association. They all had fresh memories of Carlson and how they overcame extremely hard natural conditions and dealt a heavy blow on the Japanese aggressors in Makin Island and Guadalcanal Island, which seemed to have taken place only yesterday. Now they came to China, taking the risk of contracting (A) H1N1 flu and braving the hot weather. They were hale and hearty despite their advanced age. They walked in quick and light steps, still retaining their impressive gallantry of those years and servicemen's humour.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation and invited leaders of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies and children of old Chinese generals and comrades who had had contact with Carlson to meet with the delegation. During her meeting with the delegation, Gen. Nie Li, daughter of Nie Rongzhen, presented the delegation a book about her father she published last year. In the book there are descriptions and photos of the meetings between Marshal Nie Rongzhen and Carlson in Wutai Mountain.

The main purpose of the veterans' visit was to trace Carlson's footsteps in China, look for Chinese Eighth Route Army veterans and guerrillas to chat with them about how they fought the

Japanese aggressors in those years. In Wutai Mountain, Xi'an and Yan'an, they met and had conversations with the Eighth Route Army and guerrilla veterans. In Xi'an, they were arranged to visit a sanatorium for retired military cadres of the Shaanxi Provincial Military Command and had a discussion there while in Yan'an they went to see veterans in the August 1 Old People's Home, recalling with them the events that had happened 65 years before. At that time the U. S. was launching a counterattack against Japan in the Pacific region, while in the battlefields of China, the Chinese army pinned down 70% of the Japanese forces which could have been sent to the Pacific to fight against the US army. Such collaboration sped up the defeat of the Japanese aggressors. The Chinese and American veterans felt that they met too late. They shook hands and chatted happily, showing the long militant friendship and brotherhood between the Chinese and the American people. These meetings were filled with joyful conversations and laughter, at the end of which it was hard for them to bid farewell. The American veterans would sing a few songs and the Chinese veterans would also sing *The Song of the Guerrillas* and *Three Main Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention* that Carlson used to play with harmonica. They were familiar with those songs and the atmosphere was very warm.

Gen. Xiong Guangkai, chairman of the China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CI-



ISS), met with Lt. Gen. Stackpole, head of the delegation, in Beijing and expressed welcome to the delegation's visit to China. The two generals had met before and were old friends. Lt. Gen. Stackpole gave a lecture on Americans' views on peace and security in Southeast Asia, which was warmly received by dozens of generals and researchers.

In his lecture, Lt. Gen. Stackpole elaborated on the problems the world is confronting today, the new changes that have taken place in the process of globalization, and unconventional security issues apart from war. He talked about his personal experiences in the relief efforts in Bangladesh in 1991 after the tsunami caused by a strong typhoon. Many countries dispatched special troops to assist the Bangladeshi people to tide over the difficulties. Gen. Gong Xianfu, vice chairman of the CISS who presided over the lecture session, said that we are all facing severe challenges under the present new situation, which makes international cooperation all the more important.

The delegation attended a meeting to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives.

Karen Loving, granddaughter of Carlson, also joined the delegation. She wanted to learn the heroic deeds of her grandfather, especially what were the factors that led to the changes in her grandfather's thinking. She has visited China several times since 2002. She traveled to all the places in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei area that her

grandfather had been to, talked to local people and learned a lot about her grandfather. So she acted as a guide for the delegation. With her notebook, and books and articles on Carlson, she told other members of the delegation about the people Carlson had met and things he had seen.

The Marine Corps has a base in Quantico, Virginia, where soldiers are trained with the Gung Ho spirit and *wushu* (Chinese martial art) and the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the U. S. Marine Raider Museum are located. Lt. Gen. Joseph Shusko, curator of the Raider Museum, was a member of the delegation. He, a helicopter pilot, is in charge of *wushu* training at the base. He said that Chinese martial art is one of the major courses of marine's training.

Ken McCullough told the Chinese veterans about the unimaginable difficulties—hunger, ambush by the Japanese army, non-stopping rain, inflammation and festering of the wounds, extreme concentration of attention and diseases—the Carlson Raiders had encountered in the battles to take over the island. He said, they had a Gung Ho meeting every Friday evening. Carlson always came to these meetings to boost morale. At these meetings they studied the strategy and tactics of the Eighth Route Army, and the mobility of guerilla fighters. With high spirit, they overcame all the difficulties. McCullough recalled how they coped with hunger. He said, he carried with him his ration, a bag of rice, and hid it in his boots. It could last for four to five days. So it was rice and rice only for meal every day. Afterward he got

sick at the sight of it.

Kenneth O'Donnell, president of the United States Marine Raider Association, recalled that they learned from British officers, but what's more important was that they learned the spirit of "Gung Ho" from China.

In Wutai Mountain, the delegation visited Abbot Nengxiu at the Shancaidong Temple. The abbot said, you veterans have participated in the war to uphold justice, help the victims and protect the people, which the later generations will never forget. In China the concept of harmonious society has been put forward. It is our hope that people of all nations and of all ethnic groups will live in peace and contentment. He attributed the happy life of the Chinese people to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. He also thanked the foreign friends for their assistance and expressed his sincere wish to learn from their internationalist spirit. Lt. Gen. Stackpole said, peace is emphasized in Buddhism. We fought aggressors shoulder to shoulder was also for peace. Carlson passed on the Chinese spirit of "Gung Ho" to the U. S. We hope that the United States and China will always maintain close cooperation and friendly relations. The delegation visited the Wuye Temple. Inside it smoke from burning incense coiled up in the air. In the courtyard, the old stage for opera performance remained the same as it had been, from which Carlson once spoke to the fighters of the Eighth Route Army. Karen Loving, her husband John Loving and their son Ben went up the stage to have their pictures taken as mementos.

### **Background Information**

Brig. Gen. Evans F. Carlson was a friend of the Chinese people. He came to China in 1927 for the first time as a member of the US Marine Corps. "China to them, was a vast area of mob violence, which the Marines had come by the grace of God to establish law and order" and to "tame the wily Chinese". But when he stepped onto the Chinese soil in Shanghai, what he saw—the vastness, the populousness, the long history and the diligent people of the country despite of their poverty—amazed him. He started to think what had caused all this. He realized that he had not

come to save and educate the Chinese people, but to learn about and to be educated by them. In 1933 he came to China for the second time working as adjutant at the American Legation in Beijing. During the two tours of duty in China, he got to know Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Snow, Agnes Smedley, and newsman John Benjamin Powell. More importantly, he came in touch with ordinary Chinese people and progressive intellectuals and studied hard Chinese culture and history. Hence, he gained a deep understanding of China, of the sufferings of the Chinese people and of their strong will. He realized that the US Government represented the interests of mega-capitalists who wanted to profit from the war and that its aid to China was not given to the forces that truly fought against the Japanese aggressors. Japan's ambition was not limited to occupying China only. The U. S. should be vigilant against Japan, a potential threat to it. Two years later Carlson was called back to the U. S. and served as executive officer of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's guard detachment at Warm Springs, Georgia, where he became closely acquainted with the president. In 1937 he was sent to China again, working as intelligence officer of the US Marine and secret emissary of President Roosevelt. His task was to observe the development of military conflicts between China and Japan.

Japan launched a war of aggression on China in 1937 and occupied large areas of the Chinese territory. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people fought against the aggressors in all forms. As intelligence officer sent to China by the U. S. , by overcoming hardships and difficulties and risking his life, Carlson made two inspection tours of the guerrilla areas behind the enemy line. He learned the strategy and tactics of the Eighth Route Army and China's "Gung Ho" spirit, which means working together for a common goal, all for one and one for all. When he was recommissioned in the Marine Corps in 1942, he organized "Carlson's Raiders" fighting the Japanese army in the Pacific and won brilliant victory in battles on the Makin and Guadalcanal Islands, which was well-known throughout the United States. □

# An Unforgettable Ping Pong Trip

**Melba Rocio (Colombia)**

In our memory the famous Ping Pong Diplomacy took place in 1971. At that time the People's Republic of China and the United States had not yet established diplomatic relations. In April that year, nine table tennis players, four technical personnel and a group of carefully-selected reporters from the U. S. were invited to visit China. They became the first batch and the only group of people to tell the world about a true China behind its door. During the visit, they participated in an exhibition match, watched a ballet performance, and toured the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. This visit softened the U. S.' attitude towards China and paved the way for the secret visit to China by the then Na-

tional Security Adviser Henry Kissinger. In the following 1972, President Richard Nixon made his official visit to China and the two big countries normalized diplomatic relations on January 1, 1979. Recalling the trip of ping pong to Beijing by the Externado University of Colombia, I can not but use the phrase "ping pong diplomacy" to describe my unforgettable experience. Of course, as Colombia and China are enjoying peaceful and friendly relations, this trip of "ping pong diplomacy" has been filled with warmth of another kind.

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, we arrived in China with excitement and great expectation on July 2 to learn about her long history, splendid

culture and prosperous society. I have been a table tennis player and was the champion of the Colombia national tournament in 1993. Since childhood I had longed for a visit to China where people have bats in their hands since young and to play with the Chinese players. I did not expect that our friends in the CPAFFC specially arranged for me a table tennis match. Walking into the grand Ditan Gymnasium, the scene before my eyes moved me to tears. As meticulously arranged, leaders of the Sports Bureau of the Beijing Dongcheng District and the Beijing Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries were present at the event. A group of lovely young players demonstrated for



The author with a bat in hand and her teammate Ji Yongjun (R.1) with players from the Dongcheng Team and young players

# 2009 China-Europe Cultural Forum

**Zhou Jianping**

The 2009 China-Europe Cultural Forum jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Research Centre of Overseas Sinology under the Beijing Foreign Studies University, the Information Office of the Shandong Provincial People's Government, the Liaoning Song and Dance Ensemble, the Nuremberg Municipal Government of Germany, the Confucius Institute at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the Confucius Institute at the Roland Eotvos University, Hungary and the Confucius Institute at the University of Vienna, was held in Hungary, Austria and Germany from May

27 to June 9. A Chinese city cultural delegation led by CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan took part in the main activities of the Forum and paid a goodwill visit to the three countries.

The China-Europe Cultural Forum consists of three seminars and a series of activities publicizing Chinese culture including the performance of Chinese folk music by the Liaoning Song and Dance Ensemble, the exhibition of Confucius culture co-organized by the CPAFFC and the Information Office of the Shandong Provincial People's Government, the photo exhibition on the ex-

us how they are trained. I was fortunate to pair with Ji Yongjun, director of the Division of Latin American Affairs of the CPAFFC, to form an international team and challenge the Dongcheng team. The warmth and friendliness shown to us by everyone we met made us feel at home. We reciprocated their hospitality with our national flags, vultiao—our traditional hat, Chivas, typical dessert and our world-famous coffee we had brought with us.

In my personal experience, these words are not enough to express my surprise, joy and other indescribable feelings. Of these mixed feelings, happiness caused by the fact that my dream has come true has dominated. To play a match in China and against Chinese players, to receive award of the friendship match ... All this has exceeded what an unprepared Colombian could imagine and expect.

I asked myself: Would this trip also bring more exchanges

between our two countries in the future? Would life reward us because of this special trip of "ping pong diplomacy"?

Dear readers, I have witnessed this "ping pong diplomacy" between Colombia and China and I believe my companions also feel the same. "Rocio, we are friends now," was the best gift I received from one of my competitors in the match. □

(Translated from the Chinese text)

Qu Li, director general of the Sports Bureau of the Beijing Dongcheng District, presenting souvenir to leader of the delegation Benjamin Creutzfeldt (centre) and Melba Rocio



changes between China and Europe mounted at the University of Bonn by the Research Centre for Overseas Sinology under the Beijing Foreign Studies University, as well as the European youth “Chinese Bridge”—Chinese Proficiency speech contest, Chinese traditional skills and art competition and Chinese film show co-organized by the CPAFFC and the Confucius Institutes in the three countries.

**In Hungary** On May 28, the Seminar on the History and Current Situation of the China-East Europe Cultural Exchanges was held at the Confucius Institute of the Roland Eotvos University in Budapest. In his speech at the opening ceremony, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan reviewed the cultural and educational cooperation and exchanges with Eastern European countries carried out by the CPAFFC in recent years, gave a brief account of CPAFFC’s organizational structure and its scope of work and expressed his expectation for the exchanges between the youth of China and East Europe. More than 100 people including officials of the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy in Hungary, officials of the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture, the dean of the Confucius Institute of the Roland Eotvos University, as well as scholars and representatives from the cultural circles attended the opening ceremony of the seminar. After the opening ceremony, scholars from China, East Europe, Japan and Hungary had discussions on such topics as “Theory and Methods of Sinology Research and China’s Image”, “The History of Sinology in East Eu-

rope”, “Propagation of Sinology and Cultural Exchanges in East Europe” and “The History of China-Hungary Relations”. In the evening the Chinese folk music group gave the first performance during its visit to East Europe in Roland Eotvos University.

**In Austria** On May 29, the delegation took part in the activities in celebration of the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival held by the Confucius Institute at the University of Vienna in Austria. More than 200 friendship-with-China personages and representatives of the cultural and educational circles from Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria cruised on the Danube and tasted *zongzi* (pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves and eaten during the Dragon Boat Festival on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar year) to commemorate ancient Chinese poet Qu Yuan. The Chinese community in Vienna performed the lion dance to welcome the guests. Officials of the Cultural Section of the Chinese Embassy in Austria, officials of the Austrian Ministry of Education and Mr. Richard Trappl, dean of the Confucius Institute, spoke before the activities. They reviewed the sound development of the cooperation and exchanges between China and Europe in the educational and cultural fields, and briefed the guests on the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival and Chinese poet Qu Yuan. The Chinese folk music group played famous Chinese traditional music.

**In Germany** The year 2009 marks the centenary of the start of Sinology study in Germany,

**The Chinese music group with German friends at the City Hall of Nuremberg, Germany**



and is also the year that China has for the first time presented itself as guest of honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's largest book fair. On June 3, the Seminar in Commemoration of the Centenary of Sinology Study in Germany was held in Bonn, Germany. More than 80 people including Chinese and German sinologists and representatives from the political, cultural and educational circles attended the seminar at which such topics as "Sinology in Germany in One Hundred Years: Personages and Works", "Present Exchanges between Youth of China and Germany", "City's Role in Disseminating Chinese and European Cultures" and "Chinese Culture Craze Brought by Enthusiasm in Learning Chinese Language" were discussed.

On the morning of June 5, the "China-Europe Seminar on Urban Development and Cultural Protection" was held at the Nuremberg Town Planning Institute (NTPI). Three experts on protection of historical building and architectural design from the NTPI respectively gave speeches entitled "The Laws, Regulations and Policies on the Protection of German Cultural Heritage and Implementation Procedures", "Renovation of the Old City of Nuremberg After World War II", and "Protection and Reconstruction of the Site of the Headquarters of the Schutzstaffel in Nuremberg". Members of the delegation from Foshan, Hebei, Shandong, Guizhou and Jiangsu introduced in their speeches and treatises cultural protection and urban development in their respective cities and provinces, and in particular the vigorous efforts and achievements China had made in the protection of cultural heritages. Accompanied by the German experts, the delegation visited the main cultural heritage sites in the old city of Nuremberg while listening to the explanation given by them, and through the visit they knew more directly about the Nuremberg's capability of restoration and renovation of its old city.

On the evening of June 5 in the City Hall, Dr. Klemens Gsell, the first deputy mayor of Nuremberg, gave a warm speech at the welcoming ceremony in honour of the delegation. He talked about the development of the relations between his city and China in recent years. CPAFFC Vice Presi-

dent Jing Dunquan spoke of the achievements scored in recent years in China-Germany cooperation in the cultural and educational fields, particularly of cultural exchanges carried out by the CPAFFC in cooperation with Nuremberg and the Confucius Institute. Yang Huiqun, Chinese consul general in Munich; Dr. Peter Schonlein, former mayor of Nuremberg; Dr. Yan Xu-Lackner, dean of the Confucius Institute at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, city council members and governmental officials of Nuremberg and Erlangen, professors and scholars from the local universities and cultural institutions and personages friendly to China, among more than 60 people, attended the welcoming ceremony.

Before the welcoming ceremony, the Chinese and German guests visited the exhibition of Confucius culture which introduces Confucius' life story and the founding, impartation and evolution of Confucianism.

After the welcoming ceremony, the folk music group gave a 2-hour performance in the hall on the second floor of the City Hall. The grand European-style classic architecture and melodious sweet Chinese classic music enhanced each other's charm and brought out the best in each other. Over 400 celebrities and music lovers from the city and its surrounding areas watched the performance.

During its stay in Germany, the delegation visited the National Germanic Museum in Nuremberg. Dr. Peter Schonlein, former mayor of Nuremberg, and Dr. Andrea Langer, deputy curator of the museum, briefed the delegation on the history of the museum and its collections.

The China-Europe Cultural Forum was set up to serve as a platform for exchanges between China and various European countries, and by integrating Chinese and European resources in city government and cultural, educational and academic fields, to promote nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation between China and Europe from the cultural and youth perspective, so as to enhance mutual understanding, deepen friendship and promote sound development of long-term friendly relations between the two sides. □

# CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Leads Delegation to Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit

**Zhang Ruoning**

From June 1 to 10, a CPAFFC delegation led by its president Chen Haosu attended the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit and the UCLG World Council Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit was jointly sponsored by the International Organization of United Cities and Local Governments, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, the World Association of Major Metropolises and C40. Twenty-five seminars were held at the summit and more than 1,000 local government

officials around the world participated in the summit. In his speech at the opening ceremony, Xie Hangsheng, Chinese ambassador to Denmark, expounded the Chinese government's stance on the United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen and China's actions to address the challenges of climate change.

In his key-note speech at the seminar on the subject of "addressing drought", CPAFFC President Chen Haosu briefed the participants on drought and water shortage China was facing. Citing as an example the severe drought that hit northern Chi-

na in early 2009, he talked about the efforts in disaster relief and the measures to cope with drought and improve environment by the Chinese local governments at various levels. He called on all the cities and local governments in the world to strengthen cooperation to jointly rise to the challenges of climate change.

During the summit, the Chinese Embassy in Denmark held a photo exhibition on climate change in China. The CPAFFC provided for the exhibition brochures and compact discs with the title *Climate Change—China in Action*.

**(Continued from p.55)**

little performers not only yearned to perform on the stage, but also were willing to learn dances from each other. During the break of performances and competitions, the organizing committee specially organized dance-teaching activities. All the participants in the competitions learned from each other Chinese Miao ethnic dances, and Malay and Indian dances. Young audience of Pinang also joined in, imitating every dance movement earnestly. The teachers were touched by their earnestness.

As Pinang is a city where live large numbers

of Chinese-Malaysians, the Pinang municipal government always supports the development of folk art groups and works hard to introduce diversified international art activities. Just as Tan Yew Sing, chairman of the China-ASEAN Youth Art Interaction & Competition 2009, said, the people of Pinang welcome artists and tourists from all quarters and hope to find art from life and seek life in art, and let art find its way into every family and enrich the cultural colour of urban life. They hope to build Pinang into a new multicultural city as it is marching towards a modern international city integrated with local communities. □

# Diplomatic Envoys to China Visit Yichun

**Wang Qing**

2009 is the China Eco-tourism Year which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The 2009 Friendship Competition Among Ambassadors and Madams on Knowing Chinese Culture sponsored by the CPAFFC got positive response from 52 foreign embassies in China. After its kick-off ceremony and the press conference held in Beijing, over 70 diplomats including 23 ambassadors from Jordan, Canada, Iraq, Greece and other 31 countries paid a successful visit to Yichun, a city known for its ecotourism in Northeast China from July 16 to 19.

Yichun, China's largest forest city, is located in north-eastern Heilongjiang, separated from Russia by the Heilongjiang River. The Lesser Xing'an

Mountains run southwards through the city. The city, with an 84 % forest coverage, possesses the largest and best-preserved Korean pine primeval forest in Asia and is reputed as "China's forest capital", "homeland of Korean pine" and "natural oxygen bar". It is also a famous tourist city in North China, boasting beautiful mountains, clear water, luxuriant forest, rare stones and picturesque scenery of four seasons. The "great forest", the "great Heilongjiang River" and the "great wetland" with their primitive, natural, rugged and miraculous features are known far and wide.

The activities in Yichun carried out by the diplomats of 35 countries were focused on the theme of "exploring China's ecotourism city most desirable

to be introduced to the world". The diplomats through a photo contest experienced at first hand the charms of Yichun—the "great eco-forest".

When visiting the Jinshan Deer Park, the diplomats excitedly took pictures of deer on the lawns, among toothed oaks and by streams. When looking at these beautiful spotted deer, they wanted to get close to them, but did not have the heart to disturb their free and happy life. Jordanian Ambassador to China Anmar A. Al Nimer Al-Hmoud who serves as dean of the diplomatic corps said with emotion: "Here I see the harmony between man and nature and also experience peace of mind. Yichun's ecological resources and its experience in environmental protection are worth being publicized and

**Mayor of Yichun Wang Aiwen with diplomatic envoys to China**



# Friends from Benin on the Gulf of Guinea

**Tang Ruimin**

In late June, Beijing was very hot under the scorching sun, but it could not stop Severin Adjovi, mayor of Ouidah of Benin on the Gulf of Guinea, from leading a delegation to visit China. Under the Sahara-type heat wave, the delegation visited the Bird's Nest (the National Stadium) and the Water Cube (the National Aquatics Centre) with great interest. In the Asian tropical rain-forest weather, the delegation visited the Coconut Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences and Wenchang Yanfa Estate in Hainan and the Sino-Hongkong

Baotian Motorcycle Industrial Co. Ltd. in Jiangmen, Guangdong. During its stay in China, the delegation had discussions with relevant departments of Jiangmen and Wenchang on the possibility of establishing friendship-city ties between Ouidah and the two cities to share complementary advantages and achieve common development, and on promoting China-Benin economic and trade exchanges and helping Ouidah construct projects that benefit the people.

Ouidah with a population of more than 90,000 is 40 kilometres away from Cotonou,

recommended by us to the world." In Jiayin County of Yichun, the Heilongjiang River (border river between China and Russia), and the magnificent sunset over it, and the fossils of dinosaurs that dominated the earth 30 million years ago in the Dinosaur National Geological Park made the diplomatic envoys forget their fatigue from the travel. Camera shutter clicks mingled with admiration from the diplomats became warm praises of Jiayin, Yichun and China. Fascinated by the forests and rare stones in the Tangwanghe Forest Farm and the towering Korean pines in the Xishui Forest Park, they could hardly tear themselves away from these natural wonders and could not help admiring the achievements in ecological protection. Bruneian Ambassador Magdalene Teo

said, through this eco-cultural activity, they have learnt that apart from the long-standing history and culture, China also has such beautiful and harmonious eco-environment like Yichun. Through ecological conservation China has opened another window for the world to know it, which will surely encourage other countries in the world to give special concern for the environmental issue. During the activity, the diplomats, in the name of their respective countries, adopted a number of Korean pines—a rare and endangered tree species.

On the evening of July 18, at the opening ceremony of China Heilongjiang (Yichun) Forest Ecotourism Festival, the diplomatic envoys went onto the stage and solemnly presented a plaque on which is written

"Yichun—China's Ecotourism city most desirable to be introduced to the world by the foreign embassies in China" to the Yichun Municipal People's Government.

Excellent photos selected from the "Forest Ecological Tour" photo contest of diplomats to China will be compiled into a photo album titled "Yichun—China's Forest Capital in the Eyes of Diplomatic Envoys to China". The album will be published and presented as a gift to all the foreign embassies in China on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China to witness together with the world the achievements in the conservation of forest resources and ecological civilization China has made in its 60-year development process. □

# 2009 Tianjin International Children's Cultural and Art Festival Held

**Wang Qing**

The 2009 Tianjin International Children's Cultural and Art Festival cosponsored by the CPAFFC and the Tianjin Municipal Government was held in Tianjin from July 25 to 30. Zhang Gaoli, secretary of the Tianjin Municipal Committee of the CPC; Huang Xingguo, mayor of Tianjin; Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC; officials of the Central Committee of the Commu-

nist Youth League of China, as well as foreign countries' diplomatic envoys attended the opening ceremony.

The Festival was initiated in 1998, and so far has been held successfully for 6 times. At this year's festival with the theme of "peace, friendship and future", 25 children's art groups with a total of more than 2,000 children from 36 countries and regions around the

world and 24 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions happily gathered together in Tianjin and gave performances. Besides large-scale performances at the opening and closing ceremonies, these art groups put on over 100 wonderful performances rich in national features at a dozen venues, attracting a total audience of several hundred thousand.

Benin's economic capital, and borders on the Gulf of Guinea. It is reputed as Benin's ancient cultural city and boasts rich tourist resources. The main problems Ouidah is now facing are shortage of water and electricity and backward road traffic. In order to improve the city's environment and reshape its image so as to attract more tourists, Mayor Severin Adjovi hoped that through nongovernmental channels Chinese well drilling teams would be sent to his city to help solve the problem of shortage of drinking water. The Wenchang Municipal Government agreed that after the two cities established friendly cooperative relations, Wenchang would help Ouidah in constructing poverty-relief projects that would benefit the people and raise people's standard of living.

The delegation visited the Sino-Hongkong Baotian Motorcycle Industrial Co. Ltd. in Jiangmen. The company's products with excellent quality and low price have been sold well on the markets of Guinea, Tunisia, Egypt and some other countries. Mayor Severin Adjovi signed an agreement on cooperation with the company. Ouidah will introduce a motorcycle assembly line in

November, 2009 and the products will be sold to surrounding African countries. The Chinese side will provide technology and equipment and the Beninese side will be in charge of production and marketing.

Mayor Severin Adjovi once served as vice president of Benin's National Assembly, minister of national defense, minister of culture and communications, and minister of commerce, handicrafts and tourism. In 2008, he was elected mayor of Ouidah. He has been awarded the diploma of the Cross of Chevalier Paris (diploma de la Croix de Chevalier Paris), the diploma of the gold medal of the Paris International Federation of Commerce, Industry and Economy (diploma de la Medaille d'or de la Federation Internationale du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de l'economie Paris), and the Oscar of the best African manager (Oscar du meilleur Manager Africain). He has published articles titled *To Reconstruct Dahomey on the Ruins of Benin*, *From Dictatorship to Democracy Without Arms* and *Election of A State Leader in Africa*. We believe that with the active efforts by Mayor Severin Adjovi, China-Benin friendly cooperation will achieve fruitful results. □

# Mr. Arnthor Helgason, Friendship Ambassador Between the People of China and Iceland

**Xu Fenghua**

At the invitation of the Icelandic Chinese Cultural Society (ICCS), a CPAFFC delegation led by Vice President Li Jianping visited Iceland from April 21 to 24. The Icelandic friends were waiting long to welcome the delegation at the Reykjavik Airport. Among them were Mr. Olafur Egilsson, chairman of the ICCS and our old friend Mr. Arnthor Helgason. It was still rather cold in the early spring in Iceland, but the hospitality of the Icelandic hosts filled our hearts like a warm current.

On April 22, the Chinese Embassy was decorated with lanterns and festoons in a festival atmosphere. The ceremony of conferring the title of Friendship Ambassador on ICCS Vice Chairman Mr. Helgason by the CPAFFC was held here. More than 50 guests were present including members of the ICCS, Icelandic friends of various cir-

cles and representatives of Chinese residents. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Keyuan, Vice President Li Jianping and ICCS Chairman Mr. Egilsson spoke at the ceremony. They all highly praised Mr. Helgason for his outstanding contributions to developing cultural exchanges between China and Iceland and promoting friendship between the two peoples. Amidst warm applause, Mr. Helgason said excitedly, "I am honored and pleased to accept the title of Friendship Ambassador. It is not only an honour for me personally, but also a witness of the friendship between the people of Iceland and China."

Mr. Arnthor Helgason was born on April 5, 1952 in the Westman Islands, Iceland. He became blind from illness in his childhood. He is only 57 years old this year, but he has been concerned with China and working for the development of

During the Festival, the organizing committee arranged a series of varied activities such as the International Children's City of Joy, the unveiling ceremony of the Peace Wall, the Children's Painting Competi-

tion, Chinese and foreign children's gala party, the Great Wall climbing, the International Forum on the Development of Children's Art, etc.

The Festival provided a platform for children from vari-

ous countries to carry out exchanges in art and culture. Though the children didn't know each other's language and had different cultural backgrounds, through art exchanges they learned from each other, forged friendship and broadened their vision. □



Russian youngsters performed a dance item at the opening ceremony of the International Children's City of Joy

the Icelandic and Chinese friendly relations for more than 40 years.

Mr. Helgason is fond of music and good at playing the piano. Between 1966 and 1967, he and his twin brother made a performance tour around Iceland to raise funds for children with difficulties in life, which made him known throughout the country. He graduated from Iceland University in 1978 and was the first blind man in Iceland to acquire a university degree.

“My bond of love with China began even when I was a child”, said Mr. Helgason with pride. When he was 10 years old, he heard by chance a pleasant Chinese song *The East Is Red*. Since then, China has entered the heart of this Icelandic who had lost his sight, and opened a new world for his life. He began to listen to the broadcast of China Radio International in 1966 and started correspondence with it in 1967. Up till now he is still keeping this contact via the internet. China Radio International, which used *The East Is Red* at the beginning of its broadcast, has become his true friend. He listened to China attentively, learning about its history and present situation, its changes and development, and was fasci-

nated by this far-away country. Since 1973 when he started to work with the Icelandic Broadcasting Service, he has produced a large number of programmes on Chinese culture, history, economy, music and Sino-Icelandic relations, and has written articles on the same subjects and given lectures in various organizations. He has also offered consulting service for Icelandic government offices as well as the Chinese Embassy in Iceland. In 1968, he began to recommend some Chinese music to the Icelandic State Broadcasting Service, and from 1970 to 1988 he was the agent for China International Publishing Company in Iceland, distributing Chinese periodicals, books and musical records. He has been active in various social activities. He worked as a journalist for the Icelandic radio and newspapers (2006-2008), director of the Icelandic Organization of the Disabled (2001-2006), head of the Educational Materials Department of the Icelandic Library for the Blind (1983-1984), and chairman of the board of directors of the Icelandic Organization of the Disabled. He has also taken an active part in political activities, and was a member of the Progressive Party of Iceland from 1980 to 1998.

However, to Mr. Helgason, what attracts him most is the activities of the ICCS. Though Iceland established diplomatic ties with China in 1971, the ICCS that works to enhance the friendship between the people of Iceland and China and carries out cultural exchanges between the two countries was set up as early as in 1953. Mr. Helgason became a member of the ICCS to work for the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Iceland and China in 1969 when he was only 17 years old. He did leadership work of the ICCS for several times. He was its vice chairman from 1973 to 1975; chairman from 1977 to 1988; vice chairman from 1994 to 1995; chairman again from 1995 to 2006; and vice chairman again from 2006 to the present. As a leader of the ICCS, he has always actively pushed the work for Iceland-China friendship, organizing activities to introduce Chinese culture, receiving Chinese delegations to Iceland, and sending goodwill delegations from Iceland to China.

On September 3, 2000, Li Peng, the then

**Mr. Arnthor Helgason (centre) at the conferring ceremony**



# Delegation of Externado University Of Colombia Visits China

**Chen Kuanghuai**

Invited by the CPAFFC, a 67-member delegation organized and sent by the Externado University of Colombia visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong from June 29 to July 16.

In Beijing, the delegation attended a lecture on China's foreign policy and economic development at the Institute of Latin American Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Song Xiaoping, deputy director of the Institute, as a keynote speaker, briefed the delegation on the outstanding achievements and great changes China had made in the diplomatic and economic fields since reform and opening up. Research fellows of the Institute exchanged views with members of the delegation on the world situation and the

global financial crisis. In Shanghai, the delegation attended the lecture on Shanghai's economic development to know about the policies and measures that Shanghai, an international metropolis, had adopted for its economic development, and its booming economy.

The delegation visited the grand Beijing Olympic venues and the Shanghai Urban Plan-

ning Exhibition Centre with the theme of 2010 Shanghai Expo. The delegation saw thriving scenes in every city and province they visited, the improvement of Chinese people's life and how reform and opening up had enabled China and the Chinese people to become strong and prosperous. All this helped the delegation get a better knowledge about China's

**The delegation visiting the China National Peking Opera Company**



chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, visited Mr. Helgason at his home, and expressed his respect to Mr. Helgason for his unremitting efforts to promote friendship between China and Iceland.

In 1975, at the invitation of the CPAFFC, Mr. Helgason paid his first visit to China. In May 2004, he led an ICCS delegation to China to honour the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CPAFFC. That was his 7th visit to China. He was

surprised at the rapid progress and changes in China. His knowledge of China and his sentiments towards the country also deepened accordingly, as expressed in his own words: "through these visits, I have come to see the great contribution of the Chinese people to safeguarding world peace by following the principles of peaceful co-existence in their contacts with other countries regardless of their sizes and different systems."

**(Continued on p.11)**

# Chinese Youth Dance Delegation in Malaysia

Duan Beisheng

At the invitation of the China-Malaysia Friendship Association, a 96-member Chinese youth dance delegation organized by the CPAFFC and the Chinese Dancers Association, went to Pinang, a famous tourist and cultural city in Malaysia, to attend the activities of the China-ASEAN Youth Art Interaction and Competition 2009.

Pinang, Malaysia's only freeport and second largest city, is located on the northwest coast of Malay Peninsula. It boasts very good natural environment with bright sunshine, blue sea, white and long beaches and coconut trees everywhere.

Pinang's sea transportation is highly developed. Being the place where ships going to Indonesia and Thailand must pass, Pinang was developed by the British colonial government in the 18th century into the earliest commercial centre in the Far East.

Most of the streets in the city are one way only. On both sides of the streets are modern ho-

tels surrounded by flowers and trees, and along the sea coast there are high-rise apartment buildings of various architectural styles. The ancient buildings, though over one hundred years old, are mostly well preserved. The buildings of the City Hall, the court and insurance companies still show the former majesty of Western colonialists. The rust-stained cannons on the ancient fortification still stand facing onto the sea proudly. In the city, besides big beautiful shops such as Parkson, Jusco and Sogo, small shops that sell local products and special snacks such as pala and Bah Kut Teh seem to appeal to more customers. In the morning colourful jinrickshas decorated with fresh flowers are waiting in a single line to attract tourists.

In Pinang there is a large number of Chinese-Malaysians who like Chinese dances very much. They treated little performers from Guizhou and Shenzhen warmly and were enthusiastic about learning Chinese folk dances. The

**(Continued on p.48)**

current social development.

During its stay in China, the delegation took part in varied and colourful cultural activities. To fulfill the wish of Ms. Melba Rocio, member of the delegation and former Colombian table tennis champion, to exchange experience in playing table tennis with the Chinese players, a friendship match was arranged for the delegation in Beijing. At the China National Peking Opera Company (CNPOC), members of the delegation were very much attracted by Peking Opera's glamorous costumes and props, characteris-

tic singing, various serious and funny make-ups and lifelike stage performing art. The director of CNPOC's Second Troupe explained and demonstrated to them the Peking Opera art. Members of the delegation showed great interest in Peking Opera and learned some Peking Opera postures and acts from the director and drew Peking Opera facial masks.

Under the guidance of a National Class-A *taijiquan* coach, and by watching his demonstrations, members of the delegation learned some basic acts of *taijiquan*. Revelling in *taiji* atmo-

sphere, they said in admiration that *taijiquan* is not only a sport of martial art, but also has a unique function of keeping fit and cultivating one's character and mind; it has a profound philosophical origin.

Members of the delegation also watched the performances of *kungfu*, acrobatics and shadow play. They enjoyed these performances very much, for to them, these unique exotic art forms reflected the essence of traditional Chinese culture, through which they got a perceptual knowledge about traditional Chinese arts. □

# CPAFFC Delegation Attends 62nd UN DPI/NGO Annual Conference

Ji Wei

The 62nd UN DPI/NGO Annual Conference was convened in Mexico City, capital of Mexico from September 9 to 11. The CPAFFC sent a delegation to attend the conference.

More than 1,400 NGO representatives from over 70 countries took part in the conference themed “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!”. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UN Under Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka, Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa Cantellano and Chairman Charles Hitchcock of the 62nd annual conference made speeches. Four roundtable panel discussions on “Zero Nuclear Weapons, Zero Weapons of Mass Destruction: Why, How, When?”, “Removing the Tools of Armed Violence”, “Human Development is Global Security” and “New Challenges and

Perspectives for Global Development and Security for the 21st Century”; 24 workshops and several exhibitions were held during the conference. The participants had in-depth discussions on the topics such as nuclear disarmament, prevention of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, meeting new challenges confronted by humanity, model for peace and development, and participation of NGOs, etc. At the closing ceremony, the conference declaration: “Disarming for Peace and Development” was adopted. It calls for abandoning nuclear weapons and preventing the destruction of world civilization, and urges governments of all countries to take action to achieve the ultimate goal of a nuclear free world.

The CPAFFC representatives attended two workshops—

“A New Model for Peace and Development” and “Global Development and World Security as a Consequence of a Review of the UN Charter (Art. 109)” sponsored by the Mexican Centre for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World. At the workshops, Jorge Nuno, director general of the Centre, spoke highly of China’s development model, saying that instead of following the West’s development model, China has blazed a new way suitable to its own national conditions and scored brilliant achievements. China’s experience is worth learning by other countries, especially the developing countries. At a working meeting between the CPAFFC delegation and representatives of the Centre, they discussed the promotion of youth exchanges, joint sponsoring seminars, etc. □

Former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo (L. 5) meeting with the CPAFFC delegation

