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Front cover: Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso shaking hands with the Chinese and Japanese friendly personages attending the grand reception jointly held by the CPAFFC and the China-Japan Friendship Association in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship (October 24, 2008)

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CJFA President Song Jian Leads Delegation to Japan

Zhang Zhenxing

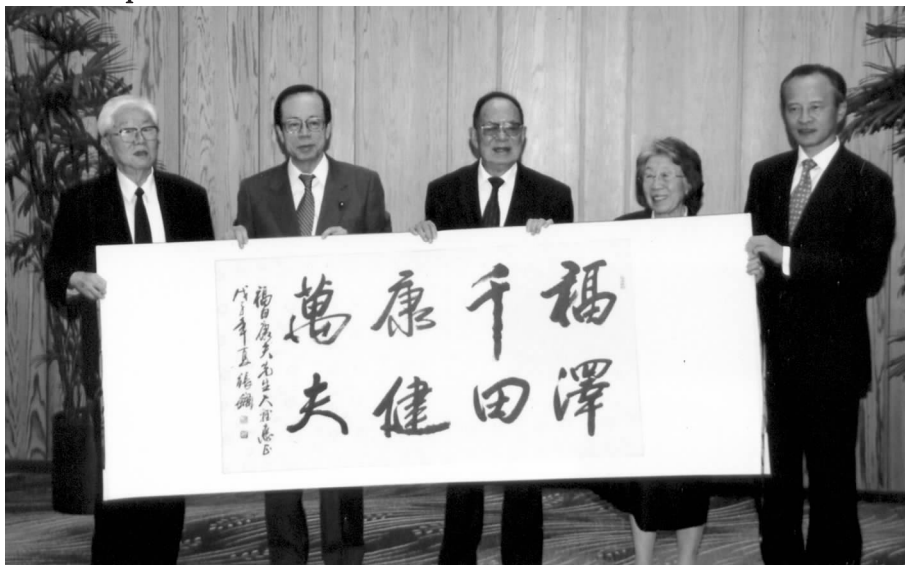
A delegation of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) headed by its president Song Jian visited Japan from September 4 to 9 at the invitation of the Japan-China Friendship Centre. While in Tokyo, CJFA President Song Jian met with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, President of the House of Councillors Satsuki Eda and Defence Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, and attended the reception marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship and the meeting in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the completion of the Japan-China Friendship Centre. Song Jian and his party also made a friendly visit to Toyama Prefecture where they exchanged views on local government contact with Governor Takakazu Ishii and visited scientific research institutes and small and medium enterprises.

Meetings with Prime Minister Fukuda and Foreign Minister Komura

The delegation presenting a calligraphic work to Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. From left: CJFA Vice President Wen Chi, Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda, CJFA President Song Jian and Vice President Wang Xiaoxian, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cui Tiankai

At his meeting with Song Jian, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-China Treaty of Peace and Friendship and is also the Japan-China Youth Friendly Exchange Year. He hoped that the rich and colourful exchanges held this year would further increase mutual understanding between the youth of the two countries, enhance their friendly sentiments towards each other, and push forward Japan-China relations.

Fukuda said, since he became the prime minister in September last year, he has met with President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and other Chinese leaders on several occasions and reached a series of agreements on the all-round development of Japan-China strategic relationship of mutual benefit. Japan-China relations have witnessed marked progress. He told Song Jian that though he would soon leave the office of prime minister, he would continue his efforts to further bilateral relations.



Song Jian spoke highly of Prime Minister Fukuda's important contributions to the deepening of the China-Japan strategic relationship of mutual benefit. He said, China is willing to work together with Japan to fully implement the series of agreements reached between the leaders of the two countries, further expand friendly exchanges, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and properly handle relevant problems so as to achieve the lofty goals of peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development.

During his meeting with the delegation, Foreign Minister Komura highly praised the contributions made by the CJFA to the development of Japan-China relations. He expressed Japan's willingness to provide assistance for the reconstruction of the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas, congratulated China on the full success of the Beijing Olympic Games and wished the Beijing Paralympics success.

Attending Reception Marking 30th Anniversary of Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty

On September 8, a reception marking the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship was jointly held by the seven Japanese friendship-with-China organizations. Song Jian, president of the CJFA; Cui Tiankai, Chinese ambassador to Japan; Yohei Kono, speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives; Satsuki Eda, president of the House of Councillors; Akihiro Ota, head of the New Komei Party; Kazuo Shii, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party; Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Japan; Nikai Toshihiro, minister of economy, trade and industry; Yoshimasa Hayashi, minister of defence, and Shintaro Ito, vice foreign minister, as well as heads of the seven Japan-China friendship organizations including Takeshi Noda, president of the Japan-China Society; Koichi Kato, president of the JCFA; Takashi Tsujii, president of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association, and Yoshiro Hayashi, president of the Japan-China Friendship Centre, among over 700 people from the political, economic and cultural circles and the Chinese community in Japan, attended the reception.

Speaking on behalf of the seven Japanese friendship organizations, Takeshi Noda expressed solicitude for the people in the Sichuan earthquake areas and congratulations on the success of the Beijing Olympics. Noda said, over the past 30 years since the signing of the treaty, the two countries have made great strides in their relations through continuously deepening exchanges and cooperation in all fields. China has become a major player of the international community. The two-visits to Japan by President Hu Jintao this year and the signing of the Japan-China Joint Statement on All-round Promotion of Strategic Relationship of Mutual Benefit, the fourth important political document between the two countries, are of epoch-making significance. At present, the Japan-China relations are at a new stage of development. Nongovernmental organizations of the two countries wish to work for further advance of Japan-China relations. In the future, the people of our two countries should understand and respect each other and build a broad and solid social base for bilateral relations.

Addressing the reception, Song Jian said, over the past three decades since the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, with the concerted efforts by both sides, great headway has been made in the exchange and cooperation in various fields between our two countries. China-Japan relations are at a new historic starting point and have a firm foundation to grow to a higher level. In this new period, nongovernmental organizations of the two countries should carry forward the fine tradition of people-to-people contact and work with added efforts to further bilateral relations.

Vice Foreign Minister Shintaro Ito read out the message of congratulations from Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. The message says, despite some twists and turns, the relations between the two countries on the whole have developed smoothly over the past 30 years since the Japan-China Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed. Now, Japan-China relations are closely linked in economy, mutual visit, culture and various other fields. The development of bilateral relations has no end. Our two countries should further enhance exchanges and mutual understanding between our peoples so as to achieve greater

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin And Her Party Visit Lithuania

An Xin

Invited by the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin led a delegation to visit Lithuania from September 5 to 8. The delegation made official calls on Alfredas Pekeliunas, deputy speaker of the Seimas, Kestutis Glaveckas, chairman of the Lithuania-China Friendship Group in the Seimas, Justinas Karosas, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Seimas, Bronislovas Genzelis, president of the Lithuania-China Friendship Association, and Petra Austrevicius, member of the Seimas of the opposition party, and attended a welcoming banquet. The entrepreneurs on the delegation had a discussion with representatives of the business circles of Lithuania.

Meetings

At the meetings with Lithuanian leaders, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin briefed them on the work of the CPAFFC and the great achievement China has won in all fields since the country adopted the policy of reform and opening up, especially the just successfully concluded Beijing Olympic Games. She answered questions on China's policy on minority ethnic groups, the development of nongovernmental organizations, enterprise tax and welfare, friendship city cooperation, etc. raised by the Lithuanian side.

Deputy Speaker Alfredas Pekeliunas congratulated China on the success of the Beijing Olympics. He said, the Beijing Olympic Games, the best ever held, has not only proved to the

world that China is a great power in sports, but also set a fine example of a nation publicizing and showing itself to the world. Justinas Karosas and Bronislovas Genzelis had visited China several times and witnessed the tremendous changes taken place in the country since reform and opening up. They held, China has achieved fast economic growth and enjoyed higher international standing. The Beijing Olympics has provided China with the best opportunity to demonstrate its rich culture of 5,000 years and its scientific and technological achievements in modernization. Those present at the meetings all expressed their hope to further promote bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

growth of our relations. Fukuda stressed, Japan will not make any change of the general direction of keeping its emphasis on developing Japan-China relations. During my meeting with President Hu Jintao in May, the two sides clearly defined the general direction of Japan-China relations, that is, to work together to create an even brighter future for Asia and the world through implementing the strategic relationship of mutual benefit. This is in conformity with the fundamental interests of our two countries.

Yohei Kono and Satsuki Eda spoke respectively on behalf of the guests. They expressed appreciation of the great progress of Japan-China relations in the past 30 years and highly praised China's achievement since reform and opening

up. They pledged, in the future the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors would continuously strengthen exchanges with various circles in China and contribute their efforts to the further development of bilateral relations. Yohei Kono specially emphasized, the fact that the Chinese character “和” (harmony) appeared repeatedly at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games shows China's desire to seek coordinated economic development, peaceful and harmonious coexistence among people all nationalities, and harmony and progress of the world. He hoped that by cherishing peace as the most precious thing, Japan and China would make greater contributions to the international community in the future. □



CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin (L.5) and her party with Deputy Speaker A. Pekeliunas (L. 4), Chairman K. Glaveckas (L.2) of the Lithuania-China Friendship Group and Chairman J. Karosas (L.8) of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Seimas, and LCFA President B. Genzelis (L.6)

Exchanges and Cooperation

Deputy Speaker Pekeliunas said, he is happy to see representatives of Chinese enterprises visiting Lithuania and hoped that the two sides would conduct more substantial economic and trade cooperation. He added, the Seimas of Lithuania and himself are willing to push forward exchanges and cooperation between entrepreneurs of the two coun-

tries. Petra Austrevicius, member of the Seimas, expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the CPAFFC to promote nongovernmental cooperation between Lithuania and China and hoped to co-sponsor symposiums on energy, climate change and sustainable development with the CPAFFC. LCFA President Genzelis said that the LCFA would carry out more concrete work to in-

crease cultural exchanges between the two sides.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin thanked the Lithuanian side for their suggestions and said that the CPAFFC would cooperate closely with relevant Lithuanian friendship organizations and hold rich and colourful activities to further understanding and friendship between the people of China and Lithuania. □

(Continued from p.6)

ganizations for friendship with China set up in Japan after the birth of New China, has served as an important bridge of friendly exchanges between the people of our two countries. Over the past several decades, our friends in the JCFA have done a great deal of work and made outstanding contributions to the restoration, improvement and development of bilateral relations and the promotion of Sino-Japanese friendly exchanges. Hu expressed the hope that the JCFA would, by carrying on the fine tradition and strengthening its belief in friendship, activate new vitality, draw more Japanese people to participate in the activities for friendship with China and make fresh contributions to the growth of bilateral relations.

Kato said that he was greatly honoured to become president of the JCFA last July and at the same

time felt the heavy responsibility. He added that 2009 would mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of New China and the year after the 60th anniversary of the JCFA. The JCFA would, with a new appearance, take these opportunities to carry out various activities to continuously raise the awareness of the Japanese people for friendship with China and push bilateral friendly relations substantially forward among the people.

Working Meeting

Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC and the CJFA, had a working meeting with Kato and his party. The two sides exchanged views frankly and in-depth on conducting extensive people-to-people contact between the two countries, strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two organizations. □

JCFA New President Koichi Kato and His Party in China

Qiao Lun

Invited by the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), a 11-member delegation of the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) headed by Koichi Kato, new president of the JCFA and former secretary general of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, visited China from September 5 to 7, during which they attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Paralympic Games and other relevant activities. President Hu Jintao met with Koichi Kato and his party. Koichi Kato attended the welcoming banquet President Hu Jintao and his wife hosted in honour of the dignitaries from various countries who had come to China to watch the Paralympics. Koichi Kato and his party made an official call on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China and had a working meeting with the CJFA.

President Hu Jintao Meeting with the Delegation

President Hu Jintao met with Mr. Kato and his party on September 7. Present at the meeting were Ling Jihua, member of the Secretariat and director of the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CCCPC), Wang Huning, member of the Secretariat and director of the Policy Research Office of the CCCPC, Dai Bingguo, state councillor, Yang Jiechi, minister of foreign affairs,

Chen Shiju, director of President Hu Jintao's Office, Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC and the CJFA, and Yuji Miyamoto, Japanese ambassador to China.

President Hu congratulated Koichi Kato on his becoming the JCFA president. He called Kato an old friend of the Chinese people and spoke highly of his work to promote China-Japan friendship and his effort to restore, improve and develop bilateral relations over the years.

Hu Jintao said, China-Japan relations at present maintain a good momentum of development. I made a "warm-spring" visit to Japan in May this year, during which the leaders of the two countries had in-depth talks, signed the fourth political document between China and Japan, and mapped out a blueprint for future bilateral relations. China and Japan are countries of major influence in Asia and the world, and shoulder great responsibilities and mission of maintaining regional and world peace and promoting common development. China would like to work together with Japan to enhance political dialogue, expand practical cooperation and increase people-to-people and cultural exchanges so as to elevate the strategic relationship of mutual benefit to a new high.

Hu Jintao noted, the JCFA, one of the first or-

(Continued on p.5)

President Hu Jintao meeting with JCFA President Koichi Kato



ACFA Honorary President Dr. Helmut Sohmen Receives Title of Friendship Ambassador

Lu Hongwei

On the evening of October 9, the CPAFFC held a grand ceremony to confer the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador upon Dr. Helmut Sohmen, honorary president of the Austria-China Friendship Association (ACFA) and chairman of the BW Shipping Group Ltd.

Lu Yongxiang, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, He Luli, former vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC and honorary president of the China-EU Association, Chen Haosu, president of the CPAFFC, Zhang Guobao, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and head of the National Energy Administration, Wang Shu, former Chinese ambassador to Aus-

tria, Dr. Martin Sajdik, Austrian ambassador to China, Mr. Svein Ole Saether, Norwegian ambassador to China, among about 70 people, attended the ceremony.

The title of Friendship Ambassador was first conferred in 1990 to foreign friends in recognition of their significant contributions to promoting the bilateral relations between China and their countries and the people-to-people friendship. Up to now, the title has been given to more than 70 personages, among whom are Juan Antonio Samaranch, honorary president for life of the International Olympic Committee, Joseph Needham, the famous British scholar, and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

Born in the city of Linz of

Austria, Dr. Sohmen is well-known in the economic circles of the world, and now the honorary president of the ACFA and chairman of the BW Shipping Group Ltd. He has served as chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, general director of Dragon Air, chairman of International Maritime Industries Forum in London, and adviser to the Austrian government. Dr. Sohmen is married to Anna Pao (daughter of the well-known Hong Kong entrepreneur Pao Yue-kong), and thus forged an indissoluble bond with China.

In 1988, Dr. Sohmen established the Sohmen Eastasia Foundation to help the young Austrian entrepreneurs and scholars understand China. In 1992, he estab-

He Luli, former vice chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee and honorary president of the China-EU Association, presenting the certificate of Friendship Ambassador to ACFA Honorary President Dr. Helmut Sohmen





CPAFFC President Chen Haosu speaking at the ceremony

lished the Sohmen China Foundation for inviting Chinese delegations to Austria every year. In the same year, he became the honorary president of the ACFA and then vigorously dedicated to the cause of friendship with China.

Dr. Sohmen financed and attended several symposiums on relations between China and Austria, including the Austria-China Economic Symposium in 1995, the Harmonious Society and Human Rights Symposium in 2007. In 2006 the ACFA held a series of China Year activities in Austria, he funded many programmes of the series. He attached great importance to the youth exchanges, inviting the children of the Qiqihar SOS Children's Village of China to perform in Austria, sponsoring the visit to Austria by the Beijing middle school student winners in the Knowledge Contest About Austria, and setting up a scholarship for Chinese students to study abroad.

To explore the life of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld and commemorate this great international hu-

manitarian and symbol of friendship between China and Austria, Dr. Sohmen squeezed time out of his tight schedule and attended several commemoration activities including the Exhibition in Commemoration of the Centennial of the Birth of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld held in the National Museum of China in 2003. The bronze statue of Dr. Jakob Rosenfeld in the Hospital of Graz, Austria was built with his donation.

As an important economic figure, Dr. Sohmen often publishes articles in the international media and accepts interviews, providing the world with an objective and just perspective to understand China.

During his presidency of the Academy of Performing Arts of Hong Kong, Dr. Sohmen organized and sent many Hong Kong troupes to visit Austria as well as invited many Austrian art troupes to visit China's mainland and Hong Kong.

Dr. Sohmen is modest and outstanding in character, devoting himself to the cause of public interest and has been com-

mended by the governments of Austria, U.K. and Liberia.

Vice Chairman Lu Yongxiang and former Vice Chairperson He Luli presented Dr. Sohmen the medal and the certificate of Friendship Ambassador respectively. President Chen Haosu delivered a speech at the ceremony.

On receiving the title, Dr. Sohmen said the road of development chosen by China is right, and people of other countries need to understand China's pattern of development more through the various challenges faced by the country. He would continue to make unremitting efforts to promote understanding and exchanges between China and other countries.

The Golden Sail Orchestra of the Beijing No. 22 Middle School performed some well-known pieces of Chinese and Austrian music at the ceremony. Their wonderful performance won warm applause from the guests present and added to the ceremony a lively and warm atmosphere. □

U.S. South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford Visits China

Jiang Yingshan

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Mark Sanford, governor of South Carolina of the U.S., together with his family paid a visit to Beijing, Qinghai and Tibet from July 17 to 26. Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC vice president, Wu Yingjie, executive vice chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and Wangdui, deputy prefectural commissioner of Xigaze, met with and entertained them successively.

Admiring Tibet

In his meeting with Governor Mark Sanford and his family, Vice Chairman Wu Yingjie said, the Central Government adopts a special policy of supporting Tibet's development and puts a great amount of funds into Tibet's infrastructure construction, protection of environment and cultural heritage, and improvement of education and people's livelihood. Sixteen provinces and cities and 18 large state-owned enterprises in the country also give great support to Tibet's development. In recent years Tibet has achieved significant social and economic development and maintained an annual economic growth rate of over 12 percent for 7 consecutive years, laying a strong material foundation for the Ti-

betan people of various ethnic groups to live and work in peace and contentment. Wu gave a detailed briefing about the efforts to help farmers and herds-men increase their income, improve medical care in the agricultural and pastoral areas, provide education for the children of farmers and herds-men, step up affordable housing construction, respect religions of ethnic groups and promote environmental protection. As to Tibet's external exchanges, Vice Chairman Wu said, Tibet has got many channels to carry out its external exchanges and kept active contacts with the United States. He hoped that Governor Sanford would give more help and support for the exchanges and cooperation between South Carolina and Tibet.

To visit Tibet is Governor Sanford's dream for years, so this visit is of special significance to him. During his visit in Tibet, the construction of infrastructural facilities and protection of ethnic religions and culture left a deep impression on him. He said, the political, economic and cultural development in Tibet is beyond his expectation. The Chinese government and various social circles have given great support and put enormous resources into Tibet's infrastructure construction, cultural development and pro-

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin having a cordial conversation with Governor Mark Sanford





The Sanfords at the Potala Palace in Tibet

tection of religions and culture. In making use of natural resources, Tibet is much more advanced than what he has expected. Everywhere along the Qinghai-Tibet Railway and in various cities' suburbs, equipment for generation of solar energy, wind energy and hydroelectric power can be seen. Tourism in Tibet has a huge potential of development, so has the tourism in South Carolina which receives more than 30 million tourists every year. He thus suggested that South Carolina and Tibet carry out cooperation in tourism.

Governor Sanford said, this visit has helped him have a better understanding of Tibet. The Tibetan people are living a peaceful and secured life and enjoying freedom of religion. Some Western media have given a seriously distorted picture of Tibet. He said, those US congressmen, government officials and media that have bias against China should come to China to see for themselves so as to experience and know about the progress and development brought to China by reform and opening up.

Strengthening Exchanges

During his visit to China Governor Sanford said many times, in comparison with what he saw during his first visit to China in the 1980s, China has made unbelievable progress in every aspect. It is an extraordinary achievement that China has enabled the largest number of people to have the greatest freedom and improvement of their livelihood in the shortest period of time. China is an important force in the world in the 21st century and will play a pivotal role in the coming tens of years. He hoped that the United State and China would continue to

and friendship.

People-to-people exchange is an important field in promoting the development of Sino-US relations. In her meeting with Governor Sanford and his party, CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin briefed about the CPAFFC's work, people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and friendship cities. She expressed appreciation of Governor Sanford's long-time contributions to the development of Sino-US relations and hoped that he would encourage more officials of the state government to visit China to experience and know about the reality of China's development and people's life.

Governor Sanford said, people-to-people exchanges are very important. Through this visit he has gained a better understanding about the CPAFFC and admires the important role that the CPAFFC plays in promoting friendship and exchanges between the people of China and other countries in the world. He said, though the government of South Carolina set up a representative office in Shanghai as early as in 2005, the scope of its work only covers the coastal areas. In future the office will actively carry out cooperation with China's interior areas. He hoped that the CPAFFC would help the office expand its working spheres and channels for exchanges.

Governor Sanford said, the younger generation is the future of US-China relations, and this is one of his main reasons to bring his family to China. He hoped that through the visit his children would become interested in China and understand China so as to make contributions to the development of US-China relations in future. □

CKFA Delegation in DPRK

Hong Lei

At the invitation of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of DPRK and the DPRK-China Friendship Association (DPRKCFA), the delegation of the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA), the China-Korea Friendship Hongxing Farm delegation and the China-DPRK Friendship Panglin Bringing Light Tour medical team, totalling 19 people, led by Wu Donghe, president of the CKFA, paid a goodwill visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from September 24 to 29, 2008.

The year 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the CKFA and the DPRKCFA. The CPAFFC took this opportunity to visit the DPRK with the aim of carrying forward, consolidating and developing traditional friendship between China and the DPRK and giving full

play to its role as a link and a bridge to meet the needs of the development of the two countries in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The Korean side attached great importance to the visit. Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, met with the delegation. Mon Jea Chol, acting chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of DPRK, and Choe Chang Sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRKCFA and minister of public health, respectively met with and entertained the delegation. Jeon Chun Sik, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRKCFA, accompanied the delegation throughout the visit. The Korean side held a grand banquet, a commemoration meeting and a film reception in celebration of the

50th anniversary of the establishment of the DPRKCFA and the CKFA. The Chinese delegation and Korean side jointly held the China-DPRK Friendship Panglin Bringing Light Tour to give free cataract extraction operations to the local patients. During their stay in the DPRK, besides participating in the above-mentioned activities, the Chinese delegation also attended the receptions respectively held by the Chinese Embassy in the DPRK and the Korean side in celebration of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, paid an official call on Ri Hak Gwon, director of the DPRK Chamber of Commerce, visited the Korea-China Friendship Thaekam Cooperative Farm, the Pyongyang-Tianjin Joint-Venture Bicycle Manufacturing Company and Kaesong.

The main Korean media in-

Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, meeting with the delegation





Choe Chang Sik, chairman of the DPRKCFA Central Committee hosting a banquet in honour of the delegation

cluding the Korean Central TV (KCTV), and the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) gave full coverage of the delegation's visit, and attracted wide attention in the DPRK. Wherever the delegation went, they were accorded warm reception by the Korean people and an ebullient friendly atmosphere permeated.

Kim Yong Nam Meeting with the Delegation

On the afternoon of September 27, Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, met with chief members of the delegation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

In his meeting with the delegation, Kim Yong Nam said, Korea-China friendship, which is the invaluable legacy handed down by the leaders of the older generation of the two countries, is being further consolidated and developed under the best care from the current leaders of the two countries. In his meeting with visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping last June, General Secretary Kim Jong Il stressed: "The friendly re-

lations between the DPRK and China were, are and will not be changed in the past, present and future." The Korean Workers' Party, government and people will always remember General Secretary Kim Jong Il's teaching and continue to make efforts to develop relations between the two countries.

Kim Yong Nam said, the year 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the DPRKCFA and the CKFA. It is a common festival of the people of the two countries. He expressed his gratitude to the CKFA for its contributions in the past 50 years to the development of friendship between the two countries, extended his congratulations to Wu Donghe on assuming the presidency of the CKFA and expressed his appreciation of Wu's efforts to promote practical cooperation between the two countries when he served as Chinese ambassador to the DPRK. Kim said, under the leadership of President Wu Donghe, the CKFA will play a greater role in promoting friendship between the people of the two countries.

Kim Yong Nam continued, the year 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China. Having been designated as the Year of DPRK-China Friendship, 2009 will be a year of great significance to the people of the two countries. The departments concerned of the two countries are now actively making preparations for the activities of the Year of Friendship. He hoped that the friendship organizations of the two countries would make concerted efforts and cooperate well in jointly holding rich and fruitful activities so as to show the world the long-standing unbreakable friendship between the DPRK and China.

CKFA President Wu Donghe said, the friendship between China and the DPRK which was moulded in the long years of history, passed through revolutions and wars and underwent tests of changeable world situation has acquired strategic, traditional and unbreakable nature. Under the complex and changeable international situation,

the China-DPRK friendly and co-operative relations have always been developing in correct direction, which has not only safeguarded the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but also helped maintain peace and development of the region. To further consolidate and develop China-DPRK traditional friendship is the firm strategic principle of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government, and an important guidance for the CKFA to carry out its work. In future, the CKFA, will as always, work together with the DPRKCFA to further expand the fields of cooperation, create new ways and increase channels of cooperation and enrich its contents so as to push forward the friendly cooperative relations between the two countries.

Attending Celebration Activities

On the afternoon of September 25, the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the DPRKCFA held a commemoration meeting and a film reception in Pyongyang in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the DPRKCFA and the CKFA. More than 150 friendly personages of various circles of the two countries were present on the occasion. In their speeches at the commemoration meeting, Choe Chang Sik and Wu Donghe reviewed the history of friendly contacts between the two organizations and expressed their willingness to go forward hand in hand to open together a new chapter of friendship between the two countries. After the meeting a documentary film about General

Secretary Hu Jintao's official visit to the DPRK in October 2005 was shown.

That evening, the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the DPRKCFA held a banquet in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the DPRKCFA and the CKFA. Over 50 Korean and Chinese personages attended it.

Holding Charity Activities

During the delegation's stay in the DPRK, the China-DPRK Friendship Panglin Bringing Light Tour was held in Pyongyang. The medical team formed by ophthalmology specialists of the Beijing Tongren Hospital gave free cataract extraction operations to the local patients. This transnational charity activity sponsored by the CPAFFC is planned to be held in the DPRK, Mongolia, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia with Pyongyang being its first leg.

In his speech at the inauguration of the China-DPRK Friendship Panglin Bringing Light Tour, Yu Panglin, chairman of the Shenzhen Yu Panglin Social Welfare Fund, and fund provider of the tour, said that he hoped the tour would bring light to more Korean cataract patients and convey the Chinese people's profound friendship toward the Korean people. In his speech, Wang Ningli, vice president of Tongren Hospital, said, this activity offers a good chance for the medical circles of the two countries to strengthen exchanges and cooperation. He hoped that the medical workers of the two countries would do practical work to bring benefits to the two peoples and in-

ject new vitality to the friendship between the two countries.

The charity medical service lasted four days. The medical team gave careful eye examination to about 150 cataract patients among whom 50 who met the requirements for surgery were given successful operations. The specialists of the two sides also had exchanges in medical technique. The Chinese doctors' superb medical skills, strict working style and exemplary medical ethics were highly praised by their Korean counterparts. The activity aroused a strong repercussion in the DPRK. Pak Jyeong Il, director general of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, said, through the operations in the past four days we saw the sincerity of the Chinese doctors and were deeply moved by the Chinese people's true friendly sentiments. The Bringing Light Tour was an act of true friendship that got in direct contact with the masses of people and benefited them.

Visiting Korea-China Friendship Farm

The year 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of Premier Zhou Enlai's visit to the Thaekam Farm and the naming of the Korea-China Friendship Thaekam Cooperative Farm. On this occasion, the CPAFFC invited a delegation of the Thaekam Farm to visit China in February 2008. This time, Zhang Fuping, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Beijing Sanyuan Group Co., Ltd. (higher administrative authorities of the China-DPRK Friendship
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DPRKCFA Delegation Visits China

Hong Lei

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the China-Korea (DPRK) Friendship Association (CKFA) and the DPRK-China Friendship Association (DPRKCFA), a 6-member delegation of the DPRKCFA with Choe Chang Sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRKCFA and minister of public health, as the leader visited China from September 16 to 20 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Abdul'ahat Abdurixit, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met with the delegation. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, CKFA President Wu Donghe, Minister of Health Chen Zhu and former CKFA President Li Shuzheng met with or entertained the delegation on separate occasions. The delegation attended the banquet in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the friendship organizations of the two countries hosted by the CPAFFC and the DPRK Folk Art Exhibition jointly sponsored by the CKFA and the DPRKCFA, and visited the China-Korea Friendship Hongxing Farm and the Beijing No. 5 Middle School. The delegation also made a trip to Tianjin where Zhang Daning, vice chairman of the Tianjin Municipal People's Political Consultative Conference, met with the delegation and hosted a banquet in its honour.

China-DPRK Friendship

Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit met with the delegation on September 19 in the Great Hall of the People. He said, Sino-Korean friendship has been forged and cultivated by the older generation of leaders of our two countries. In the new century, bilateral relations enjoy continuous and fast growth, which has forcefully safeguarded the common interests of our two peoples and promoted peace and development in the region. The vice chairman spoke highly of the positive contributions made by the two friendship associations to consolidating and developing friendship between the two peoples. He hoped that they would continue to play an important role in the future. Choe Chang Sik, leader of the delegation, expressed gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for their support and assistance to the DPRK over the years. He said, at present, the Korean army and people, united as one under the leadership of General Kim Jong Il, are striving to build their fatherland into a prosperous country by 2012.

CPAFFC President Chen Haosu said when meeting with the delegation, in recent years, the friendship associations of China and the DPRK, in solidarity and cooperation, have made due contributions to enhancing the friendship between the two countries and their peoples. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the CKFA and the DPRKCFA, it is of far-reaching significance that we hold celebra-



CPPCC National Committee Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdurixit meeting with Choe Chang Sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRKCFA, and his party

CKFA President Wu Donghe and DPRKCFA Central Committee Chairman Choe Chang Sik cutting the ribbon for the opening of the exhibition



tions here in Beijing. By reviewing the history and looking into the future, we will work together to make fresh contributions to the lasting friendship between our two countries. Choe Chang Sik said: "This is my first visit to China as chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRKCFA. The Chinese side has made careful arrangement for us. During the visit, we conducted extensive exchanges with various friendship units and had the opportunity to tour the Olympic Green and take the high-speed train between Beijing and Tianjin. We are very happy to see the development and changes in China." He thanked the Chinese side for the meticulous arrangement and warm hospitality and said that in the future the DPRKCFA would strengthen cooperation with the Chinese side and bring benefit to the people of the two countries through practical cooperation.

CKFA President Wu Donghe accompanied the delegation throughout its visit in China. He said, 2008 is a memorable year. We have just celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea together with our Korean comrades, now we are greeting the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the friendship associations of the two countries. It is of great historic significance that the two organizations jointly hold the celebrations. Wu emphasized, the CKFA will continue to work for the friendship between China and the DPRK in the spirit of "carrying on the tradition with a view to the future, being good and friendly neighbours and enhancing cooperation" so as to bring substantial benefits to our two peoples. He also

informed the Korean guests about the social and economic development of China in recent years during their visit. Choe Chang Sik extended congratulations to Wu Donghe on his becoming the president of the CKFA and thanked him for accompanying the delegation during its visit in China. He expressed the belief that the two friendship associations will take 2009, the Year of China-DPRK Friendship, as an opportunity to forge closer ties and increase cooperation between them to contribute more to DPRK-China friendship.

When meeting with Choe Chang Sik, Minister Chen Zhu affirmed the achievements scored in cooperation between the health ministries of the two countries in recent years and said that China will continue to provide necessary assistance to the DPRK within its capability. Choe Chang Sik expressed gratitude to the Chinese Ministry of Health for its efforts to promote the development of public health undertakings in the DPRK and China and the exchanges and training of personnel in the field of health. He hoped that China would continue its help in the future.

Celebrations

On the evening of September 16, the Chinese side hosted a banquet to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CKFA and the DPRKCFA. Before the banquet, Chinese singers and dancers performed Chinese and Korean songs and dances, adding an atmosphere of festivity. More than 50 people from various circles of the two countries were

present.

During the delegation's stay in China, the DPRK Folk Art Exhibition co-sponsored by the CK-FA and the DPRKCFCA was mounted in Beijing. On display were 31 works by over 20 artists of the Mansudae Creation Company (art studio). Through a variety of ways of creation, the artists showed the rich and colourful folk customs and culture of the DPRK and their high artistic attainment.

Visits

The delegation visited the Beijing No. 5 Middle School. It had a cordial talk with the school authority and met with all the teachers and students of the Kim Il Sung Class. Choe Chang Sik said, as the symbol of DPRK-China friendship, the Kim Il Sung Class of the Beijing No. 5 Middle School and the Mao Zedong Class of East Pyongyang No. 1 Senior Middle School have formed a chapter of passing on friendship from generation to generation in the annals of China-DPRK relations. He thanked the Kim Il Sung Class for their contributions in this regard. He added, invited by the CPAFFC, the East Pyongyang No. 1 Senior Middle School paid a visit to China this year. The delegation sat in classes and learnt the excellent teaching experience of the Beijing No. 5 Middle School, making a good beginning of practical exchanges between the two schools. He hoped that such exchanges would be continued in the future. President Wu Donghe encouraged the teachers and students of the Kim Il Sung Class to carry forward the tradition of friendship between the two countries with the sense of honour, responsibility and mission.

At the China-DPRK Friendship Hongxing Farm, the delegation listened to the introduction and

had a group picture taken in front of the tree planted by Vice Chairman Ye Jianying and President Kim Il Sung. Choe Chang Sik noted, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the visit by our beloved Premier Zhou Enlai to the Korea-China Friendship Thaeam Cooperative Farm and also the 50th anniversary of the naming of the farm. The exchange of delegations between the two farms had significant importance.

Just before the conclusion of the Beijing Paralympics, the delegation visited the Olympic Green Common Domain. The leader of the delegation Choe said happily after the visit: "I watched the grand opening and closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympic Games on TV in DPRK. I have not expected that I would be here in person so soon." He spoke highly of the facilities of the Olympic venues and congratulated China on the success of the Beijing Olympics and the Paralympics.

The delegation made a trip to Tianjin to visit the Cathy Future Children's Art Troupe and watched a show given by the young performers. Organized and sent by the CPAFFC, the art troupe took part in the International Children's Camp in Songdowon, DPRK in 2007 and carried out cultural exchanges, injecting new vitality to Sino-Korean friendship in the new period. The head of the art troupe hoped that a Korean children's art troupe would participate in the Tianjin International Children's Culture & Art Festival which would be held in 2009.

Choe Chang Sik said, through the visit they gained a deeper understanding of "building China into a well-off and socialist society with Chinese characteristics in an all-round way by thoroughly applying the scientific outlook on development" put forward by the Communist Party of China. □

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the past and present of the country and deeply felt that Singapore is a peace-loving and harmoniously developed country. At the Science Centre they learned about nature, society, biology, aerospace, etc. and operated on various scientific experimental equipment, which further increased their interest in science. At the library, the delegates witnessed the love of reading books of the Singaporeans.

Contact with Society. The

SCFA attached great importance to the delegation's visit, and President Phua Kok Khoo and other leading members of the SCFA met with and entertained the delegation. The president specially invited the delegation to his home where the hosts talked with the guests in a lighthearted and amicable atmosphere. The delegation members were all deeply touched by the hospitality and friendship of the leadership of the SCFA, and experienced how close and

charming that nongovernmental exchanges could become. They also had the opportunity to have direct contacts with warm-hearted and hospitable citizens. The delegation was deeply impressed by the well-educated Singaporeans and their good manners. During the 10-day visit, the teachers and students saw a harmonious and peaceful society, a clean and pleasant environment and happy smiling faces of the people in Singapore. □

CPAFFC Delegation Attends 61st Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

Ji Wei

The 61st Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was held in Paris from September 3 to 5. A CPAFFC delegation led by its vice president Li Xiaolin attended the conference.

Participating in the conference with the theme of “Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60” were 1,399 delegates from UN departments and 537 nongovernmental organizations in 74 countries. At the conference, five round-table meetings on the topics of “Upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, “Overcoming Discrimination to

Realize Human Rights and Dignity for All”, “Human Rights and Human Security”, “Human Rights Education and Learning as a Way of Life” and “Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations: Prevention and Accountability”, as well as break-out sessions and midday workshops were held. The participants discussed the relationship between human security and human rights, justice and protection, education, sustainable development, utilization of water resources, protection of the rights of women, children and the disabled, poverty alleviation, prevention of conflicts, food security and

other issues. The conference decided that the next conference will be held in Mexico.

During the conference, Vice President Li Xiaolin hosted a working breakfast, at which she had discussions on a wide range of issues with Jeffery Huffines and other senior officials of the Executive Committee of the Non-Governmental Organization Section of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. She especially talked about the great changes in the field of human rights in China over the past 30 years since reform and opening up. □

CPAFFC Vice President Li Xiaolin and her party with officials of the Executive Committee of the Non-Governmental Organization Section of UN DPI



Youth Delegation of Secours Populaire Francais Visits China

Xing Shuhua

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a 30-member youth delegation of the Secours Populaire Francais (SPF) visited China from August 10 to 18, 2008. Through organizing the Chinese and French young people to watch the Olympic Games together, the visit aimed to enhance understanding and friendship and promote the Olympic spirit. During their visit, the delegation went to Gansu Province to attend the inauguration of the Friendship Water Cellars built with the SPF's fund, watched Olympic games together with the students coming from the Dongqi Middle School of Hanwang County, Mianzhu City which suffered severe damage in the Sichuan earthquake and the Beijing No. 22 Middle School, and participated in the Chinese and French youth social activities.

Founded in 1945, the SPF is one of the most influential non-profit public organizations in France. Since June 2007 when the CPAFFC established contacts with the SPF, the two organizations have cooperated in three undertakings: 1. Building 100 water cellars (including hand piston pumps) in Zhaona village of Tianshui city, Gansu, with 220,000 yuan in total provided by the SPF. The construction was started in April and completed in August, 2008. 2. After the Sichuan earthquake, a delegation of the SPF came to China in July to deliver their donation of tents and other urgently-needed relief supplies

worth 250,000 yuan to the earthquake-stricken area, and promised a further donation of 1.5 million yuan for the reconstruction of the earthquake-stricken area in Sichuan. 3. During the Olympic Games, the SPF organized the youth delegation to visit China and participate in and experience the event together with Chinese young people. In the delegation, 18 members aged between 13 and 18 were from poor families in 15 northern French cities. Among the 18 students selected by the Chinese side, 10 were from the Dongqi Middle School, who had done outstanding deeds during the earthquake and came to Beijing for the first time.

In Tianshui

Zhaona village of Qingshui County of Tianshui City, Gansu Province, was selected to try out the water cellar project.

On the afternoon of August 13, the delegation arrived at Zhaona village and joined the villagers at the inauguration of the water cellars. Their arrival was warmly welcomed by the whole village, with resounding drums and gongs and cracking of firecrackers. The representative of the village said, despite the thousands of miles between China and France, the French people came here to help us build water cellars. Now, 100 families of our village could easily get water and no longer needed to walk for miles to

(Continued from p.13)

Hongxing Farm), and other executives of the farm visited the DPRK in company with the delegation, and had talks with their Korean counterparts on future cooperation between the two sides. The visit has promoted bilateral friendly cooperation. Zhang Fuping, on behalf of the China-Korea Friendship Hongxing Farm, donated 5,000 US dollars to help the Thaekam

Farm to update its agricultural equipment.

Call on the Economic and Trade Department

When meeting with the leading members of the DPRK Chamber of Commerce, CKFA President Wu Donghe said, since entering the new century, the fields of cooperation between China and the DPRK have been expanding; particularly, bilateral

economic and trade cooperation is becoming increasingly active. Many of the council members of the CKFA are entrepreneurs with economic strength who are carrying out or planning to carry out cooperation with the Korean side in energy development, agriculture and manufacture. Wu hoped that the Korean side would give them care and assistance. The Korean side expressed welcome to them. □

The Chinese and French students on the Great Wall



get water at the foot of the mountain. The people of Zhaona village would remember the French people and their friendship forever. Daniele Dohey-Blaise, head of the delegation, was deeply moved by the villagers and their enthusiasm and said, the SPF was gratified that it could help the Chinese people solve the most urgent problem. The 100 water cellars project was simply a beginning of our cooperation and the French side would continue to make efforts to help more people with their problem of drinking water.

Part of the fund used for the first stage of the water cellar project was donated by the French young people who earned the money by doing part-time jobs after school. When they saw the condition in the Chinese rural area and how the villagers welcomed them, many students were moved to tears. They found it immensely meaningful for them to make efforts and help the villagers there solve the problem of water shortage, and many of them said they would do all that they could to financially aid the local students.

After the ceremony, the delegation inspected the completed water cellars and then went to visit the elementary school of Zhaona village. All the pupils and the teachers lined up at the school gate to welcome the delegation. In a shabby classroom, the headmaster briefed the guests about the school. The whole delegation, especially the young students, was shocked by the tough conditions in China's countryside. On behalf of the SPF, head of the delegation Mme Dohey-Blaise donated a batch of sport goods and stationery to the school, while the French students gave stationery to over a hundred Chinese stu-

dents and the children of the villagers at the scene, making a warm and moving picture.

In Zhaona village, Daniel Vermeire, board member of the SPF and specialist on agricultural development from the Northern Region of France, had a discussion with two specialists of the Tianshui Academy of Agricultural Sciences on potato processing in the city. Having learned about the situation of the local potato growing and its needs for processing, Mr. Vermeire said he would try to provide them with improved potato variety that they need and help them get in contact with potential cooperation partners in France so as to promote Sino-French cooperation in agricultural research and development.

To express their profound gratitude, Zhaona village presented to their foreign guests a silk banner with inscription saying "Sino-French friendship deep and large, water cellars moisten our hearts". During their stay in China, some members of the delegation said once and again that their visit to Gansu had left them a very deep impression and the activities in Zhaona village made their most wonderful day in China.

The Beijing Olympic Games

On August 16 and 17, the delegation, together with the students of the Dongqi Middle School of Sichuan and the Beijing No. 22 Middle School, toured the National Stadium and the Olympic Green, and watched track and field and gymnastics competition, and basketball and hockey matches. Members of the delegation made positive comments on the construction of the Olympic venues, the athletes'

spirit and China's sports development.

They said, what they saw in China was different from what they had imagined. Mrs. Nicole Paine-Vermeire said, this visit to China verified an old Chinese saying that "seeing is believing". She would never believe the anti-China propaganda by the media. The delegates said that Chinese people were very hospitable and friendly; there were nothing like xenophobia and ultra-nationalism described by the western media; no pedestrians wearing masks. Instead, there were blue sky and white clouds, blooming flowers and lush grass. The Olympic venues and various sports facilities were complete and modernized. Beijing provided athletes from all over the world with a vast platform to display the grace and charm of competitive sports. Philippe Lamblin, president of the la Ligue regionale d'athletisme, said Beijing successfully showed her charm to the world; "the high level of the Beijing Olympic Games will be unsurpassable in future Olympics".

Youth Exchanges

The youth exchange activities is an important content of the delegation's visit to China. On the morning of August 12, the French young people had the first meet-and-greet with the students of the Beijing No. 22 Middle School in the CPAFFC. Present at the meeting were CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, Vice President Li Jianping, French Minister of Health, Youth, Sports and Associations Mrs. Bachelot-Narquin, and French Ambassador to China Herve Ladsous. President Chen Haosu and Minister Bache-

lot-Narquin fully supported and praised the activity. Minister Bachelot-Narquin said, it was the first time that she felt deeply that youth, sports and associations could so closely linked up. The activity brought youth, sports, peace and future together gaining significant and profound meaning.

On the afternoon of August 16, the delegation joined the students of the Beijing No. 22 Middle School and the Sichuan Dongqi Middle School in a social activity held at the No. 22 Middle School. The Jinfan Orchestra of the school gave a symphony performance. Head of the delegation expressed her hope to invite the orchestra to France. After that, the Chinese and French students played basketball and table tennis matches and some fun games. In a warm, friendly and lively atmosphere, the young people spent three happy and unforgettable hours together.

In a short period of three days, Chinese and French students have established friendship and found it hard to part with each other. At the farewell, in tears they said goodbye. Head of the delegation Mme Dohey-Blaise said, young people are the successors and bearers of friendship between the peoples, and friendship between the youth is the solid foundation for lasting friendship between the two peoples. One was really happy to see the children making friends with one another and becoming the reserve for carrying on the Sino-French friendship. She said, she would organize another youth exchange activity at the time of the London Olympic Games in 2012 to carry on the friendly dialogue between the Chinese and French young people. □

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selves, which made the concert fill with a harmonious and friendly atmosphere. Li Shuangjiang, a tenor and head of the group, was always so moved by the warm atmosphere that he would sing at the end of the show to express the Chinese people's and his own friendly feelings towards the German people.

The music came from a country so far away evoked great response in Germany. The most influential local newspaper *Rheinland-Pfalz Daily* gave considerable coverage of the concerts with

pictures. Some report praises the beautiful melodies of Chinese music as "sound from heaven". It was the last few days of the Olympic Games when the group was in Germany, as the whole world was watching the Games as well as China enthusiastically. The visiting musicians from Beijing heated up the China euphoria in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz. The local people said, China not only successfully hosted the Olympic Games but also gained glamorous achievements in competition. As Chinese musicians brought to Rheinland-Pfalz the

hospitality of the Olympic host, they should also be presented an Olympic gold medal for their high level performance, they said.

It was the 20th anniversary of the Association for Germany-China Friendship Donnersberg (GD-CF-Donnersberg) when the delegation visited the country. Countess Monika von Borries, president of the GD-CF-Donnersberg and holder of the title of Friendship Ambassador, held a celebration reception in her house where the Chinese musicians were invited and gave an impromptu performance. □

Exhibition of Woodblock Prints by Judy Ongg Held in National Art Museum of China

Our Staff Reporter

To mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, the Exhibition of Woodblock Prints by Judy Ongg, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China-Japan Friendship Association, was mounted at the National Art Museum of China from September 17 to 25. Sun Jiazheng, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Jing Dunquan, vice president of the CPAFFC and the CJFA, Jackie Chan, famous Hong Kong Film star, Dhanin Chearavanont, chairman of Chia Tai Group of Thailand, and Hisashi Michigami, minister of the Japanese Embassy in China were present at the opening ceremony and cut the ribbon.

Judy Ongg is a well-known versatile artist. Born in Taiwan, she emigrated to Japan with her parents when she was two years old. She is not only a singer and an actress with brilliant achievement, but also a woodblock print artist of high attainment. She started to learn woodblock printing at the age of 25 with Japanese artist Katsue Inoue. She worked very hard. Her prints, some in black and white and some in bright colours with unique perspective and exquisite expression, have formed a distinctive artistic style of her own.

The 52 prints on display were representative

works of different periods carefully selected from what Judy Ongg had created in the past 30 years and more. Many of them received awards in Japan, among which *The Embrace of Red and Green* won the Outstanding Award at the 37th Japan Fine Arts Exhibition. The present exhibition shows the artist's devotion to art, respect for culture, love of nature and understanding of life.

In her opening address, Judy Ongg said that her dream of many years to mount a one-person exhibition of her works at the National Art Museum of China had come true. "I hope that I will have opportunities to come back to China in the future and make my small contributions to the cultural exchange between China and Japan," said she.

Judy Ongg is concerned about China's development and the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship. She takes an active part in various exchanges between China and Japan. The devastating earthquake in Sichuan this year caused great loss of human lives and property. She contacted personages of various circles in China, Japan and the Republic of Korea and organized a charity concert in Tokyo in July, at which nearly 28 million Japanese yen (about 1.79 million RMB yuan) were raised. She took the opportunity of coming to Beijing to donate the money to the disaster areas. □

Sun Jiazheng, vice chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, visiting the exhibition accompanied by Judy Ongg (R.2)



Xinjiang Middle School Students in Singapore

Zhang Jiahu

At the invitation of the Singapore-China Friendship Association (SCFA), a 13-member friendship delegation of middle school students from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, orga-

nized and sent by the Xinjiang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (XPAFFC), visited Singapore from August 10 to 19.

Exchange Activities. The Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) arranged one and a half day study and exchange activities for the visiting Xinjiang students including flag raising ceremony, class visiting, discussions, touring the classroom buildings, dormitories and the exhibition hall, homework competition, etc. At the flag raising ceremony, the representative of the students made remarks warmly welcoming the delegation. In his speech, Zhang Jiahu, head of the delegation and secretary general of the XPAFFC, expressed his gratitude to the hosts for their thoughtful arrangements and warm reception, saying that he would do all he could to help the HCI to carry out teaching and learning exchanges with Xinjiang. The delegation members were all very interested in the visit and exchange activities at the HCI, where they had a close look at

how middle school students studied and lived in Singapore, learned the advanced teaching concepts and experiences of the institution, and experienced the friendly feelings of the teachers and students there towards their counterparts from Xinjiang. The activities created conditions for the two sides to further their friendship and expand exchanges and cooperation.

Visit Universities and Museums. The delegation visited the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University. A faculty member of the NUS made a brief introduction of the university and its recruitment in China as requested by the delegation. Afterwards, the delegation toured the classroom buildings, the administrative building, the culture centre, students' dormitories, etc. The delegation also visited the National Museum, the Science Centre and the National Library of Singapore. In the museum, the delegation members learned about

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Xinjiang students as guests of Phua Kok Khoo, president of the Singapore-China Friendship Association, at his home



Governor of St. Petersburg Matvienko's Visit to Qingdao

Cui Weidong

St. Petersburg, the second largest city in Russia, is located at the Neva River Delta at the eastern end of the Gulf of Finland. It is Russia's gateway to Europe. The city which had been the capital of Russia for two centuries during the rule of Tsars is still a political, economic and cultural centre of the country only next to Moscow, and the central city of the Russian northwestern region. St. Petersburg, with its satellite cities and suburbs, occupies an area of more than 1,300 square kilometres with a population of over 5.4 million and more than 4,000 industrial enterprises. With ship-building and power machinery forming its main manufacturing industries, the city also has developed chemical, textile, food and consumer goods industries. Being the largest port in Russia, St. Petersburg is a major hub of land, water and air communications with convenient urban transport. The ten trunk railway lines radiate from it to Helsinki, Warsaw, Moscow and other major Russian cities. The city consists of over 100 islands which are linked by more than 700 bridges. The number of rivers, islands and bridges in the city all tops the country's list of them. This world-renowned historic city ranks the eighth on UNESCO's list of most pop-

ular tourism cities.

As friendship envoy of St. Petersburg, Governor Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko arrived in Qingdao by special plane on the morning of August 9 to pay a 5-hour brief visit to the city. As soon as she entered the Shangri-La Hotel, she went straight to the reception room to meet with Yan Qijun, member of the Standing Committee of the Shandong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and secretary of the Qingdao Municipal Committee of the CPC, and Xia Geng, mayor of Qingdao. The fact that Governor Matvienko did not take a minute of rest after the long journey moved the Chinese hosts. Secretary Yan Qijun extended warm welcome to the governor and her party and happily recalled his visit to St. Petersburg in July 2007 as the head of the Qingdao friendship delegation. He emphasized, Qingdao and St. Petersburg are highly complementary to each other and the two sides have broad prospects for cooperation. Qingdao is willing to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in many fields to achieve mutually beneficial results and common prosperity. Governor Matvienko said, after the signing of the agreement on the establishment of friend-

Qingdao Municipal leaders and Governor Matvienko of St. Petersburg at the foundation-laying ceremony of St. Petersburg Plaza in Qingdao



10th Anniversary of Friendship City Ties Between Qiqihar and Goyang Of ROK Celebrated

Hou Xiaohui

On April 21, 1998, Qiqihar and Goyang of the ROK formally twinned friendship-city ties. In the past decade, remarkable achievements have been made in the exchanges of high-level visits, nongovernmental cooperation, and exchanges and cooperation in the economic, cultural and other fields between the two cities. On July 20, 2008, grand celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of friendship-city re-

lations between the two cities were held.

On the afternoon of July 20, Qiqihar was brightly decorated and resonant with deafening sound of gongs and drums. Officials of the CPC Municipal Committee and the Municipal Government, representatives of various social circles of the city and 67 guests belonging to five ROK delegations composed of officials of the Goyang municipal govern-

ment, artists, chorus singers and citizens happily gathered together at the square of the Municipal Government to celebrate the anniversary.

In their enthusiastic speeches, Liu Gang, mayor of Qiqihar, and Kang Hyun Suk, mayor of Goyang, spoke highly of the profound friendship formed through frequent contacts between the governments and between the citizens of the two cities in the past

ship-city relations between Qingdao and St. Petersburg and with the concerted efforts by all circles, gratifying progress has been made in the friendly relations between the two cities. St. Petersburg would like to further its exchanges and cooperation in the fields of finance, logistics, culture, education, tourism, etc. with Qingdao. After the meeting, Secretary Yan Qijun, Mayor Xia Geng and Governor Matvienko attended the signing ceremonies of the Memorandum of Understanding on Deepening Friendship-City and Trade Cooperation between the Qingdao Municipal People's Government and the St. Petersburg Municipal Government and the Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Cooperation between Hisense Group and St. Petersburg. The two sides reached consensus on setting up a representative office in each other's city to promote practical economic and trade cooperation, enhance cultural and educational exchanges and deepening friendship-city relations, and agreed to hold relevant activities for the Russian Language Year in China and the Chinese Language Year in Russia.

On the same day, Governor Matvienko visited the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre and the Hisense Yandao International Apartments, and attended the

foundation-laying ceremony of the St. Petersburg Plaza, at which she made a warm speech. These visits enabled the Russian guests to see Qingdao's effective preparation for the Olympic sailing events and its orderly organizational work and confirmed their confidence in cooperation with Hisense Group in building intelligent apartments.

Governor Matvienko's successful visit to Qingdao, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Deepening Friendship-City and Trade Cooperation and the foundation-laying of the St. Petersburg Plaza are rich fruits reaped at the first anniversary of the twinning of friendship ties between the two cities.

The brief visit of five hours by Governor Matvienko enabled us to feel the desire of Qingdao and St. Petersburg for increasing mutual trust, win-win results and strengthening practical cooperation. The Governor told us just before she boarded the plane: "Qingdao is very beautiful. The people of Qingdao are very nice. I will send First Deputy Governor Viktor Nikolaevich Lobko to Qingdao in September to implement the agreements and consensus reached between the two cities. I will be back next year." □

decade, recalled gratifying results achieved in the exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, urban construction, science, technology, education, health care, sports and tourism, and looked forward to the bright future—a new height of friendly cooperative relations between the two cities by taking the celebration of the 10th anniversary of friendship city ties as an opportunity to further deepen cooperation and exchanges in various fields.

At the celebration, mayors of the two cities signed a letter of confirmation of the 10th anniversary of the twinning of friendship ties between the two cities, expressing common aspirations of continuous friendship. Mayor Liu Gang presented the certificate of Honorary Citizen of Qiqihar and the key that symbolized openness of the city to Mayor Kang Hyun Suk, indicating a continuous development of friendly exchanges and cooperation between the two cities.

The rich and colourful activities included a celebration meeting, visits, tree planting, cultural and academic exchanges, entertainment, sightseeing, and economic and trade talks. Guests

from Goyang visited such enterprises as Qiqihar Ruisheng Food Producing Co., Ltd.—a green food enterprise and Qiqihar Heavy CNC Equipment Co., Ltd. and had talks with them on cooperation in some projects. The ROK guests and their hosts together planted pine trees symbolizing lasting friendship between the two cities. The citizens of the two cities displayed their skills in painting and calligraphy. The wonderful performance given by the Qiqihar Circus that had toured many countries won waves of applause from the guests. Mayor Kang Hyun Suk visited Qiqihar University and had an informal discussion with the teachers and students, laying a good foundation for the two cities to jointly run educational courses. In the Zhalong Nature Reserve, the guests toured the “Great Wetland”, a rare large area of marshes in the world and watched red-crowned cranes under the first-grade state protection. There are only 16 crane species in the world, of which 9 inhabit in the Zhalong Wetland.

Exchanges between the two friendship cities, which started in the field of culture, have expanded to the fields of economy,

trade, tourism and scientific and technological personnel exchange. During the celebrations, the delegation of the Goyang Municipal Government visited enterprises in Qiqihar and agreed on intention of cooperation in relevant projects with the Chinese side.

In the past decade, the two cities have carried out frequent cultural exchange. To every China Qiqihar Green Food Expo, Goyang sent delegations and gave performances at its opening ceremony. Cultural and art groups and sports delegations of Qiqihar often went to Goyang on performance and demonstration tours. In-depth exchanges were carried out between the government and schools of the two cities which frequently sent personages to give lectures and speeches on each other's TV. In the past decade Qiqihar sent 60 students to Goyang to learn the Korean language. Rich and colourful cultural exchanges show the vigorous development of science, technology and culture of the two cities and have pushed the exchanges and cooperation between the two cities to a higher level. □

The 10th anniversary of the twinning of friendship cities between Qiqihar and Goyang of the ROK celebrated in Qiqihar



In Dr. Norman Bethune's Hometown

—A Visit to Canada

Ye Zi

At the invitation of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA), a CPAFFC working group paid a goodwill visit to Canada from September 5 to 15, 2008. The two members of the group, who visited Canada for the first time, were deeply impressed by the country's vast land, tranquil and clear lakes, magnificent undulating mountains and hospitable people of various ethnic groups. During the visit, the group through contacting the Canadian friendship-with-China organizations enhanced mutual understanding, visited the birthplace of Doctor Norman Bethune and the cities where he had studied and worked, and had exchanges and sought cooperation with various sides of Canada for the activities to be held in 2009 in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the death of Dr. Bethune and the publication of Chairman Mao's

article *In Memory of Norman Bethune*.

Tracing the Footsteps of Doctor Bethune

Norman Bethune, a Canadian known to every household in China, travelled a long distance to China in 1939. Since then, for the cause of liberation of the Chinese people, he had worked with his surgical instruments in the forefront of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression to the last minute of his life. His selfless internationalist spirit, conscientious attitude towards work and enthusiasm for the cause of China's national liberation have touched every Chinese. This time, as the purpose of its Canada trip, the working group visited Gravenhurst of Ontario Province—the birth place of Dr. Bethune. It is a small thinly-populated quiet and peaceful city. In the centre of the city there stands

a bronze statue of Dr. Bethune. Not far from it is the Bethune Memorial House which consists of two parts: the museum and Bethune's former residence where he was born in 1890. In 1973 after China and Canada established diplomatic relations, the Canadian Government bought this house, made some renovations on it and opened it to the public in 1976. The former residence is a small two-storeyed white building with a small courtyard where the two white chairs once used by Bethune are still placed there. Through the window, one can see things in the house kept intact. In the museum are displayed Bethune's biography, photos, albums and the things he used. In the projection room, documentary films about Bethune are always ready to be shown to the visitors.

At 2 o'clock that afternoon, the group attended the opening ceremony of In Memory of Norman Bethune—an exhibition of gifts from China. In his speech at the ceremony, the head of the working group highlighted the important contributions made by Dr. Bethune to the Chinese revolution and the Chinese people's deep love and respect of him over the years, and briefed about



The birth place of Dr. Norman Bethune

CPAFFC's past work and this and next years' plans in commemoration of Dr. Bethune. After the ceremony, the group had working meetings with the mayor of Gravenhurst and curator of the Bethune Memorial House respectively.

Another city that is closely related to Dr. Bethune is Montreal of Quebec Province where he had lived for 10 years—the longest period of his living in Canada. Montreal is known as the most romantic city in North America for the majority of its population speaks French and keeps French cultural tradition. Though we stayed in the city for less than 5 hours, the churches there, big and small with different architectural features, left a deep impression on us.

Officials of the Office of the International Affairs of the Montreal Municipal Government briefed the working group about the work that the government had done and was doing in commemoration of Dr. Bethune including an exhibition held in the Shanghai Century Park in 2006 to publicize Bethune's work and life through photos with captions; a large-scale ceremony of moving Bethune's statue to a new place in Montreal on October 14, 2008;

an exhibition of photos taken by noted photographer Sha Fei of Bethune working in China to be held in the city in October 2008 and will last for half a year; unveiling of a pavilion in commemoration of Bethune to be held in Shanghai in May 2009, which the mayor of Montreal will attend. The working group also briefed them about the CPAFFC's plan about the commemorative activities, including an Art Exhibition in Commemoration of Dr. Norman Bethune in Chilliwack in October 2008, a meeting in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the publication of Chairman Mao's article *In Memory of Norman Bethune* in Beijing in 2009 and a Dr. Bethune medical team to give charity treatment to patients in the places where Dr. Bethune once lived and worked.

Enhancing Understanding and Friendship

The FCCFA has five branches. The working group visited the cities where four of these branches were located: Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, and Victoria, and had working meetings with the leading members of the four

branches. Lolan Wang Merklinger, president of the FCCFA, fully affirmed the work that the CPAFFC had done for years to strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation between the Canadian and Chinese people and said that in the future the FCCFA would continue to hold all kinds of activities to publicize China to the Canadian people and enhance understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

In Ottawa, the working group paid a call on Van Tsin, who had been conferred upon the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador by the CPAFFC, conveyed CPAFFC's regards and thanks to him for his decades' selfless work for enhancing friendship between the Canadian and Chinese people.

The working group also paid official calls on the Canadian Fund for International Understanding through Culture, the Canadian Museums Association and the Christian Embassy of Canada as well as Senator Mac Harb and Sheryl Masters, manager of administration and protocol of the Victoria Municipal Government. □

Mayor of Gravenhurst John Klinck with members of the CPAFFC working group



Chinese Traditional Instruments Group of PLA Art Academy Performs in Germany

Wang Qing

At the invitation of the Villa Musica Foundation (VMF) of Rheinland-Pfalz State, Germany, a group of 7 musicians of the China Red Star Traditional Instruments Orchestra of the People's Liberation Army Art Academy, organized and sent by the CPAFFC and led by the well-known tenor Li Shuangjiang, visited the state from August 22 to September 3, 2008, during which they held 12 concerts.

The VMF, with whom the CPAFFC has maintained a cooperative relationship for 15 years, has received Chinese folk music groups many times and played a positive role in introducing Chinese music to the German audience. It made full preparations so that people of all ages from different regions could have access to Chinese music and know more about Chinese culture. Thanks to their careful arrangements, during the visit that lasted more than 10 days, the sweet melodies played by Chinese traditional stringed and woodwind instruments could be heard in the church, the mysterious castle of the Middle Ages, the auditorium of the conservatory, the multi-function hall of a financial institution or the crowded square of Baroque Festival.

The Chinese musicians set great store by the

performance tour. Before they left China, they had the programme printed beautifully with introduction of the performers and Chinese traditional musical instruments in Chinese and English for the audience who were not familiar with Chinese music. The two-hour programme they prepared contained different types of music for the audience to enjoy and appreciate. Ensembles such as *Tune of Collecting Tea Leaves* and *Jasmine Flower* with rich Han ethnic flavour held the German audience spellbound, and the ancient tune *Three Chants on Yangguan Pass* brought them to the frontier fortress of ancient China as they were amazed at the country's vastness through the music of ethnic minority groups. It was *Deep Night*, a tune from Peking Opera, pushed the concert to its climax. Besides the ensembles, there were also solos which provided the audience the opportunities to concentrate on each unique Chinese traditional musical instrument and appreciate its grace and charm. To give them a special enjoyment, the musicians performed several pieces of German music with the Chinese instruments. Every time the audience would feel happy and clap their hands with the rhythm of the music while humming to them-

(Continued on p.20)

Chinese Traditional Instruments Group giving a performance



For Children—Charity Performance for Rebuilding Schools in Sichuan Disaster Areas Held in Malaysia

Duan Beisheng

On July 28, the Thean Hou Temple in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, was thronged with people. “For Children—Charity Performance for Rebuilding Schools in China’s Sichuan Disaster Areas” presenting 25 excellent items selected from the 2008 Second Chinese-Malaysian Youth Dance Competition was held in the Thean Hou Hall of the temple. On the big screens at both sides of the stage was shown the videoed live telecast of the Chinese people’s courageous rescue and relief efforts in the earthquake areas. The atmosphere in the hall was both solemn and enthusiastic.

After the catastrophic May 12 earthquake, through consultation with the Malaysia-China Friendship Association (MCFA) and the Chinese Dancers Association (CDA), the CPAFFC soon decided to organize a delegation mainly consisting of youngsters

and children from Sichuan disaster areas to participate in the Second Chinese-Malaysian Youth Dance Competition on the basis of the success of the first one held in 2007 and give a charity performance. CPAFFC President Chen Haosu, MCFA President Dato’ Abdul Majid and Executive Vice President of the CDA Feng Shuangbai sent messages of congratulations respectively. The Sichuan Provincial Dancers Association amid their busy relief and rescue work organized in the shortest time a team chiefly composed of the students of the Dance School of Shifang City, one of the most seriously hit areas in the earthquake, to take part in the Second Chinese-Malaysian Youth Dance Competition. The Malaysian side also gathered performers from various teams that had won prizes in national competitions. Wherever the Chinese delegation went, it was accorded warm wel-

come by the people of various circles in Malaysia.

When learning that the Chinese performers, mostly from Sichuan disaster areas, was coming to Malaysia to take part in the dance competition and give a charity performance, the Chinese and English newspapers in Kuala Lumpur immediately gave extensive coverage about it. The *Berita Nasional Malaysia* (BERNAMA), *Nanyang Siang Pau*, *Sin Chew Daily*, *China Press* and *Guang Ming Ribao* published reports or articles in special columns, every day, even published special issues. In the newspapers, one could see headlines and related reports and photos such as “Shaking off Shadows of Earthquake, Young Victims of Sichuan Earthquake Come to Malaysia to Give Performances”, “Disasters Passed, Future is More Precious, Sichuan Girls Dance, Gaining a New Life”, “For Rebuilding

The Malaysia-China Friendship Association donating the money raised at the charity performance to the earthquake-stricken area in Sichuan, China



Schools for Children in Sichuan Disaster Areas, Thrilling are the Grand Performances”, etc. which played a good role in letting the broad masses of people know the dance competition and publicizing the significance of the charity performance.

At 7:30 p.m., the M.C. announced the start of the performance. Amid warm applause, Chinese young performers became the stars adored by the audience. Through their beautiful dance, they displayed the Chinese people’s indomitable spirit to fight against the earthquake. Such items as recitation of the poem *Hold Tight Mommy’s Hand, Baby!* given by children and singers from Sichuan disaster areas, the dance *Go Home on May 12* depicting the scene of the disaster areas, and the song *For You* specially composed by the Chopsticks Talent School of Malaysia for collecting donations moved the audience deeply. The M.C. interviewed Zhao Canlin, a small girl who escaped with her life from the ruins. When the girl told about the dangerous situation and her personal experience in the earthquake, the M.C. choked with sobs and the audience was in tears. The charity performance with rich and colourful items touched the audience to the depth of their souls and also gave them an artistic treat.

In recent years economic and trade relations between China and Malaysia have been developing continuously; by comparison, exchanges and cooperation in culture and art relatively lag behind. In Malaysia the Chinese descendants account for a big proportion in the country’s total population

and the Chinese language is widely taught. Because of ties of blood, the Chinese community in Malaysia cherishes Chinese culture and organizes dragon and lion dances on New Year’s Day and other festivals. They want very much to get in touch with relevant Chinese organizations such as the CPAFFC and the CDA and carry out high-level art exchanges and competitions in a planned way so as to promote the local teaching and learning of Chinese culture and further strengthen friendly relations between the Malaysian and Chinese people.

The organizing committee of the dance competition chose some of the Chinese youngsters who had suffered from the devastating earthquake to go abroad after having attended a dance training course for about one month in order to help them rebuild confidence through dance, which got unexpected good results. Most of the children went abroad and saw the sea for the first time. The hospitable Malaysian people and beautiful scenery helped them forget their sorrows and walk out of the shadow. The young survivors of the earthquake were deeply moved when they learned that there were so many uncles, aunts, grandpas and grandmas in other countries who cared about them and lived frugally to help the disaster areas. They said, the Chinese nation is a nation that reciprocates the favours it has received and there is true love among the people in face of calamities. They want to express their thanks to the Malaysian people by presenting beautiful dances in full vigour. When the last item *A Grateful*

Heart was performed, the audience applauded warmly to the rhythm of the dance and the joyous atmosphere reached the climax.

After the charity performance, MCFA President Majid, Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Cheng Yonghua and other well-known figures went onto the stage to give prizes to the young dancers of the two countries and expressed their warm congratulations on the success of the performance.

The Chinese community in Malaysia had already generously donated money several times to the Sichuan earthquake-hit areas, still a sum of 100,000 Malaysian ringgit (about 220,000 RMB yuan) was raised at this charity performance. The CPAFFC and the CDA, on behalf of the Chinese sponsors, expressed their thanks and accepted the donation promising to help build a dance school in Sichuan with the money.

Later, a commentary in the Malaysian *Guang Ming Ribao* wrote: The dance competition and the charity performance have shortened the distance between China’s earthquake-affected areas and Malaysia. Dozens of students from the dance school in the Sichuan disaster areas survived their collapsed schools and ruined homes, but the horrible scene of the earthquake is hard for them to forget. Now through dancing they have gained a new life and a new hope. They have extended their sincere thanks to the Malaysian people for giving them timely help and displayed their courage and confidence to march to the future under the sunshine. □

Cherishing Memory of Internationalist Fighter Dr. Richard Frey

Ren Minggao

Doctor Richard Frey, original name being Richard Stein, was born in Vienna on February 11, 1920. During his school days, he already took part in some activities organized by the Austrian Communist Party and got initial knowledge about Marxism. He loved science and attended medical training courses to learn how to operate X-ray machine, make laboratory tests, give protective inoculation and first-aid treatment, etc. In 1937 he joined the Communist Youth League led by the Austrian Communist Party. After Fascist Germany annexed Austria on March 13, 1938, he was blacklisted by the secret service and could be arrested at any time because he opposed Hitler. In December 1938, the underground Austrian Communist Party organization told him to evacuate to other places immediately. In January 1939, Frey who was only 19 years old took leave of his family, boarded an ocean liner and went to Shanghai hoping to find and join the Eighth Route Army led by the Communist Party of China (CPC). He knew that at that time China was fighting against the Japanese fascist aggression and the Eighth Route Army led by the CPC was fighting bloody battles against the aggressors. So even when still aboard the liner he started to inquire about how he could find the Eighth Route Army and got to know that

Madame Soong Ching Ling in Hong Kong could help him. When the liner berthed at Hong Kong for half a day, he went ashore to look for the Eighth Route Army, but failed to find it as he was unfamiliar with the place and people there. On January 15, 1939 the liner arrived in Shanghai. Helped by some European in exile, he stayed in a reception centre run by a charity organization and worked temporarily in a hospital for infectious diseases and at the same time tried to find out the whereabouts of the Eighth Route Army. Later he worked in hospitals in Tianjin and Beiping. Introduced by the CPC underground organization in Beiping, the 21-year-old Frey at last got to Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei Military Command. Commander Nie Rongzhen received him and invited him to work as a teacher of infectious diseases in the Bethune Medical School in Gegong Village of Tangxian County, Hebei Province. Dr. Kotnis also taught in that medical school where Jiang Yizhen served as principal.

Dr. Frey worked very hard. He spent a lot of time in preparing every lesson. He first wrote the lecture notes in German, then with the help of Chinese comrades and the dictionary, translated the notes into Chinese with phonetic symbols. He studied Chinese hard and made improvement quickly. Besides teach-

Dr. Richard Frey in Yan'an in 1945



ing, he also gave treatment to the sick and wounded. Living and working conditions in the border area were very poor, and there were very few medical examination apparatus and instruments. Once, a comrade suffered from typhoid fever. Thanks to the strict precautionary measures taken by Dr. Frey, no transmission of the disease occurred in the school. Dr. Frey had a heavy working task and lived under poor conditions. But he overcame all difficulties and lived a hard but happy life as other comrades.

In Lingshou and Chenzhuang in the border area, he gave a lecture entitled Diagnosis and Treatment of Scabies, Tuberculosis and Malaria at the inauguration of the Research Institute of Natural Science and then attended the meeting on hygiene held by the Military Command. At the inauguration of the Medical Instruction Committee of the Military Command he was elected member of the committee. Since then, he took the lead in teaching infectious diseases in the Norman Bethune Medical School. Wherever there was infectious disease, there was he.

Dr. Frey was one of the three doctors who stayed in the Medical School for the longest time: first Dr. Norman Bethune, then Dr. Kotnis and him. In 1944, he went to Yan'an and in the early 1945 he saw penicillin strain and read about it in some papers provided by American friends to the Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Area. Supported by the medical department of the Military Command, he set up a laboratory in Zhangjiakou, began his research on the production of penicillin and achieved success. Penicillin, one of the most effective antibiotics in the world, was invented by the American medical circles. Through Dr. Frey's painstaking research, it was produced in the backward border area, contributing greatly to protecting the health of the people and cadres and enhancing strength against Japanese ag-

gression.

Dr. Frey loved China. In 1952 he applied for naturalization. Since then he worked in the information section of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and was elected member of the National Committee of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. In his last years, he offered to donate his remains to China's medical cause and asked to scatter his ashes in Tangxian County of Hebei Province, the revolutionary base where he had once fought.

Dr. Frey passed away at the age of 84 on November 16, 2004. He had dedicated all his life to the cause of the Chinese liberation and construction.

During his lifetime, he was awarded and commended many times by the Chinese government and received the Medal of Independence and Freedom and the Medal of Liberation of the People's Republic of China and won the prize for contribution to science awarded by the Ministry of Health. In 2005, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World People's Anti-Fascist War, his son, on behalf of him, accepted the commemorative gold medal of the victory of the War of Resistance.

Dr. Frey's tomb is in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs in Juncheng of Tangxian County where he once fought. The tombs of Dr. Bethune and Dr. Kotnis are also in this cemetery. In front of his tomb is his white marble bust and on the hexagonal stone seat behind his bust there is a big white marble globe with the map of the world.

With the completion of his tomb a new bridge of friendship has been built to further promote friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Austrian people. □



The tomb of Dr. Richard Frey

In Memory of Jordan M. Phillips

—China's Bethune from the U.S.

Zhang Yan

In the vocabularies used by the Chinese today, “Bethune” is the ultimate synonym for the noble figure. It came from the period of anti-Japanese war when a Canadian physician Norman Bethune came to the frontiers of heavy gun fire to treat the great many Chinese wounded soldiers and eventually died in the anti-fascist battlefield himself due to exhaustion and surgical contraction. “What kind of spirit is this”, as Mao Zedong asked in 1939 in his famous article *In memory of Norman Bethune*, “that makes a foreigner selflessly adopt the cause of the Chinese people’s liberation as his own?” “Bethune spirit,” he answered, “his utter devotion to others without any thought of self, was shown in his great sense of responsibility in his work and the great warm-heartedness towards all comrades and the people.”

It was forty years later, an American gynecologist, Jordan M. Phillips, came to China which has suffered a ten-year rampage of the “cultural revolution” and just started its new era of reform and opening up to the outside world. In this well-populated country of ancient civilization, he was surprised to find that not only the physicians unaware of the development of modern medicine in the outside world, the medical books they used to have were

shunned as “capitalist poison”. His own conscience as a physician told him to do something to change such an intolerable condition. Since then he made the determination that his first task is to help modernize Chinese medical field. And this has been his thirty-year endeavor. He has shipped to China donations of seventy 20-ton pallets of medical books and instruments which were then given to thousands of Chinese hospitals, medical universities, colleges and libraries. For these donations, he and his wife Mary supported themselves for more than 80 trips over twenty years.

Jordan M. Phillips, who was born in 1923, became a gynecologist of great reputation in America quite early. His greatest contribution to medicine is his introduction of gynecological laparoscope from Europe. This advanced technology solved some difficult surgical problems of gynecology. It caused a great sensation and now considered a milestone in gynecology. He founded the American Association of the Gynecologic Laparoscopists in 1971 and remained its honorary president until his death.

In 1979, then newly retired Dr. Phillips and his wife Mary came to visit China for the first time right after attending an academic symposium in South Korea. It was not China’s Great

Wall or Forbidden City that interested him most, but most importantly the conditions of medicine in China. While visiting hospitals and medical universities, he was surprised to find severe shortage of medical books and the poor medical technology lagged way behind current international standard. He learned from conversation with Chinese colleagues that this was a condition caused by the turmoil of the “cultural revolution”. In Guangzhou, he was invited to speak to some twenty doctors about his gynecological laparoscopy technology and practice. Quite unexpectedly, the news about him spread quickly by word of mouth. When he arrived at his next stop Hangzhou airport, local hospitals sent five limousines and twenty doctors as representatives to welcome him with great enthusiasm. More to Phillips’ surprise, over a thousand attended his lecture and the hall was jammed. Chinese colleagues’ enthusiasm and yearning for advanced science and technology deeply moved this American doctor. With a strong sense of responsibility, he made a determination to do something for China’s medical field.

Later part of that year saw the Phillips couple came to China again with several boxes of medical books and new instruments. While giving these gifts to Chi-



Dr. Jordan M. Phillips and his wife Mary with a truck-load of medical books to be shipped to China

nese hospitals this American doctor performed several surgeries using these new instruments as a demonstration. He left deep impression on his Chinese colleagues and raised their strong desire for these advanced technology. But he discovered that for a country as populous and big as China several boxes of books and several surgeries are just like several drops of water in the ocean. The key task is to import the new medical technology to China and enable Chinese doctors to use them and even to improve them. Therefore he used his connections in the global gynecology network to organize experienced doctors from many countries to come to China one team after another to perform demonstration and training.

Phillips couple's greatest contribution to China is perhaps their organization of large scale donation of medical books. Since 1981 they openly solicited in America medical books and jour-

nals for Chinese hospitals, medical institutions and libraries. In the beginning, they only timidly asked for "duplicate" and "slightly outdated" books. But very unexpectedly many books, journals and instruments came from all over the places without stop to jam their living room, garage and even bedrooms and they had to hire people to help handle these materials. They soon realized they needed to transform their "guerilla" into a greater scale "battle" in order to adapt to the situation. They soon formed with their American colleagues the "American medical books for China committee". They secured a storage of over ten thousand square feet, hired specialists for library indexing, categorizing and packaging, and registered the organization as a nonprofit. In an early survey in 1987, seven hundred libraries among one thousand two hundred American libraries participated in this donation project.

For such a volunteer en-

deavor, the Ministry of Health of China offered close coordination and support. The Chinese oceanic shipping company charged preferred price for shipping these books from America to Tianjin Harbour. Tianjin Health Bureau and Medical College jointly formed an organization to distribute the materials to hospitals, medial institutions and libraries all over China. This effort snowballed and more people from both sides got involved. To make connections, facilitate, inspect and serve better, the Phillips couple constantly flew across the Pacific Ocean and became frequent guests of the Chinese Ministry of Health, Tianjin Health Bureau and Medical College and Beijing Hotel. Although there is no profit to make and all expenses of travel were covered by themselves, they never grew weary and the more they did the happier they became. They soon expanded their American committee into an international committee to solicit books of advanced technology world wide. Year after year, the seed of friendship blossomed and came to fruition. The Chinese beneficiaries sent many letters to thank them. These are not just simple thank you letters. They sincerely tell them how these books were like bonfires in the snow to give doctors in the remote areas much needed blessings. Some of them invited the couple to visit the remote Chinese border regions.

One might ask out of curiosity what makes the Phillips couple

do what they do. They do not seem to give a clear explanation themselves except that as their feelings towards the devoted Chinese colleagues become stronger and they are more and more willing to make contributions to the Chinese people. They are particularly moved by the noble example of one of their honorable medical colleagues, the famed gynecologist Lin Qiaozhi. When Lin died in 1983, Dr. Phillips volunteered himself in sending physicians in America and other countries thousands of letters calling for Chinese government to issue Lin Qiaozhi memorial stamp to permanently commemorate the great figure. In October of 1990 his effort came to reality when the stamp was issued with a conference called on by the Chinese Ministry of Health "Learning from Lin Qiaozhi's Spirit of Unselfish Devotion", at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Dr. Phillips gave a passionate invited speech at that conference.

To commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the "Med-

ical Books for China", the Chinese Ministry of Health held a celebration conference in Beijing on September 12, 1991. Personally chaired the conference, Minister Chen Minzhang highly praised Phillips couple's spirit of internationalism and awarded Dr. Phillips the gold medal, Chinese Health Medal. Only two other foreign medical dignitaries won this medal of Chinese nobility since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. But Phillips is the first American to win it. On that occasion this American physician compared the cause of book donation as "a little seed growing into a big tree and bearing fruit when it finds suitable soil, water and sunlight". He said: "Let us all carefully grow this tree. People tell us: you have done so much hard work! We say: what we do is our great pleasure because the benefit of these medical books from various places cannot be measured!"

Unfortunately this American physician of great determination left us on July 29, 2008 at age 85.

learning institutions, hoping to find a university or a college in the province for all-directional

In the last ten years he had been gallantly fighting another war against cancer which now claimed his life. But the cause he founded, medical books for China, still continues.

This author is honored to have known this American physician, Dr. Jordan Phillips, China's Bethune for over twenty years. We became very close friends to share many things. Every time he came to China his first call was always to me: "We are here!" His clear and endearing voice of joy will always resonate in my ears. But his untimely passing means more than my personal loss of a true friend. It is an immeasurable loss of a great friend for the people of China. He will forever live in the heart of the Chinese people.

Zhang Yan, formerly first deputy editor-in-chief of *China Today* magazine, *People's Daily* first correspondent stationed in Washington DC (1979-81), Fulbright Scholar-in-residence in University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (1988-89).

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the farming technology. In cultural exchange, Shandong Province's participation in the China Culture Festival in Norway can also be attributed to the bridging role played by members of the student delegations. In education cooperation, the Norwegian students' social practice carried out in Shandong for seven consecutive years has enabled Norwegian School of Management BI to have a comprehensive understanding of Shandong and built up friendship with it. The School will send a delegation to Shandong this year on an inspection tour of its higher

cooperation. It will be the first cooperation partner the School seeks in China. □

I love China



Young Envoys of China-Japan Friendship

Guo Ning



Chinese children at the Ritsumeikan Junior & Senior High School in Japan

A 48-member Chinese children's friendly exchange delegation, organized and sent by the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), paid a goodwill visit to Japan from July 13 to 21 at the invitation of Kyocera Corporation of Japan. It was the eleventh delegation under the friendship-with-China exchange programme launched at the initiation and care of Mr. Kazuo Inamori, founder of Kyocera. Up

to 2007, ten delegations with a total of 250 primary and middle school students from Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Dongguan have visited Japan.

This delegation was composed of primary and middle school students and teachers from Beijing and Tianjin. It was the first time these teenagers traveled abroad, boarded a plane to fly in the sky and stepped on the soil of another country. It was the first time they visited the homeland of animated cartoons such as *Conan*, *Chibi Maruko Chan* and *Doraemon* and heard the strange but somewhat familiar language. The youngsters were full of curiosity about everything new they came into contact.

Under the meticulous arrangement of

Kyocera, the delegation toured Osaka, Kyoto, Tokyo, Chiba, Kagoshima and Fukuoka, conducted friendly exchanges with the students of Ritsumeikan Junior & Senior High School, had study tours of Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Centre, Kyoto International Manga Museum, the National Museum of Engineering Science and Innovation and Ariake Water Reclamation Centre, visited the world cultural her-



Envoys of China-Norway Friendship

Lin Nan

In the summer of 2008, the seventh student delegation of Norwegian School of Management BI consisting of 28 members and headed by Jan Evensmo, associate professor of the School and honorary citizen of Shandong, visited Shandong Province.

The visit to China by the student delegations of Norwegian School of Management BI started after the visit to Norway by Wu Aiying, deputy secretary of the Shandong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China

in 2001, during which the Shandong Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Norway-China Friendship Association (NCFA) signed an agreement on friendly cooperation. In 2002, NCFA President Jan Evensmo suggested that students of Norwegian School of Management BI visit Shandong as the start of the implementation of the agreement. His suggestion received positive response from Shandong. Now the School has listed the visit to Shandong as an

elective course of social practice and organized seven delegations to the province over the past seven years without interruption. The number of students participating in the project grew every year. Even in 2003 when SARS epidemic hit China and the number of people entering China and Shandong dropped drastically, there was still a big increase in the number of students taking part in the project. This clearly showed the students' acceptance of the project.

The Norwegian students visiting Taishan Medical College



itage—the Temple of Golden Pavilion, the Tokyo Disneyland, Kyocera Headquarters and the Kyocera Kokubu Plant in Kagoshima. The students were invited to stay with the families of Kyocera staffers where they spent two pleasant and unforgettable days with their Japanese “mums” and “dads”, “brothers” and “sisters”. During the visit, the Chinese children gained a lot of fresh knowledge, broadened their vision, increased their understanding of China's neighbour Japan and forged deep friendship

with the Japanese children. They experienced the efforts made by various circles of the two countries to promote Sino-Japanese friendship, and at the same time, with their singing and laughter, their friendship and genuine feelings, they conveyed the friendly sentiments of the Chinese children towards Japan, to every one receiving them. They were very happy that they could contribute their bit to China-Japan friendship and proudly called themselves young envoys of China-Japan friendship. □

Launching of Sinhala Book *People's China*

Jinith de Silva (Sri Lanka)

Mr. Amaradasa Gunawardena, the president of the Sri Lanka China Society presented the first copy of the book *People's China* to President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka on Oct. 2, 2008 in the Presidential Residence "Temple Trees". Ambassador Ye Dabo of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka, Guthila Wickramasinghe, secretary of the Society, Wilmon Wickramasinghe and Jinith de Silva, co-editors of the book were present on the occasion.

The Sinhala book was published by the Sri Lanka China Society to educate the Sri Lankan school children on Chinese history, culture, economy and various places of interest.

This book was published with the assistance of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Education. A number of eminent writers have contributed invaluable articles to make it a very interesting book. This book will be distributed free of charge among schools. □



It was the first time for all the participating students to visit China and Shandong was the destination of their China visit. This enabled them to forge special feelings for Shandong and gain more knowledge of the province.

The visit has enhanced understanding and friendship. Now over 200 people in Norway have made the 3-week visit to China with Shandong as the main part of their visit. They have acquired perceptual knowledge of the province and forged profound

friendship with the people there.

The visit has promoted exchanges and cooperation. The visit of the student delegations over the past seven years has given impetus to bilateral exchanges in all fields and led to cooperation in many areas. In governmental exchange, it has facilitated visits to Norway by leading members of Shandong Province and the establishment of long-term stable links between the Shandong Provincial People's Congress and the Norwegian Parliament. In economic

cooperation, some students came with projects to Shandong to look for cooperation opportunities after they started working. For instance, plant test for the growing medium produced from coconut husks being carried out by the company COCOPEL at the Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, if successful, will be popularized in the province, which will greatly improve the quality of in-house culture medium, reduce the cost and upgrade

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CHINA AND AFRICA: THE DAWN OF AN EXCITING ERA

Adama Gaye (Senegal)

As the world's oldest-centralised nation-state, and now hosting more than 1.3 billion people, China is definitely not an ordinary nation. The powerful dragon, it has come to symbolise, is drawing attention, raising eyebrows, and generating mixed reactions.

China's first contacts with Africa date back to the 2nd century BC. But what has been considered as the first significant encounter occurred in the year 1405. It was the year when, leading a fleet of 300 boats, the renowned admiral Zheng He came to the Eastern Coast of the continent. Souvenirs of Chinese porcelain and other gadgets left behind, in exchange of African animals taken away to China, are the main facts still remembered of that naval odyssey. As if they predicted what would happen few centuries later, those first visiting Chinese managed also to leave behind the image of a peaceful people not coming to Africa to grab her territories and resources.

The second time China embraced Africa was in the mid-1950s. It was a time when, coming out of a protracted civil war, China had no other choice but to break the diplomatic isolation she was experienced, immediately after the proclamation, in October 1949, of the People's Republic of China.

The third China African Sa-

fari is now underway. This time around, the dragon has shown how nimble it can be. All started after the launch of China's economic reforms which led to the withdrawal of the State from many economic entities, freed the dynamism of its people and forced to exile thousands of retrenched workers sacked from downsized State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

For its part, China continued discreetly to advance its positions by sending its Foreign Affairs Minister to Africa, at the start of every year, from 1992.

None of its Western competitors, even those with long colonial years of presence in Africa, has done as much as China to engage politically, at the highest level, the continent.

Its current President and Secretary General of the Communist Party, Hu Jintao, and his predecessor, Jiang Zemin, have visited the continent at various times.

The Safari was intensified from 1993 when China realised that it could no longer satisfy its energetic needs with her own local production.

China's Africa efforts started paying off at the beginning of the 21st century. This forced her competitors, mainly from Western nations, to adjust to the new Pax-China, economically-driven, now emerging in Africa.

When the China-Africa meeting, originally a Ministerial

one, was raised to a strategic level of Head of States and Government for the November 2006 Summit, the rest of the world was only left to wonder how China did it.

The model, now emulated by Africa's traditional, bilateral and multilateral partners, has benefited Africa. All Africa's external interlocutors are eager to be seen, at long last, as taking her as seriously as the Chinese have done.

China has the financial muscles to play a dominant role in Africa compared with her cash-trapped Western competitors. It has accumulated \$1.5 trillion of foreign reserves, as a result of an effective export strategy.

With now more than 800,000 Chinese living, working and running small shops in Africa, with over 800 small and medium businesses, involved in manufacturing and bidding for construction of ports, railways, hospitals, administrative buildings and other facilities, usually at a very competitive price, using comparatively advantageous labour and other factors of production, there is no doubt that all the foreign actors, eager to be relevant in Africa, should pay notice—and yes start getting worried.

Without being caught in any China promotion, one can only observe that it is a country standing today in sharp contrast with the West.

With the World Bank and the

OneWorld OneDream

Reno Calleja (Malta)

This was the slogan chosen by China when it won its bid to hold the Olympic Games eight years ago. The Chinese prepared for these Olympics for seven whole years. If the opening was a spectacular event, emphasizing China's rich and ancient history, the closing ceremony was no less spectacular. With their ingeniousness and inventiveness, their fantastic use of manpower and technology, the Beijing Olympic Games were hailed as the best Olympics ever.

China also triumphed in most of the competitions and ended up winning the largest number of medals among all competing nations. China wanted to show the world that the enormous economic progress it is making is not accidental. Napoleon once said that China is a sleeping giant. He added, "When it wakes up the world will tremble." And the World did tremble and marveled at the spectacle when China organized the Olympics. The success came at a cost though. China spent a large sum of

IMF in disarray, China has been able to move her African agenda with money but also mastery of public relations.

A key component of China's Africa policy, soft-power is likely to reach its culminating point when the Beijing Olympics starts from August 8, 2008.

In rolling out her soft-power strategy, China uses words that make business easy to conduct. Talking about win-win relationship, friendship, cooperation, equality, respect of sovereignty, good-will, it gives a boost to her partners in Africa by rehabilitat-

ing their States after so many years of slashing of their attributes under the Western-inspired political and economic structural adjustment policies.

China brings a home-grown model of economic recovery that worked without the involvement of any foreign advisor, institution or bilateral tutor. Discipline, hard work, enlightened and nationalist leadership have made the difference.

China is in Africa primarily because she needs Africa for her own development and diplomatic standing in the world.

money to make these games the most memorable ever. But as a friend of China for more than 30 years, I think that the tremendous success enjoyed by China and the enormous goodwill and admiration China attracted through the Olympics, must now be followed by deeds. China has already done wonders to help the earthquake victims of Sichuan. The serious and determined way it tackled the problems left after that terrible quake of May this year, showed that although the country was fully occupied with organizing the Olympics, when disaster struck the Chinese leaders were there for the people. Now that the Olympics have ended and the world's eyes are perhaps not so much focused on China as during the Olympics, the Chinese government and its people must not abandon the people of Sichuan. All efforts must continue to house the 5 million homeless and to rebuild schools and lend a helping hand to the people of Sichuan. The Western media will attack China if the Chinese people will now fail in their social obligations. China must also address the gap that is widening between rich and poor. This gap is the seed for social discontent.

The Chinese leadership is aware of this and they are addressing the problem with a serious approach. One World One Dream was the logo for the Olympics. Let this logo guide China in the years to come.

The author is president of the Malta China Friendship Society.

To achieve this, Africa should quickly become a better student of China, meaning that it should introduce the study of China, its language, its business practices, its psychological determinants, in the curriculum of the continent's schools and universities.

The author is senior Senegalese journalist. He has written the book *The Dragon and the Ostrich* on the development of China-Africa relations. This article is excerpts of his speech at the African Union.