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Front cover: Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, meeting with former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn in Beijing (December 13, 2012)

Sponsored and published by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Editor-in-Chief: Wang Hong

Address: 1 Tai Ji Chang St., Beijing, 100740, China

E-mail: yousheng_ys@sina.com

ISSN 1000-9582 CN11-1234/D

Fax: (010)65122782

<http://www.cpaffc.org.cn>

<http://www.qikan.com>

Enduring Ties with China

—On Former US President Jimmy Carter’s Visit to China

Sun Tao

Former US President Jimmy Carter is well known in China; it was during his presidency that China and the U.S. formally established diplomatic relations. After leaving office, he continued his efforts to promote development of Sino-US relations, traveling frequently between the two countries. In recent years, he has made annual visits and the most recent trip was in December 2012.

It was not an easy journey, for the flight of over a dozen hours was a big challenge for the 88-year-old Carter. This might explain why he did not want to waste any time and filled his itinerary with meetings and talks covering a wide range of areas including politics, economy, law, public welfare and health.

Of all the scheduled activities, the ones attracting most attention were his meetings with General Secretary Xi Jinping and Vice Premier Li Keqiang. It was the first official meetings with American guests for the new generation of Chinese leaders since the 18th CPC National Congress and the US presidential election. They spoke highly of the historic decision made by the older generation of Chinese leaders and President Carter to establish diplomatic relations, and stressed that, in the new situation, China and the U.S. should defy difficulties, be innovative and accumulate “positive energy” in their



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, meeting with former US President Jimmy Carter

efforts to build a cooperative partnership based on mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win results. They also expressed the hope Mr. Carter would continue to introduce to the American public the reality of an advancing and promising China and convince the political leadership of the great importance of Sino-US relations to both countries as well as the entire world.

Carter described the establishment of diplomatic relations as one of the most important decisions of his political career, and he would never break promises made to the late Mr. Deng Xiaoping, who had reminded him

that his first visit to China was made in 1949 and his birthday was October 1, a date on which the People’s Republic of China was founded.

Carter mentioned on many occasions his feeling of an indissoluble bond with China. I accompanied him throughout his visit and whenever he talked about this, I could feel his heartfelt sincerity and commitment to Deng Xiaoping. As time goes by, he cherishes all the more this bond of friendship and the desire to make unremitting efforts to promote the development of Sino-US relations — well proven by his participation in activities in Beijing,

Nanjing and Sanya.

On December 12, Carter attended the Seminar on “Building A New Type of China-US relations” sponsored by the CPAFFC in Beijing, together with former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Xu Kuangdi who is President of the China-US People’s Friendship Association, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, US Ambassador to China Gary Locke, and representatives from political, academic and business circles of the two countries. Carter thanked President Li Xiaolin and the CPAFFC for their contribution to enhancing the friendship between the Chinese and American people over the past decades and expressed his great joy in witnessing China’s development as a friend whose life experiences were closely related to the country.

Carter was also very concerned about the development of social undertakings in China. He attended a seminar on information disclosure and governance innovation hosted by the Law School of Peking University on December 11, and discussed with He Daofeng, Executive Vice President of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, and Zhang Xiulan, Dean of the School of Social Development and Public Policy of Beijing Normal University on how to build a sustainable charity model while

they attended a charity forum and dinner hosted on December 13 by the Sun Culture Foundation established by the couple Wu Zheng and Yang Lan.

Carter visited the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by the Japanese Invaders as soon as he arrived in the one-time capital on December 14. He carefully looked at the museum collections and wrote an inscription: “This is the best interpretation of resentment to war and longing for peace of all countries in the world”. On December 15, he attended the 120th anniversary celebration of the Nanjing Gulou Hospital and expressed his great sense of pride at the fact it had been set up by missionaries from North America, later developing into a vital institution in Chinese medical and academic research. During the Nanjing Massacre, Gulou Hospital was the only open hospital in the city, and treated a large number of wounded soldiers and civilians. Missionaries from the U.S. staying in Nanjing at that time also participated actively in rescuing the wounded and made great contribution to the

development of friendship between the two peoples.

Carter attended the Sanya Forum on international finance sponsored by the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) and hosted by *Finance* magazine on December 16. He expressed high expectations of the Sino-US economic and trade cooperation that was essential to both sides. After the forum, he participated in the foundation laying ceremony of the permanent site for the Sanya Forum together with CAIFC Honorary President Xu Kuangdi and Vice President Deng Rong, and Secretary of the CPC Sanya Municipal Committee Jiang Sixian.

Despite the tight schedule and his advanced age, Carter always spoke impromptu. His sharp faculties, fast speeches and excellent memory were admirable. He expressed his wish to visit China next year, the year after, and even after he turned 90. We hope that Carter’s ties with China will continue to promote the growth of Sino-US friendly relations. ■

Jimmy Carter speaking at the cornerstone laying ceremony of Sanya Forum Center



As important neighbors for each other, China and Japan have cooperated in various fields over the past four decades since normalization of diplomatic relations and their cooperation seen unprecedented growth, greatly contributing to their mutual development. It is obvious to all the Chinese government remains committed to the policy of developing its relations with Japan.

Xin Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, made these remarks when meeting with Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of Japan's New Komeito Party, who visited Beijing from January 22 to 25 at the invitation of the China-Japan Friendship Association.

The Party, originally founded in 1964 but reconstituted under its present name in 1998, pursues the policy of friendship with China. It has made active efforts and contributions to the normalization of diplomatic relations and their sound and steady development ever since. It is the fourth largest political party in the Japanese Diet, with 31 seats in the House of Representatives and 19 seats in the House of Councilors. It is now a coalition partner in the government of the Liberal Democratic Party.

General Secretary Xi's Meeting

Yamaguchi, party head since September 2009, was the first senior member of the coalition to travel to China since ties between the two countries soured last September when the Japanese government announced its "purchase" of the Diaoyu Islands.

General Secretary Xi Jinping, meeting him in the Great Hall of the People on January 25, stressed: "To maintain long-term, healthy and stable

Japan's New Komeito Chief Natsuo Yamaguchi Visits China

Zhang Zhenxing



General Secretary Xi Jinping meeting with Natsuo Yamaguchi

development of relations, we must look at the larger picture, steer our affairs in the right direction, and promptly and properly handle sensitive issues... Facts have proven that the four political documents between the two countries constitute the cornerstone of China-Japan relations and should be earnestly observed. Under the new circumstances, we should shoulder national and historical responsibilities and display political wisdom like the older generation of leaders, overcome difficulties in China-Japan relationship and push it forward."

Xi added: "China's position on the Diaoyu Islands issue is consistent and clear. The Japanese side should face up to history and reality, take concrete measures and make joint efforts with China to seek effective methods

for appropriate management and settlement of problems through dialogue and consultation."

"Only by taking history as a mirror can one look into the future. The Japanese side should respect the feelings of the Chinese people and appropriately address historical issues."

He said China attached much importance to Yamaguchi's visit because of its timing and hope the New Komeito Party would continue to play a constructive role in pushing forward bilateral relations.

In reply, Yamaguchi said his party had long been firmly committed to developing bilateral friendship, believing both sides should follow the principles established in the four political documents between the two countries. As

part of Japan's ruling coalition, the New Komeito Party inherited and would carry forward the traditional friendship, enhance bilateral exchanges and cooperation, promote appropriate settlement of relevant issues through dialogue and make positive efforts for the improvement and development of Japan-China relations.

During the meeting, Yamaguchi delivered a letter to Xi from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in which he wrote that Japan-China ties were among the most important bilateral relations in the world, and the two countries shared a common responsibility for peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. He was willing to proceed from the overall situation and push forward Japan-China strategic relationship of mutual benefit.

Talks with Tang Jiaxuan, Yang Jiechi, Wang Jiarui and Li Xiaolin

Tang Jiaxuan, President of the China-Japan Friendship Association, Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Jiarui, Head of the CPC International Department, and Li Xiaolin, President of the CPAFFC, had separate talks with Yamaguchi.

Tang Jiaxuan said that, since the normalization of diplomatic relations 40 years ago, bilateral ties had achieved substantial growth despite many twists and turns, but had taken a sudden downward turn since the latter half of 2012 because of the Diaoyu Islands issue.

Sadly, bilateral relations now faced the gravest situation since normalization. The Japanese side should look squarely at history and reality, meet China halfway and make positive

efforts to restore relations to the normal track at an early date. He expressed the hope that Japan's new government would make joint efforts with China to improve relations. He believed that the New Komeito Party would carry on its tradition of friendship with China and play an active role in this regard.

Yang Jiechi said that, to maintain sound and stable China-Japan relations, it was essential to properly handle sensitive issues such as the Diaoyu Islands. Both sides should work hard to manage and resolve relevant issues through dialogue and consultation. He hoped the new Japanese government would make practical efforts to improve bilateral relations.

Wang Jiarui said China hoped the Japanese ruling parties and people of vision of all circles would proceed from the interests of the overall bilateral relationship, and take active actions to overcome the present difficulties so as to bring bilateral relations back to the normal track. The CPC would carry on the tradition and strengthen friendly exchanges with all political parties in Japan to protect the hard-won gains in friendly relations between China and Japan.

Li Xiaolin said: "China and Japan are close neighbors separated by a strip of water. Friendly contact and cultural exchanges between our two peoples date back to ancient times, leaving many moving stories. The key to sound relations lies in amity between people. Without public support, it is difficult for State relations to develop smoothly. China and Japan should enhance mutual understanding and friendship between their peoples through effective means such as cultural exchanges to increase the voice for Sino-Japanese

friendship."

In the face of the present difficulties in bilateral relations, she hoped the New Komeito Party would play a unique role in the improvement of bilateral relations.

Yamaguchi said Japan and China shared many common interests in ensuring peace and stability in Asia. Next year will see the 50th anniversary of the founding of the original Komeito, a unique achievement in modern Japanese political history and in a commitment to developing Japan-China friendship. As one of the current ruling parties, the New Komeito Party bore a responsibility to try to improve and develop the overall bilateral relationship.

In Japan there was a saying regarding "the first storm of Spring". It meant that, as Winter turns to Spring, there will be south wind that brings both warmth but also storms on the sea. He hoped that bilateral relations would greet the Spring after Winter with a warmer atmosphere, and that his visit would serve as a first step in that direction.

The New Komeito Party was willing to inherit and carry on the tradition of Japan-China friendship and further strengthen exchanges and cooperation with relevant departments of China, and play a positive role in promoting friendly contact and cooperation in the political, economic, people-to-people and cultural fields so as to contribute to the improvement and the growth of Japan-China relations.

Yamaguchi and his party also had discussions with experts and scholars of the Institute of Japanese Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and visited the National Museum of China. ■

The South American country of Bolivia is currently making great efforts to advance political, economic and social reforms, with the focus on developing a broad-based economy that can improve the livelihood of its people.

With the country now at a crucial stage in development and reform, Bolivia-China friendship has become of great significance for future development and progress.

Bolivia, for example, is keen to learn from the experience of China, particularly in developing a market economy, strengthening State macro-control and further promoting and safeguarding social fairness.

This emerged very strongly from exchanges during the visit to Beijing from December 2 to 5 of three key Bolivian political figures. The President of the Senate Gabriela Montano, Senator Tania Inez Melgar, and Carmen Rosa Duran, a member of the Chamber of Deputies were invited by the CPAFFC, which organized a crowded program of meetings of Chinese officials and discussions on wider cooperation between the two countries.

Keep High-Level Contacts

Since China and Bolivia established diplomatic relations 27 years ago, they have maintained frequent high-level contacts, which have vigorously promoted all-round development of bilateral relations. At the meeting with Gabriela Montano and her party, Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, spoke highly of the progress made in expanding relations.

The governments, legislatures, po-

Progress Made in Promoting Relations With Bolivia to a New Level

Hua Jianguang, Xiao Xiao

litical parties and people of the two countries have conducted wide-ranging friendly exchanges. The two countries have deepened political mutual trust, shown mutual understanding and support on the issues of mutual concern, steadily advanced economic and trade cooperation and extended it from simple trade cooperation to such areas as satellite manufacturing and mineral resources exploitation, Wu observed.

They have been conducting fruitful exchanges in the fields of culture, education, science and technology, and have maintained close communication and coordination in the international affairs, making them sincere friends and good partners in carrying out mutually beneficial cooperation. Believing this was in the fundamental interests of the two peoples. China would like to work together with Bolivia to create further mutual benefits.

Montano said that, despite the geographical distance between them, Bolivia always paid close attention to China's development and progress and



NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo with Bolivian Senate President Gabriela Montano

wished to learn more from its good experiences as part of the deeper mutually beneficial cooperation.

Wu observed that China always advocated respect for the right of a people to independently choose their social system and development path. Thus, it understood and supported the efforts of the Bolivian people to explore a development path best suited to existing national conditions.

The NPC was willing to strengthen friendly contacts with the Bolivian Senate, exchange experience on State governance and building democracy and law, and views on the issues of common concern so as to add new contents and inject new vitality into the overall relationship.

Advance Bilateral Cooperation in Science, Technology and Energy

While the two countries continue to strengthen political mutual trust, they have also achieved positive results in bilateral practical cooperation. They are steadily advancing cooperation in satellite manufacturing and launching and mineral resources exploitation.

While in Beijing, the delegation visited the China Academy of Space Technology, responsible for the China-Bolivia satellite cooperation project, to learn of its progress.

Promote Friendship Through Exchanges Between Local Governments and People

People-to-people contacts between China and Bolivia have a long history and their contents and scope are being enriched and extended. Up to date, the two countries have twinned four pairs of friendship cities. The Bolivia-China Friendship Association, the Cochabamba Society of Friends of China and other friendship-with-China organizations in Bolivia are very active and have done much to enhance friendship between the two peoples.

In their meetings with the Bolivian friends, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping and Secretary General Lin Yi gave a briefing about the CPAFFC's work, saying it wished to ensure that the friendship cities became a platform to boost exchanges between local governments as a solid foundation for the development of expanded State relations.

Senate President Montano said that, though the visit to China was very short, she and her colleagues had been deeply touched by Chinese people's warmth and friendliness, attracted by China's long-standing history and culture and amazed at China's economic achievements. ■

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Switzerland and Poland

Wang Qing

At the invitation of the Swiss-Chinese Association (SCA) and the Adam Michiewicz Institute (AMI) of Poland, a CPAFFC delegation led by Vice President Jing Dunquan visited Switzerland and Poland from October 15 to 24, 2012, and met leading members of the relevant organizations.

They discussed the international situation, cultural cooperation and exchanges between local governments and pledged further cooperation.

Ambassador Beat Nobs, Deputy Secretary of State of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, entertained the delegation at the Federal Palace and had an in-depth discussion with Jing on extensive issues such as Switzerland-China relationship, Sino-Japanese territorial disputes, the European debt crisis, the global impact of China-US relationship, etc. Martin Graf, a member of the Canton Council of Zurich, and Daniel Bruhlmeier, Director of the Office of International Cooperation of the Canton Council of Zurich, discussed with the delegation policies on protection of cultural diversity.

Jing briefed about the diver-

sity of Chinese ethnic minority culture and China's policy on ethnic minorities. At the delegation's working meeting with the SCA, the latter's President Dr. Thomas Wagner briefed on the twinning of three pairs of friendship provinces/states (city/county) between the two countries over the past year. He said, this was a great breakthrough in the external contacts by the Swiss local governments and fully demonstrated that various sectors attached great importance to China.

The Adam Michiewicz Institute, jointly set up by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, is a State cultural institution responsible for promoting Polish culture around the world. Pawel Potoczyn, Director, and Marcin Jacoby, Manager of the Project of Asia of the AMI, met with the delegation.

Jing Dunquan made a brief introduction of the CPAFFC, observing the two organizations were similar in their work approach so they should strengthen contacts and cooperation in the future, gradually establish a long-term strategic partnership, and make joint efforts for China-Poland cultural exchanges. ■

JBF Chairman Hiromasa Yonekura in China

Wang Zheng

On November 23, 2012, Tang Jiaxuan, President of the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), and Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC President, met with Hiromasa Yonekura, Chairman of the Japan Business Federation (JBF), and his party, and attended the signing ceremony of the Agreement on Friendly Exchanges between CJFA and JBF.

Tang spoke highly of the great efforts made by Mr. Yonekura in his capacity as JBF Chairman to carry on the cause of China-Japan friendship, and his outstanding contributions to promoting the development of Japan-China economic and trade ties. He had always

stood at the forefront of the cause of Japan-China friendship. Particularly, at present when the bilateral relationship was troubled, he had led the JBF to make active efforts to keep communication and coordination with relevant Chinese departments and seek a way of getting the relationship back on track. His efforts provided much-needed warmth and were most encouraging. Mr. Yonekura really deserved the honorary title of China-Japan Friendship Envoy.

Tang went on to note that the year of 2012, marking the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations, should have been a year of op-

portunity for further development of the bilateral relationship; but, because of the Japanese government's illegal "purchase" of China's Diaoyu Islands, the expected good atmosphere had vanished, economic and trade cooperation had been seriously affected and the overall relationship faced unprecedented severe difficulties, which was a sad and worrying situation. However, in a time of difficulty, the friends of the JBF with strong conviction had managed to overcome difficulties and signed the agreement on friendly exchanges with the CJFA.

They had persistently carried out grass-root exchanges in various areas to restore healthy and steady development of relations as early as possible. This was a positive and practical act and in conformity with the wishes of the people of the two countries and was highly appreciated by the Chinese side.

Mr. Yonekura appreciated the fact that the two presidents had set aside time in their busy schedules to meet him and his party. Under the current severe situation, the JBF was willing to work together with the CPAFFC and the CJFA, strengthen belief in friendship, overcome difficulties, continuously cooperate with the Chinese side to carry out people-to-people friendly exchanges among volunteers and youth, and give active play to the role of people-to-people friendly organizations in restoring a good atmosphere. ■

CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan extending a warm welcome to Hiromasa Yonekura



Notes on German Friend Carla Michel's Visit to Sichuan

Chuan You

Ever since the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake caused such horrifying devastation in the area, Ms. Carla Michel has been a familiar and welcome visitor to the Guangping Primary School in Jiange County. She has visited the school five times to show the concern of her native Germany — part of her lifelong work to promote friendship with China covering a total of 42 visits since the 1970s.

Ms. Michel is an honorary member of the Association for Germany-China Friendship (AGCF) Hamburg and Honorary Chairperson of the Research Association for China Philately Society under the German Philatelists' Federation.

Last November, she made a study tour at the invitation of the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) from the 24th to the 28th.

Entrusted by Lüchow City Government of Niedersachsen State, she visited Pujiang County for the first time for the purpose of promoting pragmatic cooperation and exchanges and further boosting friendly relations between Lüchow and Pujiang.

SIFA President Luo Yubin, meeting her in Chengdu, expressed his gratitude for her continuous aid to the post-earthquake reconstruction and care for the students in the disaster areas in Sichuan over the years, and for her efforts to help establish relations of friendly



Carla Michel with Zhang Jin, director of the Chengdu plant of Bosch-Packaging Technology

exchange and cooperation between Pujiang and Lüchow.

Review of Friendly Contacts

As the first German singer invited to visit New China, giving performances in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai in 1978, Carla Michel has been engaged in the cause of Germany-China friendship. On each of the last five visits to China, she visited Sichuan and went to remote Guangping Village in Jian'ge County of Guangyuan City and made donations on behalf of the AGCF Hamburger for the building of the canteen of the Guangping Primary School.

Since the Wenchuan earthquake, she has made active efforts to raise money and collect materials in Germany, and every time she visited Guangping, she donated money and goods and forged profound friendship with teachers and

students. In addition, in 2010 she donated an audio tester to the Guangyuan Disabled Rehabilitation Center. In the past four years, with her efforts, the AGCF Hamburger organized seven delegations with 19 members including her to visit the Guangping Primary School and hospitals and the Disabled Rehabilitation Center in Guangyuan to carry out charitable activities.

Actively Promote Friendship-City Ties Between Lüchow and Pujiang

Carla Michel has devoted herself to deepening friendship between Germany and China. She has actively helped relevant cities and counties in Sichuan to find counterparts in Germany to form friendship-city ties, and, in October 2012, helped bring about the Pujiang delegation's visit to Lüchow where the two sides signed an agreement on the establishment of friendly and cooperative relations and a letter of intent on cooperation in education.

Entrusted by the Lüchow City Government, Ms. Michel made a study tour of Pujiang where she inspected two joint ventures with German Robert Bosch GmbH, one of the world's top 500 enterprises, the Shou'an New Town constructed on the concept of "integration of industrial park and city", the Fantasia Grand Valley Eco-Tourism Project and the China "Pujiang Queshe" tea plantation demonstration base.

She also visited Pujiang Middle School and had a talk with the teachers and students during which she learned of the school's cooperation intention, thus, paving the way for future exchanges and cooperation in education.

Praise Achievements in Recovery of the Disaster Areas and Marvel at the Fast Economic Development

On the way from Chengdu to Guangping via Jian'ge and at the Guangping Primary School, Ms. Michel said again and again that the Wenchuan quake-stricken areas had now taken on a new look. She was gratified to see the tremendous achievements in post-quake recovery and reconstruction in Sichuan, particularly the mental outlook of the teachers and students of the Guangping Primary School.

During her one-day visit to Pujiang, she was impressed by the fact that it took only three months for a joint venture between a hardware tool factory in Pujiang and Bosch Power Tools (Bosch-Elektrowerkzeug Chengdu) to move from signing an agreement to full operation. She said it was incredible and it was also an epitome of the fast economic growth in China over the years. She said that even in Germany, well-known in the world for its high efficiency, to achieve such result was not an easy thing. The scene of urban and rural construction in Pujiang also left a deep impression.

Carla Michel has witnessed the profound changes in China's economic, political, social and cultural respects in the whole process of reform and opening up during her 42 visits to the country and is proud she understands China to a certain extent. She said that whenever she read false reports about China in the West, she would criticize them for being irresponsible and misleading. She believed that many friendship-with-China organizations and friendly personages in the West including Germany would see for themselves and have their own judgment. ■



Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki meeting with CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin

A Chinese local government delegation headed by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin paid a friendly visit to Kenya and Senegal from November 29 to December 7, 2012, at the invitation of the Kenya Local Government Association and the President of the Republic of Senegal. The delegates were officials and entrepreneurs from Jiangxi and Hunan provinces, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Chongqing Municipality, and Shenzhen, Nanjing and Siping cities.

During the visit in Kenya, Li Xiaolin and principal members of the delegation respectively called on President Mwai Kibaki and Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka, attended a private banquet hosted by Prime Minister's wife Ida Odinga, and participated in the China-Kenya Governors & Mayors Dialogue held at the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi.

In Senegal, Li Xiaolin and her

party called on President Macky Sall, Minister of Regional Planning and Local Communities Arame Ndoye and President of the Association of Mayors Abdoulaye Balde, and attended the 6th Afrocities Summit and the 1st China-Africa Governors & Mayors Dialogue.

Consolidate the Traditional Friendship

In her meeting with the presidents of Kenya and Senegal, Li Xiaolin spoke highly of the development of overall China-Africa relations and ties with the two countries concerned. She stressed that strengthening cooperation between China and Africa not only conformed to the interests of both sides, but was also conducive to the development of a new type of China-Africa Strategic Partnership and South-South Cooperation. This visit gave her the opportunity to have close contact with Africa for the first time, through which she

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin Heads Chinese Local Government Delegation to Kenya and Senegal

Liu Qian Tang Ruimin

felt the great potential for cooperation especially at the local government level. China wanted to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with local governments throughout Africa, promote the development of bilateral relations and enhance the traditional friendship.

President Mwai Kibaki appreciated the long-term friendly and cooperative relations between China and Kenya and hoped to deepen mutual understanding and enhance friendship. He expressed the wish to make joint efforts with China to promote bilateral cooperation in all areas to a higher level.

President Macky Sall spoke highly of the brilliant achievements made since the founding of New China, especially since the reform and opening up. He said the rich experience in exploring the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics accumulated by Chinese leaders was well worth learning by Senegal despite the different conditions of the two countries. He emphasized that Senegal attached great importance to cooperation with China and hoped new projects of cooperation would be worked out.

He honored CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin with the Commander of the Order of Merit in recognition of her contributions to promoting the people-to-people and local-government exchanges

and cooperation between Senegal and China as well as between Africa and China. Li thanked the President and said that it was not only her personal honor, but also symbolized his own profound friendship and that of the Senegalese government to the Chinese government and people, especially the older generation of Chinese revolutionaries.

She expressed her willingness to continue to work closely with Senegal to push forward people-to-people exchanges and local government cooperation to benefit the people of both countries.

Positive Results Achieved in Pragmatic Cooperation Between Local Governments of China and Africa

The *Beijing Declaration* issued at the first Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation held in Beijing in August 2012 stated that regular dialogues would be held to promote pragmatic local government cooperation. As follow up activities of the Forum, during the visit the delegation attended the 6th Afrocities Summit, the China-Kenya and China-Africa Governors & Mayors Dialogues and explored ways to further deepen local government cooperation.

Attending the 6th Afrocities Summit. This was held in Dakar, capital of Senegal, on December 4. Over 3,000

representatives took part, including Senegal President Macky Sall, former South African President Thabo Mbeki, former President of Benin Nicéphore Soglo, former President of Cape Verde Pedro Pires, ministers for local government affairs, governors and mayors of various countries, as well as Mayor of Paris and Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey.

Li Xiaolin said in her address at the opening ceremony that local government cooperation between China and Africa over the past 30 years had become an important part of developing China-Africa relations. At present, there are 112 pairs of friendship-city/province relations established between China and African countries and wide-ranging and fruitful exchanges and cooperation have been carried out between them.

Local government exchanges play an irreplaceable role in enhancing China-Africa people-to-people friendship and deepening the bilateral economic and trade cooperation due to their close ties with both the ordinary people and the central governments. In the new historical period, city diplomacy will play an increasingly important role in promoting the development of governmental and people-to-people relations. International friendship-city activities and local government exchanges have

not only given impetus to the development and prosperity of localities, but also vigorously pushed the growth of overall State-to-State relations.

“We would like to make joint efforts with the African side to further promote pragmatic cooperation between Chinese and African local governments and the development of friendship cities, so that more and more Chinese and African people will benefit directly from China-Africa cooperation.”

Li’s speech was well received by the participants who also stressed in their speeches that cooperation in various fields be strengthened between cities to promote win-win development.

Holding the China-Kenya Governors & Mayors Dialogue. The China-Kenya Governors & Mayors Dialogue on Economic and Trade Exchanges was held in Nairobi on November 30. Leading officials of 15 cities and districts of Kenya and members of the Chinese delegations, totaling over 150 people, attended.

There, Li Xiaolin said that 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of diplo-

matic relations between China and Kenya. China cherished the friendship and wanted to make joint efforts to further enhance mutual trust, deepen cooperation in various fields including between local governments and promote the continuous development of friendly and cooperative relations.

Dalmas Anyango Otieno, Minister of the State for Public Service, and Karega Mutahi, Permanent Secretary in the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government made speeches respectively. In his written speech, Prime Minister Odinga said Kenyan leaders thought highly of the friendly relations and pragmatic cooperation in all fields between China and Kenya, and between China and Africa, and stressed that Africa was marching towards a “promising future” from a so-called “hopeless continent”.

The Kenyan government attached great importance to developing good relations with China and hoped exchanges and cooperation between local governments and entrepreneurs of the two countries would bring tangible

benefits to both sides.

Holding the China-Africa Governors & Mayors Dialogue. The First China-Africa Governors & Mayors Dialogue was held in Dakar on the evening of December 4. Present were 150 local government officials from over 20 African countries, including Arame Ndoye, Minister of Regional Planning and Local Communities of Senegal; Aggrey Mwanri, Deputy Minister of the Prime Minister’s Office for Regional Administration and Local Government of Tanzania; Aly Lo, President of Local Leaders Union of Senegal; Abdoulaye Balde, President of the Senegal Mayors Association; Mpho Moruakgomo, President of Botswana Association of Local Authorities; Ahmed Hamza, Mayor of Nouakchott and President of Association of Mayors of Mauritania; Khalifa Ababacar Sall, Mayor of Dakar; Tariya Ole Kores and Jean Pierre Elong-Mbassi, President and Secretary General of the United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLG-Africa).

Through the dialogue, the Chinese participants learned about the situation of agriculture and mineral resources of relevant African countries and the environment and policies for investment to promote economic and trade cooperation.

The CPAFFC signed a cooperation agreement with the Senegal Federation of Local Government Leaders at the meeting.

During the Dialogue, Li Xiaolin also accepted interviews from the Kenyan and Senegalese media, and spoke of the great attention of the Chinese government to develop friendly relations with Africa and in detail about the measures taken by the Chinese government to promote China-Africa local government cooperation. ■

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin calling on President of Senegal Macky Sall



At the invitation of the Lebanese University, a 10-member Chinese University Students Delegation, sent by the CPAFFC visited Lebanon and held the first “Chinese Culture Day” in cooperation with the university’s Tourism and Hotel Management Department from November 14 to 20, 2012.

The university’s president, Dr. Adnan Hassan, a former Minister of State, met the delegation and expressed his admiration for the way China had made remarkable achievements in economic development in recent years. Lebanon, together with other Arabian and third world countries, looked forward to China’s positive role in global and regional affairs in the formation of a new international pattern. Lebanon was an open, richly diversified country that played an important role in exchanges between East and West.

The Lebanese University, as the only public one in the country, wanted to establish contacts and carry out cooperation with Chinese colleges and universities. It was of great significance that the “Chinese Culture Day” provided opportunities for youth to understand each other’s culture. More such activities should be held and the Lebanese University would certainly support them.

The heads of the Departments of Economics and Management, Journalism, Literature, Tourism and Hotel Management, as well as members of the Lebanese Delegation to the 2nd China-Lebanon Tourism Forum and the China-Lebanon Symposium in April and October in Beijing, attended the meeting.

The “Chinese Culture Day” was held in the Student Center of the Tourism and Hotel Management Depart-

First “Chinese Culture Day” Held In Lebanese University

Xiong Liang

ment. Dressed in traditional costumes, the Chinese university students gave performances of martial arts, folk dances, and traditional Chinese musical instruments to an audience of nearly 250 teachers and students. Some of the latter also performed their traditional songs and dances. The Lebanese attendees praised the warm atmosphere that had been created.

After the performance, teachers and students from the Tourism and Hotel Management Department served a delicious Chinese meal they had cooked for their visitors.

Afterwards, the delegation visited some famous sights including Byblos, Jeita Grotto, Baalbek - Ancient Roman ruins and Shouf Cedar Reserve. The Lebanese students who accompanied them not only took every opportunity to learn Chinese greeting phrases and Chinese culture from the

delegates, but also expressed the earnest wish to visit China one day. The cultural factor indeed showed its powerful charm. Professors from the Tourism and Hotel Management Department also set up a homepage of “Chinese Culture Day” on Facebook, so the students could keep up communication with each other.

Through this event, the Chinese university students were able to gain a preliminary understanding of the almost completely unfamiliar country of Lebanon, learn about its unique history and culture and feel the warmth and friendliness of their foreign peers. ■



Thailand and China are close neighbors and have a long history of friendly relations laying a solid foundation for the current State-level ties. This year, they have elevated bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership that will bring numerous benefits. This was the gist of remarks by Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in her meeting with a visiting Chinese economic and trade delegation.

At the invitation of the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association (TCCEA), the 36-member delegation led by CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku visited Thailand from December 16 to 19, 2012 to attend a bilateral economic and trade forum.

They also had meetings with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Prem Tinsulanonda, President of the Thai Privy Council, and were entertained by the Minister of Prime Minister's Office Varathep Ratanakorn, former Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapaniop, and TCCEA President Pinij Charusombat.

Thai State Leaders' High Appraisal of Thai-Chinese Relations

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said that, in the year since she assumed office, top leaders of the two countries had frequently exchanged visits and closer cooperation as conducted in all aspects.

The Thai side thanked the Chinese Government and people for their effective assistance when Thailand suffered severe floods, and appreciated the long-term efforts made by the people-to-people organizations of the two countries to boost Thai-Chinese exchanges

Chinese Economic and Trade Delegation in Thailand

Xu Yiyi



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku

and cooperation in various areas.

Prem Tinsulanonda said the concept that Thailand and China were members of one family had long been rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. Thailand has always cherished the friendship of China—an elder brother and good friend. China, with its vast territory and outstanding people, had rich natural and talent resources and advanced science and technology.

For a long time, China had provided support and assistance for Thailand. Thais appreciated and admired the Chinese people's broad mind and sense of responsibility in helping the weak and small. Compared with China, Thailand was a small country with limited resources and population, but the

people intended to exert their efforts to resolutely support China at all times and boost closer cooperation.

Varathep Ratanakorn, Suwat Liptapaniop, and Pinij Charusombat all took up the theme that there was no relationship between any two countries in the world comparable to that between Thailand and China. They expressed their gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for the selfless support and aid when Thailand suffered natural disasters and economic crisis, and to the Chinese Government and the CPAFFC for a warm and thoughtful reception during visits by members of the Thai royal family. They said, the two countries were conducting close cooperation in infrastructure construc-

tion including high-speed railways, highways, ports and water conservancy projects, and joint development of new energy resources and alternative energy. Thailand would like to strengthen exchanges with China in various fields and make the best of opportunities brought about by the ASEAN Free Trade Area and work hand in hand with China to promote ASEAN integration.

Extensive Exchanges Between Entrepreneurs

On the morning of December 17, the China-Thailand economic and trade forum jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC and the TCCEA was held in Bangkok, involving more than 120 Chinese and Thai entrepreneurs. Dr. Bonggot Anuroj, Executive Director of the Investment Marketing Bureau of Board of Investment, briefed on Thailand's investment policies and marketing strategic plan.

Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, President and Professor of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), reviewed the development of bilateral economic and trade ties since establishment of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, and looked forward to the prospect of the bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Vikrom Kromadit, President of Amata Corp., delivered a speech entitled "How to Manage a Happy Enterprise" to share his experience in creating a liberal corporate culture and people-oriented management model. Chinese entrepreneurs spoke on such topics as opportunities of economic and trade cooperation under the framework of the ASEAN FTA, prospects for Sino-Thai trade, cultural essence of

enterprise management, etc. The participating entrepreneurs unanimously held that the forum with rich contents and clear aim was conducive to guiding exchanges and economic and trade cooperation between enterprises of the two countries.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited Bangkok Thonburi University, and had discussions with over 50 Thai students of a CEO training course that led statements of an intent to cooperate in the future.

After giving the briefing about the forum to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Prem Tinsulanonda, Feng Zuoku said, economic and trade cooperation as a highlight of China-Thailand relations should bring practical benefits to the two peoples.

During the Prime Minister's visit to China in April 2012, the two countries signed the China-Thailand Five-Year Development Plan on Trade and Economic Cooperation, providing broad space for more pragmatic cooperation.

The forum would be helpful to the two sides to promote cooperation between enterprises. The Thai Government actively supported bilateral economic and trade cooperation, wel-

comed Chinese entrepreneurs to make investment in Thailand, encouraged entrepreneurs of the two countries to conduct exchanges and was willing to listen to valuable advice of all sides in promoting bilateral trade.

The delegation Received by Thai Vice Sangharaji

On the morning of December 18, the Thai Vice Sangharaji met with the delegation at Wat Ratchabophit. He gave a brief account of the evolution history of Mahayana and Hinayana Buddhism and their relationship, and answered the delegation's questions, such as how to apply Buddhist thinking in conducting themselves in society and business management.

Life was all about practice, he said. The top ten criteria in Buddhist thought i.e. generosity, virtue, dedication, honesty, humility, diligence, compassion, equanimity, patience and justice should be codes of conduct applied to cultivation of moral character, regulation of family affairs and governance of a nation.

He hoped that entrepreneurs would learn to be content with their lot and feel the true meaning of life while enjoying successful careers. ■

Thai Vice Sangharaji pronouncing a benediction



Germany now has the largest graying population in Europe and is beginning to be dubbed as “Europe’s nursing home”. It is, thus, of extreme interest to China, who faces a similar phenomenon and wants to get ideas from others on how to meet the challenges.

At the invitation of the Association for Germany-China Friendship Baden-Wurttemberg and the Austrian-Chinese Friendship Association (ACFA), a delegation for studying the aging problem organized and sent by the CPAFFC paid a visit to Germany and Austria from October 29 to November 7, 2012.

The delegation attended the China-Germany Seminar on Aging, paid an official call on the Social Welfare Department of Baden-Wurttemberg State and the Austrian Seniors Council and visited several homes for the aged and nursing homes in Germany and Austria.

The China-Germany Seminar on Aging was held in Mannheim with about 60 government officials, experts and scholars present. Walter Riester, former German Federal Minister of Labor and Social Welfare and an old friend of the CPAFFC, delivered a speech entitled “Demographic Situation in Germany and Its Impact on Germany’s Social Security System”. Professor

The delegation having a discussion with the Bausparkasse Schwabebisch Hall AG, Germany’s largest house savings bank



Strengthen China-Germany Cooperation To Cope with Challenge of Aging

Wang Wei

Zhang Yi, Deputy Director of the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, was invited by the CPAFFC to give a speech about the dwelling, health and care arrangements for Chinese elderly. The Chinese and German participants also spoke on such topics as guarantee of the quality of life of the aged, comparison between the Chinese and German pension systems, home-based care for the aged, senior citizens’ communities in urban planning, advantages of traditional Chinese medicine in care for the aged, house-for-pension scheme, etc.

The aging process in Germany started by the end of the 19th century. Germany is the cradle of the “old-age security system”. The Old Age and Disability Insurance established by Otto von Bismarck was a rudiment of the modern social security system. However, with constant social and demographic changes and fast-growing aging process due to low fertility rate and increased longevity in the country, Germany’s superior pension system has met with severe challenges.

The German Government by adopting a series of reforms coupled with active explorative measures and practice by various social sectors has accumulated useful experience over the years. China with its population getting old before getting rich and fast aging can gain a good deal of enlightenment from Germany’s experience.

Germany’s pension reform measures: Riester Pensions and Nursing Care Insurance

In 2002, initiated by Herr Riester, Germany launched the largest scale pension reform since the Second World War. The reform measures included reducing the pay-as-you-go state pension benefits, keeping public pension expenditure level steady and introducing a new-type private-funded pension program. Against such a backdrop, the Riester Pensions program, as a kind of additional voluntary private-funded pension program, was unveiled and became the fourth pillar of Germany’s pension system in addition to the statutory social pension, supplement occupational pension and personal old-age provisions. The fundamental concept of the Riester Pensions is that a saver (or family) contributes 4% of his/her gross income per year to a certified private saving contract and receives a lump-sum subsidy from the state (husband and wife each receives a subsidy of 154 euro per year and a family with children under the age of 20 receives 300

euro for each child per year.)

Another important pension reform in Germany is its introduction of the mandatory nursing care insurance in 1995, which stipulates that anyone who signs up for the statutory health insurance must be insured with the nursing care insurance, with its premium rate being 2% of the insured's income. The nursing care insurance introduced due to the growing population aging is conducive to relieving the pressure on society brought by aging and lightening the economic and mental burden of the cared.

A new pension model in Germany — “House-for-Pension Scheme”

In 2008, Germany introduced the “Riester Home Subsidy” scheme as a supplement so that, when an individual or family buys private housing, he/she will receive a State subsidy for savings and repayment of loans. This policy-oriented housing financial product combining the measure of housing-saving with the aim of the aged security is well received by the German people. So far, about 1 million German have signed the “Riester Home Subsidy” contract.

As a result, the aged do not have to pay high house rents out of their pensions; instead, they can live their later years in contentment in their own houses or sell their houses to pay the cost of the nursing home, which helps relieve increasingly serious problem of poverty in old age. Aging population has changed German people's traditional practice of living in rented houses and begun to accept the house-for-pension model.

Efforts made by various social sectors in Germany

Besides bold reforms carried

out by the German Government, the whole society also actively undertakes responsibility. The civic awareness is deep rooted in the minds of the German people. Various social sectors all deem that nongovernmental organizations can play a big role in addressing the aging problem. The Senior People's Association in Riedlingen City that the delegation visited is a model of combination of home-based care and community-based care for the aged. The Association, a non-profitable organization, provides, on the principle of mutual help, such services as daily care of life, keeping company, meal delivery, car driving and consultancy for the elderly people in the community. The Association's volunteers can deposit the time they spend in serving the elderly in the “time bank” and withdraw the “served time” from their accounts in case that they need it later.

The “family of the young and old” popular in recent years is a Germany's successful trial of diversification of old age support. The practice that people of different generations without blood relationship live together can help raise the aged people's sense of social involvement and alleviate their loneliness through their interaction with the young. In addition, German enterprises are also paying greater attention to the old age support. Germany's largest house savings bank—the Bausparkasse Schwabebisch Hall AG that the delegation visited runs its own nursing home to free its staffers from worries.

The starting point of Germany's pension reforms is to raise more money for social security funds and cut public pension expenditure, while giving consideration to the social security benefits

of the low-income and disadvantaged groups. It's hard to assess the effects of the reform measures represented by the Riester Pensions and the Riester Home Subsidy in short and medium terms; however, from a long-term perspective, they are conducive to a sustainable development of the old-age security system.

The twin pressures of population aging and urbanization that China is now facing in its economic development might further expand the gap between rich and poor if they are not properly dealt with. It is explicitly pointed out in the report to the 18th CPC National Congress that China will establish mechanisms for setting standards on social security benefits and regularly adjusting them that give due consideration to the interests of people from all walks of life. Against such a backdrop, to know about Germany's pension reforms and carry out exchanges with Germany in the related areas will be helpful for China's economic growth and social stability.

Besides, the work done by Germany's various social sectors to tackle the aging problem are worth learning. In China, during the reform of large state-owned enterprises many enterprise-run welfare institutions such as kindergartens and schools for the children of employees of the enterprise and departments of logistic support were separated from the enterprise and began market-oriented management and operation. But in Germany the development trend of the relationship between enterprise and its social responsibility is the opposite. Thus, how to deal with such relationship also deserves close attention. ■

17th Chinese Educators' Delegation Visits Japan

Zheng Lidan

Invited by the Japan-China Friendship Center (JCFC), the 17th Chinese educators' delegation sent by the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) paid a visit to Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Ibaraki Prefecture from November 11 to 18, 2012. The 25 members were headmasters and key teachers of primary and secondary schools from Beijing, Liaoning, Jilin, Shandong, Jiangsu, Hubei and Sichuan.

In Tokyo, the JCFC held a reception in their honor. Satsuki Eda, former President of the House of Councilors, top advisor to the Democratic Party and current President of the JCFC, and lead-

ing officials of the relevant departments of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education and Science attended. Mr. Eda extended his warm welcome to the delegation sent by the CJFA at a time when the Japan-China relationship faced some difficulties.

As Japan and China were close neighbors, frictions and contradictions were probably inevitable on occasions. The two sides should treasure similarities, closeness and connections between them and proceed from overall interests to strengthen friendship. The delegation's response was that, in view of geographical proximity, cultural af-

finity and mutually complementary economies, the only choice for the two countries in developing a bilateral relationship was to maintain peaceful coexistence, foster enduring friendship, and conduct mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to achieve common development. The year 2012 marked the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations. It should have been a year of opportunity to develop bilateral relationship, but, instead circumstances dictated that the two countries faced the worst difficulty since normalization, and exchanges in all fields had been seriously affected.

Satsuki Eda, President of the Japan-China Friendship Center, making a speech at the welcoming reception



This was indeed sad and undesirable. At this special time, however, the delegation pledged to work hard together with the Japanese side to ensure its visit was successful and help remove obstacles so that bilateral relations would get back on the normal track as early as possible.

The purpose of the delegation's visit was to gain more knowledge about the current educational situation in Japan and learn its successful experience in educational development. Thus, members had meetings and discussions with relevant leading officials of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Education Commission of Osaka and visited secondary and primary schools in Tokyo and other cities.

Through listening to the briefings by the school authorities, holding discussions with Japanese teachers, visiting school facilities, watching classroom teaching and activities of students' organizations and having school meals together with students, delegates gained detailed knowledge about the current educational situation of primary and high schools in Japan. The educators of the two countries had in-depth discussions on many issues such as admission to schooling and entrance to a school of higher grade, curriculum, evaluation of teachers' teaching performance, moral education and extracurricular activities to help students grow up healthily both mentally and physically, cooperation between schools and communities, etc.

The leading officials of the visited schools said China was the most



The delegation visiting a Japanese school

important country for them to carry out educational exchanges. They hoped that Japan's educational experience might be useful to their Chinese counterparts, and wanted to take it as a good opportunity to promote friendly exchanges with their Chinese counterparts.

The delegation also visited Hitachi City in Ibaraki Prefecture, one of the earthquake-hit areas in eastern Japan. The delegation listened to the briefings by the city's fire protection agency about the disaster and the city's reconstruction, and learned in detail about the measures to reduce and prevent disasters. They also visited local middle schools and had a meeting with the Ibaraki Japan-China Friendship Association.

Wherever they went, they were warmly received. People of various circles expressed their sincere thanks to the Chinese Government and people for their precious support and aid. Members of the delegation said, the Chinese

people were empathetic and deeply concerned for those who suffered from the catastrophic earthquake in 2011, and were gratified at the achievements in recovery and reconstruction. They hoped their visit would bring Chinese educators' sincere sympathy and best wishes to the Japanese people in the disaster areas and more confidence in rebuilding their homes.

Through visits and exchanges, the delegation felt that Japan, one of the world's economic powers, had developed its education in a balanced way, and accumulated a great deal of good experience. They said that the efforts made by Japan to conduct humanistic education management with clear goals in teaching, nurture students' personality and abilities of all kinds and promote students' all-round development were worth learning in their teaching practice and expressed their wishes to make contributions to educational exchanges between China and Japan.

Indigenous Cultural Festival In Papua New Guinea

Sang Xinhua

In August 2012, I had an opportunity to visit Papua New Guinea, situated in the tropical rainforest areas in the western South Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Indonesia in the west and facing Australia across the Torres Straits in the south. It has over 600 big and small islands and a population of 6.75 million with more than 800 tribes speaking more than 830 dialects.

On August 11, we went to Mount Hagen, capital of Western Highlands Province. Our visit coincided with the annual tribal culture festival. Papua New Guinea's 20 provinces (regions) all have their own cultural festivals, among which the Mount Hagen song and dance cultural festival is the most famous and the largest in scale. It started in 1964 when the country was still administered by Australia under a UN mandate.

Its original purpose was to remove hostility and hatred among different tribes caused by many generations of armed clashes for living resources by organizing song and dance competitions among them. Since the country gained independence in 1975, cultural festivals have been developed to show the numerous cultural features and diversity of different tribes, while also

identifying shared cultural experiences. It was in 1933 that New Guinea first had contact with modern civilization. However, many indigenous tribes still follow a primitive lifestyle, carefully preserving their native culture such as the tribal totem. Traditional indigenous cultures are as rare and precious as birds of paradise. This year, cultural groups of dozens of tribes performed at the festival to the delight of many overseas visitors.

In the afternoon, we went to a village where a performance was to be given. Perched on the side of a hill by a highway, the village was relatively modern. Outside the village gate built with wood and bamboo, a few peddlers were selling betel nuts and cassava. Onlookers were scattered over the slope, some standing and some squatting. As soon as we got off the van, men and women, old and young, immediately came up, some looking at our cameras curiously and many asking us to take pictures of them. What caught our eyes most was the large number of children — a rural family has ten children on average.

Someone had just died in the village. According to the local custom, males are not allowed to wear bright

costumes and ornaments nor sing and dance at such time. Therefore, the performance was put on by three women each wearing a big hat made of hide and plumes and necklaces.

Early next morning, we watched the performers of two tribes carefully putting on their make-up. The performers of the Wara Wali Tribe were all male, and those of the Suli Muli Tribe female. They wore headdresses and straw skirts. They took the performance very seriously and paid great attention to the effect on the audience of their performances. They rehearsed again and again. The seemingly simple primitive dresses and make-up were actually not simple at all. They covered their bodies with white or yellow mud, painted their faces with black oil paints composed of animal grease to make their dark skin shine and look more attractive, and then painters applied different patterns on their faces and stick plumes, shells or leaves on the upper and lower parts of their faces. Beast fangs or wooden sticks plugged into small holes pierced in the nose represented beliefs and strength and symbolized authority of the tribal chief. The plumes a performer wears indicate the role and rank of the character be-

ing portrayed; the higher the rank, the larger the headwear with more beautiful plumes. In a word, there was an art to the choice of color, pattern and weapons worn, the musical instruments for accompaniment, and the placement of leaves and ornaments.

After lunch, we joined the cultural groups heading for the performance ground. On the way we saw many locals wearing colorful dresses, beautiful headwear and foot ornaments, and many young people wore colorful patterns on their faces and tattoos on their bodies. They obviously cared very much how they looked.

The performance was to take place on a big lawn encircled by a makeshift wall of asbestos sheets. Inside the wall there was a wire fence, separating local spectators from the stall-huts displaying and selling paintings, carvings, brocades, etc. The goods for sale included articles of daily use of the local people. All the entrances and exits were guarded by police. As we were foreign guests, we enjoyed much privilege. The host specially put an arch-shaped vine bridge over the wire fence for us to enter the performance ground. When the performing teams entered, they brought with them rich features of this South Pacific island state. Their primitive attire and beautiful headwear were most attractive. Interestingly, the performances by various tribes were not given in turns; instead, all the teams entered the ground at the same time, each finding a place to perform. Dozens of performing teams with hundreds of performers, danced at the same time, each team having its unique style and

formation and playing different musical instruments. Immediately, sounds of singing, laughing, music, hand clapping and foot stamping all mingled into an ocean of jubilation. We were dazzled by all this and didn't want to miss any performance by any tribe.

The performances by different tribes showed the country's cultural diversity. All the Neta Hewa performers were male who covered their bodies with clay and daubed their faces with black paint. They had strong muscles and angular bones. Wearing bows and arrows and holding spears and shields in their hands, they showed a valiant and soldierly bearing as they ran about wildly and confronted each other, reproducing the scenes of hunting or fighting. The Tapoeke performers were all female, with brightly painted faces gorgeous chaplets and traditional straw skirts. They sang in a leisurely way, and moved ahead with revolving movements, demonstrating their femininity and self-confidence. In real life, women of this tribe manage household affairs. Another team was composed of eleven- and twelve-year-old boys. Their half-white and half-black painted faces bore words and letters. They used waste plastic bottles and boxes as musical instruments and grimaced naughtily, fully showing their playfulness.

Two hours had passed and the performances were drawing to a close. As we moved towards the exit, we saw in a hut an artist drawing on the clay mask worn by a man covered from head to toe with white mud, and carrying bow and arrows. His dark eyes glittered from two holes in the mask. The lo-

cal guide told us this was the Mudman tribe living in the Eastern Highlands Province.

Before being civilized, tribes fought against one another for land, livestock and women. It was said in the legend that during a conflict the ancestors of the Mudman tribe were attacked by a neighboring tribe and were defeated. The men fled and fell into a mire; hence, their bodies were covered with mud, which turned white when it was dry. When the enemy chasing after them saw these figures, they were scared off as they thought ghosts had appeared. Thereafter, this tribe took this image as their traditional way of dressing-up. Simple as the story was, it told the life-and-death struggle of primitive man. Each tribe with its unique original bearing, single style and simple rhythm showed its distinctive features, differentiating it from another tribe in its psychological characteristics, aesthetic taste, and related natural and social conditions. With their life experiences they vividly told the relationship between man and nature. There was contentedness and happiness on their frank and carefree faces, expressing their understanding and experience: precious life is bestowed by nature; this piece of fertile land provides enough food for them to eat and wood to build houses; one should feel grateful for what nature has given to them and should not demand extravagant things from society. Living is itself happiness. Yes, life is so straightforward and happiness is so simple. It made us, people from modern society, feel deeply the burden of our own worries and needlessness of complexity. ■

Enhanced Ties with China Can Help Bangladesh Develop

Shihabur Rahman (Bangladesh)

Construction of a deep seaport in Chittagong and establishment of Chittagong-Kunming rail and road communications have been a much-talked-about issue following Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to China. She went for the trip in the rising economic superpower in one and a half years of her assuming office early 2009. During her visit, Chinese leaders assured her of their support for implementation of the two planned infrastructure projects.

The Chinese side is very sincere to cooperate with Bangladesh to implement the projects that can greatly help the south Asian country's economic development. Following Hasina's trip, Governor of China's Yunnan Province Qin Guangrong visited Bangladesh when he announced his country's preparedness to carry forward the tri-national communications project between China's provincial capital and Bangladesh's port city. During his meeting with the Prime Minister, he assured Bangladesh of extending every support for Bangladesh's link with the Asian Highway. A memorandum of understanding was signed to this effect during his visit.

The immediate past Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi also focused on constructing

the two infrastructures. In an interview before leaving Bangladesh for joining the next assignment he said the construction of the two projects would not only make Bangladesh a regional communications hub, but also open up a new horizon of trade and industrialization.

Bangladesh needs to build many infrastructures. But it needs to prioritize the ones like the deep seaport and Chittagong-Kunming link which can contribute greatly to the economic development through making the country a regional hub. Asia's largest commercial centers Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore can be examples for Bangladesh. They have secured the present status through availing themselves of the sea, air and road communications.

There is no denial of the reality that to implement the deep seaport and Chittagong-Kunming communications projects, Bangladesh needs to further relations with China. And Bangladesh's sincerity to boost the ties has been manifested through the Prime Minister's visit.

China, the rising economic superpower of the world, has long been by Bangladesh in its development efforts. It has extended cooperation to build seven Bangladesh-China friendship bridges at different parts of

the country and talks are going on over construction of the eighth one. Third-generation (3G) mobile phone services have been introduced and several other projects, including river dredging and Shahjalal fertilizer factory, are being implemented in Bangladesh with technical cooperation from China. Apart from cooperation in building infrastructures, China has emerged as Bangladesh's one of the leading trade partners. Statistics show that in the first 11 months of last year, trade between the two countries reached 7.5 billion US dollars registering a 21 percent growth over the same period in the previous year. Till date, China has allowed duty-free access of 4,762 Bangladeshi items, which cover around 70 percent of the country's products, and has plans to raise the basket to 72 percent.

Despite all that cooperation, there is still immense scope to further the relations between the two countries. And deep seaport and Chittagong-Kunming communications projects can certainly be a major area of further cooperation. China has long-time experience in constructing deep seaports. Apart from building such ports in its own territory, China has also implemented similar projects in Kyaukphyu in Myanmar, Gwadar in Pakistan and Hambantota in Sri Lanka

and constructing another seaport in Iran without taking any technical support from any other country.

China Harbour Engineering Co., Ltd. (CHEC), a state-run Chinese engineering contractor firm having experience in building deep seaports, has already opened office in Dhaka to help Bangladesh construct the port. The former Chinese ambassador said the company is ready to go for joint venture with any local company for the project.

Bangladesh has undertaken few other mega infrastructure projects including Padma bridge, flyovers in Dhaka city and four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway, where too China can be a partner.

The Asian economic giant is no more merely a developing country; it is marching towards securing the top position in the global economy surpassing the United States. It has already left Japan behind to emerge as the second largest economy by nominal GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and by purchasing power parity. China is the world's fastest-growing major economy with growth rates averaging 10 percent over the past 30 years and the largest exporter and second largest importer of goods in the world.

Bangladesh has been appeared as a time-tested friend of China. Now the country can benefit more from the development march of China through furthering the friendship and relations. If the country can secure more and more support from China, especially in its infrastructure building, it can be easy for Bangladesh to put itself on the development highway and reach the goal to be a middle-income economy. ■

Launch Ceremony of *Living History*—40 *Experiences from Personal Perspectives* Held in Beijing

Wang Wei

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Germany, a launch ceremony of the book *Living History — 40 Experiences from Personal Perspectives (Gelebte Geschichte — 40 Erfahrungen aus Persönlicher Sicht)* was held in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on September 18, 2012.

The book in interview form introduces 40 Chinese and German personages active in the political, diplomatic, cultural and art fields and their reflections on the Sino-German relationship. The book was edited by China Radio International (CRI), based on interviews in more than 10 cities over a seven-month period. The oldest interviewee was the 88-year-old former Chinese Ambassador to Germany Wang Shu, while the youngest was the 20-year-old German youth Charlotte Landwehr.

Present at the ceremony were Lu Yongxiang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Li Jianping, CPAFFC Vice President; Ma Bohui,

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of CRI; Wang Shu, former Chinese Ambassador to Germany and President of the China-Germany Friendship Association; Cultural Counselor Hardy Gunther Bockle and Press Counselor Frank Hartmann of the German Embassy in China.

Li Jianping spoke highly of the achievements in the 40-year bilateral relationship. The book provoked sincere admiration at the farsightedness and strategic courage of older generations and, summing up the historical experience, it was obvious the Sino-German relationship would definitely scale new heights in the future.

Ma Bohui said that 40 years of practice proved that developing the Sino-German relationship was in the fundamental interests of both peoples. With continuous close contacts, the two peoples would surely better understand each other. As always, people create history. The 40 interviews together not only outlined the history of bilateral diplomatic relations, but also reflect the fate of individuals in the progress of history. ■

Home Stay

—Building Cross Cultural Friendship

Billy Lee (The United States)

Staying overnight for one evening, one weekend, one week, one month or even one entire year, as a foreign student at a host country's home is what we refer to as Home Stay.

In April 2012, my article entitled *Home Stays* was published in the monthly English magazine *Women of China* sponsored by the All China Women's Federation. In the article I mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. Robert King generously contributed US\$ 150 million to the Business School of Stanford University. The Kings' kindness of providing home stay for foreign students at Stanford University during the past 40 years has inspired me. Particularly, during his 4-day visit to the United States, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping specifically requested to revisit the hosts in Iowa that had provided home stay for him 27 years before. These two incidents have showed me how magical and powerful home stay can affect the people involved (both the giving side and the receiving side). What a natural way for both sides to build cross-cultural friendship. This has brought me back my own sweet memories of home stays I enjoyed in the U.S. when I came at the age of 15, from Shanghai, China to attend Phillips Academy and later Yale University. My immense gratitude to the help given to me by host families has inspired me to

advocate home stay across the Ocean. Today, as more foreign students will be visiting China, I would like to encourage more Chinese families to offer home stay and learn to become wonderful hosts and be forever remembered as generous, caring and joyful friends.

I hope the Chinese readers after reading this article can understand that cross-cultural friendship depends on people's willingness to engage with trust and openness. I know that the Chinese people as a whole are very warm-hearted and friendly, but many are still shy and modest, and not used to opening their homes to people they do not know well. However, the Chinese people can also adjust very quickly to modern practices. They as a people may be the easiest to befriend and the most loyal and trust-worthy friends in the world.

I hope that directors and staffs who are already in position to promote and facilitate cross-cultural education and understanding at international-affairs offices whether in government or academic institutions will pay great attention to home stay activities. Personally, I hope that our ultimate goal is to achieve joyful and sustainable cross-cultural friendship and bonding, void of fear and suspicion. So, I began to do my own amateur research on this subject and have gathered the following

information to share with my friends in China. The following home stay organizations and programs such as AFS (American Field Services), SYA (School Year Abroad), CCIS (Community Committee for International Students), the TRU World (Thompson River University, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada) and FFI (Friendship Force International) are worthy of careful scrutiny and their detailed information can be found on the internet.

All the above programs and organizations with rich experience are supported by professional and volunteers. Each year several thousands of American students are sent abroad and foreign students received by the AFS. All of this work depends on the dedicated support of over 40,000 AFS volunteers worldwide. Phillips Academy Andover, my alma mater, sends about 60 secondary-level students from both public and private high schools each year to China, France, Italy, Spain and Vietnam. Through home stay the students will gain an open-minded perspective about the world, master a specific foreign language and get a deeper understanding and appreciation of the people and culture of the country they visit. The interaction of the visiting students with the host families will strongly influence the students during their critical period

of character-development and shape their long-term attitudes, behaviors and perspectives. I just corresponded with Clare Randt, a student of Yale University and daughter of former US Ambassador emeritus Clark Randt. When she was a high school student, she participated in the SYA program and lived with a family with a child studying at No. 2 High School affiliated to the Beijing Normal University. She said: "The best experiences with my host family were those times when I was just sitting in the living room talking with my host grandmother about her younger days. A memorable occasion was joining my host family during the Chinese Spring Festival when they went back to their hometown in Hunan Province. We set off fireworks, received *hongbao* (red packet containing money as a gift), visited other relatives and ate a lot of good food. Whenever I came home from school, I'd speak with my host sister and host grandma. They'd help me with my homework, take me on outings, teach me how to cook, explain to me what was going on in the TV programs they were watching, etc. A really fun and funny time was just last winter break when my boyfriend visited Beijing and I got to introduce them. My host father kept telling my boyfriend how wonderful I was. I have no negative things to say about my host family. My living space was comfortable and host family was very welcoming. I visited them a couple of times when I was back in Beijing this school year, and they were super friendly and happy to see me. I know that not all homestay experiences were as successful as mine." The Bechtel International Center at Stanford University provides out-

standing services for international students, senior research scholars and their family members during their stay at Stanford University. Currently, nearly 4,000 international students and scholars join the CCIS, the largest block of foreign students from China. Among the programs CCIS offers, the one that interests me most is called English in Action—a weekly hour of conversation offered on a one-to-one basis between a CCIS volunteer and a foreign student. Several of my friends in the neighborhood have participated in it as volunteer tutors. Deep personal bonding results from this kind of unique shared experience. The FFI, started in 1977, is a global community comprising 365 clubs (chapters) in 58 countries serving ordinary people of all ages who share a desire to spread goodwill to better understand people of other cultures and to value one another as friends. The FFI program now exists in many parts of Canada, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, South Pacific, Asia and the United States, and in Asia, the affiliated chapters that exist now include India, Indonesia, South Korea, Nepal, and Singapore. But I am surprised not to find China in the list. I strongly believe that China today can seriously consider joining this global approach of friendship building.

Of course, home stay when not handled properly can cause misunderstanding. Last month, a college student from China told me that she requested a change in her home stay arrangement because the host mother didn't seem to have much interest in her and she was fed McDonald hamburgers or Kentucky fried chickens for most of the meals. One host mother told me that her for-

eign student was so home sick that she got worse each time after called her parents back in China. But many more friends reported beautiful experiences. Elizabeth Tsai, a grandmother now, wrote, "I was assigned to an American host family in Branford, Connecticut, not far from Yale University. I stayed only a day with them before classes started at Yale. The kind family consisted of a chiropractor, his homemaker wife and two children, then only 5 and 3 at the time. Their house was on the water — Long Island Sound — and they took me sailing in their boat before taking me back to my dormitory. The wife was among my graduation guests later. Many years later when my daughter entered Yale University in 1988, our family again stayed overnight at their house. They also stayed at our home in Washington D. C. We continue to communicate by letters and telephone. Our friendship endure."

This article is my effort to encourage China, my motherland, to become the Best Host Possible, as more and more foreign students and travelers are coming to China to learn, to teach, to conduct business or just travel and tour. I strongly urge the Chinese people, institutions and government leaders to regard home stay as ways for building cross-cultural friendship.

The author of this article is an 80-year-old retired architect. A graduate of Phillips Academy Andover, Yale College, and Yale School of Architecture, he is a founding member of The 1990 Institute and presently serves as treasurer and membership director of US-China Peoples Friendship Association, South Bay Chapter.

First Mid-Session of Third High-Level China-France Forum On Local Government Cooperation Held in Paris

Xing Shuhua

Cooperation on environment protection between China and France at the local government level received a further boost from a meeting between Beijing and Paris last December to consider development of environmentally friendly buildings and transport systems and control of pollution in big cities. This is highly significant considering the much-publicized smog problem facing the Chinese capital in recent times.

According to the content of the concluding document of the Third High-Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation (HLCFFLGC) in 2010, and under the guidance of the CPAFFC and the National Commission for Decentralized Cooperation of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the first mid-session meeting of the 3rd HLCFFLGC with the theme of Sustainable Development of Cities was jointly held by Beijing and île-de-France in Paris on December 12, with the participation of 80 leading officials of local governments and organizations and experts.

Three panel discussions were set up on three different topics: "Development of environment-friendly buildings and green communities against the backdrop of continuous expansion of cities", "Green urban transportation" and "Pollution control in big cities". The meeting aimed to discuss practical problems and countermeasures for the sustainable development of their cities and explore

cooperative projects.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Robert Romero, Vice President of the Regional Council of île-de-France, spoke highly of the important role of cooperation between local governments of the two countries in developing a comprehensive strategic partnership. He hoped that the two sides would maintain contacts and dialogue, exchange experiences in local administration, strengthen pragmatic cooperation in various fields and make joint efforts to cope with all kinds of problems and challenges amid globalization.

In his remark at the opening ceremony, Minister-Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in France Deng Li said China and France had many things to learn from each other in sustainable development; however China would take its own path for its city development and needed to try to find out a path of development suited to its national conditions.

Dong Kaijian, Deputy Director General of the Department of European and Asian Affairs of the CPAFFC, said China's new collective leadership attached great importance to sustainable development and placed promotion of ecological progress in the country's overall development strategic layout.

There existed great potential and broad prospects in the cooperation between Chinese and French local governments in environmental protection and low-carbon economy.

At the panel discussions, leading officials and experts of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality, the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the Hubei Provincial People's Government and the Wuhan Carbon Emission Reduction Association briefed on successful cases of cooperation between various places of China and France in environment clean-up, urban traffic and pollution control and made suggestions on the orientation and model of future work of the two sides.

The topics attracted great interest as they corresponded with the hot issues confronted by cities throughout the world in their development. Participants had substantial discussions on how the local governments of the two countries, through cooperation projects, could serve the local construction, spur the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, strengthen personnel exchanges and change the growth model.

Participants highly praised the achievement of the meeting and initially set "Creative Development of Cities" as the theme of the 2nd mid-session meeting.

The Chinese representatives visited the Seine Logistics Port, la ZAC Massena et de la ZAC Rungis, the Paris Air Quality Monitoring Station and gained an objective and specific knowledge about the urban sustainable development plan and construction of île-de-France. ■

2012 Nepal-China Friendship Week Held in Nepal

Gao Weimin, Gan Qianyi

The year of 2012 was designated the “China-Nepal Friendship Exchange Year” by the Chinese and Nepalese governments, and, as one of the important cultural exchange programs, the 2012 Nepal-China Friendship Week, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the World Culture Net (WCN) of Nepal, was held from November 30 to December 6.

The CPAFFC organized an 18-member Delegation of government officials, scholars and entrepreneurs from Tibet, Shaanxi, and Qinghai to attend the activities in Nepal.

Nepalese Vice President Parmananda Jha and Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Yang Houlan attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. Vice President Jha spoke highly of the bilateral relations, saying that the friendship between the two peoples without particular self-interest was a pillar to maintain close and lasting State relations. He hoped that all parties concerned would make continuous efforts to carry out friendly activities such as the current one. Ambassador Yang Houlan affirmed the significance of the Friendship Week to promote China-Nepal friendship and hoped that both sides would continue to consolidate and develop such aspects.

Seminar on Nepal-China Relations and Exhibition of Traditional Culture and Arts of China

The Chinese delegation took part in two activities — a Seminar on Nepal-China Relations and Exhibition of Traditional Culture and Arts of China.

The seminar was divided into four sub-forums on topics such as investment opportunities in Nepal; cultural and people-to-people relations between China and Nepal. Professors of Tribhuvan University and Mahendra Sanskrit University, experts of relevant research institutions, parliamentarians, government officials and former envoys to China took part. Participants on the Nepalese side expressed the hope that China would open more ports to Nepal, simplify entry procedures, provide more aid to Nepal’s hydropower projects, infrastructure and herb processing, and take measures to ensure the sustainable development of bilateral trades.

Members of the Chinese delegation responded to the above issues accordingly and achieved consensus. Officials from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region explained China’s policy on issues such as border trade, cross-boundary grazing, and tariffs. The two sides spoke highly of the seminar and planned to report the contents to relevant departments to provide important reference for government decision-making.

On display at the Exhibition on Chinese Traditional Culture and Arts

were Qinghai Huangyuan Danga’er leather embroidery, Shaanxi papercuts, Shaanxi wheat straw patchworks and Xiang embroidery of Hunan Province. The creators of these exhibits were present to talk to visitors, which enabled the Nepalese people to gain a more intuitive understanding and knowledge of Chinese traditional culture and art.

Vice President Jha had cordial conversation with the artists and hoped they would come to Nepal more often to conduct such cultural exchanges so as to further enhance the friendly feelings between the two peoples.

Both Sides Attach Great Importance to the Friendship Week

Both China and Nepal attached great importance to the event. Apart from Vice President Jha’s attendance and address to the opening ceremony, the wife of Nepalese Prime Minister Hisila Yami, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha, the Minister of Finance, Vice Minister of culture, the Director General of the Bureau of Archaeology and Mayor of Patan City met the delegation on different occasions.

Representatives of major political parties of Nepal, former ambassadors to China, former government ministers, former parliamentarians, experts and scholars participated in the Friendship

Week activities and pledged to do more to enhance China-Nepal friendship. The Chinese and Nepalese participants had frequent contact and voiced their strong desire for cooperation.

A Platform of Friendship Week to Promote Local Economic and Social Development

Xining City of Qinghai Province signed an agreement of intent on the establishment of friendship-city relations with Patan in August, 2012. This event helped bring about the signing of a comprehensive cooperation agreement on education, cultural exchange and tourism between the Xining Council for the Promotion of Economic and Technological Development and the Nepal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Patan City, which is expected to further promote economic and social development of the two cities.

Shaanxi Province has developed new- and high-tech industries and is home to three State-level high-tech development zones. The delegates from Shaanxi mainly learned about herbal production and rough processing in Nepal and hoped to find cooperation opportunities in herbal fine finishing and modern pharmaceuticals.

Delegates from Tibet introduced the development of border trade markets at Jilong Port, Jiazhu of Zhongba County, and Gangga of Dingri County and hoped to further promote the development of border trade by improving the existing clearance conditions and building border trade markets. ■

The Second Chinese-Lebanese Symposium, sponsored by the CPAFFC and hosted by the Department of Arabic Language and Culture of Peking University, was held in Peking University from October 26 to 27, 2012. An eight-member Lebanese University Scholars Delegation was invited by the CPAFFC to visit Beijing from October 25 to 29 and attended the symposium.

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, Deputy Director Wang Jian of the Office of Humanities and Social Sciences of Peking University, and President Massoud Daher of the Lebanese-Chinese League for Friendship and Cooperation, along with about 60 representatives from the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, the Ministry of Culture of China, the Chinese Writers Association, universities and institutions from both China and Lebanon, were present.

Experts and scholars from different fields exchanged in-deep views on current hot issues around three main topics: Politics and Economy; Language, Literature, Translation and Media; and Culture, Art and Philosophy.

Reaching Consensus on Further Promoting Development of Bilateral Relations

In his keynote speech entitled “Friendly Exchanges between China and Lebanon”, Yang Fuchang, Vice President of the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA), and a former Vice Chinese Foreign Minister, said that due to its long history and the influence of the region’s multiple civilizations, Lebanon had always been an open and inclusive country attaching great importance to education in the

belief high-quality people were its most valuable assets. Lebanon and China shared many historical similarities. Both countries suffered from foreign invasions and civil wars, and thus treasured peace, amity and harmony. It was no coincidence that the first Confucius Institute in the Middle East was set up in Saint Joseph University, Lebanon in 2007 and had become an important bridge for the development of cultural relations between China and Lebanon.

In his speech, Dr. Camille Habib, Dean of the Department of Economics and Business Administration of the Lebanese University, said that, through implementation of the policy of reform and opening up, China had achieved a rapid economic development in a short period of time that had drawn world attention. Over 10,000 Lebanese businesspeople and entrepreneurs visited China annually. Lebanese business and academic circles put more and more emphasis on the research and comparison of the different advantages in economic development of the two countries and looked forward to more direct contacts and exchanges with Chinese scholars, so as to give new impetus to the promotion of the economic relations and make contributions to further the development of bilateral ties.

China’s Position on the Middle East Issues Understood and Recognized

In his speech entitled “China and the ‘Arab Spring’”, LCLFC President Massoud Daher said that China’s position and attitude towards the series of issues in the Middle East region were in line with the national interests of both sides. It was not that China sup-

Second Chinese-Lebanese Symposium Held in Beijing

Xiong Liang

ported the Syrian authorities to massacre the Syrian people, as suggested by some critics; on the contrary, China supported the Syrian people, respected their claim for dignity and development, stood for the peaceful and political solution to the problem by the Arab people themselves, and opposed foreign interference, especially armed intervention.

Chinese scholars also responded to the above opinion in their respective speeches. Niu Xinchun, Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies under China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said China's position on Arab issues was based on its national interests and historical experience that democracy, stability and economic development were comple-

mentary and, in the long run, reform from top to bottom was more beneficial to the nation's sustainable and stable development, as well as continuation of its culture and history, than revolution from bottom to top. This opinion was affirmed by the Lebanese delegates.

The Role of Cultural Factors in Bilateral Exchanges Stressed

Lebanon, as a major Arab country in terms of culture, not only has the ability to export its culture in the Arab region and the world, but also can import foreign cultures and spread them across the Arab world thanks to its unique inclusiveness of multi-cultures and multi-religions. Scholars from both sides agreed economic development was an important guarantee of better

bilateral relations and state-to-state communications should be deepened and furthered at the cultural level. This especially involved education and more emphases should be put on the openness, diversity and inclusiveness of cultures to help youth better deal with the challenges of globalization and people with different cultural backgrounds.

Prof. Wu Bingbing, Vice Dean of the Department of Arabic Language and Culture of Peking University, said that most of the on-going studies and debates on the "China model" were limited to economic development, yet China's economic boom complemented its political and cultural tradition. Therefore, culture should be an important perspective in conducting exchanges and cooperation. ■

The participants of the Symposium posing for a group photo



Fourth China-South Asia International Cultural Forum

The Fourth China-South Asia International Cultural Forum on “revitalizing people-to-people cultural exchanges for peace and prosperity”, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and Shenzhen University, was held in Shenzhen from November 14 to 17, 2012.

More than 60 experts and scholars from over 40 Chinese research institutes and their colleagues from India, the United States and Singapore engaged in in-depth discussions on economic cooperation and cultural development, the present condition and the prospects of educational cooperation, cooperation in translation of classics, and cooperation between media and think tanks of China and South Asia.

China and the South Asian countries are joined by mountains and rivers, and the friendly contacts between them go back to 2,000 years ago. In recent years, they have made marked progress in the political, economic and trade, cultural and tourism fields. Cultural exchange is an important means to increase understanding, resolve regional disputes and clear up estrangement.

By initiating the China-South Asia Cultural Forum, a regular exchange mechanism, the CPAFFC aims to expand channels of multilateral exchanges with South Asia and promote the development of long-term good-neighborly relationship between China and South Asian countries.

At the forum, the participants also shared their experiences in cross-culture exchanges. The following are excerpts of the speeches by Mr. Cai Liqun, a painter in Guangdong who briefly taught Chinese painting in India, and Ms. Yang Weiming, a staff member of China Radio International who spent two years in Bangladesh teaching the Chinese language.

Friendship Grows Out of Teaching Chinese Painting in India

Cai Liqun

Invited by the Government College of Art and Craft (GCAC) Calcutta, India, I arrived in Calcutta on February 4, 2012 for a ten-day lecture and art exchange tour. I was put up at the guesthouse of the college.

My first class began on the morning of Feb. 6. The students were undergraduates from the Department of Painting-Indian Style. Professor Amitava Bhattacharya acted as my interpreter. The students, simple and enthu-

siastic, had all the bearing one expects from the ancient Indian civilization. My class was on Chinese ink brush painting of plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo and chrysanthemums, the four noble plants* in Chinese painting, as well as colored flowers, birds, insects and fish, and landscapes.

My first lesson was ink brush painting of plum blossoms. I began by explaining the meaning of “the fragrance of plum blossoms comes from the severity of winter”, a line from a Chinese poem, to encourage the students to work hard. I then told them how to hold a brush, how to make the ink and other basic knowledge. In the

Cai Liqun and his Indian students



end, I showed them how to draw the flower by demonstration. The students listened attentively, took pictures and recorded my lecture with video recorders. I also gave individual tutoring. In a few days, the students could grasp the basic techniques.

Before going to India I had received a request from the GCAC, asking me to mount an exhibition in the college's art gallery so that the students could get a general picture of Chinese painting. Many of the exhibits were stippling vegetables and fruits. There were also traditional freehand brush works of landscapes, flowers, birds, insects and fish, as well as plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo and chrysanthemums. The charm of Chinese painting art inspired the local students, who enthusiastically learned the techniques, practiced painting Chinese style in class and visited the exhibition after their lessons. Combining the learning of art in combination with its appreciation produced good results.

On the evening of Feb. 13, I went to the residence of Zhang Lizhong, Chinese Consul General to Calcutta. I took several works of stippling vegetable and fruit with me and hung them in the residence. More than 20 personages from the cultural and educational circles of Calcutta were invited. Among them were Mr. Sunil Das, well-known contemporary Indian painter, Ms. Bharati Ray, Vice President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Prof. Chinmoy Guha, Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University and Prof. Dipali Bhattacharya, Principle of the GCAC. They all admired the works I had brought. Upon request, I took up the brush and painted right there and then, while explaining the techniques

and the aesthetics of the Chinese painting so that they would learn the connotation of the Chinese traditional art. Having completing an ink brush painting of chrysanthemums, I presented it to ICCR Vice President Bharati Ray. I then drew another one of prawns and gave it to Sunil Das. He is good at painting bulls and horses, and immediately took up the brush and created two paintings, one of a galloping horse and the other of bull fighting to me and the Chinese Consulate General respectively. The art exchange between the artists of the two countries entered a climax.

On Feb. 14, I gave a lecture on "The Aesthetics of Chinese Painting" in the gallery. I selected famous pieces from different dynasties, and talked about the unique features and painting theory of each work, imparting my knowledge of the aesthetic theory of the Chinese painting to the Indian art circles and enabling the students to have a deeper understanding of the origin of Chinese traditional painting and representative painters and works of different periods.

During my stay in India, I could feel the Indian educational circles' great interest in and love for Chinese culture and art and their eagerness to learn and understand them. At the end of my visit, the GCAC extended to me an invitation of another lecture tour. On My way to the airport, I received a call from a professor of Visva-Bharati University, inviting me to give lectures there. Another invitation for a lecture tour was extended by Dr. Nuzhat Kazmi, profes-



Learning to paint Chinese style

sor of the Department of Art History and Art Appreciation of Jamia Millia Islamia. I had a brief encounter with her in Calcutta. She sent me an e-mail inviting me to give classes in the university as soon as she returned to Delhi.

All this has proved that the art form of painting is an effective way to promote cultural exchange between China and India and that the tradition of mutual appreciation and mutual emulation between the two great ancient civilizations has never stopped. Today when the relationship between our two countries grows increasingly warm, it is all the more necessary to conduct exchanges and cooperation in painting to increase mutual trust and understanding between the people of our two countries.

***In ancient China, people called a man of great virtue a gentleman. In the world of flowers, plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo and chrysanthemums are known as the four gentlemen in China because these plants' natural character have something in common with human virtues. They have all long been featured in ancient paintings and poems to express loftiness, righteousness, modesty and purity by Chinese literati.**

CRI-SMF Confucius Classroom and I

(Excerpts)

Yang Weiming

In August 2009, I became the head of the Chinese side of the China Radio International (CRI)—Shanto Mariam Foundation (SMF) Confucius Classroom, Bangladesh, starting my work of setting up a Confucius classroom and popularizing Chinese language.

Like a messenger from across the seas, I took with me seeds of Chinese culture and the friendship of the Chinese people to the host country and then brought back to China what I had learned about the people who had different cultures and spoke a different language. This work of building a language and cultural bridge can clear up misunderstanding caused by cultural differences and helps China win more friends in the world.

The first three months of my arrival in Bangladesh were the most difficult times for me. There was no office equipment, staff, teachers or students. I had only an empty classroom building to start my work. I found an old Bangladeshi friend, Mr. Mohiuddin Taher who had lived in China for 10 years working as expert of Bengali language in CRI, as the Classroom's local teacher.

The next question was how to recruit students. While running advertisements on newspapers, I organized a Chinese film week. Film is a transnational language. The appeal of the Chinese films enabled us to enroll 20 students in Uttara, a far-off district in the northeast of Dacca.



From the formal opening of the Confucius Classroom on October 29, 2009 until the end of my tenure in November 2011, a total of 14 language courses were run with an enrollment of more than 420, and 28 cultural activities were organized with over 60,000 people participating.

Varied Teaching and Activities

A Chinese language course for the Bangladeshi Air Force. A four-month-long Chinese language course was run for the officers of the Bangladeshi Air Force, the first by a Chinese language teaching institution. The course with 48 class hours started on January 19 and ended on May 18, 2011. The 20 trainees learned *pinyin*, basic Chinese for oral communication as well as basic military terms, and six

of them received notices to participate in a military training course in China.

Live TV teaching program. TV has wide audience and is the most influential medium in urban areas of Bangladesh and the “distant teaching” program of Desh TV, inviting experts of various fields to teach all kinds of skills and techniques on TV, is a very popular educational program. I put forward the suggestion to teach Chinese in the “distant teaching” program. After consultation, Desh TV decided to invite me and the Classroom's local teacher Mohiuddin Taher to present a 20-part series of live broadcast program “Learning Chinese Through the Bengali Language”.

It was challenging to present live program. The viewers from different areas would call in and ask about things in which they were interested.

They spoke with different dialects and their questions were varied. As presenters, we had made careful preparations before each program, making slides with Chinese, *pinyin* and Bengali captions. We also provided background information about Chinese culture to help viewers understand Chinese culture while learning the language.

The hour-long Chinese language program was broadcast from Sunday to Thursday for nearly a month. It was very popular. Many viewers sent emails and short messages, asking questions of their interest and discussing with us the things they could not understand in learning Chinese.

Interaction Promotes Understanding and Exchanges

Our Confucius Classroom is not only a language teaching institution, but also a platform for enhancing friendly exchanges between China and Bangladesh. To get to know the language is only the beginning, and to strengthen mutual understanding and communication is its aim.

Inviting Chinese Ambassador to give a lecture at a research institute in Bangladesh. In March 2011, the Classroom invited Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi to give a lecture on the history of and legends in contacts between China and Bangladesh. About 150 experts of the institute and people from the cultural circles including Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General of Bangla Academy, attended. The activity helped the cultural circles of Bangladesh learn about the history of the friendly exchanges between the two countries, enhanced bilateral cultural contact and deepened the friendship between the two peoples.

Organizing a symposium on Tagore and China. 2011 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. We invited Professor Dong Youchen of the Center for South Asia Studies at the Beijing Foreign Studies University and Associate Professor Wei Liming, Dean of the Department of African and Asian Languages and Cultures of Peking University to take part. The arrival of the two Chinese experts on Tagore caused a big stir and many important personages from the government and cultural circles attended the symposium.

Speaking at the activity in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the publication of *The Rebel*. 2011 saw the 90th anniversary of the publication of *The Rebel*, a famous poem by Bangladeshi poet Kazi Nazrul Islam who is held on par with Tagore by the Bangladeshi people. The Nazrul Academy organized an international commemorative meeting on the occasion and invited me to speak at the opening ceremony. In my speech I talked about

my understanding of Nazrul's poems and gave an account of the present situation of the study and translation of his works in China. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who was present gave warm applause several times during my speech, and told her cultural minister that she was moved by my sincere feelings towards Nazrul, Chinese people's love of the Nazrul literature and their efforts to popularize his works.

The cultural minister told me after the meeting that it was an honor that people like me who spoke the language and understood the culture of Bangladesh to work in their country. He expressed the hope that our work would further deepen the exchanges and friendship between Bangladesh and China.

In December 2012 on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the founding of the On-air Confucius Institute of China Radio International, the CRI-SMF Confucius Classroom was rated "excellent CRI Confucius classroom". We who have worked or are working in the Classroom are very proud of this. ■

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi presenting the certificate and a Chinese dictionary to an air force officer



Capacity of Water Resources and Concept of Green Development

—Sidelights on the Sixth Minjiang Forum—Water and Green Development of Future Cities

Chuan You

The Sixth Minjiang Forum—Water and Green Development of Future Cities, an annual cooperative project between the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FEF) of Germany, was held in Chengdu from October 13 to 14, 2012. About 90 leading officials of relevant departments of Sichuan Province and Chengdu, as well as experts and scholars, representatives of nongovernmental public welfare organizations, and teachers and students of local universities participated.

The first Minjiang Forum was initiated and hosted by the Chengdu Urban Rivers Association (CURA) in 2007. The forum has been listed in the annual cooperation plan between the SIFA and the FEF for six consecutive years.

I

Quite a number of renowned experts and professors, participants of the

Community Action Project of Water Source Protection, and representatives of environmental protection organizations of colleges and universities in Sichuan shared their research results and experiences with other participants. Sociologists and experts in such fields as water conservancy; issues of agriculture, farmers and rural areas; wetland, environmental policies, environmental engineering, environmental anthropology, tourism and urban and rural planning also participated in the discussions and gave their comments. Professor Ai Nanshan, President of the CURA, made a summary.

Participants discussed theory and practice and explored ways and feasible solutions to problems of city development and water resources from the perspectives of “relationship between green city development and bearing capacity of water resources”, “city planning and water allocation”, “new approach and technology on water conservation”, and “building new city areas with people and water existing in

harmony” and based on the present difficult conditions of water resources in the Minjiang River Valley.

II

Centering on the Development Plan of Tianfu New Area, one expert provided an in-depth analysis on ways to solve its water problems. Another expert, focusing on ecological evolution proceeding from urbanization and industrialization, discussed problems brought about by blind pursuit of urbanization, stressing that the law of nature must be respected and a rational plan drawn up. A representative from a university environmental protection organization revealed details of a survey on water quality of the Jiang'an River reflecting concern over the water environment of habited areas, and stressed the need for continuous balance between the river environment and urban and rural development. An irrigation expert warned the eastward extension of the Dujiangyan irrigated areas, construction of Tianfu New Area

and the increase in urban water supply would pose a major water supply challenge for the greater Chengdu area in the future. He suggested that a study to find a solution to water problem be included in Tianfu New Area Planning along with that of water supply in the whole Dujiangyan irrigation system. Efforts should be made to open up new water sources, save water effectively, carry out industrial restructuring, optimize resource allocation, exercise strict management and make a reasonable allocation of water resources.

III

The main problems China is currently facing concerning water include pollution, shortages and environmental damage. A major cause is lack of respect for nature and always giving priority to projects of conquering and transforming nature. At the forum, a scholar briefed about the changing attitude in the United States from wanton exploitation of water resources to rational conservation, and suggested China learn the experience of others in water management and green infrastructure construction. Some speakers suggested that an overall water control concept be established, combining water management with land use planning, and utilizing natural conditions and respecting the law of nature so as to restore the natural circulation of water. Using historical materials he had collected on the subsistence environment in the Minjiang River Valley and Chengdu Plain, one scholar discussed the cycle of floods, droughts and ecological problems Chengdu had suffered in history, and concluded that only the normal functioning of the Dujiangyan

irrigation system would ensure the safety and prosperity of the Chengdu Plain. An expert in urban construction pointed out that China's existing design specifications for embankment projects played a very important role in preventing floods. However, besides meeting safety requirements, when designing bank protection works, attention should be paid to preserving the ecological environment and landscape so as to maintain varied forms of river banks and reduce as much as possible the impact on the eco-system.

In the discussions, a participant from the Chengdu Flowing Water Park pointed out that water resources management in other countries had also taken a roundabout course and that, in recent years, great efforts had been made to correct past mistakes. Ecological benefits are hard to measure. But in a real social environment, it needs persuasive quantitative standards to influence government decision-making. China is hopeful to find its own path of sustainable development.

IV

We must face up to and resolve the increasingly sharpening contradiction between water resources management and rapid urban development. Hopefully, the forum can provide a platform for discussing and verifying the ideas and approaches to resolving the contradiction between the water problem in the Minjiang River Valley and urban development, and offering reference for decision makers.

Afforestation, urban sewage treatment, and sewage water recycling are important breakthroughs in water and

energy conservation. At the forum, a wetland expert talked on the recycling model of ecological homes, systematic man-made wetland treatment and resource utilization of domestic sewage in concentrated residential areas and successful sewage treatment cases in other countries.

A representative of villagers in the area where the community action program of wetland reserve has been carried out, as well as program staff, talked about the great changes brought by sustainable ecological project to their daily life and homes. An expert commented that large-scale sewage treatment plants conduct the work of wastewater resourcing, but at the same time cause pollution and consume a great amount of energy. It had been proved that small-scale in-situ domestic sewage treatment is conducive to saving water in both urban and rural areas, worth popularizing.

One expert urged that, in river control, it was necessary to listen to different voices from people of different backgrounds and professions. In the eye of a hydraulic engineer, the river has resource properties such as its water volume, water quality, water head, etc.; but in the eye of an ecologist, this same river is party of a complex ecosystem.

In his summary, Professor Ai Nanshan also mentioned that it is very important to listen to different voices of different groups of people when discussing the issue of urban development and water environment. The significance of the Minjiang River Forum lay in the fact that there were different voices that would otherwise not necessarily be heard. ■

Recipients of Fourth China-Africa Friendship Award Announced

Zhang Shengjun

With the awards ceremony held on December 21, 2012, the selection of the Fourth China-Africa Friendship Award winners, an activity co-sponsored by the Chinese-African People's Friendship Association (CAPFA) and China Radio International (CRI), came to a close. Through extensive nomination, experts' appraisal and Internet voting, 10 Chinese who had taken an active part in the construction of African countries and made outstanding contributions to promoting China-Africa friendship were recognized. They are Li Genchang, Commander of the 12th Batch of China's Peacekeeping Contingent to Liberia; Song Guoqiang, Director of the China-Zambia Friendship Farm; Chen Lianying, CRI chief broadcaster; Yuan Longping, Director General of the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center; Wu Sike, China's Special Envoy to the Middle East; Jiang Heping, Professor with the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Chen Mu, General Manager of the Shanghai Pharmaceutical Import & Export Co., Ltd.; Ren Hongpeng, Deputy General Manager of the China Road and Bridge Corporation; Qiao Shihui, Associate Chief Physician of the People's Hospital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; and Chen Wenjian, General Manager of Algeria Branch Company of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation(CSCEC Algeria).

Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and President of CAPFA, attended the ceremony and presented the award to the recipients at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

The China-Africa Friendship Award was set up by the CAPFA in 2006 during the Beijing Summit of the Third Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to commend influential and well-known Chinese and African personages, enterprises or organizations working hard over the years to promote China-Africa friendship with outstanding contributions. Awards were previously made in 2006, 2009 and 2010 respectively to 20 Chinese and five African personages and 10 Chinese enterprises.

Li Genchang

Col. Li Genchang, born in September 1971, is commander of the drivers training unit of a group corps of the PLA. He was the National Senior of the 12th batch of China's peacekeeping contingents and commander of the transport contingent to Liberia from July 2011 to March 2012. Apart from carrying out routine peacekeeping tasks, he led the Chinese peacekeepers in aiding the country's post-war reconstruction efforts. His work was highly recognized by the Liberian government and people as well as the international community and he was given a special award by the UN mission in Liberia.

Making full use of their advantages, the Chinese peacekeeping contingents under his leadership provided technical, material and intellectual support for Liberia's post-war reconstruction. They completed the repair of 35 bridges, extension and upgrading of over 1,000 kilometers of roads, transported materials of over 50,000 tons covering a mileage of more than 480,000 kilometers, and provided medical treatment to 2,720 person/times. Moreover, they offered humanitarian assistance to local people with difficulties, providing them



Col. Li Genchang making a mobilization speech before a long-distance transport mission

with over 2,000 kilograms of food, 3,000 boxes of medicine, and a variety of vegetable seeds. They donated 500 pieces of stationery and sports equipment for local schools, held six lectures to popularize basic knowledge of science among local people, and trained some 300 people for the locality by organizing eight training courses including driving, vehicle repair and medical first-aid. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said approvingly the Chinese peacekeepers not only participated in the peace process of Liberia, but also made a great contribution to the country's reconstruction.

Song Guoqiang



Song Guoqiang at the Farm's wheat field

Song Guoqiang, born in November 1968, is a senior agronomist. He was appointed by the Board of Directors of the China-Zambia Friendship Farm as director of the Farm at the end of 2004.

After taking office, he regulated the employment system and adjusted local employees' wages every year in accordance with the wage and welfare standards set by the Zambian Government. In the past seven years, the average wage of the local employees has been raised by over 60 percent and no labor dispute has occurred. Under his leadership, the farm has continuously improved planting technique, imported five pieces of circular spraying irrigation equip-

ment, gradually expanded the farming scale and raised land efficiency. At present, the farm's output of farm produce, business earnings and profits have all doubled the figures for 2005. In his seven years in Africa, he has forged profound friendship with the local employees. White Chuma, driver and warehouse keeper of the China-Zambia Friendship Farm, has been working there ever since it was founded 22 years ago. He said, "I had no sense of attachment to any workplace before. Work was just work. But, now, the Farm is my home. Wherever I go, I will tell others proudly that I am a worker of the China-Zambia Friendship Farm."

Yuan Longping



Yuan Longping and his students

Yuan Longping is regarded as the first scientist to successfully make good use of heterosis. He started his research on hybrid rice in 1964. In recent years, the annual planting areas of hybrid rice in China have accounted for 57 percent of the country's total rice areas, with an annual yield increase of 2.50 million tons, which is enough to feed 70 million people. In 2011, a major breakthrough was made in the research of the super hybrid rice. With a target yield of 900 kilograms *per mu*, he was able to harvest a yield of 926.6 kilograms *per mu* in the large trial field. Reputed as the "father of hybrid

rice", he has received 20 international and national awards, including the first National Outstanding Technological Invention Award in 1981, the first China Top Science and Technology Award in 2001, UNESCO Science Award in 1987, and the Wolf Prize in Agriculture of Israel and World Food Prize of the United States in 2004.

Developing countries with rice as main staple in Asia, Africa and Latin America have seen hopes from the success of hybrid rice in China and regarded hybrid rice as a solution to hunger and poverty. When visiting China, state leaders and government officials of many countries made special visits to Yuan Longping, hoping to learn from China and solve the food problem fundamentally in their countries. As China has increased its aid to African countries, Yuan Longping took the lead in organizing and implementing agricultural foreign-aid projects, including the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center in Liberia and the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center in Madagascar. Since 2005, the Yuan Longping Hi-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. has conducted a five-year agricultural technology cooperation project in Liberia, carrying out demonstration, promotion, teaching and training of technology in agronomy, livestock husbandry and farm machinery, which was highly praised by Liberian President and the government. The President took the lead in planting Chinese hybrid rice in her farm.

Chen Lianying



Since 1965, Chen Lianying has been working at the forefront of communications between China and Africa and made important contributions to promoting friendship between the Chinese and African people. With her standard Swahili pronunciation and gentle and natural hosting style, her broad-

casts have won the hearts of African listeners speaking Swahili language. They all call her “Mama Chen”.

She was admitted into the Foreign Language Department of the Beijing Broadcasting Institute (now Communication University of China) studying Swahili in September 1965 and joined the Swahili Service of China Radio International (CRI) in August 1970. In September 1999, she won the Golden Microphone Host Award and was conferred the title of One Hundred National Excellent Broadcasters. Since joining CRI she has made great efforts to master the skills of translation and broadcast and learned modestly from veteran staff. Gradually she learned to use words accurately and translate correctly. She has grown into one of the key broadcasters and translators of Swahili in CRI.

During her three-year study in Tanzania, apart from studying Swahili, she made many friends with the local people and learned a lot about the country’s society, culture and customs. She spent weekends working as an intern at the Tanzanian National Radio Station (TNRS) and broadcast Weekly World News with local announcers. Her ability was soon recognized by the director of the TNRS Broadcast Department. Hereafter, in addition to hosting the Weekly World News, she was invited to host many programs such as Women and Development, Mother and Children, and Our National Language. The Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania said of her work as a successful example of promoting exchanges and friendship between China and Tanzania.

Wu Sike



Wu Sike making a key-note speech at the Symposium on China-Morocco Cultural and Educational Exchange

Wu Sike, born in 1946, is a senior Chinese diplomat. He served as director general of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1996-

2000), Chinese ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2000-2003), and Chinese ambassador to Egypt and plenipotentiary representative to the League of Arab States (2003-2007). Since 2009 he has served as China’s special envoy to the Middle East. He is a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the CPPCC.

He has long been committed to enhancing friendship between China and Western Asia and Northern Africa, and his outstanding achievements have drawn wide attention from society. When working in the Foreign Ministry, he often accompanied party and state leaders and foreign ministers on their visits to other countries and has visited

more than 70 countries and regions in the world. In his capacity as a member or head of the Chinese Government delegation, or Chinese government’s senior expert on Middle East issue, he attended many times international and regional meetings on the Middle East issue. After he was appointed Chinese government’s special envoy to the Middle East in March 2009, he has visited the Middle East countries frequently and done a great deal of work of communication and mediation. He has tried to persuade the parties concerned to sit down to negotiations, and encouraged both sides to show flexibility and adopt pragmatic measures to rebuild mutual trust so as to push forward the progress of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Chen Wenjian

Chen Wenjian, born in Henan Province in 1972, a graduate of Tsinghua University with a Bachelor's degree in Construction Engineering and Environmental Engineering and a graduate of Oxford University with a MBA degree, now serves as General Manager of Algeria Branch Company of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation, or CSCEC Algeria, and President of the Association of Chinese Companies in Algeria.

Since moving to Algeria in 2002, he has served as project manager for the construction of new office building of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deputy general manager of the CSCEC Algeria, and general manager of the CSCEC Algeria since 2007. In the past decade, CSCEC Algeria has completed over 70 projects in 35 provinces, including construction of an international



Chen Wenjian showing State Councilor Dai Bingguo around the newly-completed office complex of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

airport, five-star hotel, 8 million square meters of housing and many other projects concerning people's livelihood.

He was innovative in raising the company's management and turned an overseas construction project manage-

ment office into a regional company in five years. The CSCEC Algeria now employs more than 5,000 local workers and cooperates with over 300 Algerian small and medium-sized enterprises to create more jobs.

Ren Hongpeng



Ren Hongpeng at work at the site of a project

In the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), Ren Hongpeng held the position of project manager at the age of 26, office manager at 29 and deputy general manager of CRBA at 38.

Of the 15 years working with the CRBC, he spent 12 years in Africa. He loves the cause of China-Africa friendship and has devoted his youthful years to the construction of infrastructural facilities in African countries and improvement of African people's livelihood. Out of his strong sense of mission and responsibility and love of the cause of China-Africa friendship, he chose to stay in Africa working in the construction sites for 12

years. He oversaw the construction of over a dozen of international projects and contracted to build 70 percent of Rwanda's trunk highways. All the projects were completed without any delay, nor quality problems or accidents, and their quality, construction progress and economic benefit all came out top. While contributing greatly to the improvement of Rwanda's infrastructure, he has achieved good economic and social benefits for the CRBC. He is highly commended by the Rwandan Government and people for his long-term commitment and outstanding contribution to the cause of China-Africa friendship.

Chen Mu

Chen Mu has long been dedicated to the cause of China-Africa friendship and cooperation. His efforts have brought remarkable social and economic benefit, attracting wide attention from China and Africa.

In 1998, he was assigned by the Shanghai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. to set up the company's first overseas manufacturing base in Sudan. Over the past decade or so, the Shanghai-Sudan Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (SSPC) has met challenges, overcome difficulties and kept developing. It has been designated by the Sudanese Ministry of Health as a benchmark pharmaceutical enterprise. The SSPC is Sudan's first local pharmaceutical enterprise producing anti-malaria medical products and the first pharmaceutical manufacturer that has passed Sudan's National GMP Certification. With its first-class purification facilities and strict GMP management process, it has become a model up-to-



With leaders of the Shanghai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. and Sudanese cooperation partners at the site of would-be pharmaceutical plant in 1998

GMP standard enterprise recognized by the Sudanese Ministry of Health. It is also the first Chinese pharmaceutical enterprise in Sudan and even Africa that has established a complete chain of production — from the raw materials to the manufacture of medicines of different forms and product marketing. From 1998 to 2003, three production lines for the manufacture of pills, capsules and solid preparation were built in a two-phase project, which have an annual production ca-

capacity of 200 million tablets (granules) of medicine. More than 40 products have been registered in the country. What has touched Sudanese people most is that during the country's extremely difficult times — civil war and independence of South Sudan — this Chinese pharmaceutical plant neither withdrew investment, nor laid off workers or suspended production. This shows the friendship between the Chinese and African people can stand the test of any hardships.

Qiao Shihui

Qiao Shihui, a clinical doctor of the internal department, joined the Eighth Chinese Aid-Niger Medical Team in October 1990, beginning his 12-year medical service in foreign countries.

His overseas missions include: working in the No. 1 National Hospital in Niamey, the capital of Niger from October 1990 to August 1992 as a member of the eighth Chinese medical team; in the No. 2 National Hospital in Zinder Province from July 1996 to October 1998 as a member of the ninth

Qiao Shihui giving a medical checkup



Chinese medical team and head of the team's Zinder branch; in the Maradi Central Hospital, Niger from April 2001 to August 2003 as a member of the eleventh medical team; in the Capital Hospital in Grande Comore Island from April 2006 to June 2008 as head of the sixth Chinese medical team to the Comoros; and in the Maradi Central Hospital from November 2008 to

November 2012 as a member of the fifteenth and sixteenth Chinese medical team to Niger and the Party Secretary of the team's Maradi branch.

In his 12-year overseas medical work, he always kept in mind the mission and responsibilities of a Chinese doctor who carries out the country's medical aid to other countries and is fully aware that his remarks and behav-

ior and medical skills have direct bearing on the honor of the motherland. Over the years, by taking Dr. Norman Bethune as an example and setting high standards of his work, he worked continuously to improve his medical skill and treated every patient wholeheartedly. He has contributed much to the friendly exchanges between the Chinese and African people.

Jiang Heping

Assigned by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture, Professor Jiang Heping of the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences has been to Africa many times to carry out the agricultural aid mission. From September 2006 to March 2012 he made an inspection tour of nine African countries, namely Angola, the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Kenya, Sudan, Mauritania, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire.

He is a well-known expert of agricultural economics and agricultural planning. His theory on the construction of agricultural parks has greatly boosted the development of agricultural sci-tech parks and modern agricultural demonstration parks in China. Using his expertise and applying his theory to the planning of agro-technology demonstration centers in Africa, he wrote investigation and feasibility reports on the construction of

agro-technology demonstration centers in seven African countries, providing innovative thinking for the construction of demonstration centers. The text of the report has been used by the Ministry of Agriculture as standard reference for writing feasibility reports of aid-Africa agro-technology demonstration centers. The construction scheme and operation model of agro-technology demonstration centers he designed have been adopted by most of the recipient countries. For example, the Plan for Agricultural Development in Angola's Four Provinces has been employed by the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture, and the four provinces' agricultural development project designed in line with the above Plan has received aid

and support from the European Union and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, greatly boosting the agricultural development of these provinces. His Agriculture Development Recommendations for Congo's Owando and Imboulou Regions has been adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Congo. The agriculture development projects put forward on the basis of these recommendations have received support from the African Union, which will significantly promote the agricultural development in Congo. ■



Painters of China Friendship Art Exchange Association

Editor's note: To develop calligraphy and painting and promote art exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries, the Institute of Fine Art Creation (IFAC) of the CPAFFC was founded in early 2009. On its basis, the China Friendship Art Exchange Association (CFAEA) was set up on August 19, 2010 to carry out international exchanges in all forms of art and give impetus to art creation and development in China. The CFAEA has conducted activities of art exchanges in various forms including exhibitions, cultural performances, forums, exchanges of delegations, etc. since its inception and created many valuable calligraphic and art works for society. In this issue, we would like to introduce two specially invited painters of the CFAEA——Liu Yuelin and Wang Chunsheng.

Innovative Painter Liu Yuelin

Liu Yuelin, a native of Hebei Province, was born in 1950. He now serves as a vice chairman of the China Calligraphy and Painting Association and deputy director of the China Art-

work Evaluation Committee. He is a national first-grade artist and a professional painter of the CFAEA under the CPAFFC.

He developed a strong liking for

painting at a very young age and was determined to study this as well as calligraphy. As his family was poor, he practiced drawing on the ground with a stick. After years of hard work, and

Sweet Friends



through reading Chinese classics and by imitating master pieces of art works, he gradually developed his talent.

More than 20 years ago, he went on a study tour along the ancient Silk Road. He was attracted by the majestic Tianshan range, the vast desert, the lonely populous euphratica, the life and customs of ethnic groups, and most of all, hami melons, whose beautiful color, sweet taste and tough character in braving wind and sand impressed him greatly.

He then started to paint the lovely melons. Searching through ancient Chinese painting illustrated catalogs he could not find anyone who had ever painted a hami melon before so there was nothing to imitate. With perseverance and diligence, he finally created something of his own. The melons under his brush look so life-

like that the viewers seem to smell the fragrance.

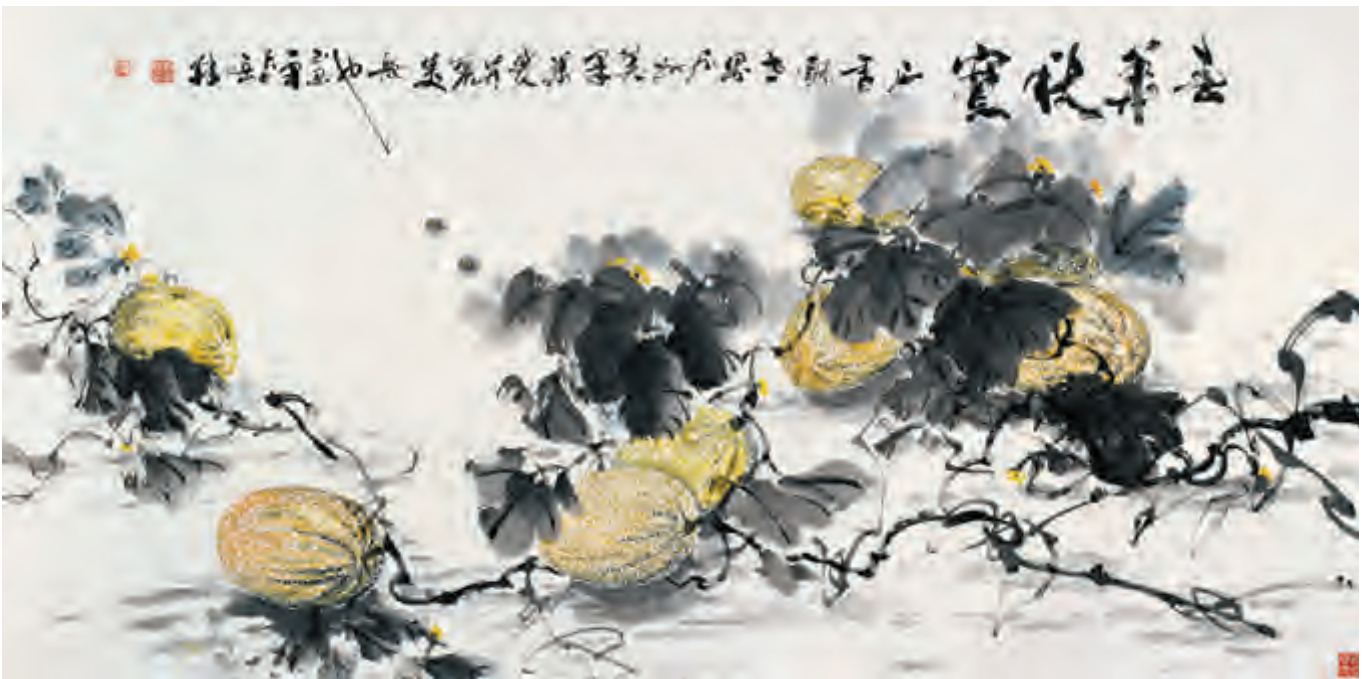
He has won several awards at different levels, including the 1st prize in a national art exhibition by the Ministry of Culture for the International Year of Older Persons, a silver medal in “Flowers of Ethnic Groups—Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition” organized by the Ministry of Culture, 1st prize in Cross-strait Art Exchange Exhibition held by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, etc. He has published several albums of hami melons.

His paintings are in public and private collections, at home and abroad including China’s Ministry of Culture, the State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall, and the Chinese National Museum of Ethnology.



Golden Autumn

Autumn Harvest



Calligrapher-Painter Wang Chunsheng

Wang Chunsheng was born in 1965. Under the influence of his father and uncle, he developed a strong interest in painting and calligraphy when he was a child. He started to copy regular script from a calligraphy copybook of the Tang Dynasty under his father's tutoring. His first teachers of regular script, artistic calligraphy, sketch and gouache were artists from the local cultural center.

In 1984, after graduating from a secondary normal school, he became a teacher of fine art and taught for 10 years. In 1997, he was enrolled in the China Calligraphy and Painting Correspondence University, majoring in Chinese flower-and-bird painting. He paid great attention to study traditional method of painting and applied the ancient techniques in his artistic creation. While working diligently

he sought advice of famous Chinese painters and calligraphers including Lou Shibai, Zhang Hu and Tian Boping.

Wang Chunsheng is versatile. He creates calligraphic works and Chinese paintings as well as composes poems and *yinglian* (couplets). He has a solid basic training in traditional skills of painting and calligraphy, but does not confine himself to these modes. Instead, he has developed his own style.

He respects and loves nature. His art works reflect his deep understanding of nature and his artistic attainment.

At present, he is a council member of China Calligraphic Art Research Institute, a council member of China Painters Association, a national first-grade artist, and President of Yannan Painting and Calligraphy Academy. ■

