

Number 155  
June 2009

## VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

Published in  
Chinese and English

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**Front cover:** The Red Star Chorus of the PLA Academy of Arts performing in Tokyo Opera City, Japan

Sponsored and published by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

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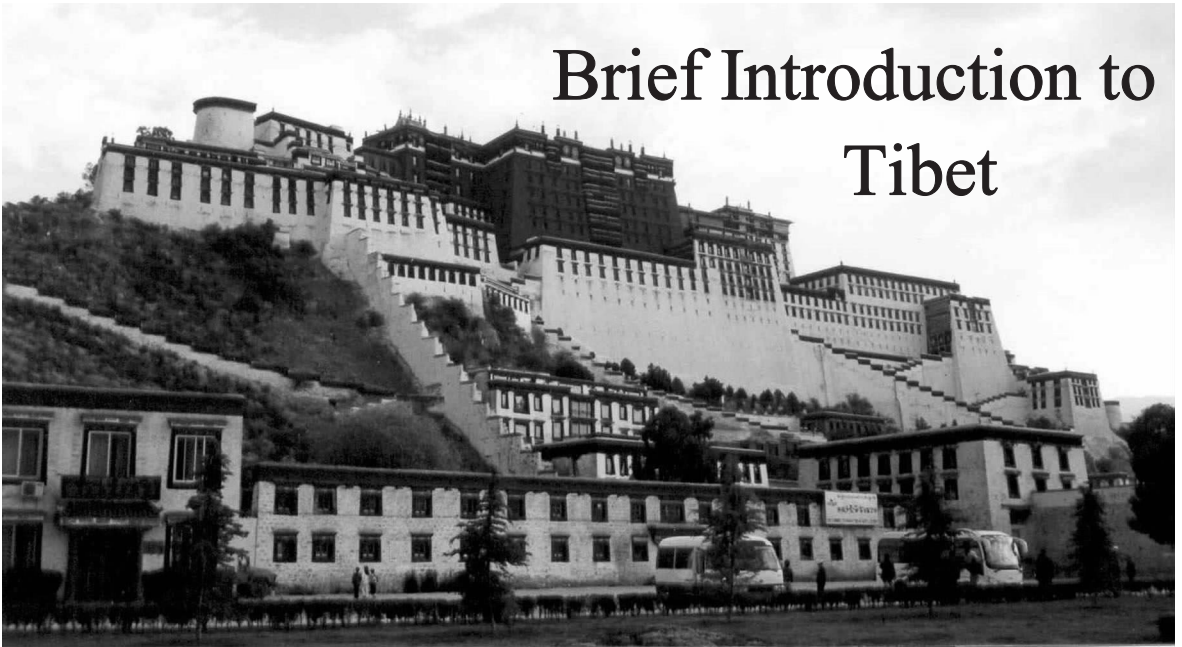
ISSN 1000-9582 CN11-1234/D

Fax: (010)65122782

<http://www.cpaffc.org.cn>

<http://www.qikan.com>

## Brief Introduction to Tibet



The Tibet Autonomous Region, situated on the southwestern part of the Qingzang Plateau in the southwestern border area of China, covers an area of 1.2284 million square km. accounting for roughly one eighth of China's total land area. The Region stretches 1,000 km. from north to south and 2,000 km. from east to west. With an average elevation exceeding 4,800 metres, Tibet is the largest and highest plateau on earth and has been metaphorically called the "roof of the world". It abuts the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the north, Qinghai Province in the northeast, Sichuan Province in the east and Yunnan Province in the southeast, and borders on Myanmar, India, Bhutan and Nepal in the south and the west.

The Tibet Autonomous Region is an administrative region with the smallest population and the lowest population density in China. It registered a population of 2.8708 million at the end of 2008. In addition to Tibetans, there are other minority ethnic groups such as Monba, Lhoba, Hui and Naxi. Together they make up more than 95% of the total population of Tibet. The Tibetan ethnic group is one of the ancient Chinese ethnic groups. Half of the Tibetans live in Tibet, with the other half scattered in Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.

Religion has exerted a profound and far reaching impact on Tibet. Most of its inhabitants (except the Hans) hold religious beliefs. Among them, the Tibetans, the Monbas and the Lhobas believe in Tibetan Buddhism while the Huis believe in Islamism. With a history of more than one thousand years, the Tibetan Buddhism is the most influential religion in the region. Starting from the 16th century, Tibet adopted a system of integrated political and religious powers. Religious activities became an integral part of the life of the vast majority of its inhabitants.

Tibet has been part of the Chinese territory since ancient times. During the early 7th century, a Tibetan hero Songtsen Gampo unified Tibet, and established the Tubo Kingdom. By the mid 13th century, Tibet was officially included in the territory of the Chinese Yuan Dynasty. Tibet was divided into 13 *wanhus* (an administrative designation which literally means "ten thousand households"), and the heads of these *wanhus* were directly appointed by the imperial court. During the nearly 300 years' reign of the Ming Dynasty, the Tibetans and the Hans co-existed in harmony. Governance of Tibet was further strengthened during the ensuing Qing Dynasty. After the 1911 Revolution, the then Chinese government pro-

**The Jokhang Monastery**



claimed the policy of peaceful co-existence among the five major ethnic groups of Han, Manchu, Mongol, Hui and Tibetan and territorial unification and integrity. In the *Interim Constitution of the Republic of China* it was stipulated that Tibet was part of the Chinese territory. Any actions to support Tibet's independence should be opposed and resisted. After the founding of the People's Republic of China the Central People's Government decided to liberate Tibet peacefully.

Tibet has 5,766 varieties of higher plants. Its main grain crops include highland barley and wheat, legume crops broad beans and peas, oil-bearing crops rape seeds, and cash crops walnuts and tea.

Sitting on the roof of the world, Tibet is not only endowed with spectacular geological landforms and unique natural sceneries, but also has distinctive social and humanistic landscape. During its flourishing period in history, it boasted more than 2,700 monasteries, and many other historical sites such as palaces, gardens, castles, fortresses, ancient tombs and tablets. Some of the well-known sites include the Potala Palace, Tashi-

lhunpo Monastery, Sakya Monastery, Xialu Monastery, Palkor Monastery, Yumbulhakang Palace, Samye Monastery, Changzhug Monastery, Tombs of the Tibetan Kings, Guge Kingdom ruins, Ganden Monastery, Drepung Monastery, Sera Monastery and so on.

### **Old Tibet**

Prior to its democratic reform in 1959, Tibet had long been a society of feudal serfdom under theocracy, a society characterized by a combination of political and religious powers. Its darkness and cruelty were even worse than that of the slave society of medieval Europe.



**A serf laboured in chains**

## 50 Years of Democratic Reform in Tibet

Relevant historical data show that serf owners such as administrative officials, aristocrats and upper-ranking lamas in monasteries, though comprising less than 5% of the population in Tibet, possessed almost all the farmland, pastures and most of the livestock, while serfs taking up more than 90% of the population were regarded as personal properties of their owners and subject to be sold, transferred, donated, mortgaged and swapped by their owners at will. Of the one million people in Tibet in 1950, 900,000 were without housing.

Serf owners cruelly exploited the serfs through corvée labour and usury lending. The local government of Tibet alone levied more than 200 kinds of taxes. Serfs had to contribute more than 50 percent or even 70 to 80 percent of their labour, unpaid, to serf owners.

Serfs toiled all the year round, yet they could not even get enough food and clothing. They often had to borrow from usurers at high interest rates of 20-30% in order to survive. The serfs were burdened with debts passed down from previous generations that could never be repaid by succeeding generations and debts resulting from joint liability which finally resulted in the bankruptcy of both the borrower and the guarantor.

Local Tibet rulers enacted a series of laws to safeguard the vested interests of the serf owners. The “13-Article Code” and the “16-Article Code” which had been enforced for hundreds of years in Tibet divided Tibetans into three classes and nine ranks, explicitly stating that human beings were unequal by law. Serf owners applied the written law or customary law to set up prisons or private jails. The local government had courts and prisons. So did large monasteries. Serf owners could also set up private jails in their manors. Punishment was extremely barbarous and cruel, including gouging out of the eyes, cutting off the ears, severing the hands, chopping off the feet, pulling out tendons, drowning, etc.

In 1959, with the introduction of the democratic reform in Tibet, one million serfs were emancipated and gained their rights to personal freedom.

### The “17-Article Agreement”

The “17-Article Agreement” is the abbreviation for Agreement of the Central Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet. Signed on May 23, 1951 in Beijing, the Agreement proclaimed the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

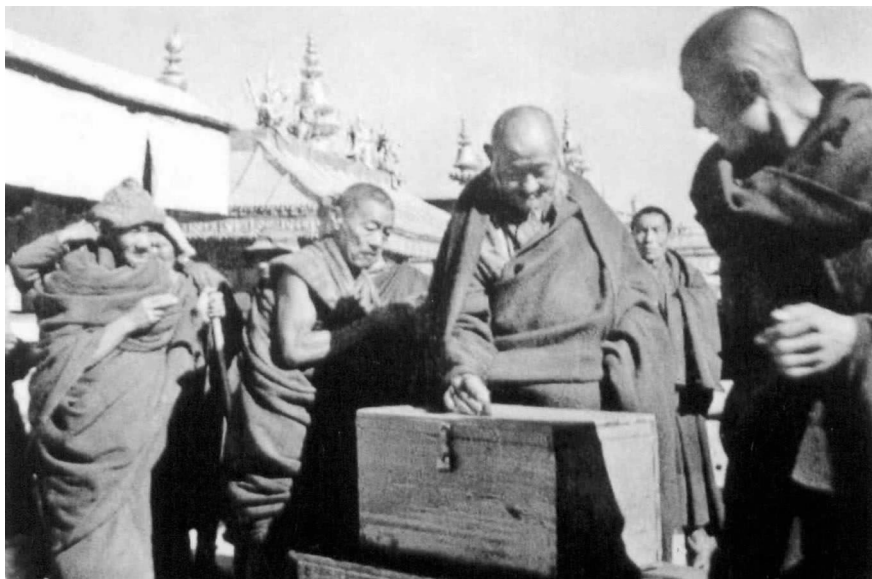
In April 1951, the local government of Tibet sent Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme and four others as plenipotentiary representatives to Beijing to negotiate with the Central Government on issues pertaining to the peaceful liberation of Tibet. The Tibetan delegation arrived in Beijing on April 26. The Central Government appointed Li Weiham as the chief delegate to negotiate with the Tibetan delegation.

During the negotiation, because the Central People’s Government took consideration of the policy towards ethnic groups, and fully solicited the views of the Tibetan delegation, and the Panchen Lama also made his efforts, the negotiation was held smoothly. The two sides signed the “17-Article Agreement” on an equal and voluntary basis.

The Agreement contains 17 key points, chiefly reflecting two categories of issues: one is the requirement of the Central People’s Government on the local Tibetan government, the main points of which are: the local government in Tibet must firmly break off from the influence of imperialists and actively assist the People’s Liberation Army to enter Tibet; all of Tibet’s external affairs shall be handled by the Central People’s Government, and the existing troops in Tibet shall be gradually re-organized and merge into the People’s Liberation Army. On the other hand, while addressing Tibet’s internal affairs, the Central People’s Government shall take into consideration the set policies towards ethnic groups as well as the reality of Tibet, and adopt a very flexible approach. For instance, all expenditures for the People’s Liberation Army troops and the staff dispatched to Tibet shall be provided by the Central Government instead of the local Tibetan government. No changes shall be imposed by the Central Government on the current political sys-



Lamas of the Jokhang Monastery at the 1963 election



tem of Tibet; the status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama shall remain unchanged; the freedom to religion of the Tibetan people shall be fully protected; and no changes shall be made by the Central Government with respect to the income of monasteries.

### **Democratic Reform in Tibet**

The democratic reform in Tibet, started in March 1959, overthrew the feudal serfdom system, and the serfs henceforth gained personal freedom. This was an epoch-making revolution in the history of Tibet.

In 1951, the Central People's Government signed the "17-Article Agreement" with the former local government in Tibet, marking the peaceful liberation of Tibet. However, Tibet remained a feudal serfdom society of combined political and religious powers under the rule of theocratic aristocrats. The three major estate-holders (local administrative officials, aristocrats, upper-ranking lamas in the monasteries) who comprised only 5% of the total population in Tibet occupied almost all the farmland, pastures and livestock in Tibet and owned large numbers of serfs and slaves who led a miserable life and were worked as if they were beasts of burden and killed at will by the serf owners.

In March 1959, the former upper class reac-

tionary clique in Tibet broke the "17-Article Agreement" and launched an armed rebellion. Under the pretext of "anti-Hans" they plotted to split the country and sabotage the social reform which was strongly desired by the millions of serfs in Tibet. The armed rebellion was quickly quelled by the People's Liberation Army, with support and collaboration from the serfs. This created favorable conditions for carrying out the ensuing democratic reform in Tibet.

The democratic reform formally started in the second half of March 1959. It was carried out by stages and steps. During the first stage the reform focused on the campaign against rebellion, corvee labour and slavery, and for reduction of rent for land and of interest on loans. In the rural areas, a policy of "those who tilled the land would get the harvest" was applied to the manor lords who took part in the armed rebellion; as to the manor lords who did not take part in the armed rebellion, a policy of reduced land rents (20 percent of the harvest for the manor lords and 80 percent for the tenants) was applied. Meanwhile, house slaves were set free and the bondage of the serfs to their feudal masters was abolished. In the pastoral areas, the livestock of the owners who were involved in the armed rebellion would be grazed by the original herdsmen and the income would also go to the herdsmen, while the livestock of the



**The Tibetans living a happy life**

owners who were not engaged in the armed rebellion would still be kept by the owners, but their exploitation of the herdsmen must be reduced and the income of the herdsmen increased.

During the second stage of the reform, the means of production of the feudal manor lords who were involved in the armed rebellion were confiscated and redistributed to poor farmers and herdsmen. As to those manor lords who were not involved in the armed rebellion, a redemption policy was applied. The state redeemed their means of production, and distributed them to poor farmers and herdsmen free of charge. These former manor lords and livestock owners also got their due share in the distribution.

Because these policies, methods and measures were formulated in the light of local conditions, they were warmly received by people of all social strata, first and foremost, from the poor serfs and slaves. These policies also won understanding and cooperation from Tibet's upper class personages, and thus guaranteed the smooth implementation of the democratic reform in Tibet. By the end of 1960 the land reform was basically completed. Mass organizations such as farmers association, committees for suppressing rebellions and protecting livestock under the leadership of

the Communist Party of China were set up in various places, and on the basis of this, people's governments at different levels were also set up.

The democratic reform in Tibet thoroughly abolished the feudal serfdom system, and established an individual ownership system by farmers and herdsmen. The vast number of former serfs got their share of land and other means of production, and the bondage of serfs to their owners was done away with. Breaking their fetters and shackles, the serfs and slaves who had been treated as "speaking livestock" for thousands of years became for the first time "men" in the true meaning of the word and masters of their own destiny and the society of Tibet.

### **Tibet in Figures**

What changes have taken place in Tibet since 1951 when Tibet was liberated peacefully, especially since the democratic reform in 1959? And what improvements have been made in the Tibetan people's livelihood? By comparing figures in the economic, cultural, medical and health, social life and educational aspects, we can clearly see the rapid development of Tibet during the past more than fifty years.

# Tibet

## —— Past and Present of a China's Autonomous Region

**Karl-Heinz Gass (Germany)**

China, known as the Central Kingdom, has a population of 1.3 billion, among which the majority is Han, accounting for 92 percent of the total, and other 55 ethnic minorities 8 percent. China is divided into provinces, municipalities direct-

ly under the Central Government and autonomous regions. Municipalities directly under the Central Government and autonomous regions enjoy independent legislative power, and can well protect their unique customs and habits rooted in

historical traditions. Tibet is one of these autonomous regions.

Since the 13th century Tibet has been part of China's territory. From 1206 to 1207, the Mongol cavalry moved into Tibet. In order not to be completely destroyed by powerful ene-

### Economic Development

Year	1959	2008
Gross domestic product	174 million yuan	39.591 billion yuan
GDP per capita	142 yuan	13,861 yuan
Per-capita net income of farmers and herds-men	0	3,176 yuan
Foreign trade	\$200	\$765 million
Highway coverage	7,300 km	51,300 km
Grain output	182,900 tons	950,000 tons
Livestock inventory	9.56 million heads	24 million heads
Power generation	880,000 kwh	1.6 billion kwh
Industrial added value	15 million yuan	2.968 billion yuan

### Social and Cultural Development

	1959	2008
Total population of the region	1,228,000	2,870,800
Average life span	35.5 years	67 years
Institutes of higher learning	0	6
Middle schools	2	117
Primary school enrollment rate	less than 2%	98.5%
Public libraries	1	4
Television coverage		90%
Prevalence rate of fixed and mobile phones		55 sets per 100 people
Medical and health institutions	62	1,339

## 50 Years of Democratic Reform in Tibet



A serf family living in a cave

mies, Tibetan chieftains surrendered without a fight. Tibet became a part of Mongolia. After conquering Tibet, the Mongols occupied China. In the mid-13th century, Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, mounted the throne of the Chinese emperor, marking the beginning of Tibet's integration with the Yuan Dynasty.

In the 17th century, the 5th Dalai Lama strongly supported by Gushi Khan, head of the Mongol tribe, unified Tibet. Since then Tibet practised theocracy. But Tibet was in turbulence in those years. Because of the internal contradictions among aristocrats, chieftains and hostile monasteries, the unification of Tibet was in imminent danger. The 13th Dalai Lama attempted to reform the feudal system in Tibet, but as the aristocracy fearing to lose their privileges stubbornly resisted the reform, it ended in failure.

In the early 20th century, because of Tibet's strategic po-

sition in the Himalaya Mountains and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Britain and Russia began invading Tibet, leading to large-scale military conflicts. What merits attention is that the British once occupied Gyangze region for about 3 years during which there were many massacres. In order to escape from being executed, many local residents even chose to commit suicide. During the period of the Third Reich, a German expedition commissioned by the then German government also went to Tibet to look for the legendary Shangri-La.

After Sun Yat-sen established the Republic of China, in 1912 the government of the Republic declared that ethnic groups of Han, Manchu, Mongol, Hui and Tibetan formed a whole Chinese nation. This was stated clearly in the *Interim Constitution of the Republic of China*. The territory of the then Republic of China included 22 provinces, Inner Mongolia, Out-

er Mongolia, Tibet and Qinghai. In the same year Dalai Lama's title was restored.

In 1929, the Central Government of the Republic of China began to strengthen its governance over Mongolia and Tibet and established the Commission for Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs. In line with historical practice, the 13th Dalai Lama and the 9th Panchen Lama also held posts in the Central Government. Tibetan special envoys and eminent monks attended the National Representative Conference in 1931, 1936 and 1946.

The 9th Panchen Lama and some Tibetan noted figures were formally appointed by the Nationalist Government representatives of the Tibet Region.

In 1950 the People's Liberation Army marched towards Tibet. In November 1950 Tibet submitted a petition to the United Nations. The Chinese representatives Zhou Enlai and Mao Zedong began negotiations with Tibetan representatives, namely,



the current Dalai Lama and his advisors. On May 23, 1951 the Tibetan leaders signed the famous “17-Article Agreement”, and the negotiations came to a close.

This agreement ensures China’s sovereignty over Tibet. China guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of culture and other political freedom for Tibet.

On April 22, 1956, Vice Premier Chen Yi led a delegation to visit Tibet and attended the inauguration of the Preparatory Committee for the Founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region. More than 30,000 monks welcomed the delegation.

But, some Tibetans launched large-scale protests on the excuse that the Central Government had intervened in their social structure and ancient culture, and incited riots. A Ti-

betan guerrilla group that opposed China’s sovereignty over Tibet was formed. The Dalai Lama refused to hold back the Tibetan guerrilla’s activities and fled Tibet. On March 30, 1959 he arrived in India. Since then, the Dalai Lama in his exile has been attempting to exert influence on Tibet’s politics and religion.

On his way of fleeing, he wrote several letters to the Central Government, in which he emphasized repeatedly that he must flee with his people. These documents are still kept today.

Before the democratic reform, 980,000 people lived in Tibet. As the representative of this feudal serfdom, the Dalai Lama held the highest power. He together with other feudal upper strata and high-ranking monks in monasteries imposed autocratic rule. More than 95 percent of the servants were

serfs. When the members of the ruling class—local administrative officials, aristocrats and upper-ranking lamas—used the courts and laws to oppress serfs, they never took into account democracy, freedom and human rights. This feudal serfdom hindered Tibet’s social and economic progress, making Tibet very backward and the people live in dire poverty. Before 1959, in the Kashag Government organs there were 197 aristocratic families, among which 25 were rich big ones, 26 medium sized and 146 small ones.

In 1961 the Central Government of the CPC established the Tibet Autonomous Region. A general election, the first of its kind in Tibetan history, was held in Tibet. In 1965 the People’s Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region was convened in Lhasa, at which the People’s

### Shoton Festival in the Drepung Monastery



## 50 Years of Democratic Reform in Tibet

Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region was elected, and Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme was elected the first chairman of the Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The “cultural revolution” (1966-1976) inflicted heavy losses on the whole China. Important historical sites such as monasteries were damaged, and precious cultural relics stolen or discarded. It was Premier Zhou Enlai who sent the PLA to protect the Potala Palace in Lhasa and the Tiger Hill Pagoda in Suzhou so that these historical sites could remain intact.

At the end of the 1970s (1978-1979) the Chinese Central Government changed its attitude towards religion. The government rebuilt and renovated most of the monasteries. Now all people can visit these monasteries. Today the Central Government implements an open religious policy. The political report of the last National People’s Congress and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference states clearly that religious figures can play a positive role in promoting harmony and coexistence of different ethnic groups. In Tibet, besides Buddhist monks, the Muslims and Christians also enjoy freedom of believing in their own religions. In the Autonomous Region now there are altogether more than 46,300 Buddhist monks and nuns.

Tibet’s economy is also advancing. By dint of input to infrastructure construction, Chi-

na has made this backward area which used to be isolated from the outside world stride towards modernization, and created a bright future for the local people. The local government undertakes a very heavy task of governance, for it not only has to peacefully settle rebellions there but also balance the interests and resolve conflicts between different factions in the region.

China has always worked hard to promote the development of the spoken and written Tibetan languages. At the end of the 1950s the vocabulary of the Tibetan language was not well developed, for many words about the achievements and development of modernization had not yet been included in this language. Later these words were introduced into Tibetan through Chinese. For example, now there are also books on physics and chemistry in Tibetan. Before 1959 only children from aristocratic families enjoyed the privilege to go to school, whereas children of serfs were completely excluded from school education. Now schools are open to all children, and poor children in the rural areas enjoy free education.

In the Tibet Autonomous Region the policy of family planning is not practiced, which helps preserve the ancient social and family structure there.

Tibetan and Chinese are both used as official languages. In addition, university students also learn English.

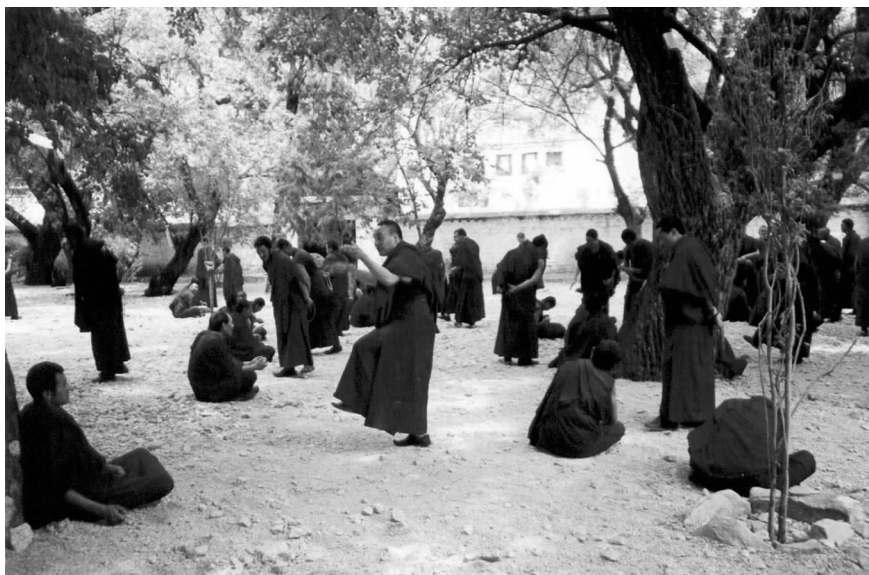
China makes great efforts to preserve the Tibetan culture, handicraft art and traditions. For instance, at the Monlam Festival (the Great Prayer Festival) horse riding and ritual dances are performed. In Tibet’s museums its progress in science, technology and medicine is displayed through audio-visual means. Products of traditional handicraft industry such as tapestries and fur products are being developed in particular.

Since 1951 the Central Government has allocated more than 160 billion yuan to Tibet. From 1951 to 2007, the investment in fixed assets reached 178.67 billion yuan. In 1954 the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and the Qinghai-Tibet Highway were open to traffic, putting an end to the history of no highways in Tibet.

From 1994 to 2007, various Chinese provinces, municipalities directly under the Central Government and autonomous regions as well as 17 central state-owned enterprises helped Tibet construct 3,099 projects with a total investment of 9.66 billion yuan.

Since the Fourth National Conference on Work in Tibet in 2001, the economy of Tibet has been growing at an average annual rate of 12 percent. In 2007, its gross domestic product (GDP) was 34.219 billion yuan, far surpassing that of 174 million yuan in 1957. The per capita income of farmers and herdsmen rose from 35 yuan in 1959 to 2,788 yuan in 2007.

Lamas in the Sera Monastery debating



In order to provide the Autonomous Region with a modern transport network, the people of various ethnic groups in Tibet together with the people of the whole country are constructing its infrastructure vigorously. Last year the total length of highways open to traffic reached 48,600 kilometres.

The completion of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway will help advance Tibet's economic and social progress and create new opportunities for its future development.

Great improvements have been made in every aspect of Tibet. Due to the establishment of a standard system to ensure medical care for the people, the life expectancy of the Tibetan people increased from 35.5 years in 1959 to 67 years in 2007.

Tibet, a place representing self-cultivation, inner harmony and tranquility, has also aroused great interests from the intellec-

tual circles in China. The song *Back to Lhasa, Back to Potala* eulogizes the tranquil spiritual homeland that people yearn for. In many wonderful articles the Chinese people express their understanding and good impression of Tibet and tell the world of its rapid progress.

The past 15 years witnessed China's rapid and significant economic reform. After the Mao Zedong era, planned economy has been replaced by a booming market economy.

Owing to the rapid development of opening up to the outside world, China can hardly enact all the necessary laws for the moment. However, to adapt to the new situation, now the Chinese judicial organs are making efforts to close the loopholes in laws.

The democratic system that the Western world practises is impossible to be exported to China. In China, a country with such a vast territory, the prob-

lems both in form and size that the Beijing's Central Government has to resolve are beyond the imagination of any other country in the world. In China there is not only the largest population in the world, but also different demands and expectations from the numerous ethnic groups. Such a challenge can only be met through painstaking efforts and far-sightedness.

Just as what we recently experienced in the Sichuan earthquake, China has showed the world how closely her people are united. In a very short time the disaster-hit areas carried out effective relief work. The state leaders and relief workers fought shoulder to shoulder in the forefront and offered necessary assistance. The PLA and various relief teams trekked a long way to the blocked mountainous areas to rescue people's lives. During the national mourning for the

**(Continued on p.44)**

# Dalai Lama and His Fifty Years' Harm to Tibet

**Paisal Peuchmongkol (Thailand)**

In the last few days, the Thais have read some reports through the media about Tibetans protesting against the Chinese Government. According to the reports, the protests were staged at the time of the fiftieth anniversary of "China's occupation over Tibet".

Whether Tibet is a part of China or occupied by China has been a long debated issue over the media. Hence, it is important for the Thai people to know the origin and evolution of the matter before they could correctly understand the on-going debate.

When Emperor Qin Shi Huang (the first emperor of China) unified China in 221 B.C., Tibet was already included in the Chinese territory. In the beginning of the Han Dynasty, like other places such as Jingzhou and Jiangdong, Tibet was ruled by Emperor Liu Bang as an administrative region. The only difference between Tibet and other regions at the time was that instead of being ruled by a designated governor, Tibet was ruled by local primitive religious leaders.

After Genghis Khan of the Yuan Dynasty started ruling Central China, Tibet remained a part of the Chinese territory. During the Qing Dynasty, Tibetan religious leaders were conferred upon the title of governors or political leaders by the Qing emperors. This in fact ran counter to the Buddhist commandments.

Since then, Tibet followed an overlapping governance by the emperor appointed governors and the inherited religious leaders; Tibet rulers wore two hats: one was that of a religious leader, the other was that of a political leader. Though the second hat went against the Buddhist precepts, it had to be accepted as it reflected the will of the

emperors.

In 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong solemnly proclaimed on the Tiananmen Tower that the People's Republic of China was founded, and the Chinese people stood up. This caused a great panic to the colonialists worldwide.

Since then, international hostile elements never ceased to vilify and to sabotage New China, fondly dreaming that China would return to a state of division and turmoil which characterized the last years of the Qing Dynasty when imperialists could dominate and bully the Chinese nation as they wished. In order to drag New China back to the former backward status, they made Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang as their targets to sabotage China's stability and progress.

Fifty years ago, the conspiracy of some imperialist countries got its way. They instigated the Tibetan religious leader and his followers to stage an armed rebellion against the Chinese government. In order to quell the riots, the Chinese government had to send troops to Tibet. In this incident, the Dalai Lama and his followers fled from China and eventually settled down in India with support from some western superpowers.

Since then, rumours such as "China occupied Tibet by force" or "China invaded Tibet" appeared in newspapers from time to time. Some superpowers supported the Dalai Lama clique's anti-China activities which violated the Buddhist precepts, in a vain attempt to separate Tibet from China.

After the founding of New China, Tibet retained its religious leaders. Compared with the past, Tibet achieved remarkable social and economic development. Disciples of the four major



sects of Tibetan Buddhism were able to carry out normal religious activities. In the meantime, Tibet's governing system changed from that in the Qing Dynasty to an autonomous region of China. In the Tibetan government today very few officials are Hans; most of the local leaders are Tibetans who are however vilified as "puppets of China".

Religion in Tibet has seen an unprecedented boom during the past fifty years. The right to freedom and democracy has been fully exercised by the Tibetan people. Guided by China's policies towards ethnic minorities, Tibet has achieved rapid development through strong local governance. Networks of roads and infrastructure have covered the whole region. The local people are leading a happy and harmonious life. A few years ago, a Thai media delegation specially went to Tibet to shoot a documentary film which was later widely shown in Thailand.

As an administrative region, Tibet does not differ in any respects from the other Chinese provinces. It is an autonomous region governed by the Tibetans. The Central Government of China has attached great importance to the construction and development of Tibet, and its input to Tibet has been much larger than that to the other provinces.

In fact, the "Tibetan issue" has been fabricated by a small number of people in the past fifty years, aiming to separate Tibet from China and subvert the historical fact that Tibet has been a part of the Chinese territory for thousands of years.

The superpowers have been the manipulators behind the scene, with the Dalai Lama as a chessman in their plots. However, facts in the past fifty years have proved that they can never succeed in separating Tibet from China.

The reason is that China today is no longer the country which was insultingly labeled by western powers as the "sick man of East Asia" in the last days of the Qing Dynasty. The Tibetan people have clearly seen their own as well as their country's status and historical background, and they don't want to be used as tools for others to

sabotage their motherland.

Therefore, frustrated by the resistance of the 1.3 billion Chinese people, the attempts to split Tibet from China can never succeed, no matter how powerful and influential those behind-the-scene instigators might be.

Attempts to split Tibet from China by a small group of people have been going on for fifty years now. Tibetans living both in China and abroad should make full use of their reason to see the truth more clearly, and, placing the sacred dignity of their motherland and Tibet before anything else, stop acting as some westerners' tools. Only in this way can the Tibetan issue be resolved peacefully.

A fair review of the thousands of years of history of the big Chinese family comprising many ethnic groups would be a good start to achieve lasting stability and peace for the Tibetan people. In this respect the Dalai Lama is the person who could play an important role.

The governing system of a country is bound to be adjusted as time advances. The Tibet Autonomous Region, as a part of China, practises a self-governing system of regional autonomy by the local ethnic people. Through their own efforts, the Tibetan people have brought to the local society prosperity, development, happiness and harmony.

The Dalai Lama shall remain the religious leader as long as he recognizes the fact that the governing system in Tibet has changed, which has brought and will continue to bring long term stability and prosperity to Tibet.

The Dalai Lama should also realize that the Tibetans who have been in exile abroad over the past fifty years should no longer suffer torments and loss of lives and property. It is high time that the Dalai Lama brought them home safe and sound.

(Translated from the Chinese translation)

**The author is the secretary general of the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association. The article was published on the website of the Thai newspaper *Manager* on March 19, 2009.**

# Tibet a Ploy to Run Down China and Olympics

**Monika Graefin von Borries (Germany)**

In the more than 40 conflict areas around the world, unimaginable atrocity is committed everyday. People there are living in poverty and desperation, while the external world can read little reports about most of the areas.

But when the media outlets turn their eyes to Tibet, it is quite different. The casualty during the riots there is far less than that of the daily loss of lives in Iraq.

There must be some other reasons behind the Western media and public's intense focus on it.

A major one is the Olympics, which drew the public's attention as a turbine engine and has been exploited, or abused, by some people.

But there are also some deeper reasons behind the uncommon focus on this event, which are avoided in the media's reports.

Since China appeared in focus in the West, people's impression of the country has swayed between idealizing and demonizing.

Now we have entered another stage that can be called "hysteric demonization of China".

In the West, especially across the Atlantic, some hawkish politicians have fueled fear of the emerging power.

Facing new challenges, all the fears will disappear if we adopt a rational attitude. We should recognize the fact that ultimately we and our offspring should live with the huge dragon on the same planet.

To some hawks, however, Tibet has become an omnipotent instrument to achieve their goals. Their ammunition, made of fears, idealization and pseudo-religious feelings, has brought in unmatched explosive effects.

People have always believed that there is a paradise in the world, a real utopia where souls are retrieved and people can look for the lost harmony and the heaven of life.

Today, people in modern societies believe that they have lost their souls. So they started searching for them in foreign countries, in different religions and in the ever-existing utopia. Tibet is such a place.

But the Tibet in the eyes of many Western idealists is not the real Tibet. The Tibetans who live in the region are not the people of their imagination.

To these idealists, all about Tibet is illusion and fantasy.

One theme of the Olympic Games is to enable people, at least during the Games, to go beyond politics, ideology, race and ethnicity.

Unfortunately, the Olympics has been used by some Westerners as a means to "liberate Tibet from China" through intense media propaganda.

For thousands of years, we have lived with the imagination of upholding our "superior" belief, our "superior" religion, or our "superior" race or ideology, and trying to spread it to every corner of the world. We believe that our actions are of good intentions and supreme blessings but often we ourselves have to bear the huge cost and sacrifice.

To defend the Western democracy that only benefits us, we are ready to declare war with any other country. Those who did not receive the baptism of democracy will be eradicated even at the high cost of human lives.

For real Tibetans, mainly those living in Tibet, the anti-Olympic propaganda will not bring them any good. People who have some idea of China know that ethnic minorities in

China enjoy favorable policies and many privileges. While China has 55 ethnic minorities, problems are indeed very few.

On the issue of Tibet, both sides could have been able to solve it through rational dialogue.

But the meetings between top Western politicians and the Dalai Lama will not be conducive to the talks.

One consequence is that some young followers of the Dalai Lama became extremists resorting to violence.

Many overseas Chinese, especially Chinese expatriates, felt marginalized and attacked. They denounced the biased media coverage, deliberate manipulation and fabrication. The Chinese people have never been so united on the issue of Tibet. Other Asian countries also tilted toward China's side.

People swing in this new "Cold War". Efforts were made to identify the camp we belong to. But we have yet to know what we will achieve through these efforts. Perhaps the Tibet issue will only create vibrations in the realm of economy.

Rising tension is inevitable as the new East-West conflict is emerging. Maybe the West's confrontation with former Soviet Union is only a prelude to it.

Tibet has been part of China since the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century and there is no country in the world that has ever recognized Tibet as an independent state.

China's sovereignty over

Tibet is indisputable from the standpoint of international law. China is the only nation that has been capable of ensuring human rights by eradicating poverty and improving the living standards of millions of people. It now seems the discussion of human rights requires a redefinition of the true meaning of this important phrase.

The current public conflict has been planned for the upcoming Olympic Games. Rioters damaged and robbed shops and killed people on purpose in Lhasa.

Mind you, prior to the deployment of the police, the reports on the Chinese government's crackdown have been all over in the Western media.

History tells us that none of the Chinese will show any sympathy to any kind of secessionist activities.

The Chinese government, especially the one at the local levels, is not good at dealing with Western media. We do think the government might eventually have a proper and successful way of responding to media criticism. The German police got the point gradually during a 1968 campaign.

The government has to learn to get used to the fact that the foreign media will not always give positive reports. While the Western media seem to never get tired of making false news, the overseas Chinese have offered their great support to the current government.

When the Dalai Lama fled

to India in 1959, the life expectancy and living standards of the then 1.25 million Tibetans were very low. But now we have a population of more than 2.8 million Tibetans. Given this background, it is easy to see that the so-called Tibetan genocide is utter nonsense.

Just a small number of Tibetans were involved in the riots. Thus any move to drive a wedge between Tibetans and Han people would be a grave mistake.

History shows such action would always bring calamitous results. Fortunately, it has not happened yet. But we should treat it seriously when it is still a threat.

It is absolutely necessary for politicians of both Western countries and China to work together to ensure that violence does not erupt in Tibet again.

(Written in June 2008 and published in *China Daily*)

**The author is the president of the Association for Germany-China Friendship Rhineland-Palatinate.**



# China's Tibet

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

**D**emocratic reform was carried out in Tibet fifty years ago this month. The purpose of this article is to examine what progress Tibet has made during the last fifty years.

We Sri Lankans remember Tibet as the birth place of poet monk S. Mahinda. It is also called the roof of the world. The average elevation of the region is about 15,000 feet above sea level.

Tibet is governed as an autonomous region of China and it has its own legislative council. It has achieved tremendous progress under this dispensation and to understand the magnitude of the progress one should compare what it was prior to 1951 and today.

The system of government before the democratic reform in 1959 was somewhat a theocracy comprising Lamas, aristocrats and high officials. It was manifestly clear that the social structure was feudal with an old fashioned and rigid class system, tantamount to semi slavery. The serfs had no freedom or human rights and they were taxed heavily. Punishment for non payment of taxes was severe. 95% of the land belonged to 5% of the population. There was no advanced agriculture and very primitive agricultural methods were applied. Industries were non existent. Literacy rate was below 5 %.

Under this autonomous governance the Central Government managed to develop Tibet like other regions of China. This region was entrusted with greater political freedom. All Tibetans received equal rights and under the aegis of the Central Government this region made great strides in every field of development. Out of the 301 members in the governing body 242 were Tibetans. There were peasants, shepherds and serfs among the elected members of the first regional

council. Like other regions of China Tibetan women also received voting rights.

## **Economic Development**

Under the guidance of the Chinese Central Government the governing body of the Tibet Autonomous Region took several measures needed initially for the rapid economic growth of the region in 1978.

In 2004 the gross domestic product of Tibet was 21.154 billion yuan. The area under the plough reached 179,790 hectares in 2004. The value of the agricultural product in 2004 was 2.656 billion yuan. Tibet managed to overtake several other regions of China in animal husbandry and export of animals.

## **Industries**

Tibet has made vast strides in the generation of electricity, mining industry, weaving industry, and handicrafts after introduction of free market policies in 1978. By 2004 the generation of electric power exceeded 1.165 billion kwh. Tibet is a leading producer of copper and out of the provinces that produce copper, Tibet occupies the second place in China.

## **Foreign Trade**

In 2004 the value of foreign trade was US\$ 223.55 million. It was an increase of 38.7 percent from the 2003 figure. Tibet exports its products to India, Nepal, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Europe and America.

## **Road Development**

With the rapid development that took place after 1951, Tibet was connected to various part of



China by new roadways. Direct links were made to Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces. The direct train link from Beijing to Lhasa was completed in 2007. This facilitated trade between Tibet and other provinces of China.

### **Tourism**

In 2004 1.22 million tourists (including locals) visited Tibet and this brought US\$ 36 million to the region. As result of this tourist influx various auxiliary trades have sprung up in urban areas of Tibet.

### **Education**

Prior to 1951 other than few religious schools there were no schools for the average citizenry. Primary schools were opened in 1952. In 2004 there were 327,000 children attending primary school in Tibet. There were 45,200 graduates and 95 percent of the children attend school.

Tibet ethnic school started to educate the ethnic minorities and special emphasis was made to teach Tibetan language.

At the National Congress held in 1984 the teaching of Tibetan culture in schools was encouraged. The Tibetan University commenced its work in 1984 and the Tibetan Medical College commenced teaching in 1989. More than 100 Tibetans holding PhDs live in Tibet today.

### **Religion**

The policy of the Central Government allows people to follow any religion. Religious freedom was much restricted during the “cultural revolution” days. With the end of that era religious freedom surfaced again and today more than 1,700 places of religious worship are found and there are more than 40,000 Buddhist monks.

### **Culture**

Basically Tibet is a multicultural region. The regional government has undertaken the responsibility of safeguarding the multicultural nature of the society. Between 1989 and 1994 the Central Government spent 55 million yuan restoring places of worship.

In 1997 an act was passed for the restoration and administration of the Potala Palace. In addition to that 18 such important cultural centres were identified for restoration. In 2001 the Central Government provided 330 million yuan for the restoration of the Potala Palace.

In 2001 the UNESCO identified the Potala Palace as a part of world heritage. In 2007 the Jokhang Palace and the Norbulingka Palace were identified as palaces affiliated to the Potala Palace. The famous Rampoche Monastery was brought under a special restoration plan.

### **Health Activities**

The Tibet Autonomous Regional Government spent 1.8 billion yuan at the inception for the development of health services. Cooperative hospitals and government medical aid centres were created and 20 million yuan are spent annually to upkeep them. By 2004 there were 1,326 health centres in Tibet. There were 79 centres for communicable diseases and 55 child and maternity centres.

### **The Life of Citizenry**

Under the Autonomous Regional Government a real awakening has taken place in Tibet. Due to free higher education the living condition of people improved rapidly. People preferred electricity to Ghee Lamps and LP Gas for cow dung cakes for cooking purposes.

The annual spending capacity of the people of urban areas increased up to 8,057 yuan. By 2004, there were 35,000 cars in Lhasa and there were 397,000 cellular phones among the people.

Therefore it is quite evident that during the last 50 years under the aegis of the Central Government the Autonomous Regional Government of Tibet has achieved great advancements in every sphere. Though some western powers try to destabilize China by inciting few trouble makers inside Tibet and elsewhere, the majority of the people have shown that they are with China.

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

# Symposium Marking 45th Anniversary Of Sino-French Diplomatic Relations Held in Beijing

**Our Staff Reporter**

The CPAFFC held a symposium in Beijing on February 9 to mark the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France. Tang Jiaxuan, former Chinese state councilor, and Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former French prime minister, addressed the symposium.

Tang Jiaxuan briefly reviewed the positive development achieved in bilateral relations since the two countries established diplomatic ties 45 years ago. He pointed out, despite ups and downs and difficulties in China-France relations over the past 45 years, stable and sound development of the relations can be maintained as long as the two countries view and handle their relations from a strategic and long-term perspec-



**Former State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan meeting with former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin**

tive. Both sides should observe the fundamental principles of mutual respect, equality and non-interference in each other's

internal affairs, respect and give consideration for the core interests and concerns of each other, and properly handle differences.

**The Symposium in session**



# Malian Minister Kafougouna Kone Visits China

**Tang Ruimin**

A Malian governors' delegation led by Gen. Kafougouna Kone, minister of territorial administration and local communities, visited Beijing, Yunnan and Guangdong in early March at the invitation of the CPAFFC.

The visit to China by Minister Kafougouna Kone and his party in the wake of Chinese President Hu Jintao's goodwill visit to Mali at the beginning of the year added vitality to the friendly exchanges between China and Mali. The Minister has successively served as chief of the general staff of the army, defence minister, and Malian

ambassador to China. Mali is divided into eight regions and one district—the Bamako District. The governors of the regions, appointed by the Central Government, play an important role in the political life of Mali.

Yunnan Province of China established friendship-province relations with Mali's Sikasso Region in 1990. The governor of Sikasso, a member of the delegation, held in depth discussions with his counterpart in Yunnan on how to use their advantages in land resources to develop agriculture and make joint efforts to improve health,

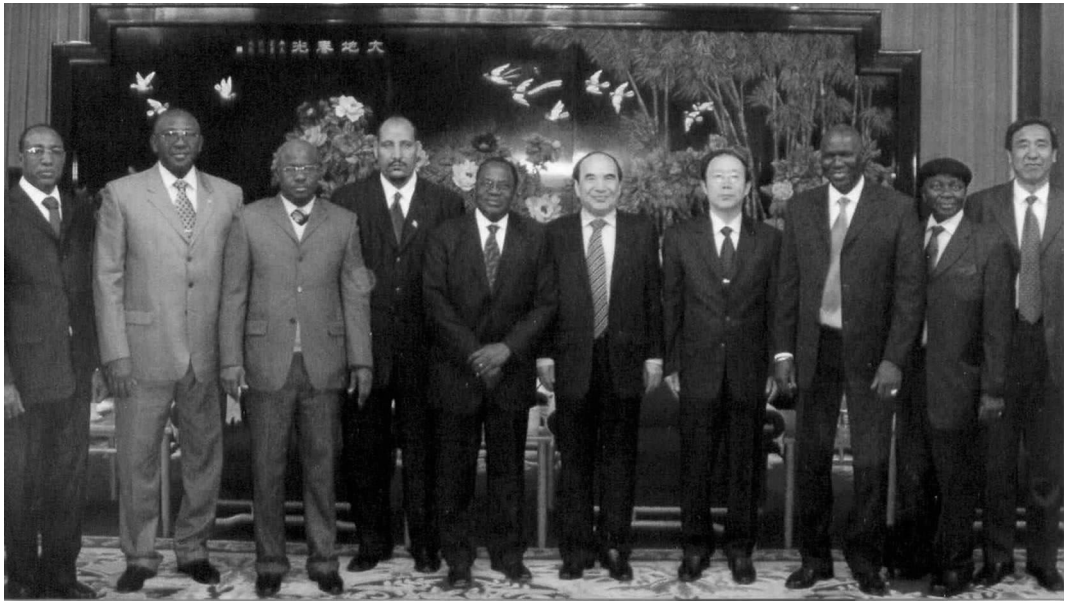
Tang stressed, to maintain sound political relations and mutual political trust is most important for developing pragmatic cooperation in all fields between the two countries. Now China-France relations are at a crucial stage, it is hoped that the French side would attach great importance to China's core concerns, take effective action and create conditions for the relationship to return to the normal track as early as possible and for the resumption and development of China-France relations to benefit the two countries and their peoples.

In his speech, Raffarin said, since France and China established diplomatic relations, the two sides have carried out sound cooperation in the political, economic, trade, cultural and other fields and reaped rich

fruits. The building of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries conforms to the common interests of both sides. France cherishes the friendship with China and respects China's sovereignty, reunification and territorial integrity. It admires the courage and wisdom of the Chinese people and is willing to continue to carry out dialogue and cooperation with the Chinese side from a long-term perspective. France attaches importance to China's major concerns and is ready to properly address problems through dialogue based on mutual respect and work for the early resumption of normal France-China relations. France hopes to work with China to promote EU-China cooperation, cope with the global financial crisis and build a multi-polar

world.

The symposium was presided over by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu. Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui, Vice President of France's National Assembly Marc Laffineur, among more than 80 people of various circles of the two countries, attended the symposium. Cai Fangbai, former Chinese ambassador to France; Cheng Tao, vice president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs; Xing Hua, research fellow of the China Institute of International Studies; Herve Ladsous, French ambassador to China; Alain Labat, president of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations; and Herve Machenaud, executive vice president and Asia-Pacific Branch president of Electricite de France, also delivered speeches. □



**Abdul'ahat Abdurixit (L.6), vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, meeting with the delegation**

education and infrastructure facilities in the rural areas.

Malians are no strangers to Guangdong. At present, more than 2,000 Malians reside in the province, most of whom are engaged in trade between China and Africa. Provincial officials said that Guangdong has not yet twinned friendship ties with its counterparts in African countries and that the visit of the Malian delegation was an important step for the two sides to build friendly and cooperative relations.

Members of the delegation also included governors of Kayes, Segou and Kidal. Now, Wuhan Kaidi Holding Investment Co., Ltd. has

planted 2 million hectares of jatropha curcas trees in Segou and Kayes for power generation. This project will provide several ten thousand jobs for Malians. The company will invest another US\$ 2 billion later to construct subsidiary facilities to solve power and energy shortages that Mali faces in its development. But, the implementation of the project needs the support from the central and local governments. Therefore, the delegation's visit provided an opportunity for the two sides to increase understanding and strengthen cooperation. Wuhan Kaidi Holding Investment Co., Ltd. specially sent representatives to have talks with the delegation.



In Beijing, TouchAfrica Co., Ltd. briefed the delega-

**The delegation visiting the Palace Museum**



# Delegation of Christian Embassy of Canada in Beijing

Ye Zi

Invited by the CPAFFC, a ten-member delegation of the Christian Embassy of Canada (CEC) led by Hon. Jim Abbott, member of the House of Commons of the Conservative Party of Canada and parliamentary secretary to the minister for international cooperation, paid a visit to Beijing from January 7 to 10, 2009. The delegation was composed of members of the House of Commons of the Conservative Party of Canada, members of the CEC and business people.

## Sino-Canadian Relations

In his meeting with the delegation, Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi expressed his appreciation of the contributions made by the CEC over the years to promoting Sino-Canadian relations. Liu said, though China and Canada hold different views on some issues, the bilateral re-

lations on the whole have been developing smoothly. The two countries should expand substantial exchanges and cooperation in the principle of mutual respect and seeking common ground while shelving differences. He stressed, the continuous spread and development of the economic crisis in the global sphere have affected both Chinese and Canadian economy to different degrees. The two countries should work together to take on the challenges and tide over the difficulties.

Jim Abbott said, the Canadian government attaches great importance to developing Canada-China relations. Entrusted by the Canadian Prime Minister's Office, the delegation came to China. Canada admires the tremendous achievements China has made in its reform and opening up. China's prominent performance in the global finan-

cial crisis has made the people in the world regard China in a new light. And he added, Canada hopes to carry out substantial cooperation with China in various fields.

## Exchanges and Cooperation

**Natural Resources:** In his meeting with the delegation, Hu Cunzhi, chief engineer of the Ministry of Land and Resources, said, in recent years the Ministry of Land and Resources has kept a good cooperative relationship with Canada by carrying out various forms of exchanges such as holding international mining conferences and ministerial-level forums, etc. The Ministry has also carried out cooperation with the Canadian Institute of Planners, invited renowned Canadian planners to assist China in its urban development and planning, and has signed with the Queen's U-

tion on the Second African Culture Festival which would be held in September this year. The festival combining exhibition and sales, purchasing, cultural performances and trade promotion in one will attract a large number of visitors. Mali, an ancient civilization in Sub-Saharan Africa, has rich and colourful Black African culture. Especially, the dyeing and printing of home-woven cloth, gold and silver jewellery, suitcases and other leatherware as well as its folk dances enjoy fame in Africa. The governors on the delegation all ex-

pressed that they would send delegations to take part in the festival. They also made an inspection tour of the venue for the festival.

Minister Kone was Malian ambassador to China from 1992 to 2001. He marveled at the changes in China over the past ten years. He said that Mali should learn from China's experience in running the country and enhance exchanges in economic development and between local governments of the two countries to invigorate the friendship between the two countries. □

niversity of Canada a long-term cooperation and exchange programme. So far about 90 cardres have been sent to Canada for further study.

Abbott said, the Canadian government greatly values its exchanges and cooperation with China in the fields of natural resources and environmental protection. He hoped that the two countries would continue to strengthen exchanges in the above fields and seek more opportunities for cooperation.

**Disaster relief and reduction:** In his meeting with the delegation, Zou Ming, director general of the Department of Disaster Relief of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, briefed the guests on the two devastating disasters China experienced in 2008, i.e. the snow storm in southern China at the beginning of 2008 and the catastrophic earthquake in Wenchuan, Sichuan Province. The Chinese government took prompt actions after the disasters and mobilized all social sectors for the relief work. Zou stressed, the Chinese government gave full and timely coverage of the devastating earthquake, and mobi-

lized to the full various social forces to participate in disaster relief. According to incomplete statistics, over 300 nongovernmental organizations and 1.1 million volunteers, among which there were many organizations and friends from Canada, were directly involved in the disaster relief work and reconstruction of the disaster-hit areas.

Jim Abbott said, the Chinese government has carried out rapid and effective relief work after the Wenchuan earthquake, which has made the people in the world see the great cohesion and solidarity of the Chinese people. The Canadian government and people admire the Chinese government's ability to mobilize various social sectors in a very short time to pool all their resources in disaster relief. He expressed the hope to strengthen exchanges in this field with the Chinese side. Norm Schulz, chairman of the Global Aid Network (GAN), briefed Director General Zou on the relief work the GAN has done globally, and expressed his hope to cooperate with relevant Chinese

organizations so as to jointly help the Chinese people fight natural disasters.

The delegation also paid calls on the Ministry of Education and the All-China Women's Federation and had talks with relevant leaders, laying a foundation for future cooperation.

### **Cooperation between CPAFFC and CEC**

In his meeting with the delegation, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping said, the CEC is a long-standing good friend and partner of the CPAFFC. Since 1966, the CEC has organized high-level Canadian delegations to visit China many times and played an important role in promoting communication and understanding between high-ranking personages of Canada and China. Li said, the past 30 years have seen earth-shaking changes in China's society and economy. But the economic development is unbalanced in the country and there is great disparity between the rich and the poor in many places such as in the western region. Li added, the CPAFFC

**CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping (L.7) with the Canadian friends**



# CPAFFC Confers Title of Friendship Ambassador on SCA President Dr. Thomas Wagner

**Wang Qing**

On the evening of March 7, the CPAFFC held a grand ceremony to confer the title of Friendship Ambassador on Dr. Thomas Wagner, president of the Switzerland-China Association (SCA). Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC; Jing Dunquan, vice-president of the CPAFFC; Wang Hanbin, former vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC; Wang Guangtao, chairman of the NPC Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee; Xia Deren, mayor of Dalian; Wu Qidi, member of the NPC Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee; Wang Xiaoguang, vice mayor of Kunming; former Chinese ambassadors to Switzerland and former Chinese consuls general to Zurich as well as diplomats from the Swiss Embassy in China, totaling about 80, attended the ceremony.

In his speech, President Chen Haosu said, Switzerland established diplomatic relations with China soon after the founding of the People's Republic of China. Thanks to the concerted efforts made by both sides, the relations between the two countries have stood all kinds of tests. Friendly exchanges and cooperation have developed in greater depth and broader range, and Sino-Swiss friendship has stricken deep roots in the hearts of the two peoples. This year, shortly after the Chinese lunar New Year, Premier Wen Jiabao started

a European tour, known as the "journey of confidence", and made Switzerland the first stop of his tour which is a good demonstration of our friendship and necessity of enhancing future bilateral cooperation. Just as Premier Wen pointed out, Switzerland has shown strategic insight and pioneering spirit in developing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with China, playing a special role in promoting China-EU relations. Numerous friendly personages have made unremitting efforts and active contributions to the balanced and smooth development of Sino-Swiss relations over the past 60 years. And Dr. Thomas Wagner stands out to be the most prominent figure among them. He has a deep affection for the Chinese people, and has made important contributions to promoting exchanges and cooperative relationship between the two countries despite their distinctively different political, historical, language and cultural features. By conferring the title of Friendship Ambassador, the CPAFFC would like to thank and commend Dr. Wagner for playing an active role in the cause of people-to-people friendship between China and Switzerland.

In his thank-you speech, Dr. Thomas Wagner expressed his sincere appreciation for being given such recognition. He said, through years of cooperation with China, a valuable network has been formed which includes many associations, univer-

welcomes and expects more high-level delegations organized by the CEC to visit China to get a comprehensive and objective view of China's development.

Jim Abbott said, this is his sixth visit to China. The high-level reception and meticu-

lous arrangement made by the CPAFFC has left a deep impression on the delegation. The tremendous achievements China has made since the adoption of the reform and opening up policy, its successful holding of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games

and the steady economic growth it maintains in spite of the global economic crisis have made China rapidly become a focus of the world. He said, after returning home, he will specially report to the Prime Minister about the fruits of this China visit. □



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting the certificate of Friendship Ambassador to Dr. Thomas Wagner**

sities and departments that have helped open precious gates in China. The CPAFFC is one of these gates. For more than 20 years, President Chen Haosu and many other collaborators have pushed and greatly supported the successful implementation of a large number of cultural, economic, science and tourist projects in which he has engaged. For this he feels incomparable warmth. Dr. Wagner also said, he wants to contribute to the building of a harmonious society together with his Chinese friends, hand in hand.

At the celebration reception afterwards, Vice President Jing Dunquan proposed a toast. He said, the CPAFFC will, as always, devote itself to the cause of enhancing friendship, expanding international exchanges and promoting the building of a harmonious world. We look forward to having more dear friends like Dr. Thomas Wagner, who cherish good will towards China and its people and sincerely work as envoys for mutual exchanges.

Graduated from the University of Zurich, Dr. Thomas Wagner served as the mayor of Zurich from 1982 to 1990 and the first vice mayor of Zurich from 1990 to 2002. Since 2000, he has been president of the Switzerland-China Associa-

tion, one of the major friendship-with-China organizations in Switzerland.

In his term of office as the mayor and the first vice mayor of Zurich, Dr. Thomas Wagner actively involved in the friendly exchanges between Zurich and the Chinese local governments. Thanks to his initiative and efforts, Zurich and Kunming established friendship-city relations. After that, the two cities have conducted fruitful cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology, business and city planning. The pair has become a model of friendship cities in cooperation between China and Switzerland. In recognition of his outstanding contribution, the municipal government of Kunming has

conferred on Dr. Thomas Wagner the title of Honorary Citizen. He has also been given the title of Honorary Citizen of Dalian for his active participation in planning the Summer Davos of the World Economic Forum hosted by Dalian.

During his decades of contact with China, Dr. Wagner has maintained good relationship with government departments at various levels, academic organizations and friendship associations. He has actively offered advice on various governmental and nongovernmental cooperation and exchange projects between China and Switzerland. He was a member of the Coordination Commission of the Swiss Federal Foreign Ministry for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and is member of the Organizing Committee of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. He also works as adviser on Chinese affairs to many Swiss multinational corporations. Owing to his close cooperation with Chinese academic and education circles, he has been engaged as honorary professor by Shanghai Tongji University and Kunming University.

Since he became the mayor of Zurich, Dr. Wagner has maintained a good cooperative relationship with the CPAFFC; and especially in his presidency of the SCA, he has acted as a link in



# Red Star Chorus of the PLA Academy Of Arts Visits Japan

Ma Yuhua

Headed by Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC, with Li Guoru, deputy director of the Publicity Department of the General Political Department of the People's Liberation Army as his deputy, and Li Shuangjiang, the well-known tenor as art director, a 78-member Red Star Chorus of the People's Liberation Army Academy of Arts visited and performed in Japan from February 8 to 14 at the invitation of the Min-On Concert As-

sociation (Min-On) of Japan.

## Tokyo Performance Wins Enthusiastic Appreciation

As arranged by the Min-On, a concert was held in Tokyo at the most famous Japanese concert hall within the Tokyo Opera City. The hall was fully occupied and over one thousand audience enjoyed the Chinese young singers' performance. They specially prepared some Chinese and Japanese folk songs, some songs well-known

in the world. As the hall was filled with familiar melodies, the audience followed the beat and hummed with the chorus. Especially, when they heard the melody of *Mother*, the audience immediately gave a thunderous applause. As requested by the enthusiastic audience, the chorus sang the song for the second time, and all the audience sang with them, the people in the entire concert hall became one. When the conductor put down the baton, the last note lingered

**Hiroyasu Kobayashi** (R.6 in the front row), president of the Min-On Concert Association of Japan, with the Red Star Chorus at the end of the concert in Tokyo



the people-to-people friendly exchanges conducted by the CPAFFC.

At the reception, musicians from the Red Star Art Troupe of the PLA Academy of Arts per-

formed Chinese and Swiss folk music. Reporters from the *People's Daily* Overseas Edition, China Radio International, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and other media reported the ceremony. □

on in the air and the rhythmic clapping of hands grew louder and louder until the hall was filled with a thunderous applause, a really joyous and harmonious scene. Many audience and the singers were in tears of excitement. The Chinese choristers were moved by the true sentiments of the Japanese audience, and with tears in their eyes, they said, "The Japanese audience are so great."

After the performance, the audience interviewed said the show was really wonderful and we could see the potentiality of the Chinese young people and feel their friendship. It was privilege to have a chance to enjoy the chorus performance of such high standard. Hiroyasu Kobayashi, president of the Min-On, said, "True art goes beyond boundaries and today I see the high spirit of the students of the People's Liberation Army Academy of Arts and their high artistic attainment. I believe, singing is the best way to connect peoples and nations. The performance today will further strengthen and enhance the

friendship between the Japanese and the Chinese people."

Chinese and Japanese media followed with interest the Red Star Chorus' visit to Japan. Many of them gave coverage to its performance, stating that the performance by the Red Star Chorus has brought in warmth and friendship as well as the glamour of Chinese young generation.

### **Profound Friendship with Panasonic Corporation**

On February 13, at the auditorium of Panasonic Corporation in Osaka, the Red Star Chorus and the Panasonic Choir jointly held a joyous concert. Panasonic Corporation has a 90-member chorus, known as the Panasonic Choir which has won the gold prize 18 times in chorus competitions in Japan. In April 2008, the chorus held a performance at the Beijing Forbidden City Concert Hall together with the Red Star Chorus. How sweet it was for old friends to reunite!

Before the two choruses met on the stage again, Yukio

Shohtoku, adviser to the Panasonic Choir and former vice president of the corporation, delivered a speech, recalling the joint performance of the two choruses in April last year when the Panasonic Choir toured in China and the Choir's singing of *Jasmine Flower* at the gate of the corporation to greet President Hu Jintao during his visit to Japan in May 2008. He said, we felt greatly honoured to greet the Chinese leader with the well-known Chinese song that they learned during their last tour in China. In his speech, Head of the delegation Jing Dunquan praised the Panasonic Corporation for its outstanding contribution to the economic and trade cooperation between China and Japan in the past 30 years, and its efforts to push forward cultural exchanges between the two countries. He hoped the joint performance of the Panasonic Choir and the Red Star Chorus would further deepen the friendship and promote Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges.

Their performance lasted

**A group photo of the Red Star Chorus and the Japanese Panasonic Choir taken after a joint performance**



# First Training Course for CPAFFC Young Cadres Held in the United States

You Pei

Organized by the CPAFFC, the first mid-career training course for its middle-aged and young cadres was held in Georgetown University of the U. S. from January 2 to 21. Attending the course were 25 cadres of the CPAFFC and its local organizations from Beijing, Shanghai, Gansu, Hubei, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Shaanxi, and Inner Mongolia. The course, centring on the theme "Innovation and Public Administration", aimed to increase the participants' awareness of innovation, improve their modern managerial skills, and raise their ability to apply the scientific outlook on development. At the training course, the participants worked hard, sharing their thoughts and taking an

active part in the interaction with instructors and amongst themselves. They demonstrated the fine quality of the Chinese young cadres, which received favourable comments from the leadership of Georgetown University and the Chinese Embassy in the U. S.

Georgetown University, a well-known university in the United States with a history of over 100 years, has cultivated a large number of world-famous personages. The university has cooperation programmes with the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Renmin University of China and Fudan University. Though it was the first training course run for

more than an hour and the auditorium was filled with a friendly and harmonious atmosphere from the beginning to the end. It was an extremely warm scene when the 160 singers of the two choruses stood hand in hand, using the same songbooks, and sang together *Jasmine Flower* in Chinese and *Sakura* in Japanese. Head of the Panasonic Choir Junichi Watanabe said with emotion that the Red Star Chorus was the most vigorous art group that he had ever met. They performed with full vitality, showing high level of artistic attainment and appeal and expressing well their warm friendship towards the Japanese people. He hoped

more exchange activities would be carried out between the two groups so as to jointly promote friendship between the people of the two countries.

At the evening party after the performance, members of the two choruses got together again in high spirit and enthusiasm. Although they could not speak each other's language, they made every attempt to communicate in English, body language, and the few Chinese and Japanese words they had just learned, and every corner of the banquet hall was filled with friendly affection. In the end, all the participants sang *Jasmine Flower* and *Sakura* together and the beautiful melodies lingered for as long as the excitement of

all those present at the party. They shook hands and hugged each other, reluctant to say goodbye and promising to meet again in Beijing.

In Osaka, the leading members of the delegation met with Yoichi Morishita, adviser to the Panasonic Corporation. The rest of the delegation visited the exhibition centre of Panasonic where they saw the latest advanced electronic appliances in the world, learned the efforts made by Panasonic to protect the environment of the earth, increased their knowledge in science and technology and environmental protection as well as their awareness of the importance of environmental protection. □



Georgetown University President John DeGioia (middle in the front row), Vice President Chris Augostini (R.1 in the front row) and Dean of School of Continuing Studies Rob Manuel (L.1 in the front row) with the trainees at the conclusion ceremony

the cadres of the CPAFFC, Georgetown University attached great importance to it, assigning the best professors to give lectures. At the conclusion ceremony, the president of the university presented certificate to every participant according to the procedure of conferring MBA degrees on its registered students.

During the three-week training course, the participants visited New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco; took classes on

Organizational Strategy, Building a Culture of Innovation, Human Capital Development, Messaging and Communication, Negotiation Strategies and Tactics, Public Policy, etc.; made study tours of the US Commercial Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Press Club, ABC TV Station, CBS and other public undertakings and private organizations; visited the US Congress, the White House, Jefferson Memorial, Mount Vernon, the National Air and Space Museum and the Smithsonian Museum of American History; and watched live TV broadcast of the inauguration of President Obama. □

#### Content summary and reflection session after dinner





# China-ASEAN Association Entrepreneur Council Member Delegation in Singapore

**Wu Jiong**

The China-ASEAN Association Entrepreneur Council Member Delegation, comprising ten people, visited Singapore from February 22 to March 1, 2009 at the invitation of the Singapore-China Friendship Association. During the visit, members of the delegation participated in a training programme on enterprise management specially designed for the delegation by the Singapore Nanyang Technological University. The delegation also visited some typical Singaporean enterprises, and made extensive contacts with members of the Singapore-China Friendship Association

and council members of the Singapore-China Business Association, and held discussions with them.

Since the establishment of the Second Council of the China-ASEAN Association in 2008, the number of entrepreneurs in the council increased to make up half of the total. Meanwhile, an entrepreneur committee was set up under the Association with the aim to promote exchange and cooperation in areas of trade and economy between China and ASEAN. Besides, during the 3rd Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People

Friendship Organizations held in 2008, the Singapore-China Friendship Association was put in charge of training programmes within the framework of the conference mechanism. Hence, in order to broaden the vision of our entrepreneur council members and enhance their ability to cope with the current global economic crisis, as well as to implement the exchange and training programme under the conference mechanism; this project came into being and was carried out smoothly.

Dr. Lam Kin Chung, specially-invited council member of our association, financed the

**The delegation members at Nanyang Technological University**



training programme and the local arrangements got strong support from the Singapore-China Friendship Association. The Singapore Nanyang Technological University and training coordinators attached great importance to the programme in terms of course designing, lecturer selection and field visits. Upon completion of the programme, each trainee was issued a training certificate by the university authority and was invited to join the school alumni.

**Taking Singapore's economic policy and enterprises as examples to study and comprehend modern enterprise management.** During the five-day training, professors from the Singapore Nanyang Technological University, business leaders, well-known scholars and financial consulting advisors delivered lectures on six major themes, taking Singaporean government policy on economic development and enterprise development as references. The six topics are: Singapore's small and medium enterprises and innovation, evolution of Singapore's economic policy, policy on real-estate and financial budget, enterprise accounting strategy and financing, relationship between banks and enterprises, and relationship between the government and enterprises. The lecturers also introduced the modern enterprise management theory and elaborated on relevant knowledge on enterprise innovation and development.

**Learning the origin of the**

**global economic crisis, its trend and counter measures to enhance the adaptability of enterprises.** In view of the impact of the current global economic crisis, we specially requested the Nanyang Technological University to include the topic of economic crisis in the training curriculum. A professor from the Economics Department of the Nanyang University delivered a lecture on the topic of "Development trend and impact of the current global economic crisis". He started off his presentation with the financial crisis in the U.S. and analyzed the future tendency of the economic crisis, its impact on China's economy, and the counter measures China should adopt. He also probed into issues pertaining to post-crisis impact.

**Field visits to local enterprises and special features of modern enterprise management experienced help consolidate study results.** During the training, delegation members visited local enterprises and held discussions with their staff. These field visits deepened the understanding of classroom studies. At the Singapore Qian Hu Corporation Ltd., the delegation learned how the company, through appropriate operation and management, became the earliest listed company specialized in ornamental aquaculture in Singapore. At the Yokogawa Electric Asia Pte. Ltd., the delegation was introduced to some advanced theories and concepts on business operation and enterprise management such as

"global outsourcing", "zero inventory management" and "just-in-time production". The delegation also had the chance to visit some international corporations operating in Singapore such as the Deloitte, where they gained an initial understanding of enterprises' business integration and public listing in Singapore.

**Participation in exchange activities organized by Singaporean friends strengthens friendly exchange and cooperation between the Chinese and Singaporean people.** The delegation was invited to attend a briefing session organized by the Singapore-China Business Association on "Introduction to Singapore government's matching programmes to revitalize the economy during the financial tsunami". Delegation members discussed and explored with officials of SPRING Singapore and members of enterprise consulting firms, financial corporations and chambers of commerce on topics such as how to respond to the current economic crisis. On the evening of February 27, the delegation attended the annual dinner jointly hosted by the Singapore-China Friendship Association and the World Scientific Publishing Company. Through their contacts with council members of the Singapore-China Business Association and friends from the business circle attending the dinner, the delegation members made new friends with whom they enhanced mutual understanding and communication. □

# CPAFFC Delegation Visits Maori Community in New Zealand

Ye Zi

At the invitation of the New Zealand Maori China Friendship Association (NZMCFA), a CPAFFC delegation paid a visit to New Zealand from February 28 to March 9. They had a close contact with the Maoris in New Zealand. They stayed at their homes, and visited the office of the Tribe Affairs Committee, their farms and lumber-mills, medical and health service stations, education and training institutions in the community and the Te Papa Museum. As they gained a further understanding of the social development of the New Zealand aboriginal Maoris, the visit also helped strengthen the friendly exchanges between the CPAFFC and the NZMCFA, and enhance the friendship with the Maori people.

This was the second time that the CPAFFC sent a delegation to visit New Zealand at the invitation of the NZMCFA since its last visit five years ago. The NZMCFA attached great importance to the visit, and the NZMCFA President Hiwi Tauroa drove more than 4 hours to Oakland to welcome the delegation and organized members of the association to greet them with traditional folk songs. His son and daughter, Danny Tauroa

and Robyn Tauroa, specially asked for a one-week leave so as to accompany the delegation all through the visit.

The Maoris make up about 14.6% of New Zealand's population and the influence of their traditional culture can be seen all over the country. Wherever they went, the delegation members could feel the existence of Maori culture, and were deeply moved by the Maori spirit of striving constantly and maintaining the aboriginal culture persistently.

During their stay in Oakland, the delegation visited the community medical and health service station run by the Maoris and the Solomn Group Education Centre, where they learned the contribution made by the Maoris in metropolis to social development.

At a community medical service station, residents including Maoris and poor immigrants from Asia, Polynesia and other countries of the South Pacific may all benefit from low-priced medical care. The service station also provides child-nursing training and medical aid free of charge. The Solomn Group Education Centre was established

The delegation visiting the Solomn Group Education Centre





As guests at the home of Eric Livingstone, president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society

by the Maori Solomn family to help immigrants at the bottom of society get employed through English language skills' training of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

In Murupara, the delegation called on the Ngati Manawa Maori tribe and had a meeting with the staff of the Tribe Affairs Committee (TAC). Accompanied by Bill Bird, chairman of the committee, they visited the kindergarten, the middle school, the livestock farm and the lumber-mill of the tribe. During their stay, they lived together with the Maoris in a hall used for grand events and were accorded a typical Maori welcoming ceremony. The delegation was deeply impressed by the enthusiasm and hospitality of the Maori people as well as their persistence in protecting their own culture.

Over the years, the land issue has always been the biggest dispute between the Maori tribes and the New Zealand government. At the Tribe Affairs Committee, the staff briefed the delegation on the Maori people's persistent struggle to protect their own rights and their land. Thanks to their unrelenting efforts, they have recovered more and more land that belonged to them originally, and obtained more equal rights as the white people. The Maoris believe in gods, respect ancestors, and foster their own history and culture. It's their belief that it is only by inheriting the cultural tradition of their forefathers that the Maoris can be ensured continuous development and

growth. Therefore, in the kindergartens and middle schools of the tribe, Maori language and culture are required for all students, and the other courses are also taught in Maori.

The visit not only deepened mutual understanding between the two sides, but also enhanced friendship between the Chinese and Maori nations. Though separated by vast ocean, and with different historical background of development, they share a common mission of inheriting and carrying forward the history, culture and traditions of their own; and it is this mission that brings the two nations closer.

Wherever it went, the delegation was accorded warm welcome and high courtesy by the Maoris. Following the local custom, delegation members sang Maori songs to express their gratitude to the Maori hosts, bringing a warm atmosphere of harmony to the scene. Although badly out of sorts, Chairman Bill Bird insisted on accompanying the delegation, which deeply moved the members of the delegation. At the time of farewell, they embraced each other tightly, as tears welled up in their eyes. □





# Korean Student Chinese Language Speech Contest Winners Visit China

**Xu Yiyi**

A 21-member delegation of winners of the Korean high school student Chinese language speech contest made a China tour from February 16 to 21.

On the morning of February 17, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku met with the delegation. He said: "China and the Republic of Korea have been good neighbours since ancient times and the friendship between them has a long history. Since our two countries established diplomatic relations, the exchanges and cooperation in various fields between our peoples have seen fast growth, with ever closer contact between our youth. Both the number of Chinese students going to study in the ROK and the number of Ko-

rean students studying in China increase every year. More and more Korean students have started to learn Chinese. All of you present are the outstanding ones among the Korean youth who are making an effort to learn the Chinese language and culture. You are successors to China-ROK friendship." The Vice President encouraged the students to deepen their understanding of the Chinese culture and history while working hard at language learning, make good use of their stay in Beijing to learn more about China with their eyes and ears and by asking questions, and fully experience the long standing culture and the modernity of Beijing. He hoped that the students would tell their fellow students

what they saw and heard in China and make contribution to enhancing understanding and trust between the people of the two countries.

On the afternoon of February 19, the delegation went to the Beijing Foreign Studies University and had a tea party with the sophomores of Korean language major. The students of the two countries sat together in twos and threes chatting. They enquired about the enrollment of foreign students in each other's countries, introduced specialized courses and the degree of their difficulty, talked about Korean TV series and film stars they were interested in, and gave each other addresses for future contact. The tea party proceeded in a warm atmo-

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku with Korean students



# JCFA's Visit Warms the Hearts of People in Sichuan Disaster Areas

Chuan You

At the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), a delegation of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) led by President Mitsuyuki Nagao visited Sichuan Province from January 13 to 16 to investigate the recovery and reconstruction of cities of Dujiangyan and Mianzhu after the devastating earthquake and express sympathy for the people of the disaster-stricken areas. Qin lin, president of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), met with the delegation in Chengdu, and expressed sincere gratitude to the JCFA for its full support to the disaster relief work in Sichuan and solicitude for the people afflicted by the disaster. On behalf of the JCFA, President Nagao made a donation of 1.5 million yen to the SIFA to fund the reconstruction of the quake-hit areas, while Eiko Mito, director of JCFA's Hiroshima Branch, donated 60,000 yen to the cadres and staff of the area. It was in severe winter, and the delegation brought 1,500 hand-warmers all the way from Japan and distributed them to the local people to keep out the cold.

The JCFA restarted friendly exchanges with China in 2000, and has since jointly sponsored

various large-scale activities with the CJFA such as the "Tour of Peace". After the devastating Wenchuan Earthquake, members of the JCFA subscribed liberally with a total amount of 17 million yen, which was transferred to the Sichuan disaster areas via CJFA.

It was the first delegation of the JCFA to Sichuan. They investigated the destruction to the buildings in Dujiangyan caused by the earthquake, and visited residents of the "Happy Community", a temporary settlement area with plank houses where they had heart-to-heart talks with the people and expressed deep sympathy for them. In Hanwang County of Mianzhu, the members of the delegation were shocked and deeply grieved at the sight of a vast area of debris and ruins. With tears in their eyes, they stood in silent tribute for three minutes before the collapsed buildings. The delegation investigated the Qingping Township Primary School relocated in plank houses and donated stationeries to the school. It also visited Zundao School of Mianzhu, a model school rebuilt after the earthquake. Masami Ueda who experienced the Hanshin Earthquake, said with admiration that such school construction is even rare in Japan. During the visit, delegation members spoke

sphere.

On the morning of February 20, the delegation went to Daxing District and had a get-together with the students of the second grade of the Beijing Pugongying Middle School. It is the first non-profit school set up to solve the problem of rural migrant workers' children going to school and run by local people in Beijing.

Divided into three groups, the members of the delegation joined the students in three classes. They performed violin and piccolo solos, sang popular Chinese songs they had learned themselves and made presentations of their schools and their hometowns. The Chinese students also put on simple but wonderful items. The warmth and optimism they showed left

a deep impression on the delegation.

The tea party and the get-together served as bridges of communication between the Chinese and Korean students, enabling them to experience the friendship that has no national boundaries and also giving the Korean students a better idea of the life and study of their Chinese contemporaries. □

# Russian Timber for Reconstruction of Quakelevelled Houses in Guangyuan

Chuan You

On January 22, a special train carrying timber from Russia and bringing the Russian people's profound friendship with it, slowly approached the Guangyuan Railway Station. This batch of quality timber came from Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk, and its transportation was made possible with the active assistance from the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), and the full support from Wen Jinhua, chairman of the Russian Association Promoting Peaceful Reunification of China. The timber was specially approved and supplied by the Russian timber district government and was designated to help rebuild the rural houses in the severely earthquake-hit

areas of Guangyuan city. The hand-over ceremony was held in Guangyuan. Since the beginning of the winter, the reconstruction in Guangyuan entered a crucial stage, and building materials were badly needed. According to the agreement reached between the Guangyuan government and the Russian side, a total volume of 160,000 cubic metres of quality timber, *pinus sylvestris*, would be sent to Guangyuan in batches. The arrival of the first batch of 17,000 cubic metres carried by a special train eased to a great extent the shortage for house building timber in the quake-hit areas.

On January 19, Ma Hua, mayor of Guangyuan, Zheng Bei, deputy director of the Sichuan Provincial Develop-

ment and Reform Committee, and Qin Lin, president of the SIFA, met with Wen Jinhua. Mayor Ma Hua said, as the severely hit areas in Guangyuan had bad geological conditions, proper land for building community residences of brick and concrete was hard to find. Moreover, the construction cost of brick and concrete houses was so high that even with government subsidies many farmers still had big fund gaps. Comparatively, wooden-structure houses occupy less land and need less fund to build, costing about 650 to 700 yuan per square metre, less than half of the cost of brick and concrete houses. They can be used for over 40 to 50 years and are much preferred by local people. With the SIFA act-

highly of the people in the disaster areas for their strength and optimism, requital for kindness, and confidence in future, and praised the local governments for their meticulous care for people's livelihood and thoughtful arrangements, especially the cadres at the basic level who have worked dutifully and done a great deal for the people.

President Nagao said, he has learned a lot during this visit to the earthquake-hit areas and he would give more publicity to the condition in Sichuan when he returned to Japan so as to continue to gain support as much as possible for the reconstruction of the disaster areas. He firmly believed that Sichuan reconstructed would certainly be more beautiful. The JCFA planned to strengthen its support to Sichuan in the following four as-

pects: first, to organize more delegations to visit Sichuan and expand personnel exchanges and enhance mutual understanding so as to help revive tourism in Sichuan and console the people who suffered from the earthquake; second, to increase information exchange about the progress of reconstruction so as to timely find out projects suitable for the participation of the Japanese side in order to provide assistance to designated and corresponding units; third, to publish the photos of the earthquake-stricken areas taken during this visit and use them to generate donations for reconstruction; fourth, to obtain aid for public welfare programmes such as providing teaching facilities and stationeries for schools, setting up community clinics in the quake-hit areas, etc. □

# Launching Ceremony of Chinese Edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written* Held

## Our Staff Reporter

On March 13, the CPAFFC held a launching ceremony of the Chinese edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written—the Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* at the Friendship Museum. Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC; Carlos Miguel Pereira, Cuban ambassador to China; Huang Zhiliang,

Wang Zhiquan, Chen Jiuchang, Tang Yonggui, Liu Peigen, Xu Yicong and Li Lianfu, the former Chinese ambassadors to Cuba; Shen Yun'ao, vice president of the China-Latin America Friendship Association; He Bing, head of the China-Cuba Friendship Farm; representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Depart-

ing as the link, Mr. Wen Jinhua was invited to investigate in Guangyuan; at the same time, he gained support from the Russian timber district government and obtained the approval for direct supply of the quality timber. Calculated as 10 to 15 cubic metres of timber for every household, the batch could meet the needs of more than 10,000 households to build wooden-structure farm houses, which is a valuable help to the city's task of completing 80% of the housing reconstruction by September 2009.

As Mr. Wen Jinhua said, to support the housing reconstruction after the earthquake in Guangyuan, he tried in many ways and finally obtained the specially approved export quota from the timber district government for direct supply of quality timber at favourable price to China. *Pinus sylvestris* is durable, moistureproof and anti-septic; and with low sugar con-

tent it is also pest resistant. To assist the quake-hit areas, the Russian timber workers of the district broke their routine and started logging even when the temperature had dropped to -30°C. They worked overtime in extra shifts and did not rest even on Christmas holidays. The first batch of timber was sent on its way on December 28. As it arrived at the border where it should be transferred to train wagons and go through customs, Mr. Wen Jinhua personally came to the scene and hired workers to unload and load the timber as quickly as possible. It happened to be around the Spring Festival, and the railway goods transportation was extremely tight, so he petitioned help to the Ministry of Railways in Beijing, and the timber special train finally passed through smoothly.

While actively promoting the import of Russian timber, the SIFA, through consultation

with the Guangyuan municipal government and Mr. Wen Jinhua decided to build a "Sino-Russian Friendship Community" in the severely quake-hit areas. To help with the post-quake rural housing reconstruction, some well-known architects in China voluntarily designed various layout plans of wooden-structure houses. The SIFA combined obtaining international aid with promoting long-term friendship, and using the "Sino-Russian Friendship Community" as a bridge, pushed the establishment of friendship-city ties between Guangyuan and Russia, so as to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between China and Russia with fruits of friendship. □





ment of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of National Defense and the Diplomatic Corps of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, as well as representatives from the China International Culture Exchange Centre and media attended the ceremony.

In her speech, Vice President Li Xiaolin said, though China and Cuba are separated by oceans, people of the two countries have enjoyed long traditional friendly exchanges. A great number of Chinese have made contribution to Cuba's economic development, social advancement and the struggle for independence, thus forging a profound friendship with the local people. In October 1931, in commemoration of the meritorious deeds by the Chinese-Cubans in Cuba's War of Independence, a monument was built in the capital city of Cuba, Havana, on which engraved "There was not a single Chinese-Cuban deserter. There was not a single Chinese-Cuban traitor." Li said, we cherish and will work hard to enhance the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Cuban people, and the friendship would take root and grow in the hearts of the young generation of the two countries, and be carried on from one generation to another.

In his speech, Ambassador Carlos Miguel Pereira said, the history narrated by the three protagonists of the book added a new chapter to the colourful history of Cuban revolution, and even today, they are still carrying on the struggle with firm belief and are full of hope for the future. He sincerely thanked those who have worked hard to publish the Chinese edition, and hoped the publication of this book would contribute to the consolidation and enhancement of the friendship and, commitment of unconditional unity between the Parties, governments and people of the two countries. At the ceremony, on behalf of the embassy, the Cuban Ambassador Pereira presented Vice President Li Xiaolin a precious photo taken in the 1960s of Chairman Mao with Ernesto Che Guevara, bringing the ceremony to a climax.

*Our History Is Still Being Written—the Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, based on several collective and indi-

vidual interviews, was published in English and Spanish in 2005. The publication of the Chinese edition was planned and assisted by the China International Culture Exchange Centre. The three protagonists of the book, Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moises Sio Wong became firm revolutionary fighters and outstanding military and political leaders through participating in the clandestine struggle and 1956-1958 revolutionary war, and made remarkable contribution to defending Cuba's sovereignty and independence, opposing racial discrimination, striving for the equal rights of Chinese Cubans in social and political life, the establishment of the Communist Party of Cuba and the victory of socialism in Cuba. In December 1958, Armando Choy was promoted to captain by Che Guevara. In 1963, he was transferred to the Department of Anti-Aircraft Defense of the Revolutionary Air Force, became commander of the anti-aircraft unit of the Western Army and in 1976 was promoted to brigadier general of the air force. Armando Choy participated in the internationalist military mission for assisting Angola launched by Cuba, and he was Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde from 1986 to 1992. He is currently chief of the State Working Group on Cleanup, Preservation and Development of Havana Bay under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, and is responsible for the administration of the Port of Havana.

Gustavo Chui joined the July 26 Movement, the underground activities in the cities and was sent to Belgium to study armaments in 1959. In 1962, he took charge of armaments of the Western Army. Since 1972 he was transferred to the 10th Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, a unit responsible for Cuba's internationalist missions, and successfully went to Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nicaragua to assist the local revolution. In 1988, in an operation in northern Angola, he was wounded by a bomb and lost a leg. He retired from active military service in 1998.

Moises Sio Wong became a member of the July 26 Movement soon after its founding in 1955 and took the leadership of the first Youth Brigade in Havana. He served in the Column 1 of the

# Lantern Festival

## —— Canberra, Australia

**Carol Keil (Australia)**

Each year, for the last 21 years, the ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society has celebrated the Lantern Festival on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. In preparation for the Festival we hold a lantern-making workshop for the general public where participants, aged from 4 years upwards, learn to make a variety of paper lanterns. The Society provides all the materials—□ light card, stickers, glue, scissors, shapes, cellophane, candles, bamboo sticks and instructions for simple to more

complex lanterns. The workshop is always booked out and all who attend have a most enjoyable time. Participants are encouraged to bring their lanterns along to the Festival the following week to enter in the hand-made lantern competition.

This year's Lantern Festival was one of the most successful we have had. Members of the Society spent the afternoon stringing up coloured lights, Chinese knots and lanterns in the trees, preparing lanterns and candles for sale, and setting up

the display of free Chinese literature and books, postcards and catalogs for sale. The results were a very attractive area and a very festive atmosphere. Many families had come for a picnic tea and by the time the official program commenced, at 6 pm, we had a large crowd.

The program commenced with a brief history of the Lantern Festival, followed by a short speech from Ambassador Zhang Junsai. There were a number of performances: Chinese Classical Music played on *dizi* and *guzheng* by members of



The author and Li Hong, cultural counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Australia, with prize winners

Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra Mountains and Column 8 led by Ernesto Che Guevara. Following the victory of the revolution in 1959, Sio Wong was promoted to first Lieutenant and became the founder of the Rebel Army's military police. He was also one of

the founders of the Western Army. From 1986 up to now he has served as head of the National Institute of State Reserve. He is also president of the Cuba-China Friendship Association and president of the Parliamentary Group for Friendship with China. □

# Chinese Students' Winter Camp Tour of the U. S.

An Xin

At the invitation of Brigham Young University (BYU)-Hawaii of the U. S., a 26-member middle school student winter camp delegation, organized and sent by the CPAFFC, made a study tour of the U. S. with the theme of enhancing friendship between the Chinese and American students from January 21 to February 4.

The delegation was composed of 23 students from the high schools affiliated to Renmin University of China and Beihang University and two principals of the branch school of the High School Affiliated to Remin University.

During the students' stay in Hawaii, the ANU Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, two childrens' dance groups and a magnificent lion dance performed by members of the Prosperous Mountain Lion Dance Troupe assisted by a visiting troupe from Sydney. The performances were followed by the judging of the hand-made lantern competition with seven categories of prizes, which were presented by Cultural Counsellor Li Hong. Dusk fell just as the judging was complete and the effect of the lanterns and lights in the trees was quite spectacular.

The grand finale of the evening was the lantern parade, led by the two lions. Most of the 500 spectators joined in the parade, each participant with a

candle-lit lantern, and the effect as the parade wound along the pathway through the trees and along the edge of the lake was quite magical. To finish off the evening free sparklers were given to all the children.

In terms of friendship activities this event is a great success. The attendees are from the general community in Canberra, which has a great multi-

BYU-Hawaii arranged for them classes such as situational dialogue, impromptu speeches, word games, and customs of Hawaii. The students liked the open and different teaching methods of the American teachers and volunteers and saw for themselves the facilities and environment of American universities. After the classes, the students returned to their respective host families, who took them to visit local churches and teach them to play American football. They forged deep friendship with the local people. The students learned a lot through the visit to the Polynesian Cultural Centre where they experienced life and

cultural tradition, and it celebrates one of the traditional Chinese Festivals. In addition all the profits from the sale of lanterns go to support our 13 Project Hope students.

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

Learning to make paper lanterns



# FFCCCII President's Dedication to Charities Praised

**Xu Zuosheng**

On January 5, 2009, during my academic tour of the Philippines, I specially called at the mansion of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) located in the China Town, Manila, and was accorded warm reception by John K. Tan, president of the FFCCCII, and other leading members of the Federation. During the visit, John K. Tan by using figures and photos gave me a vivid account of the FFCCCII's dedication to charities in the Philippines over the past half a century

and its efforts to make the Chinese-Filipino community blend into the country's mainstream society and live harmoniously with the local people through "three valuable acts", namely, donating money to build schoolhouses in rural areas, setting up volunteer fire brigades and giving free medical services to poor people in remote and backward areas. As a result, the FFCCCII has won love and respect from the Chinese-Filipino community and was praised many times by Philippine presidents.

FFCCCII President John K. Tan said, "In the early 1950s when the People's Republic of China was just founded, an anti-China wave surged in Asia, and the Philippines was also swirled into this wave. Some congressmen delivered anti-China speeches and laws unfavourable to the overseas Chinese retailers were enacted, bringing great difficulties to the subsistence of the Chinese Filipinos." In order to tide over the hard time, vast numbers of Chinese Filipinos urged to establish a high-level leading organiza-

customs so different from those of China. They said that they got the feel of speaking English by living with American families and that they enjoyed talking with local people introducing Chinese culture. The American teachers and host families said approvingly that the members of the delegation spoke good English and were polite,

showing the outlook of contemporary Chinese youth and children.

Having completed the study programme of the tour, the delegation visited Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC. The tour enhanced the students' understanding of the American political system and social development as well as the gap in the areas of culture, education, science and technology between China and the U. S., broadened their horizons, and inspired strong desire in them to learn from other's strong points to rejuvenate the motherland. □



**The Chinese students and teachers visiting Universal Studio in Los Angeles**



tion as early as possible to protect their legitimate rights and interests. In March 1954, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. was founded.

### **Donating Money to Build Schools in Rural Areas**

The founders of the FFC-CCII were aware that to remove the Philippine mainstream society's hostility towards and discrimination against the Chinese Filipinos, the first thing they should do was to perform some public welfare programmes for the local communities to win friendship from the Philippine people. In the 1960s the FFC-CCII carried out its first social welfare programme, i.e. to build schoolhouses in rural areas out of donations.

The Philippines was a poor country. Public schools were short of classrooms. Particularly in the rural areas with the rapid increase in population, schools were in urgent need for classrooms. Many schools had to give classes alternately in the morning and in the afternoon, or under the shade of trees. In view of this, the FFCCCII called on Chinese Filipino businesspeople to make donations to build schoolhouses with two classrooms as a unit. When the construction of each unit was completed, these schoolhouses were transferred to the school authority, and an inauguration ceremony was held. Representatives sent by the FFCCCII together with the donors went to the school to attend the ceremony.

Amid joyous drumbeats, the headmaster of the school conferred upon them honorary titles and certificates, and invited honoured guests to speak and cut the ribbon. The inauguration ceremony was held in a grand atmosphere.

"Since then, there arose in the FFCCCII an upsurge of donations for building schoolhouses. During the period from 2007 to 2009, 600 units of schoolhouses were built with donations. Up to now, about 4,000 units of schoolhouses have been built for rural public schools, which means that 8,000 classrooms are added for the use of the poor Philippine students. But the shortage of classrooms still remains, for there are too many poor students. Therefore, the school authorities have decided to open night schools. It is really a great service to broad masses of the ordinary Philippine people in rural areas," continued Chen.

During her presidency, President Corazon Aquino spoke highly of this philanthropic act and allocated 30 million Philippine pesos from the President's special fund, and Senate President Franklin



**Philippine President Gloria M. Arroyo presenting a schoolhouse model to John K. Tan, president of the FFCCCII**

Drilon allocated 250 million Philippine pesos from his special fund, and they both authorized the FFCCCII to build schoolhouses in the rural areas. The incumbent President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo allocated 60 million Philippine pesos from the President's Social Fund. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labour and Employment and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports have jointly called on overseas Philippine nationals to donate money for this project, and entrusted the FFCCCII with the construction

of schoolhouses with the donations they have collected.

FFCCCII President John K. Tan said, "In the Philippine government, only the Bureau of Construction under the Department of Public Works and Highways is in charge of government construction projects. Why does the government let the FFCCCII, a nongovernmental organization, undertake the construction of schoolhouses? The reason is simple: the FFCCCII with its action has showed its devotion to the development of education in the rural areas for several decades, which has vigorously promoted the local social development, scored great achievements and won trust and admiration from the Philippine people. The construction of rural schoolhouses undertaken by the FFCCCII is well known for its low cost, high quality and efficiency. Therefore, the whole Philippine society from the President, the Congress, the relevant government departments and commis-

sions down to the basic-level government organs fully affirms the acts and contributions of the FFCCCII. For this reason, the Philippine Government entrusts the FFCCCII with the construction of rural schoolhouses."

### **Setting up Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigades**

FFCCCII President John K. Tan said, "Because many of the residential houses in the Philippines are of wooden structure and the overhead electric wire network is old and obsolete, fire incidents often happen, causing huge losses to the lives and property of the local people." In view of this situation, the first Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade was set up. The Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigade, Inc. was established in 1965 and later the Association of Philippine Fire Chiefs and Firefighters, Inc. (APFCF) was founded. On receiving a fire alarm report, no matter whether it is sent out from the Chinese-Filipino com-

munity or not, the APFCF will immediately send out rescue signal. Thus it enjoys a high reputation among the Filipino people. The APFCF has built fire stations and purchased fire-fighting equipment out of the fund contributed by the Chinese Filipinos and offers 24-hour voluntary service. After more than 30 years' development, it now has 200 volunteer fire brigades, over 300 fire engines and more than 5,500 volunteer fire fighters throughout the Philippines, and has become an important force in the Philippine national fire protection.

Fire fighting is a very dangerous work. Every fire fighter must have strict training in physical strength and skills. When fighting fire, they risk their own lives, and wherever there is fire, they rush to the scene regardless of their safety. The fire fighters of the APFCF fight fire bravely with their young lives. It is a common occurrence that they got burns in

**The fire engines of the Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigades ready for any emergencies**



fire and hit and injured by falling objects. Over the past 30 years, a number of fire fighters of the APFCF sacrificed their lives.

The APFCF's magnanimous deeds won high admiration from the Philippine society. In 1993 the Philippine President issued a certificate of merit in recognition of the outstanding contributions made by the APFCF and its member organizations. In August 2000, the Philippine Ateneo University gave out the Public Service Award to the APFCF, commending the association for setting up an example of fraternity for the whole Chinese Filipino community: "Your profound contribution and services to the entire society has proven to the Filipino people that public interest is the lofty goal." An article in the *World News* says, the fire fighters of the Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade display the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation, i.e. pursuit of harmony, dedication, devotion to one's duty and service to the society. It is this spirit of dedication and self-sacrifice that en-

courages the fire fighters of the Filipino Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade to protect the lives and property of the local people with dauntless heroism when they put out fire and rescue people. They have composed songs of heroism."

### **Organizing Charity Medical Teams**

Mr. John K. Tan said, "In the Philippine society there exists an extreme disparity between the rich and the poor. Many ordinary people only eke out a living with a meager income. They can't afford expensive medical fees, which drives quite a number of them to desperation. The leadership of the FFCCCII decided to form medical teams to offer free medical services to low income people in remote and backward areas and desolate islands and villages. This has, to a great extent, solved the poor people's problem of having no access to medical services."

Every Saturday or Sunday, medical teams offer free medical services. They either set up clinics, or go to the out-

of-the-way isolated islands to give medical services and medicines to the local people, alleviating patients' sufferings. They have persisted in these services in spite of wind and rain. Besides, the China Town free medical centre in Manila and the charity medical team in Caloocan specially invite doctors in big hospitals to work as volunteers. Meanwhile, the FFCCCII calls on warm-hearted Chinese Filipinos to make generous donations, thus soon promoting Filipino Chinese free medical services throughout the Philippines. Such medical services for the Philippine ordinary people have already been rendered for more than 20 years.

John K. Tan said, every week all the member organizations affiliated to the FFCCCII organize Chinese Filipino doctors and nurses to give free medical services in communities, factories and schools. Wherever the medical teams go, men and women, old and young will come to seek medical advice. Most of them are the labouring people who can hardly keep body and soul together.

**People coming for medical treatment**





Some of them have been ill for quite a long time. Since they can't afford expensive medical fees, they miss the chance for timely cure. The doctors of the medical teams make a careful medical check-up and diagnose for them and give on-the-spot treatment and free medicine to those patients of emergent cases. Many poor Filipinos benefit from this public welfare activity and regard the charity medical teams as their savior.

Before taking leave, I didn't know why I should ask such a question: "President Tan, may I ask what's your monthly pay as president of the FFCCCII?" Upon hearing it, President Tan burst into laughter, saying, "In our FFCCCII instead of getting any pay, the officials must take the lead in donating money."

FFCCCII Vice President Tan Tian Siong told me, in the FFCCCII, the higher post you hold means the more money you donate. Take President Tan as an example, he is a Chinese Filipino of the fourth generation born in the Philippines. After graduating from the Yale University in the United States, he was employed by the Research Centre of the U-

nilerver Research Corp. as a research fellow. Later he was called back by his father to develop his career in the Philippines. He then founded the Northern Chemical Corp., one of the large chemical raw material import and export corporations in the Philippines, doing a big business. In the past 16 years of serving the FFCCCII, President Tan has made donations for building 48 units of schoolhouses just in this single project. So, to serve as president of the FFCCCII, you must also play a leading role in charities!

As a Chinese Filipino of the fourth generation, John K. Tan has never lived in the land of his ancestors, but he deeply loves this piece of land in his home town. He has contributed money to build two classroom buildings, one for a middle school and the other for a primary school in his hometown Jinjing Town of Jinjiang City, Fujian Province. Later he founded a nursery and provides for all its annual expenditures. He, together with other ten Chinese Filipinos, donated a modern multi-function classroom building to the Quanzhou Overseas Chinese University,

greatly improving the teaching facilities of the university.

John K. Tan said, "Education is the foundation of state governance. Only by developing education can the overall quality of the whole nation be effectively improved." He devoted a lot of his energy to his alma mater, the Philippine Cultural College. During the time when he served as president of the Alumni Association of the Philippine Cultural College, he mobilized all alumni to help their alma mater to complete the final stage of the reconstruction of the school building with a total cost of 44 million Philippine pesos (equivalent to about 900,000 US dollars), and collected 20 million Philippine pesos (about 400,000 US dollars) for the welfare fund for the college's teaching and administrative staff. In 1991, under his sponsorship, the Philippine Chinese Education Research Centre (PCERC) was established. He contributed a huge amount of money as the initial funding for the centre's activities. After that, the PCERC began its normal operation, vigorously promoting the development of Chinese education in the Philippines. □

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**(Continued from p.11)**

victims of the earthquake, the Chinese people displayed unprecedented unity.

The protest and hostility that the Beijing Olympic torch relay encountered in other countries made the Chinese people feel humiliated.

The Chinese people have showed great enthusiasm for holding this grand sports event in their country, which proves to the International Olympic Committee that it is not a mistake to

choose China to hold the Olympic Games, for in China there lives one fifth of the world's population, and they will demonstrate with their enthusiasm the Olympic spirit to the whole world.

(Written in May 27, 2008)

(Translated from the Chinese translation)

**The author is a recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC.**



# Notes on My Visits to DPRK

**Zhao Yongtian**

October 16, 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Since ancient times, the Chinese and Korean people have maintained close relations and frequent contacts. The two peoples have traditional friendly relations and have forged great friendship with blood when fighting shoulder to shoulder against imperialist aggression.

In more than half a century since the truce of the Korean War, I was lucky enough to visit the DPRK, China's friendly neighbour, twice respectively in 1987 and 2003. When recalling the past, I feel an upsurge of emotion and all kinds of thoughts well up in my mind.

In 1986 I became a council member of the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA). Since then I have kept contacts with this nongovernmental organization. The CKFA supports me in writing articles about that war in Korea in the 1950s. In early October 1987, as a member of the CKFA delegation headed by Com-

rade Chai Chengwen, I visited the DPRK.

## **Symbol of China-DPRK Friendship**

On the afternoon of October 20, the train arrived in Pyongyang. The next morning, the delegation visited the Korean-Chinese Friendship Tower in Pyongyang. After respectfully placing flowers before the tower, the delegation went into the tower. A guide gave us an introduction of the three large mural paintings: *The Chinese People's Volunteers Marching Across the Yalu River*, *The Chinese People's Volunteers Fighting Bravely* and *The Officers and Soldiers of the Chinese People's Volunteers Taking Part in Reconstruction of Korea*. When Meng Xianru, Sun Fengju and Zu Guozhen, members of the delegation and veterans of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPVs), looked at the paintings and recalled the fights against the enemy together with the Korean army and people, all kinds of thoughts thronged their minds. I lost no time to take pictures of this touching scene.

The delegation members looking at the death roll of the Chinese People's Volunteers at the Friendship Tower in Pyongyang





Visiting the room where the Military Armistice Commission conducting negotiations in Panmunjom

The Korean-Chinese Friendship Tower with a height of 30 metres stands at the western foot of the Peony Peak. It was constructed in October 1959 and expanded in 1984. The whole tower is made of white granites. On its frontage are engraved three big gold-plated Korean characters meaning "Friendship Tower". On its top there is a big golden star surrounded by laurel branches, symbolizing victory and glory. The interior of the tower is a round hall built of marbles. Ten volumes of the death roll of the Chinese People's Volunteers are placed in a specially made stone case in the hall. Two staff members working in the tower lifted the cover of the stone case with great effort and showed the delegation the death roll of the Volunteers left behind by the Political Department of the Chinese People's Volunteers when the troops withdrew in October 1958. When the guide opened the first page of the first volume, we saw with a heavy heart that the first name on the roll was Li Xiang, 37-year-old army commander from Yongxin County of Jiangxi Province. He joined the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army in August 1930, was a member of the Communist Party of China and army commander of the 67th Army and died of illness on the Korean battlefield on August 7, 1952. When An Shujing, widow of Li Xiang and a member of the delegation, saw this, her eyes blurred. The Korean journalist who accompanied the delegation on the visit immediately interviewed An Shujing who covered her

face weeping. She said, Li Xiang had sacrificed his precious life for the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea, and the people of the motherland were proud of him. After Li Xiang passed away, the Chinese Government, the Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee, the Headquarters of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the North China Military Command sent telegrams to mourn over his death. Acting Chief of the General Staff Nie Rongzheng wrote an inscription in his memory: "I deeply grieve over the death of Li Xiang, my comrade-in-arms for 20 years and an outstanding young commander!"

The guide said, "In this precious death roll of the Chinese People's Volunteers, there are names of 213 divisional and regimental commanders. Following the name of Li Xiang are the names of Cai Zhengguo, deputy army commander of the 50th Army, and Wu Guozhang, deputy army commander of the 39th Army, who laid down their lives on the battlefield. The name of the 28-year-old Mao Anying is also in the death roll." These ten volumes of the death roll are the only existing copy. Korean comrades said, these death roll, written with the blood of the Chinese People's Volunteers, are the treasure of the Korean people.

### **From East Coast to West Coast**

On the evening of the same day, we traveled 300 kilometres by train to Hamhung, an emerging

industrial city with picturesque scenery on the east coast. On October 22, we visited the Hungnam Chemical Fertilizer Plant where we placed a wreath in front of the bronze bust of Premier Zhou Enlai. In his speech at the reception in honour of the delegation, Son Hyong Mok, vice chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Assembly, said, "In May 1987 President Kim visited China and pushed Korea-China friendship to a new stage. Today you came to visit us. The people of Hamhung are very happy because the people of South Hamgyong Province and the Chinese People's Volunteers have forged profound friendship. Here on the bank of Lake Changjin was the place where the Chinese People's Volunteers won victory in battles." Veteran Zu Guozhen, member of the delegation, said: "The friendship between China and the DPRK has stood severe historical tests. Just as Chairman Mao Zedong said to President Kim Il Sung: 'When you are in difficulty, we will help you and vice versa. Let's fight and win victory together.'" At the reception which was filled with songs and laughter, the guests and hosts recalled their comradeship-in-arms. During the reception when a Korean host suggested that the guests and hosts sang together the *Song of the Chinese People's Volunteers*, immediately the sound of singing "Valiantly and spiritedly we march across the Yalu River ..." resounded through the night sky of Hamhung. Ri Chang In, head of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of South Ham-

yong Province, sang the famous Korean song *Aza-leas*. We suggested singing together *The Song of General Kim Il Sung*. Amidst the singing and applause, the Chinese and Korean comrades-in-arms were immersed in a sea of joy.

On the east coast, our hosts arranged for us a sightseeing tour at sea. We boarded a warship to visit an island.

On the following day, we drove 200 kilometres to the west coast and visited the West-Sea Sluice and a sea water utilization project. The west coast is on the same parallel as Dalian City of Liaoning Province. It is 138 nautical miles from Nampo on the west coast to Dandong of China.

### "Heroes Are Back"

In Autumn Pyongyang was clean and tidy. On October 27, the CKFA delegation visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum. 61-year-old Pak Dong Ho, director of the publicity department of the museum, was a tankman who had distinguished himself time and again on the battlefield in the Fatherland Liberation War. Upon learning that in the Chinese delegation there were veterans of the Chinese People's Volunteers and family members of the Volunteers' martyrs, with warm feelings he showed us around the museum where CPVs' historical photos, documents, objects and oil paintings were displayed.

When we entered the "Hero Roll of the Chinese People's Volunteers" exhibition room, our

**Sun Fengju (right), a member of the delegation, moved to see his photo displayed in the Museum**



eyes were fixed on the enlarged photos of about a hundred heroes of the CPVs displayed on the exhibit board. Senior Colonel Pak Dong Ho said, "These four are first-class models and special class heroes Luo Shengjiao, Sun Fengju..." Before Senior Colonel Pak finished his remarks, Sun Fengju, member of the delegation, turned his head, tears running down his cheeks. The photo Senior Colonel Pak was talking about was taken in 1952 when Sun Fengju was awarded the medals of first class model and special class hero at the age of 25. He had never expected that he would see his photo displayed in the exhibition room when he revisited the DPRK 35 years later. He gripped Park's hands and said excitedly, "I thank the Labour Party of the DPRK and the Korean people. The great friendship cemented with the blood of the Chinese and Korean peoples is unbreakable." Comrade Sun Fengju joined the Chinese People's Volunteers and went to Korea to fight in November 1950. When serving as a leader of the medical operation team, he risked his life to save a large number of wounded soldiers under the gunfire. Because of his outstanding service, he was awarded a special class merit and conferred upon the title of "first class model" by the leadership of the CPVs on September 24, 1952.

Senior Colonel Pak held Sun's hands tightly and said excitedly, "Heroes are back. Here we meet again, renewing our friendship." The members of the Chinese delegation had group photos taken with Senior Colonel Pak to mark the occasion.

### **At the "38th Parallel" of the Peninsula**

The CKFA delegation went to visit the hall where the two belligerent parties signed the Korean War Armistice Agreement. It was located on the northern side of the Korean War Armistice Line. Except some tables and stools originally used there was nothing else in the hall.

We then went to Panmunjom located at latitude 38° N, known as the "38th Parallel Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)". We mounted the Panmunjom Pavilion facing the south, getting a bird's-eye view of the area of the meeting place. In the

square there were 7 single-storey wooden houses built in a row from east to west. Three blue houses in the middle of the row were run by the US army, and four white ones at the two ends of the row by the Korean People's Army. The house standing in the middle of the row was used as a place where the two sides had meetings. At the southern and northern ends of each house American and Korean soldiers with loaded guns stood face to face in a stern atmosphere. Such a tiny area, where there had been only a few households, was known worldwide in the early 1950s and has become a "sensitive nerve" of the world.

Thirty-four years had passed since the truce of the Korean War, but visits between the people in North and South Korea were still obstructed in many ways. We saw a tree with a diameter of a bowl growing between the sleepers of the railway running across the South-North demarcation line. The tree was not planted; it was a "miracle" of the war!

When we veterans revisited the familiar places and saw everything before our eyes—the meeting place where negotiations were held, the barbed wire and the concrete wall at the Military Demarcation Line, past memories came back and myriads of thoughts welled up in our minds.

By special arrangement, we entered the meeting room where the Military Armistice Commission held negotiations. In the meeting room there was a long table laid in the east-west direction. Five representatives of the "United Nations forces" headed by the United States sat at the southern side of the table, and five Korean and Chinese representatives at the northern side. Right in the middle of the table was the "38th Parallel", the one we see on the map. Comrade Tian Sheng, a member of the Military Armistice Commission of the Chinese People's Volunteers, showed us around. He said, "In the past several decades, the signatory parties of the Korean War Armistice Agreement have held innumerable meetings here. Because the United States insists on not withdrawing troops, the tense situation on the Korean peninsula is hard to be eased."

In July 2003 sixteen years after that visit, I visited the DPRK again on the occasion of the



# Cherishing the Memory of Jim Pennington

Cong Weidong

On the morning of November 19, 2008 when I turned on my computer, I saw emails respectively from Annette Wight, twinning officer of the Policy and Performance Division of the Cheltenham Borough Council, and Ian Johnson, secretary general of the Weihai Link. In the emails they told me sadly that our common old friend Jim Pennington had passed away at home on the night the day before, only 5 days earlier from his 94th birthday. I was deeply grieved.

Jim Pennington was born in 1914 and grew up in Essex. He served in the Royal Navy and after leaving the navy he once worked for the Unilever. In 1963 he with his family moved to Cheltenham, a famous medium-sized garden city located in the central part of Cotswolds in central England, 100 miles northwest of London. It is surrounded by the green forest belt, the high yield grain growing area and the famous natural scenery zone at the edge of Cotswolds hills. In 1991 Jim Pennington was elected mayor

of Cheltenham. The term as mayor was only one year. In the following year he was elected alderman whose position was next only to mayor. In 1999 he was made honorary town free-man that enjoyed privileges. In 2001 he was conferred upon the MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his active services to the community as the first chairman of the Keep Cheltenham Tidy Group and president of the Parklands Community Centre. He was commended by the local media as "Cheltenham's most capable and active community leaders."

Jim Pennington was very much interested in China's history, particularly its modern history. He talked with gusto about the Red Army's Long March and had a systematic knowledge about the development of modern China. He was good at oil painting. In 1974 he visited Chairman Mao's former residence. Even today the oil painting *Shaoshanchong* he created is still hung at his home. He had devoted himself for a long time to the friendship between the U.

K. and China and served as vice president of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) and president of the Cheltenham local branch of the SACU. In September 1985 accompanied by the staffers of the CPAFFC, he visited Weihai and was fascinated by the city, which led to the signing of the agreement on establishing friendship city ties between Cheltenham and Weihai in May 1985. Cheltenham is Weihai's first international friendship city. Later he founded the Weihai Link in Cheltenham. Once every month the Weihai Link holds an activity for following China's development with interest, such as discussing problems related to China or making plans for exchanges with Weihai and also for deepening affection among its members. He often went to London, Gloucestershire and other places to give lectures on China and many times published articles about China in *China Eye*, a magazine run by the SACU. Alexis Cassin, incumbent alderman of the Cheltenham Borough Coun-

50th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. In the central hall of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace I paid respect to the remains of President Kim Il Sung. On the evening of July 27, I attended an evening party with the-

atrical performance in which ten thousand people took part. It was held by the government of Pyongyang Municipality in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. □

cil, said, Jim Pennington's love of China was an important part of his interest in the world's political, cultural and social development.

Vigorously promoted by Jim Pennington, Cheltenham and Weihai have been carrying out active friendly exchanges in the economic, educational and cultural fields. Even in 1989, the friendship ties between the two cities were not suspended. In July 1991, Mr. Paul from Cheltenham and the Weihai Plastic Co., Ltd. jointly established the Weihai International Plastic Cup-coffee Co., Ltd. In early 1992, the Cheltenham park management department opened special area for friendship with China (Weihai) in a

park. In the area there were flowers, trees and a small stream over which was built a bridge of Chinese style, showing the features of oriental China. In April 1994, Cheltenham organized a youth tourist group to visit Weihai. In April 2004 a Weihai friendly economic and trade delegation visited Cheltenham. Many activities were held during its visit: the Weihai Day, a meeting for delegation to brief on the investment environment in Weihai, a photo exhibition of 100-year Weihai and a Weihai folk music concert. In the past years, Cheltenham sent three teachers to Weihai for short-term study and invited three English interpreters from Weihai to Cheltenham to have

**The author with Jim Pennington in April 2004 during his visit to Cheltenham**



half a year free English training. The Weihai Link has exhibited more than 50 large-size colour pictures showing the new look of Weihai in Cheltenham and Gloucestershire, and helped the Weihai Municipal Archives Bureau collect precious historical materials about Weihai when leased to Britain. Musician John Dunton came to Weihai to collect children's and folk songs. After returning home,

he gave two lectures about them on the BBC music programme. Jim Pennington had made painstaking efforts for all these activities and the Weihai Municipal Government conferred upon him the title of Honorary Citizen of Weihai which he fully deserved. In May 2008 Ian Johnson told me that Jim Pennington even when lying in his hospital bed often discussed with him about the plan of friendly exchanges with Weihai. Some of the plans drawn by the two cities ten years before had not yet been implemented. Mr. Pennington was concerned about it all the time. Ian Johnson suggested that I write to Pennington to assure him the bright prospect of the exchanges between the two cities.

In April 2008, I, together with Zhang Jianguo, director of the Weihai Municipal Archives Bureau, went to the U. K. to collect the historical materials about the Chinese labourers during the First World War and Weihaiwei. During our stay there we had planned to visit Cheltenham on April 26 and pay a call on Jim Pennington and some other old friends and have a talk with Ian Johnson about the sales of the English version of the book *Weihaiwei under British Rule* that the Weihai Municipal Archives Bureau had sent to him earlier. After Christmas in 2007 Pennington was hospitalized. He was very weak and could concentrate his attention for only about 10 to 15 minutes. On the evening of April 24 when I talked to Ian

# Who Was Kathleen Hall?

**Diana Madgin (New Zealand)**

Rewi Alley, New Zealand's most famous old China hand, said, "If Kathleen Hall was a man, she'd be a hero". Alley became a household name in his adopted homeland as a founder of the Gung Ho cooperatives and a champion of the poor. His name is still magic in China, but Kathleen Hall's fame has really only surfaced in the last 15 years. Her work behind the lines in the Sino-Japanese war was secret and extraordinarily courageous, and like Alley, her entire focus was on the welfare of the peasants.

When China's President Jiang Zemin visited New Zealand in 1999, few Kiwis realised that deeply respected bridges of friendship had been built between our two countries for more than seventy years. A year later, on June 23rd 2000, a

women's health clinic, tribute to Kathleen Hall's service and dedication, was opened in Songjiazhuang, where she was based 67 years ago.

Songjiazhuang is in remote, mountainous, impoverished Quyang County in Hebei Province, southwest of Beijing. The staple diet is millet and more millet, and the only cash crop, red dates, is grown on pocket-handkerchief allotments, about 2m X 1m. The winters are so cold your fingers can't press the button on your camera. In 1935 Kathleen Hall, Anglican missionary nurse from old St. Sepulchres in Auckland (now the Anglican Maori Mission), decided to work here. She had shunned easier posts and chose instead villages where there was barely food for one meal a day and there were no medical supplies.

Johnson on the phone, he said, after having consulted Pennington's two sons, and also taking our tight schedule as well as Jim's health condition into consideration, he suggested that we give up our plan of seeing Jim at the hospital so as to avoid causing him too excited. Under such a circumstance, we cancelled our original plan. It was truly regretful that we lost the final chance to see him again.

On December 1, 2008, the Cheltenham Borough Council held the Jim Pennington's funeral in St. Mary Church. Over one thousand people including

government officials, his family members and friends attended the funeral. Many British media gave coverage to it and his life.

Jim Pennington was a good friend of the Chinese people, an envoy of Sino-British friendship and a founder of the friendship-city ties between Weihai and Cheltenham. He had spared no efforts to strengthen the friendship between the Chinese and British people and promote friendly exchanges and co-operation between Weihai and Cheltenham. We will always remember what he has done and feel very proud of having such a

good friend. His death is a great loss to the cause of friendly co-operation between Weihai and Cheltenham and even between China and Britain.

Mr. Jim Pennington, we will cherish your memory forever!

(February 22, 2009)

**The author is deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Weihai Municipal Government and permanent council member of the Weihai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.**

In 1989, Alley's old friend Tom Newnham went to China to discover who was this woman. Rewi had asked him to write her story. In Baoding, the closest city, Newnham met Madam Ma Baoru in the municipal foreign affairs office. He asked about He Ming Qing, Kathleen's Chinese name. Madam Ma was astonished: why would a foreigner want to know about a Chinese person? "I accompanied Tom about a week and discovered that this was not a Chinese, this was a very special New Zealand woman who spoke fluently in the local dialect. In this mountainous area, everyone still remembered her sixty years later. The old people shed tears when they spoke of her."

The group of villages on the borders of Quyang and Tang Counties are even today connected only by paths, and rivers must be forded on foot. When Kathleen set up her first cottage hospital in the village of Songjiazhuang, local peasants constructed the stone building; the money came from Kathleen's salary and the Anglican Church in New Zealand. People came long distances for a bowl of rice gruel or medical aid, and Kathleen walked the mountain tracks to visit those too sick or injured to move, always with her big yellow dog. She talked very fast, but she walked even faster—"like flying," one villager said, "and climbed mountains very quickly." The story is told of her going out at night and swimming a river to help someone too sick to walk. Local people followed, they were so anxious for her.

Kathleen was concerned about hygiene; there was very little water available in these mountains and plenty of filth to harbour germs. She taught local mothers how to keep clean in their mud-floored huts, how to save their teeth from rotting by brushing them, and to feed their babies regularly. "The local people listened to her," says Ma Baoru. "Our people had their own way of doing things, but if Kathleen said you should do this or do that, they did what she said. She was very quiet, but there was a sense of authority about her." Kathleen built churches in Songjiazhuang and Niuyan'gou and taught reading and writing in local homes because literacy was almost non-existent.

In the 1930s there was a dramatic contrast between modern medical facilities in Beijing and what was available to people in the villages, which was in effect nil. All the supplies and many of the doctors at the Peking Union Medical Hospital came from the United States—the hospital itself was built by the Rockefeller Foundation. The problem for Kathleen was how to smuggle supplies from Beijing to her clinic, because by 1938 the Japanese controlled Beijing and the main towns and routes south. As a British subject (all New Zealanders were then), she was deemed to be neutral by the Japanese, who were concerned to avoid conflict with the British. This helped her to negotiate the Japanese blockades, but her situation became increasingly dangerous at a time when summary execution was the order of the day.

Not far to the west of Songjiazhuang where Kathleen lived and worked, the communist-led Eighth Route Army controlled the Taihang Mountains. At first she was wary of Mao's peasant army: her Christian training and philosophy was antagonistic towards communism, and she feared that the communists were killing missionaries. However, word of General Nie Rongzhen's support for local peasants filtered through; in fact, he became Kathleen's close friend. Mao's tactics were to win the trust of the local peasants, then mobilise them into night raiders on Japanese outposts: farmers by day, guerillas by night. Kathleen realised that the robbery and rape that usually accompanied an army were not part of Mao's ethic; the Eighth Route Army was vigilant in enforcing the honesty and courtesy of its soldiers. "How often we would wait anxiously to see if all our young men (and some not so young) had safely returned," she wrote in her journal. "Sometimes [we would] give assistance to the wounded on their way up to the base hospital in the mountains, and sometimes [we would] mourn those who would never run cheerily down again."

**The author is on the National Executive of the New Zealand China Friendship Society and chairs the He Mingqing Scholarship Committee.**

**(To be Continued)**