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Front cover: The opening ceremony of 2012 Tianjin International Children's Culture and Art Festival jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, China International Culture Association, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the Tianjin Municipal People's Government (July 29)

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Tenth National Council Meeting of CPAFFC Held in Beijing

Wang Jun Geng Zifeng

The Meeting of the Tenth National Council of the CPAFFC was held in Beijing on May 15. More than 300 council members from the central and provincial (regional and municipal) organizations and all social circles attended the meeting. Xi Jinping, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Political Bureau and Vice President of the PRC, met with all the participants and made an important speech. Li Yuanchao, Ling Jihua, Uyunqing, Jiang Shusheng, Chen Changzhi, Sang Guowei, Dai Bingguo, Bai Lichen, Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, Zheng Wantong, Jiang Zhenghua and Gu Xiulian also attended the meeting. State Councilor Dai Bingguo made a speech at the opening session.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Tenth National Council were elected, and 11 honorary advisers and 12 advisers were appointed; the Report on the Work of the Executive Committee of the Ninth CPAFFC National Council and the report on the Amendments of the Statutes of the CPAFFC were deliberated and approved, and the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship was conferred. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin spoke about the Association's tasks and goals in the next five years. The meeting



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping making an important speech when meeting the participants of the 10th National Council Meeting of the CPAFFC

reviewed the Association's past five years' work and clarified the direction of the development of people-to-people diplomacy, and achieved full success.

Xi Jinping Meets with the Participants

In his speech Vice President Xi pointed out, people-to-people diplomacy is the basic work for enhancing friendship between peoples and promoting the development of relationships between countries, and an important component part of the country's total diplomacy.

The leadership of the Party and State had always attached great importance to people-to-people diplomacy. The leaders of the country and the Party including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao took the lead and made friends extensively and forged close and profound friendship with them. Under their guidance and with their care, people-to-people diplomacy had played an important role in breaking the blockade against New China imposed by imperialists, serving the country's reform and opening up and modernization drive

and boosting exchanges and cooperation between the people of China and other countries.

Xi stressed that, in the new century, people-to-people diplomacy was of even greater importance and would play a more prominent role in a wider arena. The CPC and the State would, as always, support the development of the cause of people-to-people diplomacy, further enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the people of China and the rest of the world and strive to win more favorable external conditions for continuing to make the most of the opportunities in this important strategic period of national development to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Vice President Xi fully affirmed the great amount of effective work carried out by the CPAFFC over the years in enhancing friendship and promoting practical cooperation in various respects between the people of China and other countries. In this present new stage, people-to-people diplomatic work should be further strengthened. The CPAFFC, an important organization in China, had for years played an irreplaceable role in promoting people-to-people diplomacy. He also gave positive appraisal of the China-US Governors Forum and other mechanism for exchanges between Chinese and foreign local governments sponsored by the CPAFFC. In conclusion of his speech, he set a clear demand for the strong future development of people-to-people diplomacy. He hoped, at the current new historical starting point, the CPAFFC would adapt itself to the changing domestic and international situation; persist in focusing on the

central task, serving the nation's and the world's overall interests; further expand the areas, enrich the contents and create new mechanism of its work in the spirit of emancipating the mind and daring to make innovations; more consciously play a leading role in promoting the development of people-to-people diplomacy, a key role in carrying out public diplomacy and a bridging role in boosting cooperation between Chinese and foreign local governments so as to achieve new successes and make new contributions to the development of the country and world peace.

Dai Bingguo Speaks at the Opening Session

State Councilor Dai Bingguo said that, in the past five years, the world had undergone tremendous changes and adjustments. Under the leadership of the Central Committee of the CPC with Comrade Hu Jintao as General Secretary, in the face of a complex international situation, China's diplomacy had braved the winds and waves, properly reacted, and created a good international environment for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and served the country's interests of safeguarding State sovereignty, security and development. The CPAFFC had conducted extensive people-to-people friendly exchanges, made great efforts to consolidate the mass social base for the country's relations with other coun-



State Councilor Dai Bingguo addressing the opening ceremony

tries, effectively carried out various activities to promote international cooperation, vigorously developed public diplomacy, cultural diplomacy and city diplomacy and taken an active part in multilateral diplomacy in the field of international nongovernmental organizations, and made remarkable achievements and effectively coordinated with the country's overall diplomacy.

The world could not develop without China, nor could China develop in isolation from the rest of the world. The next 10 years was a period of important strategic opportunities for China. It was imperative to create a good international environment for the country's development, and so it was crucial to win understanding and support from the broad masses of people in the world. People-to-people diplomacy could do a great deal and had broad prospects. People-to-people diplomatic workers shouldered a glorious mission and heavy tasks. The CPAFFC should continue to create new situations for people-to-people diplomacy and serve the country's total diplomacy and economic and social development more vigorously and effectively and serve local reform and opening up more fruitfully.



Chen Haosu, former CPAFFC President, presiding over the election of the new Executive Committee

The Meeting Proceeds Smoothly

Members of the Executive Committee of the Tenth CPAFFC National Council were elected at the meeting. Li Xiaolin continues as President; Jing Dunquan, Feng Zuoku and Li Jian Ping were elected Vice Presidents, and Lin Yi Secretary General.

The meeting appointed eleven CPAFFC honorary advisors and twelve

advisors.

At the meeting, the *Report on the Work of the Executive Committee of the Ninth CPAFFC National Council* was delivered in the form of video, briefly summarizing CPAFFC's people-to-people diplomatic work in the past five years. President Li Xiaolin gave a report entitled *Enhance Strategic Thinking and Promote Development in a Scientific Way to Create a New Situation in the People-to-People Diplomatic Work in the New Period*. She proposed the strategy for the development of the CPAFFC, the focus of the work and the plan of internal resources building in the ensuing five years.

The amended Statutes of the CPAFFC were adopted and 10 organizations and 10 individuals who had made outstanding contributions to the cause of friendship between China and other countries received the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship.

The participants, in line with the spirit of the leaders' speeches, expressed their views freely and put forward suggestions on such subjects as the CPAFFC's work and development of the cause of people-to-people diplomacy in a scientific way.

In her speech at the closing session, Li Xiaolin said the world today was undergoing complex and profound changes and China was going through extensive and profound reforms. The cause of people-to-people diplomacy faced both opportunities for development and new challenges. The CPAFFC should seize firmly opportunities in this important strategic period for China's development, do the people-to-people diplomatic work in a down-to-earth manner and further raise the capability and level of people-to-people diplomatic work and strive to create a new situation in people-to-people diplomatic work. ■

Ten organizations receiving the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship



Honorary Advisors and Advisors to Tenth National Council of CPAFFC

Honorary Advisors

Buhe, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China-Poland Friendship Association

Tomur Dawamat, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the Chinese-Arab Friendship Association

Peng Peiyun, former Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Ismail Amat, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China-Egypt Friendship Association

He Luli, former Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Cheng Siwei, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association

Jiang Zhenghua, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China-India Friendship Association

Song Jian, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Hu Qili, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Wang Wenyuan, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Luo Haocai, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Advisors

Lu Yongxiang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Uyunqing, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Chairperson of the Chinese Committee of the China-Spain Forum

Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Jiang Shusheng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Chen Changzhi, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Sang Guowei, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

Bai Lichen, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and President of the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association

Zheng Wantong, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Gu Xiulian, former Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the China-ASEAN Association

Tang Jiakuan, former State Councilor, and President of the China-Japan Friendship Association

Xu Kuangdi, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and President of the China-US People's Friendship Association

Report on the Work of the Executive Committee of the Ninth National Council of CPAFFC

(Excerpts)



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin delivering the report

Since the convening of its Ninth National Council Meeting in May 2007, the CPAFFC, taking full-scale promotion of people-to-people diplomacy as the focus of its work and constantly seeking innovation, has advanced with the times, planned in a scientific way and played a positive role in the country's endeavor to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The four main aspects of its work in the past five years can be summed up as:

It has earnestly implemented projects of exchanges agreed upon by leaders of our country and foreign heads of state, made great efforts to coordinate with the state leaders' visits to other countries, carried out the work centering on hot-spots and focal issues, promoted governmental

ties through people-to-people contacts and worked hard to contribute to sustaining the important period of strategic opportunities for China's development.

People-to-people friendly exchanges have become more active. In the past five years, the CPAFFC has received 1,257 delega-

tions with 15,063 person/times from more than 100 countries and sent 591 delegations consisting of 8,628 person/times to more than 80 countries.

Friendly exchanges with other countries have produced impact. The CPAFFC has held 451 large-scale activities, about 100 more than the previous National Council. Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang and other State leaders have many times met foreign guests invited by the CPAFFC and attended important foreign exchange events organized by the Association.

It has vigorously served the reform and opening up of Chinese localities. The CPAFFC has actively supported international exchange activities carried out by provinces and municipalities, and, through the establishment of

international friendship-cities/provinces relations, greatly boosted exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and foreign local governments. In the past five years, 457 pairs of friendship-city/province ties have been established between China and other countries, 116 pairs more during the tenure of the previous National Council.

Review of the Past Five-Year's Work

I. Earnestly Fulfill the Important National Tasks

In the past five years, the CPAFFC has given full play to the advantages of people-to-people diplomacy, and successfully fulfilled the important tasks entrusted by the country.

Taking part in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The CPAFFC invited 102 important foreign guests from 17 countries and regions to attend the grand National Day celebration and the evening gala in Tiananmen Square in Beijing and contributed photos and arranged exhibitions on people-to-people diplomacy as part of *The Splendid 60 Years—Achievement Exhibition on the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China*.

Going all out to support earthquake relief work. When the "5.12"

Wenchuan earthquake occurred, the CPAFFC immediately sent a message of sympathy to the Sichuan quake-hit areas and called on friendship organizations and friendly personages at home and abroad to give donations. It collected about 2.9 million RMB, along with tents and other relief materials and donated them to the disaster areas, implemented the “Friendship Home” project to improve living conditions for the people in the disaster areas and set up the “Panda Love Fund” to help the children to continue their lives and study in the disaster areas.

Vigorously supporting the Beijing Olympic Games. The CPAFFC invited important foreign dignities including former US President George Bush and former Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Koichi Kato to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, organized Chinese and French young people to watch the Olympic Games together so as to enhance understanding and friendship and promote the Olympic spirit.

Actively supporting the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. The CPAFFC held the Second China International Friendship Cities Conference and mounted an exhibition with the theme of “City Cooperation Leads to a Better Life” in Shanghai, and invited important foreign guests including former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda to visit the Shanghai World Expo.

Holding activities marking anniversaries of diplomatic ties between China and other countries. Over the past five

years, the CPAFFC organized more than 160 activities in celebration of anniversaries of diplomatic relations between China and foreign countries. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, it staged the *Looking Back After 30 Years—Photo Exhibition on 30th Anniversary of China-US Diplomatic Relations*, to which President Hu Jintao and the then US President George W. Bush sent video messages of congratulations. The exhibition toured about 20 Chinese and American cities and regions and got warm response from the people of the two countries. In commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between China and Japan and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and past and present Japanese prime ministers attended activities organized by the CPAFFC and delivered important speeches.

II. Strive to Win Understanding and Support from Important For-

eign Political Figures

Important political figures of various countries have great influence on their own countries’ domestic and foreign policies, and follow with interest the impact of China’s development on their own countries. Thus, in contacts, the CPAFFC has always elaborated China’s stand and practice on peaceful development so as to win understanding and support.

Deepening its friendly relations with important political figures of neighboring and developing countries. The CPAFFC has been committed to consolidating and deepening its friendship with neighboring and developing countries. It has kept close contact with politicians of these countries, and CPAFFC leaders met with the Presidents of Zambia and Namibia, Thai Prime Minister, the Princess of Brunei, the supreme leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the General Secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party of Myanmar, reaching consensus with them on developing bilateral friendly relations. It brought into full play the role of the China-ROK Expert Joint

The meeting in session



Research Project—a summit project decided by the respective heads of state—to conduct strategic and prospective researches on further enhancing mutual strategic trust, deepening partnership and promoting pragmatic cooperation. In cooperation with the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, it established the Chinese and Vietnamese People Friendship Forum and successfully held the forum three times. It has now become an important mechanism to enhance mutual trust, bridge differences and consolidate the traditional friendship between China and Vietnam.

Strengthening cooperation with important US political figures. In the past five years, the CPAFFC intensified its efforts to conduct exchanges with important US political figures and established good cooperative relations with former US presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush. The Conference on China-US Relations jointly initiated by the CPAFFC and George Bush exerted great influence and achieved remarkable results. The conference, to which the two governments have attached great importance, as well as attracting wide media attention, has become the highest-level non-governmental conference between the two countries. In the past five years, the CPAFFC organized and sent three *Say It As It Is* delegations to visit the United States. This was an innovation in exchanges between common Chinese people and US congressmen.

Carrying out frequent exchanges with important Japanese political leaders. The CPAFFC invited former Japanese Prime Ministers Yukio Hatoyama, Yasuo Fukuda and Taro Aso

and various political party delegations to visit China. During Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's visit to China at the end of 2007, the CPAFFC held a breakfast meeting to welcome him, with Premier Wen Jiabao in attendance. At meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and leading members of the Japanese friendship-with-China organizations in 2011, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin reached common understanding on promoting the development of bilateral relations.

Enhancing understanding and friendship with important political figures of European countries. The China-Spain Forum is a project of cooperation reached by the respective heads of state. The fifth and sixth meetings were held in 2009 and 2011 respectively, at which cooperation in many fields as well as jointly coping with economic crisis were discussed. In 2008, the CPAFFC held the China-France Relations Forum to mark the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties. During the Turkmenistan President's visit to China in 2011, the CPAFFC organized a ceremony for the publication of the Chinese version of his three books. This was the first formal activity of his visit to China, and, being attended by the nine Deputy Prime Ministers who had come with him on the visit, it greatly enhanced the friendly relations between China and Turkmenistan.

III. Effectively Propel Exchanges Between Local Governments of China and other Countries

Exchanges between Chinese and foreign local governments featuring direct contact, high efficiency, broad areas and strong complementarities,

play a significant role in the local social and economic development. In the past five years, the CPAFFC took promotion of exchanges between Chinese and foreign local governments as a major work, international friendship cities as the carrier to propel exchanges and economy as the key to boost cooperation in various fields. It set up a series of platforms for exchanges that achieved good results such as the China-US governors exchange mechanism, the China-Japan governors forum, the discussion session between the local leaders of Russia's Volga Federal District and Chinese provinces and municipalities, the International Friendship Cities Conference, the BRICS friendship cities and local governments cooperation forum, the China-Japan-ROK friendship cities conference, the symposium on cooperation between Chinese and African friendship cities and Local Governments, local government forum between China and the Canada and Oceanian Region, the high level China-France forum on local government cooperation, etc.

Mechanism of exchanges between Chinese and foreign local government officials. In 2011, the CPAFFC, by conscientiously upholding the achievements of President Hu Jintao's visit to the United States, initiated the mechanism for exchanges between Chinese and US governors and organized the first China-US Governors Forum and the second round of China-US Governors Dialogue, to which Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President Barack Obama sent messages of congratulations. Twelve Chinese secretaries of the CPC Provincial/Municipal Committees and gov-

ernors and 30 US governors/governor-generals participated. During the forum and the dialogue, 49 separate meetings were held between the participants and 29 agreements of intention to cooperate, with a contractual value of US\$ 3.2 billion, were signed. President Hu Jintao spoke highly of it. "The China-US Governors Forum launched this year has successfully held two rounds of dialogue and achieved gratifying results, greatly boosting pragmatic cooperation between Chinese and US localities in the fields of economy, trade, investment and tourism." In February 2012, during Vice President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States, the CPAFFC organized a meeting between Chinese and US governors. Vice President Xi and US Vice President Joe Biden attended it, while seven Chinese provincial leaders and five US governors had fruitful discussions. During Vice Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Russia in April 2012, the CPAFFC sponsored a discussion between local leaders of Volga Federal District and Chinese municipalities and provinces, in which 14 Chinese and Russian local leaders took part. Vice Premier Li also met with Chinese and Russian friendly personages from various social circles. With the aim of promoting exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Japanese local governments, the CPAFFC held the first China-Japan governors forum. Five Chinese secretaries of provincial and regional CPC Committees and governors and ten Japanese governors and deputy governors exchanged views on the issues of common concern. The First China-Japan Governors Forum Tokyo Declaration was released and 41 letters of intent on cooperation with

contractual value of more than US\$ 2 billion were signed.

International Friendship Cities Conference. The CPAFFC held the International Friendship Cities Conference in Beijing in 2008 and in Shanghai in 2010. Jia Qinglin and Xi Jinping attended the conferences respectively. Participation of Chinese and foreign friendship cities totaled over 1,100 representative/times. Topics covering urban construction and development were discussed, signing ceremonies for newly-twinning friendship cities held and the friendship-city exchange and cooperation awards conferred, providing much impetus to the development of international friendship cities in China.

BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum. In December 2011, the CPAFFC held the First BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum. Over 300 representatives of friendship cities and local governments from the five BRICS countries participated in it, at which the First BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Declaration was issued. The mechanism of cooperation between cities of the BRICS has been formally established and becomes one of the supporting activities in the future BRICS leaders' meetings.

IV. Boost Pragmatic Cooperation Between Chinese and Foreign Economic and Business Circles

One of the main tasks of people-to-people diplomacy is to promote pragmatic cooperation and common development. By upholding the principle of cooperation on an equal footing, mu-

tual benefit, and common development, the CPAFFC has made great efforts to boost exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and foreign economic and business circles so as to raise the competitiveness of Chinese enterprises, playing a positive role in the country's steady and fairly fast economic growth.

Keeping close contact with US economic circles. In the past five years, the CPAFFC kept close contact and cooperative ties with such big American enterprises or enterprise groups as IBM Corporation, ACE Insurance Limited, Merrill Lynch Group and Dow Chemical Company. In 2010 and 2011, at the Halter Financial Summit jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and US Halter Financial Group, changes in the world financial and economic situation were discussed and the trend of the world economy assessed.

Boosting cooperation between Chinese and Japanese economic circles. The Japan Business Federation (JBF) is Japan's largest national economic organization. In recent years, the regular exchange projects have highlighted CPAFFC efforts to promote economic cooperation. In 2010 and 2011, the JBF delegation composed of leaders of big Japanese enterprises visited China and both were cordially received by Premier Wen Jiabao.

Expanding economic cooperation with European countries. To implement the country's policy on agriculture, rural areas and farmers, the CPAFFC held the China-Europe Forum on Agriculture respectively in Chengdu, Chongqing and Changchun in 2009, 2010 and 2011, to conduct exchanges and cooperation with the European side in rural policies, agricultural scientific

researches and technological cooperation. The CPAFFC, put in charge of exchange affairs between China and French Polynesia, worked hard to boost cooperation in black pearls cultivation and trade, agricultural products processing, tourism and other fields with substantial progress.

V. Expand the Public Opinion Basis for Friendship with China

Through cultural and youth exchanges and public welfare activities, the CPAFFC has attained the objectives of enhancing friendly sentiments and mutual trust between the people of China and other countries and raising China's affinity and appeal to the outside world to lay and expand the social base for friendly relations.

A variety of colorful cultural exchanges. The CPAFFC worked hard to reflect the friendship between the people of China and other countries in the form of art. The documentary film *Touching the Tigers*, whose production was initiated by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, tells the touching story of how Chinese civilians and military saved Flying Tigers pilot Glen Beneda during WWII. Every year, the CPAFFC organizes and sends a large art troupe to Japan on performance tour of two to three months. These performances varied in form and content, covering Peking Opera, singing and dancing, acrobatics, folk music, etc. In the past five years, a total of 320 performers staged 365 shows to an audience of 670,000 person/times offering significant insights into the rich and profound Chinese culture and art from various perspectives. The CPAFFC, using forums as a platform to build a bridge for communications between peoples, inaugu-

rated the China-US Forum on Arts and Culture, the China-South Asia Cultural Forum and the China-Canada Cultural Dialogue as well as the China-Europe Cultural Forum jointly set up with the Confucius Institutes in European countries. It mounted more than ten series of exhibitions on Chinese characters, calligraphy and seal cutting, which included the Hands across Pacific Show, the calligraphy exhibition of inscriptions on oracle bones, the calligraphy and seal cutting exhibition on characters on ancient Chinese coins, etc. to publicize the successful integration of Chinese and foreign civilizations. It has brought into full play the role of *Voice of Friendship*, a quarterly journal of the association, in publicity. In the past five years, it published 54 issues and sent them to 750 organizations and individuals in over 120 countries and regions and 1,200 organizations and individuals in China.

Rich and colorful youth exchange activities. The CPAFFC has earnestly implemented exchanges between Chinese and ROK youth agreed by the heads of the two countries. Since the inauguration of the project in 2009, it has sent 900 Chinese teenagers to visit the ROK and invited 300 ROK teenagers to visit China. It organized the delegation of teenagers and children from Sichuan quake-hit areas to visit the ROK where they were kindly received by President Lee Myung-bak and invited ROK orphans to pay a return visit to China where they were cordially received by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. Vice President Xi Jinping and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key officiated at the signing of the China-New Zealand Young Leaders Exchange Program between the CPAFFC and the

Asia New Zealand Foundation. The CPAFFC organized exchange activities between Chinese and Japanese senior middle school students, inviting 1,500 Japanese students to visit China, and sent 300 Chinese university students to Japan on visits dubbed "contacting Japanese enterprises and experiencing Japan". The visits enhanced mutual understanding between Chinese and Japanese young people. The CPAFFC has sponsored the Tianjin International Children's Culture & Art Festival several times in succession. Over 100 art troupes with some 2,000 people from China and more than 40 other countries and regions conducted exchanges in this way.

Public welfare activities winning support among the people. In 2008, the CPAFFC initiated a large-scale transnational public welfare activity—*Friendship Bringing Light Tour*. In the past five years, this activity of giving cataract operations free of charge has been carried out in 10 Asian and African countries where more than 2,300 patients benefited, and effectively conveyed the friendly sentiments of Chinese for the people of these countries. The CPAFFC in cooperation with the Secours Populaire Francais and the Austrian-Chinese Friendship Association carried out the projects of China-France Friendship Water Cellars and China-Austria Friendship Water Cellars, donating money for the construction of more than 200 water cellars in the areas suffering from a serious shortage of water in Gansu Province. The projects are witness to the friendship and mutual assistance between the people of China and these two countries. There were also a series of other public welfare activities such as the China-

India Joint Medical Mission providing free medical treatment to people in underdeveloped regions in China and India, philanthropic programs in African countries and the China-Canada Project to Aid the Poor through Education. These projects were warmly welcomed at home and abroad.

VI. Strengthen Cooperation with Friendship-with-China Organizations and Extensively Participate in International NGO Activities

In the past five years, the CPAFFC has actively carried out its work with the support of friendship-with-China organizations in various countries and participated extensively in international NGO activities. Through such efforts, it efficiently passed on information about China to let the world know about a true China and understand China.

Further improving the exchange mechanism between the Chinese and foreign nongovernmental friendship organizations. In the past five years, the CPAFFC continued to deepen exchanges and cooperation with international NGOs including friendship-with-China organizations in various countries, and through setting up platforms for collective dialogue, it further improved the mechanism of regular exchanges between the Chinese and foreign nongovernmental friendship organizations. It successfully held the Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Organizations six times, the China-South Asia Friendship Organizations Forum twice, the China-Arab Friendship Conference three times, the Chinese-African Non-Governmental Organizations Conference three times, the Forum on China-Latin America and the Caribbean People-to-People Friend-

ship three times, the Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges twice and the first China-Europe People-to-People Dialogue on Friendship and Cooperation.

Actively promoting friendship-with-China supporters' growth. Since 2008, the CPAFFC has undertaken the African human resources training project sponsored by the Chinese government and held the Seminar for Officials from Friendship Cities of African Countries and the Seminar for Leaders of Friendship-with-China Organizations in Africa three times. In November 2011, the CPAFFC undertook the Seminar for Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean Friendship-with-China Organizations, a foreign-aid training project sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, to help trainees gain comprehensive knowledge about the development of China-Latin America relations and improve their capability of governance and innovation. To recommend and encourage the friendship organizations and friendly personages in other countries for their support, the CPAFFC conferred awards upon foreign organizations and individuals that had made outstanding contributions to the cause of friendship between China and their respective countries. This work won support from Chinese leaders, and Premier Wen Jiabao, CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinglin and others conferred the awards upon the recipients on several occasions.

Extensively participating in international NGO activities. In July 2010, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations formally granted the CPAFFC general consultative status with ECOSOC, cre-

ating a favorable condition for it to fully participate in relevant UN activities. In June and October 2011, the CPAFFC sent delegations to participate in the Third Global Zero Summit and the high-level Global Zero conference. It has actively coordinated Chinese local governments to participate in the activities organized by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), of which 18 Chinese provinces and municipalities have become members. In 2009, the CPAFFC successfully undertook the holding of the UCLG World Council Meeting. Vice President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered an important speech.

Establishing associations for friendship between China and other nations and regions. The China-Iran Friendship Association, the China-Brunei Friendship Association and the China-Central Asia Friendship Association have been founded. The China-Myanmar Friendship Association has been reestablished and resumed its work.

The Work of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD). In the past five years, the CFFPD has raised a total of over 214 million RMB, of which over 202 million came from donations and 11.94 million from earnings from interest and investments. Its total expenditure was 141 million RMB. In 2011, it was rated a 4A foundation by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, which signaled that it joined the rank of China's medium-sized and large foundations. It held the Spring Festival folklore fair in Taichung City, Taiwan in 2010 and 2011 respectively, evoking much praise from Taiwan compatriots. The Fair has become the CFFPD's new brand-project. ■

The Executive Committee

The Tenth National Council of CPAFFC

(May 2012—May 2017)

President: Li Xiaolin

Vice Presidents: Jing Dunquan
Feng Zuoku
Li Jianping

Secretary General: Lin Yi



From left: Lin Yi, Feng Zuoku, Li Xiaolin, Jing Dunquan, Li Jianping

Statutes of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

(Adopted at the Tenth National Council Meeting in May 2012)

Chapter One General Principles

Article 1 This Association is a national people's organization of the People's Republic of China, called the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, abbreviated as CPAFFC.

Article 2 As a nongovernmental diplomacy organization, on behalf of the Chinese people, the Association makes friends and deepens friendship in the international community and various countries around the world, lays and expands the social basis of friendly relations between China and other countries to gain extensive international support for its socialist cause with Chinese characteristics.

Article 3 The aims of the Association are to enhance people's friendship, further international cooperation, safeguard world peace and promote common development.

Article 4 The Association implements China's independent foreign policy of peace, observing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, while carrying out all-directional, multi-level and broad-area people-to-people friendship work to serve the great cause of China's peaceful development and peaceful reunification, and engage in the cause of human progress and solidarity, working hard to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.

Chapter Two Functions

Article 5 The Association carries out friendly people-to-people contacts between China and other countries by organizing exchange of visits of delegations, holding commemorative activities, initiating and hosting exchange activities including seminars, talks, forums to enhance mutual understanding, build up trust and develop friendship with people of other countries.

Article 6 The Association promotes international cooperation by establishing contact mechanisms, building cooperation platforms and furthering pragmatic cooperation in economy, science and technology, talents and other areas, to create favorable conditions to achieve win-win results and common development.

Article 7 The Association effects people-to-people cultural exchanges with other countries by dispatching or hosting cultural groups or personalities on friendly visits, sponsoring performances or exhibitions to promote learning from each other in the cultural field and enhance understanding and friendship.

Article 8 Entrusted by the government, the Association coordinates and oversees the work of establishing and developing friendship-city relations between China and other countries, promoting exchanges and cooperation between their localities and cities. As a member of United Cities and Local Governments, the Association participates in international cooperation on behalf of Chinese local governments.

Article 9 As a nongovernmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Association takes an extensive part in U.N. affairs and actively participates in the exchange activities of other international nongovernmental organizations to effectively communicate information about China.

Article 10 The Association works to develop the force of people-to-people friendship between China and other countries by establishing associations for friendship between China and other nations and regions, keeping contacts with friendly personages, organizations and public societies, and conferring separately upon organizations or personages that have made important

Tenth National Council Meeting of CPAFFC

contributions to people's friendship the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador or the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship; the honorary title of Friendship Envoy or the Award for Contribution to Friendship with China.

Article 11 The Association engages in the cause of safeguarding world peace and common security of humankind and supports the people of various countries in their just struggle to achieve national development and social progress and defend sovereignty and security.

Article 12 The Association carries out other activities for the friendly cooperation between the Chinese and other peoples.

Chapter Three Membership

Article 13 The Association adopts the system of combining group and individual memberships.

Article 14 Relevant state departments, public societies, friendship organizations, and friendship organizations of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government as well as friendship organizations of cities under their jurisdiction may become group members of the Association. The member units recommend their respective representatives to be the Association's group council members. In case the representative's working post has changed, the member unit concerned ought to recommend another representative and report to the Executive Council of the Association for approval.

Article 15 The Association may invite a number of noted public figures to be its specially-invited council members, who are its individual members.

Article 16 The representatives of the Association's group members and the individual members must abide by the Constitution and laws of China, and any member who violates laws will be deprived of his (or her) membership automatically.

Article 17 The members of the Association must observe its statutes, undertake some work to realize its aims, actively participate in the people-to-people diplomacy activities organized by the Association, and have the rights to enjoy the services provided by the Association in international contacts.

Chapter Four Organizational Structure

Article 18 The highest organ of authority of the Association is its National Council. The term of each session is five years. In addition to the general meeting held when a new session starts, at least one more council meeting should be held between sessions.

Article 19 In the composition of the National Council, attention should be paid to its extensiveness and representativeness, and it should be decided by the preceding Council and various circles of the society through consultations.

Article 20 Functions and powers of the National Council:

1. To examine the work report of the Association, and decide on the work policies and tasks;
2. To amend the statutes of the Association as required by development of the situation and the needs of work;
3. To decide on inviting honorary president, honorary advisors and advisors; and
4. To elect president, vice presidents and secretary general.

Article 21 The president, vice presidents and secretary general form the Executive Council to attend to the day-to-day work of the Association and is responsible for reporting its work to the National Council. The Executive Council may decide on individual adjustment of its composition, but it must be subsequently confirmed by the next National Council meeting. The Executive Council may decide to appoint a number of deputy secretaries general and set up offices needed. When required by needs, the Executive Council may decide to temporarily hold the National Council meeting.

Article 22 Provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, as well as cities, districts and counties under their jurisdiction, may set up friendship organizations of corresponding levels when it is deemed necessary. As people's organizations of corresponding levels, friendship organizations of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, or of cities, districts and counties, accept the guidance from friendship organizations of a higher level in their work.

Vice Premier Li Keqiang Meets Chinese and Russian Friendly Personages

Kang Jingyuan



The scene: 5 pm on April 26 at the President Hotel in Moscow, and Vice Premier Li Keqiang, having just arrived in Russia for an official visit, cordially meets Chinese and Russian friendly personages from various sectors of society including people-to-people diplomatic, academic, cultural, scientific and educational, and business circles. Among them are experts and scholars in their seventies and eighties, important professionals of their respective workplaces in their prime, as well as students in the bloom of their youth.

When Vice Premier Li walked into the meeting hall, he was greeted with warm applause; he then walked around shaking hands with each person in turn. When Galina Kulikova, an old friend of the Chinese people and First Vice President of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), was introduced by Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Hui, she said with feeling: “I

Chapter Five Funds

Article 23 The sources of the Association’s funds are:

1. Donations from various social circles at home and abroad;
2. Incomes from activities sponsored by the Association; and
3. Subsidies from the government.

Chapter Six Association Emblem

Article 24 The Association’s emblem is composed of a pattern of plum flower, the Chinese characters of “friendship” and “the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries”, and “CPAFFC”. The emblem may be hung at offices, activity places and meeting places, printed on publications and souvenirs, and made into badges for wearing.

Chapter Seven Supplementary Provisions

Article 25 The Association is located in Beijing.

Article 26 The statutes shall become effective upon its adoption by the National Council.

Article 27 The termination of the Association shall become effective only upon the approval by two-thirds of the council members through discussion at the National Council meeting.

Article 28 The power for the interpretation of the statutes resides in the CPAFFC. ■

In Other Lands

devoted all my life to the cause of Russia-China friendship.” The Vice Premier was deeply touched by her words and expressed his hope that Kulikova would inspire others with this ideal.

During the meeting, Vice Premier Li warmly praised those present for their dedication to the cause of friendship and spoke highly of their contributions to the development of bilateral relations. He pointed out that the key to sound relations between states lay in amity between people. This alone could constitute a basis for sound state-to-state relations. One important reason for the good bilateral relations between China and Russia was that a large number of friendly personages, like those in the room, who had long held this firm conviction and dedicated themselves to caring, promoting and developing the bilateral friendship and helping to build the solid China-Russia “friendship mansion” in different historical periods. He expressed his sincere gratitude and respect to everyone who had persistently committed themselves to the cause of China-Russia friendship over the years. He also encouraged the young people of both countries to study hard and make joint efforts so that longstanding friendship could be passed on from generation to genera-

tion and bilateral relations would move from good to better.

CRFA President Chen Haosu, who was present at the meeting, described the profound friendly sentiments between the Chinese and Russian people in a four-line verse:

Both people love and in pursuit of freedom,

And enjoy the feelings in creating civilization.

With un-detachable tenderness for each other,

They take delight in reciprocation of friendship.

Chen hoped that the friendly feelings deeply rooted in the hearts of the older generation of both countries would be passed on and carried forward by the younger generation.

Gao Mang, advisor to the CRFA, a renowned translator of Russian and Soviet literature, writer and painter, said with emotion that literature and art could deeply stir the hearts of people and hoped that the two peoples would strengthen cultural exchanges. He said, K.S. Silin, grandfather of Katia, a teacher of Moscow University present at the meeting, had helped the Chinese people build the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge connecting the north and the south of China, and today the younger

generation should build a bridge linking hearts so as to push China-Russia friendship to new heights.

RCFA First Vice President Galina Kulikova who had received the Award for Contributions to Chinese Language and Culture issued by Premier Wen Jiabao and the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC said that, in the past 55 years since its founding, the RCFA had comprehensively consolidated and expanded the social basis of Russia-China relationship and worked hard for the cause every single day. “Russia needs a strong China and China also needs a strong Russia,” she stressed.

Those present at the meeting said it was of great significance for Vice Premier Li to visit Russia at this historical moment when the country’s presidential election had just ended and the Eighteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China would be convened within the year. The fact that his first function after arriving in Russia was to meet with them fully showed that the Chinese Government attached great importance to and supported the cause of friendship between the Chinese and Russian people.

At the suggestion of the Chinese Ambassador Li Hui, Xu Lu, a singer who had won a prize in the Chinese Sing Russian Songs Competition, and A. Markovskaya, an undergraduate student of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, respectively sang the Russian song *Moscow Nights* and the Chinese song *Friends*, to bring the friendly occasion to a grand climax.

After that, Vice Premier Li had a group photo taken with those present, and the meeting ended in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. ■

Vice Premier Li Keqiang having a cordial conversation with Chinese and Russian friendly personages



China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum Produces Good Results

Hu Chunmei

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the five Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the CPAFFC sponsored the China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum with the theme “Mutual Trust, Cooperation, Harmony and Development” in Tongxiang City, Zhejiang Province on May 7.

The main visiting attendees were Roza Otunbayeva, former Kyrgyzstan President, Saydullo Khayrulloev, former Chairman of the Assembly of Representatives of Tajikistan, Zhanybek Karibzhanov, former Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Kazakhstan, and G. Kasymov, former Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan. Representing the Chinese side, Bai Lichen, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and Ismail Amat, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and Honorary President of the China-Central Asia Friendship Association, both addressed the opening ceremony, while CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin presided over a round table meeting.

Nearly 200 participants came from the diplomatic, economic, business, academic, local government, and media circles, as well as diplomats from the embassies of the five Central Asian countries in China and representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO).

Focusing on the main theme and through keynote speeches, round table meetings, panel discussions and interactive dialogues, the participants affirmed the fruitful development of contacts since the establishment of diplomatic relations. They also mapped out future developments during constructive discussions on practical cooperation and social and cultural exchanges in a comprehensive way.

The panel discussion on practical cooperation dealt with subjects like economic and trade exchanges, energy and resource cooperation, finance and investment, agriculture, communications and information, utilization of new energy and new technology, environmental protection, upgrading of major industries, infrastructure construction and promotion of people’s livelihood, etc.

At the panel discussion on social and cultural exchanges, participants discussed culture and education, academic research, scientific and technological exchanges, people-to-people contacts and cooperation between different localities. They agreed that social and cultural cooperation was an important part of State relations, and that everyone should respect national differences and cultural

diversity and continuously raise their knowledge of ways to harmonize a mix of different cultures. While inheriting and passing on their own national cultures, they should pay more attention to learn from and absorb the advantages and strengths of other cultures and expand cooperation for common development.

Vice Chairman Bai met with the chief guests before the opening ceremony. He stressed how much importance China attached to developing relations with the five Central Asian nations. The forum provided a useful opportunity to review the past, look forward to the future, and inject new vitality and create new impetus for promoting sustained and ever-deepening local, non-governmental, business and cultural exchanges.

Former President Otunbayeva saw the forum as an effective platform for advancing mutual exchanges, enhancing mutual trust and increasing cooperation. The former political leaders of the other four countries described the forum as being at the highest level, in regard to the relationship between China and Central Asia they had ever attended. It had been staged in a spirit of warm friendship and cooperation. ■

CPPCC National Committee Vice Chairman Bai Lichen meeting with former Kyrgyzstan President Roza Otunbayeva and other foreign participants



CPPCC National Committee Vice Chairman Meets Delegation of Local Authorities and Education from Finland

Hu Yang

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Ms. Elli Aaltonen, Director General of the Regional State Administrative Agency for Eastern Finland, led the Delegation of Local Authorities and Education on a goodwill visit to China from April 7 to 15. Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit met the delegation on April 13.

He spoke highly of Sino-Finnish friendly relations, noting that, Finland was one of the first Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Chairman Mao Zedong, Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Liu Shaoqi and Premier Zhou Enlai had respectively met with the visiting delegations from Finland. Bilateral high-level visits further increased from the 1980s. President Jiang Zemin and Premier Wen Jiabao paid their first official visits to Finland as head of the PRC and head of

the government respectively.

Bilateral relations had maintained stable development on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, no matter what the changes in the international situation. The momentum continued and mutual trust and mutual understanding were deepening all the time.

The Vice Chairman said that Finland was the first Western country to sign an inter-governmental trade agreement with China. In the beginning strategic materials were imported from Finland regardless of other Western countries' embargo on China. Today, Finland led the world in such industries as papermaking, information and communications, shipbuilding, etc. The two countries were highly complementary in their economies. Cooperation in papermaking and telecommunication had achieved fruitful results. At present, Finland is China's second largest trading partner and the source of technol-

ogy import, and the third largest source of investment in the Nordic region.

Positive results have been achieved in student exchanges and language training due to the longstanding bilateral cooperation in education. Fresh progress was continuously being made in scientific and technological cooperation, as well as in cultural exchanges and communications. Activities held successfully in Finland for several years, such as "Chinese Spring Festival Temple Fair", "Chinese Culture Festival", etc., had received a very good public response. Cooperation in the fields of ecology, environmental protection and energy saving was now emerging strongly. China was very pleased with the all-round and sustainable development of Sino-Finnish relations, and was most willing to make joint efforts to further expand bilateral cooperation to promote relations to a new level.

Ms Elli Aaltonen agreed with Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit's views. She said comprehensive development of friendly relations between Finland and China served the fundamental interests of both peoples. Her current visit to China had four main objectives: first, to get a better understanding of China's reform and opening-up situation; second, to explore further cooperation at the local government level; third, to promote cooperation between universities of the two countries; and fourth, to help Finnish enterprises get in contact with their

Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, meeting with the Finnish Delegation of Local Authorities and Education



Chinese counterparts for cooperation. She said that the delegation had seen China's tremendous achievements in economic reform through this visit to Shanghai, Henan, Hebei and Beijing. There was great potential for bilateral cooperation in various fields. Progress had been made in cooperation with relevant Chinese provinces and cities, and the delegation had identified cooperative intentions with several Chinese schools and enterprises, making the visit a great success.

Vice Chairman Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit said: "The delegation's visit to China was at the invitation of the CPAFFC. It is a national people's organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy of the PRC with the purposes of enhancing people's friendship, furthering international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. For decades, it has made positive contributions to the development of friendly relations between China and other countries, as well as promoting exchanges and cooperation in various fields. Entrusted by the Chinese government, the CPAFFC coordinates and oversees the work of establishing friendship-city (province/state) relations between China and other countries. Gratifying achievements have been made in friendship-city exchanges between China and Finland. At present, there are 19 pairs of friendship cities between the two countries. Over the years, the Eastern Finland Administrative State has maintained good contacts with the CPAFFC." He expressed the hope that the two sides would strengthen exchanges and cooperation in future, and make new contributions to the cause of friendship between China and Finland. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin Attends UNAOC Partners Forum

Zhang Weixiao

The rapid development of science and technology has brought convenience to communications and transport, but also raised the possibility of less face-to-face interaction, which still remained important. This was the view expressed by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin at the opening session of the First UN Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) Partners Forum.

Li headed a CPAFFC delegation to attend the forum in Istanbul, Turkey from May 31 to June 1 at the invitation of Jorge Sampaio, UNAOC High Representative and former President of Portugal, and Besir Atalay, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon co-chaired the forum, attended by over 600 representatives from 70-odd countries and 15 international organizations. Mr. Sampaio made a keynote report on the UNAOC's objectives and focuses between 2012 and 2013.

The forum discussed the plan to establish a fund raising mechanism to

encourage donations and strengthen AOC's capacity building.

Launched in 2005 by Kofi Annan when he was the UN Secretary General at the initiative of the governments of Spain and Turkey, UNAOC aims to mobilize the international community to make joint efforts to eliminate prejudice, misunderstanding and conflicts between different cultures so as to promote world peace and security.

In her speech, Li Xiaolin called on all countries to make full use of the forum as a platform of exchange to explore how to effectively build a trans-national, trans-cultural bridge promoting mutual understanding and exchanges among nations, peoples and cultures in the interest of world peace and stability. She also expressed appreciation of the positive efforts by the UNAOC in enhancing dialogues between different civilizations.

During the forum, Li Xiaolin and Jorge Sampaio held talks and signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the CPAFFC and UNAOC. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin signing a memorandum of understanding with Jorge Sampaio, UNAOC High Representative and former President of Portugal



First China-Japan Governors Forum Held in Tokyo

Wang Lei



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin addressing the opening ceremony

The First China-Japan Governors Forum jointly initiated and organized by the CPAFFC, the China-Japan Friendship Association and the Japan National Governors' Association was held in Tokyo on April 18.

Over 100 delegates took part. Key members of the Chinese Delegation included Secretary Zhang Yi of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Chairman Nur Bekri of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Governor Li Bin of Anhui Province, Executive Vice Governor Zhu Yanfeng of Jilin Province, Vice Chairman Lin Nianxiu of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, President Li Xiaolin and Vice President Jing Dunquan of the CPAFFC, and Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua; on the Japanese side, there were President Keiji Yamada of the Japan National Governors' Association who is also the Governor of Kyoto Prefecture, Governor Kiyoshi Ueda of Saitama Prefecture, Governor Hirohiko Izumida of Niigata Prefecture, Governor Shuichi Abe of Nagano Prefecture, Governor Masanao Ozaki of Kochi Prefecture, Governor Yasushi Furukawa of

Saga Prefecture, Vice Governor Etsuko Ebii of Fukuoka Prefecture, Vice Governor Junichi Kobayashi of Shimane Prefecture, Vice Governor Kishin Fujii of Tottori Prefecture, Vice Governor Yoshiyasu Hyotani of Kumamoto Prefecture, and Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi.

The forum focused on the theme of "Strengthening Local Government Exchanges and Promoting Development of Sino-Japanese Relations". CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Ambassador Cheng Yonghua, President Keiji Yamada and Vice Foreign Minister Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi spoke at the opening ceremony. President Li said exchanges and cooperation at local government level were important components of Sino-Japanese relations, making positive contribution to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two people, and promoting the development of friendly and cooperative relations. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations, the two sides should respond to the demands of strengthening cooperation

in various fields between local governments, further deepening exchanges and cooperation, so as to benefit the two peoples and promote a healthy and stable development of relations in the new situation.

Local governors from both countries focused on the theme and exchanged in depth their views. Through friendly, enthusiastic, and pragmatic discussions on topics of common concerns such as "Energy Saving and Environmental Protection", "Tourism", "New Energy Development", "Youth Exchanges", "Industry Cooperation", etc., a broad consensus was reached that exchanges and cooperation between local governments should be strengthened by making innovations in the way of communication, enriching the content of exchanges, establishing a long-term and institutionalized communication mechanism, deepening cultural exchanges to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two people, and carrying out pragmatic cooperation to build a solid, mutually beneficial and win-win relationship.

The forum approved a *Declaration of the First China-Japan Governors Forum in Tokyo* charting a clear direction for future bilateral exchanges and cooperation between local governments.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Tatsuo Kawabata respectively met with key members of the Chinese delegation including Secretary Zhang Yi and President Li Xiaolin before and after the forum.

The Chinese delegation also visited Saitama Prefecture and Kyoto Prefecture after the forum. ■

With women now playing a wider role in world development each passing day, much attention was focused on the 2012 “Women Leaders of New Asia Summit”, held in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, April 19-21.

Jointly organized by the Asia Society and the CPAFFC, in collaboration with the Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government and Zhenjiang People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, it attracted some 140 representatives from more than 20 countries and regions such as China, Australia, Singapore, India, Japan, the ROK, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, the United States and Hong Kong. Many were well known in business, political and cultural circles.

Ms. Vishakha N. Desai, President of the Asia Society; Ms. Lin Yi, Secretary General of the CPAFFC; Ms. Jiao Yang, Secretary of the Leading Party Group of the Shanghai Municipal Women’s Federation; Ms. Zhang Jingxia, President of Jiangsu Provincial Women’s Federation, and Ms. Zhu Xiaoming, Acting Mayor of Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government, were among the speakers.

Ms. Desai said women now

Women Leaders of New Asia Summit Held in Zhenjiang

Liu Zhiqiang

played an active role in world development and their presence was of ever-growing importance. China’s booming economy in recent years had depended not only on the powerful drive of the big cities, but many smaller ones, too. Through the successful holding of this Summit, she hoped people could learn more of the positive role women played in medium-sized or small cities like Zhenjiang.

Ms. Lin Yi said that, with the continuous improvement of the level of productivity and specialization of industries, women of the Asia-Pacific region now played an important role in social, economic, political and cultural life. They were no longer limited to their traditional family roles of assisting their husbands and bringing up children, but relied on their own efforts to play an active role in all social fields, showing their talent and realizing their true worth. Nowadays, many women

had become leaders in their respective fields, and exerted increasing influence.

Ms. Zhu Xiaoming hoped the successful holding of the Summit would greatly promote Asia-Pacific economic and social development. It was of great significance in improving the image of Zhenjiang, promoting progress in the city’s business and culture, facilitating Zhenjiang women leaders’ integration into the world trend, as well as creating a platform for high-end exchanges and bringing more favorable opportunities for the development of this work.

During the meeting, participants discussed the theme of “The Change-Makers/Visionaries: Women Changing the Paradigm in a Rapidly Modernizing Asia”. Through key speeches, key dialogues, group discussions, and workshops, they discussed the major challenges facing women in the region today and explored the role of women leaders in the rapid modernization of Asia from the economic, social and cultural perspectives.

The participants spoke enthusiastically on their interpretation of life, their vision of the development of society and new concepts of women’s development.

They also visited Pearl S. Buck’s Former Residence & Museum, the China Garment History Museum and the sacred Jinshan Buddhist Temple.

The previous two Summits were held in Hong Kong in 2010 and Singapore in 2011. ■

The participants visiting the former residence of Pearl S. Buck



Thirteenth Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges Held in Guiyang

Zhang Xiaoping

The 13th Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges jointly organized by the CPAFFC, the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), Guizhou Provincial People's Government, and the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA), in collaboration with Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, was held in Guiyang May 24-25.

Tang Jiaxuan, President of the CJFA, Zhao Kezhi, Governor of

Guizhou Province, Meng Qiliang, Vice Governor of Guizhou Province, Jing Dunquan, Vice President of the CPAFFC; Koichi Kato, President of the JCFA, Shoichi Ide, Vice President of the JCFA, Tetsuo Sakai, Vice President of the JCFA, and Uichiro Niwa, Japanese Ambassador to China, were among about 300 attendees. Tang Jiaxuan, Zhao Kezhi, Koichi Kato and Uichiro Niwa addressed the opening ceremony. Jing Dunquan and Tetsuo Sakai gave keynote speeches on behalf of China

and Japan respectively. In panel discussions, the two sides focused on the conference theme, exchanging views on the present state of Sino-Japanese relations, the role of non-governmental exchanges and promoting exchanges and cooperation at local government level through friendly, enthusiastic, deep and practical discussions. Cultural activities like Japanese Tea Ceremony, "Impression of Guizhou" Photo Exhibition, China-Japan Healthy Mahjong Exchange, etc. were also held. Positive



and fruitful results were achieved.

Tang Jiaxuan pointed out that, over the past 40 years since normalization, the China-Japan relationship has seen unprecedented development. It now has a profound political, economic and social base and conforms to the aspirations of both peoples. The four political documents signed by the two countries, embodying the great consensus reached by successive leaders of the two countries on the basis of profound summarization of both positive and negative experiences, are the crystallization of painstaking efforts and wisdom. The principles and spirit they set forth should be observed in practice and carefully protected by both sides. The two countries should keep up with current trends, strengthen their belief in China-Japan friendship, always proceed from the common interests of the two peoples and stick to the road of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Koichi Kato said development of the Sino-Japanese relationship was at a crucial stage. It could maintain a sound growth momentum on a good social and public basis regardless of some sensitive and complex issues. The 40th anniversary of the normalization of relations provided a good chance for the two sides to view the bilateral relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective, so as to achieve common development and mutual prosperity.

Uichiro Niwa said the Sino-Japanese relationship was one of the most important bilateral relationships, which had great significance to peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world at large. Prime Minister Yoshihiko

Noda also said common development of Japan and China would bring great opportunities to not only the two countries directly involved, but also East Asia and the entire international community. The two governments should bear the overall interests in mind and constantly deepen the strategic relationship of mutual benefit.

Deepen Understanding of the Importance of Non-governmental Exchanges

Participants agreed that non-governmental exchanges as the distinctive characteristics and advantages of Sino-Japanese relations had great importance and bright prospects. From “letting people-to-people contacts go first and thereby promoting official ties” to “developing both official and unofficial ties”, non-governmental exchanges have played a unique and irreplaceable role in promoting friendly feelings between the two people and maintaining healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

Tang Jiaxuan stressed the foundation of China-Japan friendship lay among the people, providing the most solid basis and most important impetus to future development. He put forward four suggestions, pointing out the direction for non-governmental organizations of both sides to better carry out the friendship work in the future: first, expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges at the grassroots to continuously improve our people’s feelings for each other; second, deepen pragmatic cooperation and further expand common interests; third, vigorously

promote exchanges between localities and push forward China-Japan friendly exchanges and cooperation in wider areas; fourth, vigorously carry out youth exchanges to foster successors to the cause of China-Japan friendship.

A Broad Consensus on Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation at Local Government Level

Participants discussed enthusiastically on the theme of “In Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Normalization of China-Japan Diplomatic Relations and Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation at Local Government Level” and reached the following consensus:

First, it is necessary to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation, with friendship-city exchanges as the main content. This is of great significance in enhancing mutual understanding and friendly feelings and promoting comprehensive and healthy development of Sino-Japanese relations.

Second, to strengthen exchanges at local government level should start from deepening pragmatic cooperation so as to achieve win-win results. There is great potential and broad prospect of cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in energy conservation, low-carbon and green industry, recycling economy, etc.

Third, exchanges at local government level should be open for new ideas and innovative forms, making brand projects like “China-Japan Governors Forum” grow bigger, better and stronger, so as to provide new and important platforms to deepen exchanges. ■

Speech by CJFA President Tang Jiakuan at 13th Conference On Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges

The year 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. Friendly personages of various circles of both countries have gathered in Guiyang, a beautiful city of forests, to hold the 13th conference on Sino-Japanese friendly exchanges and discuss how to strengthen these and promote further cooperation between the two peoples under the new situation, as well as consider the prospects for medium and long-term development. The conference convenes at an opportune moment of great significance. Here, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations, along with a warm welcome to the Chinese and Japanese delegates coming from faraway, along with sincere gratitude to the Guizhou Provincial People's Government and the Guizhou Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries for their great support in convening this conference successfully.

Over the past 40 years since normalization, the China-Japan relationship has seen unprecedented development. Politically, the two countries have successively signed four important political documents, committing themselves to pushing forward a strategic relationship of mutual benefit. Economically, the two countries are becoming more interdependent, with a bilateral trade volume increasing from US\$1 billion to over \$340 billion. Personnel exchanges and contacts have expanded from an initial 10,000 person/times to 5.28 million person/times last year. It

can be said that the China-Japan relationship now has a profound political, economic and social base and conforms to the aspirations of both peoples.

Reviewing the course of the development of the bilateral relationship enables us to draw great inspiration. The four political documents signed by the two countries, embodying the great consensus reached by successive leaders of the two countries on the basis of profound summarization of both positive and negative experiences, are the crystallization of painstaking efforts and wisdom. The principles and spirit they set forth should be observed in practice and carefully protected by both sides. The two countries should keep up with current trends, strengthen their belief in China-Japan friendship, always proceed from the common interests of the two peoples and stick to the road of peace, friendship and cooperation.

China and Japan are neighbors with contacts of over 2,000 years, and their relationship is very special, complicated and sensitive. The two countries have an emotional entanglement related to history and conflicts of practical interests. Some issues are highly sensitive. I often say, China-Japan relationship is just like a boat sailing against the current that must forge ahead or it will be driven back. It is not easy to achieve a good bilateral relationship, which could be easily undermined if it is not cherished. Since beginning of this year some problems have reappeared in Japan, negatively influencing the atmosphere of 40th anniversary commemoration and

seriously impairing the bilateral relationship. Both countries should adhere to and carry forward the great political wisdom and important consensus and understanding displayed and reached by the statesmen of the older generation in the course of rebuilding and developing the bilateral relationship. From the strategic heights and from a long-term perspective, they must firmly grasp the proper direction of development and continuously foster and strengthen political mutual trust. Both countries should properly handle major sensitive issues in line with the principles and spirit enshrined in the four political documents. The key is to respect each other's core interests and major concerns through actual deeds and carefully safeguard the overall common interests of the bilateral relationship.

Under the new situation, featuring profound changes in the international and regional pattern and accelerated development and transformation of both countries, the importance of the China-Japan relationship has increased. Both countries are shouldering greater common responsibilities and are confronted with more opportunities and challenges. The people-to-people friendship organizations of both countries should further enhance their sense of historical responsibility and sense of mission, make joint efforts to promote steady and healthy development of the bilateral relationship and carry out pragmatic exchanges to benefit both sides. In my opinion, China-Japan people-to-people exchanges can accomplish much in the following aspects:

I. Expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges at the grassroots to continuously improve our people's feelings for each other. The key to sound relationship at State level lies in amity between the people. The foundation of China-Japan friendship lies among the people and friendship between people is the most solid basis and the most important driving force for the development of bilateral relations. In consideration of the actual situation, to further improve and deepen the friendly sentiments is a pressing and arduous task for us. At present, the two countries are jointly holding a series of activities of the Year of Friendship for People-to-People Exchanges. They should take this as an opportunity to encourage contact at grassroots level so that more people, particularly youth, will "encounter new friends" and form "bonds of the heart"; in that way, the foundation for China-Japan friendship will be deeply rooted and solid. In this process, the two sides should pay great attention to tapping the tradition and values of our common oriental culture, and conduct exciting exchanges so that China-Japan relationship can be consolidated and strengthened on the material level, and elevated on the spiritual level as well.

II. Deepen pragmatic cooperation and further expand common interests. China and Japan, being at different stages of development, have obvious complementarities in economy and trade and huge potential in cooperation. A steady and fairly fast growth of China's economy will provide growing business opportunities for Japan, while Japan's advanced industries, science and technology, and economic and social management expertise are

worth learning by China for a long time to come. The two countries should keep up with the development trend of the times, discard zero-sum thinking, deepen mutually beneficial win-win cooperation at the bilateral, regional and global levels so as to achieve common development and prosperity. During the process of promoting exchanges and cooperation, people-to-people exchanges play a supporting role, and in particular, an important constructive role in cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises in energy conservation, green and low-carbon industries, recycling economy, etc.

III. Vigorously promote exchanges between localities and push forward China-Japan friendly exchanges and cooperation in wider areas. Exchanges between localities over a wide area, in a variety of forms, with far-reaching influence are always an important component of China-Japan relations. Since the twinning of the first pair of friendship cities between Tianjin and Kobe in 1973, a total of 249 such pairs of friendship cities (prefectures/provinces) have emerged, offering a unique advantage and playing a major role in enhancing mutual understanding and friendship. In recent years, exchanges between localities have shown good momentum in terms of deepening and substantial development. The first China-Japan Governors Forum was successfully convened in Tokyo recently, providing a new important platform for deepening local exchanges. We should work with added efforts to develop it, making it bigger, better and stronger to play a leading role. It is worth noting that some localities have adopted new ideas and tried new ways in carrying out exchanges by proceed-

ing from their actual conditions.

IV. Vigorously carry out youth exchanges to foster successors to the cause of China-Japan friendship. The future of China-Japan relations relies on youth. The two countries should carry out exchanges between youth in a persistent way and continuously enhance mutual understanding and friendly sentiments between them. The people-to-people friendship organizations of both countries should attach great importance to the exchanges between youth, increase input, strengthen coordination and integrate shared resources, and in the meanwhile, on the basis of the current exchange projects continue to make innovations, enrich the forms of exchanges to attract more youth to take part in the friendly exchange activities.

Long-term healthy development of China-Japan relationship serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also the common expectation of the international community. I sincerely hope that the friendship organizations of both countries will continue to make good and full use of this important platform provided by the Conference on Sino-Japanese Friendly Exchanges, have frank and substantial exchanges and put forward good suggestions. I also hope that both sides will take this as an opportunity to further carry forward the tradition, make innovations, act to spread friendship, promote exchanges and boost cooperation, and make new contributions to achieving the lofty goal of peaceful coexistence, lasting friendship, mutually beneficial cooperation and common development.

I sincerely wish the conference full success. Thank you! ■

Third China-Canada Cultural Dialogue Held in Beijing

Xu Fenghua

The Third China-Canada Cultural Dialogue, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Canadian Fund for International Understanding Through Culture (Can4Culture), was held in Beijing June 25-26. Ms. Lin Yi, Secretary General of the CPAFFC, Dr. Nelly Ng, Chair of Can4Culture, Mr. Mark McDowell, Counselor of the Canadian Embassy in China, Mr. John McAvity, Executive Director of the Canadian Museums Association, among the 100 attendees, who included representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture, State Administration of Cultural Heritage, China Soong Ching Ling

Foundation, China National Academy of Painting, China National Center for the Performing Arts, the Canadian Museums Association, Canada Science and Technology Museum, as well as from other museums, universities and cultural organizations of both countries.

In her opening speech, Secretary General Lin Yi said China and Canada had good prospects for developing their relationship that they must firmly seize. Cultural exchange played an important and positive role. In launching the China-Canada Cultural Dialogue, the CPAFFC and Can4Culture sought to create an opportunity for direct dialogue between the people of both

countries to express their feelings and thoughts. Cultural dialogues were a proven way to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship and were worth continuing. She emphasized that the CPAFFC would make continued efforts to exert its role as a bridge between the Chinese and Canadian people in terms of cultural developments, thus promoting mutual understanding, strengthening trust and clearing up doubts.

Dr. Nelly Ng said the Cultural Dialogue had strengthened bilateral communications and cooperation in culture and the arts. Through concrete cultural programs, cooperation had been enriched, adding further brilliance in cementing friendship.

This “Dialogue”, comprising the opening ceremony, keynote speeches, exchange of opinion, free dialogues, signing of Memorandum of Understanding, welcoming dinner and closing luncheon, provided opportunities for representatives to share experiences. Innovative in form and proceeding in a flexible and orderly way, it created an atmosphere of pragmatic cooperation for the participating cultural organizations from both countries and gave every participant the opportunity to talk and share experience to deepen understanding.

The two-day “Dialogue” built a bridge of friendship between cultural

The China-Canada Cultural Dialogue in session



institutions of the two countries as government officials, experts and scholars in the field of culture were brought together. At the welcoming dinner, the CPAFFC arranged a performance of folk songs and dances. When all the participants joined the performers hand in hand walking in a circle while singing, the banquet reached its climax.

Besides introducing the rich and colorful cultural activities in which they were involved, the participants put more emphasis on pragmatic cooperation with potential partners. According to their interest and needs, cultural institutions of both countries sought partners, held talks to explore the possibility of cooperation, and finally reached agreement and signed memorandum of understanding. At the event, 12 memoranda of understanding on cultural exchange and cooperation were signed including a traveling exhibition on Dr. Norman Bethune, the Canadian surgeon who gave his life for the Chinese revolution, cultural festival sponsorship, personnel training program and exhibition exchange.

To enable more Canadians to know more about Dr. Bethune, the CPAFFC, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Can4Culture and the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation jointly signed a memorandum of understanding on a traveling exhibition in Canada in 2013. The Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame honors Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to society in science and engineering and who have lasting influence. Dr. Bethune was included in the Hall of Fame for his selfless devotion to his career and his invention of surgical instruments.



Paintings by Chinese artists

Over the past 42 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada, bilateral relations have seen continuous growth. Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to Canada in 2010 and the two visits to China by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper since 2009 confirmed the China-Canada strategic partnership and promoted bilateral relations to a new level. This has created a favorable political environment for people-to-people friendly exchanges.

In order to build a platform for cultural exchange, the CPAFFC launched the first China-Canada Cultural Dialogue in collaboration with Can4Culture in 2009, just before Prime Minister Harper's state visit to China, with the focus on the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Dr. Bethune's death. The second "Dialogue" held in Ottawa, Canada in 2010, was one of the series of activities in celebration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Canada. ■

The Canadian participants posing for a group photo



Penglai Revisited

——“2012 stars in Penglai”

Yao Mingyu Ma Huiyun

Following the successful convocation of the international symposium “2011 stars in Penglai”, the CPAFFC staged the 2012 version in cooperation with the Shandong Provincial People’s Government and the Swiss stars Foundation from June 9 to 12. The main streets and scenic spots of Penglai were decorated with flags and banners while the symposium venue—the five-star China Bayview Hotel overlooking the beautiful Bohai Sea—was also elegantly decorated to welcome distinguished guests and young leaders from home and abroad.

On the afternoon of June 9, the opening ceremony and the first plenary session was held in the new conference hall with the attendance of about 200 young leaders, well-known experts and scholars and executives of large enterprises and organizations from 24 coun-

tries and regions. They heard speeches from Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Dr. Joseph Deiss, former President of Switzerland, Chen Guang, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Shandong Provincial Committee, and CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping.

In his welcoming address, Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit said that, against the backdrop of deepening economic globalization, all countries were interrelated and interdependent in their development. For none of them could achieve future economic and social



Dr. Toni Schonenberger, Chairman of the Board of the Swiss stars Foundation, speaking at the opening ceremony

development without international cooperation and mutual support. Youth always represented a future guarantee of humanity and young leaders were a dynamic force in promoting social progress and development. It was necessary for young leaders in all countries to acquire an international vision and assume important responsibilities in preserving world peace, carrying out harmonious cooperation and pursuing sustainable development to meet various global challenges.

In his keynote speech on “2020—Challenges and Choices”, Dr. Deiss observed that poverty, environmental deterioration and war were the three main challenges facing humanity and the first two decades of the 21st century provided an important opportunity for the international community to resolve them. Bold decisions and measures were necessary to ensure rapid economic development and improvement



of the global governance system. While economic development was the key for poverty reduction, a green economy was the key for sustainable development, while global governance was needed for peace and security.

During the remaining sessions, many scholars, entrepreneurs and experts elaborated on the conference topics in thought-provoking manner. Prof. Ding Yifan of the Development Research Center of the State Council analyzed from several perspectives future prospects of China's economic development and the resulting opportunities and challenges; Prof. Huang Weiping of the People's University introduced a new form of enterprise—namely, the social enterprise; Dr. Tang Min, counselor of the State Council stressed innovation was the driving force for enterprise growth, but sustainability and inclusiveness should also be part of development.

Mr. Nobuyuki Idei, former president of Japan's Sony Corporation, analyzed the economic, political and social challenges in the coming 5-10 years from an Asian perspective. He pointed out that Asian countries should build a new model of economic develop-

A light moment shared by Chinese and foreign participants during tea break



ment, in order to avoid the economic recession inflicting many Western economies. Using the example of the European debt crisis, Lord Michael Hastings of Scarisbrick analyzed emerging risks and challenges such as the failure of Western thinking, failure of leadership, growing of secularism, etc. Chi-Won Yoon, Chairman and CEO of the Asia-Pacific region of UBS AG discussed some of the emerging challenges such as non-implementation of contracts on the part of governments, social instability and political risk, etc. based on his own experiences.

The interactive session of the symposium was lively and dynamic. Challenging questions were posed and persuasive answers given by the speakers based on reality. During group discussions, all the participants showed an open mind, an inclusive attitude and a desire to deepen understanding of the themes and topics. Such sessions greatly facilitated exchanges between the delegates and achieved very positive results.

Compared with the 2011 symposium, some innovative programs were added to the agenda, including the Bell Boat Launching Ceremony. The Bell Boat was designed by former British Olympic rowing coach David Train, who is also a green environmentalist based on the concepts of energy saving, emission control and sustain-



The participants at the symposium

able development. They fitted in well with the symposium themes—building bridges, promoting harmony. In addition, a variety of social programs such as field visits, exchange sessions and cultural activities provided the delegates with a platform for in-depth communication. Many delegates said that they had had the opportunity of meeting friends from so many countries within two or three days and it was indeed a very effective and efficient means networking.

As the four-day symposium ended, the participants left with deepened understanding of the topics. For the majority of foreign participants who had come to China for the first time, the success of the symposium in explaining China's economic and social development since reform and opening up helped changed their previous partial views about the country. Many said that the trip enabled them to see the present-day China and to understand the real Chinese people.

Although this is by no means a large-scale event, it has produced a far-reaching impact. It has built up a bridge of knowledge, vision, understanding and friendship for all the young leaders. ■

CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan Visits Japan

Our Staff Reporter

At the invitation of the seven Japanese friendship-with-China organizations and the Japanese Executive Committee of the “Friendship Year for China-Japan People-to-People Exchanges”, Tang Jiaxuan, President of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), visited Tokyo, and the prefectures of Osaka, Miyagi and Hokkaido April 22-29.

It was his first visit since becoming CJFA president in March. During his stay, he met Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba, House of Representatives Speaker Takahiro Yokomichi, former Prime Ministers Tomiichi Murayama, Yasuo Fukuda and Yasuhiro Nakasone, as well as Koniishi Azuma, Secretary General of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), Seiji Maehara, Chairman of DPJ’s Policy Research Committee, Sadakazu Tanigaki, Presi-



CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan speaking at the reception jointly held by the seven Japanese friendship-with-China organizations in Tokyo

dent of the Liberal Democratic Party, Natsuo Yamaguchi, Chief Representative of the New Komeito, and Yoshimi Watanabe, Representative of Your Party.

He also met with leaders of local governments, leading officials of the seven Japanese friendship-with-China organizations and representatives from economic circles, and exchanged views with all on how to further develop China-Japan relations under the new situation in a steady and healthy way.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said China’s development provided an opportunity for Japan as

well as the international community. In commemorating the 40th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, Japan was willing to make concerted efforts to enhance political mutual trust, expand cultural and personnel exchanges and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation to enhance a strategic relationship of mutual benefit.

Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba said Japan attached great importance to bilateral relations, and was willing to strengthen cooperation to achieve win-win progress that would contribute to peace and stability of Asia and the world at large.

The leaders of Japanese political parties pledged to further strengthen ties with various sectors of China and make efforts to promote healthy and steady development of the overall bilateral relationship.

Hiromasa Yonekura, Chairman of the Japan Business Federation briefed Tang on Japanese efforts to build “intelligent cities” and stressed willingness to intensify cooperation with China in such key areas as energy conservation, environmental protection, a recycling-oriented economy, etc., and foster new economic growth areas to achieve win-win results and common development.

Fujio Mitarai, President of Canon Company, Kunio Nakamura, President of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. and other business leaders all

CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan presenting a giant panda toy to Yoshihiro Murai, Governor of Miyagi Prefecture



expressed willingness to intensify cooperation with China in relevant areas along with great efforts to further develop bilateral relations.

During his meeting with Ichiro Matsui, Governor of Osaka Prefecture, and Toru Hashimoto, Mayor of Osaka, Yoshihiro Murai, Governor of Miyagi Prefecture, Emiko Okuyama, Mayor of Sendai, Harumi Takahashi, Governor of Hokkaido Prefecture and Fumio Ueda, Mayor of Sapporo, Tang expressed his hope that local governments would actively bring their advantages into full play, strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation with their Chinese counterparts and explore the advantages of mutual complementarities to promote economic and social development and enhanced mutual understanding and friendship.

The leaders of the Japanese local governments all stated the economic growth of their localities could not be attained without China. They were willing to take the 40th anniversary of the normalization of relations as an opportunity to continue developing exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, culture and tourism as well as youth exchanges and further boost cooperation at local government level.

Toru Hashimoto said Japan and China were big countries that had to act responsibly and lead the development of Asia. Though problems would occur from time to time, so long as the two countries strengthened communications and conducted sincere friendly exchanges, relations would advance further.

On April 25, the seven Japanese friendship-with-China organizations

and the Japanese Executive Committee of the “Friendship Year for China-Japan People-to-People Exchanges” jointly hosted a reception in honor of Tang and his party. Over 800 personages of the political, economic and cultural circles from various parts of Japan attended. The participants extended their congratulations to Tang on becoming CJFA President, and expressed their expectation and belief that Japan-China relations of friendship and cooperation would achieve greater development in future.

Addressing the reception, Tang said the 40 years since normalization of relations had passed in an instant; yet, the China-Japan relationship had undergone tremendous changes and greatly developed, bringing substantial benefit to the two peoples and making important contributions to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world. In the process of rebuilding and developing the bilateral

relationship, people-to-people friendly exchanges and cooperation had played a major role. The Japanese friendship-with-China organizations had always marched at the forefront of the cause of bilateral friendship and made outstanding contributions in enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, deepening friendly cooperation between the two countries in all fields and promoting a steady and healthy development of the overall relationship.

Tang made a special visit to the temporary living quarters set up in Sendai for victims of the March 11, 2011, earthquake, to express his sympathy and solicitude, and had cordial talks with them. During his interview with Chinese and Japanese media, he said China sincerely wished to see a speedy recovery of the disaster areas and was willing to continue to provide aid within its capacity for post-quake reconstruction. ■

CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan and his party visiting the temporary living quarters for the earthquake victims of March 11, 2011 in Sendai



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin Visits Germany

Lu Hongwei

Invited by the Hanns Seidel Foundation, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin led a delegation to visit Germany from May 21 to 24. She and her party attended the Seminar on European Debt Crisis and Its Political Effects, met with Eduard Oswald, Vice President of German Parliament, Hartmut Koschyk, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance, Reinhold Bocklet, Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament, Hans Zehetmair, Chairman of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, and Helmut Dedy, Deputy Secretary General of the German Association of Cities, and signed cooperation agreements with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the German Association of Cities respectively.

Germany Willing to Expand Cooperation

All the key German figures meeting the delegation had visited China many times. From their personal experience, they spoke highly of the great changes taking place and believed China was on the right path of development.

Mr. Oswald said there was no doubt that China would play a leading role in the world. He thought that the two countries should strengthen cultural exchanges

and cooperation at local government level besides economic and trade cooperation. Germany hoped to take the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as an opportunity to further deepen strategic cooperation.

Mr. Koschyk expressed his gratitude for China's constructive contribution during the European debt crisis, and hoped the strategic cooperation agreement signed by the Ministry of Finance of the two countries could become a model of cooperation between developed countries and emerging economies. He said that Chancellor Angela Merkel had emphasized on many occasions the importance of China to the world economy. Besides the traditional leading industries such as automobile and machinery manufacture, Germany also attached importance to carrying out cooperation with China in the new technology fields such as environmental protection, renewable energy, etc.

Seminar on European Debt Crisis

The delegation attended the Seminar on European Debt Crisis and Its Political Effects in Munich at a time difficulties were mounting. This was another attempt made by the CPAFFC and the Hanns Se-

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin with Hartmut Koschyk, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance



idel Foundation to cooperate in the economic and political fields. Experts and scholars from the IFO Institute, the University of Munich and the University of Nuremberg had enthusiastic discussions with the Chinese scholars in the delegation.

The scholars believed that, although the situation was grim, the crisis was limited to a handful of countries and was one of debt rather than an indication of the failure of the euro. Moreover, structural reforms were being carried out step by step and relevant legal documents were being worked on. More attention should be paid to the quality of EU's integration in the future.

The experts attending the seminar thought that EU was an unprecedented undertaking, and Europe's peace and prosperity could only be ensured by continuously promoting deeper integration. Therefore, people should have confidence in the euro and believe Europeans had the ability to solve their own problems.

German scholars also spoke highly of the stand of China in facing the European debt crisis and its efforts to help.



A cooperation agreement signed between the CPAFFC and the Hanns Seidel Foundation

Signing Cooperation Agreements

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, established in 1967, is one of the five political foundations in Germany. It carried out cooperation with China through organizing activities together with the CPAFFC as early as 1979. At present, the key areas of the bilateral cooperation lie in parliament members' exchange of visits, social and political exchanges, and providing financial aid to the impoverished college students in Western China. President Li Xiaolin and Chairman Hans Zehetmair signed a

new cooperation agreement on May 22.

President Li Xiaolin and Secretary General Stefan Articus of the German Association of Cities signed a cooperation agreement on May 24. This was the first agreement signed by the two associations laying a foundation for future cooperation.

The German Association of Cities, founded in 1905, currently has 3,400 city/town members representing 51 million people. It established contact with the CPAFFC in the 1980s and made frequent exchanges thereafter. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin attending the Seminar on European Debt Crisis and Its Political Effects



CPAFFC Delegation Visits Uganda And Botswana

Huang Xiaowei

At the invitation of the Ministry of Local Government of Uganda and the Botswana-China Friendship Association, a 28-member Delegation of the CPAFFC, local government officials and Entrepreneurs led by CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, paid a goodwill visit to the two countries from May 27 to June 3.

In Uganda

Vice President Edward Ssekandi, and Adolf Mwesigye, Minister of Local Government, met the delegation. Mr. Ssekandi spoke highly of the long-term friendly relations between the two countries and, in particular, thanked China for assisting Uganda since the establishment of diplomatic relations 50 years ago. There were many examples to show the friendship between the two countries and close cooperation between the two ruling Parties. He appreciated CPAFFC's efforts to expand the bilateral friendship at the central government level to localities. This year the two countries would celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, and he hoped the existing friendship would become even stronger in the next 50 years, and forever.

In Kamuli in Eastern Uganda, the

delegation attended the Donation Ceremony of the 2012 Caring Students Action in Uganda at which it donated radio sets, repeaters, footballs, stationery and cash with a total value of 200,000 RMB to local schools. About 400 teachers and students from local schools and representatives from related organizations attended the ceremony. Vice President Feng Zuoku said the donation, made on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, conveyed the deep feelings of both the Chinese people and Chinese enterprises towards the Ugandan people. He hoped the friendship between China and Africa would continue from generation to generation.

Parliamentary Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, who attended the donation ceremony, expressed her wish to further strengthen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries as she personally handed out stationery and sports articles to school representatives. It was a touching and warm spectacle to see the student representatives dressed in colorful national costumes expressing their joy through singing and dancing.

The Ninth Seminar on Exchanges between Chinese and African Local Govern-

Ugandan Vice President Edward Ssekandi meeting with the delegation



ments was jointly organized by the CPAFFC and the Ministry of Local Government and attended by local government officials from six Chinese provinces and autonomous regions in the delegation and more than 20 mayors and representatives from local governments and tourism associations and the Chamber of Commerce of Uganda. They discussed the topic “Making Use of Special Resources and Industrial Advantages to Promote Economic Development”.

At a business meeting, representatives from industries such as tourism, land development, product processing, and hotel management exchanged ideas with the Chinese entrepreneurs.

In Botswana

The delegation was received by Peter Siele, Minister of Local Government, and attended a business luncheon given by the Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower. Entrepreneurs on Botswana side mainly came from the resources development, new energy, real estate, transportation, processing and tourism sectors. The two sides talked enthusiastically, looking forward to further cooperation and achieving substantial results.

The delegation donated 200 wheelchairs to the Botswana-China Friendship Association. Gaotlhaetse Matlhabaphiri, Assistant Minister of Health, and Dr. Machete, President of the Botswana-China Friendship Association were present at the donation ceremony. ■

Ugandan Parliament Speaker R. Kadaga and the CPAFFC delegation at the donation ceremony



CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku speaking at the 9th Seminar on Exchanges between Chinese and African Local Governments



Peter Siele, Minister of Local Government of Botswana, with the delegation

The delegation donating wheelchairs to the Botswana-China Friendship Association



Zhenjiang Outstanding Citizens' Delegation Visits Friendship Cities in Japan

Zheng Jiang

Exchanges between peoples are the foundation of friendly relations between countries. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, the leaders of the two countries decide to designate 2012 as the “Year of Friendly Exchanges between the Chinese and Japanese people”.

The aim is to fully promote exchanges between the two peoples with the theme of “new opportunities and bond of hearts” to further consolidate and win public support so as to inject new vitality to the State-level relationship. Against this background, a 150-member delegation of outstand-

ing citizens of Zhenjiang led by Wu Shunan, President of the Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, visited Tsu, capital of Mie Prefecture, and Kurashiki in Okayama Prefecture from March 22 to 28.

The members of the delegation represented 23 sectors of society in Zhenjiang including urban construction, environmental protection, community administration, culture, education, public health, sports, business, trade, transportation, etc., persons of the year chosen under the “Great Love, Zhenjiang” as well as national, provincial and municipal model workers and pace-set-

ters. The delegation chose 15 subjects for study including urban construction, environmental protection, traffic management, protection and use of cultural relics, emergency management of disasters, life-long education, enhancement of awareness of environmental protection and cultivation of habits of civilized conduct. The delegation also asked the Japanese friendship cities to arrange visits and exchanges with clear aims.

The visit gained full support from Tsu and Kurashiki. The two cities held grand welcome ceremonies and many citizens’ get-together activities. Leaders of the municipal governments and



councils and friendship-with-China organizations attended the various activities that were on a scale unprecedented in the history of the two cities' friendly contacts with China. Yasuyuki Maeba, Mayor of Tsu, and Munehio Tamura, Speaker of the Tsu Municipal Council; Kaori Ito, Mayor of Kurashiki, and Mamori Mori, Speaker of the Kurashiki Municipal Council, all spoke highly of the delegation's visit and exchange activities. Extensive exchanges between their two cities and Zhenjiang would surely create a new situation for cooperation and exchanges.

The delegation had a tight schedule. Through study and investigation on special subjects and contacts with ordinary people, members gained comprehensive knowledge about Japan's advanced experience and practice in enhancement of awareness of environmental protection, cultivation of habits of civilized conduct, traffic management, drinking water management, refuse sorting and recycling, cultivation of awareness of conservation, honesty and good manners, inheritance and development of culture, urban construction and management, etc. They realized that Japan's clean living environment and stable and harmonious social order depend on pragmatic basic national education and citizens' consciousness of the need for good behavior as well as human-based and scientific administration.

Members noticed that though there was not a dustbin in sight, Japan's streets were very clean. Dustbins classified into different sorts were put in back lanes, it was explained. Then, how do Japanese citizens dispose of



Wu Shunan, leader of the delegation, interviewed by a Japanese reporter from *Mainichi Shimbun*

their refuse? The practice is that the relevant government department hands out a "reminding-you calendar" to every household free of charge marked with the dates, time and locations for disposal of each type of refuse, which is taken to relevant treatment plants by a specialized agency.

Highways in Japan are not very wide, but every car proceeds in an orderly way and the dense flow of traffic is smooth. This is due to a series of supporting policies such as setting up high threshold of access for new drivers and keeping drivers' personal records.

Japan has a very strict food management system. A detailed accountability system is implemented at each stage from planting, picking and processing on the farm to storage, distribution and steps to ensure freshness, as well as distribution, testing and sales. Various supervisory measures ensure all systems to be implemented to the letter. As supervision does not bring any benefit to the supervisory authorities, the impartiality and consistency of

the work are guaranteed.

The delegation also visited some kindergartens and primary schools where they noticed that none of the parents were picking up the children. There was still a chill in the air in early Spring. But boys wore shorts and girls short skirts outdoors, voluntarily tempering themselves in a hard environment. Teachers and students bowed greetings to each other when entering or leaving school.

The Japanese people will definitely clean the restroom after they use it. When boys accidentally leave impressions of shoes on rails, they will immediately wipe them clean with their handkerchiefs. The Japanese have been taught to develop such good habits since childhood. Japan's elementary education is closely combined with social practice and daily life. It lays more stress on survival skills than on knowledge, and more on experimental learning such as society observation and study, investigations and discussions, and making and production activities

than on classroom education, and pays great attention to developing abilities to solve problems so as to cultivate a modern society where there is respect for each other and no-one displays short-termism in their treatment of others.

Deeply impressed by the clean streets in Japanese cities and countryside, members discussed how to learn from Japan so as to raise the overall quality of the Chinese people and improve the nation and protect its environment. When enjoying the Japanese fresh and light dishes, they thought how to put an end to waste on food starting from their own families and advocate thrift-consciousness and healthy diet concept in the whole society after they returned home. When talking about what they saw and experienced during their visit to the Bikan Historical and Cultural Street Block in Kurashiki, they pondered how to inherit, preserve and develop Zhenjiang's historical and cultural heritage so as to show it more lively to the outside world and make it become the cul-

tural spirit of the city.

Japan's perfect societal norms and high quality of citizens, well-ordered social management and dynamic economy and social undertakings, prosperous cities and countryside and warm and friendly ordinary people left a deep impression on the delegation. They said that in their future work and life they would better carry forward the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation by taking actions on small things first and influencing others with their own moves so as to jointly build a better homeland.

The investigation and research reports written after the delegation returned home including Classification and Comprehensive Use of Household Garbage; Observation and Reflection of Japan's Elementary Education; Scientific Operation and Management of Urban Sports Facilities; Economic Development and Services; and Cherry Blossom and Extension of Its Cultural Industry can serve as reference for the development of relevant areas in Zhenjiang and have set a good example to

Zhenjiang citizens' delegations in their future overseas visits.

During the meeting between Wu Shunan, head of the delegation, and leaders of Tsu and Kurashiki, both sides proposed that economic cooperation and exchanges between citizens should be carried out simultaneously and more frequently, as economic development and people's support are the basis for profound cooperation and also for long-term exchanges and cooperation. They also pointed out that the two sides should expand the scale of exchanges, and send more delegations to each other's city. In addition, the two sides should conduct more exchanges between the professionals engaged in service industry and equipment manufacturing industry, and other areas of economic cooperation.

The delegation's visit to Japanese friendship cities will exert far-reaching influence on Zhenjiang's external contacts, economic construction, development of social undertakings, and process of internationalization in the future. ■

Taiko drumming, a traditional performing item in Tsu City with a history of more than 400 years



Based upon China-New Zealand Young Leaders Exchange Program signed in June 2010 by the CPAFFC and the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the 2nd Chinese Young Leaders Delegation paid an 11-day visit to New Zealand (NZ), from May 27 to June 6.

It visited Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua and Wellington; called on government departments such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Asia NZ Foundation, Wellington Environmental Protection Agency, NZ Trade & Enterprise, the Auckland City Council, Port of Tauranga, etc. It also visited famous enterprises such as Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited and COSCO; schools and institutions such as Auckland Normal Middle School, Confucius Institute in Auckland University, Tauranga Girls' College and Chinese Community School, Waiariki Institute of Technology, NZ Contemporary China Research Center of Victoria University and Massey University; had discussions with Mr. John McKinnon, Secretary of NZ Defense Ministry and former NZ ambassador to China, and Professor Huang Xiaoming. Through the discussions the delegation got a comprehensive understanding of the present situation of NZ's social and economic development, and features of its culture, history and folk customs.

Reviewing 40 Years' Great Achievements

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and NZ. Bilateral relations have made continuous progress over the past 40 years. Mr. Steve McCrobie, Chief of the Foreign Ministry's Asia Department, received the delegation and talked in detail about

Chinese Young Leaders Delegation Visits New Zealand

Ye Zi

the great achievements made by the two countries in various fields backed by specific data. He said the two sides should feel proud of the four diplomatic "first's": New Zealand was the first country to finish negotiations with China for the latter to enter the WTO; the first to recognize China's market economy status; the first to start Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with China; and the first to sign an FTA with it. New Zealand also became the first country to sign an FTA with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It was also pointed out that Prime Minister John Key had said on several occasions that largely thanks to the FTA signed with China, New Zealand had been able to perform well in the global financial crisis. In February 2012, the government formally launched the *New Zealand Inc China Strategy* in an effort to promote bilateral relations to a higher level.

Since the FTA was signed in April 2008, bilateral trade has developed fast. China has become New Zealand's second trading partner and market of its exports and source of its imports. Bilateral trade volume increased by 33.6% in 2011.

Extensive Contacts with People from All Social Circles

During the visit, the friendly attitude of the local people towards China left the delegation with a deep impression, as well as their familiarity with

China's present situation and understanding of its culture. From the gift—*Guide to the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement*, a book with a Chinese red lantern printed on the cover—from the Foreign Ministry to the father and son in the market by the Rotorua Lake, holding a charity sale for local primary and middle school students to visit China; from the three Maori professors at the Waiariki Institute of Technology sharing their experience of visiting China to Defense Ministry Secretary McKinnon recalling his wonderful memory of twice serving as his country's ambassador to China; from the fact that many primary and middle schools set up Chinese language courses to the vigorous development of Confucius Institute, the delegation felt that China was indeed not a strange country to the local people.

Delegation head Wu Fei said that there was a significant increase in the number of products made in China, tourists coming from China, and Chinese immigrants working and studying in the country, compared with what he saw during his first visit 10 years ago.

In-Depth Understanding of New Zealand

Through visits and discussions, the delegation gained good understanding of New Zealand's city planning, environmental protection, frontier science and technology, port construction, environment of secondary education

Activities of Third China-India

Joint Medical Mission

Liu Hongmin

Activities of the third China-India Joint Medical Mission (CIJMM) co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China-India Friendship Association (CIFA) were carried out in Beijing and neighboring Hebei Province from June 24 to July 2.

This is the Year of China-India Friendship and Cooperation jointly announced by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. As one of the headline events, the mission's activities were, as usual, broken into two parts: Indian

doctors visiting China to render free medical services and Chinese doctors giving free medical services in India.

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CIFA and the 70th anniversary of the passing of Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis, an old friend of the Chinese people and a member of the Indian Aid-



CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku visiting the exhibition in commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the arrival in China of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission together with the doctors of the CIJMM

and higher education, production and marketing of dairy products, and development of production of honey and kiwifruits, etc.

In Maori language, the country is known as the “land of the long white cloud”. For years, the first impression one gains is of a harmonious scene of sheep and cattle grazing on the vast grassland with a gentle breeze blowing under a blue sky and white clouds, which is the result of the great attention to environmental protection paid by the government and general public. Sustainable development of environment has always been one of the key concerns of, for example, Auckland City Council making new city plans, or LanzaTech, a company mainly devoted to scientific and technological innovations, or Fonterra Cooperative Group Limited, a leader in production and

marketing of dairy products. Wellington Environmental Protection Agency attached great importance to the Chinese Young Leaders Delegation's visit. Six officials in charge of environmental assessment and legislation, pollution supervision and project cooperation met the group to give a briefing on the general situation. The delegates felt that the New Zealanders had a thorough understanding of the connotation of the relationship between man and nature, development and environmental protection, and fully realized the unity between environmental protection and economic development.

It was also one of the main purposes of the delegation's visit to study on New Zealand's secondary education and higher education. Through discussions with teachers and students from Auckland Normal Middle School,

Tauranga Girls' College and Massey University, visiting the campuses and attending classes, the delegation gained deeper understanding of their curriculum, certification of teacher's qualifications, their way of teaching and training direction. The delegates said, the schools in New Zealand emphasized students' creative thinking, the ability to do things by themselves and awareness of the need of cooperation. This was quite different from Chinese secondary school education.

During the visit in Rotorua, the delegation was invited to a marae where it was welcomed by a traditional Maori ceremony. The delegates experienced and learned Maori culture and customs through visiting the Museum of Maori Folk Customs and enjoying Maori delicacies cooked in traditional ways. ■

China Medical Mission active during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in the 1930s.

The activities of the CIJMM are carried out every other year since its inauguration in 2008 by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh. The first part of the activity, involving Indian doctors visiting China, having been completed, Chinese doctors will go to India towards the end of the year to give their own free medical services.

The third CIJMM consisted of 17 Chinese and Indian doctors. The CPAFFC held a launching ceremony and mounted a photo exhibition in commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the arrival in China of the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on June 25. CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua presented a certificate to each member and a flag to the third CIJMM. Feng Zuoku, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Arun Kumar Sahu, Counselor of the Indian Embassy in China, council mem-

bers of the CPAFFC and the CIFA and reporters from major media in Beijing, were among some 100 people attending the ceremony.

In Beijing the CIJMM paid an official call on the Ministry of Health.

In Hebei, the CIJMM visited the Dr. Kotnis China-India Friendship Hospital and Dr. Norman Bethune Hospital of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, where the Chinese and Indian doctors had academic exchanges and discussions. It also went to the Guangzong County Hospital and Chenzhuang Village of Dapingtai Township to give free medical treatment.

While in Hebei, CIJMM members paid a visit to the Dr. Kotnis Memorial Hall where they placed a basket of flowers in front of his statue.

Dr. Sarabjeet Sandhu, the Indian team leader, said, Dr. Kotnis' perseverance and selfless dedication to practicing medicine in difficult conditions in China at the time was a shining example of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. His spirit

of international humanitarianism and friendship would encourage Indian doctors to better serve the people and contribute to the development of India-China friendship.

Chinese team leader Peng Wei said, medical sciences transcend national boundaries. He, as a member of the third CIJMM, would carry forward the great international humanitarian spirit displayed by the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission and Dr. Kotnis and would devote his efforts to promote peace by strengthening exchanges in medical sciences between the two countries, to provide services to improve the health of both peoples and to enhance their mutual understanding and friendship.

On June 28, while giving free medical services in Guangzong County, the CIJMM members sadly learned of the passing of Ms. Guo Qinglan, widow of Dr. Kotnis, at the age of 96. They immediately held a short ceremony of mourning, standing in silent tribute to show their respect. ■

CIFA President Jiang Zhenghua with doctors of the CIJMM after presenting the flag to the team



President of Turkish-Chinese Friendship Association Visits China

Xu Yan

On May 4, 2012, China's Youth Day, the young staff members of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) were busy receiving a senior foreign visitor, Kemal Baytas, President of the Turkish-Chinese Friendship Association (TCFA).

Take the Lead in Promoting Friendship

Mr. Baytas founded the TCFA in 1991 and has served as its President ever since. Over the past 21 years, the two associations have maintained frequent exchanges and have made remarkable contributions to bilateral friendship. Baytas had visited China 14 times, making many friends in the CPAFFC, including its former President Chen Haosu, its Vice President Feng Zuoku and Secretary General Lin Yi. He would see them every time he visited China.

At 6 pm on May 4, Chen Haosu hosted a banquet to warmly welcome the Turkish delegation. Feng Zuoku, Lin Yi and Turkish Ambassador to China Murat Salim Esenli were among those present. Chen Haosu said, although personages working for people-to-people friendship live far apart, when they find friends they find a home. Feng Zuoku said Chinese were proud to have President Baytas as a friend. He was the only foreign friendship organization leader who had led



CPAFFC Advisor Gu Xiulian with TCFA President Kemal Baytas

social elite of his country to visit China annually over the last decade and more. The CPAFFC would always be grateful to him and the TCFA for their work. Ms. Lin Yi was the one in the CPAFFC staff who looked after the TCFA delegations most times over the past two decades. Baytas called her his "daughter". Lin Yi said that China was like the second home to Mr. Baytas, where he had visited many places and, what's more, he had quite a number of "young kinsfolk" in the CPAFFC who would like to see the old man always looking healthy and happy.

Mr. Baytas said the TCFA had about 150 members who were well-known in their professional circles. Since its founding in 1991, the organization had maintained close cooperation with the CPAFFC. He said, jokingly that, at the age of 85, he never felt old because he was working for people's friendship and has so many "relatives" in the CPAFFC.

Gu Xiulian, Advisor to the CPAFFC, hosted a breakfast meeting with Mr. Baytas on May 6. She recalled with joy her visit to Turkey last year. She said that the title of Friendship Ambassador and the Award for Contributions to People's Friendship the CPAFFC had conferred upon him showed its appreciation of what he and the TCFA had done.

Li Xiaolin, President of the CPAFFC, was unable to meet Mr. Baytas in Beijing due to her busy schedule. Coincidentally, when the Turkish delegation was in Zhejiang Province for a visit, she was there accompanying a group of guests from central Asian countries. Therefore, she made special arrangement to meet Mr. Baytas in the beautiful city of Hangzhou, the provincial capital. Li expressed her feeling about the vastness of the world since her appointment as CPAFFC President more than half a year before. She assured Mr. Baytas of her willingness to further the friendly contact between the CPAFFC and the TCFA and was looking forward to having support from the TCFA during the "Year of Chinese Culture in Turkey 2012" and the "Year of Turkish Culture in China 2013".

The Turkish guest briefed Li on the TCFA's reception of a delegation sent by the CPAFFC for cultural exchanges last March, and promised his continuous support for the CPAFFC in all its friendship activities. He invited

Li to visit Turkey in May 2013, which she gladly accepted.

Spare No Efforts to Promote Cooperation

Although well advanced in years, Mr. Baytas showed he was still sharp in thought and clear in expression. He seized every opportunity to explore cooperation opportunities during his meetings with local authorities.

Li Qiang, President of Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, briefed him about the advantages and challenges the province faced as well as friendly exchanges it carried out last year with Turkey's Izmir Province, the first step to strengthen cooperation with the country. Mr. Baytas said that Turkey was a potential market for hydroelectric power generation and solar-power application and hoped that Zhejiang would grasp the opportunity.

Wang Shitong, Vice President of the Guangdong Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, expressed gratitude to his Turkish guest for meeting his delegation in Turkey last April, and handed him the invitation from Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong Province, to participate in the Guangdong International Exchange and Cooperation Week to be held in November 2012. Mr. Baytas reached consensus with Wang on implementing the MOU signed in Turkey on the principle of handling the easy tasks first.

Sun Huaizhong, Vice President of Shenzhen Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SMPAFFC), told Mr. Baytas that Shenzhen had the most active private sector in China. However, many

enterprises could not find cooperation partners overseas and for some foreign enterprises, he believed, it was hard to find partners in China. Therefore, the SMPAFFC was willing to cooperate with the TCFA in building a bridge through mechanisms such as China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair, China Hi-Tech Fair and friendship-city relations, to help both the Chinese and Turkish enterprises to find their matches.

Mr. Baytas fully agreed with Sun's ideas and told him that the city of Gaziantep in Turkey had expressed its readiness to develop friendship-city ties with Shenzhen. Some members of the Turkish delegation were engaged in new energy or in trade of food, nuts, wine, etc. They also hoped to find cooperation partners in Shenzhen. Sun said they would take positive considerations for developing friendship relations with Gaziantep and try to find counterpart enterprises for Turkish friends through relevant trade associations.

Mr. Baytas was a good guide of his delegation, for he had visited China so many times over the past two decades and was very familiar with China's traditions and customs. Whenever some member of his delegation expressed curiosity about something in China, he would give him a detailed and convincing explanation. When his delegates met with difficulties, he would act together with Chinese staff who accompanied the delegation, until problems were solved and all were happy. It is more interesting to mention, Mr. Baytas usually volunteered to "negotiate" with shop assistants when the delegates were doing shopping in their spare time, and he could usually make a good bargain; thus, his delegation could really enjoy their shopping. With such a team leader, the Turkish delegation showed unity and efficiency at both working and leisure hours.

Love life and care for others. This is probably the secret of Mr. Kemal Baytas to have good health and longevity. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin with the delegation



Notes on AGCF Baden-Wuerttemberg Delegation's Visit to Yunnan

Wang Wei

Arriving in the “Land of Peace and Happiness”

On a hot summer afternoon in June, the coach carrying the delegation of the Association for Germany-China Friendship (AGCF) Baden-Wuerttemberg followed State Highway 214 running through the high mountains of Yunnan alongside the Jinsha River, a tributary of the upper Yangtze River. The delegation, having just toured the beautiful Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture and romantic Lijiang City, was excitedly looking forward to seeing the fabled Shangri-La.

Lying at an elevation of 3,200 meters, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture is located in Yunnan Province adjoining Sichuan Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. It has a population of 400,000, of which 32 percent are Tibetans. Its name “Diqing” means “place of good luck” in Tibetan. The prefectural capital is Shangri-La, a land that symbolizes peace and happiness.

Most of the members of the delegation had read the novel *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton (later made into a movie) that popularized the name “Shangri-La” and even the many discomforts they experienced at high altitude could not dampen their enthusiasm.

Under the blue sky of the plateau, Mr. Wangdong, from the prefecture's Foreign Affairs Bureau, presented each member of the delegation with a white *hada*—a beautiful scarf that Tibetans

traditionally offer distinguished guests. A native Tibetan, he proved to be a sincere, considerate and warm-hearted person whose warm smiles helped people forget their reaction to the thin air.

The stories in Hilton's novel are imaginary, but Shangri-La has everything he describes in the novel: high snowy mountains, green canyons, gold-gilded monasteries, clear lakes, tranquil grassland, flocks of yaks, big Tibetan houses, simple Kangba people... Everyone started their journey living in their imagination and finding it matched by the reality.

What's the Real China?

On the way from the county seat to the Pudacuo National Forest Park, we saw many big white Tibetan-style houses of the Kangba people, a branch of the Tibetan ethnic group. “What is like inside these houses?” asked our German friends with curiosity. Wangdong warmly invited the delegation to visit an ordinary Tibetan family. Our coach drove on the bumpy road until it reached the foot of the mountain where before us stood a beautiful Tibetan house. The hostess and her children attired in Tibetan costumes came out to greet us and led us into the house where we had a tour of the rooms, tasted Tibetan snacks and butter tea prepared by the hostess, and chatted happily with her. She told us that the family raised over 40 yaks. As it was summer the yaks were grazing on the mountains



The Tibetan hostess and her children greeting the delegation

4,000 meters above sea level. The family also planted potatoes and sometimes dug up Chinese caterpillar fungus. With the money earned from these and low-interest loans from the government, they had built this new house. Seeing the lovely children, a German friend asked whether they could learn Tibetan language at school. The hostess said that, indeed, the children had Tibetan classes in school and they spoke the language at home. Now, English was also taught at school. The members of the delegation had a pleasant evening, as the simplicity, honesty and warmth of the host family made them feel very much at home.

Songzanlin Lamasery is known as the pearl of the Tibetan area in northwestern Yunnan. The road leading to it is called Niwang, which means to go and offer incense. Located five kilometers from the county town of Shangri-La, it is the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Yunnan Province. The majestic architectural complex built on the slope of a mountain enjoys the rep-

utation as “the Little Potala Palace” for its resemblance to the mighty edifice towering over Lhasa. It is one of the 13 famous monasteries of the Tibetan-populated area.

“Now I know that Tibetan Buddhist monasteries can be found outside Tibet.”

“Didn’t we often read from the German media that the Chinese government forbade the Tibetans to have religious beliefs?”

“Is that a sky burial platform, opposite the lamasery? I have heard that the government bans the sky burial...is that true?”

The young Tibetan guide of the lamasery and Wangdong answered the questions put forth by the German friends one by one:

Shangri-La is the birthplace of China’s famous Tea-Horse Road, a commercial passage mainly for tea-horse trading between the inner land and Tibet. It is where the Tibetan and Han cultures converge and people learn from each other. Songzanlin Lamasery is one of the big monasteries of the Gelugpa (Yellow Sect) of Tibetan Buddhism, so is the famous Lama Temple (Yonghegong) in Beijing.

For Tibetans, the visitors were told, there are five forms of funeral—river burial, inhumation, cremation, sky burial and pagoda burial. Sky burial is not for everyone. Only those who have attained “great virtue” by practicing Buddhism are entitled. Sky burial masters must be well-versed in medicine and anatomy. And natural elements such as seasons also decide whether such a ceremony can be performed.

“As to the question whether the government allows the Tibetans to have religious beliefs, there is no need

for me to say anything. Just smell the smells of joss-stick burning you can make the judgment yourselves,” Wangdong said.

Our German friends cast a knowing smile. Seeing is believing and this short visit shed light on the truth.

“Adventure in the Valley”

The members of the delegation were very interested in the multi-ethnic cultures of China. An episode in the journey enabled us to feel the friendship of minority people. One late afternoon we were in the coach on a long ride through the mountains. Suddenly we heard a big bang and realized we had a flat tire. We were then over 150 kilometers from Shangri-La and about 50 kilometers from the nearest township. With great difficulty our driver drove the coach to a village of Yi ethnic group a few hundred meters away. Several young men from the village immediately went to get crowbars to help us change the tire. However, the tire had been fixed on so tightly it took the combined efforts of three or four young men some time to remove it. It was getting dark, but they did not give up. Some went into the village to look for suitable tools while others continued the work. The village shopkeeper brought some stools for us to sit. With perseverance and efforts of the Yi people, the tire was finally changed.

All present applauded these fine young men. Several members of the delegation wrote down in detail this “adventure in the valley” in their diary. They were moved by the love and solidarity among all ethnic groups of China.

The last night in Shangri-La, we went to the ancient town of Dukezong, meaning “moonlight city” in Tibetan language. As the night began to fall, shops and stores on both sides of the winding flagstone walk started to close. However, melodious singing could be heard coming from Tibetan restaurants. Mr. Rainer Dold strolled around the ancient town with great interest. He knew China very well for this was his 60th visit to the country, yet the beauty of Shangri-La made him exclaim: “I really want to live here forever!”

The trip to Yunnan ended. The members of the delegation had come with curiosity and doubts, but a few days later they were filled with excitement and emotion. The “Shangri-La” in the novel is a dreamland, but Shangri-La in Yunnan shows the world its long history, its paradisiacal beautiful landscape and its simple and warm-hearted people. Shangri-La represents another aspect of China. Without the splendor and flamboyance of world metropolises, it reveals the honest and diligent character of the Chinese people, their respect for nature and longing for peace and tranquility. ■

The Songzanlin Lamasery



Austrian Wels Orchestra's Performance Tour in Shandong

Li Yanfeng

On the evening of April 12, beautiful music wafted through the big hall of the Rizhao International Conference Center. When the enthusiastic and exciting *Radezky March* was played, an audience of over 1,000 people gave a standing ovation in time to the music as the Austrian Wels Orchestra's performance tour in Shandong came to a successful end.

At the invitation of the Shandong Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPPAFFC), the 60-member orchestra made a performance tour in Laiwu, Linyi and Rizhao from April 5 to 12. Over a seven-day period, they performed six times and had music exchanges with local people on five occasions, enabling more than 10,000 people to have a chance to enjoy the charm of Austrian music and adding color to the cultural life of Shandong.

Envoys Coming from the City of Music

Founded in 1925, the Austrian Wels Orchestra, a brass band composed of 64 musicians, is well known locally. Every year it holds concerts for audio-visual education in its home city, becoming an important part of the local secondary and primary compulsory education. The orchestra has become a symbol of music for Wels as an Aus-



trian famous conference and exposition city, and has held many large concerts in many places of the world. It has been invited to give performances, which were of great success, at the royal concert of the Danish royal family and in the Sydney Opera House of Australia.

This was the orchestra's first performance tour to China. Music Director Wolfgang Erich Homar began to make a meticulous preparation for the tour one year ago. He chose 45 first-class musicians and rehearsed pieces of music specially chosen catering to the Chinese audience. When learning that the orchestra would make a performance tour to Shandong, the Wels municipal government attached great importance to it and specially sent a 15-member working group of the municipal government composed of representative of the mayor and leading officials of relevant government departments to accompany the orchestra.

Besides giving concerts in Shan-

dong, the Austrian delegation held dialogues between cities and people-to-people exchanges in Laiwu, Linyi and Rizhao. Everywhere he went, Edith Rondonell, representative of the mayor of Wels, said with emotion, "It is well known that Austria is reputed as a country of music in the world. All of us, whether musicians or government officials and staff, are envoys from the country of music. I hope that the performance tour will further shorten the distance between Austria and China and enhance the friendship between our two peoples."

An Art Feast

In every two-hour performance, the orchestra played selections of classic music such as *The Blue Danube*, *Wedding Waltz*, *Polka*, etc., familiar to a Chinese audience from the annual TV broadcast of the New Year Concert by the Vienna Philharmonic. The excellent performance by the musicians made the audience really feel the power of music created by Mozart and Strauss. Many of the audience said that the concert was so wonderful that the music cast a spell on them. To shorten the distance from the audience, before coming to China the orchestra specially made adaptation of and rehearsed some popular pieces of Chinese music such as *Beijing's Good News Reaches Borderland Villages* and *Let Us Sway Twin Oars*.

The different style of the music and totally new experience won warm applause from the audience.

The zither is an ancient Austrian folk plucked string musical instrument. It is entirely hand-made from high-quality wood. Only Austria has the right to manufacture it at present. Because of its expensiveness and complicated procedure of arranging its insurance against travel, the zither is usually not taken on a performance tour. But this time the head of the orchestra overcame many difficulties and insisted on bringing it to give the audience of Shandong a chance to hear original Austrian folk music. At the concert, beautiful Austrian girls in elegant folk costumes played Austrian folk music on the zither with a clear, sweet sound. The performers' colorful costumes and the music's unique elements of the Alps brought the region close to the audience.

At the end of the concert, handsome young musicians dressed in Alps *lederhosen* (leather trousers), long stockings and leather shoes put down their instruments, and sang and danced in a way that greatly touched the audience, who clapped their hands together

with the performers on the stage in a climactic performance.

Sending Greetings to Each Other

Joseph Homar, head of the delegation, started every concert by saying, "Austria extends greetings to China". Between the programs the performers would stand up and say to the audience "How do you do?" in Chinese, and the audience led by the host would reply in chorus "Thank You" in German. The interaction between the musicians and the audience created a great bond. The audience in Laiwu, Linyi and Rizhao said that this was their first time to enjoy such a high-level concert, and it was most unforgettable that they could have interactions with foreign musicians in this way. The musicians said the audiences had extraordinary enthusiasm and feeling for music, and they were very happy to take part in the performance tour and hoped to have another chance to visit Shandong.

Music Has No National Boundary

After the performance in Laiwu, Music Director and Conductor Wolfgang Erich Homar happened to meet the conductor of the local orchestra

outside the concert hall. Although they didn't understand each other's language, they happily talked in sign language accompanied with music. Between concerts, the orchestra visited Linyi University, Rizhao No.1 Middle School, and the Rizhao Foreign Language School and made extensive contacts and swapped skills with the local music lovers—the Chinese music lovers played *Dance Music of the Yao Ethnic Group* and then the Austrian musicians *Polka*. "You teach me to play the *erhu* (Chinese fiddle), and I'll teach you to play the French horn" were heard. They sang loudly, danced gracefully and played melodious music. When the musicians and local music lovers had exchanges happily, they often forgot the interpreter. Seeing this, Joseph Homar laughed and said to our working staff: "This is the charm of music which has no national boundary. We hope that musicians of Shandong will play the Shandong folk music in Austria to let the Austrian people enjoy the charm of Chinese music."

Music will surely continue to promote cultural exchanges and friendship will continue to promote even more harmonious music from now on. ■



Middle School Students' Delegation from Russia's Volgograd Visits Chengdu

Zhang Yanwei

Invited by the Chengdu Education Bureau, a middle school students' delegation from Russia's Volgograd City paid a visit to the capital of Sichuan Province April 7-13 to implement the plan of exchanges in education between the two cities.

During its stay in Chengdu, the delegation, led by Olga Sorokina, advisor to the Department of International Relations of Volgograd, visited the Xuedao Campus of Yucai School Attached to Chengdu No. 7 High School, experiencing the rich campus life of middle school students there. It also visited museums to acquire knowledge about the profound history and culture of Chengdu and toured the Folk Custom Street to experience the city's culture with unique charm.

Chinese and Russian Students Pair Off for One-Day Tour

Handicrafts jointly made by Chinese and Russian students



The Chinese and Russian student having a class given by a Russian teacher

On the afternoon of April 7, the activity of forming pairs between the Chinese and Russian students was held in the Sishu Garden near the Hejiang Pavilion. The nine Russian students formed pairs with students of Chengdu and chatted happily in English. On the

morning of April 8, the Chinese families whose children had formed pairs with Russian students took the whole part by car to cultural sites—the Wu Hou Shrine, the Du Fu Thatched Cottage Museum and Huanhuaxi Park. In just one short day, the Chinese and Russian students got over the language barrier and became close friends. The Russian students said Chengdu was very beautiful and Sichuan culture really appealed to them. The Chinese students and their families were hospitable and they were very glad that they had made friends in China.

Form Friendship School Ties to Promote Educational Exchanges

On the morning of April 9, the ceremony of twinning friendship

schools between the Xuedao Campus of Yucai School Attached to Chengdu No.7 High School and the Volgograd No. 3 Middle School was held. The representatives of the two schools expressed their wish to take part in international exchanges, enhance communications between teachers and students and deepen friendship between the latter. The representatives of the two schools signed an agreement and unveiled the name plaque of Friendship School. The students of Chengdu entertained everyone present by playing diabolos with rich national characteristics.

Experience Campus Life in Chengdu

Characteristic courses. The Russian students stayed in the Xuedao Campus for two days from April 9 to 10. They attended classes, did exercises on the playground during the class intervals and had lunch in the canteen with their Chinese partners, experiencing the rich campus life of students in Chengdu. The school provided characteristic courses and school-based optional courses. These included sci-tech development, training in thinking, classics of Chinese national culture, literature reading, English, etc. In the sci-tech class, the Russian students following the teacher's explanation quickly adjusted the microscopes to the best condition with the help from the Chinese students. When seeing the blood in the vein of a small fish's tailfin flowing slowly, they broke into a loud cheer and clapped their hands.

The Russian students were very enthusiastic about the optional courses. All the girls chose Tea Culture, Handi-

craft and Cross-Stitch Embroidery courses. The boys chose Basketball. At the Tea Culture course, the students learned about the different kinds of Chinese tea, and the relationship between tea culture and Chinese culture. In the handicraft course, three Russian girls together with Chinese students made a fancy mask with colored paper and bamboo.

Sharing teaching experience.

On April 9, in order to learn from each other the Russian teacher of English Elena Kholodkovskaya and a Chinese teacher of English in the Xuedao Campus gave an English class together attended by both the Chinese and Russian students. All the students held that the Chinese teacher had more situational setups and organized more student-participated activities, while the Russian teacher had more teaching experience and wider knowledge. They liked both teachers very much.

Sports and art, a bridge of international exchanges. These young Chinese and Russian students aged between 11 to 14 could communicate with each other in broken English helped by sign language, but the real bridge for exchanges was sport and art. Sport enables them to cooperate and coordinate very well, and art makes them share feelings and develop a perfect understanding.

On the afternoon of April 9, exciting basketball friendly matches started. About 700 students of Grade Six and Seven were spectators and formed



Observing the experiment attentively

cheering squads so that the atmosphere at the basketball court was very warm and exciting and encouraging to both teams.

April 11 happened to be the day when performances were shown at the campus art festival. The Russian students were very much attracted by *Traditional Chinese Opera Singing*, *Folk Dance*, and *Ensemble of Traditional Musical Instruments*, performed by the students of the Xuedao Campus and deeply touched by the recitation of the classic poem *Hard is the Road to Shu*.

Getting to know each other



Friendship Activities

The Russian students played the piano and sang Russian folk songs, and performed, together with the Chinese students, the dance *Endless Flowing River*. In international exchanges, language might become a barrier to communications, but with the bridge of sport and art, exchanges become natural and smooth.

Visiting Chengdu to experience its charm. On April 11, the delegation visited the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Base and had a close contact with China's national treasure. The Russian teachers and students were greatly attracted by the charming naive pandas and took photos cheerfully time and again. In the afternoon they visited the Jinsha Site Museum to learn about the ancient Sichuan civilization. In the evening they toured the Jinli Folk Custom Street, fully experiencing the folk customs in Sichuan and enjoying the intangible



Visiting a silk embroidery factory

cultural heritage. The students were most interested in the sugar paintings and carvings in small bottles. Everyone bought at least one small and exquisite lucky bottle with their names or their friends' names carved inside. After watching the performance of *Charm of Sichuan—the Land of Abundance*, they

had a deeper understanding about the charm of the province.

Through this Russian students' visit, the two middle schools of Chengdu and Volgograd realized their wish of twinning friendship ties and started the substantial exchanges in the educational area between the two cities. ■

A friendship basketball match



“Bringing-Light Tour”

—Symbol of China-Pakistan Friendship

Our Staff Reporter

On April 26, 2012, the 1008th cataract operation conducted at the Civil Hospital Karachi by the medical team of the China-Pakistan Friendship Bringing-Light Tour brought the activity to a successful conclusion.

This activity involved Chinese doctors providing free cataract surgery to 1,000 Pakistani patients over a two-year period and was jointly launched by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Pakistani counterpart Yusuf Raza Gilani when the former visited Pakistan in December 2010. As a result, the CPAFFC organized a medical team to go to Islamabad and Multan in December 2011, and another team to Lahore and Karachi in April 2012 to treat patients coming from all parts of Pakistan. The teams comprised top ophthalmologists and nurses from the famous Beijing Tongren Hospital.

Both governments attached great importance to the activity. Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Liu Jian, went to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences to visit the medical team and meet patients recovering from their operations. The prime minister described the team as a true envoy of China-Pakistan friendship bringing care and love of the Chinese government to the Pakistani people. Pakistan-China friendship not only existed at the governmental level, but also between the two peoples through interaction and mutual assistance, he stressed.

In Pakistan, there are a large

number of cataract sufferers, many lacking the financial means for treatment. The arrival of Chinese medical teams with advanced equipment and excellent medical skills brought hope to these people. Dr. Song Xudong, an expert from the Beijing Tongren Hospital, took an average of four minutes to perform a phacoemulsification surgery with intraocular lens implantation successful in every case. The Pakistani doctors who watched the live broadcast of the operations marveled at his skill.

Most of the patients came from remote areas. As the number of hospital beds was limited, failure to operate on a patient on the day of arrival presented immense difficulties and could have meant them not being treated. Understanding this, the Chinese doctors and nurses often worked from 9 in the morning till 7 in the evening. On one particular day, 106 operations were performed in an 11-hour stretch.

Once, when the medical team was tidying up after completing their work, a local doctor led a white-haired elderly man into the room, hoping that one more operation could be performed that day. Upon learning that the old man had traveled several hours solely to seek treatment from Chinese doctors, the medical team immediately set up the equipment and performed the surgery for him.

The patients who had received cataract surgeries and their families were moved by the sincere friendship of the Chinese Government and people

for the Pakistani people. Many of them held the Chinese doctors' hands tightly, saying thanks repeatedly in the Urdu language while receiving their post-operative check-up. The masterly medical skills and the perfect teamwork also left a deep impression on the Pakistani medical personnel.

The year 2011 was the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. It was also designated as the Year of China-Pakistan Friendship. Over those six decades, China and Pakistan have enjoyed smooth development of their relations and become all-weather friends. The “Bringing-Light Tour” no doubt has become another highlight of this special friendship. ■

A Chinese doctor performing cataract surgery



China Xinjiang Children's Art Troupe's Performance Tour of Georgia

Zhang Jiahu

At the invitation of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara Autonomous Republic of Georgia, an 18-member Xinjiang Children's Art Troupe sent by the Xinjiang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, took part in the "The XI Golden Dolphin International Youth Folk Festival" from May 3 to 9 in the capital Batumi.

The festival, organized by the Georgian Folk Music Association and the Ministry of Education, aims to show the folklore and culture of different countries through cultural exchanges, so as to increase understanding, enhance friendship and strengthen cooperation. Eleven countries, including China, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, sent troupes this time.

Xinjiang Children's Art Troupe, attending for the first time, not only gave the local audience three memorable singing and dancing performances with a distinctive feature of the Xin-

jiang Kazakh ethnic group, but also participated in interactions and exchanges with young performers from other countries. At the opening ceremony and carnival parade on May 4, many foreign performers and local people of Batumi had warm conversations and eagerly had photographs taken with the Xinjiang visitors. It was touching to see many people taking every opportunity to communicate with the troupe regardless of language barrier while watching a rehearsal in the Batumi Theater.

At the closing banquet, Ms. Aida Abuseridze, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, proposed a toast to world peace and the Xinjiang Children's Art Troupe's first performance tour in Georgia.

On the morning of May 6, the Troupe took part in a 15-minute live interview with the Adjaran TV Station, which attracted much attention and praise from the local people and performers from foreign art troupes.

The Chinese Embassy in Georgia paid great attention to the troupe's participation in the Festival. Ambassador Chen Jianfu and his wife met cordially with it on May 8, and arranged for recreational activities together with the Georgia National Children's Ensemble. Ambassador Chen said China and Georgia had maintained a comprehensive and steady development of political, economic and cultural relations, since the establishment of diplomatic ties 20 years ago. Exchanges between young people were of great significance in enhancing the traditional friendship between the two people. He hoped that the young performers from both China and Georgia would communicate and learn from each other, and promote a flourishing spirit of friendship.

The troupe also visited scenery spots and places of historical interest in the city of Tbilisi to gain a better understanding of the Georgian society, people's lives, their culture and customs.

The Troupe in the carnival parade in Batumi



Performing a dance of the Kazakh ethnic group

