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**Front cover:** Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inauguration ceremony of the China-India Joint Medical Mission (January 14, 2008)

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# Breakfast Meeting Held to Welcome Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda

## Our Staff Reporter

The China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) and the CPAFFC held a breakfast meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing on December 29, 2007 to welcome visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Fukuda attended it and made speeches on the occasion.

In his speech Premier Wen reemphasized the three important foundations for Sino-Japanese friendship: first, to abide by the three political documents signed between China and Japan, draw lessons from history and look to the future; second, the people's support constitutes the real foundation for China-Japan friendship, therefore, the people of the two countries should respect and understand each other and treat each other equally; and third, the future of China-Japan friendship depends on the young people. The Premier said, if economic and trade cooperation stands for the present-day Sino-Japanese relations, then, ex-

changes between the youth and friendship between our peoples contain the future of the relationship.

Premier Wen briefed those present on the important consensuses reached between the two sides during Prime Minister Fukuda's visit, which are: to further advance bilateral relations through important high-level visits in 2008, to continuously enrich the content of the strategic relationship of mutual benefit between China and Japan, and to give priority to cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation and increase youth exchanges.

Premier Wen happily recalled his visit to Japan in April 2007 and recited the poem he had composed to express his great expectation for the Sino-Japanese relations. It reads:

The ice-thawing visit remains fresh in my mind.

Plum blossoms and timely snow signal the ar-

**Premier Wen Jiabao and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda attending the breakfast meeting**



# Founding of China-India Joint Medical Mission and Its Activities

Li Sanghua, Tu Lili



Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Indian Prime Minister M. Singh present at the inauguration ceremony of the China-India Joint Medical Mission

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission's arrival in China, the China-India Joint Medical Mission (CIJMM) consisting of 20 young doctors, ten each from China and India selected by the CPAFFC and the

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), offered free medical service to the disadvantaged group of people in Beijing and Hebei Province from January 14 to 21, 2008.

The leaders of the two countries attached great importance

to the CIJMM. On January 14, Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attended the ceremony of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Chinese People's Association for

rival of the New Year,

The spring next year will be brighter.

Prime Minister Fukuda said that his visit covering a wide range of issues was fruitful. He noted that 2007 saw the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China and witnessed rapid development of people-to-people exchanges. He wished to take the visit as an opportunity to further con-

solidate the foundation of Japan-China relations and hoped that 2008 would go down in history as a year of speedy development of bilateral relations.

CJFA President Song Jian, Vice Foreign Ministers Dai Bingguo and Wang Yi, and CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, among over 200 people of all walks of life from China and Japan, attended the meeting. □

Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on the China-India Joint Medical Mission and the inauguration of the CIJMM, and issued the honorary certificates to the mission members. The CIJMM's activities got support from the leaders and the health departments at various levels of the Hebei Provincial Government. *People's Daily*, Xinhua News Agency, *China Daily* and China Radio International gave its activities timely and detailed coverage.

The activities carried out by the first CIJMM have achieved good social effects and played a positive role in popularizing the international humanitarian spirit of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission, carrying forward Sino-Indian traditional friendship and promoting mutual understanding between the Chinese and Indian people.

### **Carrying Forward Sino-Indian Traditional Friendship**

In recent years Sino-Indian relations have presented a gratifying situation and been developing on a fast track. Both China and India, as big emerging countries, are facing the new tasks of making all-round development. It is the trend of our times that the two countries should strengthen cooperation and jointly rise to challenges. To give new contents to Sino-Indian traditional friendship in the new historical period is of great significance for the two countries to enhance trust, dispel suspicion and deepen exchanges.



**China-India Joint Medical Mission visiting Dr. Kotnis Memorial Hall in Shijiazhuang**



**Doctors of the CIJMM making a house call in Gegong Village of Tangxian County in Hebei Province**

The CIJMM visited Dr. Kotnis Memorial Halls and his former residence in Shijiazhuang City and Tangxian County. The internationalist spirit of sacrificing oneself to save others displayed by the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission greatly inspired the Chinese and Indian doctors. Zhang Jinting, Chinese team leader of the CIJMM and vice president of the Second Hospital of Hebei Medical University, said that they would

work in a down-to-earth manner, carry forward the international humanitarian spirit and let medical science and skills transcend national boundaries to benefit the Chinese and Indian people and open a new chapter of Sino-Indian friendship. Dr. Puneet Geol, Indian team leader said, they, the Indian younger generation, are deeply touched by the fact that the Chinese people still remember, respect and love the Indian Aid-China Med-



# Former US President Jimmy Carter Visits China

**Ba Cuicui**

**A**t the invitation of the CPAFFC, former US President Jimmy Carter paid a visit to China from December 3 to 7, 2007. On December 5, Xi Jinping, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, met with and entertained him and his party at the Great Hall of the People. Tang Jiaxuan, State Councillor; Xu Kuangdi, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and president of the China-US Peoples Friendship Association (CUSPFA); Li Xueju, minister of civil affairs; and Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC, met with or entertained him on different occasions. Carter attended the meeting marking the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States and the "China Night" activity organized by the American National Geographic Society. He visited the China University of Political Science and Law and gave a speech to the teach-

ers and students.

## **Party and State Leaders Meeting with Jimmy Carter**

When meeting with Jimmy Carter, Comrade Xi Jinping spoke highly of his contributions to the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations and the promotion of friendship between the two countries. Xi said, over the past 28 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, thanks to concerted efforts by both sides, bilateral relations have made steady progress with common interests being expanded and fields of cooperation widened continuously. China is willing to work with the United States, strengthen dialogue, mutual trust and cooperation and properly handle differences and sensitive issues so as to continue to push forward China-US constructive and cooperative relations.

Tang Jiaxuan expressed appreciation of Carter's efforts to bring about the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations during his presidency and his continuous care about and support

ical Mission. The fraternity between India and China forged during the war years is precious. They are ready to work hand in hand with the Chinese doctors on the new battlefield of fighting against diseases and poverty and build a new image of India-China friendship.

## **Promoting Medical Exchanges**

This activity has provided a good platform for medical exchanges between China and India. The CIJMM visited Dr.

Bethune International Peace Hospital, the Second Hospital of Hebei Medical University, (also named Dr. Kotnis China-India Friendship Hospital), Dr. Bethune Hospital in Tangxian County and the Medical Service Centre of Beijing Huayuan Community. Through exchanges and discussions on special subjects, the doctors of the two countries understood better each other's health situation and systems, and medical concepts and skills. The two sides

unanimously held that the similarity and complementariness between China and India in the field of health were a good foundation for the medical colleges of the two countries to carry out exchanges and cooperation in the future.

## **Caring about Disadvantaged Groups**

Both China and India are populous countries and have a vast number of disadvantaged people that need to be given



**Xi Jinping, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, meeting with former US President Jimmy Carter**

of China-US relations after leaving the office. Tang said, as the Chinese saying goes “When you drink the water, think of those who dug the well”, the Chinese people will not forget Mr. Carter’s important and valuable contributions to China-US relations.

Carter regarded it as the happiest thing in his life that during his presidency he promoted the establishment of US-China diplomatic relations and the U.S. explicitly recognized that there is only one China in the world and that Taiwan is part of China. He said, the establishment of US-China diplomatic relations in 1979 was a historic event

of world influence giving profound impact on the United States, China, Asia and the whole world. He believed, in spite of their different political systems, the two countries can get along well with mutual tolerance. He said that he had full confidence in the bright prospect of China’s development and that he would continue to promote the development of bilateral relations.

#### **Meeting Marking the 28th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations**

On the afternoon of December 5, the CPAFFC held a meeting marking the 28th anniversary of

special care. How to help them is of special significance for the two countries to maintain steady and rapid growth. For this reason, the CIJMM paid an official call on the Ministry of Health with the aim of knowing about China’s three-tier rural health care network, rural medical facilities, training of rural medical workers and the new type cooperative medical care system in rural areas. The Indian doctors said that China’s ex-

perience in formulating and implementing the rural medical care system is worth learning by India.

The CIJMM gave free medical service to the disadvantaged rural people in Tangxian County of Hebei Province where the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission had worked very hard and Gegong Village where Dr. Kotnis sacrificed his life. The Chinese and Indian doctors offered free medical

treatment to the local people and home medical service to the farmers living in the out-of-the way places. They had discussions with the local doctors on some difficult cases of illness, imparted experiences in making diagnosis and giving treatment and donated medicine to the Tangxian County Hospital and the farmers who needed help. The CIJMM was warmly welcomed by the local people wherever they went. □

the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations. Vice Chairman Xu Kuangdi, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin, former US President Jimmy Carter and US Ambassador to China Clark T. Randt, Jr. attended the meeting among more than 100 council members of the CUSPFA, scholars on China-US relations as well as students from universities in Beijing. Xu Kuangdi, Jimmy Carter and C. T. Randt, Jr. spoke on the occasion and Carter answered the questions raised by the participants.

In his speech, Xu Kuangdi said, the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, an important event that has great impact on the world and the future, is the result of concerted efforts made by both Chinese and American statesmen. The two countries should continue to strengthen dialogue, perseveringly carry out people-to-people exchanges and deepen mutual understanding and friendship be-

tween the two peoples.

In his speech, Carter for the first time revealed his personal diary from 1977 to 1979 about the tortuous course of the establishment of US-China diplomatic relations, including how he withstood the huge pressure from the Congress to have secret negotiations with Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, to sever diplomatic relations with Taiwan and recognize that Taiwan is a part of China and to finally bring about the establishment of US-China diplomatic relations. He also recalled with feelings Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States and the profound friendship between them.

Carter expressed satisfaction with the visit and hoped that he would visit China again at the end of 2008 to attend a series of activities marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations. □

#### **State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan meeting with former US President Jimmy Carter and his party**



**(Continued from p.21)**

mayor of Gwangju, led a 38-member government and art delegation to visit Guangzhou, during which he presented the plate of Honorary Mayor of Gwangju to Zhang Guangning. On November 1, 2007, Mayor Zhang Guangning headed a delegation to Gwangju for a return visit. On the evening of the same day, Mayor Park handed the certificate and the medal of honorary mayor to

Zhang Guangning at Gwangju Culture and Art Hall. The conferring of the title on Mayor Zhang has not only symbolized the deep friendship between the two cities, but also showed the fruitful results achieved in the exchanges between them in recent years. After the conferring ceremony, artists from Guangzhou gave a special performance entitled Splendid Friendship Cites. □

# Fourth Meeting of China-Spain Forum Held in Madrid

Yin Shenglun

Chairman Hu Qili and Executive Chairman Chen Haosu of the Chinese Committee of the China-Spain Forum (CSF) led a Chinese delegation to attend the Fourth Meeting of the CSF in Madrid from November 27 to 28, 2007. The meeting with the theme of “Harmony, Development and Gaining Win-Win Results” was jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the CSF Chinese Committee, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Spain China Council Foundation.

On November 27, the opening ceremony of the Fourth Meeting was held in Madrid, at which Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu and Spanish First Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de La Vega were present. In his speech Vice Premier Hui said, the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Spain in 2005 is an important milestone in the bilateral relations. Through the joint efforts of the two sides, China-Spain relations have entered into the best period of development. Vice Premier Hui put forward a five-point suggestion for comprehensively raising the level of China-Spain cooperation in all fields: 1. The two coun-



Vice Premier Hui Liangyu speaking at the opening ceremony of the Fourth Meeting of the China-Spain Forum

tries should effectively strengthen mutual political trust, grasp the direction of the development of bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, maintain high-level contacts, deepen strategic dialogue and expand international cooperation. 2. The two countries should continue to boost economic and trade cooperation, further broaden areas of cooperation, expand the scale of trade, strengthen mutual investment

and carry out close cooperation with enriched contents between enterprises. 3. The two countries should further expand cultural and educational exchanges, increase contacts at all levels, enhance mutual understanding and push the bilateral substantial cooperation in the fields of culture, science, technology, education, sports, etc. to a higher level. 4. The two countries should continue to do a good job in holding the Year of



Spain in China and the Chinese Art Festival in Spain, and take the opportunities of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai and the Saragossa World Exposition to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation. 5. The two countries should give full play to the effective role of the CSF, improve its mechanism, and continue to explore new areas, new thinking and new ways for bilateral cooperation so as to make greater contributions to the China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership.

Maria Teresa Fernandez de La Vega, Spanish first deputy prime minister, Hu Qili, chairman of the CSF Chinese Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, chairman of the CSF Spanish Committee, and Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, mayor of Madrid, also spoke on the occasion. Over 500 Chinese and

Spanish representatives of various circles were present at the opening ceremony. Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero met with Vice Premier Hui Liangyu on separate occasions.

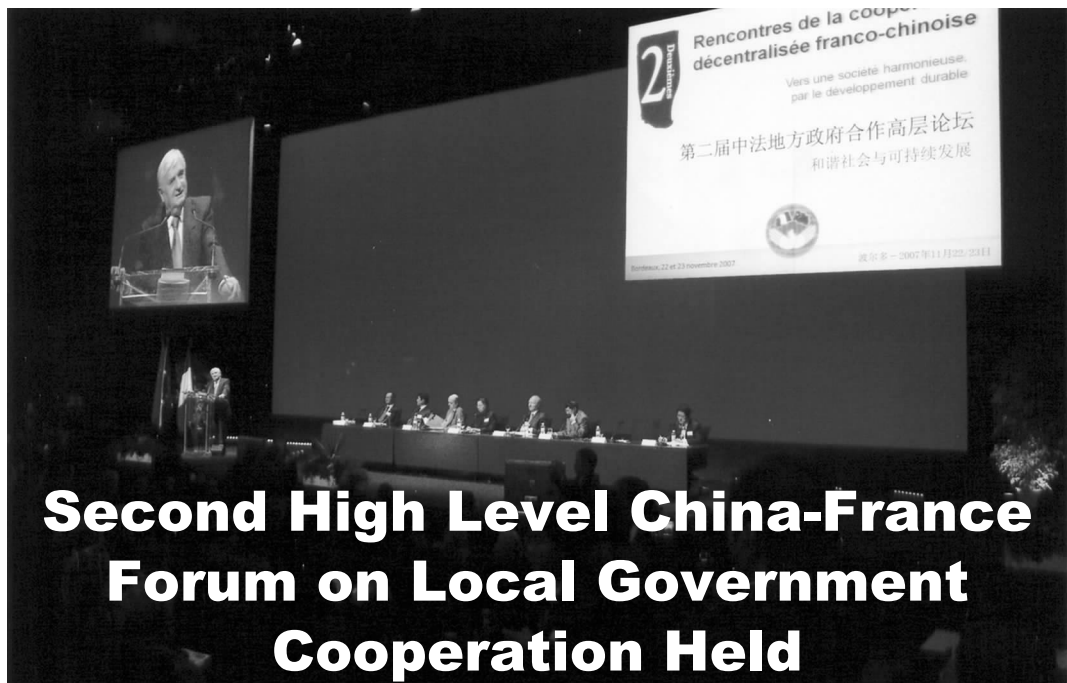
He Luli, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, and Carmen Calvo, first vice president of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, attended the closing ceremony of the meeting and spoke on the occasion. Vice Chairperson He expressed her warm congratulations on the full success of the Fourth Meeting of the CSF and spoke highly of the positive role played by the CSF in promoting Sino-Spanish relations. She said, through serious discussions in the past two days, representatives of the two sides exchanged views fully and reached forward-looking con-

sensus on the important topics including the current situation and existing problems in the bilateral cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, culture, sports, laws and between localities and cities, orientation of joint efforts and planned goals. The conclusive documents submitted by the six committees embodied the spirit of China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership, expressed the common wishes to further bilateral cooperation, and reflected the aims of the meeting to promote mutual trust and strengthen cooperation.

Chen Haosu said in his concluding speech, since its founding in 2003, the CSF has made progress in its work in three aspects: First, on the basis of governmental cooperation, the CSF has encouraged more nongovernmental organizations to participate in the China-Spain cooperation. Second, in addition

**Front row from left: Carmen Calvo, first vice president of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, J. A. Samaranch, chairman of the CSF Spanish Committee, He Luli, vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, and Hu Qili, chairman of the CSF Chinese Committee**





## Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation Held

**Hao Zhongwei**

The Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the French Guidance Committee of the Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation and the Municipal Government of Bordeaux was held in Bordeaux, France from November 22 to 23, 2007. About 700 officials of the Chinese

and French governments at various levels participated in it. During the forum, centring on the theme of harmonious society and sustainable development, the participants of the two sides had in-depth discussions on cooperation between the Chinese and French local governments in the areas of environmental protection, economic development, social harmony and ways of cooperation.

to the original four committees, it has set up two more committees, namely the Law committee and the Locality and City Committee, and held discussions on the cooperation between women. Third, in line with the aspiration of the highest leadership of the two countries, it has actively pushed for economic cooperation with a third party.

Hu Qili, Samaranch and others attended the closing ceremony. Vice Chairperson He Luli met with Carmen Calvo and Jordi Vilajoana, first and second vice president of the Congress of Deputies, on dif-

ferent occasions.

The CSF's political, economic, cultural, sports, law, and locality and city committees respectively held discussions on further strengthening cooperation and worked out their respective conclusive documents. At the Third China-Spain Business Summit and the Economic Committee Meeting which were jointly held, the participants had in-depth discussions on financial reform and cooperation with the third market. The two sides signed 6 agreements on cooperation.

At the closing ceremony,

Chen Haosu, on behalf of the CPAFFC, conferred the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador upon Juan Antonio Samaranch in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the friendship between the Chinese and Spanish people. Vice Chairperson He Luli attended the conferring ceremony and presented the certificate and medal to Samaranch.

During the meeting, the Madrid Municipal Government and the Madrid Regional Government respectively hosted a banquet and a reception in celebration of the successful convening of the Meeting. □

The forum approved the Conclusive Document on the Second High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation and achieved a full success.

The Bordeaux Forum was a continuation and extension of the First High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation held in 2005. Through dialogues between the Chinese and French local governments, it aimed at enriching and deepening the Sino-French comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples so as to promote sustainable common development and build a harmonious world.

He Luli, vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Chen Haosu, CPAFFC president; Brice Hortefeux, minister of immigration, integration, national identity and co-development; Alain Juppe, former French prime minister and mayor of Bordeaux; Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former French prime minister; and Senator Jacques Valade, attended the forum and spoke on the occasion. 269 representatives of the Chinese central and local govern-

ments, entrepreneurs, artists and 377 French representatives were present at the opening and closing ceremony of the forum, participated in the lecture on harmonious society and sustainable development, local government round-table meetings and four panels respectively on environment, economy, society and the ways of international cooperation between local governments. During the forum, meetings between the leaders of the Chinese and French local governments, and between entrepreneurs of the two countries as well as activities showing Chinese local cultures were held. In the Conclusive Document adopted at the closing ceremony, concrete suggestions were put forward on the future long-term cooperation between the local governments of the two countries. Through in-depth discussions, the two sides unanimously held, China's concept of building a harmonious society and the concept of sustainable development now prevailing in France coincide in state governance, economic development, environmental protection and social security. Their common wishes to take the road of sustainable development and build a harmonious society inspired them to strengthen cooperation. □



**NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairperson He Luli presenting French Senator Jacques Valade certificate of Friendship Ambassador**

**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Senator Jacques Valade signing the Conclusive Document**





# CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit in South Africa, Lesotho And Mauritius

**Wu Jiong**

**A**t the invitation of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini of South Africa, the Foreign Ministry of Lesotho and Abdool Raouf Bundhun, former vice president of Mauritius, Abdul'ahat Abdurixit, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and president of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association (CAPFA), led a CAPFA delegation to visit the above three countries from November 27 to December 6, 2007. The three countries attached great importance to the delegation's visit and accorded it high-level reception. The visit

enhanced understanding and friendship and promoted cooperation between China and the three countries.

It was CPPCC Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit's first visit to Africa as leader of a CAPFA delegation since he served as president of the CAPFA. He was the highest Chinese leader to visit Lesotho since the two countries established diplomatic relations. The visit was another milestone in the history of Sino-African friendship particularly in the history of the people-to-people friendship between China and Africa. Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat played his unique role in enhancing the

friendship between the governments, parliaments, parties and peoples of the three countries and China, and helping them know more about China's policies towards ethnic groups and religions and the great cause of China's reunification.

Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat on separate occasions met with Deputy Speaker Gwendoline Lindiwe Mahlangu-Nkabinde of the National Assembly, Speaker Thembinkosi Willies Mchunu of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial legislature and President Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of South Africa; King Letсие III, Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili and Acting Foreign Minister Motloheloa Phooko of Lesotho; President Anerood Jugnauth, Vice President Angidi Veeniah Chettiar and former Vice President Abdool Raouf Bundhun of Mauritius.

Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat also met with representatives of the Mauritius-China Friendship Association and the Chinese Business Chamber in Mauritius, gave interviews to the state TV stations of Lesotho and Mauritius, and

**G. L. Mahlangu-Nkabinde, deputy speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, having a cordial conversation with Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit**





visited the Chinese-aided projects including the National Convention Centre of Lesotho and the Lesotho Parliament Building under construction.

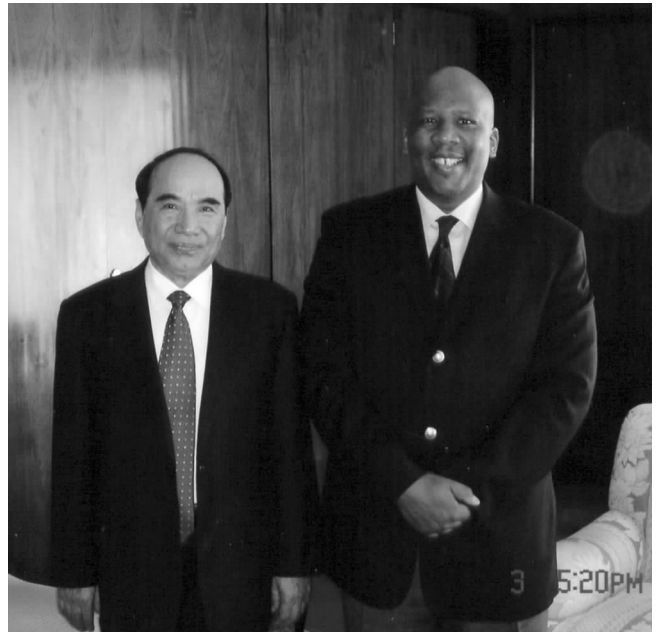
### **Mutual Political Trust**

When meeting with the leaders of the three countries, Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat briefed them on China's economic achievements, political system, policy towards ethnic groups and the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Speaking highly of China's friendship and cooperation with the three countries, he said, China attaches great importance to developing relations with the three countries and cherishes mutual political trust and exchanges and cooperation with them in the economic, cultural and social fields. The Chinese people are always trustworthy friend and partner of the African people, he added.

The leaders of the three countries expressed their warm

welcome to Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat's visit to their countries, spoke highly of their traditional friendship and cooperation with China, admired China's achievements in economic construction and fully affirmed China's policy towards Africa. They expressed their confidence in continuous development of Africa-China relations, and wishes to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with China in the fields of democratic politics, economy, trade, culture, etc., and hope to keep pace with China's development.

Gwedoline Lindiwe Mahlangue-Nkabinde, deputy speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, greatly admired



**King Letsie III of Lesotho meeting with Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit**

China's system of political consultation. She said, "Political consultation plays an important role in a country's politics and the participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs by the political parties not in office and social organizations is an important indicator of social democracy." She hoped that South Africa and China would strengthen ex-

**Mauritian President Anerood Jugnauth meeting with Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit and his party**



changes between governments, parliaments and nongovernmental organizations so as to enhance mutual trust and cooperation. She pointed out, the National Assembly of South Africa unequivocally persists in the policy of "one China", and South Africa only attends international conferences at which Chinese representatives come from the People's Republic of China.

Pakalitha Mosisili, prime minister of Lesotho, expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government and people for their consistent aid and support for Lesotho. During his recent vacation in China, he witnessed the Chinese people's hard work for building up their country. He hoped that the people of Lesotho would learn from the Chinese people and make contributions to the country's development with their own hands. He also expressed that he welcomes Chinese agricultural experts to come to Lesotho to give technical instruction and train professional personnel to help Lesotho realize self-sufficiency in grain. He firmly believed that China would achieve its complete national reunification and expected that China would soon achieve this goal.

Vice President of Mauritius Chettiar said that he had witnessed the friendly exchanges between the two countries in the past 35 years. The China-aided projects including the Mauritian Airport terminal building, the stadium and the activity centre for the aged, which he participated in signing, have become

symbols of friendship between Mauritius and China. Former Mauritian Vice President Abdool Raouf Bundhun, who was recently relieved of his office, visited China last year at the invitation of the CPAFFC. He specially invited the delegation to be guests at his home. He recalled with emotion what he had seen and heard in China and said, the Chinese people treasure friendship and love peace, so when China awakens, the whole world will rejoice at it.

### **Practical Cooperation**

In her meeting with the CAPFA delegation, Mahlangu-Nkabinde expressed her admiration of China's rapid development and said, South Africa, as one of China's largest trade partners in Africa, benefits from the bilateral economic and trade cooperation. She hoped to solve the problem of imbalance existing in bilateral trade. Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat said, though China is now developing rapidly, it still faces many difficulties and challenges such as imbalance of development among regions, big gap in urban and rural development, environmental protection, etc. China aims at both sound and rapid economic growth. China unswervingly follows the path of peaceful development and conducts mutually beneficial trade cooperation. He also answered questions on how the Chinese government helps rural migrant workers work in cities, the building of an innovative country and moral edu-

cation among citizens.

### **Work to Promote Sino-African Friendship Through Nongovernmental Channels**

During the visit, the Vice Chairman publicized on many occasions the CAPFA's work and expressed the organization's wish of carrying out nongovernmental exchanges and cooperation with the local governments, friendship-with-China organizations and overseas Chinese organizations of the three countries.

Mohammed Asraf Dulull, Mauritian minister of housing and land, spoke highly of the work done by the CAPFA for enhancing friendship among the peoples and said, the exchanges between the people of Mauritius and China play a fundamental role in promoting relations between the two countries.

The members of the Mauritius-China Friendship Association and the Chinese Business Chamber often hold activities to promote friendship with China and have made important contributions to the friendship between the two countries. They expressed their wish to have closer cooperation with the CPAFFC and hoped that their organizations could serve as a platform for Chinese enterprises to enter the African market and a bridge for the overseas Chinese to go to China to study Chinese language, and become an important force in carrying forward the great culture and glorious tradition of the Chinese nation. □

# CPAFFC Delegation Visits India

Tu Lili

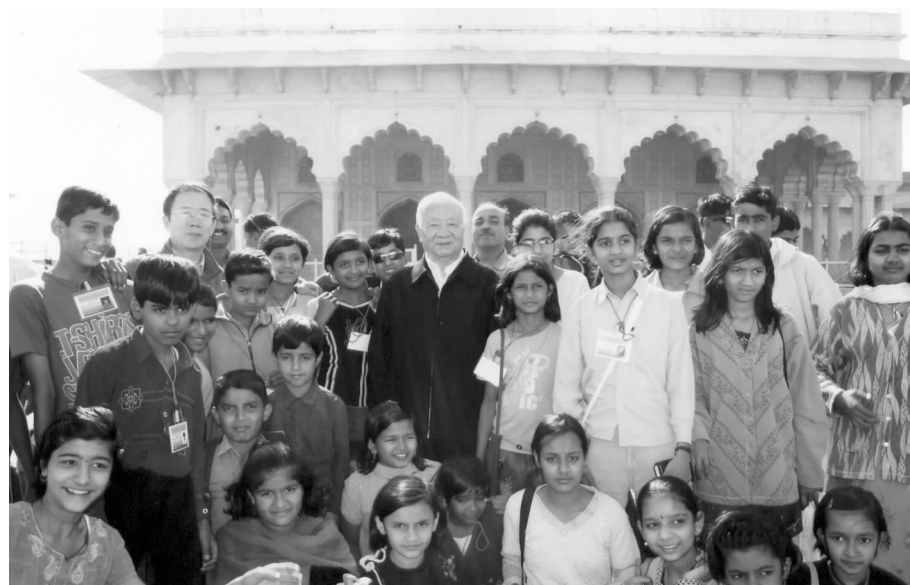
A CPAFFC delegation headed by Wang Wenyuan, former vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and adviser to the CPAFFC, paid a goodwill visit to India from December 19 to 28, 2007 at the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Also on the delegation were CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Vice President Feng Zuoku. It was the highest-level delegation the CPAFFC has sent to India over the last decade.

During its stay in India, the delegation had a working meeting with Dr. Karan Singh, president of the ICCR, met with leading members of friendship-with-China organizations, and called on Mr. Nitish Kumar, chief minister of Bihar State, Dr.



**Leader of the delegation Wang Wenyuan and CPAFFC President Chen Haosu with Nitish Kumar, chief minister of Bihar, India**

Ravindra Panth, president of Nalanda University, and other public figures and friendly personages.



**Leader of the delegation Wang Wenyuan and CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku with Indian children at Agra Fort, India**

## Unofficial Contact Promoted

The extensive contact the delegation conducted with people of various circles in India enhanced mutual understanding, expanded the channels for exchange and laid a good foundation for the CPAFFC in its work of friendship with India in the future.

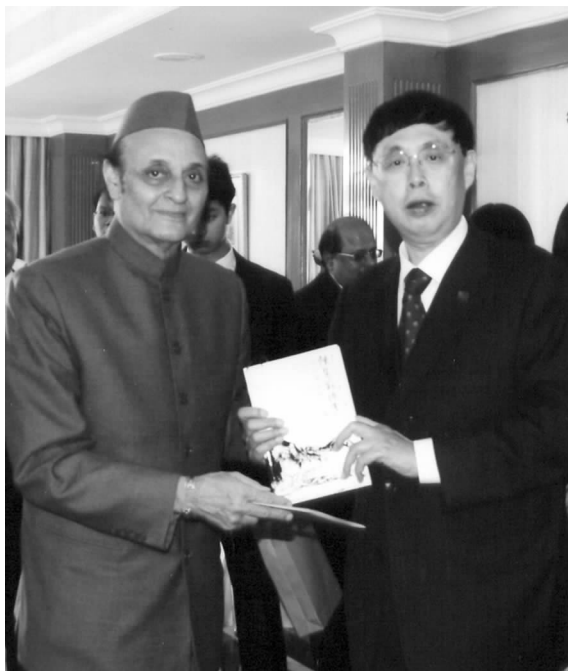
At his meetings with the Indian side, leader of the delega-



tion Wang Wenyuan expressed his satisfaction with the present Sino-Indian relations. He stressed, both China and India are big Asian countries and their economies are growing rapidly. The development of relations between them has great significance to peace and stability in the world. The Chinese people are willing to deepen understanding and enhance friendly sentiments with the Indian people in order to create a better future.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said, as a major organization engaged in nongovernmental diplomacy in China, the CPAFFC would like to strengthen cooperation with all friendship organizations in India and add new contents to the strategic partnership of cooperation between China and India.

At the meeting with the ICCR, the two sides expressed their expectations of the coming visit to China by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. They hoped the two sides would take this opportunity to push the Sino-Indian relations to a new stage. During Prime Minister Singh's visit to China, the premiers of the two governments would attend the ceremonies of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the CPAFFC and the ICCR and the founding of the China-India Joint Medical Mission. The two sides unanimously agreed that the fact that the premiers of the two governments would be present at the



**CPAFFC President Chen Haosu presenting a collection of poems to ICCR President Karan Singh**

activity held by nongovernmental organizations showed the importance the two governments attached to people-to-people friendship, and that they would do their best to ensure the success of such activities.

The delegation also held informal discussions  
(Continued on p.37)

#### **The delegation visiting Xuan Zang Memorial Hall at Nalanda, India**





# Delegation of Australian Local Government Association in China

**Qing Boming**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Paul Bell, president of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), led a delegation composed of presidents of the branches of the ALGA to visit Beijing, Qingdao, Shenzhen and Guangzhou from December 1 to 12, 2007. Li Xiaolin, vice president of the CPAFFC, Wu Jingjian, vice mayor of Qingdao, Liao Junwen, vice chairman of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Tang Bingquan, deputy governor of Guangdong Province, met with the delegation on separate occasions. During its visit in China, the delegation paid an official

call on the Foreign Ministry, visited the Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall and some of the venues of the Olympic Games as well as enterprises in Qingdao, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

## **Speaking Highly of China's Social and Economic Progress**

Most of the members of the delegation visited China for the first time. The booming social and economic development in the places they visited left a deep impression on them. President Bell said to CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin that this was his first visit to Beijing where he saw cranes everywhere and was amazed at the vigorous construction. He said, China has a population of 1.3

billion; so one can well imagine what a heavy pressure the government is under. But the Chinese government has not only successfully solved the problem of letting people have adequate food and clothing, but also created conditions to raise the living standards of the people. Mayor Mike Gaffney from Tasmania said, he had visited Beijing ten years ago. During the ten years Beijing has experienced an earth-shaking change. Particularly the environment has been greatly improved. Streets have become cleaner and the sky bluer.

During the delegation's visit in Qingdao, Paul Bell said to Vice Mayor Wu Jingjian, Qingdao boasts not only a beautiful

**Deputy Governor of Guangdong Tang Bingquan meeting with the delegation**



natural harbour, but also rapid urbanization. The delegation was very much interested in the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Base, and the fine harbour in Qingdao was very much suited for holding sailing competitions.

The members of the delegation were very much impressed by Shenzhen's tremendous economic achievements, developing from a small fishermen's village to a modern international garden city in a short period of 30 years. Paul Bell said to Deputy Governor Tang Bingquan that it was thanks to the Chinese government's correct leadership that Guangzhou and Shenzhen could have achieved such a rapid social and economic development.

During the visit, the members of the delegation asked questions about China's environmental protection, urban planning and the gap between the rich and the poor and got satisfactory answers during the meetings with the Chinese side.

#### **Praising the Smooth Development of Australia-China Relations**

During his visit in China,

ALGA President Paul Bell said, since Australia established diplomatic relations with China in December 1972, bilateral relations have been developing smoothly. The two countries have carried out extensive exchanges and cooperation in various fields; particularly the cooperation in education and tourism has continued to expand. At present there are 90,000 Chinese students studying in Australia. In 2007 300,000 person/times of Chinese tourists visited Australia.

When visiting enterprises including the Haier Group in Qingdao and Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd in Shenzhen, the members of the delegation were amazed at the achievements in high technologies made by the Chinese enterprises, and got a better understanding about Chinese famous brands and more objective information of "China made" products. Bell said, the economic cooperation between the two countries is becoming increasingly close. China has become Australia's biggest trade partner. Chinese products are both good in quality and cheap in price. He hoped that in

future Chinese products would have more share in the Australian market.

#### **Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation between Local Governments**

At the working meeting with the CPAFFC, the members of the delegation said, the exchanges and cooperation in various fields between the two countries have achieved notable results. Exchanges between the local governments and between the nongovernmental organizations of the two countries have been very active. The understanding and friendship between the two peoples have deepened continuously in the past 35 years. The members of the delegation coming from various states of Australia hoped that through this visit the local governments of the two countries would further strengthen exchanges and cooperation.

Among the cities the delegation visited, Shenzhen and Brisbane were a pair of friendship cities, and Guangdong Province having twinned friendship ties with New South Wales and Queensland. Paul Bell said, friendship-city ties have helped shortened the distance between twinned provinces and cities and brought many opportunities of cooperation. In the future the two sides should give full play to the role of friendship-city ties. He said the ALGA was willing to help look for an Australian port city similar to Qingdao to forge friendship-city ties with it. □

#### **The delegation visiting Haier Group in Qingdao**



# Seminar on Cooperation Between Chinese And Spanish Enterprises Held in Seville

**Yin Shenglun**

On November 29, 2007 the Seminar on Cooperation between Chinese and Spanish Enterprises jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Chinese Committee of the China-Spain Forum (CSF) and the Autonomous Government of Andalusia Region of Spain was held in the Office of the president of Andalusia in Seville, capital of the region. The seminar, an extension of the Fourth Meeting of the China-Spain Forum, aimed at boosting cooperation between the localities and small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries in a practical and innovative spirit.

Teresa Saenz, representative of the Andalusian Regional Government and director general of the Agency for International Economic Cooperation; Miguel Angel Serrano, director general of the Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia; Hu Qili, chairman of the Chinese Committee of the CSF, Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC; and Zheng Silin, executive vice president of the China Enterprise Confederation; attended the opening ceremony and spoke on the occasion.

In her speech, Teresa Saenz said, in the past 20 years the value of economic growth of the Andalusian Region has surpassed the average level of the EU and Spain. Andalusia attaches importance to the economic and trade cooperation with China. China is Spain's fourth largest import partner, while Spain ranks the 15th in China's foreign trade and Andalusia the 12th among its 17 regions.

Andalusia can supply China high quality products, good services and rich experience in regional management. She hoped that the two countries would take this seminar as an opportunity to make a good start for the economic cooperation between the localities.

In his speech Zheng Silin said, in carrying out economic and technological cooperation between the localities, the two countries should pay attention to the following aspects: 1. Each side should have a good understanding of the local economic features and investment policies of the other side, and select the places and projects for making investment that are good to the development of its own enterprises while meeting the other side's requirements. 2. Both sides should make good use of the existing platforms of exchanges and continue to expand new channels for contacts. 3. Both sides should carry out practical and innovative economic and technological exchanges between the localities and adopt a strategy of sustainable development. 4. The exchanges between enterprises of the two sides should be carried out with a realistic approach and honesty for mutual benefits and long-term cooperation.

In their speeches at the seminar, representatives of the enterprises briefed about the general conditions and business advantages of their enterprises, suggested the potential areas and expressed their desire for the future cooperation between the enterprises of China and Andalusia.

# Georgetown University President And His Party Visit China

**Ba Cuicui**

Invited by the CPAFFC, John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University of the United States, and his party visited Beijing and Xining from January 3 to 5. Chen Zhili, state councillor, Xu Kuangdi, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of the China-US Peoples Friendship Association (CUSPFA), Gao Yunlong, deputy governor of Qinghai Province respectively met with them. CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin accompanied the delegation on its visit to Xining. The delegation held academic discussions with professors of the Party School of

the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and visited Qinghai University where the two sides explored the possibility of cooperation.

State Councillor Chen Zhili briefed the delegation on education in China. She said, in the past three decades since reform and opening up, great changes have taken place in China's education. The scale of the country's higher education is the largest in the world, surpassing that of the United States. But China is not a great power in higher education. The most critical problem it faces is how to raise students' creative ability and cultivate an innovative spirit in them. The education sys-

tems of China and the United States have their respective advantages. Under the Chinese system the students build a solid foundation of basic knowledge while the American system encourages innovation. The two sides can draw on each other's strength and enhance exchanges and cooperation. At his meetings with Chinese leaders, President DeGioia expressed the willingness to share with China the useful experience in education and help China train more innovative personnel.

The CUSPFA, the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development and Georgetown University signed a memorandum of understanding



**State Councillor Chen Zhili meeting with John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University**



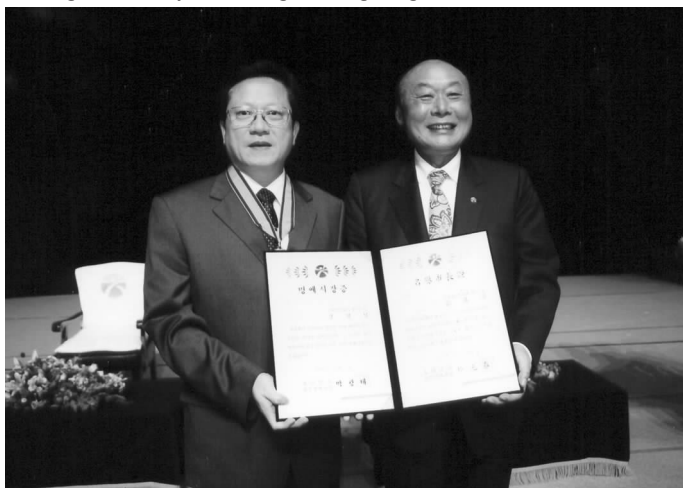
# Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning Receives Certificate of Honorary Mayor of Gwangju of ROK

**Zheng Huirong**

Guangzhou of China established friendship-city relations with Gwangju of the Republic of Korea in 1996. In the past decade and more since the twinning of friendship ties, the two cities have actively carried out economic, trade, cultural, educational and sports exchanges and cooperation and obtained fruitful results. In 2006, with the approval of the City Council, the Gwangju municipal government decided to recommend one of the mayors of its sister cities as Honorary Mayor of Gwangju. Meanwhile, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the twinning of friendship-city ties with Guangzhou and to show appreciation of the efforts Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning had made to develop the friendly relations between the two cities, the Gwangju municipal government decided to nominate Mayor Zhang the first

Honorary Mayor of Gwangju. In September 2006, Park Gwang-tae, (Continued on p.7)

**Park Gwang-tae (right), Mayor of Gwangju of the ROK, presenting the certificate of Honorary Mayor of Gwangju to Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning**



on a programme of sending young and middle-aged Chinese officials to study in the United States. The core content of the programme is to select and organize excellent young and middle-aged officials from Chinese government departments to study in Georgetown University and visit public and private departments in the United States. This 5-year programme will start in 2008. The two sides will carry out further consultations on the programme and sign the final agreement.

Located in Washington D. C., Georgetown University is the oldest Catholic university in the United States and occupies an important place in the country. Many important political figures including former US President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright graduated from this university. It is known as "the cradle of American political leaders". President DeGioia is the first lay president in the history of the university.

He has visited China several times and actively promotes educational and cultural exchanges between China and the U. S. At present, Georgetown University has established good cooperative relations with a few Chinese institutions of higher learning such as the Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC, Renmin University of China and Fudan University, and jointly sponsored with them seminars and exchanges of visits between students and between scholars. □

# China-Central Asia Friendship Association Founded

## Our Staff Reporter

The China-Central Asia Friendship Association (CCAFA) held its inaugural meeting in Beijing on December 18, 2007.

The CCAFA, founded at the initiation of the CPAFFC, is a national non-profit social organization with legal person status. It aims to further expand people-to-people contact between China and the five Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, enhance regional cooperation and deepen good-neighbourly relations so as to consolidate the social foundation for lasting friendship between China and these countries and promote common development.

The meeting appointed Ismail Amat, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, honorary president of the Association and elected Zhang Deguang, former vice foreign minister and former secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, its president, Zhou Xiaopei, Li Jianping, Zhang Zhiming, Guan Hengguang, Fu Quanzhang its vice presidents, and Lu Aizhen its secretary general. The meeting

examined and approved the statutes of the Association. Vice Chairman Ismail Amat, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui attended the meeting and spoke on the occasion. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi sent a message of congratulations. Present at the meeting were more than 70 members of the CCAFA and representatives of various circles.

In his speech, Vice Chairman Ismail Amat expressed his hope that the CCAFA would work in close coordination with the governmental diplomacy, bring into full play its bridging role as a nongovernmental organization, and make due contributions to deepening mutual understanding and traditional friendship between the people of China and the Central Asian countries and furthering exchanges and cooperation in various fields by blazing new ways in an enterprising spirit.

In his letter of congratulations, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi pointed out, in the past 15 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China has maintained close high-level contact and built deep political mutual trust with the Central

Asian countries. It has actively carried out mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, trade, energy, transport, cultural, educational and other fields, collaborated well in the United Nations and within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and become good neighbours, friends and partners not only in name but in reality as well. The founding of the CCAFA marks the beginning of a new period of development in nongovernmental exchanges between China and the Central Asian countries, which will give great impetus to the deepening of mutual understanding and traditional friendship and the promotion of the good-neighbourly cooperative relations between the Chinese and Central Asian peoples.

When addressing the meeting, Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui said, the Central Asian countries border on China. It is an important content of China's peripheral diplomacy to push for all-round development of relations with these countries. As important supplement to governmental diplomacy, nongovernmental diplomacy is playing an increasingly significant role. He expressed the be-

# New Year Reception Held in Beijing by China-ASEAN Association

## Our Staff Reporter

On January 9, 2008, the China-ASEAN Association (CAA) hosted a reception in Beijing to thank the personages from all circles for their support and solicitude in the past year and together review the past and look into the future. Gu Xiulian, president of the CAA and vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, Feng Zuoku, vice president of the CPAFFC and vice president of the CAA, diplomats from the Embassies of ASEAN countries and personages of all circles attended the reception.

CAA President Gu Xiulian and Indonesian Ambassador Sudrajat who is also president of ASEAN Committee in Beijing (ACB) made speeches respectively.

In her speech, President Gu Xiulian said, over the past year, China and ASEAN have strengthened mutual political trust, deepened dialogue and exchanges and achieved richer mutual benefits from cooperation. Thanks to the governmental and nongovernmental efforts, the relations be-

tween both sides made a firm step further. In 2007, in coordination with China and ASEAN, the CAA made efforts to promote friendly cooperation between the two sides. In June 2007, a CAA delegation visited Brunei and attended the 2nd Conference of China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations. During the conference, the "ASEAN-China Friendship Exhibition" was jointly held by the CAA and the Brunei-China Friendship Association to show the fruits of China-ASEAN friendly exchanges, and together with ASEAN delegates signed the Plan of Action to Implement the Declaration on ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship and Cooperation, a detailed blueprint for the next 5 years. In December 2007, the CAA held the China-ASEAN TV Cooperation Summit in Kunming, Yunnan Province. The summit enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and ASEAN TV workers and promoted the cooperation among them. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN, the

lief that promoted and guided by the CCAFA, people-to-people exchanges between China and the Central Asian countries would make better and faster development and lend strong impetus to the development of state-to-state relations of friendship and cooperation.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu emphasized in his speech, as a national people's organization engaged in nongovernmental diplomacy, the CPAFFC attaches great impor-

tance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with the five Central Asian countries. In order to mobilize people of all circles to make joint efforts to carry out work in this area, the CPAFFC, in the past few years, has always longed to set up an organization specialized in the work for friendship with Central Asia to carry out cooperation in all fields. We have realized our wish today. He expressed his conviction that the CCAFA would and is able to make con-

tributions to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and the Central Asian countries and promote nongovernmental friendly cooperation in the economic, trade, educational, scientific, technological, personnel exchange and other fields.

CCAFA President Zhang Deguang said, bordering on the western region of China, the five Central Asian countries are China's important neighbours. The year 2007 sees the 15th an-



Gu Xiulian, president of the China-ASEAN Association and vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee, speaking at the reception

CAA and ACB held the ASEAN Knowledge Contest on the book channel of [www.sina.com.cn](http://www.sina.com.cn) and the website of the CAA in 2007 to let Chinese young people know more about ASEAN. Looking into 2008, President Gu hoped the CAA would closely cooperate with all its council members and the Embassies of ASEAN countries to make more contributions to the cause of China-ASEAN friendship.

In his speech, on behalf of the ACB, Ambassador Sudrajat expressed gratitude to the CPAFFC for hosting the reception. He said: "Event such as tonight's is important in our common efforts to further strengthen the ties that bond the governments and peoples of ASEAN and China. Histori-

cally, the peoples of Southeast Asia and China have for centuries developed strong relations. These relations have often been in the form of economic and trade connections, carried out informally, people-to-people and along traditionally-carved routes." "Indeed, the linkages between Southeast Asia and China grew stronger with the formalization of the ASEAN-China dialogue mechanism. From the first official contact in 1991 to becoming a full dialogue partner with ASEAN in 1996, China is now fully engaged with all ASEAN countries, both within the bilateral and regional contexts. This has allowed for greater, more structured and visionary efforts to enhance regional cooperation for the benefit of all." "In e-

niversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and these countries. The launching of the CCAFA has added a coordination institute for promoting China-Central Asia cooperation and will surely push forward the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields.

After the inaugural meeting, the CPAFFC and the CCAFA jointly hosted a reception.

Vice Chairman Ismail Amat, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui, CCAFA President Zhang Deguang, diplomats from the Embassies of Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in China and B. K. Nurgaliev, secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, attended the reception. Ambassadors or their representatives of the five

countries delivered speeches of congratulations and expressed their willingness to give support and assistance to the work of the CCAFA. Also present at the reception were members of the CCAFA and personages of various circles, totaling 150. The reception proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere, at which the Chinese and foreign guests also watched excellent art performances. □



# International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People and Day of China-Arab Friendship Marked

**Our Staff Reporter**

The CPAFFC and the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) jointly held a reception in Beijing on November 29, 2007 to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and celebrate the Day of China-Arab Friendship. Tomur Dawamat, president of the CAFA, Zhai Jun, assistant foreign minister, Sleiman Rassi, acting chairman of the Arab Ambassadors Council in China and Lebanese ambas-

sador to China, and Diab N. M. Allouh, Palestinian ambassador to China, attended the reception.

President Tomur Dawamat, Ambassador Sleiman Rassi and Ambassador Diab Allouh made speeches respectively.

In his speech, President Tomur Dawamat said, today we got together with friends of the Arab countries and Chinese personages from all circles to mark the 29th International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian

People and celebrate the first Day of China-Arab Friendship. He emphasized, as a sincere friend of the Palestinian people, China will continue to support the just cause of the Palestinian people and play a constructive role in realizing peace in the Middle East. He stated, the cooperative friendly relations between China and the Arab countries have experienced rapid development in recent years, with widening cooperation in the

economic numbers, China's trade volume with ASEAN countries has increased immensely over the past decade. Tourism within the ASEAN-China context is on the increase and more people are traveling between Southeast Asia and China to engage in training and education exchanges as well as other dealings. This web of relations among ASEAN countries' peoples and their Chinese counterparts has not only enhanced feelings of mutual trust and confidence, but also laid the foundation for structures and mechanisms that would allow for stronger political, economic, and socio-culture cooperation in the future."

He said: "the seeds for greater China-ASEAN cooperation in the field of trade and economics have been carefully planted. With the abundant resources and potential shared among the sides involved, the cooperation set off by initiatives such as the Pan-Beibu Gulf Rim Cooperation and the PPRD-ASEAN dialogue could stimulate efforts to increase the area's competitiveness as

well as the leverage of the ASEAN-China partnership in international trade and economics. The ASEAN-China Association and the CPAFFC have played an important role in showcasing and appreciating the developments in ASEAN-China relations over the years. It was with this spirit that the ASEAN Committee Beijing extended, and will continue to extend, its fullest support to the efforts of the ASEAN-China Association and the CPAFFC."

At the reception, the participants watched a short video summarizing the work of the CAA in 2007, and the special guests drew 20 winning members for the Good Luck Prize and 3 for the Special Prize out of the participants of the ASEAN Knowledge Contest. In the warm and harmonious atmosphere of the reception, the participants exchanged good wishes for the coming New Year and together looked forward to the bright future of the cause of friendship between China and ASEAN. □

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# Member of Japanese House of Representatives Kenta Matsunami And His Party in Beijing

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Hu Yang

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At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a 6-member delegation of the Citizens' Forum of Takatsuki and Shimamoto (CFTS), with Kenta Matsunami, member of the Japanese House of Representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party and parliamentary secretary for health, labour and welfare as its advisor, and Usuki Sensuke, president of the CFTS, as its leader paid a visit to Beijing from December 21 to 22, 2007. Ding Xiang-

yang, vice mayor of Beijing, and Wang Xiaoxian, vice president of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) separately met with and entertained the delegation. The delegation visited the enterprises of the Japan Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. in Beijing.

## **Citizens' Forum Works for Japan-China Friendship**

Kenta Matsunami, 36, advisor to the CFTS

fields of politics, economy, culture and education and more frequent and vigorous people-to-people exchanges. In November 2006, the two sides jointly held the first China-Arab Friendship Conference under the framework of China-Arab Cooperation Forum in Khartoum. The conference decided to designate November 29 as the Day of China-Arab Friendship. This is a natural result of years of friendly exchanges between the Chinese and the Arab people, a concentrated expression of their common wish to further develop and strengthen their friendly cooperative relations.

In his speech, Ambassador Sleiman Rassi thanked the Chinese leaders, the government, the CPC and people for their long-term support on the Arab issues, and reiterated the Arab peace proposal. He believed, the

traditional friendship that reflects the noble and sincere feelings between the Chinese and the Arab people will be continuously developing and get further consolidated and he was willing to work for deepening and expanding the friendship together with the CAFA.

Ambassador Allouh said, today we were celebrating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People when the Palestinian people were commemorating the 3rd anniversary of the passing away of President Yasser Arafat and the 19th anniversary of the announcement of the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Chinese president, the Chinese Government, the parties and the people for your unswerving stand and consistent support for the Palestinian people in their

just cause of pursuing their legitimate rights and interests.

Among over 120 people present at the reception were leading members of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Commerce, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the All-China Women's Federation and the Islamic Association of China, council members of the CAFA, representatives of the Chinese media, representatives from the representative office of the League of Arab States, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of Arab countries to China and other diplomats, Palestinians residing and studying in Beijing, and representatives of Arab media.

At the reception, artists performed Xinjiang dances and songs, adding warm and friendly atmosphere to the occasion. □

**Beijing Vice Mayor Ding Xiangyang (right) meeting with Kenta Matsumami (middle) and Usuki Sensuke (left)**



and the delegation, graduated from Waseda University and elected member of the House of Representatives in October 2002, is one of the youngest politicians in Japan. He successively served as a leading official of the Health, Labour and Welfare Department of the Liberal Democratic Party and member of the Law Committee of the House of Representatives and since August 2007 as parliamentary secretary for health, labour and welfare. He is friendly to China and said once and again, that as a young politician he wished to make contributions to Japan-China friendship.

The CFTS was established in 1999 with the aim of helping the governments, enterprises, trade unions and citizens of Takatsuki and its neighbouring areas coexist harmoniously, constantly improving the people's living environment and livelihood and continuing to promote local political democracy and making contributions to the social development of the region.

Usuki Sensuke, head of the delegation and chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Panasonic Home Appliances and Lighting Alliance, is chairman of the Forum. Advisors to the Forum include mayor of Takatsuki, members of the House of Representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Democratic Party, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japan Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. The Forum has about

20,000 members in Japan and every year organizes goodwill delegations to visit China.

The aim of the delegation's visit to China was to learn about the preparations for the Beijing Olympic Games, the urban development plans, environmental protection, citizens' life as well as the present condition of the Japanese enterprises in Beijing, further promote exchanges and cooperation between Japan and China in various fields and push forward the cause of Japan-China friendship.

#### **Vice Mayor of Beijing Meets with the Delegation**

During his meeting with the delegation, Vice Mayor Ding Xiangyang, at the request of the Japanese guests, briefed them on Beijing's urban construction and environmental protection. He said, in the past more than ten years, Beijing has developed rapidly and maintained double-digit economic growth. Both the Chinese people and foreigners can feel these changes from which ordinary people have gained substantial benefits. But, along with the urban modernization, because of lack of experience, the problem of environmental pollution has cropped up and aroused more and more concern both at home and abroad. He told the guests that they came at the season when Beijing's air quality was the worst.

Ding said, Beijing is an international metropo-

lis where the 2008 Olympic Games will be held. So, the municipal government pays great attention to the environmental problem. In order to keep the municipal leaders informed of the Beijing's air quality and enhance their sense of urgency, tens of environment observation stations have been set up in the city's surrounding districts and counties. The collected data of the air quality is timely shown on the screen in the hall of the municipal government building every day. We are under great pressure when the capital's air quality is bad.

Ding continued, to improve the environment, the government has, in the past few years, spent 100 billion RMB yuan mainly on reducing pollutant emission and moving the enterprises that cause serious pollution out of Beijing. For example, the Capital Iron and Steel Company has reduced its annual steel output from 8 million tons to 4 million tons and its main production enterprises have been moved to Hebei Province. In addition, we are trying hard to use wind and geothermal energy. Through our efforts, people living in about 30 million square metres of housing will start to use geothermal energy in the near future. Meanwhile, we pay great attention to energy conservancy. For example, energy-saving lighting is recommended to the public. The air conditioned government offices, shops and enterprises' buildings are required to keep the temperature not below 26 degrees Celsius in summer. All lights in

the offices are required to be turned off when there is no one working there. We also pay attention to water conservancy. All units with feasible conditions are required to build water storage ponds. There is a water storage pond in the municipal government compound. Now pollution in Beijing has been reduced and environment improved.

Kenta Matsunami thanked Vice Mayor Ding for meeting with him in the midst of pressing affairs. He briefed about Japan's practice and experience in environmental protection and the work done by the CFTS for Japan-China friendship. When talking about Japan-China friendship, he said, "I am 36 years old and Vice Mayor Ding 48. We are young Japanese and Chinese politicians. We should work together to make greater contributions to Japan-China friendship and let the friendship between the people of our two countries last from generation to generation."

#### **Wang Xiaoxian Recalls Friendship between Deng Xiaoping and Konosuke Matsushita**

At the banquet in honour of the delegation, CJFA Vice President Wang Xiaoxian, on behalf of Chen Haosu and Luo Qin, CPAFFC president and secretary general, extended welcome to the delegation's visit to China. On learning that most of the members of the delegation were staffers of the Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., she

**CJFA Vice President Wang Xiaoxian hosting a banquet in honour of the delegation**







**Kenta Matsunami, member of the Japanese House of Representatives, and his party visiting the Panasonic Lighting (Beijing) Co., Ltd.**

said, the Matsushita Corporation is the first Japanese enterprise to invest in China at the beginning of China's reform and opening up, embodying China-Japan friendship.

She recalled with feelings Comrade Deng Xiaoping's meetings with Konosuke Matsushita. She said, in the autumn of 1978, to demonstrate that the Chinese Government attached great importance to the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, the then Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping decided to attend the ceremony for exchange of instruments of ratification of the treaty and pay a visit to Japan. She served as the interpreter and accompanied Deng Xiaoping on that visit of historic significance. It was one of China's national leaders' first visit to Japan since the two countries normalized their diplomatic relations. Deng was accorded warm welcome and a grand reception by the Japanese leaders and people.

During his inspection tour in Osaka, Comrade Deng Xiaoping visited a factory of the Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. Konosuke Matsushita, at the age of 83, known as the "god of business management", welcomed Deng outside the gate of the factory and showed him round the factory. After the visit Deng wrote: "China-Japan friendship has bright prospects" on the visitors' autograph album and said, we came here to meet you with an attitude of learning from you. In the past China

neither had external nor internal debts. We felt proud of it. In the future we want to modernize our country and are prepared to introduce foreign technologies and capital on the basis of self-reliance. Without electronic industry, modernization can not be realized. So I hope your electronic industry can be introduced into China. Konosuke Matsushita was very much interested in it, expressing his willingness to visit China. In June 1979, invited by the CJFA he paid a visit to China. Comrade Deng Xiaoping met with him happily and said to him: "We need to introduce advanced technologies to help upgrade our industries. Otherwise, our modernization would lag behind others." Matsushita said: "I am determined to help China modernize its electronic industry."

In 1980 Mr. Matsushita visited China again, beginning the Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation's investment and setting up factories in China. At that time many foreign enterprises took a skeptical attitude towards China's reform and opening up. When they were taking a wait-and-see attitude, Matsushita resolutely made the decision to have cooperation with China. In 1987 with great support from the Chinese Government and the departments concerned, Beijing's first joint venture, the Beijing Matsushita Colour CRT Co., Ltd. (BMCC), was set up. Since then, great amounts of foreign capital have flown into

# China National Acrobatic Troupe's Performance Tour in Japan

**Zhang Yaquin**

At the invitation of the Min-On Concert Association of Japan, a 51-member China National Acrobatic Troupe sent by the CPAFFC made a performance tour in 61 Japanese cities including Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya from September 8 to December 26, 2007. During

the 110-day performance tour, the troupe gave 114 performances with an audience of 230,000 person/times. This performance tour, as an important part of the activities of the China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchange Year and in commemoration of the 35th anniversary

of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan was well received by the Japanese audience and won praises from both Japanese and Chinese media, achieving a full success.

This acrobatic show featuring novelty and beauty entitled

China.

CJFA Vice President Wang said, Premier Zhou Enlai once said that China-Japan friendship not only benefits the people of the two countries, but also helps promote the stability in Asia and peace in the world. She said, I am happy to see that so many young Japanese friends in the delegation are enthusiastic for the cause of China-Japan friendship. We, workers of the older generation for friendship, feel more confident in lasting friendship between the two countries.

## **PLBC Works to Enhance China-Japan Friendship**

The Japan Panasonic Home Appliances and Lighting Alliance led by Usuki Sensuke has more than 40 enterprises in Japan and many enterprises in other parts of the world including Japan-China joint ventures and enterprises of Japanese exclusive investment in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Xian. The Panasonic Lighting (Beijing) Co., Ltd. (PLBC) that the delegation visited is one of them.

During the visit Nobutaka Ota, general manager of the company and a member of the delegation, gave a briefing about the company. He said, the PLBC, originally subordinate to the BMCC and solely invested by the Matsushita Electric In-

dustrial Co., Ltd., is a large enterprise producing lamps. Setting up in 1995, it separated from the BMCC and formally registered as an independent company in 2001. Now it has factory buildings with a space of 10,000 square metres and over 500 high-quality workers and staff. In 2005 it set up a branch in Langfang, Hebei Province, producing glasses used in making lamps.

The PLBC now has 4 fluorescent lamp production lines of world's advanced level with an annual production capacity of 32 million lamps. Its products are sold in China and also exported to Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States.

He said, recently they had developed environment-friendly products to support China's effort in environmental protection. These products of high quality, long service time, electricity saving and good luminance are popular with the Chinese customers, though their prices are 30% higher than those in the same category in the market.

In the 21st century the PLBC is full of confidence to continue introducing and developing high-quality illuminants that integrate modern science and technology with cultural pursuits and help promote the development of China's environmental conservation. □

*Legends of the Dragon and the Phoenix* was a series of excellent performances refined or newly created by the China National Acrobatic Troupe in recent years. It included many programmes of unique skills such as *Ballet and Hand-to-Hand Balancing, Plate Spinning, Ball Catching, Meteors, Contortionists, Pagoda of Bowls, Tumbling Through Hoops, Balancing Feats, Bicycle Skills, Slack Wire, Diabolo*, etc. The Japanese audience was dazzled by the perfect stage designs and superb performances and greeted them with waves of applause.

These programmes to which were added highly difficult skills and modern dance elements were more difficult to perform, but at the same time more enjoyable. Many bold innovations had been made in costumes, music and lighting.

With sincere devotion to work, the audience and art, the performers, averagely 20 years old, overcame pressures brought about by long performing period, touring from one place to another and giving frequent performances, and completed every performance excellently. They showed the charm of the acrobatic art and vigour and vitality of the Chinese youth and conveyed the Chinese people's friendly sentiments to the Japanese audience. For this reason, in spite of the troupe's frequent overseas performances in recent years, the tour left fresh and new impressions on the Japanese audience and won acclaim.

From the audience's comments we felt that the Japanese audience was touched by the performers' spirit of challenging the extremes and hard training and that they treasured

greatly the hard-won Japan-China friendship. In the questionnaires, some wrote: "Culture has made us feel closer. How pleasant such a moment is! If the cultural exchanges between the two countries can make people coexist harmoniously, then the road to peace is not too distant." Another viewer said: "I could hardly believe that man has such an extraordinary potential. I am greatly inspired by this, which gives me the courage to rise to new challenges." The third said: "This performance may be regarded as a gift to the 35th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations. After watching the performance today, I feel more the urge that I should do something for Japan-China friendship."

Governors, local officials and leading members of Soka Gakkai in Okinawa, Shimane,

**Daisaku Ikeda (right), founder of the Min-On Concert Association, meeting with Jing Dunquan (middle), vice president of the CPAFFC, and Wang Xiuyun (left), leader of the performance tour**





The China National Acrobatic Troupe visiting the Soka University

Yamanashi, Kagoshima, Saga, Okayama, Tottori, Kagawa and Kochi prefectures watched the performance. Many Japanese media including *Seikyo Shimbun*, *Kanagawa Shimbun*, *Tyūnichi Shimbun*, *Kitakuni Shimbun*, *Tokushima Shimbun* and the Kobe Taiyo TV Station gave coverage to the performance.

The special performance in the Soka University on October 21 was one of the highlights of the whole performance tour. Daisaku Ikeda, honorary president of Soka Gakkai, and Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC who specially came to Japan, watched the performance together with an audience of 4,000. The atmosphere on the spot was very lively and enthusiastic. This performance gave publicity to the acrobatic show *Legends of the Dragon and the Phoenix* and caused sensational effects for its later performance tour in Japan.

From December 5 to 8, the troupe gave 7 performances consecutively in Tokyo, evoking unprecedentedly strong reper-

cussions and pushing the performance tour to a climax. Among the audience there were representatives from the Japanese political, economic and cultural circles. Ambassadors and their wives and diplomats from the embassies of over 30 countries (or organizations) including China, Singapore, Austria, the E.U., Russia, Jordan and Spain watched and acclaimed the performance.

In mid-December a Beijing media delegation organized and sent by the Beijing Cultural Bureau specially went to Japan to watch the performances in Kyoto and Kobe. The delegation composed of reporters from the *Beijing Youth Daily*, the *Beijing Morning Post*, the Beijing TV Station, and the Beijing People's Broadcasting Corporation had interviews from various angles with Yasuhiro Kobayashi, president of the MIN-ON Concert Association, Wang Xiuyun, head of the performance tour, representatives of the performers and the Japanese audience. The fact that the Chinese media

followed the performance with great interest also aroused interest from the Japanese sponsors.

In the exchanges between the CPAFFC and the MIN-ON Concert Association, it was the first time that the two organizations jointly organized such an acrobatic performance tour that lasted three and a half months. The performance tour which covered so many cities and put on so many shows was a very important activity of the China-Japan Cultural and Sports Exchange Year. The performance not only evoked strong repercussions in big cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, but also introduced the best of the Chinese acrobatics to Shikoku, Kyushu and Hokkaido where few Chinese art troupes had visited, arousing the ordinary Japanese people's interest in the Chinese culture.

The MIN-ON Concert Association with a strong professional team made a full preparation and gave us support in publicizing the performance



# Exhibition of Western China Photos by C. G. Mannerheim Held in Lanzhou

**Sun Kang**

The Exhibition of Western China Photos by C. G. Mannerheim, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Finland-China Society (FCS), the Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Lanzhou University, was held in the Library of Lanzhou University from December 21 to 25, 2007. Like its opening exhibition held in Xinjiang in 2006, the second exhibition in Lanzhou attracted attention of the local people and won acclaim.

The exhibition opened on the morning of

December 21, with Shi Zuofeng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Gansu Provincial People's Congress, Veli Rosenberg, chairman of the FCS, Kauko Laitinen, director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Helsinki, and Jing Tao, vice president of Lanzhou University, among others, at the occasion.

Carl Gustaf Mannerheim had a Chinese name Ma Dahan which means "riding a horse to China". He was president of Finland from 1944 to 1946. From 1906 to 1908, he toured

**Finland-China Society Chairman Veli Rosenberg visiting the exhibition with other distinguished guests**



tour, organizing audience and installing properties and stage effect. The Japanese media in various places gave the performance extensive coverage. All these efforts ensured the success of the performance tour.

The performance tour made by the China National Acrobat-

ic Troupe has added colour to the activities in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations, displayed Chinese traditional art and conveyed the Chinese people's friendship to the Japanese people and achieved

the goal of promoting peace with cultural exchanges. At the same time, it has helped strengthen cooperation between the CPAFFC and MIN-ON and laid a foundation for the new plan of exchanges between the two associations in 2008. □



*A Street in Lanzhou by C. G. Mannerheim in the old days*

Xinjiang, Gansu and other places of China. He entered Xinjiang from Central Asia, through the Hexi Corridor and reached Lanzhou, an important city of western China, and further along the route through Shaanxi, Henan, Shanxi and Hebei, arrived in Beijing. During his journey, Mannerheim made topographic surveys, drew maps and took notes of hydrometeorological data. Wherever he went, he made friends extensively with local officials of all levels, getting to know the local defense, economy and civil administration, etc. He also specially visited leaders of ethnic groups and heads of tribes there, paying attention to the history, customs and habits of ethnic groups in the western region, leaving a great number of diaries, investigation reports and memoirs about his travel in China, a considerable amount of records of society of western China in late Qing Dynasty, and cultural relics of historical, geographical, social and humanistic values. He took about 1,300 photos along his journey through western China which are preserved in the National Museum of Finland. All the 60 pictures on display were carefully chosen out

of the 1,300, of which 14 were taken in Gansu Province. The well-preserved photos with captions showed the folk customs and natural sceneries of the western regions 100 years ago from multiple perspectives. The local viewers were extremely attracted by those old photos as they attentively looked at the details of the exhibits and had warm discussions about the changes and the contrast between the past and the present. □

*A Kirgiz Hunter in Xinjiang, China by C. G. Mannerheim*



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# 2007 Jiujiang International Friendship Cities Conference Held

**Ke Hui**

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The 2007 Jiujiang International Friendship Cities Conference was held from October 24 to 27, 2007. Over 80 guests from 7 cities of 6 countries including Jiujiang's friendship cities and cities that had conducted friendly cooperation and exchanges with it gathered in Jiujiang, a beautiful port city, to enhance friendship and jointly work for development.

Present at the welcoming ceremony on the morning of October 25 were delegations from Baw Baw Shire of Australia, Koper of Slovenia, Tamano and Yamato-Takada of Japan, Louisville of Kentucky

State of the United States, Kaajani of Oulu Province of Finland, and Legionowo of Poland. Ms. Sharon Recevour, global envoy of Sister Cities International of the United States, and 23 musicians of the U.S. Americana Music Group also attended the ceremony.

At the first such conference ever held in the S&N International Hotel Jiujiang, Chen Anzhong, secretary of the Jiujiang Municipal CPC Committee, said with emotion, Jiujiang has always attached great importance to conducting both nongovernmental and governmental exchanges and coopera-

tion in the cultural and economic areas with international friendship cities. The fields of our cooperation are being expanded and friendship deepened, yielding fruitful results, which has greatly promoted common prosperity and development. The theme of this conference is "friendship, cooperation, peace and development." Chen hoped that through joint efforts, and upholding the notion of "trust, cooperation, mutual benefits and achieving win-win results", Jiujiang and its friendship cities would carry out friendly cooperation at multiple levels in various forms and

**The conference in session**



**Li Wei, vice mayor of Jiujiang, speaking at the conference**



areas so as to push the exchanges and cooperation between them to a higher level.

In her speech, Mayor Wang Ping said, we can learn successful experience from each other and find new areas of development from the differences between us. She suggested a permanent mechanism for exchanges and cooperation between friendship cities be established to facilitate communica-

tion between governments and cooperation between enterprises and to seek common interests for both sides. She hoped that more economic, social and cultural exchanges would be held between the friendship cities to further broaden the areas and raise the level of exchanges so as to achieve substantial results.

In their speeches at the ceremony, heads of the 7 delegations respectively made brief in-

troductions to the history, cultural background, the development in education, tourism and industry of their own cities.

On the evening of Oct. 24, the ceremony of unveiling the plaque of Jiujiang's international friendship cities was held at Hezhong Square at the city centre. At 8:00 p.m. fulfilling the expectation of all the people present, the plaque of the international friendship cities which

**Jiujiang Mayor Wang Ping singing *Edelweiss* together with American friends**





was put on the wall of the covered bridge in the Hezhong Square was unveiled. On the plaque there are names of the 8 friendship cities. Above the cities names are pictures of their national flags, and below them the names of their countries, the date of twinning and the distance between them and Jiujiang. After the unveiling ceremony, landscape films of these cities were shown on the water curtain at the covered bridge.

Wei-Bin Zeng, professor with the Louisville University, who attended the ceremony said: "Jiujiang is a dynamic city. The vitality and modernity of the city we experienced at the unveiling ceremony left a deep impression on me." He said, the citizens can witness the interaction between our two cities when passing by the plaque ev-

eryday. The friendship between the two cities will not stop at the hand-shaking between the two mayors. This plaque will give us a lasting memory.

On the evening of October 25, the Concert "Jiujiang Under the Moonlight" was held at the Baishuimingzhu Conference Centre. The 23 musicians of the Americana Music Group of Louisville, Kentucky gave wonderful performances to celebrate the convening of the Jiujiang International Friendship Cities Conference. The Music Group known as the top band, the "Dream and Fantasy Group" in the American musical circles is good at playing American country music. When J. D. Miller who had won the Grammy Award several times and Jing Zhou, a Chinese American pianist, played the

theme songs of classic films such as *Love Story*, *Men in Trees*, *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*, the audience's attention was immediately caught by the familiar tunes. Especially the old song *The Moon Represents My Heart* sung by Nancy Cheak with emotion was warmly applauded by the audience. By the end of the party, Mayor Wang Ping took the stage and sang beautifully the English song *Edelweiss* and the Chinese song *Jasmine Flower*, pushing the party to a climax.

On October 27, the conference came to a successful end. During the conference, various sectors of Jiujiang and the delegations from its friendship cities had extensive and substantial exchanges and cooperation in many areas. Both sides have reaped rich fruits. □

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### (Continued from p.16)

with representatives of the India-China Society, the India-China Friendship Association and the Indian Association of Friendships with Foreign Countries respectively and reached consensus on how to strengthen cooperation between them. The two sides held, China and India, both countries of ancient civilization in Asia, have had close contact in traditional culture since ancient times. It is of great importance for the two countries to increase exchange and explore new ways together in traditional areas in the new period. The two sides exchanged views on the concrete cooperation programmes.

### Promoting Mutually Beneficial Cooperation Between Local Governments

Up till now, there are not any friendship cities between China and India. When calling on the chief minister of Bihar State, the delegation learned that Bihar would like to carry out ex-

changes with Chinese local government. It gave a brief account of China's work for establishing friendship-city relations with other countries and pointed out that local governments should first find appropriate areas to start their contact. Bihar, a state rich in Buddhist culture, has two of the four famous Buddhist sacred sites in India, similar to Henan Province of China. The two provinces have many things in common while being also complementary in some aspects. The delegation briefed the chief minister on the general situation of Henan, who showed great interest in establishing friendship-city relations with the Chinese province. □



# Travel Along The Long March Route

**Chuan You**

At the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), the delegation for studying the Chinese people's revolutionary wars (Long March delegation for short) organized by the Japan Iskra Industry Company Ltd. came to China to travel along the route of the Red Army's Long March in Sichuan Province to learn the Chinese revolutionary spirit from October

ding Bridge, the site of Moxi Meeting, the Anshunchang Memorial Hall commemorating the Red Army's forced crossing of the Dadu River, the site where the Red Army commander and the Yi ethnic chieftain formed alliance and the site of Lizhou Meeting.

Before coming to China, the members of the delegation had studied the history of the Red Army's Long March in Sichuan and made a full preparation, so all of them had a basic knowledge about this period of history. During the visit, they listened attentively to the introductions given by the guide and asked many questions. Some made videotapes, some took pictures and some took notes. Just as they said, the purpose of the visit was "to bring the Chinese people's glorious revolutionary tradition back to Japan."

The delegation visited the Aixin Primary School in Xide County of Liangshan Prefecture. When the members of the delegation saw the pupils have their classes in a crowded dark private house, they donated 4,000 RMB yuan on the spot, hoping to help solve the lighting problem of the classroom.

The members of the delegation said, the significance of traveling along the Long March route was not to learn the revolutionary spirit superficially, but to apply the conviction, spirit, strategy and tactics of the Chinese revolution to their future work and lives. They would sum up what they had learnt, experienced and realized during the ten-day visit and imparted them to their colleagues in the company so as to enhance the teamwork spirit.

Kozo Ito, head of the delegation, told us, the Japanese enterprises lack a driving force to make further progress after developing to a certain stage. In order to enhance the vitality and cohesion of the enterprise, the leadership of the Iskra Industry Company Ltd. launched the activity of "traveling along the Long March route to learn the Chinese revolutionary spirit" in 1987. The past 20-year practice has proved that this decision is correct. The Japanese people need to learn not only advanced science and technology, but also successful experience from history, he added. □

25 to 31, 2007.

The Japan Iskra Industry Company has kept a close cooperative relationship with the CJFA for a long time and set up the Iskra Friends Fund through collecting donations from its staff to help poor areas in China to develop education and public welfare programmes and at the same time to give its staff education in revolutionary tradition. Since 1987, the company has sent a delegation to China every year to travel along a section of the route of the Red Army's Long March. The first round of this activity ended in 1999 and the second round started in 2000. This delegation was the 8th Long March delegation of the second round.

The delegation's journey this time started from Chengdu, passed Ya'an City, Luding, Shimian and Mianning Counties and finally reached Xichang City. On the way they visited the site where the Red Army captured the Lu-

# Foreign Students in Tianjin Visit Elderly People's Home

**Zou Ning**

On the afternoon of December 7, 2007, the Tianjin Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (TMPAFFC) organized more than 20 Japanese and ROK teachers and students of Nankai University to visit the Tianjin Elderly People's Home.

The Tianjin Elderly People's Home, built in 1953 and covering an area of over 40 *mu*, is a comprehensive welfare institution for the elderly people which provides such services as accommodation, medical care, nursing, nutrition counseling, rehabilitation, education, recreation, deathbed care and train-

ing. In it there are a branch of the Tianjin Elderly People's University, the Tianjin Nurse Training School for Caring the Aged and a hospital for senile diseases with 500 beds. The Home mainly admits unsupported aged people, elderly people who pay for their own expenses and those who are critically ill needing deathbed care. People above 60 without infectious diseases or mental disorder can apply for admission.

There the foreign teachers and students learnt that the average age is 80 in the Home. There are two centenarians and 51 over 90. There are multi-

ple-bed, three-bed and double rooms, and one-room and double-room flats. The rooms are furnished and equipped with household appliances and the electronic paging system. The foreign students and teachers visited with interest the bedrooms, the flats, the canteen, the reading room, the recreation room, the clinic, etc. They brought the elderly fruits, had cordial chat with them and sang foreign folk songs for them. They learnt that the government provides or subsidizes the living and medical expenses and meticulous medical care for family members of revolutionary martyrs and unsupported

**Japanese and ROK teachers and students of Nankai University visiting the Elderly People's Home in Tianjin**





**The foreign teachers and students visiting a recreation room where elderly people are playing *majiang***

aged people.

When seeing the Chinese government provide such good living conditions and take good care of the elderly people who were living happily, the foreign teachers and students were greatly touched. A Japanese student said: "This visit is quite meaningful. In future if I have a chance, I will come to the Home to work as a volunteer and do my bit for the happiness of the elderly people in their re-

maining years." A ROK student said: "Through this visit I have seen many warm and loving scenes, which have moved me greatly. The TMPAFC, by organizing this activity, gave us a chance to know more deeply about Tianjin."

Before the visitors' departure, the elderly people presented the foreign visitors with their calligraphic works, paintings and handicrafts made by themselves. The elderly and the visi-

tors had pictures taken together and wished each other good health. The half-day visit made the students feel edified and happy and left a wonderful impression on them. They said that they would treasure the chance of studying in Tianjin and that they would study Chinese language and other subjects well so as to contribute their bit to the friendly exchanges and cooperation between their own countries and China. □



**Japanese and ROK students watching the elderly people making handicrafts**