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Front cover: From left: Xu Kuangdi, vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and president of the China-US Peoples Friendship Association, Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC, Jimmy Carter, former US President and Clark Randt, Jr., US Ambassador to China, at the meeting commemorating the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U. S. (December 5, 2007)

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2007 George Bush China-US Relations Conference Held in Washington D.C.

Liu Yi

The 2007 George Bush China-US Relations Conference jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Texas A&M University, the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation was held in Washington D.C. from October 22 to 25, 2007. Former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and former US President George Bush respectively led the Chinese and American delegations to attend the conference.

Outline of the Conference

Besides former Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, about 130 Chinese participants were invited to the conference, including Zhou Wenzhong, Chinese ambassador to the United States; Liu Yanhua, vice minister of science and technology; Ding Jingong, assistant to the chief of the general staff and

deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defence; Wang Chao, assistant minister of commerce, Ma Zhengang, director of the China Institute of International Studies, Zheng Hu, member of the Board of Directors of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC); Chen Zhaobo, independent director of the State Nuclear Power Technology Corporation, as well as representatives from the People's Bank of China, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), the Bank of Beijing, Chinese local governments and small and medium-sized enterprises. Leaders, teachers and students of a dozen famous Chinese universities were also present at the conference. The American side attached great importance to the conference. Among about 400 American participants there were unprecedentedly many high-ranking officials including former US President George Bush, Secre-

Former US President George Bush and Former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at the China-US Relations Conference





CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin speaking at the conference

tary of the Treasury Henry Paulson, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner, Under Secretary of Education Sarah Martinez Tucker, Congressman Chet Edwards, former National Security Advisor General Brent Scowcroft, former Secretary of Defence William Cohen and former Secretary of Commerce Barbara Hackman Franklin, as well as representatives of the business and academic circles and university students.

The theme of the conference was “Development, Energy and Security”, involving such special topics as sustainable development, trade, investment, higher education, health and medical care, climate change, nongovernmental exchanges, etc. At the plenary, panel and roundtable meetings, government officials, experts, scholars, businessmen, and students of the two countries expounded their views from different angles and levels and achieved the goal of seeking common grounds while reserving differences, deepening mutual understanding and expanding consensus.

Main Views Expressed

1. China-US Relations

At the dinner party on Oct. 24 hosted by George Bush Sr., former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing made a key-note speech. He said, in recent years China-US relations have maintained a good momentum of development and become one of the most important bilateral relations in the world. To maintain sound and steady development of China-US relations is not only in the interests of the two countries and peoples, but also conducive to peace and development of the world. To ensure the sound and steady development of bilateral relations, the two sides should make efforts to strengthen dialogue, mutual trust and co-operation, properly handle their differences, and particularly respect each other's strategic concern.

At the party George Bush Sr. stressed, to the United States, US-China relations are one of the most important bilateral relations. The convening of the present high-level and all-directional conference will surely help promote a healthy development of the bilateral relations. He also clearly expressed his expectation of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and strongly criticized politicization of the Olympic Games. To show his support for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Bush Sr. once again expressed his hope to lead the American Golden Knights parachute team to China to



US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson addressing the conference

give demonstration. He said that though at the age of 85, he wanted to be a member of the team to add fun to the 2008 Olympic Games.

In his speech, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson said, China's global influence is growing. The United States should give attention to increasing its capacity to strengthen constructive cooperation with China. Almost on all the issues including trade, national security, climate change as well as the DPRK, Iran, the Sudan, etc. the United States and China have overlapping interests. US-China relationship has not only become the focus of each other's interests, but also the centre for maintaining the global system of stability, security and prosperity.

2. China-US Economic and Trade Relations

In his speech, Wang Chao, assistant minister of commerce, said, economic and trade relations, the most important and dynamic component part

of China-US relations, are both important propellers and stabilizers of the bilateral relations. He stressed, though the current bilateral trade is unbalanced, the Chinese side has taken a series of measures to correct it. He also called on the U.S. Government to relax its restrictions on exporting high technology to China. As to the hot issues of quality and safety of Chinese products, Wang said, most of the Chinese products are up to standards. The American side should not take a part for the whole. What China pursues is 100 percent acceptance rate. China will not tolerate even one percent of its products unqualified. Meanwhile, "made in China" is only one link in the chain of world production and marketing. He hoped that other governments would work together with China to strengthen supervision and international cooperation.

Treasury Secretary Paulson said, China is now integrating with global economy and China's economy will affect the whole international community. In the economic field, the United States and China need each other in many aspects and broad areas. Export to China provides new markets for American products and services, beneficial to American enterprises, while import from China increases the variety of goods in the American market, reducing the prices and benefiting American consumers. Trade competition with China helps American industry keep its competitive edge, while competition also accelerates the market-oriented and more balanced development of China's economy. But, the rapid increase of trade and investment has also brought some problems to the bilateral relations, mainly because China has not yet acted fully in accordance with the international rules and regulations. Such problems as RMB exchange rate, safety of products, trade deficits, protection of intellectual property

rights, government subsidies, trade protectionism, etc. have hindered the further development of bilateral economic and trade ties and also gave the United States an excuse for trade protectionism and isolationism.

Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez, Trade Representative Schwab and Secretary of Energy Bodman also gave speeches at the conference and stated their own views.

3. Security

In his speech, Ding Jingong, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defence, said, China-US security relations are embarking on the track of constructive development. The Chinese side holds an optimistic attitude toward the future development of bilateral security relations. The development of the Asian Pacific region, even the whole world relies on the strengthening of cooperation in security between China and the United States. At the same time, the cooperation between the two sides in security has much space for development. Even on the Taiwan question on which the two countries have wide divergence, China and the United States still have common interests and room for cooperation. However, the two sides still lack mutual strategic trust. With China's sustained economic growth and continuous progress of modernization of its national defence, some Americans are becoming more suspicious and wary of China. In particular, the *Military Power of the People's Republic of China 2007* and the *Quadrennial Defense Review Report* released by the US Department of Defence even say that China is the country most likely to compete with the United States militarily in the future. All this has impaired the mutual trust between the military forces of the two countries, exerting negative influence on the development of China-U.S. security relations.

David Sedney, deputy assistant secretary of defense, said, China has misunderstood the intention of US policies in the fields of security such as the issues of Taiwan, Tibet, military mutual trust, etc. So, it is imperative for the two sides to communicate and establish a dialogue mechanism to clear up misunderstanding. Scowcroft said, in ad-

dition to the Strategic Dialogue and Strategic Economic Dialogue, the two countries should establish the Strategic Defence Dialogue to handle the problems that the two countries face in security.

4. People-to-People Exchanges

Both the Chinese and American sides held that it is very important to strengthen exchanges between the two peoples. The conference specially set up the China-US People-to-People Exchange Forum. In her speech at the opening ceremony of the conference, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin from her personal experience reviewed the tortuous development of China-US relations from not knowing each other to having some knowledge about each other, from perceptual knowledge to rational knowledge and from feeling strange to familiar with each other. She said today's China-US relations are hard to come by. Though in bilateral relations problems crop up one after another and one trouble follows another, as long as both sides look at differences from the strategic perspective, give less thought to ideological differences, and tackle the problems in a realistic way, China-US relations will surely advance on a sound track.

Troy Nash, chairman of the People to People International's Board of Trustees, said most of the human conflicts arise from apprehension and misunderstanding. The nongovernmental friendship organizations of the two countries should continue their efforts to promote contacts and understanding and build up friendship between the two peoples. Jim Dumas, honorable deputy executive director of Sister Cities International, said, friendship city ties play a very important role in modern international relationships and through all directional basic level cooperation in the economic, cultural, educational and sports fields help shorten the distance between the people of different countries. From his own experience of doing China-US trade in the United States for over 20 years, Zhang Xueyuan, a Chinese American, told the participants the huge benefits brought by the China-US mutually beneficial trade to the people and enterprises of the two countries. He said, when there are business disputes with the Chinese side, the American side should show their good

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Leads Delegation to Attend 2nd UCLG World Congress in Jeju, ROK

Zhang Ruoning

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its president Chen Haosu attended the Second World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in Jeju, the Republic of Korea from October 27 to November 1, 2007. With "Changing Cities Are Driving Our World" as its theme, the Congress consisted of UCLG statutory meetings, plenary sessions, forums and the world urban fair. Twenty forums on specific topics were held during the Congress. ROK Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, former Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat Inga Bjork Klevby were present at the opening session. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu in his capacity as president of UCLG Asia-Pacific Regional Section (AS-

PAC) made a speech at the opening session. About 2,100 local government representatives from more than 110 countries participated in the Congress. President Chen Haosu, on behalf of UCLG-ASPAC, presented a monument symbolizing local governments and cities working hand in hand to the Government of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju.

Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning Elected UCLG President

According to the Constitution of UCLG, a new UCLG Presidency, vice presidents, World Council and Executive Bureau are elected every three years. At the UCLG Presidency election held on October 31, Zhang Guangning, mayor of

Guangzhou of China and a candidate of UCLG-ASPAC, was elected co-president. Bertrand Delanoe, mayor of Paris, France, was reelected president. Other co-presidents elected were Mayor of Quito Paco Monayo of Ecuador, Mayor of Johannesburg Amos Masondo of South Africa and Mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbas of Turkey.

The CPAFFC, Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangzhou were elected members of the World Council, and the CPAFFC, Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin also members of the Executive Bureau. Haikou became a member of the World Organization of UCLG and UCLG-ASPAC.

Active Participation of Chinese Representatives

intentions and understanding instead of rashly seeking the judiciary to punish China.

Opinions about the Conference

The Chinese participants unanimously held that it was a successful conference, at which China's firm stand on matters of principle and its positive attitudes towards developing constructive cooperation with the United States were made known. Many Chinese and American participants said, it was a high-level grand conference which so many US secretaries of the Cabinet, top Ameri-

can experts on China-US relations and business elites were invited to attend.

American mainstream media followed the conference with interest. Associated Press, Reuters, Voice of America, and *Washington Post* gave the conference objective coverage. *World Journal*, the largest Chinese newspaper in the U.S., carried positive reports for three days running. The Hong Kong Phoenix TV said, this high-level and new-styled conference with rich contents will bring new thinking to the China-US relations that are facing challenges. □

The new UCLG Presidency with Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë (L.3) of France as president; Mayor of Johannesburg Amos Masondo (L.1) of South Africa, Mayor of Quito Paco Monayo (L.2) of Ecuador, Mayor of Guangzhou Zhang Guangning (L. 4) of China and Mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbas (L.5) of Turkey as co-presidents, and Mayor of South Bay Clarence Anthony (L. 6) of the U.S. as treasurer



About 250 representatives from 20 Chinese provinces and cities attended the Congress. President Chen Haosu spoke on several important occasions, explaining China's positive attitude toward international cooperation between local governments. He said in his opening speech: "We put emphasis on

strengthening cooperation between cities and local governments. Through such bilateral or multilateral exchanges and by respecting, learning from and supporting each other, it is hoped that these cities will achieve mutually beneficial and win-win results and common development. Inter-city and in-

ter-local governmental cooperation is the basis for solidarity and cooperation of humanity and harmony among cities forms the foundation of a harmonious world. City diplomacy will contribute greatly to world peace and development."

Exhibitions on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Shang-

President Chen Haosu (L.5) and other UCLG officials with leaders of the Jeju Provincial Government of the ROK at the unveiling ceremony of the monument



hai Expo 2010, and Urban Development of Guangzhou and Haikou were mounted respectively by Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Haikou at the World Urban Fair at the Jeju International Convention Centre.

Representatives of Chinese cities took part in various forums. Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning made a speech entitled “Building Livable Cities by Adhering to Development in a Scientific Way” at the Plenary Session with the theme “Cities the Future of Humanity: Addressing Climate Change”. He said, being one of the cities in the world, Guangzhou will further enhance its exchanges and cooperation with other cities, formulate and implement effective policies to reduce emissions, rationally utilize resources, protect environment, and take effective measures to conserve energy and

reduce emissions in an effort to ensure coordinated development between the economy and the population, resources and environment. At one of the forums, Wang Li, vice mayor of Harbin, pointed out, economic globalization calls for social harmony and the cities that want to build themselves into civilized ones should take the road of harmonious development. Only by persisting in opening up and inclusiveness can a city achieve harmony. Hong Hao, deputy secretary general of the Shanghai Municipal Government and director general of the Bureau of the Shanghai World Expo Coordination, gave a briefing on the preparatory work of the Shanghai Expo 2010. Sang Guangyu, vice mayor of Yangzhou, talked about Yangzhou’s efforts to explore ways to protect and renovate the old city areas. Chen Feng, deputy secretary of the

CPC Committee of Dongsi Neighbourhood of Beijing’s Dongcheng District, briefed the participants on how the Neighbourhood Committee combines the Olympic ideas with community construction to promote community development and social progress by creating new modes of mass sports and cultural activities.

Representatives of other Chinese provinces and cities took part in various forums, at which they gave out brochures about their respective provinces and cities, established links and looked for opportunities of cooperation. Through these activities, they have further enhanced China’s image as a country adhering to reform and opening up and seeking cultural progress, peace and friendship, and deepened understanding and mutual trust with the participants from other countries. □

(Continued from p.20)

Monterrey. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin; Hu Yongji, vice chairman of the Provincial Committee of the Hubei People’s Political Consultative Conference; Chen Yuming, commercial counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Mexico; Luis Ernesto Derbez, former Mexican foreign and economic minister and secretary for international affairs of the Central Committee of the National Action Party, and Vice President Sanchez of the Mexican General Chamber of Commerce attend-

ed the forum and gave speeches on the occasion. During the forum, Lourdes Aranda, undersecretary of foreign affairs; Luis Echeveria, former Mexican president; Jose Natividad Gonzales Paras, governor of Nuevo Leon; Mario Vazquez Rana, member of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, chairman of the International Olympic Solidarity Commission, chairman of the Pan American Sports Organization and chairman of the Board of the Mexican Publishing Organization separately met with

or entertained the delegations.

More than 200 people from the Mexican political, business, academic and press circles attended the forum with the theme of how to strengthen Mexico-China economic and trade cooperation to achieve win-win results. The participants of the two sides analyzed from different angles the Chinese and Mexican economic situation and put forward constructive views on how to balance the bilateral trade and discussed the two countries’ economic and trade prospects. □

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Iran and Syria

Jia Ling

At the invitation of Ahad Mohammadi, president of the Iran-China Friendship Society (ICFS) and Mohammed Saeid Bekheitan, president of the Syria-China Friendship Association (SCFA), a CPAFFC delegation led by its President Chen Haosu paid a goodwill visit to the two countries from September 1 to 11, 2007. During the visit, the delegation met with the leaders of the two countries and made extensive contacts with leading officials of the local governments and personages of various circles and had in-depth discussions with the ICFS and the SCFA on the exchanges and cooperation between the two sides and discussed with the SCFA about the detailed plan for the Second China-Arab Friendship Conference to be held in Damascus in 2008.

During its visit in Iran and Syria, the delegation was accorded warm and friendly reception. Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, former Iranian president and current chairman of the International

Centre for Dialogue among Civilizations; Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie, Iranian vice president and chairman of the Cultural Heritage Organization; Dr. Manoucher Mohammadi, Iranian vice foreign minister and chairman of the Centre of International Studies; Jafar Mili-Monfared, deputy governor of Isfahan; Mohammed Saeid Bekheitan, assistant secretary of the Regional Leadership of the Syrian Baath Arab Socialist Party (BASP) and president of the SCFA; Khalil Mashhadiah, secretary of Damascus Branch of the Baath Arab Socialist Party; Nawaf Sheikh Fares, governor of Al Quneitra, and secretary of the Tadmur Branch of the BASP, respectively met with or entertained the delegation. Leading officials of the ICFS led by its President Ahad Mohammadi and members of the Executive Committee of the SCFA led by its President Mohammed Saeid Bekheitan respectively had working meetings with the CPAFFC delegation.

Former Iranian President Khatami meeting with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin Visits Costa Rica

Deng Lan

A CPAFFC delegation led by its Vice President Li Xiaolin paid a visit to Costa Rica from November 2 to 5, 2007. President of the Legislative Assembly Francisco Antonio Pacheco, Minister of the Presidency and brother of the

Costa Rican president Rodrigo Arias and Vice Foreign Minister Edgar Ugalde met with the delegation. The delegation visited Belen, and had talks with the municipal leaders of Belen and Grecia as well as with leading members of the Costa

Rica-China Friendship Association. Juan Manuel de Jesus Flores, president of the Central American Federation of Friendship with China and mayor of Quezaltepeque of El Salvador specially came to meet CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin

During its visit, the delegation had extensive contacts with personages of various circles of the two countries, expressing the Chinese people's friendship and goodwill for the Iranian and Syrian people. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu elaborated China's independent foreign policy, analyzed the current international situation and hotspot issues and stated China's consistent principled stand of supporting the just struggle of the Arab and all the developing countries. Chen also briefed about the long unremitting efforts made by the CPAFFC and the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) to strengthen China-Iran and

China-Arab people-to-people friendly exchanges and some of the influential activities held by the two organizations in recent years and the concept of building a harmonious world advocated by the Chinese leaders.

When in transit through Dubai, the delegation visited the Dubai Cultural Council of the United Arab Emirates and the Dubai Port World and had talks and exchanged views with the leading members of the two organizations on establishing working relations or consolidating the current cooperative relations between the two sides.□

The CPAFFC delegation having a working meeting with the Syria-China Friendship Association



Francisco Antonio Pacheco, president of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, having a cordial conversation with CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin



and had talks with her about future cooperation with the CPAFFC.

This was the first important Chinese delegation visiting Costa Rica since Costa Rican President visited China in October 2007. Minister Arias said that he had accompanied the president on his successful visit to China, during which the Costa Rican delegation signed with the Chinese government quite a few agreements on cooperation and got much humanitarian aid from China. To this he expressed his sincere gratitude and said, the Costa Rican government and people feel proud that their country is the first Central American country that has established diplomatic relations with China. He said, it is a wise act that Costa Rica establishes diplomatic relations with China, which will bring benefits to the country and its people. Li Xiaolin said, because of separation from each other for more than 60 years,

the Chinese and Costa Rican people have little knowledge about each other. Two years ago she failed to visit Costa Rica as scheduled due to visa problem. Now, the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries has brought good opportunities for exchanges of visits between the two countries. The CPAFFC will coordinate with various Chinese departments to carry out all kinds of exchange activities such as sending acrobatic troupes and song and dance ensembles, holding dress and adornment exhibitions, etc. to enhance understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

During her visit in Belen, Vice President Li Xiaolin was accorded grand and warm reception. Mayor Alvarado and Chairman Villegas of the Municipal Council of Belen, Mayor Arquedas and chairman Alfaro of the Municipal Council

of Grecia, together with other government officials and representatives of youth and children of the two cities welcomed the delegation and invited Li to answer questions about exchanges between the young people of the two countries, environmental protection, women's status in China, etc. She answered the questions one by one. The meeting proceeded in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

The mayors of the two cities hoped that their cities would establish friendly relations with appropriate Chinese cities. Vice President Li said, in the past as the two countries hadn't had diplomatic relations, the development of friendly relations between cities of the two countries was hindered. Now we would give great support to developing relations between the cities of the two countries and give priority to the above two cities. □

CPAFFC and CRFA Delegation Attends Celebrations of 50th Anniversary of Russia-China Friendship Association

Chen Lei

Invited by the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), the delegation of the CPAFFC and the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) led by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu paid a visit to Russia to attend the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the RCFA from October 21 to 28, 2007. The delegation included Liu Shu, former vice president of the China Association for Science and Technology; Zhu Jiamu, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); Yu Rongren, president of the Hangzhou Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; Gao Mang, adviser to the CRFA, well-known translator of Russian literature and painter; and Li Min, daughter of Chairman Mao Zedong. The visit was a part of the ac-

tivities of the Year of China in Russia.

The meeting in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the RCFA was held at the auditorium of the Russian State Social University (RSSU) on October 23. Present at the meeting were Academician S. L. Tikhvinsky, honorary president of the RCFA; Academician Mikhail Titarenko, president of the RCFA and director of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Galina Kulikova, first vice president of the RCFA; Igor A. Rogachev, vice president of the RCFA, member of the Federation Council and former Russian ambassador to China; Academician V. Rukov, vice president of the RCFA and rector of the RSSU; other leading members and council members of the RCFA, leading members

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu (L.3) with recipients of the title of Friendship Ambassador: Igor Ivanov (L.1), S. L. Tikhvinsky (L.2), G. V. Kulikova (L.4) and M. Titarenko





The delegation at the symposium on personnel training in social sciences held by the Russian State Social University

of its local branches, Russian veterans and representatives from all walks of life in Moscow, totaling more than 400. All members of the CPAFFC and the CRFA delegation, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Li Huilai and other diplomats of the Chinese Embassy in Russia attended the meeting.

In his letter of congratulations to the meeting, Russian President Putin said, "Over the years, activists of the Russia-China Friendship Association have made very fruitful contributions to enhancing mutual understanding and overall cooperation between Russia and its great neighbour China. It is of essential significance to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RCFA as activities of the Year of China are booming in Russia."

In his congratulatory letter, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that the RCFA had made "important and valuable" contributions to the activities of the Year of Russia and of China. He hoped the RCFA would continue its efforts in the coming Year of the Russian Language in 2009, and Year of the Chinese Language in 2010.

Russian Ambassador to China Sergey Razov and Chinese Ambassador to Russia Liu Guchang also sent their letters of congratulations on the occasion.

RCFA President Titarenko made a long speech, reviewing the development of the RCFA

in the past 50 years. He pointed out, through all different historical periods since 1957 when the RCFA (successor to the former Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association) was founded, the organization, by uniting a great number of personages of various circles in the Soviet Union and Russia and closely cooperating with the CPAFFC and the CRFA, has constantly consolidated the traditional friendship between the two peoples and played an active role in promoting the development of relations, the normalization of diplomatic ties and the establishment of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between our two countries. Even at times when bilateral relations were deteriorating, the RCFA did not stop its unswerving efforts. With its hard work over the past 50 years, the RCFA has gained praise from all circles and high reputation at home and abroad.

In their speeches, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and CRFA Vice President Zhu Jiamu extended congratulations on the 50th anniversary of RCFA. Chen said, in his Report to the Seventeenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China on China's development in the coming five years, Chinese President Hu Jintao emphasized the concept of building a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity and attached great importance to good-neighbourly friendship and cooperation between China and



RCFA Vice President G. V. Kulikova speaking at the opening ceremony of the Exhibition of Paintings by Gao Mang

Russia. Zhu Jiamu briefed about the exchanges between the circles of social sciences of the two countries and expressed his hope to “strengthen exchanges between young scholars of the two countries”. Charge d’Affaires ad Interim Li Huilai also made a speech.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to Sino-Russian friendship, Chen Haosu conferred the title of Friendship Ambassador on S. L. Tikhvinsky, M. Titarenko, G. V. Kulikova, Igor Ivanov and O. Kriuchkova, and presented them certificates at the meeting. RCFA President Titarenko awarded the Medal of Contributions to Russia-China Friendship to 6 Chinese including Chen Haosu, Liu Shu, Zhu Jiamu, and Gao Mang. Chen Haosu and Zhu Jiamu were also conferred the title of Honorary Academician by the Russian Academy of Social Sciences.

After the meeting, the art troupe of the RSSU gave wonderful performances. The students sang in Chinese the Chinese national anthem *March of the Volunteers* and the song *Night at the Suburbs of Moscow*, winning warm acclaim from all present.

On October 24, the delegation attended the opening ceremony of the Exhibition of Paintings by Gao Mang held at the Ostrovsky Museum. Over 50 paintings of Russian literary masters such as Alexander Pushkin aroused immense interest of

Russian mass media and visitors. CRFA Vice Presidents Liu Shu and Zhu Jiamu and Head of the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies of the CASS Xing Guangcheng delivered lectures at the symposium on personnel training in social sciences held by the RSSU.

At the Academic Degree Evaluation and Academic Committee Meeting held by the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences on October 24, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu was conferred upon the honorary Ph.D. degree. In his speech at the meeting, Chen Haosu elaborated on the historical and social significance of China’s peaceful development and briefed about the great achievements of the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC. He pledged, he would devote all energy of his life to the cause of friendship and academic exchanges between China and Russia.

S. Orlova, vice chairperson of the Federation Council met with Li Min in Moscow. She expressed her high respect for Chairman Mao Zedong and said she was greatly pleased to meet his offspring. Li Min recalled her years in the Soviet Union when she studied and lived there, and expressed her best wishes to the Russian people and President Putin.

The delegation also visited St. Petersburg. ☐

China-Japan Friendship Association Delegation in Japan

Zheng Lidan

Invited by the Shorinji Kempo Group and the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) delegation led by Vice President Jing Dunquan visited Tokyo, Miyazaki and Fukuoka from November 2 to 9, 2007. During its stay in Japan, from November 2 to 4, the delegation attended a series of activities celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Shorinji Kempo, and exchanged views with the organization on promoting future contact. From November 5 to 9, the delegation had a working meeting with the leading members from the JCFA headquarters and its local branches, and called on heads of local governments and

assemblies including Hideo Higashikokubaru, governor of Miyazaki, Hiroshi Yoshida, mayor of Fukuoka, and Hiroshi Kubo, vice president of the Fukuoka City Assembly. They had frank and in-depth discussions on current Sino-Japanese relations, strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two friendship associations and further enhancing exchanges and cooperation between the local governments of the two countries.

Attending Celebration of 60th Anniversary of Shorinji Kempo

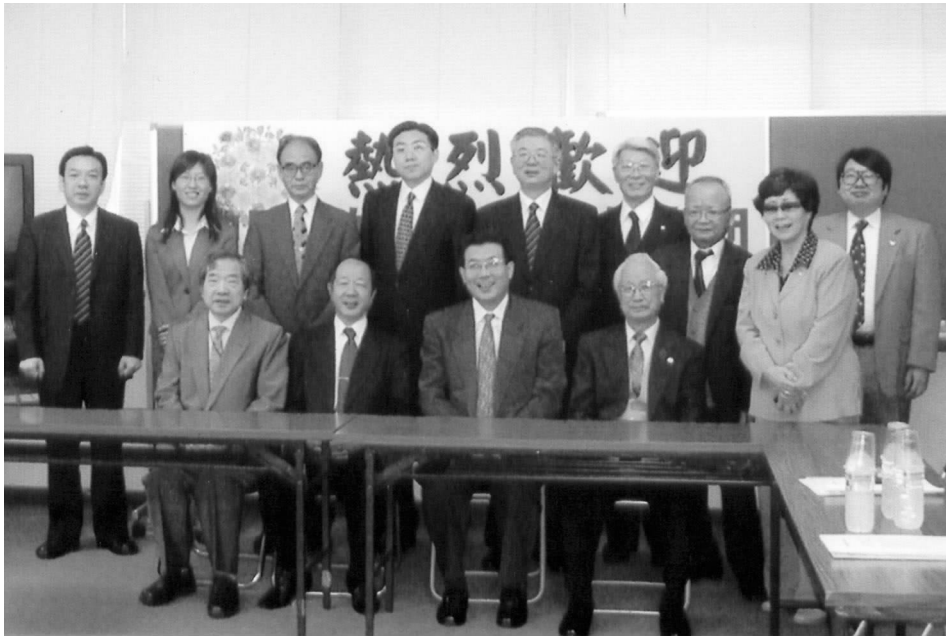
In Tokyo, Vice President Jing Dunquan and his party attended the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the estab-

lishment of Shorinji Kempo and successively met with heads of the Shorinji Kempo Group including President Yuki So, Chairman Tsunehiro Arai and Zenrin Gakuen President Hiromichi Yamasaki, during which they reached agreement on strengthening exchanges and cooperation and on pushing forward the project of exchange between the youth of China and Japan. Vice President Jing also met with important political figures including Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Masahiko Komura and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, and exchanged views with them on expanding Sino-Japanese nongovernmental relations.

In his speech at the celebra-

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of Shorinji Kempo celebrated





CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan and his party with friends of the Japan-China Friendship Association Tokyo Branch

tion of the 60th anniversary of Shorinji Kempo, Vice President Jing extended his congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the organization, and praised its founding father Doshin So for his persistence in Sino-Japanese friendship and his great contributions to the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan and the friendly exchanges between the two countries. His successor, President Yuki So carried on his father's behest and made unremitting efforts to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Japanese people, especially in promoting cultural and sports exchanges. The Vice President said, he hoped under the leadership of Yuki So the Shorinji Kempo Group would continue to work for Sino-Japanese lasting friendship and make new contributions to the cultural ex-

changes between the two sides.

Yuki So said, for 60 years since the founding of Shorinji Kempo, the Group has persistently held to the concept advocated by its founder: "For realizing world peace we have to start with friendly relations between Japan and China. China is Japan's neighbouring country and without Sino-Japanese friendship peace in Asia is impossible, no peace in Asia, no peace in the world." Therefore, we have been working for the cause of friendship between the two countries. I have accompanied my father on his visit to China and was deeply touched by the friendly feelings between our two peoples through my contact with Chinese friends. Now, I am responsible for passing on this conviction in friendship between Japan and China so that our two peoples will enjoy friendship generation after

generation.

Strengthening Cooperation with JCFA

At meetings with leaders from the JCFA headquarters and its local branches, Vice President Jing highly praised the organization for its ceaseless efforts ever since its establishment to promote people-to-people exchanges and the development of Sino-Japanese relations, despite all the difficulties. He said, the year 2007 is the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan as well as the China-Japan Culture and Sports Exchange Year. Exchanges of visit between high-ranking officials have been smoothly conducted, and a series of colourful friendly exchanges have been carried out by both sides in all fields, pushing bilateral relations to a higher stage. He empha-

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Gabon, Republic of the Congo and Democratic Republic of the Congo

Tang Ruimin

At the invitation of the Gabon-China Friendship Association (GCFA), the Congolese Association of Friendship Among the Peoples (CAFP) and the Mzee Laurent Desire Kabila Foundation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku led a friendship delegation to visit the above three countries from September 20 to October 2, 2007. The delegation met with Prime Minister Jean Eyeghe Ndong, Senate President Rene Radembino Coniquet and Leon Paul Mvonba Okori, second vice president of the National Assembly of Gabon; Justin Koumba, president of the National Assembly, Gerard Bitsindou, president of the Constitutional Court, and Jeanne Francoise Leckomba Loumeto-Pombo, minister of Women's Promotion and Women's Integration in Develop-

ment of the Republic of the Congo. Paul Toungui, first honorary president of the GCFA and minister of state for finance, Rene Ndemezo Obiang, first vice president of the GCFA and government spokesperson, and Pierette Djouassa, procurator-general of Gabon, also met with the delegation. At the reception celebrating the 58 anniversary of the People's Republic of China held at the Chinese Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Pierre Lumbi Okongo, minister of state for infrastructure, public works & reconstruction; Toussaint Tshilombo Send, minister of information, press and communications, Sylvain Joel Bifwila Tchamwala, minister of national economy, and Pardonne Kalibi Mulanga, minister of youth and sports of the DRC, met with the delegation respectively. During the visit, the delega-

sized, nature has made China and Japan forever neighbours and it is only long-lasting friendship between the two countries that would conform to the fundamental interests of both peoples and contribute to peace, stability and development in Asia, and the world at large. Looking into the next 35 years of Sino-Japanese friendship, the CJFA is willing to continue to expand exchanges and cooperation with the JCFA, jointly striving for further enhancing mutual trust between our peoples and lasting friendship between our two countries.

At the Fukuoka Branch of

JCFA, Jing Dunquan made a speech entitled "Current Situation of Sino-Japanese Relations", briefing on current political, economic, cultural and personnel exchanges between the two countries and China's domestic development, especially the Seventeenth National Congress of the CPC. He said, the Sino-Japanese relations are experiencing a crucial transitional period. The friendship between the two countries, in the final analysis, is in essence the friendship between the two peoples, and we can not create a better future for bilateral relations without wide support and active participation of the two

peoples and hard work by the friendly organizations of both sides. He hoped friendship organizations of the two countries would uphold their beliefs, carry forward the cause and make efforts to organize various exchange activities, continuing to work for the noble goals of "peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, win-win cooperation, and common development". Japanese participants expressed that their confidence in positive development of bilateral friendship was strengthened and were willing to make persistent efforts to realize lasting friendship between Japan and China. □

tion also had working meetings with the GCFA, the CAFP and the Mzee Laurent Desire Kabila Foundation.

Gabon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are located in central Africa and endowed with rich forests and mineral resources. China has invested 5 billion US dollars in Gabon to exploit iron ore in northern Gabon and construct such infrastructures as harbours and railways. Gabonese Prime Minister Jean Eyeghe Ndong said, the Belinga Iron Mine developed by China would push the Gabonese-Chinese cooperation to a very important phase. President Omar Bongo Ondimba and the Gabonese government assured their support to this South-South cooperation project between China and Gabon. The country will pay attention to environmental protection during the process of economic development. National Assembly Vice President Leon Paul Mvonba Okori cherished deep friendly feelings towards China. He said, Chairman Mao Zedong and President Omar Bongo Ondimba, leaders of the older generation, had laid down a solid foundation for the relations between Gabon and China. He believed, the prospect of cooperation between the two countries is bright and will benefit both peoples.

The GCFA was founded in 2003. Its presi-

dent Jean Ping is also the deputy prime minister and minister of state for foreign affairs. He promotes friendship between Gabon and China, and many cabinet members of the government have joined the association as friendly personages. At a working meeting between the two friendship associations, the Gabonese side expressed they would absorb more important people into the organization and set up provincial and municipal branches. In future, they would send to China delegations of people from the fields of economy, trade, agriculture, culture, sports and youth, and promote the establishment of friendship cities between the two countries. Both sides agreed to exchange visits every two years, and thus, in 2008 a GCFA delegation will come to China.

The second country the delegation visited is the Republic of the Congo, a country with beautiful scenery, humid climate and favourable natural conditions. Since February 1964 when China and the Republic of the Congo established diplomatic relations, friendship and cooperation have developed smoothly in various areas. During his meeting with the delegation, President of the National Assembly Justin Koumba said, exchanges between the people of different countries help promote the development of state relations. The National Assembly supports all nongovernmental or-



Gabonese Prime Minister Jean Eyeghe Ndong meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku



Justin Koumba, president of the National Assembly of the Republic of the Congo, meeting with the delegation

ganizations participating in the political, economic and social affairs, and hopes to strengthen cooperation with China, furthering the development of friendly relations between the Congolese and the Chinese people. Gerard Bitsindou, president of the Constitutional Court expressed, as a friend and colleague of President Denis Sassou Nguesso, he advocates to have cooperation with China in all fields and jointly push forward a package of projects.

Founded in June 1966, the CAFPC has maintained contact with the CPAFFC for a long time. Vital Balla has taken the presidency of the association ever since 1974. Despite all the difficulties it encountered and frequent changes of government, the association has always kept good relationship with the government, and upheld Congolese-Chinese friendship. During the working meeting, both sides agreed to establish a long-term cooperation mechanism especially for strengthening economic and trade cooperation. The two organizations signed a MOU on Friendly Cooperation. President Vital Balla will lead a high-level delegation of friendly personages to visit China in 2008.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is formerly known as Zaire. Because of years of wars, there have been no people-to-people exchanges between China and the DRC for a long time. At

the National Day reception held at the Chinese Embassy, Minister of Information, Press and Communications Tshilombo Send said, with China's investment projects increasing in the country, the people here became more and more interested in China, therefore, it was significantly necessary to establish a DRC-China friendship association which would help enhance bilateral relations. He would personally contribute to the establishment of the organization. The Mzee Laurent Desire Kabila Foundation, headed by Jaynet D. Kabila, twin sister of President Kabila, also expressed the hope to play an active role in promoting the establishment of the DRC-China friendship association so as to add a cooperation platform for both sides.

After the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, serious considerations have been given to exchanges between Chinese and African nongovernmental organizations, and the fields of bilateral cooperation are widening. The delegation's visit has strengthened the CPAFFC's cooperation with nongovernmental organizations in Africa. It is believed that as Sino-African exchanges increase, the nongovernmental friendship-with-China organizations will play an ever greater role. There is a very bright prospect for people-to-people friendship. □

CPAFFC Delegation Attends China-Mexico Forum

Deng Lan



jointly sponsored by the Mexico-China Economic and Cultural Exchange Centre, the Mexican General Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World and successively held in Monterrey, an important industrial city in northern Mexico, and Mexico City, capital of Mexico. The Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon took part in organizing the forum held in
(Continued on p.8)

From October 29 to 31, 2007, the CPAFFC delegation, the goodwill delegation and the entrepreneurs' delega-

tion led by CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin attended the Forum of China-Mexico: Strategic Partners of the 21st Century

The CPAFFC delegation with former Mexican President Luis Echeverria and other Mexican friends



CPAFFC Delegation Attends 21st USCPFA National Convention

Ba Cuicui

At the invitation of U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping and his party attended the 21st USCPFA National Convention held from October 5 to 6, 2007 at Sarasota, Florida. Mr. Robert Sanborn and Ms. Marge Ketter were re-elected president and treasurer of the organization for another two-year term. Li Jianping held discussions during the convention with USCPFA leaders and reached consensus on the cooperative plans for 2008 between the two organizations. After the convention, Sarasota, the host city, held a signing ceremony with officials from Siming District of Xiamen to formally tie their friendship-city relations.

Over eighty representatives from the four regional chapters of USCPFA attended the convention, the theme of which is "China's New Deal" that focuses on China's recent achievements in poverty reduction and the building of harmonious society.

USCPFA is one of the oldest and largest friendship-with-China organizations in the U.S. and has received strong support from relevant Chinese departments. Li Liansheng, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., presented to the USCPFA president a message of congratulations from Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong at the convention, in which the Ambassador spoke highly of the contributions that USCPFA has made to promoting cooperation and friendship between China and the U.S. He said that as nations of important influence, China and the U.S. have common interests and responsibilities to safeguard world peace and promote common development.

He expressed his hope that USCPFA would continue to play an active part in enhancing people-to-people exchanges, so as to build a solid foundation for the sustainable development of China-US relations.

At the opening ceremony, Ms. Lou Ann Palmer, mayor of Sarasota, hailed the fruitful exchanges between the city and Siming District of Xiamen in the past six years and expressed her good expectations for the sister city relationship, believing that it would help the two peoples to deepen their mutual understanding and friendship. She conferred the title of honorary citizen on Vice President Li Jianping and the other Chinese guests.

Altogether fifteen sessions of workshops were held, where experts and scholars from China and the U.S. discussed topics related to China's economic development, education, traditional culture, art, Beijing 2008 Olympics and etc.

Li Jianping made a keynote speech entitled "China's Poverty Challenge", in which he talked about China's great achievements in poverty reduction since the start of reform and opening up, the new policies and results in coordinating the development of urban and rural areas, relieving farmer's burden and building harmonious society. He also briefed the participants about CPAFFC's assistance to the two poor villages in Yunnan Province, which were included in the national poverty reduction plan as well as the poverty reduction programmes carried out by the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development under the CPAFFC. He pointed out that since China is still at the developing stage, there is



CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping speaking at the 21st USCPFA National Convention

still a long way to go before it finally eliminates poverty. However, China is now thoroughly applying the scientific outlook on development, which is people-oriented, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable, and has embarked on a path of building harmonious society and a moderately prosperous society in all respects. China is able to solve the poverty problem and let the entire Chinese people share the benefits of its economic development. The Vice President's speech aroused great interest among the participants and he answered their questions about China's taxes, medical care and social insurance.

In his speech, American scholar Sidney Gluck said that in recent years, China's policy orientation has shifted to caring more for the disadvantaged group and pursuing social harmony. China has great potential for further development, which in nature is peaceful and beneficial to both China and other countries in the world. China will play an increasingly important role in the international arena in the 21st century.

American businessman Allan Staib briefed the audience about China's business environment and the changes in social life as he knew from his thirteen years' experience of doing business in China. In his view, the Chinese government has always been active in attracting foreign invest-

ment and has granted preferential treatment in taxation and other aspects to investors. In recent years, China has made remarkable improvement in investment environment, legal system, protection of intellectual property right and human resources, which have greatly increased the interest and confidence of overseas investors. The development of market economy and entry into WTO have not only made China's society more open, but also lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. All countries in the world will also benefit from China's sustainable development.

The USCPFA National Convention is held every other year. It will host a seminar on US-China relations in Washington D.C. in April 2008 and has extended invitation to the CPAFFC to organize a group of scholars, experts to the seminar, and to have discussions on the topics such as China's social development, environmental protection and Chinese traditional culture which the American participants are greatly interested in. □



Activities Commemorating 110th Anniversary of Rewi Alley's Birth Held in Gansu

Our Staff Reporter

2007 saw the 110th anniversary of the birth of our New Zealand friend Rewi Alley, 80th anniversary of his arrival in China and the 20th anniversary of his death. A series of activities were held by the CPAFFC and the Gansu Provincial People's Government from September 8 to 10 in Gansu to commemorate this old friend of the Chinese people, famous writer, poet, educationist and social activist. New Zealand ambassador to China Tony Browne, Chinese ambassador to New Zealand Zhang Yuanyuan, the delegations of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society and the

Maori-China Friendship Association and Rewi Alley's relatives that came to China specially for the commemorations attended these activities.

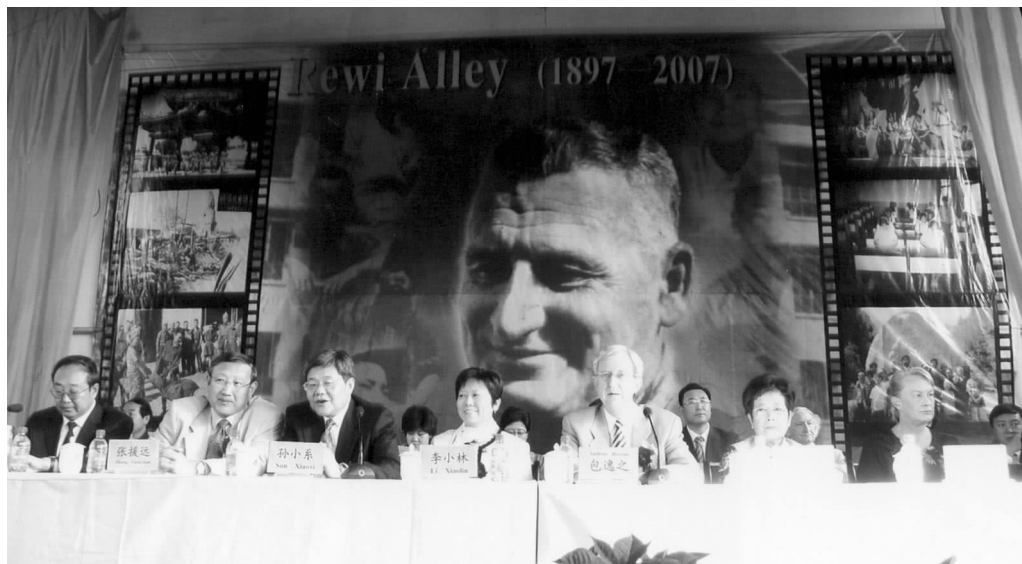
CPC Gansu Provincial Committee Secretary Lu Hao Meeting with New Zealand Delegations

On September 8, Lu Hao, secretary of the Gansu Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress, met with all the members of the New Zealand delegations that came to Gansu to attend the commem-

orative activities. Lu Hao spoke highly of the important contributions Rewi Alley had made to the Chinese people's cause of liberation and construction. He said, Alley was a great internationalist fighter and an old friend of the Chinese people. Since arriving in China in 1927, he shared weal and woe with the Chinese people and dedicated 60 years of his life to the Chinese people's cause of liberation and construction. He had deep affection for the Chinese people and won their respect and love.

Lu Hao stated, Alley loved Gansu very much. He set up the

The Commemorative Meeting of the 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Rewi Alley held in Shandan





The Forum on Rewi Alley's Educational Philosophy in session

Bailie Technical School in Shandan County of Gansu Province during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. By adopting the mode of part work and part study, he initiated vocational education in Gansu and trained a large number of technical personnel for China's industries, especially made outstanding contributions to training personnel for oil exploitation. He devoted all his love to young students and education and regarded Shandan as his second hometown. He visited Shandan several times after he had settled down in Beijing and donated all the cultural relics he had collected during his stay in China to Shandan. The people of Gansu will always cherish the memory of this great friend.

Lu Hao continued, Alley had built a bridge of friendship between the people of China and New Zealand. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, bilateral friendly and cooperative ties have grown continuous-

ly. China and New Zealand have become important trade partners. As early as 23 years ago, Gansu twinned friendship-province/city ties with Alley's hometown Christchurch. New Zealand friends have also been following with interest the reform and development in Gansu. Lu believed that with the solid foundation of friendship between the Chinese and New Zealand people laid down by Alley, the friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between Gansu and New Zealand would cover more areas and become closer.

Commemorative Meeting and Forum

The Commemorative Meeting of the 110th Anniversary of the Birth of Rewi Alley was held at the Shandan Bailie School on the morning of September 10. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and Deputy Governor of Gansu Sun Xiaoxi attended the commemoration and spoke on the occasion. Hu Huie, former vice chairperson of

the Standing Committee of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress, Tony Browne, New Zealand ambassador to China, Zhang Yuanyuan, Chinese ambassador to New Zealand, the NZCFS delegation, the MCFA delegation, Alley's overseas relatives as well as over a hundred old alumina of the Bailie School from all parts of China, attended the commemorative meeting.

In her speech, Vice President Li Xiaolin pointed out, Shandan County is where Rewi Alley lived for a long time and was regarded by him as his second hometown. To commemorate Rewi Alley who worked tirelessly and selflessly over 40 years on the educational front for China's socialist construction, we will learn from his selfless internationalist spirit, his life philosophy of seeking neither fame nor gain, and his work style of persistence and tenacity and doing hard work and solid work so as to contribute to revitalizing China and building a harmonious world. (See excerpts of the speech on

Speech by CPAFC Vice President Li Xadin at Commemorative Meeting Of Rewi Alley

(Excerpts)

In Beijing on September 7, we held the commemorative meeting marking Rewi Alley's 110th anniversary of birth, 80th anniversary of arrival in China and 20th anniversary of passing. Today we are holding this grand meeting here to cherish the memory of this renowned writer, poet, educator and social activist, our old friend Rewi Alley.

Gansu Province, especially Shandan County, is where Rewi Alley lived for a long time and was regarded by him as his second hometown. His educational thoughts have been fully practised and promoted in this place, giving strong support to the development of Gung Ho Movement.

Rewi Alley foresaw that the construction of New China would need plenty of trained person-

nel, so together with the former English journalist George Hogg, he established Bailie Technical School. The school was named "Bailie", meaning training for the dawn, which reflected Rewi Alley's great expectations for the school and all the students. It is from here that he explored an education mode of part work-part study, combining teaching with production to train people who would be able to "use both brain and hands, and create and analyze". Based on the experiences in Shandan, he wrote a book entitled *Shandan: An Adventure in Creative Education*. After the Shandan earthquake in 1953, the School moved to Lanzhou and changed its name into Lanzhou Petroleum Technical School. For many years, this school has cultivated many outstanding techni-

p.25)

Deputy Governor Sun Xiaoxi emphasized in his speech, Alley was a founder of China's Gung Ho movement. He founded the Bailie School in Shandan and cultivated a large number of technical personnel, contributing greatly to the Chinese people's cause of liberation and construction. Whether in the minds of the Chinese people or in the eyes of the New Zealand people, the name Rewi Alley represents utter devotion and great love. We must learn from and carry forward Alley's spirit and make new contributions to the development of friendship between the Chinese and New Zealand people as

well as between the Chinese and other peoples of the world.

The Forum on Rewi Alley's Educational Philosophy was held at the Bailie School in the afternoon. Friendly personages from China and New Zealand and representatives of various circles took part in the forum. The participants talked about Alley's great achievements in establishing the Bailie School and advancing the Gung Ho Movement, and highly praised the educational philosophy of "using both brain and hands, and creating and analyzing" that he put forward. They said that in their work of running the schools in the future they would, by continuing to

follow Alley's educational philosophy and carrying forward Alley's spirit, deepen reform in education and teaching, adjust and enrich the contents of specialized courses, broaden the scope of their services, make good use of their resources of cooperation with other countries and bring into play their respective advantages in running schools to make greater contributions to the sound and rapid economic and social development of their localities.

While in Shandan, the participants visited the Museum of Historical Relics Donated by Rewi Alley and the Shandan Bailie School, and paid respects at Alley's tomb. □

cians in oil and other industries who undertake important technical or leading positions in various big oilfields and other industrial battlefronts in our country.

Due to Rewi Alley's efforts and influence, the Bailie School in Shandan and Gung Ho that he had initiated have always received special care from the government and people of New Zealand. To support these two undertakings has been regarded as an important action in developing friendship between the Chinese and New Zealand peoples. In the 1940s, CORSO had sent six technical experts to teach in Bailie School and helped Alley solve the problem of funds, equipments, etc. After the School was rebuilt in the 1980s, a still closer tie of cooperation with New Zealand was established. Rewi Alley's birthplace Christchurch and his second home Gansu Province were twinned as the first pair of friendship cities between China and New Zealand. Rewi Alley is a builder of the friendship bridge between the Chinese and New Zealand peoples. His contributions to enhancing the understanding, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of China and New Zealand have become a glorious page in the history of China-New Zealand relations.

Education is a cause of vital and lasting importance. Today is the 23rd Teachers' Day. To commemorate Rewi Alley here, an educator who worked tirelessly and selflessly over 40 years on the educational front for China's socialist construction, we will learn from his internationalist spirit of keeping the entire world in mind and selflessness, his life philosophy of seeking no fame or gain and his work style of persistence and tenacity and doing hard work and solid work. We will inherit and develop the cause of Gung Ho and Shandan Bailie School that he had resumed in his late years, continue to develop the "Gung Ho" spirit of "work hard and work together", and working with one mind and devotion, promote the expansion and development of cooperative economy in China, make great efforts to advance the new-type vocational education that he had advocated combining classroom teaching and productive labor, and cultivate a new generation of practical people possessing ability to do actual work and awareness for innovation, in order to meet the increasingly urgent demand for practical technicians from various trades and professions and contribute to revitalizing China and building a harmonious world. □

(Continued from p.29)

trol of desertification programme, a Tan sheep farm and a licorice farm. In Shanghai, they visited the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, and had a discussion with the professors and postgraduates. Through their visits, members of the delegation got a general idea of China's development.

During his stay in China, President Massoud Daher reiterated the importance of enhancing mutual understanding between Lebanon and China. He pointed out, mutual understanding is a prerequisite of further cooperation in all aspects. The visit to Ningxia provided a good

opportunity for them to know about and understand China in a comprehensive way, and enabled them to see on the one hand the unbalanced development between China's East and West with the latter lagging far behind and on the other hand the vitality and potentiality of the western region for development. President Massoud Daher said, China's socialist system is different from that of the Soviet Union. It is an advanced socialism and many of its experiences in development are worth learning by other countries.

On exchanges and cooperation between local governments, the members of the delegation expressed they would act as a

bridge to help forge friendship ties between Lebanese and Chinese provinces and cities.

The majority of the delegation members were scholars and professors engaged in researches and teaching of history, politics, economics, language and architecture who came to seek opportunities for academic exchanges with Chinese institutions of higher learning. Therefore, special arrangements were made for them to visit Ningxia University and Shanghai International Studies University, where they discussed with the universities' leaders cooperation programmes such as sending exchange students and visiting scholars, and jointly holding symposiums. □

“New Image, New Strength, New Development”

—55th Anniversary of China-India Friendship Association Marked

Tu Lili

On the morning of November 22, 2007, the China-India Friendship Association (CIFA) held its council meeting at which the Association's statutes were adopted and a new Executive Committee was elected with Jiang Zhenghua, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, as its president, Feng Zuoku, Wang Yunze, Cheng Hong, Li Dongwen, and Huang Tianwen its vice presidents, and Lin Yi the secretary general. President Jiang Zhenghua delivered a speech at the council meeting. Vice President Feng Zuoku made a work report of the Association and a proposal on the plan of its future work.

At noon, the Association held a reception with the theme

of “New Image, New Strength, New Development” to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the China-India Friendship Association. President Jiang Zhenghua, Indian Ambassador to China Ms. Nirupama Rao, and Chinese and Indian representatives from all walks of life, totaling about 120, attended the reception. President Jiang Zhenghua and Ambassador Nirupama Rao made speeches. President Jiang said, the CIFA would take the anniversary day as a start to carry on the cause in the new situation, keep up with the times, and organize more activities rich in content and varied in form so as to further enhance mutual trust and strengthen exchanges between the two na-

tions. Ambassador Nirupama Rao expressed her congratulations on the new council meeting and the 55th anniversary of the CIFA, and her willingness to support the Association with all efforts to constantly push forward the development of Sino-Indian people-to-people friendship.

In a warm atmosphere pervading the reception, all participants from home and abroad together looked back at the glamorous history of the CIFA and looked forward to the bright prospect of its development. The CIFA with its new organization and leadership will shoulder its new historical mission and create a new chapter of deepening Sino-Indian friendly relations. □

Council members of the China-India Friendship Association in front of the CPAFFC Auditorium



Tanzanian Local Government Delegation in China

Wang Kai

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a Tanzanian local government delegation led by Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Regional Administration and Local Government, paid a visit to Beijing and Shandong from October 7 to 13, 2007.

In Beijing, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Feng Zuoku met with the delegation. The two sides had an in-depth discussion on the cooperation between friendship cities of the two countries. The delegation paid an official call on the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development where they were informed about China's policy-making on poverty alleviation, allocation of funds for poverty relief and experience in personnel training. The delegation visited the Beijing Dongcheng District Administrative Management Service Centre and had talks with the researchers of the Beijing International Institute of Urban Development.

Shi Lijun, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shandong Provincial People's Congress, and Lin Huayong, vice mayor of Tai'an met with the delegation separately. The delegation had talks with the Shandong Provincial Bureau of Personnel, and visited the Qilu Software Park, the Yuqing Water Plant under the Jinan Water Supply Group, the Water Supply Service Hotline, the Tai'an Central Hospital and the Tai'an High-tech Industrial Development Zone.

Except Minister of State Pinda, all the other members of the delegation visited China for the first time. Their knowledge about China was limited to the Tanzania-China traditional friendship such as China's aid to Tanzania, etc. and knew little about China's present basic national conditions. Through the visit, they got some knowledge about China's political system, economic policy, experience and achievements in development.

Through visiting government departments, factories and enterprises, they learned China's experience in poverty alleviation, administrative examination and approval, urban planning, civil servant training, urban construction, medical care, introduction of outside investment, etc. Minister of State Pinda said that some of the experience learned from the visit could be directly applied in Tanzania. For example, in Tanzania the government departments do not provide "one-stop" service; units or individuals have to wait for a long time to get the official written reply to their applications, reducing the government departments' administrative efficiency and likely to breed corruption. If Tanzania sets up a "one stop" service platform like the Beijing Dongcheng District Administrative Management Service Centre and put service of all the departments in one place, the efficiency of the government will be greatly raised and fairness and transparency of the government administration can be guaranteed.

The visit to the Beijing International Institute of Urban Development left a deep impression on the members of the delegation. In the Institute there is a multi-media dynamic database of China's public decisions, which by collecting, editing and analyzing the information released by various Chinese media provides a channel for the governments at various levels to know about the problems that the ordinary people are most concerned about as well as for the ordinary people to learn the decisions made by the governments at various levels. Minister of State Pinda said, Tanzania needs very much to establish such an institute to study the major problems in urban development.

So far, between China and Tanzania there is only one pair of friendship cities i.e. Haikou and Zanzibar. Minister of State Pinda spoke highly of the important role played by the CPAFFC in pro-

Delegation of Lebanese-Chinese League for Friendship and Cooperation Visits China

Jia Ling

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a delegation of the Lebanese-Chinese League for Friendship and Cooperation (LCLFC) led by Dr. Massoud Daher paid a goodwill visit to China from October 12 to 18, 2007.

The LCLFC was founded in August of 2001. Its president Dr. Massoud Daher is a well-known scholar in Lebanon. The League clubs dozens of elites from all circles including diplomats, physicians, lawyers and scholars, and aims to promote friendly exchanges, espe-

cially cultural exchanges and cooperation, between Lebanon and China. In 2005 and 2006, the organization held a symposium on Lebanon-China Relations in Beirut and Beijing respectively. It also organizes Lebanese specialists on issues concerning China to hold regular presentations on the situation and development of China. As a staff writer and member of the editorial board of several mainstream publications, Dr. Massoud often writes articles and comments about China. During his previous visits to China, he

only went to the prosperous coastal cities in East China. This time, the CPAFFC arranged for the delegation to visit Ningxia, a less developed region in the West of the country in order to give it a full picture of China's economic development.

Feng Zuoku, vice president of the CPAFFC, met with the delegation. In Ningxia, the delegation visited Yanchi County in the southern part of the autonomous region, an under-developed county, where they inspected the prevention and con-

(Continued on p.26)

The LCLFC delegation visiting a food-processing factory in Ningxia



moting exchanges between Chinese and foreign cities, and also pointed out that the friendship-city work between Tanzania and China lagged behind and that the exchanges between the local governments could boost bilateral ties. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said, exchanges between friend-

ship cities have played an important role in the relations between the two countries. The CPAFFC will actively promote the cooperation between the friendship cities of China and Tanzania and expect more friendship cities will be established between the two countries. □

Live Long Pak-China Friendship

Hasnain Bukhari (Pakistan)

Editor's notes: Pakistani poet Hasnain Bukhari visited Beijing and Shanghai from November 1 to 7, 2007 as a member of the delegation of the Pakistan National Management College at the invitation of the CPAPFC. The poem in praise of friendship between China and Pakistan was written during the visit.

Seed of Pak-China Friendship was sown
In Arabian desert which was still unknown
By our Prophet hundreds of years ago,
When he said:
“Seek knowledge, even if to China, you have to go”

That seed, to China, had flown
And now has completely grown
Into an ever-green fragrant tree
All-human beings on earth can see
With their hearts and inward glow

Its branches are higher than skies
Beyond them no Power on earth can rise



The poet (L.7) and other members of the delegation of the Pakistan National Management College at the Tiananmen Square

Burkinan Friends in China

Tang Ruimin

Invited by the CPAFFC, a delegation of the Forum of Sino-Burkinan Friendship headed by its honorary president Zephirin Diabre visited Guangzhou, Xi'an and Beijing from October 15 to 21, 2007. Though diplomatic relations between China and Burkina Faso suspended in 1994, contacts between the two peoples have never stopped. The delegation attended the 102nd Session of the China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) and visited the Xi'an National Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone. In Beijing, it called on the China-Africa Business Council, the Export-Import Bank of China, the Ministry of Land and Resources, CNOOC International Limited, China Nuclear International Uranium Corporation, Beijing Holley-Cotec Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd., Chi-

na-Africa Development Fund and China Construction Bank.

Since its founding in 2004, the Forum of Sino-Burkinan Friendship has attracted many personages from the economic, trade and banking circles to join in. They all wish to promote the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries through economic and trade contacts. It is their firm conviction that as China's influence in the world grows and its economic size increases, no one can succeed in his attempt to prevent the normalization of relations between Burkina Faso and China.

The delegation made a call on the Export-Import Bank of China to discuss matters concerning the development of bilateral trade and economic

Its roots are deeper than oceans
Its fruits are sweeter than honey
Making our land prettier than paradise

From the tomb of Quaid and grave of Iqbal
Till People's Great Hall and China's Wall
Lie un-ending and ever flowing oceans
Of uniform emotions, harmonious notions
Echoing: we are one, parallel to none.

Let Confucian wisdom and Prophetic light
Prevail over the darkness of night
Let Asian grand cultures revive
To keep our younger generations alive
And make their future bright

Let us join heads and hands
And build another Great Wall
Greater than galaxies, higher than heavens
Unconquerable, so strong, untouchable, so tall □

relations. The Bank suggested that the mineral resources of Burkina Faso be converted into cash liquidity to construct infrastructure facilities, for which China can provide funds. China's economic cooperation mode suits the development in Africa. The delegation was told that as China's telecommunications sector has achieved an annual growth rate of 60 percent overseas and that both Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. and Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment Corp. have their offices in Burkina Faso, if bilateral diplomatic relations are restored, Burkina Faso will enjoy buyer's credit from the Export-Import Bank of China, which will have great impact on its economic development. Members of the delegation expressed regret that they are not entitled to get preferential loan and buyer's credit because there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries. Members of the delegation Alain Coefe, former commerce minister and the present president of Burkina Faso's Administration Council of the Mansion of Enterprise, and Bernard Zangre, deputy editor-in-chief of *Observer*, a daily news-

Zephirin Diabre, head of the Burkinan delegation, presenting a souvenir to CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku



paper with the largest circulation in Burkina Faso, said that they would publish reports on what they had seen and heard in China in newspapers and appeal to the government to resume diplomatic relations with China at an early date.

The delegation also paid a visit to the China-Africa Business Council. The Council was set up in the wake of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. It has already organized Chinese entrepreneurs to go to Togo, Zambia and Tanzania to hold commodity exhibitions and sales and achieved good results. The Burkinan friends said that they were capable of hosting delegations from relevant Chinese departments to come to their country to invite investment, mount exhibitions and hold economic and trade forums. They hoped to carry out nongovernmental economic and trade exchanges to promote governmental ties. They believed that when diplomatic relations between the two countries resumed, bilateral trade and economic exchanges would be elevated to a higher level and cooperation would expand.

The Burkinan friends expressed the hope that Chinese entrepreneurs would come to Burkina Faso to develop and utilize solar energy. With strong sunshine, the annual average temperature in the country is 35 degrees centigrade, the highest 45 degrees centigrade. They said, China's good-quality but cheap construction materials and electronic products are very popular in Burkina Faso. Now, about 70% of daily necessities in the market are from China, but they enter Burkina Faso through entrepot trade. They hoped to realize direct trade through promoting the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Though their stay in China was short, the members of the delegation had a deep impression of China's rapid economic development. They believed that China would become a world power in the not too distant future and that the government of Burkina Faso had no reason to refuse to establish friendly and cooperative relations with such a country. They would make continuous efforts to exert influence on the Burkinan government through nongovernmental channels so that the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries would be realized soon. □

Beijing Elderly People's Art Troupe Performs in Russia

Kang Jingyuan



RCFA Vice Presidents G. Kulikova and I. Ivanov congratulating the artists after their successful performance

The Beijing Elderly People's Art Troupe sent by the CPAFFC, made a performance tour of Russia from September 22 to 30, 2007. The performance tour was part of the activities held in celebration of the 58th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia within the framework of the China Year in Russia. It was jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Russian Centre of International Scientific and Cultural Cooperation directly under the Russian Foreign Ministry and presented by the Beijing Elderly People's Art Association.

The art troupe gave three performances in Russia—the

first at the Estrada Theatre in downtown Moscow on September 24, and a concert at the Officers' Home Concert Hall on September 27 and a song and dance gala night at the Rimsky-Korsakov Theatre on September 28 in downtown St. Petersburg. Bai Shuxiang, leader of the troupe and vice president of the China-Russia Friendship Association, Galina Kulikova, first vice president of the Russia-China Friendship Association and a leading member of the Russian Centre of International Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, made warm speeches at the first performance, expressing the common aspiration of the two peoples for lasting friendship.

People of all walks of life in Moscow and St. Petersburg, diplomats of the Chinese Embassy and Consulates in Russia, representatives of the Chinese community in Russia, Chinese students, media of both countries, totaling over 3,000, watched the performances.

The average age of the troupe members is over 60, the oldest 78. Many of them are retired national class-A actors and actresses. They gave the Russian audience high-quality artistic enjoyment in the forms of vocal music, dance, Peking Opera and costume show with their superb artistic attainment and profound knowledge and nurture in Chinese culture. The solo *Carrying*

Chinese and Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition of Bronze Inscriptions

—Origin of Ancient Chinese Writing

Gao Hui

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, and carry forward the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, the Chinese and Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition of Bronze Inscriptions—Origin of Ancient Chinese Writing jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Shaanxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPPAFFC) and the Japanese Hokushi Seal Cutting Society was held in Xi'an Forest of Stone Steles Museum and the Baoji Bronze Ware Museum from August

19 to 26, 2007. A 13-member Japanese delegation led by Ms. Nanen Kitamuro, president of the Japanese Hokushi Seal Cutting Society, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and paid a friendly visit to Xi'an, Tianshui and Baoji.

Inscriptions on ancient bronze objects which started in the Shang Dynasty and became popular in the Zhou Dynasty are developed on the basis of oracle bone inscriptions. The bronze inscriptions, a link between the oracle inscriptions and the lesser seal characters formed in the Qin Dynasty, are another monument in the history of the Chinese

Tea to Beijing and *The Waves on the Lake Honghu* were warmly received by the audience. In the garment-show items—*Time and Space Tunnel* and *Eternity*, the models wearing costumes and accessories of different Chinese dynasties walked the stage against a magnificent and enchanting background created by using three dimensional laser, video frequency, smoke and other stage techniques. The highlights of the Peking Operas *The Monkey King Wreaking Havoc in Heaven* and *King Xiangyu Bids Farewell to His Lady* brought the house down. These items unfolded before the Russian audience the rich and colourful Chinese culture and art. Especially the performance of Russian songs and dances such as the chorus *Troika* and *Victory Day*,

male quartet *Moscow* and dance *The Mountain Ash Tree* by the elderly Chinese artists who had strong nostalgic feelings for the Russian culture touched the hearts of the audience. The gala night reached one climax after another with prolonged applause and ovation. At the end of the performance, the zealous Russian audience went up to the stage to present the performers bouquets of flowers and were reluctant to leave. It was a moving scene. When interviewed by reporters, many talked about their experiences and feelings. Igor A. Rogachev, former ambassador to China and member of the Russian Federation Council, said excitedly to a reporter after watching the performance: "It was marvelous, completely beyond my expectation." Tian Er-long, Chinese consul general in

St. Petersburg, spoke highly of the gala night, saying that it was one of the most brilliant performances held in St. Petersburg during the China Year. Many Chinese and Russian media covered the activities.

The Beijing Elderly People's Art Troupe demonstrated to the Russian audience China's vigorous development and the mental outlook of the Chinese elderly people in the new era, conveyed the friendly sentiments of the Chinese people toward the Russian people and promoted the cultural exchange between China and Russia. Its performances help create a warm atmosphere for the celebration of 58 years of diplomatic ties between China and Russia and added bright colours to the rich and varied activities of the China Year. □

Chinese and Japanese guests cutting the ribbon for the opening of the exhibition



calligraphy, making important contributions to the further development of the art in the technique of writing, formation of characters and composition.

Invited by the Japan-China Friendship Association of Ishikawa Prefecture and the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society, the CPAFFC successfully held the Chinese and Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition of Bronze Inscriptions—Origin of Ancient Chinese Writing at the Art Gallery of Ishikawa in July 2006. After the opening ceremony, at the lecture hall Zhang Yawei, deputy curator of the Baoji Bronze Ware Museum, gave a lecture entitled the World of Inscriptions on Ancient Bronze Objects in an effort to popularize knowledge of bronze inscriptions and publicize Chinese culture. The two sides conducted a good exchange.

Shaanxi Province is rich in cultural heritage and particularly famous for the cultural relics of the Zhou and Qin Dynasties represented by bronze wares and inscriptions on them. With a view to promoting cultural exchanges between Chinese and foreign localities, Xi'an and Baoji of this province were chosen to hold the Exhibition.

This exhibition larger in size with more exhibits was organized on the basis of the first one held in Japan. More than 140 works of calligraphy and seal cuttings by the Chinese and Japanese scholars and calligraphers, bronze wares, photos and other articles were displayed, among which 75 pieces were from Japan.

The year 2007 happened to be the 920th anniversary of the establishment of the Forest of Stone Steles in Xi'an. This exhibition as a prelude of a series of celebrations was attached great importance to by various circles. Liu Xianlian, vice president of the SPPAFFC; Qiang Yue, secretary of the CPC Committee of Xi'an Forest of Stone Steles Museum; Zhao Liguang, curator of the museum; Zhong Mingshan, vice president of the Chinese Calligraphers Association, and Zhao Xiong, president of the Zhongnan Seal Society, among over 300 people of various circles, attended the opening ceremony. Wang Xiuyun, director general of the Department of Cultural Exchanges of the CPAFFC, attended the opening ceremony and read out the message of congratulations from CPAFFC President Chen Haosu. In front of the Jingyun Bell, known as the "Number 1 Famous Bell under Heaven", *taijiquan* and fan dance featuring Chinese tradition were specially performed to add more fun to the exhibition. On the spot there were crowds of people and the atmosphere was exciting. Wonderful performances won bursts of applause and attracted many visitors who originally just came for sightseeing in the Forest of Stone Steles. Even many European and American visitors also stopped to appreciate the beautiful ancient writing.

To facilitate mutual understanding between the Chinese and Japanese calligraphers and learn-

ing from each other, after the opening ceremony, they had exchanges in calligraphic techniques. CCA Vice President Zhong Mingshan and President Nanen Kitamuro respectively on behalf of the Chinese and Japanese sides, started writing. They showed their love for the Chinese ideograms through their writing brushes and reproduced in a modern artistic way the 3,000-year-old bronze inscriptions. Their superb skill won bursts of applause. The Chinese and Japanese calligraphic works were different in style and each had its strong points. The two sides could learn from each other in many aspects. For example, the contents of the Chinese works were mainly Chinese classic poems or the inscriptions on the bronze wares. They stuck to the original features of the inscriptions on ancient bronze objects, showing the Chinese calligraphers' academic concepts of closely following the ancient ways. In the Japanese works more attention was paid to the combination of various artistic forms such as using traditional Japanese paper, setting the seals on gold foil and mounting the works on colourful paper to enhance the artistry of the works. Their works gave the viewers more feeling of modernity and laid more stress on giving a new look to the ancient writing.

The second leg of the exhibition was in Baoji, hometown of bronze wares. Vice Mayor of Baoji Sun Yi, and representatives of various circles including the Baoji Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage and calligraphers attended the opening ceremony.

The calligraphers of the two countries had exchanges in calligraphic techniques.

When the days of the exhibition were closing in, the Japanese side requested to have the exhibited works edited into a collection. Though time was pressing and the task heavy, the CPAFFC overcame difficulties and had the collection edited and printed timely and handed out at the opening ceremony. It was welcomed and praised by the Chinese and Japanese calligraphers and viewers.

To "touch" the long-standing history of the Chinese nation, the Japanese delegation visited the historical sites including the Banpo Village in Xi'an, the Zhouyuan site at Qishan, the Maijishan Grottoes in Tianshui and the Emperor Yan's Mausoleum, and had exchanges with the local archeologists, ancient writing researchers and calligraphers. The two sides traced the history of the introduction of Chinese characters into Japan, discussed the similarities and differences between the Chinese and Japanese culture and reviewed from the angle of evolution of the two cultures the long history of Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges.

The Hokushi Seal Cutting Society is one of the main organizations lecturing and studying calligraphy and seal cutting in Japan's Hokuriku region. Its President Nanen Kitamuro, an influential calligrapher and seal cutter in that region, loves Chinese culture very much. Almost every year since 1994, the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society under her leadership has held different kinds of exhibitions in China and Japan in cooperation with the CPAFFC, which has not only enhanced the Chinese culture in Japan and to some extent helped publicize the culture of ancient Chinese writing in China, and made contributions to Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges and people-to-people friendship. □



A corner of the exhibition

Sino-Japanese Benefit Concert 2007 Held in Shanghai and Nanjing

Dong Sijia

A large-scale Sino-Japanese benefit concert, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD), the Shanghai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SMPAFFC) and the Jiangsu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (JPPAFFC) with renowned Japanese musician Shinji Tanimura as the executive producer, was held in Shanghai and Nanjing respectively on September 29 and October 1, 2007 to mark the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan and the China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchange Year. It was of special significance that September

29, the signing date of the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, was chosen for the concert to renew friendship between the Chinese and Japanese peoples and to wish the two countries better future through music. The two concerts drew large numbers of people and were permeated with warm atmosphere and touching scenes.

Press Conference and Benefit Reception

A press conference for the concert was held in the Conference Hall of the Shanghai International Convention Centre at 7 pm on September 28. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, SMPAFFC Vice President Wang Xiaoshu, President of the Shanghai Media & Entertainment Group Xue Peijian, Japanese Consul General in

Shanghai Yuji Kumamaru, Member of the Japanese House of Councillors Tomoko Ukishima as well as Shinji Tanimura, Ayaka Hirahara, Mao Ning, Chen Ming and other artists taking part in the concerts attended the press conference. In her speech made on behalf of the Chinese side, Vice President Li Xiaolin said, with the care of the friendly personages of various circles of the two countries, the saplings of China-Japan friendship the two peoples planted together 35 years ago have now grown into tall trees. As an old friend of the Chinese people, Mr. Shinji Tanimura has been working hard for the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship over the years. He has promoted the friendly exchanges between China and Japan through music

The benefit performance in Shanghai



and made tremendous contributions to increasing friendship between the two peoples. The Vice President announced the official setting up of the Shinji Tanimura Youth Cultural Exchange Fund under the CFFPD. With donations from Shinji Tanimura, the fund aims at increasing cultural exchanges between the youth and children of the two countries.

Shinji Tanimura said, it has been his long-cherished wish to promote the friendly sentiments between the people of Japan and China with "a heart of music" and that he would continue to make due contributions to lasting friendship between Japan and China.

After the press conference, more than 300 people of various circles of the two countries attended a benefit reception. Takako Tanimura, president of DAO Co., Ltd. and wife of Shinji Tanimura, said at the reception that she would donate all the proceeds of the reception to the Shinji Tanimura Youth Exchange Fund. Li Xiaolin expressed her appreciation and on behalf of the CPAFFC and the CFFPD, presented the Award

for Contribution to Peace and Development to Shinji Tanimura.

Concerts in Shanghai and Nanjing

A concert was held at the Shanghai Oriental Art Centre on September 29. Vice President Li Xiaolin, Zhou Muyao, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and president of the SMPAFFC, Wang Xiaoshu, vice president of the SMPAFFC, leaders of the Shanghai Media & Entertainment Group, Heizo Takenaka, former Japanese minister of internal affairs and communications, Katsuhito Asano, former Japanese vice foreign minister, Yuji Kumamaru, Japanese consul general in Shanghai and Tomoko Ukishima, member of the Japanese House of Councilors, among over 1,800 people watched the performance. The concert began with a suite of songs *Red Dragonfly · Jasmine Flower* by Chinese and Japanese children's choruses. Following it, Shinji Tanimura, Ayaka Hirahara, Mao Amin, Mao Ning and others took the stage in suc-

cession to present their representative works. The beautiful melody and singing, the interaction between the singers and the audience brought forth waves upon waves of warm applause. The singing by Shinji Tanimura of his best known song *Subaru* at the end pushed the concert to its climax. All the audience rose to their feet waving the Chinese and Japanese national flags. It was a touching scene of China-Japan friendship.

The second concert was held in the Nanjing Great Hall of the People on October 1. Shinji Tanimura, Ayaka Hirahara, well-known Chinese conductor Chen Xieyang and singers Mao Ning and Chen Ming gave excellent performances for more than 2,000 Chinese and Japanese audience. Present at the concert were Huang Lixin, deputy governor of Jiangsu, Feng Jianqin, vice chairman of the Provincial Committee of the Jiangsu People's Political Consultative Conference, Wu Xijun, president of the JPPAFFC and Yuji Kumamaru, Japanese consul general in Shanghai. □

(Continued from p.52) years old, but he still went to work in his office near the Diet Building every day. Every weekend he would go back to his hometown near the Narita International Airport in Chiba Prefecture only for taking exercises and doing some farm work. Though he visits China once a year, he pays great attention to China's development and Japan-China relations. He said, China is his second homeland and he has formed indissoluble bond with it. He will do whatever he can without stop to promote the

friendship between the Japanese and Chinese people.

The interview ended. I was touched by Mizuno's deeds and had a deeper understanding that Sino-Japanese friendship did not come easily. On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, I pay sincere tribute to Mr. Kiyoshi Mizuno and other Chinese and Japanese personages of the older generation and wish them good health and long life. □

Spreading Seeds of Peace and Friendship

—Exchange Activities Between Youths of Weihai and Its Friendship Cities in 2007

Shan Dazhi, Wang Mina

In 2007 Weihai City has carried out a series of youth exchange activities with its foreign friendship cities. 12 youth delegations consisting a total of 283 people have been sent to each other's cities between Weihai and Bucheon and Hanam of the ROK, Ube of Japan, Santa Barbara of the United States and Singapore. Through rich and colourful activities, a bridge linking different civilizations and regions has been built, spreading the seeds of peace and friendship far and wide.

In recent years with the expansion of international exchanges, Weihai has established friendly relations with 8 foreign cities and 20 grass-roots units across the five continents, which has provided vast areas for friendly international youth exchanges. A football team composed of 20 students of Shandong University at Weihai was sent to the ROK to take part in the 2007 Bucheon Mayor's Cup Football Match. "Home Stay" activities with

participants of 130 primary and middle school students in 6 batches were carried out between Yosu, Bucheon and Hanam of the ROK and Weihai and Rushan. Cultural exchanges between the youngsters of Weihai and Ude of Japan and Singapore were carried out vigorously. A 21-member teachers' delegation of Santa Barbara came to Weihai, giving Chinese children free oral English training.

The international youth exchange activities attracted much attention from the people. Both Weihai and its friendship cities devoted great energy and enthusiasm to these activities and showed their sincere and deep feelings to each other.

In the hot summer, Professor Peter Husland, president of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association Santa Barbara Chapter, led 20 outstanding teachers to Weihai. It was the sixth time for

The Weihai Football Team with members of the Bucheon Football Federation





Chinese and American teachers exchanging their experience in teaching

him to lead a delegation to visit Weihai. In his speech at the welcoming ceremony, he made clear the purpose of their visit from the very beginning: "We come here with friendship. No matter what our government is doing, the friendship between the people will never discontinue. Friendly exchanges have no national boundaries. So I firmly believe that we will go back home with friendship." After a short day of sightseeing, Professor Peter Husland and his colleagues immediately threw themselves into English teaching. He said, "Please don't treat us as guests. We really want to do something for the children in Weihai." In the 14-day oral English training, the American teachers visited 12 primary and middle schools in the city. Despite intense heat of summer, they conscientiously gave the training rich contents in a lively way. Their serious attitude in teaching, their introduction of the practical way of learning and their new concept of education were liked and welcomed by the students and their parents. Every day the classrooms were full. More than 2,000 teachers and students participated in the training. The teachers and students forged deep friendship. The American teachers became the guests warmly welcomed by every Chinese family there. In order to keep the good results of the training for a long time, the students and teachers formed pairs through the Internet, and the American side promised to provide funds for training the excellent Chinese students regularly. On the departure day, the teachers and students hugged each other

with deep emotion. Tears in eyes they were reluctant to part.

The "home stay" activity between Weihai and Ube of Japan and Yosu and Bucheon of the ROK, and between Rushan and Hanam of the ROK was attached great importance to by the Japanese and the ROK governments. In the midst of their pressing affairs, the mayors personally selected excellent students, examined the plan of the activity, met and entertained the children. They gave warm speeches and called the children "little envoys of friendship". The cultural exchange activities rich and colourful in content and varied in form and the daily family life helped nurture affinity between the Chinese youngsters and their Japanese and Korean peers. In a strange country, they found their foreign "dad and mum" and "brothers and sisters". A Weihai pupil who visited the ROK wrote with emotion in his composition, "My Korean mum made bed for me and my Korean sister studied together with me... On that night in a foreign country, the seeds of friendship were sowed soundlessly with my exciting tears." Another pupil who returned home after visiting Japan wrote, "The prosperity and civility that can be seen everywhere will forever inspire me to build up my country when I grow up."

Friendly exchanges between the senior middle school students of Weihai and Singapore have been carried out for quite a long time. The two sides have organized various forms of competitions and games, which have taught the students

Cherish the Memory of Chinese People's Old Friend K.S. Silin

Niu Yingli

Silin and the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge

On October 15, 1957, in the three towns of Wuhan, millions of people rejoiced at the completion and opening to traffic of the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge—the first bridge over the Yangtze River. Amid the deafening noise of firecrackers, sound of gongs and drums and people's cheers, the first train sped across the railway deck of the bridge and 340 automobiles drove slowly through the broad highway deck. The spectacular scene at the traffic-opening ceremony fully reflected the Chinese people's pride in the

bridge.

The Yangtze River with deep water and rapids is the longest river in China. For thousands of years no one had ever been able to build a bridge over it. The River was a natural barrier cutting off the communication and transport link between the north and the south. To build a bridge over the Yangtze River was the Chinese people's age-old dream.

After the founding of new China, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, at its first meeting in 1950, adopted the motion on building the Yangtze River Bridge. In

January 1954, the State Council approved the "Decision on Building the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge". In July of the same year, a 28-member expert group headed by K. S. Silin sent by the Soviet Union came to China to give technical aid. On September 1, 1955, the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge formally started construction.

This was Silin's third time to come to China. In the summer of 1948, he, as an expert in bridge engineering, was invited to the Northeast. Braving hardships and dangers, he together with the soldiers of the PLA railway engineering corps re-

how to use good study methods and carry on the traditional culture with the Confucian culture as the principal part, enriched the students' school life and deepened their understanding of life, future and development. After the students return home, writing letters to each other has become the proudest and happiest thing for them.

The Weihai university students' football team that went to the ROK for matches was warmly welcomed by the government and people of Bucheon. The Mayor met with all the team members at the City Hall and the Life & Sports Association of Bucheon City accorded them a warm reception and looked after them during their stay. When the Weihai football team arrived, the Mayor's Cup football matches which were regarded by the city as a grand festival had been going on for quite a few days. But in order to greet the team, they specially held the grand opening

ceremony on that day. When the members of the Weihai team filed into the playing ground, the government officials and members of the City Assembly on the stands as well as over a thousand citizens gave warm applause, the chant of "Weihai, Weihai" echoed in the air. The leader of the Weihai team said from the bottom of his heart, "Weihai has really stricken root in the hearts of the people in Bucheon!"

The 2007 Weihai international youth exchange activities spread the seeds of peace and friendship and raised Weihai's popularity and influence outside China. Weihai's culture, achievements and greater potential for development were shown through the activities. Through the exchanges Weihai has become well known because of friendship and its popularity will ever develop because of extensive participation in the activities by the new generation. □

moved the mines planted by the Kuomintang army when they were hastily retreating and rush-repaired the damaged roadbeds and bridges day and night so that the PLA army could march without hindrance and liberate the whole China. During that time he made outstanding contributions to repairing the Second Songhua River Bridge. In 1949 he, as advisor to the Chinese Ministry of Railway, came to China for the second time. During these hard years, he worked shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese railway constructors and forged profound friendship with them. He had been to the Songliao Plain, the Central Region, the Longnan Plateau and the Sichuan Basin, participated in the construction of bridges for the Chengdu-Chongqing Railway, the Tianshui-Lanzhou Railway, and the Lanzhou-Xinjiang Railway and been to the

battlefront of the Korean War...

This time he came to Wuhan as head of the Soviet bridge experts' group. He was very happy to meet again his Chinese colleague Peng Min, who had worked with him when repairing the Songhua River Bridge and now served as director of the Engineering Bureau of the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge. The Chinese and Soviet bridge experts together with the Chinese constructors undertook the historical mission to build the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge.

At the stage of the bridge's technical design, the experts met with serious difficulties. Because of deep water and torrents of the Yangtze River, they couldn't use the pneumatic caisson method planned in the initial design to build the bridge pier foundation. At the critical moment, Silin boldly put forward a completely new method

for building the deep-water foundation—large-sized tubular column drilling method, by which the difficulties that could not be overcome by traditional pneumatic caisson method could be overcome, and the construction could be carried out over water instead of under water. Under much better working conditions, the construction could be completed much earlier and the costs much reduced. This was a completely new technology for the construction of deep-water foundation projects. After careful study and repeated expounding and proving by the Chinese and Soviet experts, the Chinese Government decided to adopt Silin's method. Later Silin said, "Since then I've taken root in the Chinese soil."

To build the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge, the Chinese Government mobilized the whole nation and built up a work force consisting of excel-



Ivan Arhipov (L.1) and K. S. Silin (L.3) who were visiting China at the invitation of the CPAFFC making a special trip to Shanghai to see Comrade Chen Yun (October 1991)

lent scientists and technicians from all parts of the country and tens of thousands of building workers, who despite the intense heat of summer and severe cold of winter worked hard day and night in no fear of violent storms and terrifying floods and waves, displaying an extraordinary heroic spirit. In those difficult days, Silin threw all his energy into the work. For the sake of work, he declined the arrangement made by the Bridge Engineering Bureau for him to live in the comfortable guest house for experts and insisted on living at the construction site, being one with the Chinese and Soviet technicians and workers. Whether it was a snowy winter night or a scorching hot summer day, he could always be found wherever there was danger or difficulty. His technical competence, modest attitude, unflagging energy, and great enthusiasm earned him the respect and love of the masses of bridge building workers. Because of years of fieldwork and overwork, he suffered from serious rheumatic-arthritis. But he did not stop working even when he was in hospital for treatment. When the construction was at crucial moments, he resolutely came back to the construction site.

In autumn 1957, after two years and one month of hard work, the bridge was finally completed. The “natural barrier” was conquered by the new generation of the Chinese people. Chairman Mao Zedong wrote a poem acclaiming the Yangtze Bridge: “A bridge will

fly to span the north and south, turning a deep chasm into a thoroughfare.”

The Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge as an epoch-making monument of bridge building in new China went down in history. The Bridge linking main lines of communication across the north and south of the great river has become the central hub of railway and highway transportation. The completion of the Bridge also promoted the rapid development of the industrial city Wuhan. Thanks to the adoption of this non-caisson method, the time required for the construction of the giant project was shortened by two years, saving large sums of funds for the country.

On October 16, 1957 *People's Daily* carried the front-page headline of “*Age-Old Dream of Trains Passing Across the Yangtze River Realized, Millions of People Jubilant at the Bridge's Opening to Traffic*” to spread the good news all over China. The State Council conferred upon Silin the certificate of gratitude signed personally by Premier Zhou Enlai. On



K. S. Silin and Peng Min inspecting the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge under construction

the monument at the bridge-head, copper-cast words recorded the contributions made by Silin and other Soviet experts.

During the construction and after the completion of the bridge, Comrade Silin received many letters from Chinese people, quite a few of whom he did not know. These letters are now still kept at Silin's home. One of the letters wrote: “My son happened to be born on the day when the bridge was open to traffic. To commemorate the event and express our gratitude to the aid given to China by the great Soviet people, and to the contributions made by you and



K. S. Silin taking a stroll at the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge during his visit to the city in 1983

other Soviet experts, I decide to rename my son Silin—my dear comrade's name which will always remain in the memory of my whole family. Please allow me to say that it is completely and absolutely out of our respect for you that I do so."

After the completion of the bridge, Silin returned to the Soviet Union in November 1957 and worked in the Soviet Academy of Transportation Engineering and served as director of the Moscow Institute of Railway Engineering. Owing to his outstanding talents and achievements, he won honours that he deserved and got many titles such as Soviet and Russian master of bridge engineering, the hero of socialist labour, awardee of Order of Lenin, Russian outstanding inventor, academician of the International Academy of Engineering, academician of the

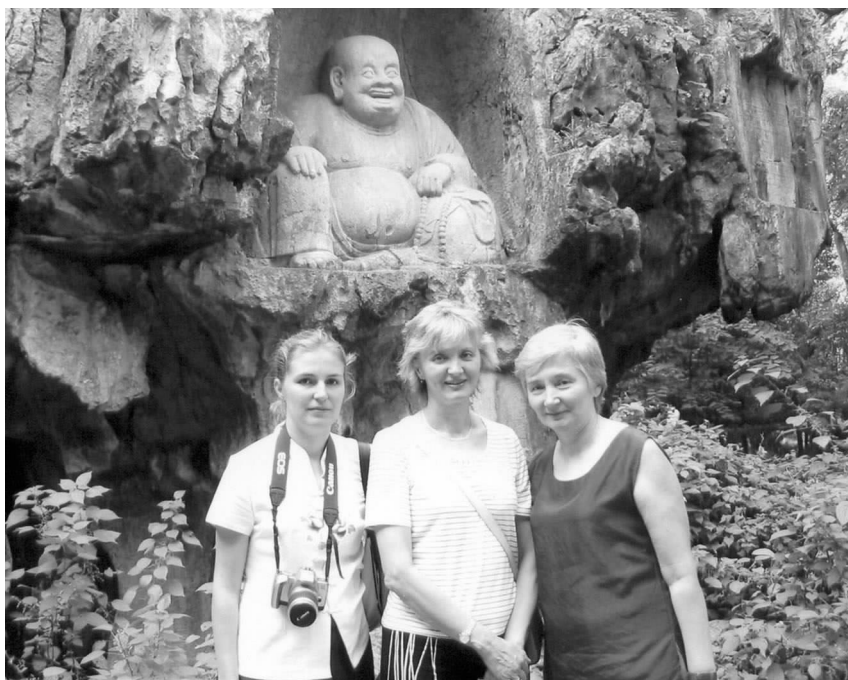
Russian Federation Transport Academy, doctor of science and technology, professor, etc. For many years he served as council member of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association and the Russia-China Friendship Association, actively participated in social activities and did much useful work for promoting friendship between the Russian and Chinese people. Silin once said that in his life he had built many bridges in the world, but what he treasured most was the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge. "China is my second motherland. I often miss her."

In the 1980s and the 1990s invited by the CPAFFC and other Chinese organizations, Silin visited China many times. In 1995 the CPAFFC decided to confer the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador upon him and once again invited him

to visit China. Silin happily accepted the invitation and replied that he would come to China in April 1996. On February 5, 1996, from Moscow came the sad news that Comrade Silin passed away. He completed his busy and rich life and left us hurriedly without having time to see again his beloved China, to say goodbye to the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge, the fruit of his many years' painstaking work, and to personally receive the certificate of Friendship Ambassador.

Konstantin Sergeyevich Silin (1913-1996) was buried in the old Kalitnikovskoe Cemetery in Moscow. On the front side of the black marble tombstone, there is a picture of serenely smiling Silin, and on its back side there is a picture of the magnificent Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge.

Silin's daughters Elena (R. 1) and Anna (middle), and Elena's daughter Katia (L. 1) in Hangzhou (September 2006)



After half a century's severe tests, the bridge still stands solid as a rock on the rolling Yangtze River. It is a monument that records the friendship between the Soviet and Chinese people and Soviet experts' profound friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people. On the occasion of marking the 50th anniversary of the bridge's opening to traffic, we deeply cherish the memory of K.S. Silin, faithful friend of the Chinese people and worthy son of the Russian people, and all the Soviet experts represented by him, and of their great contributions.

Silin Family's Love of China

In March 1996, a month after Silin passed away, entrusted by the CPAFFC, I accompanied Comrade Gao Mang, writer and senior advisor to the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA), went to Silin's

home to see K. V. Silina, wife of Silin, and other family members.

Silina, over eighty years old, lived and worked with Silin in China in the 1950s. We conveyed to her and her family deep sympathy and condolences of the CPAFFC and CRFA leaders. The kind old lady, restraining her sadness at the passing away of her husband, held our hands tightly saying, "Thank you for coming to see us. Thank the Chinese people for still remembering Silin. We will never forget the extraordinary days we spent in China..." She wiped out her tears with a handkerchief from time to time. The whole family sat around her and her daughter held the old lady's shoulder lightly with her arm, silently comforting her. Although 11 years have passed, I still remember the scene clearly.

Both Silin's daughters

have achieved high attainment in science and technology. The elder daughter Elena is a professor and director of the teaching and research section of the Russian State Open Technical University of Railways, and the younger daughter Anna is an associate professor and director of the Scientific Research Department of the Moscow Institute of Municipal Economy and Construction. In their childhood, the two sisters lived with their parents and studied in China. In their hearts they always keep their love of China. When studying in Beijing in the 1950s Elena once served as a team leader of the Young Pioneers and on behalf of the Soviet children presented flowers to Chairman Mao Zedong, which left a deep impression and happy memories on her. Elena said, "Over several decades, my father's deep love of China has seeped into the heart of every family mem-

ber. The word ‘China’ is sacred in our family.”

In his lifetime Silin always had a wish: In his family there must be a child who should study Chinese so as to carry on the cause of Russia-China friendship. At his proposal, his granddaughter Katia who with excellent academic record had been enrolled into the Department of Geography of Moscow State University took Chinese language as an elective course. In April 1996, at the invitation of the CPAFFC, the university sophomore accompanied Ivan Arhipov, honorary president of the RCFA, and others visited China. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu handed her the certificate of the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador conferred on Comrade Silin, and asked her to give it to Silina and convey the Chinese people’s sincere regards to the old lady. Chen also encouraged Katia to study Chinese well to carry on the behests of the older generation and continue to develop China-Russia friendship. The Hubei Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries warmly received the descendant of our old friend Silin and arranged for Katia to attend classes for a short period in the Department of Geography at the Wuhan Huazhong Normal University. In this strange but also familiar city, Katia saw for herself the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge that her grandfather had missed day and night, and experienced the Chinese people’s memory and praise of her

grandfather. Later she came to China twice to take advanced studies in Peking University. Both her graduation thesis and deputy doctoral thesis related to China’s geography and ecology.

Katia did not fail to live up to her grandfather’s expectation. After years of assiduous study, her professional knowledge and Chinese have been improved greatly. Several years ago, she successfully defended her deputy doctoral thesis and now is an associate professor with the Department of Geography of Moscow State University. She has a happy family and a lovely daughter named Nastia. Katia who now can use Chinese fluently loves China deeply and is passing this love to her husband and daughter. During a short vacation in 2005 she and her husband Dima took a trip to China. When I met them in Beijing, Katia who liked to take pictures very much said to me with a grin, “We have brought our daughter’s pictures with us. When we had photos taken at the scenic spots such as the Great Wall and the Huangshan Mountain, we always held Nastia’s picture. My daughter is too small now. When she grows up, we will bring her to China to see for herself this great country, the Yellow River, the Yangtze River, and the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge that grandfather missed very much in his lifetime.”

In September 2006, the CPAFFC and the China Association for Science and Technolo-

gy invited the descendants of the Russian old friends to China to take part in the get-together of Chinese and Russian old, middle-aged and young scientists at the Great Hall of the People. Elena, Anna and Katia all came. They said excitedly, “China is the place that our family most yearns for.” Professor Elena, on behalf of the descendants of the Russian experts who helped China’s construction in the 1950s, gave a warm speech. When we asked after her mother Silina, Elena answered with a smile, “The old lady is to be 94 years old. She is all right in health, but her memory is not as good as it was before. But whenever she heard us talk about China, she would become garrulous saying, ‘I want to go to China. Why don’t you ever bring me along with you to China?’”

I remember that on January 9, 2003, the 90th birthday of Silina, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, on behalf of the CPAFFC and the CRFA, sent her a letter of congratulations. It says, “Dear Kaleriya Vladimirovna, we will never forget Comrade Silin’s great contributions to China’s socialist construction and the cause of China-Russia friendship, and will forever treasure the profound friendly sentiments of you and your family towards the Chinese people. We believe that the friendship between the Chinese and Russian people will pass on from generation to generation just as the Yangtze River rolls on and surges ahead forever.” □

Rewi Alley's Profound Sentiments for China In His Late Years

In Memory of the 110th Anniversary of Rewi Alley's Birth

Lu Wanru

Twenty years have flashed by since Ai Lao (as we affectionately addressed the revered old Rewi Alley) passed away.

For his 60 years of life in China since 1927, he was a witness and a participant of our revolution and reconstruction, sharing weal and woe with our people. His China experiences were legendary and unique to ordinary folk in other countries. His outstanding contributions have won him profound love and esteem of all Chinese. With the lapse of time, old stories might fade out of current life, but fond memories of this great New Zealander's friends and acquaintances may emit sparks rejuvenating their lives.

On the eve of commemorating the 110th anniversary of Rewi Alley's birth and 20th anniversary of his passing, I searched out my work diaries of 20 years ago, and was surprised to find that in the Beidaihe and Hainan holidays between 1982 and 1985 when Ai Lao was invited to relate an oral history for his autobiography, he frequently "slipped away" from his own stories to current China affairs. As my chief attention was focused on stories of his past, I never really appreciated the significance of those hard-thinking remarks. Ai Lao did not care much for his autobiography, and would rather use the time to write more about China. The digressions were actually an unconscious revelation of his profound sentiments for the land of his adoption.

At that time Rewi Alley mainly concerned himself with ecological environment, natural disasters, youth education and social security in China. He regarded these issues deserving top attention for all Chinese on the way to a sustainable development, and he would not sit aside to watch without giving advices.

Since the early 1980s, Ai Lao's health was failing as a result of repeated heart attacks and skin cancer operations. However, he insisted on

continuing with his annual tours to different places particularly to where he had worked before, to the construction sites of big water projects, or areas recently hit by floods or earthquakes. The policies of reform and opening-up, of setting things to right and shifting the focus of work to economic development gave him much inspiration and rekindled his enthusiasm to do more in China. But the after-effects of the "cultural revolution" and the new problems arising from opening to the West also began to worry him with fear that various evils might take chance to cause detours in China's future development. Each time he came back from the interior, he would write to the authorities concerned, giving his personal views or criticisms. He reported that the destruction of forests in Hainan was getting worse as people even cut hard wood into pieces for firewood, and that tree felling was still going on near the Songtao Reservoir in Wuzhi Mountain area so that a disaster would strike the peasants in case of flood brought by torrential rain which might damage the dyke and the narrow spillway. When he visited the Hongshui River hydro-power station in Guangxi Province, he found the silt was causing increasing danger to the generators. He was told that new materials had already been found to prevent the abrasion of the blades of the turbine, so there should be no problem. But he felt this was only a partial solution, because all rivers had their own history and everything had its own law, men must handle things based on their own law. He also warned the local government be on the alert of pests in large areas of the pine forests in Guangxi, and suggested eggs of pine caterpillar birds be imported immediately to save the trees, as the spreading of pests would result in new soil erosion, bringing tremendous economic losses.

In the last year of Rewi Alley's life, his poor health no longer allowed him to travel except go-

ing to Beidaihe beach for the summer vacation. While he was there, he learned that discussions on the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River were going on. He hurried to write a report soon after his return to Beijing, stressing that controlling a big river like the Yangtze is not easy and simple, any disaster may cause a super big flood, destroying the Gezhouba Dam and possibly change the river course to the sea via the Dongting and Poyang Lakes, flooding all the cities and factories on the way.... He added that the imbalanced ecological conditions in Sichuan region existed for years. The excessive logging in the upper reaches of the Yangtze was making the erosion from bad to worse. Rewi Alley was not an expert on water conservancy. His views might come only from personal experiences, but his anxiety revealed his true love for China. In the event, his knowledge and deliberations on China's natural and social environmental problems as a sincere "learner and doer" in China over six decades are a valuable part of the legacy he left to the Chinese people.

Another concern of Rewi Alley's was the education of youth and the change of social values towards seeking personal fame and wealth since the 1980s. Once he saw in Hainan several boys gather together, whipping a young tree like mad, apparently imitating what they saw from the films of gang violence. He feared once the youth were misled as such, they might grow up to be a great threat to the whole society. He did not like young people swarming to go abroad with the sole aim of acquiring a gilded title, taking academic degree as the supreme purpose of study. He was also reluctant to accept the fact that some old revolutionary cadres tolerated their children seeking individual fortune. In 1982 when he was asked to speak at the meeting in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Shandan Bailie School, he made the following remarks: "To be a youth in today's China is vastly superior to being one anywhere else in the world. Nowhere is there so great a challenge, nowhere is work on so great a scale, nowhere does the creativeness of the individual, the strength of the group matter so much." "The very fact that China has suffered from millennia of deforestation and erosion, with rivers silting up,

posing a constant threat to millions, makes for man-sized problems that call for big man to solve them. How then does one become a big man? Not by any political trickery, nor by trying to make friends in high places, but by ever struggling to gain the objective view, training oneself, gathering knowledge and experience, learning how to work in cooperation with others, retaining the humility of Zhou Enlai in the face of immense tasks that have to be done. A big man is not proud or arrogant. He is simple and thoughtful, building on one reality after another, so that the basis for his thinking is solid, and he develops character and directness.... It does not matter whether you are called to high position or just keep on with an ordinary one; to be really big will benefit not only yourself but also those with whom you come in contact." These words carried such great weight, reminding the young people not to be self-content only by seeking endlessly a comfortable material life, while forgetting to raise consistently one's spiritual ethos.

The greatest satisfaction to Rewi Alley in his late years was the revival of Gung Ho (Chinese industrial cooperatives) and the Shandan Bailie School (SBS). He had waited for the fruition of this dream for over 30 years since they stopped functioning in 1951. He thought the two causes which contributed to the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and served the poor in wartime could have continued to play a positive role in China's reconstruction. To his disappointment, the school had to move to Lanzhou and became a technical oil school under the Ministry of Oil Industry, while the Association of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ACIC)—the leading organ of Gung Ho, was incorporated into the All-China Federation of Cooperatives and the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ICCIC, or, the Gung Ho International Committee) i.e. the overseas support organization of Gung Ho, ceased to operate. From then on, Gung Ho and SBS disappeared from the sight of the public. However, Rewi Alley and his old colleagues still believed that in socialist China, the Gung Ho movement which advocates the value of fairness, justice and democracy among people, and the SBS for train-

ing practical young technicians through education of integrating study with production, could continue to benefit the Chinese people and serve China's modernization in the new era. After the implementation of the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, with the support of the Central government and the Gansu provincial government as well as Gung Ho enthusiasts at home and abroad, ACIC was successfully reorganized in 1983, and ICCIC and SBS, resumed activities in 1987.

Rewi Alley's achievements through selfless dedication and painstaking efforts won him worthy reputation in his later years. He was well-known as a writer, poet, social activists, historian, archaeologist, educator, Father of Gung Ho and bridge-builder of China-New Zealand friendship. He was awarded the Queen's Service Order for Community Service and conferred the title of Honorary Citizen of Beijing and Gansu Province as well as honorary academic degrees of New Zealand Universities. On December 2, 1977, Deng Xiaoping who reappeared in public life as vice premier for the first time after the "cultural revolution", addressed him as "our veteran fighter, old friend, and old comrade-in-arms" at the banquet celebrating his 80th birthday. Deng said, "Thousands upon thousands of foreign friends have helped the cause of the Chinese revolution. It is no easy thing to have done so much for the Chinese people as Comrade Rewi Alley has done constantly for half a century, whether in the years when we faced difficulties and adversity, in the years when we fought for the triumph of our revolution, or in the years since victory was won in our revolution. It is only natural that he enjoys the respect of the Chinese people." These words exemplifying the high esteem the Chinese government and people have for Rewi Alley's whole life in this country.

Rewi Alley enjoyed a happy and fruitful life as an old friendship envoy of the New Zealand people. As long residing guest living in the CPAFFC compound, his daily life and work were well looked after by specially assigned CPAFFC staff. His moral integrity, down-to-earth working style and simple living have deeply appealed to all those working beside him. Beginning from the

1980s, to fulfill his grand wish, the CPAFFC facilitated the shipping of his collection of nearly 4,000 pieces of Chinese cultural relics to Shandan as a souvenir to his second home. The growing interest of knowing Rewi Alley's life stories led to the decision of setting up a Rewi Alley Research Office in the CPAFFC by its late President Wang Bingnan which helped arrange his archives and materials for his autobiography and handle the requests made by his Chinese and foreign visitors. His rich collection of books was finally sent to the library of Renmin University of China in Beijing for public use. After all this was accomplished and a grand celebration of his 90th birthday held, he suddenly passed away on December 27, 1987.

A lot of people tried to guess the reason why Rewi Alley never married. In fact it was not his deliberate choice to remain single. Several female friends of different nationalities admired and adored him for his virtue and talents, yet to him, having like minds did not mean taking the same way of life. They eventually remained to be his devoted friends for the rest of his life. Once he did think of getting married with a girl of his heart, but the thoughts that in revolution getting married to have a family and children would hinder one's progress made him hesitate. In addition, he felt having a family without rejoicing with its members would give him a guilty conscience. Year in year out, time showed itself. However, it did not mean Rewi Alley had no family life all those years. He adopted two orphans Alan and Mike during his relief work respectively for the Inner Mongolia draught in 1929 and the Honghu flood in 1932. He brought them up in Shanghai till they finished their middle school education, and then sent them to Yan'an to join the revolution. While in Shandan, he took over the responsibility of looking after the four Nie brothers whom George Hogg adopted in Baoji after their father fled to Yan'an and their mother died of illness. He fostered Deng Bangzhen, nephew of the famous revolutionary martyr Deng Zhongxia, till he completed his schooling in the Central Academy of Fine Arts and later created conditions for him to get married and start his career. These boys and their wives and children made up Rewi Alley's "big Chinese family", giving him tremendous warmth

Japanese Friend Kiyoshi Mizuno

Wang Yuntao

The year 2007 marks the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. In both countries there are a number of personages who have worked hard for and made contributions to the normalization and witnessed the development

of the bilateral relations. Japanese friend Kiyoshi Mizuno is a prominent one, a respectable venerable elder and a good and old friend of the Chinese people.

Mr. Mizuno is a prestigious statesman and a man of insight in the Liberal Democrat-

ic Party (LDP) in Japan. From 1967 to September 1996 he was elected member of the House of Representatives 9 times and successively served as parliamentary vice foreign minister when Masayoshi Ohira was foreign minister, chairman of the Executive Board of the LDP, direc-

and joy as he advanced in age. Moreover, the hundreds of alumni of the old Shandan Bailie School would bring him glad tidings of their successes in different fields of work, a big comfort to their beloved headmaster. In his poem *Home* written on October 25, 1977, Rewi Alley described his life in Beijing:

I look at the old Yixing teapot,
the blue cup and saucer, the
plates from Jingdezhen each
morning, and smile, home is a place
where bits and pieces one has loved,
collect; where friends and family
come around, making walls echo
with sounds of laughter; where flowers
grow, and where too, determination
is wedded to daily living, where folk
from Oceania, the Americas, and too
some from Europe, come for talk;
the place that is the base for travels
into the hinterland; ever a comforting
thought that it is there in its
quiet compound of trees that leap
into life each spring, and fill
each autumn with golden radiance,

A kindly home is this
that China has given me,
How can I thank her more?

For Rewi Alley, the basic tenet of his philosophy is “to give” and not “to take”, hence he

remained calm, never overjoyed or scared in favorable or adverse circumstances. His dedication to promoting well-being of the Chinese people was voluntary and unreserved, never expecting any reward. He felt content from “to give”, kept pursuing his goal even if he was misunderstood, and continued to invigorate himself by overcoming all difficulties. In answering the question put by some youths: “Why did you stay in China?” Rewi Alley said, “China gave me aim to life, a cause to fight for, each year more richly; a place in the ranks of the advancing millions; how great a thing has this been, what bigger reward could one imagine than that which has come to me, and now sustains!” Perhaps today some people may take Rewi Alley as an “idealist” of his times, in fact, he was a most practical and down-to-earth man of action. All his life long contribution was to do something beneficial and substantial for the ordinary Chinese people. To this end, he made a great deal of personal sacrifices, withstood all kinds of political pressure and risked his life while working for Gung Ho despite war turmoil and attacks by infectious diseases, till the dawn of a New China. Today, when we reminisce his noble sentiments, his magnanimous internationalist spirit, his wisdom and foresight, we feel as if some fresh air were purifying our soul, and encouraging us to improve ourselves in pursuit of higher values of human life.

(August 18, 2007)

tor-general of the Cabinet, minister of construction, etc.

In September 2006, Mr. Mizuno was invited by the National Development and Reform Commission of China to make speeches in Beijing. I had a special interview with him. He talked enthusiastically about the importance of the exchanges between the Japanese and Chinese people and the story of his contacts with the Chinese people.

Mr. Mizuno made his first visit to China 36 years ago in October 1971. At that time, in order to expand the force favouring normalization of Japan-China relations within the LDP, Hideji Kawasaki, founding member of the LDP and an old friend of the Chinese people, led a delegation composed of young dietmen of the LDP to visit China. Encouraged by Kawasaki, Mizuno joined the trip. There was no direct flight from Japan to Beijing. They flew to Hong Kong and then traveled to Luohu where, carrying their own luggage, they crossed a bridge over a small river to get to Shenzhen, stepping on the land of the People's Republic. They spent a night in Guangzhou and arrived in Beijing by air the following day. Mizuno recalled, he was deeply touched by the high-spirited and vigorous Chinese people and acquired an initial understanding and a good impression of new China. He said, he would never forget Premier Zhou Enlai's meeting with them during that trip. Premier Zhou cordially met all the members of the delegation in the Great Hall

of the People. He greatly admired the personal charisma of Premier Zhou who had influenced him deeply. He said, Zhou Enlai was an unrivalled great statesman whose understanding of political problems and penetrating analysis of the international situation as well as China's policy towards Japan filled the members of the delegation with admiration. Premier Zhou was amiable and warm-hearted while keeping up his dignity. Since that visit, Mizuno has often visited China and forged profound friendship with the Chinese leaders and people.

During the interview, I got to know that Mizuno's enthusiasm for the cause of Japan-China friendship was most attributive to his correct understanding of the history of Japan's aggression against China. He said, Japan should apologize to the Chinese people for its past crimes.

He said, during his first visit to China, he was greatly surprised when he learned from the Chinese leaders' hint that China would renounce the claim of war reparations from Japan. He said, the Japanese army had occupied China's vast land and brought about tremendous damages and harms to the Chinese people. Besides, new China founded not long before had a shortage of supplies and the Chinese people lived a much poorer life than the Japanese. In spite of all this, the Chinese Government intended to renounce war reparations. I could not believe that China would ac-

tually do that. After returning home, he had told many people about it, and they also did not believe. It is a fact known to all that later in the negotiations of the normalization of bilateral relations, China gave up Japanese war reparations.

Mizuno told me, he was conscripted into the army in 1944 at the age of 19 and sent to Hejin Prefecture of China's Shanxi Province, and returned home after Japan was defeated in 1945. He hated that war bitterly and wanted to apologize to the Chinese people in a practical way. He made great contributions to Japan's early fulfillment of its promise to grant loans in Japanese yen to China. The Hejin Thermal Power Plant was built with part of that loan. When the power plant was completed, he, together with his friends who had served in the army in Shanxi and were already in their seventies, revisited Hejin where they had left 50 years before. They marveled at the development and changes there.

Mizuno is a gentleman who keeps his words and sees his actions through to the end. From 1972 to 1982 when he served as parliamentary vice foreign minister, the Chinese Foreign Ministry was making preparations to establish the Chinese Embassy in Japan. He gave the Chinese side a lot of help. In 1974 because of the obstruction by the rightist parliamentarians, the China-Japan air transport agreement could not get approved by the Diet even

after stalling for a long time. He resolutely advocated to open air service between the two countries in the Diet.

In the interview, Mizuno told me about what he did for the construction of expressways in China. In December 1983 he took the post of minister of construction. Ding Min, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Japan, came to congratulate him with a bottle of *Maotai*. Ding was a friend Mizuno had made during his first visit to China in 1971. During that visit they had a heated argument on a problem for several days. No discord, no concord. They became bosom friends. Mizuno told Ding that he wanted to do something for China. Ding said that in the future China would definitely need to build expressways and he hoped that Japan's experience in building expressways would be introduced to China. In May 1984, invited by the then minister of communications Li Qing, Mizuno accompanied by President Takahashi of the Japan Highway Public Corporation and Director General Kutsukake of the Road Bureau (later elected councillor of the House) paid a visit to China. He gave the Chinese Ministry of Communications a detailed briefing about how Japan got the World Bank's loans for building its first expressway—Tokyo-Nagoya Expressway (completed before the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964) and the collection of fees on Japan's expressways. Vice Premier Li Peng followed it with great interest. Lat-

er the State Council of China approved the plan of building the country's first expressway—Beijing-Tianjin New Port Expressway (with a total length of 152 kilometers and construction cost of 700 million RMB yuan). Its construction began in 1985. During his visit to Japan in September 1984, Vice Premier Li Peng had a working breakfast with Mizuno, the then minister of construction. In the two-hour meeting, they almost talked about nothing but expressways. After taking the post of chairman of the Executive Board of the LDP in 1989, Mizuno urged the JICA to fund the feasibility study on the Shanghai-Nanjing expressway and presented China with a detailed design drawing for reference. During his tenure as minister of construction, Mizuno proposed to hold the Japan-China Road Meeting, providing chances for the government officials and scholars of the two countries to visit each other's country and have technological exchanges. So far, the meeting has been held for 21 times. Mizuno said happily, the road signs used by the Chinese expressways were made on the basis of his suggestion. During his visit to Shandong Province when he passed the expressway and saw all that for himself, all sorts of feelings welled up in his mind. The then leaders of the Chinese Ministry of Communications spoke highly of his contribution to China's expressway construction. But he always kept a low profile. Nowadays the young people know nothing

about these things. During the interview, Mizuno was keen in recalling the past. He said that he had only done his duty to contribute his bit to China's construction, which he felt proud and gratified.

After Junichiro Koizumi took office in 2002, Sino-Japanese relations cooled to the lowest point. Mizuno followed the development of the relations with grave concern. He visited China many times and was received by State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan. During the meeting with Tang, Mizuno said, he was worried about the situation of Japan-China relations and the history problem was the bottleneck. The two sides should resolve the problem with wisdom as soon as possible. As to the Taiwan question, he said that he would inform the relevant Japanese departments and personages through his own channel China's Taiwan policy. He also suggested that China invite relevant Japanese influential personages to visit China and let them know its viewpoints. Mizuno gave many useful suggestions on improving China's relations with the Japanese political circles. He himself brought a number of influential personages in the LDP to visit China, among whom were such important statesmen as former Minister of Finance Masajuro Shiokawa and councillor Taro Nakayama.

Before the end of the interview, Mizuno told me that he was born in 1925 and already 82

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