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**Front cover:** Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and the visiting Indian President Pratibha Patil at the reception in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India (May 28)

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# CJFA Honorary Advisor Tang Jiaxuan And His Party Visit Japan

Zong Riyou

At the invitation of the seven Japan-China friendship organizations, Tang Jiaxuan, honorary advisor to the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), and his party visited Japan March 10-17 to a warm welcome from various circles there. The seven organizations held a grand reception in honor of the Chinese party, while Tang Jiaxuan exchanged in-depth views and reached a clear consensus with personages from Japanese political, economic, cultural and friendship-with-China circles on further promoting relations in the new era.

## I

Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada (right) meeting with CJFA Advisor Tang Jiaxuan



*"The auspicious snow ushers in spring,*

*Friends from Japan gather together with us,*

*Friendship will pass on from generation to generation."*

Premier Wen Jiabao recited his newly-composed *hanpai* (a type of poetry in emulation of *haiku* of Japan) during his meeting with both the Chinese and Japanese members of the Fifth 21st Century Committee for China-Japan Friendship in Ziguangge of Zhongnanhai on February 8. He stressed the mission of the committee was to bring into full play the role of both government and personages of various circles to jointly promote

Sino-Japanese friendship. Taizo Nishimuro, senior Japanese member of the 21st Century Committee, asked Premier Wen to write down the poem that he would always treasure.

On March 11, Tang Jiaxuan handed on a hanging scroll of the poem handwritten by Premier Wen to Nishimuro who expressed thanks by saying: "It's most precious! It shows Premier Wen's great attention to China-Japan relationship."

Nishimuro then recited the *haiku* he had composed in reply to that of

Premier Wen:

*Roads are open after ice is thawed,*

*Spring thunder resounds across the skies,*

*Melodious music is played harmoniously.*

He asked Tang to pass this on to Premier Wen.

## II

The Japanese Government attached great importance to Tang's visit, displaying the new cabinet's positive attitude towards developing the bilateral relationship after the administrative reshuffle.

In his meeting with Tang, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama observed that the relationship had witnessed a good development. He expressed his hope that the two countries would make concerted efforts, look into the future and continue to strengthen their strategic relationship of mutual benefit, and that the two sides would increase high-ranking exchanges, enhance pragmatic cooperation and strengthen exchanges between youths and in social and cultural aspects so as to ensure the friendship passed on from generation to generation. He expected that the CJFA and the 21st Century Committee for China-Japan Friendship would make important contributions to it.

In their meetings with Tang, Takahiro Yokomichi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Satsuki

Eda, President of the House of Councillors, commented that through the concerted efforts of the two sides, the bilateral relationship had entered a new stage of fast development. This relationship was not only very important to the two countries but to the outside world as well. The two sides should take advantage of the favorable situation to create a new strategic relationship of mutual benefit. The Japanese Diet would make great efforts to this end.

Currently, Sino-Japanese relations faced a rare opportunity for development, Tang observed in reply. He hoped that, in the context of both the regional and international landscape undergoing profound changes, the two countries should seize the favorable opportunity and further deepen and enrich their ties.

### III

People-to-people exchanges between the two countries are an important pillar of China-Japan relationship. During Tang's visit, the Japanese people also expressed their new expectations for promoting the development of relations.

On March 12, the seven Japan-China friendship organizations hosted a grand reception to welcome Tang and his party. Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Yohei Kono were among about 600 people from various parts of Japan attending the reception. Everyone agreed China's development presented an important opportunity to Japan. China was now engaged in regional and international affairs as a responsible major player. Japan and China should enhance mutual trust and cooperation. The seven organizations pledged jointly to make fresh contributions to strengthening Japan-



**Tang Jiaxuan receiving a warm welcome at the Matsuyama Ballet Company**

China friendship and promoting pragmatic cooperation. Tang Jiaxuan appreciated the valuable contributions made by everyone involved in the improvement and development of the China-Japan relationship. He provided a retrospective of the course of the development of ties in the post-World War II era and observed that today's achievements and good situation could not have been achieved without the strategic decisions made by the statesmen of the older generation and the arduous efforts made by non-governmental friendship organizations and personages with great insight. For a long time, the seven Japan-China friendship organizations had been at the forefront and worked hard and made indelible contribution to normalization, improvement and development of China-Japan relations. People-to-people friendship was the foundation of the friendship between China and Japan, and an important pillar of the continuous development of the cause of China-Japan friendship. Under the new situation, the friendship organizations of the two countries should create new forms of

exchanges, enrich the contents of exchanges and engage in more substantial activities to enhance political mutual trust and improve people's feelings towards each other so as to realize the great goal of maintaining China-Japan friendship for generations.

At the meeting in commemoration of the birth centennial of the late former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, Tang said, Mr. Ohira had made an important contribution to the normalization and development of relations. During his visit to China, he announced that the Japanese Government would provide Japanese yen loans and technological cooperation for China, which played an important role in China's reform and opening up and modernization drive. The Chinese people would never forget this act.

Visiting the famous Matsuyama Ballet Company in Tokyo, Tang laid a bouquet in front of the tablet honoring the late Masao Shimizu, an old friend of the Chinese people. The young performers of the company recalled the difficult process Shimizu and Mikiko Matsuyama, founders of the company,

had undergone from watching the film *The White-Haired Girl* for the first time to creating their own ballet of the story. The youngsters pledged to carry forward the fine tradition of the older generation and devote all their energies to enhancing the friendship between the Japanese and Chinese people. The ballet *The White-Haired Girl* would be further improved so as to let it become an art treasure not only for today but also in future and an everlasting shining star of art. After that, the famous ballerina Yoko Morishita and male ballet dancer Tetsutaro Shimizu led young dancers to perform the segment of the ballet where Dachun and Xi'er have a dramatic reunion in a cave. The soulful performance by the two artists aged over 60 was just like the company's perseverance in carrying out friendly cultural exchanges between Japan and China, and expressed again their determination of ceaselessly advancing the cause of Japan-China friendship. All present were deeply touched and many were even moved to tears. Tang Jiaxuan recalled affectionately Chairman Mao Zedong's and other Chinese leaders' meetings with Masao Shimizu and his wife Mikiko Matsuyama and hoped that the Matsuya-

ma Ballet would carry on the behest of Masao Shimizu and make new contributions to promoting the cultural exchanges between the two countries. The performers broke into prolonged applause.

At Soka University, the flowers on the "Premier Zhou Cherry Tree" and the "Zhou Couple Cherry Tree" planted in commemoration of Premier Zhou Enlai were budding. Tang noted that Soka was the first Japanese university to accept Chinese government-funded students studying abroad. In 1975, at the suggestion of Daisaku Ikeda, founder of Soka University, Chinese and Japanese students planted together the "Premier Zhou Cherry Tree". Tang said that using their youthful enthusiasm and growing wisdom, young people of the two countries should weave a new China-Japan relationship worthy of the times. Daisaku Ikeda had always stated that Japan should always remember China's profound friendly sentiments toward Japan and earnestly and sincerely develop the cause of lasting friendship between the two countries, he added.

In Kagawa Prefecture on Shikoku Island, Tang and his party visited the headquarters of All Japan

Shorinji Kempo Federation (AJSKF). Doshin So, the founder, learned Chinese martial arts in his early years and created Shorinji Kempo (quan fa) after returning home. Doshin So's view that "peace in Asia comes from Japan-China friendship, and without peace in Asia, there can be no peace in the world" has become the starting point for the work of his federation in promoting friendship

between Japan and China. Yuki So, current president of the Federation, has carried on her father's behest and regards Shaolin Temple on Mount Songshan, China as the "birthplace of the soul". She said that, besides carrying out exchanges with Shaolin Temple in martial arts, the headquarters of the AJSKF has also made donations for building Hope Primary Schools in Henan Province and helping victims of the Wenchuan earthquake. In recognition of her work she has been conferred the title of China-Japan Friendship Envoy. She said that she would continue to work for deepening understanding and cultivating friendship between the Japanese and Chinese young people.

#### IV

In the industrial center of Osaka, Tang and his party visited the Nanko area. The Japan-China Economic and Trade Center (JCETC) and the Osaka Prefecture Japan-China Friendship Association jointly held a grand reception to welcome them. Osaka and the surrounding Kansai region occupy an important place in Japan's economy. It is reported that currently over 70% of Osaka's total imports and exports come from and go to the rest of Asia led by China. A large number of local small and medium-sized enterprises set great store by the Chinese market. Osaka Governor Toru Hashimoto said China's economy was becoming increasingly important to the economy of Kansai and indeed the whole of Japan. The local government would do its utmost to serve as a bridge to help the Japanese and Chinese enterprises carry out business cooperation. On July 28, 2010, Osaka City would hold an "Osaka Day" at the Shanghai World Expo. A total of 500 people from various circles of Osaka would go to Shanghai by the cruise ship "New Jian Zhen".

**Tang Jiaxuan meeting with Masahiko Komura, President of the Dietmen's League for Japan-China Friendship**



# Halter Financial Summit

Liu Yi

The prolonged financial crisis brought about profound changes in international political and economic patterns. With a focus on China's place in the post-crisis world situation, the Halter Financial Summit, co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and Halter Financial Group, was held in Shanghai from April 8 to 9, 2010. With a theme of China in a Changing World, the event examined various hot issues such as Sino-US relations, the current global financial situation, China's role in the global economic pattern and investment opportunities and challenges in China.

Among Chinese officials attending the opening ceremony were Yu Zhengsheng, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPC and Secretary of Shanghai CPC Committee, Xu Kuangdi, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Li Xiaolin, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Tu Guangshao, Vice Mayor of Shanghai, Cui Jindu, Vice Mayor of Tianjin, Song Hai, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province, and Han Yongwen, Deputy Governor

of Hunan Province. From the American side, former President George W. Bush and former Treasury Secretary John Snow delivered major speeches.

The two-day conference carefully examined many aspects of Sino-US relations, friendship between the two peoples, the outlook for Sino-US economic development as well as specific issues like investment in China and capital raising prospects for SMEs. Policies relating to bilateral trade and the RMB exchange rate; China's

macro economic development also received attention.

In addition to Chinese government leaders of various levels, guests from the academic field, and the financial and private business sectors all delivered speeches including Xia Bin of the State Council Counselor's Office and Director General of the Research Institute of Finance under the Development and Research Center of the State Council, Zhang Yujun, General Manager of the Shanghai

Former US President George W. Bush speaking at Halter Financial Summit



Akio Tanii, President of the JCETC, said the JCETC would actively promote the local small and medium-sized enterprises to carry out cooperation with Chinese counterparts in the fields of energy conservation, environmental protection, etc. so as to give play to the advantages of Japanese enterprises and make full use of the China opportunity.

Reviewing the visit, we feel deeply that various parties in Japan from the government to non-governmental organizations, from political circles to business circles and from the capital to various localities all strongly hope that the two countries will make concerted efforts to continuously strengthen China-Japan strategic relationship of mutual benefit, in-

crease high-ranking exchanges, deepen pragmatic cooperation, carry forward the cause and forge ahead into the future to ensure China-Japan friendship last for generations. Auspicious snow has ushered in spring in both China and Japan. The relationship of the two countries separated only by a strip of water is also ushering in spring. □

Stock Exchange, Li Ruogu, Chairman and President of China EximBank, Liu Yonghao, Board Chairman of the New Hope Group. The summit also attracted financial experts and top managers from all over the world, such as Pieter Bottelier, former Chief of the World Bank's Resident Mission in China, former US Ambassador to China James Sasser, former Chief Economist of Deutsche Bank Norbert Walter, Chief Economist of The Royal Bank of Scotland Ben Simpfendorfer, Peter Schiff, CEO of Euro Pacific Capital and Timothy Halter, Chairman and CEO of Halter Financial Group. Opinions were shared among government officials, economists and scholars, investors and entrepreneurs from various perspectives in order to seek a common ground, deepen mutual understanding and build consensus.

#### **Reaffirm Sino-US Win-Win Cooperation**

Sino-American relations underwent a period of an unpleasant experience due to a series of disruptive moves and actions of the US government. Many doubts were expressed on the future development of bilateral relations.

However, in this summit,

key-note speakers from America firmly supported the positive development of such ties. They pointed out that Sino-US cooperation is of critical importance to the whole world and reaffirmed that win-win cooperation would be the key element in Sino-American relations.

In his speech, former President Bush said China is an important member in the international community. The development of China and the U.S. is not a zero-sum game. The rise of China should not be seen as a concern or a threat to America. He considered that China and America could seek more potential cooperation in energy, technology, anti-terrorism policies and dealing with international issues such as the Korean Peninsula problem. China's development would bring more opportunities to the U.S., he stressed. The two countries should develop their bilateral relations on the basis of win-win cooperation and seeking common ground while reserving differences. One of the key roles of this summit was to promote friendship between peoples of China and America.

The speeches of Mr. Snow and James Sasser indicated that China would become a major driving force

for world development, and the prosperity of China wouldn't adversely affect the U.S. In fact, there was little confrontation between the two world giants. The two sides should further promote exchanges and contribute to the stability and prosperity of world economy. In the Nuclear Summit held in Washington DC, President Hu Jintao also expressed the same opinion that only with their joint efforts could we create a better and more harmonious world.

#### **Anti-Protectionism and Anti-Appreciation of RMB are of the Mainstream Voice**

In his speech, Mr. Bush regarded the global economy as an interdependent whole where everyone embraced each other and firmly opposed trade protectionism. After the outbreak of the financial crisis, China had adopted active measures, carried out cooperation with America and the entire international community and ultimately prevented the crisis from deteriorating. He highly evaluated the cooperation between China and the U.S. and hoped the two countries could address each others' concerns and needs, reinforce communications, and avert trade protectionism or even



# CPAFFC President Chen Haosu Visits Yemen and Jordan

Zhang Yue

From March 10 to 19, a CPAFFC delegation headed by its President Chen Haosu paid a goodwill visit to Yemen and Jordan as guests of the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Association (YCFA) and the Jordan-China Friendship Society (JCFS).

In Yemen, meetings included ones with Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar and Amat Alrazza Hommad, Deputy General Secretary of the ruling General People's Congress and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor.

Prime Minister Mujawar noted a long history of friendship and shared common interests in many fields, with frequent exchanges of visits at high level, such as President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to China in 2006 and Vice President Xi Jinping's visit to Yemen in 2008. China was now Yemen's biggest trade partner, while the Chinese people had given great assistance in the country's construction and development, as demonstrated by the Cemetery for Chinese Martyrs in Sana and the medical teams that had been providing health services to local people for

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu with Amat Alrazza Hommad, Deputy General Secretary of the Yemeni General People's Congress**

decades. He expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation in all fields would see further development, adding that Yemen welcomed Chinese investments in mining, cement and fishery and other areas.



a trade war.

In Mr. Snow's opinion, as a sovereign country, China's currency issue was its domestic affair to be decided solely by China itself. When he was the Secretary of Treasury, both President Bush and he faced political pressure, but he never accepted China as a currency manipulator nor approved any punitive tariffs against China. The U.S. should not regard China as a currency manipulator.

Senator Sasser agreed with Snow's opinion that it would be a mistake if the U.S. exerted pressure on China and listed it as a currency manipulator. He believed that, as time goes by, China will adopt a more flexible currency mechanism. Many peo-

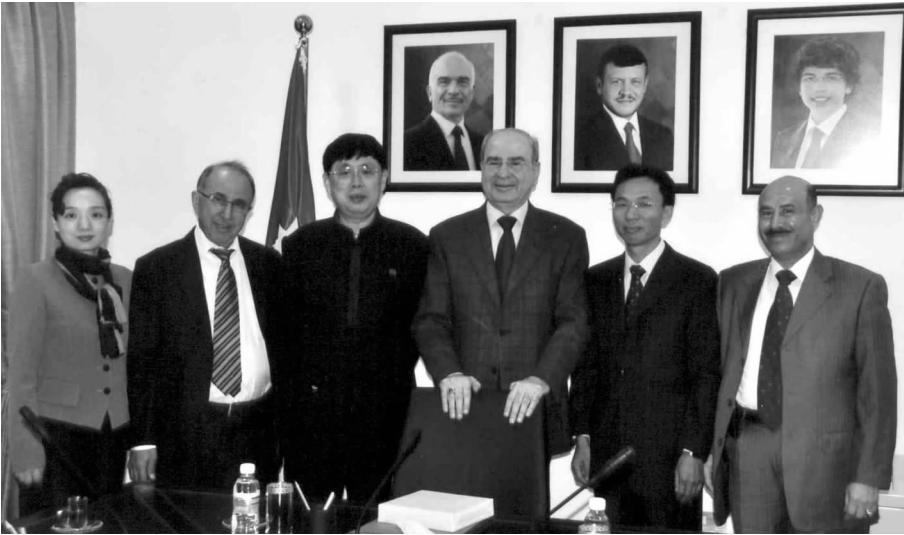
ple are under the illusion that the appreciation of RMB would help the U.S. recover from the financial crisis. But, Sasser insisted, economic problems in the U.S. could only be solved by the American people themselves.

## **Opportunities and Platforms for Chinese SMEs to Go Out**

Shortly before the Summit, over 300 Chinese enterprises from various industries including consumer goods, automobiles, renewable resources, agriculture, health care, digitalized media and education participated in one-on-one dialogues and introduced themselves to investors and institutions from all over the world. These enterprises possess advantages in

technology and production R&D with large potential, but they lack capital support and managerial experience. Through exchanges with international investors with profound understanding of how to improve management and utilize global capital effectively, Chinese enterprises found new ways and paths for future development. Foreign investors, meanwhile, were satisfied with the proficiency of Chinese SMEs and signed agreements of intent with many of them.

The summit drew broad attention from mainstream media at home and abroad including the *People's Daily*, *Global Times*, *Shanghai Security News*, CCTV and the *Associated Press*. □



**Jordanian Senate President Taher Al Masri meeting with CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and his party**

President Chen Haosu noted the visit to Yemen 600 years ago by the fleet led by Admiral Zheng He, a Chinese navigator of the Ming Dynasty; today, the Chinese naval fleet was once again active in the Gulf of Aden to continue a new chapter of Sino-Yemeni friendship. This demonstrated the great responsibility for regional and world peace shouldered by the two countries.

During his meeting with Deputy General Secretary



al-Khawlani said that, thanks to the efforts by generations of leaders, a solid foundation of friendship had been laid. The two sides should strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, tapping the cooperation potential in industry, mining and trade so as to promote further progress in the substantive friendly relations. Jamal al-Khawlani told the delegation that he had been recently appointed vice minister of local administration and hoped to enhance exchanges between local governments of the two countries in future. President Chen nodded his agreement, saying that the CPAFFC would continue to use its influence and work with the Yemeni counterpart to bring about a new situation of friendly cooperation by carrying out more projects that would benefit our peoples. He also briefed the Yemeni side on the Third China-Arab Friendship Conference to be held in Tripoli, Libya later in the year and the China-Arab Cities Forum currently in preparation. He hoped Yemen would send delegations to these events.

In Aden Province, Governor Adnan al-Jeffri said, Yemen and China enjoyed close political relations, but cooperation between localities was obviously inadequate. He hoped that further efforts would be made to advance local government cooperation.

#### **Exchange of Views in Jordan**

In Jordan, Chen Haosu exchanged views with Senate President Taher Al Masri on the Middle East situation. The latter described China as a true friend of Jordan whose firm support for the just cause of the Arab peoples was deeply

**The CPAFFC delegation at the monument honoring Admiral Zheng He and his fleet in Aden**

Hommad, President Chen said that, over the past century, China and Yemen had waged hard struggles on their roads to development, deepening their relations in the process. China thanked Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his outstanding contribution to consolidating and developing the bilateral friendship. President Chen Haosu asked the Deputy General Secretary to pass on to President Saleh the China-Yemen Friendship Award conferred by the CPAFFC and to convey to him the Chinese people's deep respect.

# Fifth *Say It As It Is* Delegation Visits the US

Li Sanhua, Zuo Wei

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin headed the fifth *Say It As It Is* Delegation to the US from April 20 to 26. This also included Chang Bo, Deputy Secretary General of the Guangdong Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Zhang Chuanjie, a scholar from Tsinghua University, Gong Jinwen, Chairman of Shanxi Huanjie Petroleum Drilling Tools Co., Ltd., and Nie Ji, a worker from Guangzhou South China Tire & Rubber Co., Ltd.

The delegation met with six members of the House of Representatives respectively for a frank and friendly dialogue on various topics including China-US relations, and American trade-related actions such as the tariffs imposed on tires from China, anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations and punitive duty on oil and gas well steel pipes from China. The delegation also attended the 19th Seminar on US-China Relations entitled "Strategic Dialogues, Shared Vision for the Next 30 Years" sponsored by the US-China Peoples Friendship Association.

The delegation drew much media attention. Li Xiaolin, Gong Jinwen and Nie Ji respectively were interviewed by reporters from the *People's Daily*, Xinhua News Agency, China News Agency and Phoenix TV. Phoenix TV aired the edited interviews in its program *Good Morning China* on April 23. And on April 24, *China Press US* carried a full-page story on the delegation's visit. The *Washington Post* and *Voice of America* also interviewed Gong Jinwen.

Since 2002, the CPAFFC has organized five *Say It As It Is* Delegations to the US. Consisting of ordinary Chinese people, the delegations have visited Capitol Hill in Washington DC

and held dialogues with a total of 98 Senators and House Representatives, helping the latter gain a better understanding of China. In the following paragraphs we present the individual views of the visit contributed by two of the participants.

**CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin presenting a commemorative photo album of the 30th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations to Congressman Peter Roskam**



appreciated. In recent years, China had made great achievements with raised international standing. He hoped China would play a greater role in Middle East and expressed his belief that peace would eventually come to the region through the concerted efforts of the entire international community.

President Chen thanked President Masri for his remarks. He said, the Chinese people had consistently supported the Arab people in their just cause. For several decades, the CPAFFC had held annual events in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, and in 2006 designated November 29 as the Day of China-Arab Friendship. The Chinese people

fully understood the Arab people's aspiration for unity and hoped peace would be realized at an early date.

At a get-together with the members of the Executive Committee of the JCFS, President Chen highly praised the JCFS for its important contribution to enhancing the friendly relations and cooperation between the people of China and Jordan. JCFS President Fayiz Soheimat told the delegation that the organization included former MPs and ministers, and famous entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, university presidents, all of whom were influential figures of the country. The JCFS would work to further its cooperation with the CPAFFC to promote the continuous development of Jordan-China and Arab-China friendship. □

# Amity Between People a Key to Sound Relations Between States

Gong Jinwen

As a young member of the China-US People's Friendship Association, it was the first time for me to participate in a Chinese NGO's activities in a foreign country. I was very excited.

There is an old Chinese saying that: "Amity between people holds the key to sound relations between states." What the CPAFFC is engaged in is just such sacred work of promoting non-governmental contacts between the people of China and other countries to enhance mutual understanding. As a people's envoy, I felt honored to have the opportunity to talk to the American people of various circles about China and the US as seen through my eyes. Several things struck me as somewhat unexpected and I'd like to share these with you.

**It was unexpected that we would receive such high courtesy.** The doors

of US Congressmen are open to those who have the courage to knock at them. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin took us to visit six members of the House of Representatives in a day. I had never thought that one day I would walk into the office of a US Congressman and talk with him on a topic of common concern. In Washington, the Chinese Ambassador also met with us. I am convinced that, despite the differences that exist between China and the US, bilateral relations will develop further as long as exchanges between our two peoples are increased and their mutual understanding is enhanced.

**It was unexpected that the visit would be so fruitful.** The visit was made against a background of increasing trade disputes between China and the US as bilateral trade grew. These disputes had brought about

great losses to China's domestic enterprises. When calling on the Congressmen, I told them why we insisted we had not dumped our products and pointed out that the enterprises of our two countries as well as bilateral trade would benefit from cooperation and suffer from confrontation. I also made use of the visit to submit a counter-plea to the US Chamber of Commerce, the US Department of Commerce and US enterprises in the hope they would organize Chinese and American enterprises to sit down together to discuss the matter. This proposal aroused extensive reactions and received local people's support.

**It was unexpected that the visit would draw so much attention from the media.** Media such as the *People's Daily*, *Washington Post*, Phoenix Web, China News Agency, VOA and *International Commerce* reported the activities of the delegation in the US. VOA interviewed me. According to the incomplete statistics compiled by my company's information center, 39 media and websites reported our visit. The click volume of the English website of my company overtook that of the Chinese website for the first time. In April when I made the 10-day trip, more than 5,000 people visited my company's website, 10 times the average rate of other months. Today, I still keep correspondence with friends of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association. Among them, Ms Christine Y. Aylward has extended an invitation to me and enthusiastically helped to arrange meetings with the US Department of Commerce and the

Calling on Congressman Dean Heller. From left: Nie Ji, Gong Jinwen, Li Xiaolin, Dean Heller and Zhang Chuanjie



National Foreign Trade Council for me. During my stay in the US, there was always something new every day. In my opinion that such peo-

ple-to-people exchanges with the US were really needed.

I'm confident that my company will perform better. I also hope that

the CPAFFC will continue this activity. I will continue to support the work of the CPAFFC and contribute my bit to the cause of China-US friendship.

## Impressions of My Visit to the US

Nie Ji

"I'm very pleased to meet you" I greeted a Congressman on Capitol Hill. ... "The US, by imposing special protectionist tariff on tire imports from China, has harmed us without achieving anything good. It could cause about 100,000 American distributors and dealers of Chinese tires to lose their jobs and lead to a job loss of 100,000 people in the manufacturing industry in China..." As an ordinary worker in a tire factory, I had never dreamed that one day I would represent Chinese tire workers to have face to face talks with US Congressmen about my personal experience of the economic crisis and the impact on China's tire industry brought about by the US tariff on Chinese tire imports. But the dream came true with the help of the CPAFFC.

April 19, 2010 was an unforgettable day to me, for from that day till April 26, as a member of the *Say It As It Is* delegation, I experienced many firsts of my life: the first time I made a visit to another country; the first time I met with US Congressmen, the first time I gave an interview to a TV station (reporters of Phoenix TV stationed in Washington DC)... The visit of these few days broadened my horizons and provided a lot of food for thought.

Compared with the US, China still has large room for development. You may think that this is obvious. Everyone knows that the US is a developed country while China a devel-



Congresswoman Yvette Clarke with the delegation

oping one. But once you are in the US, you will be much more impressed by what you see than the mere figures you get from the newspapers and web pages. Seeing \$30, \$50 on the price tags of some brand clothes that will cost over a thousand yuan in China, and electric appliances priced only a few hundred dollars will sell at over 10,000 yuan in China, you may ask why these things are so cheap here? It is because most of them are imports from developing countries. These products involve neither much technology nor competitiveness. Being the biggest developing country, China has ample human resources. If we invest more in the research and development of new products and make breakthroughs in science and technology, we will gradually narrow these gaps. Then, things such as "selling 800 mil-

lion shirts in exchange for an airplane" will not happen again.

Understanding should be deepened between China and the US. From the visit I realized that many Congressmen and American people have limited knowledge of China. Therefore, people-to-people exchanges should be enhanced to enable more American people to learn about China and let the Chinese people understand that we still need to make great efforts.

There is still much to do but if we realize this, follow a scientific outlook on development, and make breakthroughs in science and technology and continue renovation, any remaining gaps will be narrowed. Of course, it requires the efforts of every one of us. I believe that my motherland will have a better future. □

# Cherish the Memory of CSF First Chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch

Yin Shenglun

I felt very sad when learning that Juan Antonio Samaranch, an old friend of the Chinese people, had passed away. Thanks to my work, I was fortunate to have close contacts with Samaranch for five years. His brilliant political vision, amiable character and magnanimity in handling things left a deep impression and earned my respect and admiration.

In 2000, the leaders of the Chinese and Spanish governments decided to establish the China-Spain Forum (CSF) with a view to promoting an in-depth, all-round friendly and cooperative relationship. Hu Qili and Chen Haosu respectively serve as chairman and executive chairman of the Chinese Committee of the CSF. After retiring as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in July 2001, Samaranch became the first chairman of the Spanish Committee in November of that year. From 2003 to 2007 the CSF held four meetings respectively in Beijing, Barcelona, Shanghai and Madrid. Samaranch devoted himself to the cause of Spain-China friendship and cooperation and made important contributions to the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Since its founding, the heads of state and government

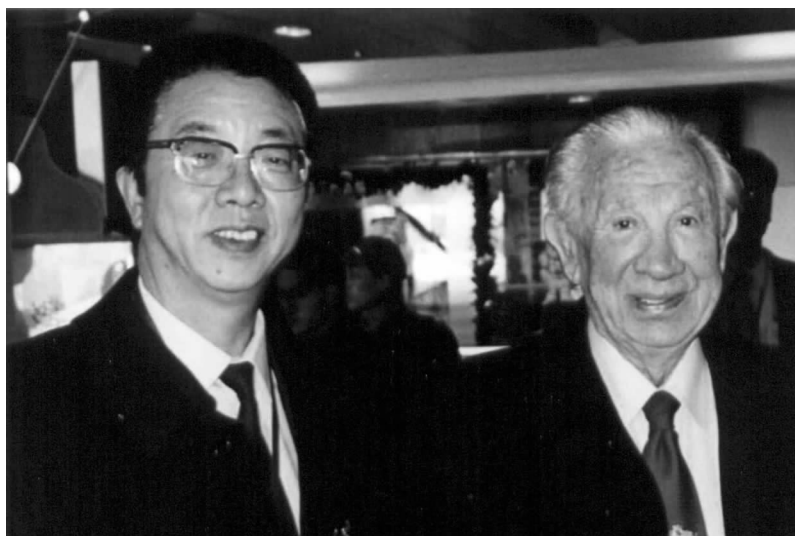
on both sides have attached great importance to the CSF and supported its work. Chairman Samaranch lived up to the high expectations of the leaders and people of the two countries. He and his Chinese counterparts, through five years' joint efforts, built the CSF into an important platform for promoting cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, culture, sports and law and between different localities and cities, vigorously promoting all-round development of bilateral relations. The influence and role of the CSF are now recognized by the two governments and people of various circles. The national leadership has met with the Chinese and Spanish participants at the various CSF meetings. Chinese Vice Premiers Zeng Peiyan and Hui Liangyu and Spanish First Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de La Vega attended these meetings and gave important speeches. The conclusive documents adopted at the meetings gave constructive guidance and established a basic policy direction for all-round development of relations with rich results.

Samaranch played a vital role in the establishment and development of the CSF and endowed it with unique appeal and influence. His passionate efforts could be seen throughout the course of its development.

He displayed his political wisdom in handling CSF affairs and helped ensure its smooth working. I remember that, at a meeting held in Spain, Hu Qili was not invited to be seated on the rostrum because of a complicated seating arrangement. Samaranch spotted the problem the moment he was seated on the rostrum. He bypassed the complicated protocol procedure and directly waved to Hu Qili to come onto the rostrum, thus helping keep the balance of the delegates of the two sides there and ensured the success of the meeting.

Samaranch was particularly keen on promoting sports exchanges. At his suggestion, a Sports Committee of the CSF was set up and he served as the Spanish co-chairman. He attended

The author with Juan Antonio Samaranch



# An Eternal Good Friend of The Chinese People

## —Burundian Vice President Yves Sahinguvu Visits China

**Tang Ruimin**

**O**n March 8, 2010, Burundian First Vice President Yves Sahinguvu and his wife and entourage arrived in Beijing at the invitation of the CPAFFC.

He is an honorary member of the Burundi-China Friendship Association. Since he assumed his present

political office in 2007, he has devoted himself to developing friendship between the two countries. Every time the Chinese Embassy in Burundi holds a National Day reception, an evening party celebrating the Spring Festival and activities celebrating the Beijing Olympic Games and the

Shanghai World Expo, for example, he always attends to give an enthusiastic speech. Burundian newspapers, radio and television have given detailed reports about these activities, thus expanding China's influence in Burundi and enhancing the understanding between the two peoples. To

all of its meetings, contributed to making policies for promoting sports exchanges between the two countries and participated in a meeting on sports cooperation just days before the opening of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. At the meeting, he received a Decoration of Supreme Honor from the Chinese Olympic Committee.

I particularly admired his firm character. Once he set goals, he would press forward with an indomitable will. I remember that, when the CSF third meeting was held in Shanghai in 2006, the 86-year-old Samaranch was bleeding from the nose when he got out of the plane; but he insisted on attending all the meetings after brief hospital emergency treatment. At the meeting's opening ceremony, he affirmed that the Beijing Games would display to the world China's profound changes that had led to the majority of the Chinese people leading an affluent life that none could have previously predicted. The 2010 Shanghai Expo would show China's vigor and vitality to the world again and act as a bridge to link it with other countries and regions in the world. He expressed his belief that Spain would participate in the Expo on a scale compatible with the increasingly close friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. He wished the Beijing Olympic Games and the Shanghai Expo complete success which he said would further demonstrate China's increasingly important role in today's world.

After the end of the meeting, despite his advanced age, he insisted on attending a seminar on economic cooperation between China and Spain in Hangzhou. He paid great attention to the cooperation between the business cir-

cles of the two countries. He said that he was happy to meet the people from the business circles of both countries in beautiful Hangzhou. They had an unshakable responsibility to promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation. China was a great country and many Spanish enterprises had already entered its market. He hoped that more Spanish enterprises would come to China to make investment and also more Chinese enterprises would go to Spain to develop their business.

Samaranch loved China, sympathized with China and supported China. Despite the advancing years, he still worked for friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He was an old and good friend of the Chinese people. I will never forget his bright smile when he received the medal and certificate of Friendship Ambassador conferred upon him by He Luli, then vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and CPAFFC President Chen Haosu.

During the last days of his life, in March 4, 2010 he accepted the Foundation Prize issued by the Spanish China Council Foundation—the sponsor of the Spanish side of the CSF. One month later, he passed way.

Samaranch is gone, but he has left us a rich spiritual heritage. We can feel it a great relief to tell him that under the inspiration of his spirit the cause of China-Spain friendship and cooperation will continue to develop.

We will forever cherish his memory.

**The author is former secretary general of the China-Spain Forum.**



**Burundian Vice President Yves Sahunu and his party on the Great Wall at Badaling section in Beijing**



**Vice President Yves Sahunu with a newborn baby and medical staff at the No. 1 Hospital Attached to Guangzhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

visit China had been his long-cherished wish. He noted that China had changed from a poor and backward country into the world's third largest economy and the second largest financial power. He believed that one day China would surely become the world's most powerful country. As an old friend of China, he felt it was essential to make a visit to see for himself the earthshaking changes the

country had undergone in the past 30 years.

The briefing given by Zhuo Qin-rui, Vice Mayor of Shenzhen, was one of the highlights of the visit. Zhuo told the visitors from Africa that Shenzhen was a young city with a history of only 30 years, developing from a small backward border town into a city with the fastest growth in China. The city's GDP ranks the fourth a-

mong the nation's big and medium-sized cities, next only to Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou. Sahunu said that the achievements of Shenzhen, particularly in the fields of new and high technologies, finance and transportation, were extremely admirable. Burundi, he noted, had received great support and assistance from China in the fields of telecommunications, education and health. He hoped that the two sides would conduct more cooperation and exchanges in the future and that, in 30 years' time, the Burundian people could lead an affluent life just like the people in Shenzhen.

Sahunu is in charge of the Burundi's foreign affairs and internal security. He was greatly interested in his visit to the camp of a fire brigade under the Shenzhen Public Security Bureau, where he watched a fire-fighting performance and sought information about fire-fighting apparatus and equipment. When he saw lightweight fire-fighting coats, he began to ask in detail about their performance, price and manufacturer and was full of praise for them. He told the Burundian Ambassador to China accompanying him to contact the manufacturer so that Burundi could import the coats to equip its own fire brigades.

The climate and vegetation of Guangdong Province are similar to those of many African countries. The local people in Guangdong are warm and hospitable, open-minded and ready to cooperate. Many heads of state of African countries visit Guangdong during their stay in China and Vice President Sahunu was no exception. He visited the Guangdong Agri-machinery Research Institute, the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and the No. 1 Hospital Attached to Guangzhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

# French Friends Drop in on a Tibetan Family

**Duan Beisheng**

An 18-member delegation of Le Cercle Franco-Chinois (French-Chinese Circle) headed by its president and noted Sinologist Jacques Van Minden traveled to Tibet by train across the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau for a study tour. This was the first high-level French delegation to visit Tibet in recent years.

Despite their travel fatigue, delegation members were in high spirits. Among them were old friends of China who had visited many parts of the country, while others were paying their first trip and eager to know more about Tibet, such a mysterious place on the roof of the world. They wanted very much to learn through the visit about the real life of the Tibetan people and how much freedom of religion they actually enjoyed.

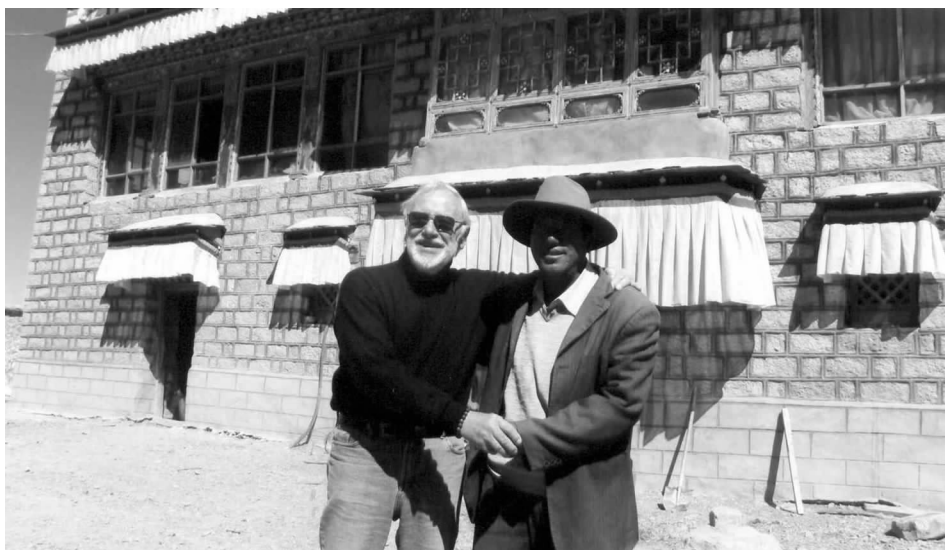
On May 9, the coach carrying the delegation to Xigaze stopped at Biza Village of Jiakuoxiong Township for a break. Jacques Van Minden

and others dropped into Bianba Cering's home, a Tibetan-style two-storey building. The rooms downstairs are used for storing sundry goods and farm tools while the upper floor contains the family living quarters. The building has an enclosed yard.

The hospitable host showed the French guests into the spacious living room and poured them fragrant butter tea. Conversation then started about the daily life of the family.

Bianba Cering is aged 41. There are five people in his family. His

**Bianba Cering with Jacques Van Minden outside his house**



Burundi is an agricultural country with 98 % of its population engaged in agriculture. Burundi's coffee and tea are well-known and exported to Europe. Sahinguvu said that, after years' civil war, Burundi was now on the right track to peace. Its relations with its neighbors were much improved and the national economy was gradually recovering. Burundi strongly hopes to strengthen cooperation with China in the agricultural field. For this reason, he was very interested in the low-powered tractors, harvesters, threshers and agricultural product processing ma-

chines that he saw in the Guangdong Agri-machinery Research Institute. He said that he would invite Chinese agricultural technicians and experts to Burundi to provide guidance and training. He hoped that China would establish an agricultural demonstration center in Burundi so as to help it raise the level of agricultural mechanization.

On the morning of March 14, Vice President Sahinguvu concluded his visit to China. Before his departure, he seemed reluctant to part and shook hands with CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku in farewell,

saying, the visit to China had been the most unforgettable in his life and that he would forever be a good friend of the Chinese people.

Major media in Burundi gave full coverage of his visit. The formal invitation extended by CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and the letter of thanks written by Vice President Sahinguvu to the CPAFFC for its warm reception were splashed across the front pages of the main newspapers, fully demonstrating the Burundian people's friendly sentiments towards the Chinese people. □



**Members of the French-Chinese Circle having a chat with Bianba Cering**

youngest son is studying elsewhere while his eldest son is working in the village by contracting construction projects. Lumber piled up in the courtyard proved to be material he bought for building houses for others. The family is a typical farmer household in that area. In the past, living on 8 *mu* of land, the family was hard up. Later, under government reforms, Bianba Cering began to raise cattle, pigs and chickens. Now there are eight cattle, more than 20 pigs, and over 3,000 chickens that have made him the local “chicken king”. He told the guests with a smile that the Central Government always cared about Tibetan people’s livelihood and provided all kinds of subsidies to help develop production. Since his village began carrying out a housing project for low-income families in 2006, the government had given special subsidies to poor households lacking

able-bodied workers, he explained. Though the life of his family had improved greatly, he had still been able to receive 12,000 yuan as a subsidy for building his house. When Jacques Van Minden asked him what had been the greatest change over the past decade, the Tibetan farmer offered several observations headed by religious belief and family planning. These had been sensitive issues in the past but there was no doubt that, for many years, the Tibetan people had been enjoying the most preferential treatment in these areas. But what had really impressed him in the past decade was the improvement of infrastructural facilities. Due to a sparse population in the area, there was only one dirt road near his house in the past. Now, the government had built four asphalt roads. All the 200 Tibetan households had access to electricity and television and telephone

were widely used. In his family of five, everyone had a mobile phone. He had never dared even to imagine he could live such a good life.

When asked whether his produce could be sold freely and whether he could produce enough grain and vegetables for their own consumption, Bianba Cering said he could freely sell wheat and highland barley while the selling and buying of pigs, cows, chickens and mutton sheep could be carried out through the production cooperative or market. Because of the high altitude, the government encouraged farmers to built plastic “green-houses” to grow vegetables. Hence, farmers lacked neither food nor clothing.

Time passed fast in pleasant chat. When the French guests saw in the room wall posters of the Chinese leaders of several generations, they had pictures taken in front of them.

The French guests were impressed by Bianba Cering’s straightforward way of talking and the visit to the farmer’s family enriched their knowledge about Tibet.

Outside the house, the sky was blue with a few floating white clouds and the air was fresh. Tibetan farmers were busy with spring ploughing in the fields and a pair of yaks pulled the plough side by side. Glaciers and high mountains were visible in the distance. It was a beautiful and harmonious picture of man and nature. The members of the delegation waved goodbye to Bianba Cering and the coach drove on along the highway to Xigaze.

#### **Backgrounder:**

Le Cercle Franco-Chinois (CFC), a French friendship-with-China organization, was founded in 1996 under the initiation of high-ranking Chinese and French leaders. The 18-member CFC dele-

gation led by its president Jacques Van Minden made a study tour of Tibet via Shanghai from May 5 to 13, 2010. After the visit to Tibet, some members traveled to Guilin.

Jacques Van Minder is a noted social activist and economist and has

traveled across Europe, America and the Asia-Pacific region. Since his first trip to China in 1956, he has made more than 200 visits to the country. He witnessed all historical periods after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, met with

# Madrid Symposium Promotes China-Spain Local Government Cooperation

Yu Shunji

With the concerted efforts of the CPAFFC and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (SFMP), the China-Spain Local Government Cooperation Symposium was held in Madrid on March 24, 2010.

The participants were mayors and government officials of small and medium-sized cities of the two countries. A 32-member Chinese delegation of local government officials headed by CPAFFC Vice President Li

Jianping also participated. The symposium was the continuance and expansion of the meeting of CSF's Committee of Regions and Cities, aiming at building a platform for local governments of the two countries to conduct exchanges in specific fields.

This was an outgrowth of discussions at the Fifth Meeting of the China-Spain Forum (CSF) in April 2009, when Chinese and Spanish members of the Committee of Re-

gions and Cities agreed on the need to explore new ways to cooperate in such areas as building of a harmonious society, urban ecological environment, urban planning and construction, and protection and development of historical and cultural heritages. It was decided that a special meeting of the Committee of Regions and Cities would be held to promote this idea.

Javier Leon de la Riva, President of the International Relations

Leaders of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities meeting with chief members of the Chinese delegation



Chinese leaders such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao many times and seen the changes and development of the Chinese society in the past 50-odd years. Since his first visit to Tibet in 1958, he has so far been there seven times. He knows clearly the terrible sufferings of the Tibetan people before the democratic reform in Tibet. He also understands

the adverse impact of false information spread by some people in the world who have never been to Tibet. The members of the delegation, coming from different circles, had a common goal of presenting a true Tibet to the French public.

During their stay in Tibet, the delegation visited the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Tashilhunpo Monastery as well as the railway sta-

tion and hospitals. Through visiting ordinary Tibetan families, they learned the preferential policies the Central Government has adopted for the people in the Tibet Autonomous Region and how the life of Tibetan farmers and herdsmen has changed from poverty to well-being. They could feel Tibetan people's gratitude for the governments at various levels.

Commission of the SFMP and Mayor of Valladolid, in northeastern Spain, in presiding over the meeting said local governments of the two countries should carry out substantial exchanges in such areas as resisting economic crisis, countering climate change, enhancing cultural awareness of the two peoples and improving urban services.

Li Jianping said cooperation between local governments was an important part of the China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership. He stressed the need to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in areas of common concern. The CPAFFC stood ready to make concerted efforts along with the SFMP to set up a stable and efficient cooperation mechanism for this purpose.

Two topics were discussed at the symposium: first, environmental protection in the urban development process; second, cooperation between the local governments of the two countries under the new international situation. During the discussions on the first topic, the participants explored such issues as making a scientific urban development plan, promoting urban industrial restructuring, accelerating the construction of urban environmental fa-

cilities and urban environment supervision and control, transforming economic development pattern, energy conservation, emission reduction and development of a circular economy. Delegates from the Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Qinghai Province, Liupanshui City of Guizhou Province, Lichuan City of Hubei Province and Qingyang City of Gansu Province of China and the Spanish cities of Pamplona, Fuenlabrada and Coca, spoke on these issues. Everyone present agreed the local governments of the two countries should make joint efforts to promote sustainable development of cities and conduct cooperation in specific areas such as developing and utilizing clean energy and cutting urban greenhouse gas emissions.

In the discussions on the second topic, delegates from Neijiang City of Sichuan Province, Enshi City of Hubei Province and Suihua City of Heilongjiang Province and the Spanish delegates from Valladolid, Riudecanyes and Malaga addressed the issues relating to strengthening cooperation in jointly resisting a global economic crisis, boosting cultural and economic exchanges and cooperation, integrating tourism resources to develop tourism in the

two countries, and establishing friendship-city ties. They unanimously held that the local governments of the two countries should increase exchanges in the social, economic and cultural fields and in city management, promote business contacts between the entrepreneurs of the two countries and encourage them to take part in the economic cooperation projects at the state, provincial and city levels.

Through active exchanges at and after the symposium, Neijiang and Malaga signed a letter of intent on establishing friendship-city ties, and Enshi City and Extremadura Autonomous Community reached a preliminary agreement on exchanges and cooperation.

During the break and after the symposium, the Chinese and Spanish delegates exchanged information about the advantages and features of their own cities and discussed on a one-to-one basis details of bilateral cooperation, laying a good foundation for future exchanges and the twinning of friendship cities. Some cities reached agreement on cooperation in import of consigned goods, application of solar energy technology, and exchange of experiences in tourism management. □

**The symposium in session**



# Chinese Youth Delegation's Visit to France

Liu Yuting

Two areas of northeastern France had a unique opportunity in February to appreciate the symphonic musical skills and basketball abilities of some talented Chinese schoolchildren. This helped open a new doorway of knowledge for many local people who knew little of China despite its headline-dominating economic advancement in recent years.

At the invitation of the Secours Populaire Francias (SPF), a 52-member Chinese youth delegation led by He Jifeng, Director General of the Department of European and Asian Affairs of the CPAFFC, made a 15-day visit to the Nord-Pas de Calais region as well as the French capital Paris running from February 9 to 23. Among the 52 members, 38 were students aged between 13 and 18 from the Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra of Beijing No. 22 Middle School, along with its basketball team.

The SPF established ties with the CPAFFC in June 2007. The two organizations have cooperated successfully in many projects, such as providing aid to the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas, youth exchanges for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and the China-France Friendship Water Cellar project.

The SPF founded in 1945 is a non-profit national phi-



Manu Lesschaeve singing the song *China* he composed with the Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra in accompaniment

lanthropic organization in France. It carries out development and training projects globally and gives emergency aid to people affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters. It has more than 500 employees and nearly 10,000 volunteers. Each year, it receives endowments in cash and kind worth 90 million and 250 million euros respectively donated by over a million donors. Headquartered in Lille,

The delegation at the Headquarters of the Secours Populaire Francias





**The Chinese and French youth posing for a photo after a friendship match**

capital of the Nord-Pas de Calais region, it has branches all over the country.

The Nord-Pas de Calais region is an old industrial base and is now faced with a difficult task of economic revitalization. The people there are not very well off, and many young people are unemployed. Yet, there seemed a high sense of optimism, as Madam Michelle Demessine, Vice Mayor of Lille, observed: though the regional weather tends to be almost permanently overcast, yet the people there have the brightest smiles in France. Some stories from the visit will help illustrate this.

Our delegation arrived at Beupres School in Haubourdin City at 10 p.m. on February 9. This is a vocational boarding school a 20-minute drive from Lille city center. As it had just snowed, the road was slippery and the group arrived about 90 minutes late. When we got off the

#### **Chinese students making dumplings to celebrate the Spring Festival in France**



bus, feeling hungry and looking drowsy, we surprisingly found that some 20 students led by a teacher of Chinese had braved the cold wind to stand at the school gate waving, cheering and shouting hello in Chinese. At that moment the travel fatigue vanished.

The visit to Nord-Pas de Calais region went off without a hitch. Everyday we had a tight schedule. In every small city we visited, a grand welcome ceremony was held in the city hall. On February 15, the Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra of Beijing No. 22 Middle School held a concert in the Fernand Leger Culture Center in Douchy-les-Mines.

The music of *Happy Spring Festival* with rich Chinese flavor and an excerpt from the classic opera *Carmen* known to all French people drew warm applause. Near the end, the Mayor of Douchy-les-Mines went on the stage and gave an enthusiastic speech. He presented a large bunch of flowers to Ning Jiacheng, one of the violinists, for that day happened to be the boy's 16th birthday. Then, the mayor invited the audience of about 100 people to sing a birthday song for Ning, which was a very sincere and moving gesture.

The northern branch of the SPF also arranged several basketball matches and exciting street basketball games for the basketball team. On the French side, there were some professional seeded players as well as local amateur players. Everywhere the Chinese players went, they would catch people's eyes. Fabrice Lecomte and Natalie Lecomte, a couple in charge of basketball team services in the SPF, accompanied the Chinese team to all matches. Wang Shen, a member of the basketball team, felt very cold while playing outdoors as the zipper of his overcoat was broken. Learning this, Natalie told us that her mother was a dressmaker and immediately telephoned her to come to the basketball field. It rained and was very cold that day. Natalie's mother left after having fixed the zipper of Wang Shen's overcoat before we had a chance to thank her.

Here we should particularly thanked another French friend—Manu Lesschaeve, who accompanied us all along on our visit. He is on the staff of the Lille municipal government, a volunteer of the SPF and also a musician. When we were in Lille, he not only took care of our food and accommodation and arranged every day's activities, but also gave performances together with the Golden Sail Sympho-

# 2010 Nanjing Japanese Culture Week Held

Sun Man

President Hu Jintao pointed out during his visit to Japan in 2008 that, in the final analysis, lasting friendship between China and Japan should begin with youth and children. And this message was very much taken to heart by those sponsoring and participating in the 2010 Nanjing Japanese Culture Week from February 28.

The event was sponsored by the

Nanjing Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai, and the 11 colorful events staged during the week attracted the enthusiastic participation of an estimated 5,000 people.

Huang Huang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Nanjing Municipal People's Congress, and Yutaka Yokoi, Japanese Consul

General in Shanghai, respectively spoke at the opening ceremony, which saw the attendance of over 60 Japanese guests, including Yasuhiro Yamashita, Japanese Olympic judo champion, and Yasuhiko Fujita, Chief Representative of the Japan Foundation Beijing Office.

The first activity on the afternoon of Feb. 28 was the "Beauty of Harmony" Japanese Cultural Festival

ny Orchestra. He was warm-hearted and full of vigor. His optimism and humor affected every member of the delegation. In 2008, he came to China as a participant in an exchange project organized by the CPAFFC and the SPF. After returning home, he composed a song entitled *China* to express his impressions of this mysterious country full of vitality. He presented this item together with the Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra to warm applause from the French audience. I still remember quite clearly how he tirelessly bustled around and poured his heart and soul into the stage performance.

Everywhere we went during the visit, we experienced friendship and warmth. The staff of the SPF, the drivers who drove the bus for us and volunteers at the concerts and games gave up their holidays to make a contribution to the exchanges between Chinese and French youth. The "help" advocated by the SPF is not simply "giving". When you get selfless help from others, you should also give sincerely and donate your own skills and knowledge in return. This kind of concept of help starting from the angle of humanity turns "charity" into dedication and makes human relations more affectionate and solid. The students of the Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra and the basketball team of Beijing No. 22 Middle School, through their activities, brought joy to the children who did not have family members accompanying them during the vacation, and raised money for the earthquake-hit areas in Haiti. Through these activities, they from their personal experience came to

know the meaning of unity and mutual help and felt happy when helping others. This will be an inexhaustible wealth that they can go on use all their life.

During their stay in France, the Chinese youth delegation visited 12 cities in northern France and attended eight official receptions held at the city halls. The Golden Sail Symphony Orchestra gave seven benefit performances in five cities to a total audience of 8,000 people. The basketball team staged 13 benefit matches with French basketball fans in seven cities. The members of the delegation had a joint rehearsal with the students of a French musical school and held sports exchanges with the students of Lille 1 University and took part in such activities as making dumplings and celebrating the Chinese Spring Festival together with French friends. The members of the delegation were interviewed several times by *la Voix du Nord*, *Nord eclair* and Grand Lille Television. The interviewed students from their personal experience expressed their keen wish for China-France friendship and also displayed to the French public the mental outlook of modern Chinese youth.

Before the end of our visit, SPF President Lauprete said that, despite the increasing elevation of China's international standing, yet many French people still knew little about China. The exchanges between the French and Chinese youth have not only promoted communication between youths, but also enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries. □



held in the Nanjing Art and Culture Center. This included a Kimono fashion show, the playing of the shamisen, a Japanese stringed instrument, the making of New Year rice cakes and other traditional Japanese activities were staged before a large and enthusiastic audience mainly comprising local university students.

On the morning of March 1, a Japanese painting exhibition opened at the Nanjing Art Gallery, displaying about 100 works by 18 noted Japanese painters who took the opportunity to have discussions with Chinese painters present maintaining the long tradition of friendly contacts between close neighbors. The local artists agreed that the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to appreciate the charm of contemporary Japanese art. The exhibits, rich in content and varied in form, represented a crystallization of the Japanese art inspiration and painstaking efforts and reflected from different angles the harmonious relations between man and society and between man and nature in modern Japan.

On the afternoon of the same day, at the Nanjing Heavy Sports School, the China-Japan Friendship Judo Hall was inaugurated by Yasuhiro Yamashita, judo gold medalist of

the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, who gave instruction to children studying at the school. Mr. Yamashita said it had long been his cherished wish to contribute to friendly Sino-Japanese relations through his judo skills and he promised to visit Nanjing regularly to coach in future.

A delegation of Japanese university student sign language lovers visited the Nanjing High School for the Deaf where they interacted with the students there. The Japanese undergraduates delivered speeches and put on some shows with their relatively unskilled Chinese sign language and their sincerity moved the local teachers and students. Well-known Japanese companies such as NEC and OMRON also donated school supplies to the school. The exchange ended with dance performances by the students of both sides.

On the morning of March 2, a student Japanese language speech contest was held in the Yifu Auditorium of Nanjing University. The contestants were Japanese majors from 14 universities. They made excellent speeches focusing on "future Sino-Japanese relations" before an attentive audience of more than 400 students. A lecture on Japanese corporate culture was given on the after-

noon at the School of Business at Nanjing University. Senior executives from Toyota and Mitsubishi Electric talked about their respective corporate cultures, from which the students felt they learned a lot. A concert by the young Japanese singer Mai Fukui staged in the evening in the Concert Hall of the Nanjing Art and Culture Center brought the Japanese Culture Week to a successful end.

The events received a good social response. Many in the audience said, these activities gave them the opportunity to appreciate the friendship of the Japanese people and the charm of the Japanese culture up close. And for the many Japanese language learners, they expressed their gratitude to the organizers for providing them with such a precious opportunity. Just as Yutaka Yokoi said at the opening ceremony, a week is only a short time, but through the activities staged in Nanjing, the friendship that had already taken root in the hearts of the two peoples would grow into a luxurious tree, bloom and bear fruit and the tragedies of the past would never be repeated on this particular piece of land. The Japanese Culture Week was reported by all major media of Jiangsu Province and Nanjing City as well as NHK, *Asahi Shimbun*, *Yomiuri Shimbun* and *Mainichi Shimbun* of Japan.

### Correction

India "established its destiny as the Republic of India in 1951" in the 21st line of the first column on page 23 of our No. 160 issue should be "in 1950". Our apologies.

The Editor

# 35 Years of China-EU Diplomatic Ties Celebrated

## Our Staff Reporter

China and the EU established diplomatic ties on May 6, 1975. Over the past 35 years, the political relationship has matured and evolved through a “constructive partnership” and a “comprehensive partnership” into today’s “comprehensive strategic partnership”, with the establishment of various mechanisms such as the China-EU Summit and EU-China Business Summit.

Celebrating the 35th anniversary, the CPAFFC, China-EU Association (CEUA) and the Delegation of the European Union to China jointly hosted a reception on May 20, when the main speakers were CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Dr. Michael Pulch, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to China.

China and the EU enjoy increasingly close trade and economic relations. At the start, the volume of bilateral trade was only US \$2.4 billion, but, by 2009, it had grown to US \$364.1 billion. The EU has become China’s largest trade partner, its largest export market, the largest source of technology imports, the second largest import market and the third largest source of foreign capital. China has remained for several consecutive years the EU’s second largest trade partner and the largest source of imports, and, in 2009, it became the EU’s third largest export market.

In the early days of the diplomatic ties, cooperation between China and the EU was limited to a few areas. Through 35 years’ of steady de-

velopment, fruitful dialogues and co-operation have emerged in more than 50 fields including science and technology, education, energy, environmental protection, customs, industry, agriculture, quality control, finance, transportation, climate change, health, culture and social security, and their contents are growing and areas expanded.

China and the EU have always been devoted to deepening and expanding their cooperation in the past 35 years despite the changes in the international situation, and now their relationship has become one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world.

President Chen spoke highly of the Sino-EU relations in his speech. Practical cooperation in various fields

had not only given impetus to economic and social development, but also brought benefits to the peoples of both sides and greatly enhanced the understanding and friendship between them. Such an understanding and friendship would form a solid foundation for future bilateral relations and would stand the test of time no matter what the hardships, helping to increase mutual trust and enabling them to meet global challenges together. President Chen also spoke on the effective and fruitful work done by the CPAFFC and the CEUA in enhancing people’s friendship, building bridges of cooperation and promoting economic, cultural and social exchanges between China and the EU.

Dr. Michael Pulch recalled the important landmarks in the history of

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to China Michael Pulch at the reception**



# Dalian and Kitakyushu——Fine Example of Sino-Japanese Friendship-City Exchanges

Liu Fang, Jiang Chunmei, Jing Shibo

A Sino-Japanese friendship-city relationship was established on May 1, 1979, by Dalian in Northeast China and the southern Japanese city of Kitakyushu that has flourished through the concerted efforts of both sides ever since. There have been frequent and fruitful exchanges between them in all fields including economy, trade, culture, education, health, sports, tourism, port logistics, environmental protection and water supply technology. All these activities have enjoyed popular support from local citizens. Wang Yi, the then Chinese Ambassador to Japan, used the term “a fine example of friendship-city exchanges between China and Japan” to praise the relationship.

## I. Trade and Economic Exchanges Enhanced

The two cities, by opening up more channels to promote bilateral trade and economic exchanges, have created favorable conditions for win-win development.

**1. Setting up offices in each other's cities.** The Japanese side set up

the Kitakyushu Office of Economics and Cultural Exchange of Dalian in 1991. To meet the growing needs of bilateral trade and economic exchanges and provide more and timely information to enterprises in both cities, the city elevated the office's functions to promoting trade and invigorating logistics and, in April 2005, changed its name to Kitakyushu Business Promotion Office in Dalian. Likewise, Dalian City set up the Dalian Economic and Trade Office in West Japan in Kitakyushu in 1996. The office works actively to promote trade and economic exchanges with Western Japan.

**2. Working to Bring Japanese enterprises to the city.** Dalian is committed to improving its investment environment and works to draw enterprises from Kitakyushu to the city. Up till now, 21 enterprises and businesses such as Toto Ltd., Okano Valve MFG. Co., Sankyu International Logistics Co., Ltd., Naigaibiso Co., Ltd., Ohishi Packaging Co., Ltd., Bejiu Machinery Co., Ltd., Tsurumaru-Power Logistics Co., Ltd. and Environmental

Technology Service Co., Ltd., involving manufacturing, transportation, communications, personnel exchanges and comprehensive consultancy services on the environment, have established themselves in Dalian and made contributions to the city's economic and social development.

## 3. Setting up a showroom/shop.

In May 2009, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the twinning arrangement, Kitakyushu opened a commodity showroom/shop in Dalian to promote its economic and trade cooperation with it and with other Chinese cities. Apart from displaying food, general merchandise and other goods produced by the Kitakyushu enterprises and conducting business talks, there are 55 exhibition stands, showing 25 types of industrial products, 15 kinds of food and 15 sci-tech products for environment protection. Six enterprises have signed commission selling contracts with their Dalian partners while four others are negotiating.

## 4. Sending economic and trade delegations to trade exhibitions and

Sino-EU relations and the remarkable achievements that had been made. He said, cooperation between China and the EU maintained bright prospects for even further growth. The EU was confident it would be celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations with even greater achievements.

The total attendance of some 160

included ambassadors and charge d'affaires of 20 EU member countries, representatives of the European Union Chamber of Commerce and EU enterprises in China, the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Culture, the All-China Youth

Federation, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, *China Daily*, the Beijing Foreign Studies University, the People's University of China, and council members of the CEUA. At the reception, students of the Beijing Dance Academy performed Chinese traditional dance, folk dance and ballet. □

**trade fairs.** The two cities have built a good platform for cooperation between enterprises by dispatching economic and trade delegations and holding investment presentations and trade talks.

**5. Carrying out study and training projects.** Kitakyushu brings into full play the role of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in carrying out a Local Government Officials Training Program in Japan. The program also includes staff of relevant Dalian Municipal Government departments, who will spend six to ten months working in the economic and trade departments of the Kitakyushu City Government.

## II. Varied Cultural, Educational, Health and Sports Exchanges

**1. Setting up scholarships.** In 1992, Kitakyushu set up the Sekihara Dalian International Students' Scholarship for students of Japanese language who excel in their studies. Up to now, 360 students of Japanese majors from six universities in Dalian have received a total of 636,000 RMB in scholarships and 40 students from Dalian studying in Kitakyushu have been granted this scholarship with a total sum of 9.6 million Japanese yen.

**2. Establishing friendship-school relations to enhance inter-school exchanges.** The twinning of friendship-school ties between Dalian Yuhua Primary School and Koku-rachuo Elementary School of Kitakyushu has promoted the exchanges between teachers and pupils.

**3. Frequent cultural exchanges.** Kitakyushu has invited Dalian art groups including the Jinzhou Farmers Orchestra, Acrobatic Troupe, Model Art School and Drama Troupe to perform and to take part in large-scale activities such as the Wasshoi Summer Festival, Exposition and Ki-



Xia Deren, Secretary of the Dalian City Committee of the CPC, at a celebration for the 30th twinning anniversary between Dalian and Kitakyushu during his visit to Japan

takyushu International Music Festivals. These exchanges have helped publicize traditional Chinese culture and brought the people of the two cities closer. The performance tours of Dalian made by the Kitakyushu Choral Society, the Kataribe Chorus of Kitakyushu Folk and School Songs, Seisyun-za Theatrical Troupe and other cultural groups have increased Dalian people's understanding of the Japanese culture.

**4. Sports exchanges.** Dalian started to organize an International Marathon in 1987 and has now staged 24 races. Athletes from Kitakyushu participated in 18 of them with much success. Besides, Kitakyushu also invited the Dalian juvenile football team to take part in friendship match.

**5. Medical exchanges.** Several doctors and nurses from Dalian received on-the-job training in Kitakyushu. Such exchanges have enhanced the medical ties between the two cities and helped raise the technical level of treating heart and eye diseases in Dalian.

## III. Fruitful Exchanges and Cooperation in Environmental Protection

Kitakyushu is a famous industrial city in Japan. It suffered serious pollution in its industrial development in the 1960s. With the concerted efforts made by the city government and people, it has overcome the industrial hazards and accumulated rich experience in pollution control and won international recognition. To further improve the environment and contribute to international efforts, Dalian and Kitakyushu, through inter-government exchanges, have vigorously carried out many cooperation projects with remarkable results.

**1. Studies on the development of "Dalian Environmental Model Zone"—a Sino-Japanese technological cooperation project carried out between 1996 and 2000.** Experts from Kitakyushu conducted on-the-spot investigations of every enterprise on Dalian's list of serious polluters, determining the source of their pollutants and putting forward suggestions to control them. They filed a findings report on building the "Dalian Environmental Model Zone" and mapped out a 10-year plan for environment protection to lay a good foundation for improvement.



The cities of Dalian and Kitakyushu signing a memorandum of understanding on environmental cooperation

2. **“Model City” program, a Sino-Japanese environment cooperation project, launched in 1997.** With the help of Kitakyushu, Dalian obtained US \$100 million in Japanese loans and 30 million RMB worth of precision analysis instruments such as air-monitoring cars and mobile stack emission monitoring laboratories donated by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program gave priority to clean production and technical renovation of old enterprises as well as construction of urban environmental infrastructure, bringing the city’s air pollution under control.

3. **On-the-job training program.** Every year between 1998 and 2002, Kitakyushu received five senior environmental management personnel and factory directors from Dalian for on-the-job training, and, in 2007, it incorporated the program as an important part of the work of the Environmental Division of the East Asia Economic Development Organization. It has trained many professionals for Dalian.

4. **Holding exhibitions and symposiums.** By holding exhibitions and symposiums on environmental protection, the two cities have boosted inter-industry cooperation and provided a good platform for their enterprises to participate in international exchanges and cooperation.

5. **Inter-city cooperation in environmental protection.** In November 2004, Kitakyushu specially set up the Environment Division of the East Asia Economic Development Organization and selected Dalian as a leading city of China. It sponsored the Dalian-Kitakyushu Energy Conservation Symposium, Japan-China International Resource Recycling Conference, etc., and gathered and exchanged information on environmental protection of the ten Yellow-Sea rim cities, thus, vigorously promoting cooperation in this field.

Dalian’s environmental cooperation with Kitakyushu constitutes an important part of the city’s cooperation in this field with Japan. Such cooperation has brought a new look to

Dalian and won international recognition. Recommended by Kitakyushu, Dalian was honored with the “Global 500 Award” from the United Nations Environment Program in 2001. And Koichi Sueyoshi, former Mayor of Kitakyushu, received the Friendship Award of China conferred by the State Administration of Foreign Experts in the same year. In 2008, Kitakyushu gave its “Kitakyushu Environmental Award” to Dalian, the first city outside Japan to receive such an honor. On November 1, 2009, the two cities signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation on the China-Japan Environmental City Project—Dalian Eco-Industrial Model Park (Venous Industry).

#### IV. Close Port Exchange

Both Kitakyushu and Dalian are major ports and they share a strategy to develop the local economy through the port industry. The ports and airports of the two cities have played a bridging role in expanding contacts and logistics cooperation.

1. **Exchange and cooperation between ports.** To strengthen exchanges and cooperation, the Port of Moji established friendship-port ties with the Port of Dalian in May 2008. Meetings are held every other year and personnel on work-study programs are exchanged. They also send people to take part in the twinning anniversary celebrations in each other’s cities. The containers handled between the two ports reached 26,387 TEU (2008 statistics), taking up 14.5% of the total volume handled between Kitakyushu and China.

2. **Airport exchange.** The two cities make full use of the convenience of international airports to increase contact between their peoples by organizing charter flights for them to take part in relevant large-scale activities. Five such flights have been

organized from 2000 to 2009.

## **V. Rich Results in Water Supply Technical Exchange**

Dalian is one of the earliest cities in modern China to install a water-supply system. It is also a city facing a severe water shortage. To seek new sources of water and replace ageing installations are a major task of the city's infrastructure construction. In 1999, the departments concerned in Dalian established links with the water-supply department in Kitakyushu. Through these exchanges, Dalian learned the advanced experience, which helped the city improve its water quality, expand its water supply coverage rate and ensure low-cost stable water distribution, thus meeting the needs of its urban economic development and people's daily life.

### **1. Work-study student program.**

In the past decade, Kitakyushu has received 13 people from the Dalian Water Supply Co., Ltd. on work-study programs. Such on-the-job training programs familiarize the students with Japan's advanced technology and installations of water supply and enabled them to learn its experience in management. These people, using the knowledge they had learned, have contributed to upgrading the technology and raising the management level

of Dalian's water supply, which rank among the first in the country.

**2. Sending specialists.** Kitakyushu has successively sent more than 20 specialists to Dalian to conduct studies on water quality management, automation of water treatment works, construction and business management, water leakage detection, measuring control, etc. Dalian has benefited greatly from their research results. Among them, eight specialists have been honored successively with Xinghai Friendship Award granted by the Dalian Municipal Government for their work.

**3. Introducing advanced equipment.** The relevant departments in Kitakyushu enthusiastically recommended advanced water supply technology and equipment to Dalian and persuaded Japanese providers of water pump, motor, energy-saving and measuring equipment to sell their advanced equipment to Dalian at reasonable prices. The introduction of these technology and equipment has not only provided reference for Dalian in measuring and water quality control, construction management, leakage prevention, plant automation and purification management, but also raised the water supply security level of Dalian.

### **4. Expanding technical ex-**

**changes.** Water supply enterprises in small cities under the jurisdiction of Dalian had many problems including low pipeline water supply coverage, high leakage, etc. that hampered the development of water supply in these cities. On May 24, 2009, Dalian Water Supply Co., Ltd. signed a letter of intent on technical exchange with Kitakyushu City Waterworks Bureau and the Association of Water and Sewage Works Consultants Japan in which they determined the contents of future exchanges and expanded technical exchanges to water supply enterprises in the surrounding cities and counties of Dalian.

## **VI. Ever-Deepening Friendship Between the People of the Two Cities**

Since the friendship-city ties began, the principal leaders of the legislative body and municipal government of Dalian and Kitakyushu have exchanged many visits and there has been a steady flow of tourists. Exchanges have been carried out between the port, agriculture, health, personnel, education, environment and water affairs bureaus of the two cities and links established between trade unions, youth and women federations, literary circles and other people's organizations, and contacts conducted

**A joint performance given by the choruses of Dalian and Kitakyushu on the two cities' 30th twinning anniversary**



# Dr. Norbert Egger and Chinese Garden

Liu Zhiqiang

In Germany, on the bank of the beautiful Neckar River, stands a classical Chinese Garden—*Duo-jingyuan* (Garden of Many Sceneries).

It contains pavilions, terraces, bridges, streams and winding paths. Graceful willows, showy peonies, pure lotuses and sturdy pines create a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Stone lions at both sides of the gate, dragons on the ridges of roofs and the sculpture depicting the legend *Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea* help visitors

to appreciate the essence of a Chinese garden. *Duo-jingyuan* has become a place of leisure for the people of Mannheim, a window on Chinese culture and a new scenic spot for tourists from various countries.

Dr. Norbert Egger, former First Vice Mayor of Mannheim, is the man behind the project.

He has long been enthusiastic about serving the community, enjoying high prestige and broad influence in the city. He started in public service in 1968 and,

in 1989, he assumed the office of first vice mayor, holding the post for four consecutive terms.

Over the years, Dr. Egger has actively publicized China's longstanding cultural traditions and tremendous achievements in reform and opening up. He has organized various forms of exhibitions and lectures

on China such as an Exhibition on Chinese Landscape Paintings, Chinese Culture Week, Forbidden City—Exhibition on the Life of China's Last Emperor, China Today, China's Silk Road and China Week. In 2001, he received the title of Honorary Citizen of Zhenjiang.

His love for China dates back to the time when he was at middle school. In an interview, he recalled with emotion that even when he studied at middle school the tremendous achievements and splendid culture of the Chinese people over a period of more than 5,000 years deeply impressed him as a student hungry for knowledge. After entering the Department of Law of Heidelberg University, he began to collect books and magazines about China and got in touch with Chinese living in state of Baden Wurttemberg to gain comprehensive knowledge about China. His friends called him a "China fan".

After entering politics, he visited China more than 20 times. He attaches great importance to cultural exchanges between the two countries, as he believes this to be the most effective way to clear up misunderstandings and build mutual trust between nations.

The author (right) with Dr. Norbert Egger



between friendship associations, cultural exchange associations, lawyers associations, etc. The contacts between the two cities have expanded from government level to ordinary citizens, from pure friendly exchanges to practical cooperation.

Time flies. The two cities greet-

ed the 31st anniversary of their ties this year. Today, in Kitakyushu, one can see the Kitakyushu International Friendship Commemorative Library and Daihoku Pavilion built in imitation of the Dalian Art Exhibition Museum and a pavilion at the Laohutan Ocean Park respectively, as well as a

square and an avenue named after Dalian, and the Acacia Restaurant; in Dalian, the Beida Bridge was built with the Kanmon Bridge in Kitakyushu as the model. These new landmarks have become symbols of the friendly relations between the two cities. □

*Duojingyuan*, the piece of work he is most proud of, is the fruit of such cultural exchanges.

When talking about his motive for building the Chinese Garden, Dr. Egger said: "I visited China in 1987 for the first time. My wife and I went to Jiangsu Province and visited the provincial capital Nanjing, and many important cultural cities such as Yangzhou, Suzhou and Wuxi as well as the beautiful Taihu Lake. When I got to Zhenjiang, I was deeply attracted by the exquisite gardens south of the Yangtze River. I little dreamed that in such a small space one could have so many beautiful sceneries and such rich culture. Since then, we had visited China—the Garden of Eden on Earth—many times and learnt to appreciate and indeed love it. Having toured many well-known places and places of historical interest there, I wanted to pick one from such a large number of excellent works of art, one with distinctive features that would be the most beautiful and unique in the world: This is the Chinese garden of Jiangsu style."

Dr. Egger has his unique understanding and thoughts about Chinese gardens. "When we set our eyes on a Chinese garden, the spirit, philosophy and incomparability aroused our great interest and left a deep impression. European gardens are places for people to relax and meditate while Chinese gardens contain much more—they successfully answer such questions as how heaven and earth are connected and how nature maintains harmony. Such profound philosophical questions as interrelations among man, nature and human culture can find satisfactory answers there. The design of a classical Chinese garden displays the essence of man's intellectual pursuits and also gives people an aesthetic enjoyment. Outstanding Chinese horticulture brings nature and



A good place for leisure

art in one. The ingenious Chinese people have created the soul of beautiful scenery."

He went on: "So, I think that this great historical cultural achievement of the Chinese people should make its appearance in Germany and particularly in Mannheim so that more Europeans could see this strange but important exotic culture. I made up my mind to let the beautiful Chinese garden become like an oriental bride married to Mannheim." Then he thought of "transporting an entire Chinese garden from China" to showcase Chinese culture for the people of Mannheim." To realize his dream, he made unremitting efforts.

To build a garden, three conditions had to be met: a suitable piece of land in Mannheim, sufficient funding and high-level architectural designing and planning.

To find a good place for the Chinese garden, Dr. Egger looked everywhere in Mannheim and finally chose Luisen Park. The park covers an area of 42 hectares and has a history of more than 100 years, where grow luxuriant towering trees. It was the site of

the Federal Horticultural Show in 1975 and is regarded as one of the most beautiful gardens in Europe. Egger said proudly: "There could be no better place for building a truly Jiangsu-style Chinese garden. It was rare to find such a perfect natural environment for such an idea." Over 5,000 square meters in the park's northeastern corner were allotted for the Chinese garden.

Next came the raising of funds for the construction. It needed at least four million DM to build *Duojingyuan*. Dr. Egger told us of the difficulties he met in raising funds. "When national and municipal tax revenue is not enough to meet the demand for renovating schools and kindergartens and constructing roads, it is impossible to use public funds for such a project. So, we had to pin hope on private contributions." From this one can imagine how difficult it was to raise such amount of money to build a Chinese garden unfamiliar to Westerners.

To raise money for the construction, Dr. Egger, then executive vice mayor, carried a box and went from



house to house to solicit contributions in temperatures of over 30 degrees Celsius. He had a model of the garden built by Tongji University in China and displayed it in a civic square in Mannheim to introduce the features of the garden, the construction plan and the prospective value to citizens to win their support. He also carried the model on a tricycle to visit one enterprise after another to drum up support.

Hard work reaps good results. Dr. Egger learnt that a businessman had left bequests to the municipal government in his will. He immediately went to see the man who agreed that the money could be used for the construction of the Chinese garden. Then, “the only honorary citizen of Mannheim who was still alive at that time also gave me quite a large sum of money,” he recalled.

“When I was celebrating my 60th birthday in the same year, I asked all who would come to my birthday party not to bring gifts, but to make a contribution to the construction of the Chinese garden. In this way we raised a handsome sum for the project. The plan for building the Chinese garden soon spread among the public and

aroused their great interest.”

Dr. Egger said proudly: “I was surprised to see that so many people in Mannheim approved the idea. Besides the support from many world-famous industrial enterprises (they all have offices in Jiangsu), I also received support from a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as private contributors.”

It was out of his strong love for China and his great confidence in the charm of Chinese culture that Dr. Egger overcame numerous difficulties and raised enough money for building the Chinese garden with the help of a few friends who shared his goal.

Dr. Egger felt relieved as the question of funds had been solved. He began to look for Chinese partners and architects who would undertake the work. He said, “I knew clearly from the very beginning, that only by making careful preparations and finding the most qualified cooperative partners could this ambitious project be completed. For this reason, I am very much indebted to the Zhenjiang Municipal Government for the important help it has given us over the years for the project.”

Under his initiation, Mannheim

and Zhenjiang became twinned as friendship cities in 1994. Since then, Dr. Egger visited Zhenjiang eight times and received great support for the project there. In May 1998, the two sides signed a cooperation agreement. In 1999, the Mannheim Municipal Government organized a small professional delegation with Dr. Egger as its leader to visit China. Experts in Zhenjiang gave the German guests a detailed briefing on the art of Chinese gardening and accompanied them on a six-day study tour of gardens in Nanjing, Suzhou and Wuxi. The visit enabled them to have deeper perceptual knowledge and understanding of classical Chinese architectures. Architectural designing is a decisive factor to the success of a garden. Finding a qualified architect was the key. Eventually, Professor Li Zheng, an architect in Wuxi, was chosen. The name “*Duojingyuan*” was given to the Chinese garden because of its varied sceneries. China Zhenjiang International Economic-Technical Cooperation Co. Ltd. undertook construction.

Dr. Egger devoted great energy to the building of the garden. Almost all the large structural components were made in China and then assembled and installed in Germany so that the style and quality of the construction could be guaranteed. In his private visit to Zhenjiang in September 2000, Dr. Egger weighed every detail of the design and examined the processed timber components. Before Christmas, 65 containers packed with 1,100 tons of rocks, timbers, ceramic floor and tiles, bricks as well as special construction tools were shipped from China. After the Spring Festival, 32 skilled workers aged between 21 and 53 left Zhenjiang for Mannheim. As their visas were valid only for six months, they had to work with the highest efficiency and complete the

# China Is My First Home

## —Notes on Visit to China by New Zealand Friend

William E. Willmott

Xu Fenghua

"I'm home again," said William Edward Willmott, becoming excited the moment he stepped off the plane onto the Chinese soil. The former President of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society and his family visited Beijing and Sichuan in April 2010 at the invitation of the CPAFFC.

Born in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in February 1932, Mr. Willmott lived in the province for 17 years until he left for Canada in 1948. He started to teach in the University of British Columbia, Canada in 1964. He moved to New Zealand in 1973 and

remains emeritus professor of sociology of the University of Canterbury. He cherishes profound feelings for China, especially for Sichuan.

Mr. Willmott's parents were Canadians. His father, Earl Willmott, a missionary who came to China in 1921 with his new wife to teach English literature at the West China Union University in Sichuan. There were three sons and a daughter of the marriage; the sons, Donald, Dick and Bill, were each given a Chinese name: 云达乐 (Yun Dale), 云达吉 (Yun Daji) and 云达忠 (Yun Dazhong). Earl

Willmott sympathized with the Chinese revolution and, before liberation, often invited progressive students to his house where they could listen to radio broadcasts from the Communist base in Yan'an. He was called one of "The Three Bolsheviks" (the other two being Dryden Phelps from the US and William Sewell from the UK) in Chengdu by the Kuomintang Governor of Sichuan. Mr. Willmott recalled that Han Suyin, a noted British writer, warned his father not to go into the city alone at night or an "accident" might happen to him. In 1952, his fa-

construction within the allotted time. The Chinese workers worked 12 hours a day and even on weekends. They said, "Mannheim is as beautiful as a piece of brocade. We are here to add a few flowers to it."

Dr. Egger will never forget the date, September 12, 2001, when his dream at last came true with the inauguration of *Duojingyuan*. The Mannheim Municipal Government organized a China Week event in which 52 shops, hotels and restaurants took part. Leading officials of Zhenjiang and Mannheim, vice chairman of the National Tourism Administration of the PRC, and the Chinese ambassador to Germany attended the inauguration. CCTV broadcast the event. Mannheim Mayor Gerhard Widder said: "*Duojingyuan* marks the understanding between nations, which

means that the construction of the Chinese garden represents an exchange between different cultures."

This garden is, so far, the largest and the most integrated architectural complex of a classical Chinese garden in Europe. It fully reflects Chinese people's pursuit of harmony. After visiting *Duojingyuan*, a Chinese diplomat to Germany said: "I suggest that Chinese nationals residing in Germany visit *Duojingyuan* whenever they miss home."

In autumn 2009, Dr. Egger came to Zhenjiang to attend the China International Friendship Cities Conference on behalf of Mannheim. In his speech at the conference, he told the participants about *Duojingyuan* with pride: "Every year the garden receives more than 800,000 visitors which include tourists from other European coun-

tries. From April to October every year, colorful cultural activities with oriental features such as appreciation of Chinese music and lectures on Chinese history and thought are held in the garden.

*Duojingyuan* not only displays the art of Chinese gardening but also helps more German people understand Chinese culture. It opens the door wider to cultural exchanges between Europe and China, and has become a bridge of friendship between China and Germany. The beautiful scenery in the garden envisages bright prospects of friendly relations between the two countries.

**The author is deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhenjiang Municipal Government.**



**William Willmott and his family getting together with old Chinese friends in Beijing**

ther returned to Canada and took an active part in the activities of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations. Mr. Willmott described his parents' relationship with China, using the word "honeymoon" for the 31 years they spent there. At the photo exhibition "Memories of the Past—Old Photos of Chengdu from Canada" held by the Xinchang Township Government, Dayi County, Sichuan Province in May 2010, one could find

traces of the Willmotts' life in Sichuan.

"We've seen each other again, old friends." This was the heartiest greeting Bill extended to Vice President Li Jianping, Lu Wanru and Wang Xiaobo from the CPAFFC and Shu Zhang, Vice President of China Society for People's Friendship Studies when meeting them in Beijing. Vice President Li Jianping conveyed to Mr. Willmott regards from his old

friend, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, and highly praised his efforts in promoting Sino-New Zealand friendship. Mr. Willmott had visited China 22 times and always hoped to bring his family to visit his birthplace in order to ease "homesickness" and to help the younger generation understand China. Finally, his wish was fulfilled.

"I left home when a mere stripling, and returned in old age. My native accent remained unchanged, but my ear-lock had grown thin." This poem by He Zhizhang appropriately described Mr. Willmott's feelings of home-coming. Such special amicable sentiments can hardly be expressed in words. In Chengdu, despite the great changes and the new look of the city, Mr. Willmott could still remember the former names of each street and tell others the places where certain buildings used to stand even after 62 years. When passing by the West China University of Medical Sciences (former West China Union University) under Sichuan University, he immediately recognized that that was where he had been born and grew up. During the visit to the campus, he looked carefully at every corner—the building where he was born, the room where he took classes and the former office of the president of West China Union University, and told stories of his past. Mr. Willmott also visited Wu Fulin and Zhang Shaoying at their homes; both are retired professors of Sichuan University having been his childhood friends. Despite of his advanced age and travel fatigue, he took a car to Meishan City to see an old friend of his who lived in a home for the aged there. He was excited on the way to Meishan and could not help breaking out into song in Sichuan dialect now and then—a children's ballad and some revolutionary songs he had learned as a youngster.

**William Willmott and his party at the West China University of Medical Sciences in Chengdu**



Mr. Willmott has witnessed the changes of Chinese society. He said with emotion that the nation had undergone tremendous changes—cities had become modernized, the environment become beautiful and living standards vastly improved, compared with the dire poverty in which people lived before liberation. He could hardly believe his eyes. He was proud of the changes of his home. During the visit, he often lingered at some old places, old streets and teahouses; the spicy Sichuan dishes, the familiar accent, all aroused beautiful memories. We could see how happy and grateful Mr. Willmott was from the tears of joy in his eyes when he met old friends.

Mr. Willmott is familiar with Chinese history and culture. He quoted the philosophical story from *Zhuangzi*: “You are not a fish; how do you know its joy?” to stress the importance of communication and understanding between all earthly creatures, let alone between peoples. He often says he will be happy if he can do something to increase mutual understanding between the people of China and New Zealand in his life. He has been doing it all along. Since he moved to New Zealand, he has been an enthusiastic member of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society, serving as president of the Society’s Christchurch Branch from 1978 to 1989 and national president from 1989 to 1994 and 1997 to 2002 respectively. He has done a great deal to promote exchanges and cooperation.

Rewi Alley exerted great influence on him. Mr. Willmott recalled that when he was six, his father invited Alley to tea in their house. The latter’s noble character made a strong impression, especially the Gung Ho cooperative movement initiated by Rewi Alley and others has become a persistent pursuit of his life. To inherit



**William Willmott visiting his childhood friend Professor Wu Fulin**

and carry forward Alley’s internationalist spirit, the New Zealand-China Friendship Society under his leadership time and again provided financial assistance to the Shandan Bailie School set up by Alley, sent volunteers to teach there and invited the teachers and students of the school to further their study in New Zealand, and raised money for Gung Ho projects. “I’m ready and will gladly do something for my first home,” said Mr. Willmott.

He led a delegation of New Zealand-China Friendship Society to China in 2008. Due to the strong earthquake in Sichuan, they could not visit the province as scheduled. He expressed profound sympathy to the people of Sichuan over the disaster and made donations to the quake-affected area together with other delegation members. After returning home, he took an active part in the Society’s fund-raising activities, helping raise money for the recovery and reconstruction of quake-hit Wenchuan. This time when he learned from the news that an earthquake hit Yushu of Qinghai Province, he expressed his deep grief and his

admiration for the Chinese Government’s timely mobilization of human and material resources into relief efforts. He said the performance of governments at various levels in the earthquake relief showed that they had become more mature and people-centered. He believed that the people in the disaster area would surely overcome difficulties and rebuild their homes.

Mr. Willmott’s contribution to promoting the friendship between the people of China and New Zealand has won respect and recognition from the two peoples. In 2001, he was made a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit “For Services to NZ-China Relations” by the British Queen. He has also been conferred with the title of Friendship Ambassador by the CPAFFC. At the conferring ceremony, he said with feeling: “I have enjoyed so much of everything that I have done in relation to China. I did not think of it as work. I loved it all because I love China. I thank the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries for granting me this great honor. I shall cherish it all my life.” □

# Calligraphy and Seal Cutting Exhibition Held in Japan

Sun Kang

To enhance cultural exchanges between China and Japan and familiarize the Japanese public with traditional Chinese culture, the CPAFFC, the Japanese Hokushi Seal Cutting Society and the Ishikawa Prefecture Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) jointly staged a calligraphy and seal cutting exhibition of Chinese and Japanese surname characters in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, March 18-22. Surnames are important carriers of a nation's cultural heritage. The 110 works on display were created by Chinese and Japanese calligraphers and engravers and reflected the long history and rich culture of family names from an artistic perspective. During the exhibition, the Chinese and Japanese organizers co-hosted a lecture on "the Origin of Surnames".

With rich cultural tradition, Ishikawa Prefecture has preserved a number of traditional Japanese handicrafts, such as Kutani porcelain, Wajima lacquer ware, Kaga silk and gold foil manufacture. The prefectural capital, Kanazawa, has a large number of people who are interested in Chinese culture. The exhibition attracted 1,500 calligraphy lovers who came from various parts of Ishikawa as well as its neighboring prefectures of Fukui, Toyama and Kyoto. Sakea Mikuni, Director General of the Ishikawa Government Tourism Bureau, Shuichi Ishizaka, Director General of the Ishikawa Prefecture JCFA, Nanen Kitamura, President of the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society (HSCS), and Masami Yamamoto, Chief of the Bureau of Project of the Hokkoku Shimbun cut the ribbon to open the exhibition. Ma-

jor media including the Hokkoku Shimbun carried a series of reports on the exhibition. In an interview, HSCS President Nanen Kitamura said she hoped the exhibition would enable the Japanese people to learn about the adoption of Chinese characters in Japanese family names and provide a cultural perspective for them to look at their names that have become a part of their lives since the day of birth to arouse their respect for Chinese characters.

The lecture was jointly given by Zhang Xinbin, Director of the Institute of History and Archaeology of Henan Provincial Academy of Social Sciences and Hiroshi Morioka, a Japanese specialist on family names. Zhang provided the audience with an overview of Chinese surnames while Morioka spoke on the origin of Japanese names. The simple and witty language they used made the academic talk very interesting for the capacity audience in the 500-seat hall.

Many Japanese visitors said after viewing the exhibition that they were truly impressed by the profound Chinese culture and were amazed that, today, society still used for names the Chinese characters created 3,000 years before. They voiced the hope to visit China—the home of Chinese characters and an ancient civilization—to experience the glorious Chinese culture.

This is the 17th exhibition the CPAFFC have organized in cooperation with the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society of Japan since 1994. □

**Nanen Kitamura, President of the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society showing the visitors around**



# Humanized Confucian Socialism

**G. Chernyak (Ukraine)**

China is a country with a long-standing history and rich culture. To most of us, it is the visual images of emperors, pavilions, dragons and the square Chinese characters that dominate our impressions. The people in that country remember and observe the age-old traditions and continue to celebrate their traditional festivals. While helping to build a modern country, they soberly realize that wealth itself cannot make a nation great; the key is how to make use of wealth.

## **Politics**

As to politics, after having many meetings with officials of that country, we feel that long before the idea of freedom and democracy appeared in Europe, China had already had its own understanding about politics and that understanding has been organically absorbed by the modern political system practiced by East Asian countries influenced by Confucianism. Throughout history, the basis of the State mechanism has always been officials. In Japan, the Confucian thought of governing the country by officials has proved its vitality. The Western-style parliamentary system, existing since 1890, has not yet succeeded in taking power away from bureaucrats and handing it over to the statesmen. China is now trying to carry out its political restructuring by combining foreign experience with its inherent traditions.

## **Economy**

At a meeting with the million-strong All-China Journalists' Association, many people told us how Deng Xiaoping had pulled China out of the dangerous whirlpool and resolutely safely steered it onto the road of reform and opening up. A widely-quoted saying of Deng, "No matter if it is a white cat or black cat, as long as it catches mice, it is a good cat", expressed this new pragmatic attitude. It is meaningless to argue whether establishing a market economy means transition from socialism to capitalism. What is important is the tangible achievements of the reform.

Yes, thirty years ago, Deng Xiaoping made a call to his countrymen: "Let some people get rich first." His successor Jiang Zemin and other Chinese leaders have let more people get rich. Then, as we know, the leaders of the

next generation led by Hu Jintao have set the goal of considerably reducing the number of poor people in the country and have made extraordinary achievements in the process. Consequently, earth-shaking changes have taken place in China.

## **Sense of Pride**

We find that Beijing is not only the capital of the People's Republic of China, but also one of the largest metropolises in the world. The monasteries, historical sites and the Great Wall there have all been kept intact. There are also many world heritage sites and a great number of museums in the city. The Chinese people have already reached space and the hi-tech age. They are now carrying out a large-scale urban construction and building many new road and rail arteries. All this is achieved by the people with their wisdom, their hands and their creativity.

**A Ukrainian reporters' delegation visited China in October 2009. The author (front 1) and other members of the delegation at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing**



# CPAFFC Working Group Attends 15th African International Water Congress

Ji Yongjun, Zhang Weixiao

The impact of global warming and environmental change on the water resources available to humanity, and the threats facing future generations, was the major focus of the 15th African International Water Congress and Exhibition held in Kampala, Uganda, from March 15 to 18, 2010.

At the opening ceremony, Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni spoke about the current situation of African water resources. Other speakers were: Maria Matagamba, Ugandan Minister for Water and Environment, Buyelwa Sonjica, South African Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Kenyan biologist Wangari Maathai, Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program, and David Garman, President of the International Water Resources Association. More than 1,000 government officials, scholars, representatives of the NGOs from 64 countries in the world had discussions on climate change, energy use and the challenges facing water management, and provision of better water sanitation facilities and services. The event was attended by a three-member working group from China led by Xie Yuan,

Director General of the Department of the American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC, at the invitation of the African Water Association.

The theme of the congress related to energy and climatic changes, and the challenges facing water and sanitation service provision in Africa.

Focusing on rational use of water resources and better sanitation, the congress staged a water resources exhibition, a meeting of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and various panel discussions, and invited government officials in charge of water affairs and experts from South Africa, the United States, Kenya and Senegal to introduce successful experiences in their respective countries. The participants held that, in the context of growing globalization, the demand for water resources is increasing. Thus, the issues of water management and good sanitation caused by climate change are becoming most important. Exploitation and use of water resources should follow the concept of protection of the ecological environment and cooperation among countries. They called on all governments, civil societies and the private sector in the

world to innovate their thinking and working style, reduce deforestation and take joint actions to protect global water resources.

Everyone agreed that water resources and sanitation are vital issues for human subsistence and development with a direct bearing on the economy, daily life, ecological environment and public health. Currently, global warming and high urbanization affect the whole process of water circulation and lower the water coverage, thus causing environmental deterioration and food crisis. Faced with the challenges brought about by climatic changes, countries should reach an effective consensus and agreement on how to further prevent global climate changes and the adverse impact so as to ensure the safety of water resources in future.

The participants attached great importance to international cooperation in water resources. In view of the forest desertification in some areas and effects on the ecological system caused by global climatic changes, they called for more rational use of global resources, and urged countries to strive to resolve current problems through energetic international cooperation.

The seeds of national enlightenment are sown in the hearts of these people in early childhood before they come in crowds from nearby counties or faraway regions to the Imperial Palace in Beijing and the Great Wall—the origins of their historical wealth. Mao Zedong's inscription "If we reach not the Great Wall we are no true men" that we saw at a scenic spot of a renovated section of the Great Wall re-

flects this. The Chinese people are proud of their nation that has the capacity to reach the great heights of outer space.

(Translated from the Chinese text)

The author is a journalist with *Odessa Life*. This article was published in the issue of November 11-22, 2009.

# They Fight for Justice

Shu Zhang

In 1936, when Japan was escalating its war of aggression against China, Francisco Franco's rebel army staged a military coup against the Spanish Republican government that was supported by socialists of various persuasions, such as farmers, workers and even students. The Fascist dictators, Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy, assisted Franco to subvert the Republic's political order as part of a bigger conspiracy of outright invasion. They deployed new lethal weapons to kill Spanish people as a prelude to their WWII assault on world peace. As a result the call to "defend Madrid" spread throughout the world—including every corner of China.

Unknown to many people today, some Chinese took part in the struggle. They were internationalists, just like the Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune, whose dedication to China's liberation cause after work in Spain eventually led to his death in 1939.

This important historical fact is liable to be forgotten, so it is important to record it now. Ni Hwei-ru and Len Y. Tson, two Chinese Americans wrote a book *The Call of Spain: Chinese Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War*. In addition, *The Brave Chinese Volunteers Shed Blood in Spain*, edited and printed by the National Museum of China, has collected historical materials about the Chinese volunteers in the International Brigades, enshrining their memory forever.

When Japan invaded China, people of various countries in the world also lent a helping hand. The UK, Norway and India sent medical teams to China to provide support for the Chinese people in their fight against Japanese aggressors. Some doctors came to China via Spain after passing through many places. Norman Bethune returned to Canada after serving on the Spanish battlefield and then came to China. Because of the article *In Memory of Norman Bethune* written by Chairman Mao, many people came to know more about this brave friend of China. Among those who came to China via Spain were German, Austrian, Czech, Bulgarian, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian, Russian and Indian doctors. They were all known as "Spanish doctors" in China.

A disaster in any place on the earth is a common disaster of humankind, so that mutual assistance is an essen-

tial part of human nature. During the Spanish Civil War, from 1936 to 1938, a total of more than 40,000 international volunteers from 53 countries went to Spain to form the International Brigades. They fought shoulder to shoulder with the local people against the fascists in defense of the Spanish homeland. They included over a hundred Chinese volunteers. According to investigation, most of them went to Spain from other parts of Europe and the United States; some also traveled from China, however. With a warm heart and high internationalist spirit they fought bravely. Most of them laid down their lives in Spain, leaving no names, no records at all. But, the Chinese and Spanish people will never forget them.

A Chinese language newspaper published in New York at that time carried a poem in praise of the Chinese fighters:

*The war in the East and the one in the West,  
Though tens of thousands of miles apart,  
Both decide the rise and fall of cultures;  
Our struggle is to resist aggression,  
What we want is to uphold democracy.*

...

*Till all fascists are wiped out  
And democracy prevails,  
Four hundred million compatriots will greet your  
homecoming with open arms.  
Oh, why return home?  
Look, with the blue sky as the ceiling, the earth as the  
ground,  
And twenty-eight constellations as walls:  
Human beings are all brothers and sisters,  
And the whole world is our native land.*

The willingness to make sacrifice is summed up by the words of an ancient Chinese hero: "Green hills everywhere are good for burying loyal bones, why send home our remains wrapped in horse hide?"

China and Spain are widely separated, but they shared a common threat. China was invaded by Japanese imperialists while Spain suffered persecution by fascists. Thus there was a great need for mutual support. At that time in China the song *Defend Madrid* composed by Lu Ji was very popular. Its words are as follows:

*Take up our explosive hand grenades,  
Target them at murderous Franco.  
Arise! Arise!*

*All Spanish people, for freedom and independence of  
your motherland,*

*Immediately join the front fighting for peace.  
Arise! Arise!*

*Let's wage a life and death struggle against  
traitorous lackeys.*

*Defend Madrid!*

*Defend world peace.*

In his letter dated May 15, 1937 to the Spanish people and comrades fighting in the armed struggle, Mao Zedong wrote: "Many comrades of the Chinese Red Army also wish to go to Spain to join you... Were it not that we are face to face with the Japanese enemy, we would join you and take our place in your front ranks."

During her visit to Yan'an in the summer of 1937, American journalist Helen Foster Snow (also known as Nym Wales, and wife of the legendary Edgar Snow at that time) took part in a demonstration organized by the local people in support of the Spanish against fascism. She held

**Liou Kin Tien rescuing a wounded at the battlefield**



high a poster with the words "No Pasaran!" (They Shall Not Pass), as she walked at the front of the procession.

During his exile abroad in the name of a study tour after the Xi'an Incident, General Yang Hucheng led a delegation to Spain and met with General Jose Miaja, head of the Spanish Popular Front, and presented him with a silk banner on which were written "Fight together for independence, democracy and peace!"

After attending the third International Conference of the World Students Federation in the French city of Nice in 1938, Gong Pusheng (later, China's first ambassador to Ireland, in 1979) went to the Camp Gurs, located in Pau, in southwestern France at the foot of the Pyrenees, to see Chinese fighters, among whom was Xie Weijin. Seeing one of his compatriots while living in such straitened circumstances greatly excited Xie. He handed Gong a pile of photographs he had taken on the battlefields and asked her to bring them home.

In 1938, after experiencing many setbacks, a sailor brought a big red silk banner with the signatures of Zhu De, Zhou Enlai and Peng Dehuai to Spain and gave it to "tens of valiant fighters who are taking part in the war". On the banner the words "To the Chinese Detachment of International Brigades, Unite the peoples of Spain and China! Down with the common foe of mankind—Fascists!" were written both in Chinese and English. This banner is now housed in the National Museum of China.

The war situation in Spain was not optimistic. After the Battle of Gandesa in April 1938, the Franco army cut the Republic of Spain in half, making it impossible for the anti-fascist forces in the country's north and south to combine their efforts. The Republican Army suffered repeated defeat and the International Brigades heavy casualties. Seeing the situation was beyond saving, the Spanish Prime Minister decided to unilaterally withdraw all the international volunteers, expecting that Western countries would exert pressure on Germany to withdraw its troops from Spain. At the end of 1938, the International Brigades left Spain and Franco won the war without having to fight any more. The UK and France successively recognized the Franco regime. Not long afterwards, such appeasement of Fascism led to Hitler invading Poland and the Second World War began.

The fate of the international volunteers took a sudden turn for the worse. They retreated to France and were put in concentration camps by France.

According to the investigation made by Ni Hwei-ru and Len Y. Tson, instead of forming a Chinese detachment, the more than 100 Chinese that took part in the Spanish Civil War were assigned to different brigades.

That's why records about these Chinese volunteers were fragmented, adding difficulties to the investigation. However, the two authors finally found records of a dozen of the Chinese volunteers. But the whereabouts of others remained unknown and, in fact, some were already dead. From their relatives, friends and documents they learnt something about these Chinese volunteers:

Xie Weijin, (alias Ling Ching Siu) was born in Bishan County, Sichuan Province in 1899. He went to Shanghai to study and, in 1919, participated in the pro-democracy May 4th Movement there. Later he went to France for part-work and part-study. In 1926 he joined the Communist Youth League in Europe, and in the following year joined the CPC European Branch, doing publicity work. He worked as correspondent for the *International Newsletter*, *Chinese Workers and Peasants Newsletter*, and *News of China* published by the Communist International. In April 1937, leaving his 12-year-old son in Switzerland, he went to Spain. In his letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, he said, "I came to Spain not for a short stay but to go to the battlefield. I will exert my utmost to fight as a soldier. I hope the Committee will grant me this right and let me join the International Brigades just like many other foreign comrades." He was assigned to the machine gun company of the Austrian Battalion, but was wounded by a bullet that ripped through his right leg below the knee. He was sent to hospital for an operation. When his condition improved, he asked to be allowed to resume work. In 1925, in Germany he was the leader of the CPC German Branch and got acquainted with Zhou Enlai who gave him a camera. With this camera, he went to various hospitals of the International Brigades, where he could pass freely, to take pictures for transmission to the *Chinese People's Front* published in Paris. Because of his wound, he could no longer engage in combat; so, he had time to write articles. He provided the Spanish progressive newspapers with information about China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Communist Party of China, and sent photos and information about the Chinese volunteers to newspapers in Spain, France, and the United States as well as in China. He once, on behalf of the Chinese volunteers, wrote a letter to Chiang Kai-shek, then chairman of the National Military



**Xie Weijin (L.2) and others after the International Brigades broke through the enemy's Ebro defense line**

Council of the Nationalist Government of China, saying "The Chinese volunteers have fought to defend freedom and independence of Spain in one place after another for several years, which has also dealt a blow to those seeking to prevent liberation of our Chinese nation. When opportunity comes, my comrades in arms and I will return to the motherland immediately to fight on the battlefield." In early 1939 Xie Weijin was sent with the other surviving international volunteers to concentration camps in France. They were ill treated and suffered many hardships, being interrogated individually and then disbanded. After having stayed in the concentration camp for eight months, he and another six Chinese volunteers at last were permitted to return home. When passing through Switzerland, together with his Russian newly-wedded wife, Anna Kapeller and his son, who was already 15 years old, returned to China by ship. They arrived in Chongqing via Singapore, Hong Kong and Vietnam. In Chongqing, he got in touch secretly with Zhou Enlai and Wang Bingnan. In 1946, Xie Weijin, one of the members of the delegation led by Dong Biwu, flew to Nanjing for negotiations with the Kuomintang. Anna who had studied medicine worked as a medical advisor to the New Fourth Army. Later Xie went with the PLA to take part in battles to capture Beijing and Tianjin, and then marched southwards to participate in battles to liberate Wuhan and the areas south of the Yangtze River. In 1949, he came to Beijing and worked with the engineering department of the air force. In 1952, he served as deputy head of the engineering department of the air force. In 1963, he retired and settled down in Nanchong, Sichuan Province.



The photo taken at a concentration camp in France on April 12, 1939. From left: Chinese volunteers Chang Chang Kuang, Yang Tchen Yon, Xie Weijin and Su Sen Chang

Anna and her own son returned to the Soviet Union. In his home town Xie Weijin adopted a daughter named Xie Jinzhen who looked after him in his later years until he passed away. Many of the things left behind by him are now collected by the National Museum of China.

Tchang Jaui Sau was born in Yutai County, Shandong Province in 1893. His father was a coolie, too poor to send him to school. When he was 18, his father and mother died of illness one after another. He had to enlist in the army and served in the Canal Patrol Battalion for two years. Later, after the battalion was disbanded, he went to his sister in Pukou for help. In 1917, at the height of the First World War, the UK and France badly needed to replenish military supplies, so they recruited laborers from China. Tchang Jaui Sau, being jobless, boarded a ship for France with a complement of around 1,800 laborers, and arrived in Marseilles after a 70-day voyage. He was sent to work in a paper mill. The work was very hard and he lived in a very poor dormitory, suffering much exploitation. In November 1918, Germany surrendered and the First World War ended. France did not need Chinese workers any more. But, facing repatriation, he chose to stay in France—after all, as an orphan he would have to work as hard at home as he did in France. In order to make a living, he did the dirtiest and the most dangerous work that nobody else wanted such as leveling trenches, disinterring corpses, detonating gas bombs, etc. It was not until 1924, on the recommendation of a fellow worker, he got a job in the Renault Car Plant. In 1925, he joined the Communist Party of France and actively took part in the activities organized by the General Confederation of Labor. Renault workers had considerable muscle, and most of the workers were Com-

munist Party members. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, the French Communist Party called on the workers to go to Spain to help the Spanish people fight off the fascists. After thinking it over, he finally decided to join the international volunteers, and arrived in Spain on November 28, 1936. He asked to join the machine gun company, but was assigned to the medical team working as a stretcher-bearer. In rescuing wounded soldiers, he was wounded in the chest, shoulders and hands. When the international volunteers retreated in 1938, he returned to Paris together with the comrades of the French

Communist Party. He was arrested by the French government as soon as he arrived in Paris. Helped by the French Communist Party, however, he was released and received donations for traveling expenses given by the trade unions and his fellow workers for him to leave France and return to China by ship. He arrived in Yan'an via Chongqing, returning to the embrace of his motherland after 22 years. Though it was the border area, he felt he was really back home. He was assigned to take care of the storeroom of *Jiefang Daily*. In 1946 he was married to Meng Xian Yue, a child-care worker in the newspaper's nursery. After liberation, he worked in the administration division of Xinhua News Agency and later was transferred to the personnel division as a secretary. He was commended by Xinhua for his excellent work. In 1958, he retired. In 1968, he fell at the gate of his house and became paralyzed and confined to bed. On December 21, 1968 he passed away at the age of 75.

Liou Kin Tien was born in Shandong in 1890. At home, he once served in the army and fought against bandits. He went to France in 1917 and was assigned to work in a submarine factory. Seven years later, he went to work for the Renault Car Plant. In 1927, he joined the Communist Party of France (CPF). In November 1936, he joined the international volunteers organized by the CPF, and went to Spain together with Tchang Jaui Sau and was assigned to the medical team as a stretcher-bearer. They rescued wounded soldiers under the enemy's gunfire and their work was more dangerous and harder than ordinary soldiers'. A photo showing Liou Kin Tien rescuing a wounded soldier was found in a picture album published by the Spanish international volunteers and Spanish news-

paper *Frente Rojo*. In the photo, Liou, wearing a steel helmet is carrying on his right shoulder a wounded soldier whose head was bandaged; his right hand is holding the soldier's thigh and his left hand is holding the soldier's right hand in front of his chest. The stout Chinese is puffing hard while running past an ambulance. Nineteen years later, this photo was seen again in an East German newspaper. The caption of the photo says: "In praise of international solidarity: Male nurse Liou, a Chinese volunteer fighting for the freedom of Spain, an example of bravery and helping others." He returned to China together with Tchang Jaui Sau and arrived in Yan'an at the end of 1939. He was sent to study in the Party School of the CPC Central Committee. In 1946, he and Tchang were admitted into the CPC. After graduating from the Party School, he was assigned to work in the Sixth Department of the Party School in charge of construction. He led a team to build cave dwellings and houses, dig ditches and open new roads. He regarded the construction department as his home. It is a pity that we don't know what happened to him later.

Chang Chi was born into a declined bureaucratic family in Changsha, Hunan Province in 1900. His parents tried their best to give him a good education. They sold off their property, raising enough money for the costs of his first year study in a university and sent him abroad in 1918. He left Shanghai for San Francisco and was enrolled in the University of California-Berkeley studying metallurgical engineering. He got his academic degree in 1923 and found a job as a mining engineer. But, being a Chinese, he was looked down on by others. He had thought of returning home, but could not make up his mind. A few years later, when economic crisis hit the United States, he was fired. He suffered from both poverty and sickness. Having no way out, he felt depressed. He saw that in the United States, a so-called democratic country, there was not only a disparity between rich and poor and racial discrimination, but also its system was rotten to the core. He took part in the anti-hunger demonstration. In the spring of 1935, he joined the Communist Party of the United States in Minnesota State, and in 1936 he became an executive member of *The Workers Alliance*. He was unmarried and free from care. In April 1937, in response to the call of the Communist Party of the United States, he boarded a ship in New York heading for Spain where he joined the international volunteers. He was assigned to drive a truck in the transportation team. Later because of his health problem, he was transferred to do architectural designing in the general office, and at the same time taught military survey in a college for training military officers. In 1938, he fell ill and

was sent to a hospital where he met Xie Weijin, who was also receiving treatment there. They became good friends. Later Chang Chi returned to the United States and soon went to Hong Kong. While waiting in Hong Kong for returning to China, he published articles about Spain's local conditions and customs and did translation for the China Defense League. He also met Ye Junjian and Israel Epstein (who eventually spent around 60 years in China until his death in 2005). He wished to join the Eighth Route Army when he got back to China, but we don't know whether his wish was fulfilled.

Chinese Indonesian Tio Oen Bik was born in Java in 1906. After graduating from an Indonesian medical school, he went to the Netherlands for further study, where he joined the Association of the Chinese Indonesians, embraced progressive ideology and was engaged in political activities. In 1937, he took part in the "Aid Spain" movement organized by the Communist Party, and in September he arrived in Spain, working in the medical department of the International Brigades. In October 1938, the International Brigades were disbanded and he was detained in a concentration camp in France. Around 1940, he returned to China to take part in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. In Yan'an, he, together with Dr. George Hatem, Dr. Richard Frey, Dr. Fritz Jensen and Dr. Rolf Becker, offered medical services to both Chinese military and civilians. He didn't leave Yan'an until 1945 when Japan surrendered. After that he still stayed in China and worked in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Later, he went to the Soviet Union and East Germany, and returned to Indonesia around the end of the 1950s.

According to the investigation made by Ni Hwei-ru and Len Y. Tson, there are several other Chinese volunteers of established identity including Aking Chan, Maurice Chen, Liu Huafeng, Li Phon Ling, Su Sen Chang, Paul Yen, Yang Tchen Yon and Chang Chang Kuang. But little is known of their subsequent life or whereabouts.

Over 100 Chinese nationals took part in the Spanish Civil War, and the names of most remain unknown. They shed blood in a foreign land and even their remains did not return to the motherland. We can't find any more records of their deeds, but the Chinese and Spanish people will forever remember them and cherish their memories.



# Chinese Children at Ukraine International Children's Folk Dance Festival

**Gan Qianyi**

A 27-member Chinese children's art troupe of the Xiamen Art School, sent by the CPAFFC, visited the Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia from May 7 to 12 to take part in the Fifth International Children Festival of Folk Choreography "Barvinkove Kruzhalo". At the invitation of the

Vinnytsia Municipal Government, this was the second delegation the CPAFFC had sent to the event in three years. They joined children of some 10 art troupes from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Poland and Moldova to happily get together to build friendship.

Volodymyr Grossman, Mayor of Vinnytsia, attended the opening and closing ceremonies and met the various art troupes. He warmly welcomed the children to come together in Vinnytsia and sincerely hoped they would make friends through dance, increase communication, boost

## The Voice of Friendship—Photo Exhibition in Malta

**Reno Calleja (Malta)**

The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Joseph Muscat, two former Presidents, Dr Gwido Demarco and Dr. Edward Fenech Adami, the former labor leader and Prime Minister of Malta, Alfred Sant, and a number of ambassadors accredited to Malta, were among the distinguished guests who were present for the opening of a photo-

graphic exhibition highlighting 38 years of relations between China and Malta.

The exhibition was organized by the Malta China Friendship Society and was officially declared open by Chinese Ambassador Zhang Keyuan on April 26.

Fifty photos on display showed

how the strong relations between Malta and China were built step by step since 1972. They were chosen from hundreds of photographs which the MCFS managed to collect from government and private collections.

In his welcoming speech Mr. Calleja who set up the Malta China Friendship Society 36 years ago, said that the month of April was chosen on purpose because it was in April 1972 when Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff landed in China to become the first western European prime minister to visit China.

Chinese Ambassador to Malta Zhang Keyuan praised the Malta China Friendship Society which although being a voluntary and non-funded organization had contributed immensely to the strong friendly relations existing between Malta and China.

The venue for the exhibition is the Chinese Cultural Center, Valletta. □

**MCFS President Mr. Reno Calleja viewing the photos with Chinese Ambassador to Malta Zhang Keyuan**



friendship and help promote progress together.

On the morning of May 7, the Art Festival opened amid cheers. Each troupe presented folk dances with distinctive national features. While watching others perform, those waiting in the wings laughed, whispered and discussed ways to learn something new. They eagerly awaited their turn to show off their skills.

The students of the Barvinkove Art School put on a show on the morning of the second day of the Art Festival. The art troupes from other countries were invited to watch. When the show reached the halfway point, a familiar tune was heard from the stage. It was *Heroic Little Sisters on the Prairie* played with Ukrainian traditional musical instruments—a gift from the Ukrainian performers to the Chinese delegation. The Chinese children were so excited that they immediately stood up, waving their hands to the rhythm. The music helped break through the language barrier to link the hearts of the Ukrainian and Chinese children.

On that evening, the Chinese delegation visited the Barvinkove Art School. The simple and crude school building formed a sharp contrast to the lively and wonderful performances given by the students of the school that morning. The expenses of the school are mainly funded by the government. But, due to the limited budget, the school authority has to make careful plans and keep a tight hold on spending. The school provides free admission so that more children can learn folk dances of their own country. Though the school's conditions are not good, beautiful flowers of art are born here for children who love their national culture and folk dance and practice diligently.

The Chinese children's art

troupe was scheduled to perform in the central park of the city on the third day. In order to show the audience the diverse cultures of China, it specially arranged such dances as *Peach Blossom*, a court dance of the Han Dynasty, *Shaoduoli*, a dance of the Dai ethnic group, *Southern Xinjiang Dance*, a dance of Uygur ethnic group and *Grandma's Happy Life*, a dance whose choreography draws inspiration from the Tangshan shadow play. These dances of varied forms, content and costumes fascinated the audience. Thousands gathered before the open stage in the park. They had never imagined that Chinese culture was so rich and colorful. More and more people came to the back stage to have pictures taken with the performers. Some people who failed to squash in due to the limited space shouted anxiously "China, China", which made us feel the Ukrainian people's warmth and love for China.

Based on the concept of "letting Ukraine know about the world and the world about Ukraine through dance art" advocated by Petro Boyko, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Art Festival, the delegations of various countries also participated in the commemoration activities for Victory Day in the Anti-Fascist War (May 9th) held in Ukraine every year to promote knowledge of the country's history and culture. Each delegation laid a wreath at the monument to the heroes of World War II, remembering the history and cherishing peace all the more. The Chinese delegation then joined in the grand parade.

Afterwards, a photographer covered in sweat ran to the hotel where we stayed. He was a very well-known local photographer and liked Chinese culture very much. He had been working outside the city that day, but when his friend told him

excitedly over the phone about the Chinese art troupe performance he had watched, the photographer immediately rushed back, hoping to take photos of the Chinese art troupe and use them as material for the photo exhibition he was planning to hold soon. The performers agreed happily and many valuable moments were recorded as the camera clicked.

On the last day of the Art Festival, the 800-seat M. Sadovsky Drama Theater was filled to capacity and became a sea of joy. The performers' slightest facial expression or dynamic dance drew repeated warm applause and cheers from the audience. The children's art troupes taking part in the Art Festival performed their dances one after another, hoping not to miss the chance to show off their best. The atmosphere seemed to have changed from a formal show to a get-together of friends from afar. As the curtain fell and lights dimmed, the get-together drew to a close. Friends from different countries would embark on long journeys back to their homes on the morrow. Let us take another look at them...

From the window of their bus, the young Chinese performers saw a crowd of Ukrainian children standing outside and waving with tears in their eyes. Pressing their faces against the windows, the young performers could no longer hide their reluctance to part, some crying loudly and some weeping covering their faces. When the bus started to move, the children outside began to run after it as it drove faster and faster down the street. As the bus pulled up at a traffic light, a little girl ran up to us breathless and shaky to draw a heart with her fingers as a gift to us. At that moment, a smile came on her young face. Oh, she came up all the way just to tell us of her love for China.

# Xinjiang University Student Delegation Visits Novosibirsk

Zhang Jiahu

Invited by the Novosibirsk State University, a Xinjiang university student delegation, co-organized by the Xinjiang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (XPAFFC) and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region's Education Bureau, took part in the "International Solidarity Week" held by the university from May 3 to 10. Xinjiang university students participated in this activity for the first time last year.

The nine students in the delegation were from the Russian Language

Department of the College of Foreign Languages, Xinjiang University (XU). Based on a theme of "The Role of Innovation in Today's World", they took part in debates and discussions, staged art performances and cultural shows, and visited the famous Science City, local museums and Novosibirsk State Conservatory named after M. I. Glinka. They attended a concert and watched the parade commemorating victory in WWII. During the visit, representatives of the XPAFFC and XU held meetings respectively with

the Regional Education Bureau and City Council of Novosibirsk, Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk State Conservatory named after M. I. Glinka, Novosibirsk State Academy of Economics and Management as well as relevant NGOs. Wherever the delegation went, its members made new friends, renewed friendship with old ones and looked for cooperation opportunities. They experienced the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Russian people while also raising awareness of Xinjiang and Chinese culture.



Mr. Petro Boyko and his wife came to see us off. When we told him about the little girl, he smiled and told us that many years before there was also a small boy who was deeply impressed by the rich and profound Chinese culture and reluc-

tant to part with his Chinese friends. Now, this boy is learning Chinese dance in China and passing on the friendship of the Ukrainian people to the Chinese people. And that boy is his son.

Perhaps after many years when

we look back, we might not remember much of the occasion, but the smile on the little girl's face will be engraved in our memory. We will cherish this feeling for our next meeting and for our unchanged friendship. □