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Editor-in-Chief: Wang Hong

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

E-mail: yousheng_ys@sina.com

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Chinese President Xi Jinping Meets with Attendees to Second China-U.S. Governors Forum

Sun Tao

“China-U.S. cooperation will benefit the two nations and contribute to world peace, stability and common development,” said Chinese President Xi Jinping at a meeting with Chinese and US attendees to the Second China-U.S. Governors Forum in the Great Hall of the People on April 15.

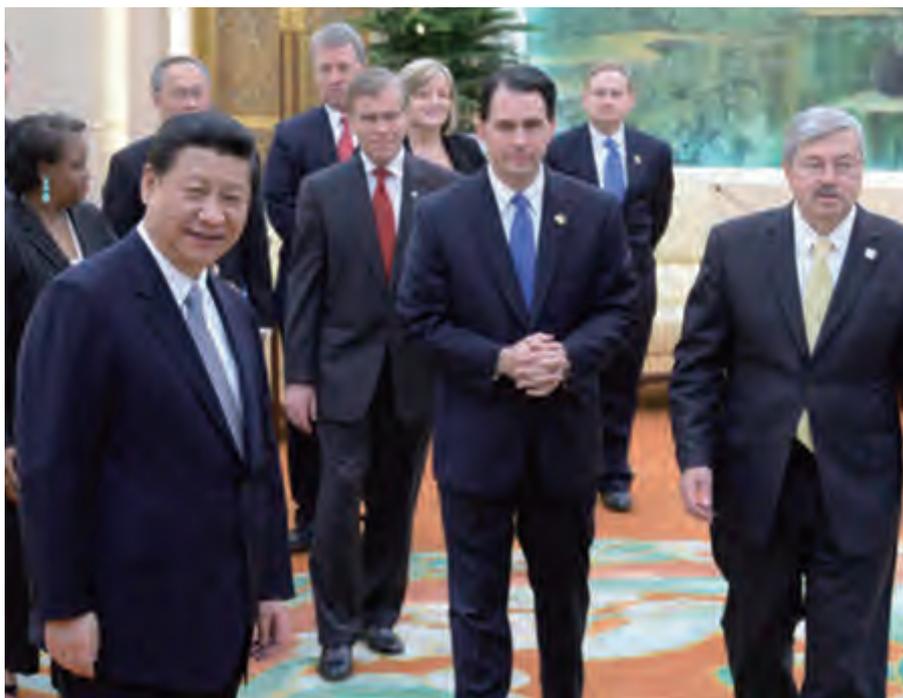
“Relations between China and the United States are currently at an important phase linking past and future,” he said.

The President recalled his latest telephone discussion with US President Barack Obama, explaining they had agreed on the direction for building a bilateral cooperative partnership and developing a new type of relationship through continuing to promote various bilateral dialogue and cooperation mechanisms.

Xi hailed the China-U.S. governors forum as an important mechanism for regional cooperation. “China and the U.S. are economically complementary and see a long history of people-to-people and cultural exchanges”. He said such activities would enrich the overall connotation and inject fresh vitality into cooperation at local levels.

These currently showed unprecedented development momentum. “The participating governors of both sides are gathered here for the common goal of cooperation and development,” Xi said.

He called on both sides to work hard to develop the forum to play a



Chinese President Xi Jinping with governors attending the Second China-U.S. Governors Forum

greater role in promoting China-U.S. friendship and bilateral relations.

Xi hoped the two sides would give full play to their own characteristics and advantages based on their respective development strategies. He encouraged Chinese provinces and US states to work more closely in traditional sectors like agriculture and advance cooperation in new areas such as energy conservation, environmental protection, new energy, urban planning and infrastructure, so as to deepen cooperation at local levels and establish longer-term and more reliable cooperative ties.

US governors present at the meeting were Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell. They said China was an increasingly important partner for them and their exchanges and cooperation were fruitful.

They were glad to attend the forum and discuss deepening cooperation with Chinese provincial leaders. They called for stronger cooperation in agriculture, trade and economy, culture and education so as to make greater contributions to promoting U.S.-China relations. ■

Second China-U.S. Governors Forum Held

Sun Tao

To implement the consensus reached by the State leaders, and advance exchanges and cooperation between local governments, the Second China-U.S. Governors Forum co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the National Governors Association of the U.S. was held in Beijing and Tianjin April 15-16.

Huang Xingguo, Mayor of Tianjin, Zhang Qingwei, Governor of Hebei Province, Lu Hao, Acting Governor of Heilongjiang Province, Su Shulin, Governor of Fujian Province and Chen Wu, Acting Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, together with their American counterparts Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell, were among 150 Chinese and US representatives. The forum was co-chaired by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and Governor Branstad.

The participants had in-depth discussions on economic and trade cooperation and environmental management experience-sharing between local governments.

On China-U.S. Local Government Economic and Trade Cooperation

Mayor Huang Xingguo said, "China and the U.S. are highly complementary economically and there are broad areas for bilateral cooperation. There are more than 3,300 projects funded by over 700 American busi-

nesses in Tianjin now, with total investment of US\$6.8 billion; 161 enterprises from Tianjin have invested in the U.S. It is very important for the two sides to create a good environment for mutual investment with joint efforts."

Governor Su Shulin pointed out that the restriction of investment in some industries and the complicated examination and approval procedures of the U.S. had greatly hindered Chinese investment. He hoped that the US side would take steps to resolve these issues. In recent years, the investment environment of Fujian had improved, attracting US investment in 1,560 projects with a total volume of US\$4.7 billion and a good momentum was being maintained.

Governor Zhang Qingwei said, "Economic and trade cooperation alone is not sustainable. It requires multi-level and multi-faceted collaboration for further development. The friendly con-

tact between Hebei Province and Iowa State over the past three decades show government's push, and the people-to-people and cultural exchanges, together play a leading role in economic and trade cooperation."

Acting Governor Lu Hao said that Heilongjiang had only 933 US investment projects, lagging far behind other Chinese provinces, yet there was a huge potential for cooperation. The province hoped to strengthen cooperation especially in modern agriculture, forestry and energy with relevant US states.

Governor Branstad said agriculture was of great importance to the food security of both countries; Iowa had very good cooperation in this field with China and would continue to deepen exchange and cooperation in this and other areas.

Governor Walker noted that the U.S. and China enjoyed close sub-



national contact. China had become the largest export market of Wisconsin outside North America, while his state was opening its door to Chinese investors and would continue to create a better investment environment.

Governor McDonnell said, to have face-to-face exchanges with Chinese governors and business leaders was very positive and would help enhance mutual trust. China's high economic growth in recent years and its goal to double its GDP by 2020, as stated in President Xi Jinping's speech, were inspiring, as was its desire to strengthen economic and trade cooperation with the U.S. He welcomed Chinese companies to invest and set up businesses in Virginia.

On Sharing Environmental Management Experience

In his speech Governor Zhang Qingwei said, Hebei Province paid great attention to environmental management. It was not only out of its own needs to improve ecological environment, but because the province had undertaken to control air pollution in collaboration with the two mega cities Beijing and Tianjin.

To curb the total consumption of energy and upgrade the technology to make coal into clean fuel were key areas of the province's environmental management. The improvement of water resources utilization must also rely on science and technology. He expected to work out a new mode of long-term cooperation in these areas with relevant US departments and enterprises.

Acting Chairman Chen Wu noted that although Guangxi was a region somewhat late in achieving development, it attached great importance to

protecting the ecological environment during its development and enforced environmental protection measures in the process of its industrialization and urbanization. This had produced good results, but Guangxi still faced arduous tasks in the treatment of industrial waste water and house refuse. He hoped to learn about the experiences and technology advances from his US peers.

Governor Branstad said that it was imperative for the US and Chinese governors to discuss environmental management, as it was a common problem so that cooperation between the two countries would produce positive effects.

Governor McDonnell said Virginia had invested heavily to introduce high and new technology for water resources management and had some very good experience in reducing pollution from coal burning. He expressed the willingness to share the experience in environmental management and carry out technological cooperation with China.

Building a Platform of Exchange for Business Circles

The China-U.S. Sub-National Trade Cooperation Seminar was also held during the forum. Invited speakers were Ren Xuefeng, Vice Mayor of Tianjin, Liu Jiangang, Deputy Secretary General of the Tianjin Municipal Government and Director of the Tianjin Commission of Commerce, Martin Briley, President and CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Debi Durham, Director of Iowa Department of Economic Development, and Lora Klenke, Vice President of International Business Development at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, who introduced the poli-

cies for inviting businesses and capital of their respective administrative region and answered questions on investment environment, laws and regulations, etc.

About 90 Chinese and US business personages from agriculture, medicine, logistics, electronic science and technology, energy development, machine building and other areas attended the seminar and had business talks.

Expanding Cooperation to Benefit People

The Chinese and US governors held talks on a one-to-one basis to exchange opinions and discuss future cooperation fields and plans. Both sides agreed that Chinese and US localities shared same or similar opportunities and challenges in related areas and had enormous potential for cooperation. Both sides should grasp opportunities and facilitate cooperation, so as to further foster bilateral sub-national exchanges.

When the forum concluded, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Mayor Huang Xingguo, Governor Zhang Qingwei, Governor Branstad, and Governor Walker attended a press conference, at which they briefed on the discussions and achievements of the forum and announced that the Third China-U.S. Governors Forum would be held in 2014 in the U.S.

They stressed that both sides would as always support dialogues between Chinese and US governors in the areas of economy, trade, investment, clean energy, environmental management, education, culture, agriculture, and etc., expand cooperation and deepen friendship to benefit the Chinese and American people. ■

President Li Xiaolin Leads CPAFFC Delegation to Thailand

Xu Yiyi

A CPAFFC delegation headed by its president Li Xiaolin visited Thailand from March 28 to 30 at the invitation of Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and attended the launching ceremony of the publication of the Thai version of the Chinese novel *Her City* translated by the Princess herself as well as the opening ceremony of the China Hubei Food Festival. The Princess was present at both activities.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and President Prem Tinsulanonda of the Privy Council met with the delegation, and Phongthep Thepkanjana, Deputy Prime Minister, hosted a welcoming dinner. The Thai-Chinese Friendship Association (TCFA) and the Thai-Chinese Culture and Economy Association (TCCEA) also entertained the delegation.

Wang Junzheng, Deputy Governor of Hubei Province, led a Hubei food culture delegation to visit Thailand at the same time.

Princess Sirindhorn's Love of Chinese Culture

The launch ceremony of the Thai version of the novel *Her City* was held in Bangkok on March 28, at which Princess Sirindhorn gave an introduction to the novel.

The novel, by Chinese writer Chi Li, depicts different experiences of three women living in Hubei Province



Princess Sirindhorn showing the Thai version of the Chinese novel *Her City* she has translated to Deputy Governor Wang Junzheng (L.1) of Hubei Province, Chinese Ambassador Guan Mu (L.2), CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin (L.3) and others at the book launching ceremony

and their attitude towards life. At the recommendation of her Chinese teacher, the Princess translated the novel in the hope that it would help Thai people understand Chinese society and culture, as well as the life and emotions of ordinary Chinese people.

The Princess had previously translated works by Chinese writers including Wang Meng, Fang Fang, Yan Geling, and Wang Anyi. In the hall where the ceremony was held, display boards with introduction and photos showing the Princess' love of Chinese

literature were placed. She showed the Chinese guests round, stopping from time to time to share her experience in translation in Chinese.

In translating *Her City*, the Princess developed a strong interest in the Hubei food mentioned in the book. At her proposal, the Hubei Food Festival and the book launch ceremony were held on the same day. The Princess cut the ribbon for the food festival and accompanied by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Hubei Deputy Governor Wang Junzheng and Chinese Ambassador

Guan Mu, visited the Hubei culture exhibition. She wrote an inscription in Chinese in praise of the province at the end of her visit.

Afterwards, the Princess tasted delicious Hubei dishes together with the guests from both countries. She took a picture of each dish and was full of praise after sampling every one. She also listened attentively to the introductions of Hubei delicacies and stories behind local snacks, and watched Hanju, the traditional local opera of Hubei.

The Hubei Food Festival, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Foreign Affairs Office of the Hubei Provincial People's Government and the Chinese Embassy in Thailand, was held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok from March 28 to 30. The provincial government, attaching great importance to the activity, organized and sent top chefs of the East Lake Guest House, Hanju performers and reporters to Thailand to demonstrate from different angles the Hubei culture to the people of Thailand.

Thai Leaders' Positive Appraisal of the Sino-Thai Relations

In her meeting with the delegation, Prime Minister Yingluck first extended congratulations on Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang being elected China's President and Premier respectively. She said, Thailand and China were close neighbors and the friendly relations between them stretched back to ancient times. The deep affection between the two peoples had laid a solid foundation for the development of state relations. The leaders of the two countries exchange visits frequently, the two governments have close contact and the people-to-people exchanges rich contents. The comprehensive strategic

cooperative partnership established between the two countries in 2012 further promoted the bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The Prime Minister said, the Chinese film *Lost in Thailand*, which was a hit recently, drew many Chinese tourists to Thailand. She hoped that more Chinese films would be shot in Thailand in the future and that culture would serve as ties to enhance mutual understanding between the people of the two countries. She emphasized that the Thai government attached great importance to people-to-people contact and would actively support the work of the CPAFFC to promote the continuous growth of friendly relations between Thailand and China.

When meeting the delegation, Prem Tinsulanonda described Thailand and China as good brothers and friends since ancient times. The two countries were close neighbors and culturally connected, and the concept of "Thailand and China being the members of one family" had taken deep roots in the hearts of the people. China had over the years provided great assistance to the construction of Thailand, for which

it would always be grateful.

Prem also extended congratulations on China's successful convening of the First Session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) and the First Plenary Session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). He praised Chinese President Xi Jinping as a young, energetic, wise and open-minded leader and believed that led by the new generation of Chinese leaders, the people of China would have a better life and Thai-Chinese friendship would develop continuously.

In his welcoming address at the dinner party, Deputy Prime Minister Phongthep said, some historians held that Thailand was founded by the ethnic Dai people of China's Yunnan Province who moved southward and this was supposed by the close link between the Dai and Thai languages. At present, Chinese descendants constitute 70% of Thailand's population and this blood relationship was inseparable. He believed that President Li Xiaolin's visit would further consolidate and develop the friendship between the people of Thailand and China.

Princess Sirindhorn writing an inscription at the Hubei Food Festival



Friendship Conveyed by Li Xiaolin

It was the first visit to Thailand by Li Xiaolin in her capacity as president of the CPAFFC. During her short stay of less than 50 hours, she participated in eight formal functions, enthusiastically conveying the message of Sino-Thai friendship.

Li learned during her conversation with Princess Sirindhorn that her father Li Xiannian, then Chinese President, visited Thailand in 1985. When departing from Thailand, King Bhumibol went to the airport to send him off and helped him up the ramp. This had become a much-told story in the history of Sino-Thai friendship. Li Xiaolin was much moved and thanked the Thai royal family for the great importance it attached to the bilateral relationship. She pledged to ensure that Sino-Thai friendship would be passed on generation after generation by carrying on the cause of friendship forged by the older generation of leaders.

Li expressed her appreciation and admiration of Princess Sirindhorn's perseverance in studying Chinese culture and spreading Sino-Thai friendship on several occasions. Through the visit,

TCFA President Korn Tabbaransi presenting a picture of King Bhumibol helping Chinese President Li Xiannian up the ramp to CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra meeting with CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin

she had the personal experience of the friendship of the Thai people and the kinship between the people of China and Thailand.

Li Xiaolin also gave a brief introduction to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the just concluded "Two Sessions". She said: "To achieve the great renewal of the Chinese nation is the common aspiration of the Chinese people. China has to follow its own path to achieve development and has every confidence in its

path, in its theories and in its system. No country in the world can develop in isolation. Therefore, all countries need to be inter-dependent and share benefit. China stresses mutual benefit, cooperation and win-win results and will not seek hegemony and China's development will not pose a threat to neighboring countries. China advocates that neighboring countries resolve differences and conflicts through peaceful consultation."

Li emphasized that the friendly Sino-Thai relations would be conducive to the development of relations between China and the ASEAN countries and between China and ASEAN as a whole. She hoped that Thailand would play a constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

During her stay in Thailand, Li Xiaolin held meetings respectively with chief members of the TCFA and the TCCEA. The two sides had in-depth discussions on how to elevate Sino-Thai people-to-people friendship to a new level. ■

Message of Condolence

Beijing, March 6, 2013

Her Excellency Mrs. Rocio Maneiro Gonzalez
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to China

Shocked to learn the demise of His Excellency Hugo Chavez, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. I, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, extend to you, and through the Venezuelan Embassy in China, to the people of Venezuela and the family of the President, my most profound condolences.

President Hugo Chavez was a great friend of the Chinese people who had made outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendship between China and Venezuela. His death is a great loss to the people of our two countries.

He will always live in our hearts.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

Li Xiaolin
President
The Chinese People's Association for
Friendship with Foreign Countries

CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan Mourns over the Death of President Hugo Chavez

On the morning of March 7, CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan went to the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in China to mourn over the passing away of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on behalf of the CPAFFC. He presented the letter of condolence from President Li Xiaolin to Ambassador Rocio Maneiro Gonzalez and extended profound condolences over the death of President Chavez. Ambassador Rocio expressed sincere thanks to President Li Xiaolin and the CPAFFC and promised to pass on the letter of condolence to the government of Venezuela.

Vice President Xie wrote on the condolence book: "President Hugo Chavez was a great friend of the Chinese people. He had made remarkable contributions to promoting China-Venezuela friendship. His death is a great loss to the people of China and Venezuela. We will forever remember him."

The theme song of the film *The Founding of a Republic* sung by male vocalists Dai Yuqiang and Wei Song reverberated in the Opera Hall at the National Center for the Performing Arts on the evening of March 14. It marked the start of the concert in commemoration of the 115th anniversary of the birth of Premier Zhou Enlai, with "Chinese Dream" as the theme.

Premier Zhou was one of the great leaders of Chinese revolution in the 20th century. He was a great proletarian, a statesman, a strategist and a diplomat. His revolutionary career of over five decades was closely linked with the founding and the development of the Communist Party of China, the victory of China's new-democratic revolution, and the course of the country's socialist revolution and construction. He devoted all his energy to the Party and the people until his last breath.

Being the first premier of New China, he exerted tremendous efforts in the country's development in the political, economic, diplomatic, scientific and technological, cultural, educational, press, health, sports and other fields and made fundamental contributions. He not only possessed glory as a great man, but also the simple, down-to-earth way of an ordinary person. He was devoted to the people and they loved him dearly.

As the first foreign minister, he initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and in compliance with the principle that

Chinese Dream — Concert in Commemoration of 115th Birth Anniversary of Premier Zhou Enlai Held

Our Staff Reporter

countries irrespective of their sizes are equal, actively promoted China's development of friendship and cooperative relations with all countries, especially the developing countries, to forge friendships all over the world. His broad diplomatic thinking, rich diplomatic practice, and unique art and style of diplomacy won him respect of the world.

Zhou Enlai was determined “to study for the rise of China” from his early youth, and all his life he “strived for the country's take-off”. His outstanding achievements, high moral character and brilliant personality set an example for future generations.

You Are Such a Person, Memories of You from Our Hearts, People's Public Servant, My Motherland and I, All the People, Unforgettable, Chinese Dream ... These popular songs in memory of Premier Zhou Enlai expressed people's great respect for him. Well-known vocalists including Li Guyi, Jiang Dawei, Deng Yuhua and Yang Hongji sang with deep feelings at the concert and their performance aroused the audience's profound memories of the Premier.

During the concert, video clips of interviews of Hong Kong public figures were played and student representatives of Zhou Enlai Classes in China inter-



American Musician Mark Levine performing at the concert

viewed. They expressed their respect and love for him from different angles. American musician Mark Levine sang *Huai'an — Promise of the Future*, a song he wrote to express his respect for Premier Zhou. He said he came to Huai'an, China in 2005 to teach English because it was the hometown of Premier Zhou Enlai.

The three-part concert covered the dreams of the home state, the world and the nation, recalling respectively Premier Zhou's faith in the people of the motherland, the friends of all countries of the world and future prosperity of the nation, and the practical side of his work. From the “Chinese dream”

of the older generation of proletarian revolutionaries to the present-day aspirations of every Chinese, and from remembrance to inheritance, the concert fully showed the self-confidence and pride of the Chinese nation.

March 5, 2013 marked the 115th anniversary of the birth of Premier Zhou Enlai. The CPAFFC, the Art Concept Culture Institute, the Big Honor Entertainment, and the National Center for the Performing Arts jointly sponsored the concert to remember his great achievements and learn from his lofty spirit, and to extol the great dream of the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation. ■

Latin American Friends' Deep Reverence and Memory of Premier Zhou Enlai

Tang Mingxin

On this past New Year's Day, I had a chance to meet some of my Latin American friends again. We spoke of the many people in that region who had long entertained profound friendship for China. As observers, at close hand or far away, of the earthshaking changes of New China since its founding, they were greatly inspired by China's rapid development on the socialist path with its own characteristics. In Particular, they hailed the grand goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects set at the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in November 2012. Marking New Year's Day, they sincerely congratulated the Chinese people on creating new glory in terms of peaceful development. When we talked about the tremendous contributions made by the great men of several generations in New China, my Latin American friends could not help recalling Premier Zhou Enlai whom they had met many times and who had deeply impressed them. They all described him as a great statesman and outstanding diplomat who had made painstaking efforts and exerted himself to the utmost for the victory of the Chinese revolution, New China's continuous development and growth and its emerging international status as one of the great powers in the world. The Premier had left a precious legacy: firm conviction of the need



Premier Zhou Enlai with Latin American youth attending the activities in celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in September 1950

for world peace and the equality of all countries, opposition to hegemony and power politics, and pursuit of multipolarization and democratization of international relations. Everyone who had met him admired his outstanding contributions. I told them the coming March 5 would be a particularly memorable day marking the 115th anniversary of the birth of Premier Zhou. I wanted to make a compilation of my Latin American friends' happy memories of Premier Zhou — his noble characters, his great-man demeanor, his courage, insight and charisma in the international arena, as

well as his unique diplomatic style and extraordinary diplomatic skills — to commemorate this great man in history. Everybody said it was a good idea.

Chief Founder of Sino-Latin American People's Friendship and Diplomatic Relations

After the founding of the PRC, because of an American hostile policy of political isolation, economic blockade and military threat, Latin America, located in the "backyard of the United States", encountered many obstacles and sabotage attempts when trying to develop relations with China. Under

such a situation, Premier Zhou, concurrently Foreign Minister at that time, put forward the guideline of giving priority to developing people-to-people contacts and carrying out “people-to-people diplomacy”, and promoting a steady progress of China-Latin America relations on a long-term basis in line with the principle of “waiting patiently, exerting more effort to make friends extensively and promote governmental relations through people-to-people contacts”. Under his guidance and personal care, from the 1950s to the 1970s, we did a pretty good job in people-to-people diplomacy with Latin America. Premier Zhou met with more than 150 groups of visiting Latin American friends, among whom there were elites of political parties, parliament and former political leaders, activists of the peace movement, trade unions, youth, women and friendship organizations, as well as celebrities from the business, cultural and press circles. It was in that period that I was fortunate to interpret for Premier Zhou many times, observing how much hard work went into the course from making friends and enhancing mutual understanding to carrying out cultural and economic and trade exchanges; from supporting safeguard of national sovereignty and anti-imperialism struggle to assisting economic construction, and from setting up non-governmental organizations to establishing diplomatic relations. China’s relations with Latin American countries made great progress in the 1970s, when 12 Latin American countries, including Cuba and Chile, established diplomatic relations with us. At the 26th United Nations General Assembly in 1971, seven Latin American countries stood

by a great number of Asian and African countries and voted for restoring all the lawful rights of the PRC in the United Nations. I deeply felt that every progress made in China-Latin America relations embodied Premier Zhou’s painstaking work and his glorious diplomatic thought.

China-Peru Friendship

Peru was the third Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with China. Antonio Fernandez Arce, founder of the Peruvian-Chinese Cultural Institute, is one of the Peruvian friends who have made important contributions to development of the bilateral friendship and the establishment of diplomatic relations. From the 1960s, he worked in China Radio International and Xinhua News Agency for more than 20 years, and was conferred the honorary title of “Foreign Expert with Outstanding Contributions”. Be-

fore the establishment of diplomatic relations, he was the only Peruvian expert in China so was often invited to take part in discussions and activities related to his country.

One day in May 1970, when the Chinese Government learned that Peru had been hit by a devastating earthquake, it decided to provide aid to the Peruvian people. Premier Zhou himself called a meeting to discuss through what channel it should be provided, for at that time there was no formal channel between the two countries. Mr. Arce and other participants all agreed to Premier Zhou’s plan to provide financial aid of 1.5 million RMB for the Peruvian people through the International Red Cross Society. China’s friendly act left a good impression on people of various circles in Peru.

During that period, Peru and some other Latin American countries were waging a struggle to defend their coun-

Premier Zhou Enlai’s warm hand-shake with Antonio Fernandez Arce, founder of the Peruvian-Chinese Cultural Institute



tries' 200-nautical mile maritime rights, and at the same time they also demonstrated a tendency of political independence and had intention of developing relations with China. The Chinese Government and Premier Zhou, having been fully informed of this, studied the situation and showed a positive attitude, thus playing an important role in promoting China's relations with Peru and other Latin American countries.

Arce recalled that, when Jorge Fernandez Maldonado, the then Minister of Energy and Mines of Peru, visited China in 1971, Premier Zhou met and had a cordial talk with him and the delegation. Premier Zhou said, "We, Chinese, should ask the Peruvian people to forgive us. You have fought for 25 years to defend your legitimate maritime rights; but we have not given much attention to it. Only recently have we become aware of the importance of Peru's stand in the entire anti-imperialism struggle. So, we must ask you to forgive us. Meanwhile, we will solemnly declare to the world that China fully supports Peru and other Latin American countries' just struggle for defending their maritime rights." Premier Zhou's sincere and forceful remarks again expressed China's support for Peru and other Latin American countries in their just struggle against maritime hegemony and for safeguarding national sovereignty and rights and interest of developing countries, which greatly moved Arce and other participants. China's vigorous support evoked great repercussion in the political and various social circles of Peru, a major marine country in Latin America, and gave a direct impact to promoting the establishment of diplomatic relations

between the two countries.

With the development of the situation, China also accelerated the pace of developing its relations with Peru. At the end of 1970, in a meeting with foreign experts working in China, Premier Zhou specially talked to Arce, telling him that China wanted to establish formal relations with Peru and hoped to find a channel to establish contacts with the Peruvian Government. Arce knew that the Peruvian consulate in Hong Kong could play a role. He told the Premier that he could go to Hong Kong to discuss the matter with the consul on opening a channel for contacts. Soon after that, China took an action and through the consulate passed an eight-point memorandum on the development of China-Peru relations to the Peruvian Government. In June 1971, Peru and China signed the summary of the talks on setting up trade representative office in each other's country. In August 1971, Miguel Barandiaran, Peruvian consul to Hong Kong, was assigned to serve as head of the Peruvian Trade Representative's Office in Beijing. Arce, being invited to be an advisor, came to Beijing again and busied himself with making preparations for setting up the office and promoting trade ties. The situation developed rapidly. A few months later on November 2, 1971, the two countries established formal diplomatic ties. Till then the great plan for developing bilateral relations had been realized under the Premier's guidance and personal care. Arce said feelingly that Premier Zhou, well-known for his eloquence and diligence, could be a statesman and diplomat who had the richest experience and was most capable of negotiating in the world; yet, he was so modest

and considerate. Through his painstaking and meticulous work, a friendship bridge across the Pacific Ocean was at last built.

Premier Zhou's Instructive Talk

In May 1965, Premier Zhou met with Mr. Villaran, member of the Peruvian Chamber of Deputies, and his party. During the meeting, Villaran said that he admired the valuable experience of Premier Zhou and other Chinese leaders in solving problems in the Chinese revolution and construction; so, he wanted to solicit Premier Zhou's advice on the situation and political future of Latin America. The Premier, based on the Latin American countries' political and economic development and important historical events since their independence, gave a comprehensive and in-depth analysis on the situation in the region and the independent development of their national economies through their own efforts. Villaran said that Premier Zhou's remarks reflected the farsightedness of a great statesman, and that he learned a lot from him. He, as a Latin American, felt ashamed of his lack of understanding and knowledge of issues close to home. The Premier modestly replied that his comments were only his own understanding just for reference. The key was to make thorough investigations and formulate policies in the light of actual local conditions.

When talking about the long-term friendly contacts between China and Latin America, a Peruvian guest said Latin America had a special feeling of intimacy with China, because there were many similarities between local indigenous Indian culture and ancient

Chinese culture, and they might have a common origin. He said that he could speak the Indian people's Quechua tongue, a language similar to Asian languages in some aspects. The Premier said, this was a very interesting subject. Some research did prove that, as early as in the Shang Dynasty China already began contacts with Latin America; in particular, there were many exchanges between ancient Chinese civilization and ancient Maya and Inca Indian civilizations. He hoped that experts of the two countries could conduct in-depth researches, exploration and exchanges in this respect, and believed that the history of that period worth further studying and it would help enhance mutual understanding and deepen friendship between the Chinese and Latin American peoples, thus, promoting the two sides to unite and cooperate further under the new historical conditions.

Villaran and his party nodded approvingly while listening. Obviously, they were deeply impressed by what Premier Zhou had said. Villaran said with emotion, "To listen to Premier Zhou's talk is better than to study for ten years. The Premier is so affable and has such a profound knowledge about the history and present situation of Latin America. I pledge to work harder for promoting Peru-China relation." And, indeed, Villaran immediately began his work after returning home. He reported to the Congress about his trip to China, particularly about the meeting with Premier Zhou, and urged the Congress to pass a resolution on the development of relations with China. He conveyed to Peru's historical research department Pre-



Premier Zhou Enlai meeting with Mr. Villaran (center), member of the Peruvian Chamber of Deputies. Second from the left is the author

mier Zhou's suggestion of carrying out researches on friendly exchanges between the ancient civilizations of the two countries. In a word, Premier Zhou's meeting encouraged Villaran and his party to make efforts to promote the development of friendly relations between the two countries.

I also learned a lot from Premier Zhou's talk. I greatly admired his broad and profound knowledge. To think of it, as a premier of a big country with a population of more than a billion people, it could be imagined how many important domestic and international affairs he needed to be concerned about and handle; yet, he knew so much about Latin America. Moreover, he had such a superb diplomatic skill that he was capable of seizing any opportunity in conversation to carry out his mission. I examined my conscience and felt ashamed. I had studied Latin American history and been engaged in the work dealing with Latin American

affairs for several years; but I knew very little about the friendly exchanges between ancient Chinese and Latin American civilizations that Premier Zhou had mentioned. It also taught me that I should step up efforts to learn more to enrich myself, for there is no limit to knowledge.

"I am a Servant of the Chinese People"

Gustavo Baz, former Minister of Public Health and Assistance and former President of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is an old friend of the Chinese people. During the time when he served as health minister and president of the university, he did a great deal of useful work for the cooperation and exchanges between China and Mexico in the fields of culture, education, medical and health care. During his visit to China in September 1964, Premier Zhou met with him, and they had a warm and friendly

talk for more than two hours about the history and present situation and future development of the China-Mexico friendly relations. At the meeting, Baz asked some questions about China's family planning. In view of the West's malicious attacks, Premier Zhou elaborated the positive role of China's family planning policy. Baz said, he, as a leading official engaged in medical and health work, thought that in practicing family planning, use of induced abortion should be minimized. In respect of production of contraceptives, he said, research institutes of mataria medica in Mexico had advanced technology and produced a kind of raw material for effective contraceptives. He would like to ask Premier Zhou to assign a Chinese medical and health care department to make contact with him, and he would try his best to render help and cooperation. The Premier said that family planning was a very important matter concerning the country's development and family happiness. He appreciated

Baz's friendly offer, and then urged the Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs who was present at the meeting to contact the Ministry of Health afterwards so that no time would be wasted in this regard. With the Premier's personal care, later, China and Mexico conducted fruitful cooperation. At the end of the meeting, Baz expressed his reverence of the Premier, saying he admired his outstanding diplomatic skills and great faculty for leadership. China's increasing strength and rise of its international standing was inseparable from Premier Zhou's contributions and the Chinese people should take a pride in having such an outstanding leader. Premier Zhou quietly thanked him for his friendly remarks while stressing that what China had achieved today should be attributed to the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party of China. He himself only did his duties under the leadership of Chairman Mao. He was a servant of the Chinese people

and proud of it. What the Premier had said evoked a strong response from the foreign guests. Baz said: "But, you are an outstanding servant of the Chinese people." On the way back to the hotel, Baz talked to me all the way about his meeting with the Premier. He said, he had met many leaders of other countries, and he really admired Premier Zhou, such a modest and magnanimous leader. I was also deeply touched. Think of it: Premier Zhou's fame and contributions deserve veneration for generations, but he regarded himself as a "servant of the Chinese people." No wonder, his virtue of modesty is widely told and will be cherished forever.

In 1978 I visited Mexico and met Baz again. He recalled the earlier meeting, saying Premier Zhou, a premier of a big country, must be extremely busy every day, but he had never neglected anything related to the national economy and people's livelihood. The saying that "Greatness is accumulated attention to small matters" was a most apt description of Premier Zhou, for he never neglected small things when handling the major issues. The touching remark, "I am a servant of the Chinese people" would always affirm Premier Zhou's noble character of modesty.

Premier Zhou Enlai having a cordial conversation with Mexican Health Minister Rodrigo Baz (R.2)



Unforgettable Effects

In October 2007, I was invited to attend the Mexico-China: 21st Century Strategic Partnership Forum in Mexico. During the visit, I made a special call on former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, an old friend of the Chinese people, and presented him with my book about friendly exchanges between China and Latin America. I said we had the greatest esteem for him for making

outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendly relations between our two countries and peoples. His two visits to China had left a deep impression on me. On mentioning his visits to China, Echeverria got excited and we recalled his first visit to China and the scene of the visit to Beijing and Shanghai accompanied by Premier Zhou in April 1973. What he could not forget was that Premier Zhou told him that in spite of the tight schedule of the visit, one should avoid “looking at flowers from horseback”, because a quick, superficial look would not allow for deep understanding; therefore one should “dismount to look at flowers”, go deep into life and make careful observations so as to gain a deep understanding. It was surprising that Premier Zhou’s advice really had unforgettable effects for his visit.

The following was his first experience: When he, accompanied by Premier Zhou, passed Tiananmen Square in a car, he was accorded warm welcome from thousands of people waving flowers and colored streamers. At once, he asked to get off the car to respond to people’s warm welcome. Accompanied by Premier Zhou, he applauded and shook hands with them. His wife warmly hugged young women and greeted each other. Some university students shouted in Spanish “Welcome you! Mexican President!” The scene was very touching. Echeverria said, the Chinese people were so wonderful that they treated foreign guests friendly and politely, making them feel very warm as if they were back home. This all at once changed his impression of China left on him by the West’s distorted propaganda.

He had his second experience in

Shanghai. On the way back to the hotel after visiting a people’s commune, they passed by the crowded Nanjing Road. He asked to get off the car to have a look of the market and know about the people’s consumption. It was at noontime. When he saw a restaurant where there were many customers, he wanted to dine with them. He entered the restaurant and sat down at a big table where there were already some people eating. He ordered the same dishes as those the customers were eating and chatted with them. When a customer learned that he was the Mexican President, he immediately extended his welcome and said that China supported Mexico and other Latin American countries in their just struggle for defending their 200-nautical mile maritime rights. Echeverria said he could hardly believe that an ordinary Chinese man in the street of Shanghai knew and supported their struggle in this regard.

Even today he could not forget it.

Echeverria recalled these sudden changes brought some trouble to the Chinese protocol officers and security guards. But, Premier Zhou understood foreign guests’ needs and arranged things meticulously at all times, fully embodying China’s traditional virtues of treating others with courtesy. He really admired it. This “dismounting to look at flowers” advised by Premier Zhou produced unexpected good results. It was a most rewarding visit, he added.

A Model of Diplomatic Etiquette

In May 1975, I joined a CPAFFC delegation and paid a visit to Latin America. In Colombia, Jose Maria Gomez, executive president of the Colombia-China Friendship Association, was responsible for receiving us. He made a perfect schedule for our visit. Being a very careful man, he found that Wang Bingnan, head of the delegation and

Former Mexican President Luis Echeverria (L.4) calling on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bidding Committee



President of the CPAFFC, very much liked “sancocho”, a soup made of local vegetables, potato and fish. He then told hotel managers in other places to prepare “sancocho” with different local flavors for the Chinese guests every dinner. We were greatly moved by his warm and meticulous arrangement and thanked him. Surprisingly, he said he was only a pupil in the reception etiquette, and the true teacher was Premier Zhou. He once heard a story from Wang Bingnan about Premier Zhou’s instruction on the dinner etiquette. It happened at a dinner given by Premier Zhou in honor of world-famous comedian Charlie Chaplin and his wife when he, accompanied by Wang Bingnan, attended an international conference in Geneva. At the dinner a dish of duck meat was served. They had never expected that duck was a food Chaplin avoided. Due to this incident, later Premier Zhou instructed that at future diplomatic dinners, we should respect and take into

CPAFFC President Wang Bingnan (L.4) and his party warmly received by friends of the Colombia-China Friendship Association during their visit to Latin America



consideration our guests’ customs and diet; particularly we must not serve the kind of food that our guests avoid and still less impose on them our own favorite food. Gomez said, he himself had deep impressions of it when he visited China. The dish “*long hu dou*” (battle between dragon and tiger) made of snake meat and the dish “*hou nao*” (monkey brain) made by crushing the head of a monkey were very famous and popular and served as the best food in Canton in those days, but many foreign guests couldn’t stand them. So, later they disappeared on the menu of the banquet given by Chinese hosts.

On hearing this, what Premier Zhou had once said about etiquette in communication immediately came to my mind. The Premier said, etiquette was not a small matter, because it could play a role of lubrication and intermediary, and adhesion and catalyst as well, and was absolutely necessary for expressing feelings, strengthening

friendship and enhancing understanding. In my diplomatic career I was also enlightened by and benefited from this teaching of Premier Zhou.

In 1997 I served as Chinese Ambassador to Uruguay. One day in March, I had a discussion with the Secretary General of the Office of President about the specific arrangements for the schedule of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti’s visit to China in April. During the discussion I mentioned, as President Jiang Zemin would give a State banquet, we wanted to know the president’s special requests regarding the menu. The Secretary General said, “Ambassador, you are very thoughtful and have reminded us timely. There is really one Chinese delicious dish that our president is not used to. That is “*hai shen*”, it is translated “sea cucumber”. But, as its shape resembles a caterpillar, we can’t stand it. If there is this dish on the menu, we hope it will be replaced.” As expected, after receiving my report, the department concerned in the Chinese Foreign Ministry made a timely adjustment and replaced sea cucumber with beefsteak that Uruguayan people liked. At the banquet, President Jiang and President Sanguinetti talked happily about this matter. I sat by their side, feeling deeply that Premier Zhou’s superb diplomatic skills, his modest, frank and honest diplomatic style and sincerity towards friends not only showed the new spirit of our country, but also won friends and their respect. All this is the precious diplomatic wealth that we should inherit.

Great Love

On January 8, 1976, our beloved Premier Zhou passed away. When the

sad news came to Peru, a Peruvian girl was deeply grieved. On that day she went to the Chinese Embassy in Peru to offer her condolence. In front of the portrait of the deceased Premier, she stood in silent tribute with the utmost deference and wrote down her grief over the death of him on the book of condolence. Then she walked up to Jiao Ruoyu, Chinese ambassador to Peru, and hard to control her grief, she held his hands tightly. This little girl was Peruvian expert Arce's daughter. She had a kind of special feeling towards Premier Zhou. In 1999, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, she wrote an article entitled *China Is in My Blood and Heart* to express her boundless gratitude to China and the Premier.

It was in February 1970. Shortly after her birth, Mei Mei (Flor de Maria Fernandez), who was unfortunately suffering from septicemia, was given emergency treatment in the Beijing Children's Hospital. At that time her father Arce was an expert of Spanish language working for Radio Beijing (now, China Radio International). Though he was very much worried about his daughter on the verge of death, he worked as hard as usual. When Premier Zhou learned about it at a dinner with foreign experts, right away, he enjoined the department concerned to give the girl the best treatment and "spare no efforts to save the Peruvian girl's life." Mei Mei needed to have blood transfusion once and again. But in the blood bank of the hospital there wasn't much left of the blood plasma of her type. The medical department in charge immediately con-

tacted an army unit stationed in Beijing. Many officers and soldiers came to the hospital to donate blood. At the critical moment when the serious illness threatened Mei Mei's life, the PLA soldiers' blood was transfused into her blood vein time after time before she took a turn for the better and was out of danger. Premier Zhou who worked hard on State affairs day and night was still concerned about Mei Mei's illness and many times asked staff members in his office to inquire about the progress of the treatment. It was not until he learned that she was fully recovered and left the hospital that Premier Zhou felt relieved and asked a staff member to take his message of congratulations to Arce who was very emotional on receiving the message and asked the staff member to convey his family's gratitude to the Premier. Arce said, it was universally acclaimed that Premier Zhou always had the well being of the people at heart, but it had never occurred to him that the Premier should

have shown so much care and love for a foreign child and treated her just like his own child. Mei Mei owed her life to the good Chinese Premier. To this reason, Arce called his daughter Mei Mei "Chinese girl". His family would never forget Premier Zhou's great love and never forget Chinese PLA soldiers' kindness.

Several decades have passed as swiftly as the snap of a finger. But, Premier Zhou's brilliant diplomatic skills, dignified manners, strong sense of integrity and great service to the country will be remembered generation after generation.

The author is a council member of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association and Honorary President of the Association of Former Diplomats of China. He has served as a deputy director general of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC and Chinese ambassador to Bolivia and Uruguay.

Arce's daughter Mei Mei (L.2) being a mother now



CPAFFC Delegation Visits Gabon

Tang Ruimin

In March, when warm spring had come and flowers were in bloom, a CPAFFC delegation visited Gabon. It was accorded warm welcome from the Gabon-China Friendship Association (GCFA), with Ms. Pierrette Djouassa, former Procurator General of Gabon and President of the GCFA, leading all her members to greet the delegation at the airport.

Mr. Jean Ping, the first President of the GCFA and former President of the African Union, had talks with the delegation soon after its arrival. He especially mentioned his father was from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, and so he had Chinese blood flowing in his veins. He followed China's development with great interest and called himself a "Wenzhou friendship envoy to Gabon".

That evening, Guy Nzouba Ndama, Honorary President of the GCFA and President of the Gabonese National Assembly, held a reception in honor of the delegation, attended by over 50 friends from Gabonese political and business circles. In a warm speech, M. Nzouba recalled the late Gabonese President Omar Bongo had visited China 11 times and enjoyed a longstanding friendship with four generations of Chinese leaders. The current President Ali Bongo Ondimba, leading his people to build Gabon into an emerging country, hopes to strengthen strategic cooperation with China and further consolidate the friendly relationship.

Reporters from the Chinese magazine *Africa* travelling with the delegation interviewed renowned personages of various circles of Gabon present at the reception. A delegation member from the China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) showed a PowerPoint of the planning, design and effects of the port and the Mandji Free Zone in Port-Gentil (center of the country's oil and timber industry), which would be developed by the company.

On the second day, President Ali Bongo, meeting the delegation, recalled the traditional friendship jointly forged by the late President Omar Bongo and Chinese leaders. He said that he would follow the same path and further strengthen the friendship. He also affirmed the important role played

by the Chinese enterprises in promoting Gabon's economic development and hoped that more could participate in the national construction. Gabon was an open country ready to provide a good investment environment for investors. He hoped the two sides would understand and respect each other and make joint efforts to achieve win-win progress.

The delegation also met with Magloire Ngambia, Minister of Investment Promotion, Public Works, Transportation, Housing, Tourism and Management of Territory; Jean Baptiste Bikalou, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Industry, Mines and Crafts; and Bernard Aperano, Mayor of Port-Gentil City.

During the visit, the delegation extended invitations to Jean Ping, Cris-

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku calling on Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba



tiane Leckat, Vice Minister Responsible for Housing, and mayors of Port-Gentil City and Libreville to lead delegations to participate in the Second China-Africa Governors and Mayors Dialogue to be held in China in June by the CPAFFC. The delegation also invited the Gabonese business associations of agriculture, industry, mines and handicraft to organize entrepreneurs to attend the event.

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Gabon. During the visit, reporters sent by the CPAFFC for the first time had video interviews with the Gabonese President, the President of the National Assembly, government officials and businesspeople, and gathered a great number of materials for the production of a TV documentary and the publication of a special issue on Gabon by *Africa* magazine. The documentary will be shown both in China and Gabon.

During the visit, the CCCC also reached an agreement with relevant Gabonese department on a US\$2bn port and Mandji Free Zone construction project in Port-Gentil City, which could create 10,000 local jobs. The two sides were due to sign a formal agreement at the end of April for construction to start within the year.

With the forthcoming 40th anniversary of China-Gabon diplomatic relations, it is hoped the efforts to ensure firm friendship between the Chinese and Gabonese people will bear rich fruits. ■

CPAFFC Working Group Attends Sino-African Initiative Conference

Duan Jun

A CPAFFC working group led by its Vice President Xie Yuan attended the 2013 Sino-African Initiative (SAI) Conference sponsored by Sister Cities International (SCI) of the United States and organized by the Eastern Africa Sister Cities (EASC) in Nairobi, Kenya, from January 31 to February 2. About 60 officials and representatives of sister cities associations from China, the United States, Kenya, Nigeria and Malawi participated in the meeting aimed at implementing poverty alleviation projects in African cities through Sino-African-US trilateral sister city partnerships.

The SAI program was proposed by the SCI in 2012 and funded through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation. According to the program, from February 2013 to February 2014, three development and poverty alleviation projects were to be implemented by three selected SAI trilateral partnerships, namely, Denver (US)-Kunming (China)-Nairobi, Asheville/Raleigh (US)-Xiangyang (China)-Osogbo (Nigeria) and Urbana (US)-Haizhu District of Guangzhou (China)-Zomba (Malawi).

The American city in each group has sister city ties respectively with the Chinese and the African cities it is working with. To formally launch the projects, representatives of the three groups were invited to the conference to discuss implementation ways. The Kunming and Xiangyang Municipal



Governments respectively sent leading officials of their Foreign Affairs Office to attend the conference.

CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan addressed the opening ceremony, saying that, in today's world where countries are becoming more interdependent, exchanges among international friendship cities played an important role in enhancing friendship and cooperation and promoting world peace and harmonious development. This conference would surely help the participants to learn from each another and share experiences. It would be a beneficial experiment to provide assistance for the development of democracy in African society by bringing together non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.

Xie hoped participants would cooperate on the basis of equality and mutual benefit so as to achieve substantial results and enhance friendship and cooperation among cities and citizens.

SCI President and CEO Mary D. Kane said the SAI was an innovative program designed to provide a unique platform for cities of the United States, China and Africa to collaborate on economic development and urban poverty issues. She hoped it would help promote cooperation and exchanges of experience, bring in more participation by communities and individuals, motivate everyone to give full play to their potential for improving urban life and set an example for future trilateral cooperation in urban pov-

erty alleviation and development.

EASC Director James Shikwati presided over the conference and gave a briefing about the EASC. He said it was established in August 2011 with the aim of coordinating and developing international cooperation and sister city ties involving East African cities and communities, promoting experience sharing and helping Africa solve practical problems through projects in the fields of culture, education, youth, trade, economy and personnel training.

The conference included workshops, on-the-spot investigations, expertise and training sessions. On the last day of the conference, drawing the results of their discussions the representative of each group briefed about the work plan on its selected project and signed with the SCI the memorandum of understanding on cooperation. The SCI will provide US\$100,000 for each project, covering implementation, and travel and meeting expenses.

The Denver-Kunming-Nairobi group will cooperate on improving sanitation of a primary school in Nairobi; Kunming will be responsible for training and exchange activities.

The Asheville/Raleigh-Xiangyang-Osogbo group will improve the facilities in the Osogbo medical center, Xiangyang handling the training and sending of experts. The Urbana-Haizhu District-Zomba group will cooperate in improving the refuse treatment system in Zomba. ■

Exports of Chinese porcelain have long provided beautiful articles for daily use and collection for the people of the world, and the spread of porcelain production technology has promoted its development worldwide. Germany was the first European state to produce porcelain. In 1710, with the discovery of kaolin clay in Meissen, Dresden, porcelain articles imitating those of China were successfully produced and, in 1747, a royal porcelain factory was set up in Ngmpfenburg, Munich.

In January 2013, Prince Luitpold, great grandson of Ludwig III, the last king of Bavaria and the new the Duke of Bavarian Royal House of Wittelsbach, visited Jingdezhen at the head of a delegation seeking to develop friendship between the people of China and Germany and the enhancement of ceramic culture exchanges.

Many pieces of porcelain adorn Bavarian palaces and castles, museums and the well-known Kaltenbery brewery, and there is also the 266-year-old Ngmpfenburg royal porcelain factory modeled after the Chinese imperial porcelain plant.

Nurtured in Chinese ceramic culture since childhood, the Prince loves Chinese porcelain. The Royal Museum has collected several thousand pieces, many being blue and white porcelain treasures that were gifts from Chinese emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In March 2009, a Chinese cultural relic exhibition was held in the Bavarian National Museum in Munich. More than 300 exhibits of porcelain, embroidery, etc. showed the deep friendship and long-standing cultural exchanges between the people of China and Germany.

On January 20, Prince Luitpold and his party visited the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, an ancient kiln site, the Ceramic History Museum, the Jingdezhen Ten Porcelain Factories History Ceramics Museum where they received a warm welcome. The Prince was full of praise for the city's thousand-year ceramic

A Song of Sino-German People's Friendship

—On Prince Luitpold of Bavaria's Visit to Jingdezhen

Xu Nianrui

history, the excellent workmanship and the world-famous ceramic culture. The Kingdom of Bavaria had contact with the imperial court of China as early as in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In 1903 when Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and Duchess Marie Gabrielle visited China, Empress Dowager Cixi hosted a banquet in their honor. She presented them with a glazed red vase with a double-bat design made by the Imperial Kiln and paintings she created herself. The two paintings are now in the collection of the treasure hall of the royal family in Munich.

On January 21, the Prince and his party went to Jingdezhen's Gaolin Mountain, the source land of high quality kaolin clay for ceramic production. As early as the Yuan Dynasty (1279~1368 CE), artisans in China found kaolin clay and discovered that adding kaolin which carries 38% to 40% of aluminum oxide, to common china clay could improve the quality of ceramics.

The Prince was amazed to see the mountain slopes covered with snow-white tailings of kaolin, glittering under the sun. The head of the scenic area told him that 140 years ago, Ferdinand von Richthofen, professor and president of the University of Berlin, came on an investigation tour of kaolin clay and introduced it to the world in the third volume of his book *China*.

Before the ancient kaolin mine, a clay collecting ceremony was held.



Vice Mayor Zhang Chunping presenting a porcelain jar to Prince Luitpold of Bavaria

The head of the Yaoli Scenic Area welcomed Prince Luitpold's visit to Jingdezhen to learn about the history of porcelain and expressed the desire to strengthen cooperation with the Ngmphenburg Royal Porcelain Factory to promote technical innovation and make more beautiful porcelain. In his speech, the Prince again voiced his enthusiasm for his present trip in China and highly praised the discovery by artisans in Jingdezhen, saying that it had greatly advanced the development of porcelain production in the world. After the ceremony, he went into the mine to collect some kaolin, planning to take it back to Ngmphenburg and mix it with the material of the Royal Porcelain Factory to make a piece of porcelain that would be presented to China as a national gift.

The head of the scenic area presented him with Fudong glaze, a raw

material for porcelain production that had been produced since the Song Dynasty (906~1279 CE). The Prince said that he would place it in the porcelain raw materials exhibition room at the Ngmphenburg Royal Porcelain Factory.

Leading officials of Jingdezhen City met with Prince Luitpold and his party. Both sides agreed that Jingdezhen and Munich are highly complementary economically as Jingdezhen's development strategy is focused on porcelain production, helicopter research and manufacture, and tourism, while Munich enjoying the advantages of having the Royal Porcelain Factory, and aircraft engine and BMW automobile industry, as well as tourist attractions such as old castles, royal museums, etc. The Prince expressed his willingness to work to promote friendly cooperation between the two sides. ■

Guinness Record of Biggest Amount of Fried Rice Set in Celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year

Lin Zhichang

On February 12, 2013 — third day of the first month under the Chinese Lunar calendar — the Costa Rica-China Friendship Association and the Costa Rican Chinese Community Association (CRCCA) organized a fried-rice cooking activity in celebration of the arrival of the Year of the Snake in Chinatown in the capital San Jose. The event drew tens of thousands of people.

A year ago, at the same place on the same day, a cauldron of Chinese fried rice able to feed over 6,000 people was cooked to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. It attracted nearly 20,000 people. Although this year's activity was held on a working day and not the weekend, it still drew a larger audience.

Several hours before the formal start, large numbers of people gathered

People watching traditional Chinese cultural programs at the square



Chefs busy with their work

around two big tents and a refrigerator truck in the Chinatown main square to watch the opening activities involving a Guinness representative observing every detail, lawyers checking and notaries recording, reporters photographing, and 40 to 50 chefs and uniformed staff bustling around to prepare everything for the actual cooking.

Chefs and technicians respon-

sible for the weighing procedures put the cauldron on four electronic sensors that immediately transmitted the weight to a display board. The Guinness representative and notaries recorded the reading: 498kg. The big cauldron measuring 2.5 meters in diameter and weighing nearly half a ton attracted much attention. However, the specta-

tors were even more curious about the contents of dozens of tightly-covered stainless steel barrels being unloaded from the refrigerator truck.

Upon hearing the starting signal, the chefs and staff began to cut onions, chop sweet peppers, and stir egg paste, which were then put into barrels and weighed. The Guinness representative, lawyers and notaries verified the quality of the food, recorded the weight and certified the activity. The mystery was then uncovered. Inside these stainless steel barrels were the main: 735kg of rice, 120kg of ham, 260kg of roasted chicken meat, 230kg of barbecued pork, 20kg of Chinese sausage, 35kg of chopped sweet pepper, 53kg of onion, 80kg of egg paste, 40 liters of cooking oil and 10 liters of soy sauce.

Some 40 chefs were waiting the order to start cooking, more than a dozen holding 1.6m-long spatulas.

At 10 a.m., with the arrival of Mr. Song Yanbin, Chinese Ambassador to

Costa Rica, Mr. Jorge Villalobos, a representative of the Mayor of San Jose, and Ms. Isabel Yung, President of the Costa Rican Chinese Community Association, the order to start cooking was given. Flames engulfed the bottom of the cauldron. The chefs put in the cooking oil first and then poured in the egg paste. The honored guests wearing hair covers and gloves helped stir the ingredients with the big spatulas.

The chefs were divided into three groups to take turns to stir the ingredients in the cauldron and the 10 kitchen helpers tidied the entire cooking area neat and clean.

While the rice was being cooked, President Isabel Yung made a speech to the gathering crowd. She especially mentioned that the participants of this activity were all volunteers working with great zeal to achieve the target.

She noted that the materials and cooking utensils used, including the big cauldron, were all made in Costa Rica and the chefs were all Costa Rican Chinese. Therefore, this was a Guinness record purely created by Costa Ricans.

Finally, she said, the reason for making the dish on this particular day was that rice was the main staple for both Chinese and Costa Ricans, and according to traditional Chinese custom, the first meal shared at the beginning of the year would herald prosperity.

From 10a.m. to noon, the chefs busied themselves with cooking, while at the square traditional Chinese cultural programs including lion dance, Chinese kungfu, folk music and dances, and a fashion show of Chinese national costumes were presented. The wonderful performance drew repeated cheers from the large crowd and the square was permeated with a happy and joyful

festive atmosphere.

It was noon time and the sun was scorching. Chefs were still stirring the rice in the tent. When the last order came to add onions, the fried rice was almost done. Ambassador Song Yanbin, Mayor Johnny Araya Monge and CRC-CA President Isabel Yung reentered the cooking area and the big cauldron once again became the focus of attention. Several major TV stations in Costa Rica broadcast the event live. Then the Guinness representative, lawyers and notaries stepped up to check the final result.

When the cooking was done, the area was immediately cleared and the electronic sensors connected again. In an instant, the reading appeared on the one-meter-high electronic display board: 1,843.50kg. People present held their breath waiting for the Guinness representative to read out the verified net weight of the world's largest amount of fried rice: 1,345kg, a new Guinness record.

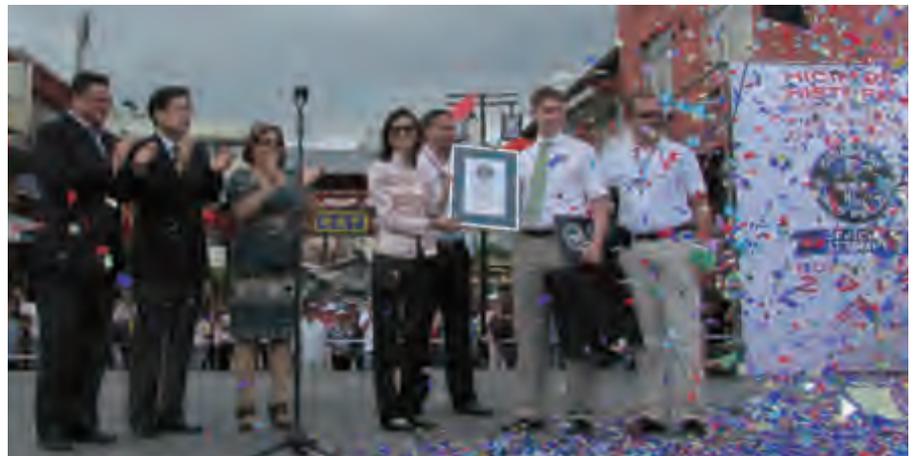
Accompanied by Ambassador Song Yanbin, Mayor Johnny Araya Monge and President Isabel Yung, the

Guinness representative confirmed the achievement by the Costa Rican Chinese Community Association and presented the Guinness World Records Certificate to President Yung, who said the honor belonged to all Costa Ricans. She also read out a letter from the Costa Rican President in which he extended his New Year greetings to the Chinese community and congratulations on CRCCA's success. Cheers and laughter broke out from the crowds.

It was in such a happy and joyous atmosphere that the activity came to its final act — the organizers and people present sharing the fried rice. With the experience of the previous year, some people came to the square around 8 o'clock in the morning, waiting in line for the opportunity to sample the tasty dish. As it was lunchtime, white-collars working in the nearby commercial and financial districts also joined the waiting line. The event lasted until 2:30 in the afternoon. In less than two hours more than 8,500 people enjoyed the treat.

The new year of the Snake had got off to a wonderful start. ■

From left: Mayor Johnny Araya Monge, Chinese Ambassador Song Yanbin, San Jose Municipal President Sonia Zamora Bolanos, CRCCA President Isabel Yung, the Guinness world records representative Ralph Hannah, and CRCFA council member Marc Villeda at the moment of announcing the new Guinness world record



Foreign Friends Join Spring Tea Picking

Rong You

Foreign Friends Picking Spring Tea, one of the activities of the Fourth China Tea Festival, was held in Pujiang County, Sichuan Province on March 17. Pang Te Cheng, Singaporean Consul General in Chengdu, Komate Kamalanavin, Thai Consul General in Chengdu, and Claudia Spahl, German Deputy Consul General in Chengdu, were among more than 60 commercial representatives, experts, scholars and students from Germany, Colombia, Israel, Australia, the United States and Ukraine, taking part.

In warm sunshine and breathing fresh mountain air, the foreign participants, each with a bamboo basket attached to their waist, plucked new leaves at an ecological tea garden. Afterwards, they watched the tea-making process and sampled the spring tea. The light green leaves floating in the teacups and the fragrant smell proved intoxicating.

They also visited a rural school in Pujiang and had discussions with teachers and students. In the classroom where tea ceremony is taught, a teacher in English gave an introduction to the traditional Chinese tea etiquette and invited the visitors to take part. On the school's playground, students put on a tea culture show and demonstrated their calligraphic and painting skills.

The participants said that this meaningful activity had deepened their knowledge about the culture of Chengdu and enabled them to learn the city's



Picking spring tea

great achievements in its coordinated urban-rural development and its charm derived from its long history. Chengdu is also known as the “city of success”.

The activity was jointly sponsored by China Tea Science Society and the

Chengdu People's Government, and organized by the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Chengdu Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. ■

Tea in the making



Japanese Porcelain Artwork “Blue Planet of Human Life” Donated to CPAFFC

Pan Lin

On March 22, a donation ceremony of the Japanese porcelain artwork the “Blue Planet of Human Life” was held in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC.

This huge spherical porcelain artwork, with a diameter of 1.05 meters, a total height of 2.1 meters and a weight of 300 kilograms, was designed and made by Japanese porcelain artist Yasuhiko Shirakata. His hometown of Tobe-cho in Ehime Prefecture is the place of origin of Japanese traditional Tobe-yaki porcelain adopting China’s blue and white porcelain techniques. There are only three such pieces in the world. One is placed in Shirakata’s hometown and the other at the U.N. headquarters

in Geneva.

Mr. Shirakata donated the third one, on which he had spent several months to make at the venerable age of 73 and which he said would be his last piece of artwork, to the CPAFFC embodying his hope for peace in the world and protection of the Earth as well as the aspiration of Japanese people of various circles for everlasting friendship between Japan and China.

Tobe-yaki porcelain artworks are commonly used for display and furnishings in Japan. So, why do they appear in the form of a globe with blue oceans and white continents at the UN headquarters in Geneva and in the CPAFFC? In his youth, Mr. Shirakata

as a member of the first batch of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers travelled to carry out volunteer work. While actively involved in and supporting construction in developing countries, he forged profound friendship with the people of different races and cultures and felt deeply that the Planet Earth is the common homeland of humankind in which to share peace, prosperity and development.

By combining traditional porcelain techniques with the image of blue earth, he created a “terrestrial globe” without national boundaries, implying that the Earth is a destiny community in which humankind depends on each other.

CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan (L.5) , Vice President of the Japanese House of Councilors Giichu Tsunoda (L.6) and others at the donation ceremony



The Blue Planet of Human Life displayed at the UN headquarters in Geneva has been an attraction for many years, particularly for young people from around the world to gather together to hold commemorative activities, expressing their aspiration for world peace and environmental protection.

The Japanese side donated the artwork to the CPAFFC for the purpose of commemorating the 40th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations and wishing for world peace and China-Japan friendship. Former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and former Vice President of the Japanese House of Councilors Giichu Tsunoda acted respectively as chairman and advisor to the Donation Committee.

At the donation ceremony, CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan said, China and Japan were close neighbors and countries with important influence in Asia and the world. Long-term healthy and steady development of their relationship was in the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples and conducive to peace and stability of Asia and the world.

The Chinese side was willing to make concerted efforts with far-sighted personages of various circles of Japan to persistently boost exchanges and cooperation in all fields between the two countries, continuously enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promote further development of the bilateral relationship.

Youth were the future and hope of the world. China-Japan friendship needed the efforts made by the two

peoples from generation to generation. He hoped that the youth of the two countries would promote further exchanges, enhance friendship, and become a bridge between the two countries and successors to the cause of China-Japan friendship.

Mr. Giichi Tsunoda, on behalf of the Donation Committee, also addressed the ceremony. He hoped that the Blue Planet of Human Life would be liked by the Chinese people and become a new symbol of Japan-China friendship. He also hoped that this donation would play a positive role in continuously enhancing friendship between the two peoples.

The huge and elegant Blue Planet of Human Life in blue and white porcelain becomes another object in the CPAFFC, implying world peace and symbolizing China-Japan friendship. With the expectation of the people of the two countries for ever-lasting China-Japan friendship, it is waiting the arrival of a new Spring of China-Japan relationship. ■

The Blue Planet of Human Life



The Heavenly Stems and the Earthly Branches, used to indicate the sequence of years in the traditional Chinese calendar, have a long history and far-reaching influence. They are the crystallization of the wisdom of the ancient people of China. An oracle bone unearthed at the ruins of Yin (capital of the Shang Dynasty, 16th to 11th century BCE) had a complete sixty-year cycle known as one *Jia-Zi* — traditional Chinese chronology — inscribed on it. This confirmed that the Stem-Branch cycle had been used almost four millennia ago.

The cycle consists of two parts. The Heavenly Stems can be compared to the trunk of a tree, with the Branches as the offshoots again just like a tree. The characters, namely *jia, yi, bing, ding, wu, ji, geng, xin, ren, gui*, indicate the 10 stems in order, while the twelve characters of *zi, chou, yin, mao, chen, si, wu, wei, shen, you, xu* and *hai* represent the 12 Earthly Branches. Thus, the first in order of Stem-Branch is *jia-zi*, followed by *yi-chou*; the cycle then advances in order each year creating 60 permutations.

The Chinese have been using the Stem-Branch cycle to record years, months and time of the day since ancient times. Later many cultural connotations have been attached to it.

To the Chinese people, the Stems and Branches are, just like Arabic numerals, still used in daily life. When studying Chinese ancient books, the Stems and

Sino-Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition Held in Kanazawa, Japan

Gao Weimin

Branches will help one easily calculate the specific years and time mentioned. And the 12 symbolic animals (Chinese zodiac) in Chinese culture are their concrete manifestation. In a word, the Stems and Branches bear a lot of traditional Chinese culture and serve as an important material for studying the way of thinking and the way life of ancient Chinese.

The Stem-Branch system is not only extensively used in China, but, in the Sui and Tang Dynasties, it spread to neighboring country Japan. In Nara, Japan, there are cultural relics reflecting this. Like China, Japan also keeps the zodiac culture today. People exchange greeting cards with zodiac animal designs or characters at the New Year. It may be said that the Stem-Branch culture is also a concrete example of the long-standing cultural exchange between China and Japan.

On March 8, a Sino-Japanese calligraphy exhibition on Stem-Branch culture, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Ishikawa Prefecture Japan-China Friendship Association, the *Hokkoku Shimbun* and the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society, was held in the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art in the beautiful an-

cient cultural city of Kanazawa. On display were calligraphic and seal-cutting works by artists and amateurs from both China and Japan, who, by way of calligraphy and seal cutting, offered their interpretation of the Stem-Branch culture. The exhibition showed that Chinese and Japanese cultures are closely linked.

The 40 Chinese exhibits had been collected by the Jiangxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Jiangxi Provincial Federation of Liter-

ary and Art Circles and the Japanese ones were mainly works by members of the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society, a private group engaged in the study of calligraphy and seal cutting in Japan's Hokuriku area.

Present at the opening ceremony were representatives of the CPAFFC, Katsumi Koga, President of the Ishikawa Prefecture JCFA, Nanen Kitamuro, President of the Hokushi Seal Cutting Society and several members of the Ishikawa Prefectural Assembly. ■

Exhibits by Japanese artists



Youth Cultural Exchange Held in France and Monaco

Wang Qing

At the invitation of the municipal government of Nice and the Monaco-China Association, the 2012-2013 China-France and China-Monaco youth cultural and art exchanges sponsored by the CPAFFC were held on the French Riviera (Cote d'Azur) and in Monaco respectively from February 21 to March 2. A delegation composed of the Shaanxi Little Swan Art Troupe and young singers from Beijing gave two performances and conducted other activities.

The exchanges received strong support from the Nice municipal government and the Government of the Principality of Monaco. The Vice Mayor of Nice, the Dean of

the Department of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Nice, and Monaco's Minister of Interior and non-resident Ambassador to China watched a performance and delivered speeches, when they spoke of their good impressions of China, recounted the fruitful cultural and economic cooperation with China in recent years along with friendship-city exchanges, and hoped to further the friendly bilateral relations. A CPAFFC representative, in turn, said that, "The key to sound relations between states lies in amity between the people, and the key to amity between the people lies in heart-to-heart exchanges". He hoped the delegation's visit would help the French and Monacan audience better un-

derstand Chinese culture and served as a suitable prelude to a series of activities in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France.

The two performances were staged in famous local theatres decorated with Chinese dragons and traditional Chinese knots, and filled with a festive atmosphere. The audience mainly came from mainstream society.

The young performers from the Shaanxi Little Swan Troupe also visited the Ecole Superieure de Danse de Cannes Rosella Hightower where they shared a class with the French students and experienced Western ballet teaching.

Young performers of the Shaanxi Little Swan Troupe with the students of a French dance school



In Profound Memory of Former Russian Ambassador to China Igor A. Rogachev

Qian Guangjian

Nearly one year has gone by since Mr. Igor Alexeyevich Rogachev, former Russian ambassador to China, passed away and the memory of my acquaintance with him is still vivid in my heart.

I remembered the founding of Kalinka Choir, the very first Russian chorus in China, together with my alumni from Beijing 101 Middle School and Beijing National Day School, and my own election as its head in 1993 when the Sino-Russian relations were still rather cold. Singing Russian songs were not common at

that time. Therefore, activities of our choir became a hot media topic and helped revive the singing of Russian songs around the country. The Russian Ostankino TV station also reported our activities.

In the fall of 1993, our choir was invited to perform at the celebration party of the Mid-Autumn Festival hosted by the Russian Embassy. We sang several Russian songs accompanied by an accordion. There was much enthusiasm among the audience who had rarely had a chance to hear such songs for three decades.

Ambassador Rogachev was present. On learning our last item would be the famous Russian song *Motherland March*, he came up and, speaking in standard mandarin, offered to accompany us. He sat down before the piano and played skillfully. We were thrilled by the sonorous sound of the piano and sang vigorously the long lost tune. Friendly personages from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania and more from China, gave us thunderous applause, but also sang together with us either in Russian or Chinese this song that had once been

Members of the Kalinka Choir with Ambassador Igor A. Rogachev and RCFA Vice President Galina Kulikova after their first performance in the Russian Embassy in China in 1993



popular throughout China. I was deeply touched seeing some of them singing with tears in their eyes, and felt greatly honored to have pictures taken with Ambassador Rogachev and Vice President Galina Kulikova of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA) after the performance. Since then, Ambassador Rogachev's tall, elegant and scholarly figure was ever in my mind.

Encouragement and support by various social circles helped our choir thrive. We actively made plans to participate in all kinds of activities related to Russian culture, such as attending the Grand Prix of Foreign Famous Songs organized by Beijing Television Station, the Russian-style friendship party organized by the Beijing Radio Station, the concert of Russian songs held during the World Women's Films Week and Retrospection of Songs in the Soviet Films organized by China Central Television.

We made our debut of Russian Songs Concert in the Music Hall earlier than any other amateur choirs in China. Vice President Galina Kulikova

led a group of staff from the Russian Embassy to join us in the performance, providing an exciting climax.

Ambassador Rogachev and RCFA Vice President Kulikova watched our performance many times and often invited us to perform at embassy celebrations, despite our mediocre singing level and Russian speaking level due to lack of professionals in our choir. The embassy invited us because our performance was a tribute to people-to-people friendship and the common Chinese people's sincere love of Russian culture and the Russian people. People-to-people friendship better exemplified the long history of brotherhood between the two countries.

While organizing choral activities, we collected Russian songs. By 1995, we had collected words and music of two thousand Russian songs and registered and catalogued them in a file. Ambassador Rogachev was very happy to see the handwritten Russian songs catalogue made by my wife and myself at a party hosted by the Russian Embassy, and wrote an inscription with

his signature in three beautiful Chinese characters “罗高寿”, which was his Chinese name. It was a very precious souvenir for me.

In 1995, the Russian embassy presented our choir with an Honorary Certificate of the Government of Russian Federation in recognition of Kalinka Choir's contribution to the promotion of Sino-Russian friendship, which was a great honor for us all.

Ambassador Rogachev came from an extraordinary family containing quite a few sinologists. Four generations of his family learned Chinese and made remarkable achievements. His father, Alexei Petrovich Rogachev was a famous sinologist; his younger sister, Galina, is a researcher at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences with a Licentiate Degree in history and; his youngest sister, Elena, an expert in Southeast Asia studies; his sons and grandsons have also learned Chinese.

He followed his father's footsteps and engaged in diplomacy for more than 40 years. His life, work

Ambassador Rogachev giving piano accompaniment



and career had close ties with China where he spent one third of his lifetime. He was a witness to and participant in the gradual development of Sino-Russian relations. He served in China in three different periods, as interpreter and attache, and then Counselor of the Soviet Embassy, and, finally, Ambassador.

On May 9, 2005, he watched our choir's performance for celebration of the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Patriotic War in the CPAFFC. We learned that he would leave his office later that year. We passionately sang several Patriotic War songs. After the performance, he had pictures taken with all the choir's members.

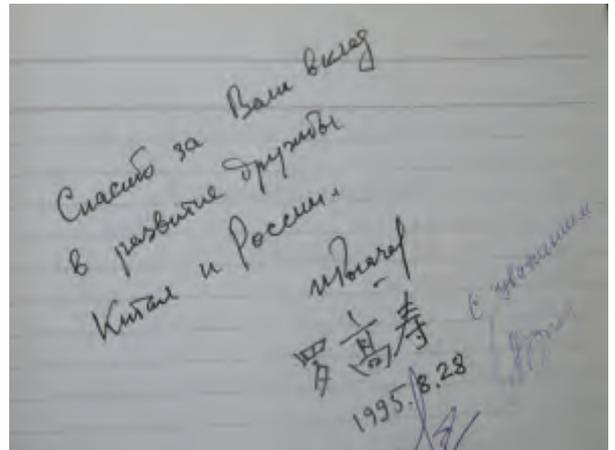
He worked as ambassador to China for 13 years, becoming the longest serving of all the ambassadors to China. He had great affection for the Chinese people and won their love for his legendary experience, great talent, profound knowledge, polite manner, and extraordinary diplomatic competence. During his tenure, the good-neighborly and friendly relations between China and Russia were fully restored.

October 1, 2009 was the happy day marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. A few days earlier, as a council member of the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA), I was invited to the reception in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia diplomatic relations and the founding of the CRFA that was organized by the CPAFFC in the Great Hall of the People on September 25. I was surprised to see Ambassador Rogachev sitting in a wheelchair on the doorstep

of the Great Hall of the People when I arrived. I walked up and shook hands with him. "Good afternoon, Mr. Ambassador," said I, "Do you still remember me?" He replied, "Of course, I do. Do you come here to attend the reception?" I answered, "Yes." A moment later, many participants came over to meet with Ambassador Rogachev and express their regards. I stood by and felt sorrow in my heart to see him in a wheelchair talking to people. I had heard that he had a car accident in Moscow two years before and suffered a broken leg. It was really unexpected that he, approaching 80, traveled from afar to China for the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China under such poor physical conditions. It showed the great importance he attached to China.

At the reception, many guests from both home and abroad came over to offer a toast and ask to have pictures taken with him. He would stand up slowly by leaning on the wheelchair to satisfy their requests. When the reception concluded, I did not go until I saw a staff pushing the wheelchair to escort him out of the hall. Later, I learned from a staff from the CPAFFC that Mr. Rogachev watched the National Day military parade at Tiananmen Square in his wheelchair. I thought I would have little opportunity to see him again in future.

One day in April last year, Wu Jin, one of my friends, texted me that



Ambassador Rogachev's signature

she learned from a newspaper article that Ambassador Rogachev had passed away because of illness. The news weighed heavily on me. I rushed out to buy the newspaper and finally found one after stopping over at several newsstands. It carried several articles in commemoration of the Ambassador and a vivid sketch of him. I read through the articles and looked at the sketch closely, his voice and smiling faces kept flashing back in my mind's eye: I seemed to see him playing the piano cheerfully for our accompaniment, making speeches in standard mandarin at receptions, writing the inscription attentively for me, talking to people at the tea party pleasantly, nodding appreciation when watching our performance, smiling with satisfaction when attending China's National Day celebration reception.

Although Mr. Rogachev has gone, his look and his voice will remain in my heart forever.

February 3, 2013

This article is written to commemorate the 81st birthday of Mr. Rogachev on March 1, 2013.

Former US Ambassador's Love for Chinese Porcelain

Xu Nianrui

China's Jingdezhen porcelain has long been well known and admired in the world. Among admirers, Arthur W. Hummel Jr., former US Ambassador to China, had a passionate love for blue and white "rice grain" porcelain.

He was born in Fenyang in China's western Shanxi Province in 1920. A church had sent his father, Arthur William Hummel, to China to run its mission school, and, on one occasion, he went to Nanjing on business.

When he saw elegant rice grain porcelain dinner sets in a restaurant, he took an immediate liking to them. As it was not easy to travel to Nanjing at that time due to poor transportation, he bought three sets from a shop, sending one set back to the United States and taking the other two sets back to Fenyang. The father regarded these rice grain porcelain dishes, looking as if they were inlaid with glass, as priceless treasures and placed one set in a china closet as decoration.

Since childhood, Mr. Hummel Jr. ate from these precious bowls and listened to his father telling stories about them, and gradually began to share the enthusiasm for this type of porcelain. In 1928, when he was eight years old, he returned to the United States for studies. At the age of 20, he came to China to work as a teacher of English in the Fu Ren Middle School in Shandong. Once he bored a hole in the bottom of a blue and white porcelain vase to make

a desk lamp. The soft light reflected from the elegant vase gave off a special charm.

In 1941, he was arrested by the Japanese aggressor troops and together with a number of American nationals in China was interned in a concentration camp in Weixian County, Shandong. Tragically, all his treasured porcelain was lost. In June 1944, with the help of Shandong anti-Japanese guerrillas, he managed to escape from the concentration camp. After returning to the United States, he started his career as a diplomat.

In 1981, Mr. Hummel, an old China hand who could speak fluent Chinese, was recommended by then Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. to take up the ambassadorial post and thus could renew his links with China. He and his wife went to the Friendship Store in Beijing to buy rice grain porcelain dinner sets and coffee sets. When he finally returned home in 1985, he bought quite a few pieces of rice grain porcelain as souvenirs of his service in China.

In June 1987, Mr. Hummel and his wife were invited by the CPAFFC to make a fresh visit. At his request, they went to Jingdezhen on June 9, where they visited the ceramic art and sculpture studios, an ancient kiln pottery factory, the Hutian Ancient Kiln Site, the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute and the Ceramics Research Institute

and got a general picture of Jingdezhen's long history and development since the reform and opening up. On June 11, they visited the Jingdezhen Guangming Porcelain Factory that produced blue and white rice grain porcelain, and gained a deeper appreciation of the culture involved.

After listening to the briefing given by the factory director, Hummel warmly congratulated the factory for winning the gold award at the Leipzig Trade Fair. Then, he and his wife visited the showroom and were very happy to see a variety of rice grain porcelain with novel designs. He saw that there was a rich assortment of porcelain including Chinese and Western dinnerware, coffee sets, wine sets, porcelain of everyday use, vases and lamps with eye-like openwork (*ling long yan*) in many unique patterns such as flowers, flying bird, waves, clouds, etc. developed from "rice grain" pattern in mixed colors of red, yellow, green and blue, looking so beautiful and tasteful against the quietly elegant blue and white color.

The American couple acquired some products of novel design.

When seeing women workers using carving knives to pierce all kinds of beautiful patterns through the rough and unfired porcelain body, Hummel praised their superb skills and exquisite technique.

In the glazing workshop, they watched the workers filling the holes

(*ling long yan*) with translucent glaze. The factory director told them that each hole need be filled with glaze eight times before it was fully filled. Amazed, they understood why this type of porcelain was so expensive on the international market.

Hummel thanked the factory director for his warm reception and said that after returning home he would make great efforts to recommend this type of porcelain to American businessmen and encourage them to purchase brand name porcelain in Jingdezhen to meet American consumer demand. That year several groups of American businessmen introduced by him came to Jingdezhen.

That afternoon, leaders of the Jingdezhen Municipal Government had a cordial meeting with Mr. Hummel and his wife and briefed them about the city, and before departure presented them with a set of 45 pieces of blue and white rice grain porcelain dinnerware that had won the Leipzig gold award.

Now, China's blue and white rice grain porcelain with modern motifs and various patterns has become more beautiful and refined and is full of charm of its inventiveness. Every October businessmen from around the world gather at the Jingdezhen International Porcelain Fair. After listening to the story about Ambassador Hummel's passionate love for the rice grain porcelain, they become more enthusiastic about and interested in purchasing porcelain of this type.

Editor's Note: Arthur W. Hummel Jr. Passed away on February 6, 2001

Rediscover Karl Friedrich Neumann

—On a Little-known German Sinologist

Wang Wei

A small-scale exhibition of the Books of the Last Empire was held in the Nuremberg University Library, Germany, in the winter of 2012. On display were ancient Chinese literature works, books on history, art, philosophy, Chinese medicine, religion, etc., including the Chinese pharmacological bible *Compendium of Materia Medica*, the earliest Chinese painting textbook *Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting*, and the world's first Chinese grammar book—the precious *Arte de la lengua mandarina*—written by Brother Francisco Varo of the Spanish Dominican Order in Fujian in 1682 and published in Guangzhou in 1703.

It attracted great attention from the German public and media despite the small number of exhibits totaling about 30. A man named Karl Friedrich Neumann is closely linked to the explanation as to when and how these valuable Chinese books came to Germany, and, thus begins the rediscovery of this little-known German sinologist.

On March 28, 1830, the British sailing ship “Sir David Scott” set sail on the long journey to China. Count Franz Graf von Pocci, a German painter in



Karl Friedrich Neumann

the 19th century, depicted various kinds of passengers on the ship in a cartoon: a gentleman happily haranguing, a professor attentively reading, a daredevil holding a rifle, a careerist clenching a map, an explorer holding high a telescope, etc. The painter used his imagination and exaggeratedly pictured Neumann as the most visible sculpture at the bow. His complacent look and confident smile indicated his great expectations of this long journey.

The 37-year-old Neumann had plenty of time to look back upon his unhappy childhood and troubled youth during the voyage. In 1793, he was

born into a poor Jewish family. His mother died young and his father was determined to get rid of him after marrying another woman. So when Neumann reached 13, his father declared him an adult and drove him out of the family home to live by himself. Neumann did some odd jobs and finally turned to his uncle in Frankfurt for shelter. This uncle treated him just like a son and sent him to a business school. Neumann showed extraordinary talent in language and acquired Latin, Greek, English and French by his own efforts.

At the age of 24, recommended by an influential friend who appreciated his talent, he was admitted to the famous University of Heidelberg and started to study theology and philosophy. After graduation, he began teaching at middle school and intended to take an academic road. However, his ideal was mercilessly smashed by

the harsh reality. The school fired him because the conservative Kingdom of Bavaria could not allow him to preach in the classroom the doctrine of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. After several unsuccessful job interviews, he decided to leave Germany for some time and traveled around Europe. He was attracted to the emerging “Craze of the East” when arriving in France and started to learn Chinese in Paris.

In 1829, he traveled to London, the center of studies of China at that time, read extensively, collected historical materials concerning Asia, and made up his mind to go to the East for further exploration. He luckily got a steamer ticket from the captain of a China-bound East India Company ship, who took him on as a French tutor. Before departure, he sorted out a catalogue of Chinese books from collections of the Royal Asiatic Society

and the London Missionary Society and began his journey to China with the sole purpose of collecting books on the catalogue.

The ship drifted at sea for nearly five months, before, finally, in early September, 1830, Neumann arrived in Macau and one month later reached Guangzhou, where he stayed for three months until the ship sailed back to Europe. Before the Opium War, the only trade relations China had with the outside world were with Britain. Due to the policy of seclusion the Qing government pursued, foreign traders arriving in Guangzhou could only trade with the designated “Sup Sam Hung” (trading companies) and were forbidden to live in Guangzhou (staying in the Portuguese colony of Macau). Even so, Neumann managed to learn Cantonese and bought more than 6,000 volumes of Chinese books on language, history, philosophy, literature and miscellaneous books, which he regarded as “the priceless treasures representing the great achievements of ancient Chinese literature and thought”.

With the return date to Europe approaching, however, a troublesome problem emerged that the Qing government banned exports of all books. Thus, Neumann had to resort to bribing customs officials. He declared these books as “paper” and successfully brought them back to Germany. More than 2,400 out of the 6,000 volumes of books were purchased by the Prussian Royal Library in Berlin in 1832, while the remainder, over 3,500 volumes, were taken by Neumann to Munich. Instructed by King Ludwig I and through hard negotiation, the Bavarian Royal Library got the

British sailing ship “Sir David Scott” drawn by German painter Count Franz Graf von Pocci



precious books free and Neumann was compensated with the professorship of literature history and sinology at the University of Munich.

In fact, as early as 1829, Neumann was recognized as a sinologist by the University of Munich and made a catalogue of Chinese books for the Bavarian Royal Library. However, the professorship did not diminish his passion for enlightenment and the revolution he had kept in his heart since his youth. He was fired by the university due to participation in the 1848 revolution and had to move to Berlin, where he continued his studies, while engaging in publication of his own academic books until his death in 1870.

The German Oriental Society, the first academic organization engaged in sinology in German history, was founded in 1842. Neumann wrote quite a few articles for the society's journal. However, China at that time was too busy to pay any attention to such a foreign organization that focused on the study of its culture. In August 1842, the Qing government was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking. Western guns broke open the Chinese civilization, which had been developing independently for thousands of years.

China embarked on a painful road of resistance and development more than a hundred years ever since. In the mid-19th century, the Industrial Revolution brought great leaps in science and technology in Europe, and Europeans no longer worshipped and envied China; instead they succeeded in plundering the ailing "Celestial Empire" with its strong technical and military advantage.

Although Neumann spent only three months in China, the 6,000 volumes he took back to Germany promoted an increasing interest in the spiritual world of China among German academics, and laid a rich material foundation for future study in Germany. Over a hundred years later, the exhibition of a small group of these precious books jointly organized by the Confucius Institute of Nuremberg-Erlangen, the Nuremberg University and the Bavarian State Library, revealed the legendary experience of the German sinologist.

The lesson to be learnt is that human civilization created by all countries in the world can only achieve a diversified but harmonious development through mutual respect and mutual admiration for each other's culture. ■

The Affections of My Life

Zhang Yan



The author and his wife

When I look back over the 90 years of my life, through all the tumultuous events, highs and lows, joys and sorrows, I see that one bright, shining emotion has always warmed my heart: affection.

The pillar supporting me throughout has been family love: the care of my parents, the love of my wife and children, and the close feelings between myself and my siblings. The lifelong devotion and unswerving trust between my wife and I have particularly been the bedrock upon which we have been able to depend, often in the face of repeated severe political turmoil and crushing pressures. However, we have endured and survived because of our strong belief in the correctness of our choices. Together we weathered many difficult times, and our deep affection allowed us to bring up four children and enjoy much family happiness. Together we have grown with our country and our people, fully appreciating the meaning of life, knowing that we have made use of every minute.

First Steps at Southwest Associated University

My first exposure to politics occurred in the 1940s when I attended Southwest Associated University. I was young and naive, but was lucky to fall in with a large group of highly motivated and socially conscious people who led me on to the path of revolution, which I have followed throughout my life. When things became really difficult and pressures mounted, it was these comrades-in-arms who supported and encouraged me, and gave me confidence. Many of them later all came under attack in the many political movements, but their steadfast adherence to the truth set me a shining example, and gave me the courage to carry on. In 1979, when the “cultural revolution” finally came to an end, all of us “veterans” gathered together in Beijing for a grand reunion. This was a memorable meeting which marked us all deeply. The elderly writer Ma Shitu, the oldest of us, and the leader of the underground Communist Party cell in the National Southwest Associated University, was moved to write the following poem:

Snow and ice melt, spring bursts forth,

Old friends meet joyfully in Beijing.

Our hair has grown white as we build a new world,

Along the way, so much to tell and say.

Those who have not seen the sea know not what it means,

Those who have not seen Mount Wu know nothing of clouds.

What joy that the mountains and rivers are as grand as ever,

And that from the high peaks the view is boundless

He wrote a special note: “In March 1979, twenty years of wrongs are righted and old friends can celebrate. Schoolmates gather in Beijing to rejoice. I am tipsy, but must pen this poem so we do not forget. Old Man Ma Shitu.”

My “Commerce” Friends

I have worked in news media all my life. My first job was as a journalist at the Chongqing *Commercial Daily*, and my first assignment was to cover the “Chongqing Negotiations” of 1945 between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. These would decide the fate of China. The Communist *Xinhua Daily* and the Kuomintang *Zhongyang Daily* were constantly at loggerheads. Although the *Commercial Daily* was the official mouthpiece of the Chongqing Chamber of Commerce and the director was even a leader in the Kuomintang Youth Organization (*Sanjing Tuan*), the paper nonetheless took a neutral stand and urged peace. This was thanks to the fact that a number of Communist Party members had infiltrated the editorial and reporting offices, and were actually in charge of all the work. They were not only skilled reporters but very good at talking to people and winning them over.

My contact with these older more seasoned revolutionaries made me feel that I had joined a huge revolutionary family, and had found a group of friends and mentors. In the decades that followed, our friendships never wavered and we have always been able to rely on each other’s trust and support in times of difficulty and danger. After

1949, all of these friends did outstanding work in the news media. Among them was Qin Benli, editor-in-chief of the nationally prestigious *World Economic Herald*. He had originally been a reporter on the *Commercial Daily*. The Herald played a key pioneering role in the period of reforms and opening up, and as a result came under huge pressure from certain powerful quarters, but he refused to bow to them, setting a strong example for the entire media. I went to see him (in Shanghai) when I heard he was suffering from cancer. He had no regrets and we talked at length about his beliefs. I knew sadly this was most likely the last time I would see him, so I took photos of us. I will never forget how my “Commerce” friends have given me confidence and strength throughout my life.

Telling the World about China

My destiny seems to be using foreign languages to tell the world about China. On the eve of the War of Liberation, I worked at *New China Weekly* founded in Shanghai, then during the War at *China Digest* published in Hong Kong, then after 1949 at *People’s China*, the first foreign language magazine to be published by the new government. In 1957, I was invited by Mme Soong Ching Ling, whom I greatly admired, to work for the magazine *China Reconstructs* that she had founded. It is now called *China Today*, and I worked there until I retired at the age of 67. As China has developed and the world situation has changed, many people have become knowledgeable at promoting understanding and contacts between China and other countries. As one of this group, I feel honored and

proud. With the decades, I have come to understand that China is but one member of the global village, and that only through mutual understanding can we all coexist and prosper. This has never been an easy task, and many have spent their lives working towards this goal. Edgar Snow, the American journalist, is one excellent example. His book *Red Star Over China* can be said to have changed the relations between China and the rest of the world. I have had the honor to have worked with Israel Epstein and Jack Chen, who have also made outstanding contributions. Not only did I learn a great deal about journalism from them, their integrity and character were also models for me to emulate. Their advice and friendship encouraged me to pursue my path.

Meeting the Flying Tigers

In the most unexpected way, my life gained an international dimension from a chance meeting with American pilots of the Flying Tigers based in Kunming, resulting in friendships that have lasted our whole lives. We may have come from different races and cultures, but our common aspirations bound us tightly together. They were in China to help in the war against Japan, but knew very little about the country. Hoping to learn more, they took the initiative to meet and get to know Chinese university students who spoke English. Over the next two years, practically every two weeks, we would all get together to talk about the history and current states of our two countries. They expressed a desire to know more about Yanan and the liberated areas, and we were also interested in knowing how Americans had fought

the British colonialists and founded the young republic. We discovered we had common goals: to build a peaceful world after the war so that all peoples could live happily. After Japan was defeated, all the pilots returned to the US via Chongqing, and a number of them, with the help of the Communist underground, were able to meet Zhou Enlai and Mao Zedong who were both there for the Kuomintang-Communist Party negotiations. Three of them were invited to Hongyan Village to a meal with Mao Zedong, and heard his prediction that there would always be friendship between the peoples of China and the U.S.. The group photograph taken at this historic occasion still hangs in the local museum, a testimony to this friendship. However, after 1949, China-US relations entered a 30-year period of hostility and my contacts with my American friends were broken. During

the “cultural revolution”, this whole experience became proof of my “traitorous activities” and I was persecuted. In the U.S. in the 1950s, under the “white terror” of McCarthyism, my American friends who advocated establishing diplomatic relations with New China were also persecuted, and even had to hide this group photograph taken with Mao Zedong in their garden. By the time they could dig it out again, it had turned yellow. After President Nixon’s icebreaking visit to China in 1972, they eagerly came to China to look up their old friends, but the “cultural revolution” was still in full swing, and they were unable to contact us. However, when they went to visit Hongyan Village, they were amazed to find their photograph still hanging on the museum wall, and they were told by the guide that it has always been there since 1958, even when China-US rela-

Reunion with Flying Tigers pilot Dick Pastor in Kunming in 2004 after 60 years



tions were at their most hostile period. This moved them deeply for it showed that China had always thought of the American people as friends. In Shanghai, they were thrilled to meet up with Li Chuwen whom they had known in Kunming, and who was now a minister in the International Church. However, they were puzzled by his awkward demeanor and reticence, so unlike his former self. It was only after the end of the “cultural revolution” that they understood why, but at that meeting they told their children, “This is one of the Chinese friends who changed your father’s life.” The younger generation probably found it hard to understand, but it was true.

On January 1, 1979, history took another turn: after 30 years of hostility, China and the United States declared the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. For me, after 21 years of political persecution and marginalization, the unthinkable occurred: I was assigned to Washington DC to work as the first journalist ever for China’s foremost newspaper *People’s Daily*. Even more unexpectedly, when I arrived in Washington, I found a vase of fresh flowers waiting for me in my room. It had been sent all the way from New York by my Flying Tiger pilot friends. The card said, “Rewrite history!” I called them and said I would meet them soon in New York, but they said, “No, we have waited 35 years, we won’t wait a day longer!” And the next day they took a plane to DC. We fell into each other’s arms. From that time on, our friendship deepened, and through them I made many new friends. My understanding of American society and people also grew. They

treated me like family, making me feel at home wherever I went. On one trip, my friend Bell picked me up at the station and brought me to his home. He gave me a set of house keys so I could come and go at pleasure. One night, I went to the movies with a friend and came back late. As I let myself in, Bell rushed over and said angrily, “Where have you been?” Worried that something might have happened to me on the streets of New York, he had called the police and the hospital emergency rooms several times asking after me. I apologized profusely for not telling him where I was going, but at the same time I couldn’t help being deeply touched by his concern and worry. After this incident, I wrote an article “Affection Knows no Borders” to express my feelings. These friendships opened my eyes to many things and deepened my understanding of the meaning of “caring.”

The Pleasure of Memories

At my age now, remembering the past is a kind of pleasure. My “Save Folder” is packed full of memories. The bitter painful ones have receded with time, now only the sweet, affection-filled ones remain.

In 1972 I turned fifty. I asked for leave from the cadre school where I was working in Henan to visit my mother in Chengdu where she had gone to take refuge during the “cultural revolution”. I wanted to see her to express my love and gratitude for all she had done for me. On the eve of my departure, my wife Pei gave me a gift to take: a basket full of eggs laid by the hens she cared for, each one inscribed with the date it was laid. Such a price-

less gift heavy with affection!

In Chengdu, I unexpectedly met my mentor, Ma Shitu again. He had just been released from prison where he had been during the “cultural revolution”, and was at home awaiting “liberation.” Meeting him there was huge surprise for us both and we embraced for a long time. Then we got on our bikes and rode out to Du Fu’s Pavilion for a good chat. There we found that the ancient pots of bonsai, that the Red Guards had labeled as “four olds” and had wanted to smash were still there, completely unharmed and beautiful as ever. We were told that all had been given a “revolutionary overcoat,” such as hanging strands of wire between the ornamental rocks and labeling them “The Red Army crossing the Dadu River.” The Red Guards had refrained from destroying them. We marveled at the ingenuity of the Chinese common people.

In 2003, Dalong, my second son, drove me to Lecun in Henan for a very special “family visit.” In 1969, at the height of the “cultural revolution”, our family was “cleansed” and sent here to be “re-educated by the poor and lower-middle class peasants.” We were four of us, my wife and two youngest children: Dalong not yet 10, and Xiaohong who was only 5 and going to kindergarten. Peili, my eldest daughter had been sent to settle on a state-run farm in the North East, while Xiaoyan, my 15-year-old eldest son remained behind to work as a shop assistant. All those who came to Lecun were considered to be “evil elements” in need of “re-education through labor,” and this was how we were described to the local inhabitants. However, we soon

Chinese University Students’ Impressions of Japan

Editor’s Note:

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan-China Friendship Center, a 77-member delegation of Chinese university students led by Wang Xiuyun, Vice President of the China-Japan Friendship Association, visited Tokyo, Miyagi and Kyoto from March 4 to 11, 2013. Members of the delegation consisted of students from Peking University, Renmin University of China, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing Normal University, Beijing International Studies University, Beijing Language and Culture University and University of International Relations. The delegation visited a number of famous Japanese universities, had friendly exchanges with Japanese counterparts and went to the earthquake-stricken area in northeastern Japan to learn of post-quake reconstruction. After returning home, members of the delegation wrote articles about their impressions of Japan. We have selected the following two articles for our readers.

discovered that the villagers were very down-to-earth, and not influenced by any of this. Very quickly, we made friends as we worked in the fields and helped each other. My wife went to teach in the local middle school and soon became a favorite teacher. Students used to drop by our house to help with chores and fetch water with a carrying-pole. Often when we opened the door in the morning we would find fresh vegetables on the doorstep, left there by one of the students. My wife always took them to the school kitchen so everyone could share. She became very close to all her students. On this “home visit” we were still some way from the village, but many of our old friends had come to meet us on the freeway. We all embraced. In the days that followed, we were filled with an

amazing feeling of homecoming. I would never have believed how strong it was. At the welcoming party attended by dozens of former students, I wrote the couplet “Times have completely changed; our country’s future is boundless!”

In 2004, Dick Pastor, one of the last Flying Tiger pilots still alive, was 86 years old and wheelchair-bound. However, he said he wanted to see his former Chinese friends one last time in Kunming. His doctor would not allow him to travel long distances, but after several months of treatment, he and Naomi, his 90-year-old wife came to China and fulfilled their wish. Ma Shitu who was over 90 and living in Chengdu and myself already 82 years old and living in Beijing both made the trip to Kunming where we had a

wonderful reunion after a separation of 60 years. Together we went in search of Dagan Building where we used to meet 60 years before; we visited the site of the former National Southwest Associated University, and talked to present-day students about all our unforgettable experiences. Everywhere we went, we thought of all our old friends, American and Chinese, and though they had all gone to another world, they seemed to be beside us, and we could still hear their voices and laughter.

I hope and I do believe that my “Save Folder” will continue to receive more happy memories. They always make me feel younger.

(Translated by Shi Xiaojing)

Cherry Blossom Yet to Bloom

— Notes on 2013 Chinese University Student Delegation's Visit to Japan

Zeng Guangming
(Japanese Department of Beijing Foreign Studies University)



The Chinese university student delegation visiting Japan's Waseda University

Words such as soft, gentle and elegant are used to describe Japanese cherry blossoms. When tens of thousands of flowers are in full bloom and their pedals shower down, it not only shows the flourishing of Spring but also the vanishing of a momentary beauty. China and Japan have experienced ups and downs in their relationship since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations. And now, the bilateral relationship has deteriorated and become icy-cold since the Japanese Government announced its purchase of the Diaoyu Islands last year. With Spring approaching, we expect a thaw in the bilateral relationship ushering in a brilliant new period. It was against such a

background that we, led by the China-Japan Friendship Association, came to Japan on a mission of friendship and with a modest attitude of wishing to learn.

I

Japan is a country about which the Chinese people have mixed feelings — hatred, love and admiration. It is a country “difficult to deal with”.

Some people hate Japan, cursing it and encouraging military confrontation with it. When mentioning Japan and thinking of history, we cannot but link it with horrifying terms like “germ warfare”, “massacre”, etc. It inflicted unhealed wounds upon the Chinese na-

tion in the last century. Even today, it rubs salt in the wounds of our people with its acts of paying homage to dead war criminals of the war of aggression against China, and scrambling for the Diaoyu Islands.

Yet most people like Japan. Animated Japanese TV series such as Tet-suwan Atom (Astro Boy), Digimon Adventure, Doraemon, etc. are well-known in China and have accompanied us during our childhood years when China then lacked a powerful momentum for animation development. The healthy and fine Japanese food such as Sushi, Sashimi and green tea has won wide praise in the world. Sony, Nikon, Mitsubishi and Toyota — without Japanese digital and electronic products and cars, our life will become monotonous and the world will run at a slower pace.

We cannot but admire Japan, a country that has won numerous international titles such as “a nation of longevity” and “a livable country” etc. Beijing and Tokyo are world metropolises with dense population; Beijing should learn from Tokyo its well developed urban infrastructure, particularly its traffic and sewage systems. Both countries can display the excellence of calligraphy and tea ceremony, but more modernized Japan has combined more closely with these traditional art originated from China. And both claim to be states of etiquette, but the marks of

Japanese tourists' civilization level in various indexes issued by the international tourism evaluation organizations are generally higher than those for Chinese.

II

I major in Japanese language and literature, and have been learning Japanese for 18 months. I had had contact with Japanese students studying in China. However, my understanding of Japan was just limited to visual media, internet, books and lectures of my teachers. I had not actually experienced different aspects of the Japanese society. So I really counted myself lucky to be one of the university student representatives to visit Japan and to see for myself the real Japan.

Fresh air, beautiful environment, forest of skyscrapers, tidy and clean streets, complete infrastructure and high level automation, all these are comments I want to make on Japan, but what has impressed me the most is Japanese people's generally modest attitude and their willingness to help others.

"Excuse me", "Sorry" and "Thank you" were the words I heard most often in those days. Almost in all the public places, I could see the sincere smiles and enthusiastic attitude of attendants in providing services. No wonder some say that, in Japan, one can really have the experience of "Customers are God". Perhaps, the Japanese feel that it is customers who have provided them source of income. Besides, I was also impressed and moved by a helping hand extended to me by a Japanese when I got lost. It happened one evening in Sendai. As I could not find a post of-

fice, I halted and looked around from an overpass. I was just unfolding a map when a middle-aged woman walked up to me and asked in English where I was going. I was taken aback and looked at her. She then asked me in Japanese what place I was looking for. We were strangers, yet her readiness to offer assistance showed the high quality of the people in this country. This tiny act is enough to let people feel the warmth of society.

III

March 11, 2011 was a day that the Japanese people will never forget. A 9-magnitude earthquake hit eastern Japan and destroyed the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The ensuing huge tsunami swept away cities and towns and engulfed lives by tens of thousands. Today, with highly developed science and technology, mankind can transform nature and create an unprecedented new civilization, but is still unable to resist the destructive power of catastrophic natural disasters. Life is

far more fragile than we think.

After all, this visit to Japan was not a sightseeing trip. We went to visit the quake-stricken area with a sincere heart to comfort the traumatized survivors. During our stay, we listened to lectures given by Miyagi prefectural officials and learned about the extent of destruction by the earthquake and the restoration plan. We visited some institutions of higher learning including Tohoku University and Waseda University and witnessed the efforts made by the students there for recovery. We watched a live video of the disaster provided by Sendai Television Inc., in which we saw people's horror and helplessness when catastrophes strike. We also visited the Disaster Prevention Center and experienced the mammoth power of earthquakes and hurricanes. Among those activities, our visit to Yuriage District deeply affected me. Compared with the pre-disaster period, this is a lonely small town. As it borders on the sea, it has been almost wiped out by tsunami. And in fact I felt the dilapida-

Chinese students standing in silent tribute for the eastern Japan earthquake victims in front of a middle school



tion, desolation and depression after the disappearance of its previous prosperity. I even seemed to have heard screaming and sobbing from the debris and ruins and felt their desperation and sadness. Disaster is always much crueler than we can imagine. We cannot forget the tragedy of those victims.

The reconstruction in the disaster-stricken area is going on in an orderly way. During our visit, we learned about the reconstruction plan for the area. The comprehensive and careful work arrangement and envisage of wonderful future moved us. Maybe the slow restoration of infrastructural facilities just reflected the meticulous and uncompromising attitude of the Japanese, who would prefer to be steady rather than to rush in order to build a more disaster resistant new urban system. The material construction like infrastructural reconstruction is undoubtedly important, but the rebuilding of psychological home for the survivors would allow no negligence. On the one hand, media such as Sendai Television Inc. produced documentary films to tell the world about the disasters and reconstruction; on the other hand, banner streamers “Come on, Tohoko” could be seen everywhere in the streets and alleys to uplift people’s spirit. We expect that a brand new northeastern Japan will appear.

Unlike the peony which symbolizes prosperity and wealth, cherry blossom better symbolizes of the Japanese group character. I came back to China on March 11 as cherry blossom commemorative activities were held all over Japan.

The severe winter has ended and next we shall usher in an exuberant spring. I would like to compare the Sino-Japanese relationship and the recovery of the Japanese disaster-stricken area to a cherry blossom. A cherry tree needs fine rain to water and gentle breezes to caress to bloom in profusion. What is more important, it needs its own will for upward growth and the vitality produced thereof. Japan should make an effort towards this.

I think that on the future road of life, what we can do is to dedicate ourselves and contribute our bit to the cause of the Sino-Japanese friendship, apart from expressing our best wishes.

Impressions of Japan

Su Fangyuan

(Beijing International Studies University)



Making a banner of well-wishes and encouragement to show support for the people of the quake-hit area

The eight-day visit to Japan seemed to be a beautiful dream that ended before I woke up. However, in the dream I saw the future of China-Japan friendship.

On March 4, flying to Japan, I thought all the way: “What kind of a country is Japan? Is it really as orderly and tidy and clean as it is said?” I remembered that at a meeting before departure, the teacher had told us that we should observe Japan with our eyes, feel Japan with our hands, experience Japan with our hearts and communicate with Japanese university students with sincer-

ity. Yes, we are envoys, envoys of friendship.

The airplane touched down at the airport at noon. Though I had prepared for the visit, I still felt surprised. The harmonious environment — the quietness, spotless ground and smiling staff — was my first impression of Japan. We got on the bus. The amiable Japanese tour guide Ms. Kurosaki handed out drinking water and bread to us and gave a detailed introduction about the itinerary of our visit. She was so friendly and kind that we had a heart-warming feeling. In the evening we were given a simple

yet formal welcoming ceremony. From the window of my hotel room I could see Tokyo Tower with its golden lighting. I was beguiled by the beauty. At supper, upon learning that one of us students was allergic to milk, a hotel attendant explained the ingredients of every dish served, and specially replaced ice cream with fruit for dessert. Such warmth and consideration was my second impression of Japan. When I got the itinerary prepared by the host, I was surprised again. I knew that the Japanese were very punctual and had a strong sense of time. But I never expected that they had arranged every activity so accurately. They had estimated the time needed for every trivial thing like gathering, getting on the bus, collecting luggage, etc. I could not but admire the Japanese people. Their punctuality and valuing time was my third impression of Japan. What we experienced in one day already enabled us to see the beauty of Japan and its people.

The main purpose of our trip was to see the earthquake-hit area in north-eastern Japan and visit universities to have exchanges with Japanese counterparts. When we met students in Waseda University, Tohoku University and Ritsumeikan University, we had a feeling of intimacy, not like strangers meeting for the first time. I had thought that most of us Chinese students were the only child in our families and had difficulty to communicate with strangers, let alone foreigners. But, we and Japanese students had the same general physical

appearance of the yellow race, used the same Chinese characters and smiled in the same manner, so, there were no barriers for our communication. We could use our body language, and talked to each other in simple English. We talked about our education, our ideals, and our countries. When I told a Japanese student that Chinese children had to study very hard, she responded that Japanese children were also under great pressure to keep up with school work. I said that I wanted to become a teacher in the future, and she told me that she studied to become an architect and design beautiful houses. I extended welcome for her to visit China and to Beijing. Hearing this, she got very excited and said she was looking forward to it. At that moment, I knew that the bridge of China-Japan friendship would surely be built from here between us.

We also visited Yuriage District, the hardest quake-hit area in Miyagi Prefecture. Though two years had passed since the catastrophic earthquake in 2011 and all the survivors had

moved out of refuges into the government-provided temporary housing, they were faced with a difficult choice — to rebuild their homes by the sea that they had lived besides for years but had left them with deep wounds, or to move to an area far from the sea to start their lives anew. A middle-aged lady who briefed us about the disaster said, “I have lived off the sea all my life. At my age, I really don’t want to leave my hometown I have been used to. Spring is approaching. We will start to rebuild our homes. We thank the Chinese friends for their support.” She said that it was the support from others that gave them confidence to rebuild their homes.

I recorded this trip with my camera. During the whole trip, I and my warm-hearted Japanese friends felt very close to each other. Our meetings were short and we would part with each other soon; yet, for our next meeting, we shouldn’t cry, but greet the future of China-Japan friendship with smile.

We are young envoys of friend-

Chinese students dancing together with their Japanese peers at Ritsumeikan University



Why Do I Study Chinese

Translator's Note: The cross language year program — the Chinese Language Year in France and the French Language Year in China — initiated by Chinese and French leaders were held in 2011 and 2012 to promote cultural exchanges and further deepen the China-France comprehensive strategic partnership. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the CPAFFC and the Federation of French-Chinese Associations (FFCA) held essay competitions respectively in China and France on the theme of *My Fascination with the French Language* and *Why I Study Chinese*, soliciting entries from China's local people's associations for friendship with foreign countries and various FFCA branches. Five essays from each competition were selected as prize-winners. The following are prize-winning essays selected by the FFCA.

Why I Learn Chinese

Benedicte Corbiere, Winner from FFCA Rennes

Even today, I still ask myself why I am so fascinated with Chinese language, history, culture, films, photos and economic development. My interest in China was not a spur-of-the-moment move; instead, all sorts of lucky chances since my childhood made me irresistibly interested in this great and impressive country. I was born in

a small seaside town in Brest. In the 1970s, the only foreigners that could be seen in the town were Indians who ran restaurants and sailors from various countries waiting for their cargos to be unloaded at the harbor. When I was about six or seven years old, however, I asked my father where those sailors in tunic suits were from. Father told me

that they should be Chinese and these sailors were very lucky, for only few citizens of that country could have the chance to go abroad.

Several years later, I asked my grandmother where those teacups that were used only on important occasions came from, she told me that her uncle who had worked for the East India

ship and representatives of young Chinese students; moreover, we are Chinese who have come to visit Japan to experience the culture and customs of another nation and learn from its strong points. Through exchanges with our Japanese peers, we hope to enhance our understanding of each other's cultures, thus promoting the development of relations between our two countries. This is an arduous task both for us and for the whole society. I wish that this friendly exchange will add bricks to building China-Japan friendship. ■

Chinese students performing at the welcoming reception



Company bought them while working in China. He also brought back home two very big cloisonne vases now standing on each side of her big desk. Every time I went to my grandmother's home, I would yearn to see that fantastic world where there were sedan chairs carried on men's shoulders, upward-bending eaves, princesses holding small umbrellas or fans in their hands and ladies wearing wide-sleeved garments. On another occasion, I was very surprised to see my seven-year-old British cousin in *qipao* (mandarin gown), dressing up as a proud Chinese princess with yellow hair. Later, I came to know that, to my grandparents' generation, China was a synonym for powerfulness. Later on, a Chinese shop was opened in our town. In it, decorated with bright and beautiful Chinese colors, were shiny silks, figurines and images of Buddha, necklaces in odd shapes and also the intoxicating smell of incense. Recommended by the shop owner, I happily bought a Chinese incense coil, and excitedly lit it in my room. But my parents were unhappy about this and insisted I open the window to clear the air promptly.

Gradually, many conflicting opinions and thoughts swirled in my mind, but I could not find a solution. In my social circle in the 1980s, China was a synonym for unitarianism and communism, and even as an enemy and a taboo subject in conversation. It was not until I saw an American TV series *Kung Fu* that my early memories of China were reawakened. I never missed one episode. I borrowed from the library such books as *Mother* written by Pearl S. Buck, and later *Red Sorghum* and other works.



Benedicte Corbiere on the Great Wall

During my years in high school and university, I had no contact with anything about China, except a geographical question about its location in a general examination for high school students. Among many books and magazines at my home, there was not one about the country or its people.

Years later, I moved to Rennes where there was a projection room showing popular films. There, I found a number of Chinese martial art films which satisfied my fancy about China. The Asian films shown at the Chinese Film Festival gave me a great joy, too.

I often spent hours in museums in Paris visiting exhibitions on China. An exhibition on Confucius excited me greatly. Confucianism is so similar to my own religion. The messages left by Confucius and Jesus Christ have universal significance.

I even taught pupils how to use the abacus and Chinese numerals in

my math class. One night I saw a documentary about a Frenchman's life in China. When I saw sphinx-like Chinese characters, I thought I would never be able to learn them. No wonder it is said, "This is a book from heaven and this is Chinese." However, I convinced myself to start Chinese lessons. Three years later, I traveled to China. This wonderful trip gave me full confidence in learning Chinese.

Later, I happened to read an advertisement about a Chinese corner. There, I met a young Chinese girl and forged profound friendship with her. She became the godmother of my daughter who happens to have a pair of black almond-shaped eyes. With further study and more exchanges, I gradually knew more about the Chinese people's way of thinking and acting. I seem to have an indescribable feeling and an inherent affection for China. Perhaps, I was a Chinese in a previous existence!

Why Do I Want to Learn Chinese

Jeanne Wang, Winner from FFCA Franche-Comte

I was born in France. I am French. My first name is Jeanne, the same name as French heroine Jeanne d'Arc. But my surname is Wang, because my parents are Chinese. With this name of dual nature, my story begins.

Since I was a child, my parents always wanted me to become more French than the French. So, when I was small, I didn't feel that there was any difference between me and other French children. But when I went to school, my teacher told other pupils in the class in my presence that I was "Asian", though I didn't even know the meaning of this word. What I did know was that I liked words, phrases and literature and loved reading all kinds of books from fairy tales to the works written by Moliere, Jean Racine, Voltaire, Denis Diderot, Honore

Jeanne Wang

de Balzac, Victor Hugo, Albert Camus, and many others. When I was at high school, I took the preparatory class for the teachers' qualification examination. After graduation, naturally I became a French teacher. I taught in Paris and at the same time worked on my treatise. Everything went on following the prescribed order.

Then, fate knocked at my door. An Auvergne man took me to Franche-Comte Region where I came into contact with China, the place of my ancestry. When I lived there, the University of Auvergne and later the Confucius Institute invited me to teach Chinese. But then, things happened: I was caught in an explosion, and later I was pregnant and gave birth to a child. All this left me little time to study Chinese and I was not yet ready to open this door.

I spent my childhood in a Chinese atmosphere. Both my father and mother were sinologists. My father taught Chinese language and culture in university, and my mother worked with French sinologists. Such renowned sinologists as Jacques Gernet and Pierre Dieny were often invited to our home. They talked about Chinese literature while enjoying the delicious Chinese food prepared by my parents. I often heard such names as Confucius, Du Fu, Wang Wei, etc. But, at that time my parents wanted me to pursue a career in other fields.

My "awakening" did not come until I had my daughter Eva. The little girl suddenly became interested in Chi-

nese when she heard her grandparents speaking it. Eve is the first woman in the Bible. Eva is pronounced as *ai hua* in Chinese, which means love China. She really developed a great interest in Chinese and calligraphy when she grew up.

Suddenly, the "switch" in my consciousness started: the urgency of living separately from my parents and making up for the lost time and my daughter's eagerness to know about Chinese culture all kindled my passion for the Chinese language and longing to become a bridge between China and France. I love the French language, French literature and great French writers, and at the same time I also longed to know about that distant and mysterious China so as to be able to tell my French friends about a true China to help remove prejudice and censure against her. I am thankful to my parents for allowing me to develop and choose a career on my own. However, now, I have found a path for my development: I hope to become a bridge of dialogue between China and France, two ancient civilizations with a history of thousands of years.

Based on this thought, with the support and help of the FFCA Auvergne, and Ms. Chouvel, last October, I opened a Chinese corner in the association to help Chinese and French students have free exchanges of their views on the two languages and cultures so that they can become closer to each other, understand each other and know about each other's way of thinking and cultural characteristics.

Albert Camus once said: "My motherland is my language". I have two motherlands, two languages and



two cultures. When I was a child, I didn't feel that. However, now I am obsessed with learning Chinese, because, through learning this beautiful, rich and complicated language, I came to know about a nation which is very important to me, and have become a bridge between Chinese and French cultures and languages. In addition, memories of my parents, the responsibility of propagating Chinese culture, and expectations of my daughter are also the reasons why I learn Chinese earnestly.

(Yi'an, a name taken by Li Qingzhao, a poetess in the Song Dynasty, is also my Chinese name. I will forever remember this name given by my parents. I dedicate this essay to my parents and daughter Aihua (Eva). I hope she will not forget this name either.)

From left: Marc Chevalier, Keltoum Otamani, Cecile Fries, Jeanne Wang and Benedicte Corbiere on the Great Wall



I Learn Chinese Through My Liking of Detective Stories, Riddles and Poetry

Marc Chevalier, Winner from FFCA Saint Germain

Why do I learn Chinese? It is because I like detective stories, riddles and poetry.

You may ask me what is the relationship between them? Well. Let me explain.

Many years ago I chanced upon a detective novel *Judge Dee Mysteries* whose protagonist is a great judge in the Tang Dynasty. I immediately became immersed in the strange mysterious world described in the novel. The book written by a Dutch diplomat who had lived in China for many years, and based on an ancient Chinese novel,

vividly depicts the social structure in the Tang Dynasty, details of investigation of every case as well as Judge Dee's wisdom and courage. In the Tang Dynasty, Judge Dee was not only a representative of the centralized authority, i.e. representing the emperor, but also a magistrate and judge, who had to discover the minutest detail in everything and make the final decision. At the time of the Tang Dynasty, the West was mired in the Middle Ages when our kings could neither write nor read, and our social structure was imperfect. The world described in the novel, though far away from me, attracted me deeply and spurred me on to know more. I thought that to understand the formation of Chinese characters might be the key to this world.

Then, I bought a book about Chinese characters that explained how they evolved from simple pictographs to the present abstract form.

Thus, I also found a world of riddles. The Chinese characters are like riddles: the answer found through all kinds of clues is the meaning of the word. Here I give some examples.

The Chinese word 电脑 (computer) is composed of two characters 电 (electricity) and 脑 (brain), meaning electric brain. The word 口水 (saliva) is formed by combining two characters 口 (mouth) and 水 (water), meaning water in the mouth. The character 岛 (island) is composed of two characters 鸟 (bird) and 山 (mountain), suggest-

ing 島 (island) is the place birds fly over. It is a happy journey of discovery for me every time I seek to tease out the meaning of a character or word.

Then, what does poetry have to do with my learning Chinese? I find that the formation of Chinese characters or words itself is a beautiful poem. The head of a dragon that can spit out water is 龙头 (tap). The character I like most is 秋 (autumn), composed of 禾 (standing grain) and 火 (fire), meaning the rice field glows like fire. Autumn is the season that dyes mountains and fields golden.

Of course, there are still many elements of Chinese that I have not yet mastered. I find it very difficult to understand the four tones and pronounce “qu”, “ju”, “ch” and “ts” clearly.

To me, Chinese is always a new poetic world that I expect to discover.

Why I Learn Chinese

Keltoum Otamani, Winner from FFCA Nord-Pas-de Calais

I am eighteen years old. I have learned Chinese at the FFCA Nord-Pas-de Calais for three years.

I will continue to study Chinese during my five-year university life and try to get a job dealing with China in the future.

I became interested in China at the age of 13, and my interest grew year by year.

I like learning Chinese, a language vastly different from my mother tongue. Through it, I have learned about a country that has ancient civilization, yet takes its place among the great powers in today's world. It is

truly remarkable that China's annual economic growth rate reaches 10 percent.

I am greatly attracted by China, though I have not yet had a chance to go there. I like the rich and delicious Chinese food and beautiful Chinese music. I appreciate my Chinese friends for familiarizing me with Chinese music and helping me know more about the Chinese people and culture.

My eagerness for study and interest in China have given me aspiration and confidence in learning Chinese.

A Dream

Cecile Fries, Winner from FFCA Nord-Pas-de Calais

The rising sun flames clouds. Through the airplane window I am enjoying the clouds with golden edges. In a few hours I will set foot on the soil of China, a country that has always been in my dreams. Thoughts thronged my mind. Perhaps, in my life I will never have a chance to travel to China, a far-away, strange and mysterious country; but I have walked a long way to try to understand it.

When I studied at the Institute of Architecture, I came to know the concept of *feng shui* (geomantic omen) for the first time. Out of curiosity, I began to study it. I had never expected that it would reveal to me

an exciting and brand-new civilization.

So, China has left its imprint on me. This ancient yet modern great civilization carries tradition and history of innovation. Hence, the thought of learning Chinese arose spontaneously. I continue to learn Chinese to the present.

My graduation dissertation is on *feng shui*.

If you want to have a better understanding about *feng shui* and Chinese culture, how can you not learn Chinese? Since then, I've strengthened my determination in this regard. The Chinese character is a complex of es-

thetics and riddles.

Through studying its culture and history, exchanging with others and going to different places to learn the language, I've learned to look at the world from a different perspective. To me, learning Chinese is a journey of discovery.

The dream of going to China is about to come true.

I am getting impatient. Through the airplane window I am enjoying the clouds with golden edges. I will soon arrive in the place that I have always dreamed about.

The sun has risen and spreads its rays over my face through the window. And that was the window of my bedroom.

It turns out the trip to China was a dream, a beautiful dream. ■