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Front cover: Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe's tour of Japan (February 25 to May 31, 2013)

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Vice Premier Liu Yandong Meets Northern Ireland First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Sun Chi

“China and the United Kingdom, countries with major influence in the world, have broad common interests and wide areas for cooperation. Their friendly cooperation has great significance for the wellbeing of their peoples and peace and development in the world. They must further increase political mutual trust, properly handle sensitive bilateral issues, and achieve win-win results in cooperation on the basis of mutual respect to further promote relations forward.”

These remarks were made by Vice

Premier Liu Yandong when meeting Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness, respectively First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and their party at Zhongnanhai in Beijing on May 30.

She emphasized, people-to-people and cultural exchanges represented heart-to-heart communications laying a solid social and public opinion foundation for sound and smooth development of bilateral relations. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, and

saw the establishment of high-level consultative mechanism for people-to-people and cultural exchanges. Within this framework, China intended to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields including culture, education, and science and technology with Britain and Northern Ireland.

Liu said the Chinese Government attached great importance to exchanges between localities and local governments. There were now a total of 49 friendship-city/province arrangements between China and the UK and she

Vice Premier Liu Yandong meets Northern Ireland First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness



hoped for increased contacts between Chinese local governments and Northern Ireland.

The Vice Premier noted that the CPAFFC, an important organization for people-to-people diplomacy in China, had invited a Northern Ireland delegation to visit the country last year and again this year. She believed that, with the support of the Chinese Government and the CPAFFC, such local government exchanges would grow.

Liu briefed the guests on the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, describing it as a milestone in China's efforts for national renewal and development. It has set two goals: to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society when the CPC celebrates its centenary (2021) and to turn China into a modern socialist country prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious when the People's Republic of China marks its centennial (2049).

It has put forth the overall plan for promoting economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress and clearly defined the approaches for achieving industrialization, informationization, urbanization and agricultural modernization simultaneously. The Chinese dream of realizing a great national renewal put forth by President Xi Jinping has greatly aroused public enthusiasm.

First Minister Robinson spoke highly of the leadership skills of the Chinese Government and leaders in coping with complex challenges. He also said that the visit to Northern Ireland by Vice Premier Liu had given

great impetus to Sino-British and Sino-Northern Ireland relations, adding that both British Prime Minister David Cameron and the government of Northern Ireland respected the important role China played in international affairs and hoped to develop closer ties with it.

On bilateral cooperation, the First Minister said, Vice Premier Liu Yandong had unveiled a plaque for Confucius Institute at the University of Ulster during her visit last year. Northern Ireland hoped to go a step further, to popularize Chinese language teaching in middle and primary schools.

Northern Ireland expected to increase its export of agricultural and animal husbandry products to China and strengthen agricultural cooperation.

Deputy First Minister McGuinness said the Northern Ireland Government attached great importance to developing friendly relations with China, evidenced by his two visits within the space of seven months. He thanked the CPAFFC and the Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh for all they had done for the delegation.

He told the Vice Premier that Northern Ireland had long been plagued by sectarian conflicts, but had finally achieved success in its peace process, which was recognized worldwide. Many countries came to Northern Ireland to learn its successful experience in this regard.

From his two visits, he had seen the great achievements the government had made in improving people's lives and he would tell the people of Northern Ireland what he had seen and heard.

Northern Ireland and China should enhance mutual understanding, and one of the major channels was cultural and educational exchange and cooperation. *River Dance* was very popular in China. Folk artists from Northern Ireland came to China to perform and stage joint shows with Chinese performing artists. All this had vigorously promoted contacts between the peoples. The Northern Ireland Government wished to expand exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, agriculture and animal husbandry with China, he added.

On strengthening people-to-people and cultural cooperation between the two sides, Liu Yandong said China would continue to deepen exchange and cooperation in cultural, educational, scientific and technological fields with Northern Ireland within the mechanism of China-Britain people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and continue to strengthen contacts between localities. She said, Britain had a well-established educational system and trained many qualified personnel and cooperation could be carried out at various levels from preschool to institutions of higher learning, which was very important to the development and reform of China's educational system, and the improvement of its teaching quality.

Present at the meeting were Yuan Guiren, Minister of Education, Li Xiaolin, President of the CPAFFC, Song Tao, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Li Jianping, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Li Ruiyou, Chinese Consul General in Edinburgh, and Dan Chugg, Political Counselor of the British Embassy in China. ■

Retracing Richard Nixon's Steps in China Strengthening 40 Years of Friendship

An Xin

The year 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of former U.S. President Richard Nixon. At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a 45-member delegation of the Richard Nixon Foundation paid a visit to Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai from May 2 to 10, retracing the President's visit to China in 1972.

Members of the delegation included Christopher Nixon Cox, a grandson of Richard Nixon, and his wife, working staff in the White House during the Nixon presidency, and the President and members of the Richard Nixon Foundation.

Carrying on the past heritage and opening up the future, and striving to build a new type of China-U.S. relationship

During its stay in Beijing, the delegation attended the Forum entitled "Retracing Richard Nixon's Steps in China and Strengthening 40 years of Friendship" and a welcoming reception hosted by the CPAFFC. During his meeting with representatives of the U.S. delegation, State Councilor Yang Jiechi noted that the handshake between the leaders of China and the United States across the Pacific Ocean had created profound changes not only in China and the United States, but also the whole world.



The delegation of the Richard Nixon Foundation attending the forum

Yang said, "We appreciate the leaders of the older generation of the two countries for their farsightedness and personages of various social sectors of both countries for their important contributions to the development of China-U.S. relations." Such relations were now at a new important stage of development based on the past heritage and opening up the future. It was highly meaningful that the delegation of the Richard Nixon Foundation was visiting China at such an important moment to retrace President Nixon's steps in China.

Yang told the delegation that President Xi Jinping talked to President Barack Obama on the phone on the very day of his inauguration. Both sides agreed to continue their joint ef-

orts to promote building a cooperative partnership of mutual respect and mutual benefit and explore ways to build a new model for relations between major countries.

Christopher Cox recalled that his grandfather had told him that if a billion of the world's most industrious and ingenious people were left in isolation, the world would be in danger, while a strong and prosperous China would be a pillar for peace and stability. This was particularly true at present. The United State and China could learn from and cooperate with each other in many areas, which would have great impact on the world. He believed that, as long as the two sides could manage their differences in the spirit of cooperation and friendship, there were no problems that

could not be solved.

Among those present at the meeting commemorating President Richard Nixon's first visit to China held by the CPAFFC were Tang Wensheng and Ding Yuanhong, senior diplomats involved in the work of receiving President Nixon on his first visit to China; CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, long engaged in the work dealing with the United States; Zhou Wenzhong, Secretary General of the Boao Forum for Asia and Vice President of the China-U.S. People's Friendship Association; Kathleen Troia McFarland, Pentagon spokeswoman during Nixon's presidency; Majie Acker, President Nixon's secretary; Teresa Rosenberger, researcher and White House speech writer during the Nixon presidency, and some others.

They recalled the "ice-breaking journey" of Sino-US relations in 1972 and put forward suggestions on how the two sides could continue to boost long-term healthy and steady development of their ties in the new era. Speakers on the Chinese side said that, with the increase of exchanges and contacts between the two countries in various fields, China and the United States had gradually established mutual trust. For the future, China would continue to promote friendly exchanges and pragmatic cooperation between the two peoples through various flexible ways so that the cause of China-U.S. friendship would take root in the hearts of the people and last from generation to generation.

The American side expressed their gratitude to the Chinese Government and people for placing great importance to the bilateral relations, and stressed it was necessary for the two countries to

clear up misunderstandings face to face and work together to build a new type of relationship between major powers.

**Reviewing the past can better
understand the present —
witnesses of China-U.S. friendship**

Lu Hesun, now over 80, who once worked in the Foreign Affairs Office of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government, had participated in the whole process of preparation for and reception of President Nixon's visit to Hangzhou in 1972. When the delegation visited Hangzhou, he was invited to attend the welcoming reception held by Liang Liming, Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province, in the West Lake State Guest House.

Lu showed Mr. Cox and his wife historical photos and news reports about President Nixon's visit to China, and shared his experience with members of the delegation about the reception of the U.S. delegation in 1972. He said, he felt it a great honor to per-

sonally experience that week which changed the history of international diplomacy and very happy that he could be engaged in the cause of China-U.S. friendship and see increasing exchanges and closer cooperation between the two countries in the past 40 years.

Captain Jack Brennan, Marine Corps Aide to President Nixon, showed the itinerary of the visit in 1972 that he carried with him and recalled together with Lu how the leaders of the two countries stayed up all night drafting the joint communiqué. Brennan said that he had accompanied President Nixon on the visit to China three times. When he came to China for the first time in 1972, Beijing only had a very small and shabby airport. On his way to the town in a car, he could hardly see any people in the streets and just a few cars made in the Soviet Union.

In his impressions at that time, China was grey and black and everyone wore clothes of dull color. After snow, there was even no snow sweeper

The delegation on the Great Wall at Badaling Section in Beijing



in such a big city, and the government had to depend on residents to sweep it away with brooms. Returning over 30 years later, he felt as if China had been progressing for several hundred years. There were happy smiles on everyone's face. China was rich in color. The achievements China had made were truly amazing.

Majie Acker, Teresa Rosenberger and Leslie Ramsay, an official of the Public Liaison Office during Nixon's presidency, recalled how, when they learned that President Nixon was going to visit China, they were greatly surprised and even more surprised than if the President had announced a visit to the moon. In that era, when China and the United States were estranged and had no contacts, they couldn't help harbor fear and apprehension. But when the two countries bridged the Pacific Ocean and the two great nations had an opportunity to meet face to face, the American people experienced kindness and friendship from the eyes of the Chinese people and were deeply grateful for this friendship.

Members of the delegation planting a yew sapling in the Hangzhou Botanical Garden



In the new century, science and technology, no matter how advanced, could never replace the most real and direct communication between people.

Carrying forward the cause pioneered by predecessors and forging ahead into the future

To express his friendly sentiments to the Chinese people, during his first visit to China in 1972, President Nixon brought California North American redwood saplings as a gift. Personally arranged by Premier Zhou Enlai, the saplings were planted in the Hangzhou Botanical Garden beside the West Lake.

On the morning of May 7, Mr. Cox and his wife and other members of the delegation visited the Botanical Garden in high spirits. When they saw the small saplings planted 41 years ago had grown into towering trees, they were very excited and asked to have pictures taken as souvenirs. Witnessed by representatives of both Chinese and American sides, Mr. Cox and his wife and other members of the delegation

planted two Chinese yew saplings nurtured by Chinese botanists next to the redwood trees planted in 1972, symbolizing the friendship between the Chinese and American people in the new era.

Mr. Cox said that he and his wife had always wished to retrace his grandfather's steps and see with their own eyes the tree of China-U.S. friendship. He said redwoods originate from California, home state of President Nixon. To Americans, redwoods represent strength and beauty. When conditions permit, small redwood saplings can grow into the tallest trees in the world and survive for thousands of years.

In 1972 President Nixon hoped to build a peaceful and stable living environment for the people across the Pacific Ocean through the seeds of U.S.-China friendship he sowed during his first visit to China. Mr. Cox said that the U.S.-China relations built by President Nixon and the Chinese leaders of the older generation continued developing and exchanges in various fields becoming increasingly closer.

The younger generation should inherit and carry forward the wisdom, determination and courage displayed by the older generation to continue the friendship forged by leaders of the two countries 40 years ago. He hoped that the younger generations could follow this historical tradition and make contributions to the friendship between the two peoples. He expected that one day his children and grandchildren could also visit Hangzhou to retrace the steps of their forefathers and continue to sow peace and friendship on this piece of land. ■

CAPFA President Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit Leads Delegation to Burundi and Tanzania

Huang Xiaowei

A delegation headed by Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit, President of the Chinese-African People’s Friendship Association (CAPFA), visited Burundi and Tanzania from May 5 to 14 at the invitation of Therence Sinunguruza, First Vice President of Burundi, and Hawa Ghasia, Minister of State for Regional Administration and Local Government in the Prime Minister’s Office of Tanzania.

High Praise for Sino-African Relations

During the visit, Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit called on Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza and First Vice President T. Sinunguruza, and Tanzanian Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, attended the welcoming dinner given by Burundian Minister of Interior Edouard Nduwimana, and had a working conference with Tanzania’s Minister of State Hawa Ghasia.

In his meetings he noted the profound traditional friendship between China and the two African countries. In recent years, they had frequently exchanged high-level visits, achieved fruitful results in their practical cooperation in various fields, maintained good communication on international and re-



CAPFA President Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit with Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza

gional issues and supported each other on issues concerning core interests and major concerns.

The CAPFA, as a people-to-people organization promoting China-Africa friendship, would further strengthen exchanges and cooperation to enhance mutual understanding and friendship so as to raise Sino-African relations to a new level.

President Nkurunziza extended his welcome to the CAPFA President and asked him to convey his greetings to President Xi Jinping and others in China’s new leadership. He expressed

gratitude to China for always standing by the people of Burundi and providing selfless support since its independence. The two sides had built a long-term relationship of friendship and cooperation.

China had given assistance in various forms to Burundi for national construction, contributing positively to the country’s unity, stability and national liberation. He hoped China would continue to give support to Burundi’s economic and social development and help it implement its economic development plan.

Prime Minister Pinda happily recalled his visit to China at the invitation of the CAPFA in 2007 when he was minister of state for regional administration and local government. China and Tanzania had long been friends. Tanzania greatly valued the selfless Chinese support over the years.

The two countries had great potential for cooperation in many areas. They had signed a dozen cooperation agreements during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tanzania. There were so many areas in which Tanzania had something to learn from China and he hoped the two sides would continue to strengthen their practical cooperation and make concerted efforts for mutually beneficial results.

Promoting Practical Cooperation Between Local Governments of China and Africa

When meeting with people of various circles in Burundi and Tanzania, President Abdul'ahat Abudulrixit briefed them on the work of the

The delegation visiting the Confucius Institute at the University of Burundi



Tanzanian Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda meeting with CAPFA President Abdul'ahat Abudulrixit

CAPFA in promoting local government exchanges between China and Africa, especially the First Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation held in Beijing last year.

As a follow-up action, the China-Africa Governors and Mayors Dialogue and the China-East African Community Governors and Mayors Dialogue would be held respectively in Shandong Prov-

ince of China and Kampala, capital of Uganda. He welcomed local government leaders of the two countries he was visiting to participate.

The African side expressed appreciation of CAPFA's efforts to promote practical cooperation between local governments of China and Africa. Burundian First Vice President Sinun-guruza and Tanzanian Minister of State Ghasia both said that the first Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation in China last year left a deep impression on them.

They believed Sino-African local cooperation played an important role in strengthening overall relations and expressed the hope that further enhanced local government practical cooperation would benefit the people of China and Africa. They said that many good ideas and measures were put forward at last year's forum and believed governments would give full support to implementing the consensus reached at the forum and follow-up action.

After the working meeting with Minister of State Ghasia, CPAFFC

Vice President Feng Zuoku, on behalf of the CAPFA, signed a MOU on cooperation in the fields of education, infrastructure facility, personnel exchange, and economy and trade.

Donating to Educational Institutes

In Burundi, the delegation visited Ecole Normale Superieure (Higher Teachers' Institute) and the Confucius Institute at the University of Burundi. Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, in the name of China Enterprises' Charity Fund to Africa, donated US\$15,000 to each institute. He said that the donation showed the profound feelings the Chinese people and enterprises cherished for the Burundian people and hoped that China-Africa friendship would pass on from generation to generation.

The heads of the recipient institutes thanked the Chinese side for the donation and the long-term assistance and support for Burundi's educational cause and expressed willingness to make greater efforts for Burundi-China friendship and strengthening mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

In Tanzania, Vice President Feng Zuoku, on behalf of the CAPFA, donated US\$30,000 to a rural primary school in Mtwara. Minister of State Ghasia attended the donation ceremony. The teachers and students voiced their gratitude and said that they would work and study hard to reciprocate such kindness. ■

Agreement Signed to Facilitate Cooperation Between Chinese and Indian Cities

Qing Boming

At the invitation of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin visited India May 19-20. On the 20th, in New Delhi, she signed, with Indian Ambassador to China S. Jaishankar, an agreement between the foreign ministries of the two countries to facilitate cooperation and links between Chinese and Indian cities and provinces/states. Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh officiated at the signing ceremony.

According to the agreement, the CPAFFC and the China International Friendship Cities Association will work closely with India's Ministry of External Affairs to promote relations between local governments to enhance greater people-to-people contacts.

Since 1973, when China started twinning friendship-city (province/state) ties with other countries, it has established such relationships with 1,994 localities in 131 countries. Exchanges between friendship cities have become an important way for Chinese localities to get in touch with and learn from the world. It is a major channel to open to the outside world and carry out practical cooperation with other countries.

India is an important neighbor of China, but no friendship-city ties have been established so far. The signing of the agreement, therefore, is an important step forward in further enhancing exchanges and cooperation between localities of China and India and consolidating the public opinion basis for Sino-Indian friendship. ■

Visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh attending the signing of cooperation agreements between China and India. Prime Minister Singh shaking hands with CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin.



Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang Meets Chinese Friends

Xu Yiyi

The visiting Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang had a cordial meeting with Chinese personages friendly to Vietnam in the Vietnamese Embassy in China on June 20. The meeting was jointly arranged by the CPAFFC and the Vietnamese Embassy.

Feng Zuoku, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Huang Qingyi, former Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation, He Jun, Assistant Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, among over 100 Chinese personages including former diplomats stationed in Vietnam, veterans who fought in Vietnam's war against the U. S., advisors and medical staff of President Ho Chi Minh, experts and scholars, and student representatives.

Present also were Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan and Vietnamese Ambassador to China Nguyen Van Tho.

Having listened to the remarks made by Chinese representatives, President Truong said that he was looking



Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang addressing the meeting

forward to this meeting in Beijing to recall the beautiful memories of the relationship of “comrades and brothers” between Vietnam and China and ensure friendship would be passed on generation after generation. He told those present that he had instructed the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to arrange such a meeting in cooperation with rel-

evant Chinese departments.

Vietnam, as a nation treasuring friendship and acting in good faith, would always remember with gratitude the valuable support and assistance the Chinese Party, Government and people had given in its struggle for national independence and unification and in the process of postwar reconstruction.

Vietnam always looked upon the Chinese people as great friends, whether in the past and this would continue in the future. He was very excited and moved to learn that family members of General Chen Geng, General Nguyen Son, Comrade Wang Yiming and Martyr Liang Jinsheng had come to the meeting, noting their names would go down in the history of the Vietnamese and Chinese revolutions.

On Sino-Vietnamese relations, Truong Tan Sang emphasized, the Party, Government and people of Vietnam attached great importance to developing a relationship of friendship and all-round cooperation with their Chinese counterparts, and this was a basic, consistent and long-term policy with

top priority. He expressed his pleasure that in recent years, especially since the leaders of the two countries decided to upgrade the bilateral relationship to that of comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation, bilateral relations had seen continuous growth.

Physically, Vietnam and China are joined by mountains and rivers and that is an unchangeable fact. They are both socialist countries under the leadership of the Communist Party. The two ships of state have withstood storms and continued to sail steadily forward. History has proved that friendly cooperation and common development on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutually beneficial results are a correct choice for both. This also conforms to the common desires and interests of the two peoples.

When talking about the problems confronting them, President Truong

said it was unavoidable for neighbors to bump against each other on occasions, and the maritime differences between the two countries in particular had attracted much attention. With the experiences gained in settling the issues of demarcation of land borders and Beibu Bay, he believed, the two sides, with sincerity and through joint efforts, would have the resolve, ability and wisdom to properly resolve the maritime issue.

This would conform to the interests of bilateral relations and be in accordance with international law and practices, and would jointly create a better future of bilateral relations. He hoped that the youth of the two countries would shoulder the historic task and mission, and together with older generations carry on and carry forward Vietnam-China friendship, so that this friendship would last generation after

generation.

Talking about the achievements of his China visit, President Truong said that, in the spirit of friendship, sincerity, and in a constructive and forward-looking way, he had talks and meetings with Chinese leaders. Both sides reiterated the basic principle of attaching great importance to and unswervingly developing friendly relations and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and China, and pledged to work together to maintain a peaceful and stable environment to achieve common development.

The two sides reached consensus on further enhancing political mutual trust and agreed to look upon the other side's development as an opportunity for its own development. They also agreed to strengthen mutually beneficial practical cooperation in all fields. ■

Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang with chief participants of the meeting



Make Friends Through Calligraphy and Painting

—On the Eighth “Say It As It Is” Delegation’s Visit to the U. S.

Sun Tao

“Fan paintings with images of Chinese culture such as spring petals, green willows, galloping horses and swimming fish are on display in a century-old European-style building in Washington D.C., giving American visitors a fine opportunity to appreciate this unique genre of Chinese art.”

“The *Beautiful China* exhibition shows the richness of Chinese culture with simple, elegant, witty and unique art composition and approaches through the paintings of Chinese landscapes, flowers and birds, figures, etc. on a fan surface.”

These vivid words were written by

a reporter from Xinhua News Agency in Washington D.C. on June 18 when reporting the art exhibition *Beautiful China—Fan Paintings from the National Academy of Painting*. The exhibition was sponsored by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) as part of the activities of the eighth “Say It As It Is” Delegation involving face-to-face exchanges with U.S. Congressmen.

The delegation, headed by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and composed of Zhao Wei, Vice President of the China National Academy of Painting (CNAP) and Chen Ping, Pro-

fessor of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CCAFA), visited the United States from June 17 to 18, 2013. In the belief “art has no national boundaries and culture conveys friendship”, the delegation called on four Senators and two members of House of Representatives and mounted the art exhibition in the Meridian International Center in the nation’s capital, hoping that cultural and art exchanges would help the US Congressmen learn more about and better understand China.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and her party met with Iowa Republican Senator Charles Grassley, Hawaii Dem-

The delegation calling on Wyoming Republican Senator Mike Enzi in his office on Capitol Hill



ocratic Senator Mazie Hirono, California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein, Wyoming Republican Senator Mike Enzi, Nevada Republican Congressman Mark Amodei and Texas Republican Congressman Pete Sessions.

President Li said, since 2002, the CPAFFC had organized seven “Say It As It Is” delegations of ordinary Chinese people including farmers, workers, teachers, students and private entrepreneurs to visit the United States, meeting a total of over a hundred US Congressmen. As culture transcends social systems and development gaps and serves as ties linking people’s heart and a bridge promoting people’s friendship, the choice of the members of the eighth delegation had fallen on famous Chinese painters and calligraphers.

She hoped that, through learning about and appreciating the features of traditional Chinese art, U.S. Congressmen would gain a deeper understanding of China and give greater support for China-U.S. cultural and art exchanges.

Two Chinese painters on the delegation expressed their wish to strengthen cultural exchanges and friendly cooperation between the two countries and answered the questions the Congressmen put forth about the characteristics and theories of Chinese painting.

CNAP Vice President Zhao Wei said the Academy had held a series of international cultural exchange activities in recent years, which greatly enhanced mutual understanding. China’s reform and opening up policy had created unprecedented opportunities for Chinese contemporary artists to enjoy freedom in artistic creation.

Cultural exchange between China and the U.S. would give artists greater

aesthetic experience and more scope for imagination, which was of great importance to the development of culture in both countries.

The six U.S. Congressmen showed great interest in traditional Chinese arts and asked detailed questions about the characteristics of Chinese fan painting and the major differences

between Chinese *gongbi* painting and ink painting. They said that they were not artists, but their enjoyment of traditional Chinese art and pursuit of beauty could transcend linguistic and cultural barriers and that they greatly appreciated the artistic attainments of the Chinese painters. They also expressed their thanks to the delegation for contributing to China-U.S. cultural and art exchange.

The *Beautiful China* was being presented for the first time. On display were 44 traditional fan paintings of landscapes, flower and bird motifs, and figures.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai, CNAP Vice President Zhao Wei and President and CEO of the Meridian International Center Stuart Holliday, together with more than a hundred people from political, cultural and business circles as well as people-to-people organizations of the United States attended the opening reception and visited the exhibition.

Professor Chen Ping demon-



Professor Chen Ping from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts introducing traditional Chinese art works to Iowa Republican Senator Charles Grassley

strated his calligraphic skills by writing well-wishing words such as “Chinese and Western cultures complement each other”, “China-U.S. friendship will pass on from generation to generation”, and “Friendship, Peace, Cooperation, Development”.

The exhibition gave American people of all walks of life an opportunity to appreciate the charm of Chinese painting and calligraphy art and have a visual experience of traditional Chinese culture.

Making friends through one’s own learning was the most admired and sublime way of making friends in ancient China, and Chinese painting and calligraphy are the essence of the country’s traditional culture. The charm of traditional Chinese culture shortened the distance between the Chinese people and the U.S. Congress.

The CPAFFC is looking forward to inviting people from all sectors to join in future “Say It As It Is” delegations so that more U.S. Congressmen can learn about the real China from different perspectives. ■

China-Poland Local Cooperation Forum Held in Poland

Lu Yanxia

As a positive result of Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Poland in 2012, the CPAFFC and the provinces of Pomerania, West Pomerania and Lesser Poland co-sponsored the China-Poland Local Cooperation Forum in Gdansk, the Pomeranian capital, from April 21 to 22, 2013.

With the theme of "China-Poland local cooperation: working hand in hand for prosperity and development in the 21st century", the forum set up four special topic panels on economy, energy, environmental protection, and culture, education and tourism. Other activities included an evening party for presenting the "Best Local Cooperation Award", an "Oriental Flavor" concert, Chinese and Polish painting and calligraphy exhibition, and a "Window of Shanghai" community library book donation ceremony.

More than 600 Chinese and Polish representatives attended the forum. Among over 130 Chinese representatives were about 100 representatives from local governments of 22 provinces and cities including Beijing and Shanghai Municipalities, Yunnan, Guangdong, Liaoning and Sichuan Provinces, and Jinan, Changsha, Shijiazhuang and Shangqiu cities; 29 enterprise representatives and seven artists including calligraphers, painters, singers and an *erhu* performer. Among about 470 Polish par-



CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping reading out the speech by Uyunqing, President of the China-EU Association at the forum

ticipants were representatives from 16 provinces and provincial capital cities.

Great importance attached to the forum by both sides to build a new platform for local cooperation

Since China and Poland established a strategic partnership in December 2011, contacts and exchanges between local governments and people have become more active and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education, science and technology have further expanded. This forum, as the first large-scale event of exchanges between localities of the two countries, was of much importance.

At the opening ceremony, Li Jian-

ping, CPAFFC Vice President, read out the message sent by Uyunqing, President of the China-EU Association, speaking about the new Chinese administration's outline of governance and focus of its work and objectives of development in all fields. She noted that the forum would definitely boost bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, tourism, culture and education.

Ding Xuexiang, representative of the Mayor of Shanghai, said Poland was a major country in central and eastern Europe occupying an important position in the EU. Shanghai had been working hard to develop cooperation with Polish local governments. It supported Chinese enterprises in their ef-

forts to “go global” and welcomes Polish enterprises to come to Shanghai. He believed bilateral cooperation would promote common prosperity and development.

In her speech, Cheng Hong, Vice Mayor of Beijing, stressed that local governments of the two countries must work hard to conduct practical cooperation. “China and Poland are strongly complementary economically and have a huge space for cooperation. The Beijing Municipal Government encourages and supports Chinese enterprises with real strength to invest and develop in Poland, and welcomes more Polish enterprises to seek development opportunities in our city.”

Olgierd Dziekonski, Minister of the Polish President’s Chancellery, gave an opening address to the forum on behalf of President Bronislaw Komorowski, whose video speech was played, showing the great importance the Polish Government attached to the event. Dziekonski expressed a belief that the forum would add new contents to the agreement on Poland-China strategic partnership.

In his video speech, President Komorowski offered congratulations on the convening of the inaugural forum, giving participants of both sides the chance to explore possibilities of bilateral cooperation in the economic, cultural and educational areas. He hoped the event would promote bilateral economic and trade ties, and contribute to attaining balanced trade between the two countries.

Mieczyslaw Struk, Governor of Pomerania, stressed the importance of learning and strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two coun-

tries. Though the cultures of the two countries were different, each had its own charm. Culture played a special important role in promoting cooperation linking the two peoples together.

Jerzy Pomianowski, Polish Deputy Foreign Minister, said, the establishment of the Poland-China strategic partnership would surely promote cooperation between local governments of the two countries, helping elevate the level of relations between the two countries and international cooperation.

Xu Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Poland, and Tadeusz Chomicki, Polish Ambassador to China, spoke at the forum’s press conference and the summing-up meeting of the four panels on special topics. Ambassador Xu said the showed local cooperation was an important component part of China-Poland relations with a unique role in boosting exchanges and cooperation in various fields and also would help push forward a continuous in-depth development of the China-Poland strategic partnership.

Ambassador Chomicki said the forum was the largest-scale regional cooperation forum held so far by the two countries with great potential and broad prospects for cooperation in various fields. The forum hopefully would be institutionalized, to be held regularly in rotation.

Special topic panels rich in content and clear in intent of cooperation

The set-up of the four special topic panels fully embodied the pragmatism of the forum and extensive fields for cooperation. Among them the panels on economy, energy and environmental protection for developing eco-

nomie and trade cooperation attracted greatest attention. At the panel on the economy, Li Jiang, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, delivered a speech entitled “Prospects of Development of China-Poland Economic Cooperation”, offering four suggestions that the two sides should work jointly to open markets, promote agricultural cooperation, strengthen cooperation in tourism and expand cultural exchanges. He invited Polish personages of various social sectors to attend the Kunming Export and Import Commodities Fair and the First China-South Asia Expo to be held in Kunming from June 6 to 10, 2013.

Hu Zhirong, Chairman of the United World Chinese Association, gave a speech entitled “Ecological Security and Urbanization Process”, noting that, in the process of urbanization, the green economy and ecological security were of paramount importance as a growth model for attaining development and prosperity without exhausting natural resources or damaging the environment.

In his speech entitled “Environmental Protection, Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction”, Cheng Senhua, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beijing Goldway Hatek Environment Protection Technology Co., Ltd., pointed out, making rational use of energy resources was both a must for protecting natural ecology and human environment, and an important means for humankind to solve the problems of survival and development. He hoped that his company would exchange needed goods with Polish counterparts and make joint efforts to conserve and make good use of energy resources.

Xin Yubo, General Manager of

Beijing Hanhuang Leather Maintaining Service Co., Ltd., delivered a speech entitled “Opportunities and Basis of Cooperation between Chinese Private Enterprises and Their Foreign Counterparts”, noting that Chinese private entrepreneurs were changing their image of “producing cheap goods”, making preparations for technology upgrading, business management remodeling and product innovation in an effort to create their own famous international brands.

At the panel on culture, several Chinese participants delivered speeches on “Satisfactory Response to the Spirit of Traditional Chinese Culture”, “Museums in the 21st Century”, and “Promotion of Regional Ethnic Culture”. Li Yongfeng, Executive Deputy Director of the Executive Committee of China Culture Juncture Project Association, presided over the panel. He briefed on construction of the World War II Museum in Weifang City, Shandong Province, and on behalf of Weifang City Museum, presented an album of paintings created by painters in Weifang to the planned Poland World War II Museum.

At the four special topic panels, 24 Polish participants spoke on such subjects as feasibility of investment in Poland, priority investment areas, regulations on project bidding, projects for investment in communication, infrastructure and energy resources, Poland’s export trade, financial service agencies, environmental protection system and technology, cooperation in the film industry between Poland and China, superior disciplines in Poland’s institutions of higher learning, cooperation with China in education and training, Poland’s tourism scheme, etc.

At the *Oriental Flavor* symphony concert held during the forum, Liu Keqing, a Chinese-European baritone, and his wife, and Tan Yong, an *erhu* performer, in cooperation with the Poland Baltic Symphony Orchestra, gave excellent performances.

The exhibition of Chinese and Polish calligraphic works and paintings displayed 20 creations by calligrapher Zhou Hongzhou and painter An Jianhua together with more than 20 of works by Polish Sinologist Edward Kajdanski.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping and Kajdanski spoke at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, saying art exchanges were a good way to communicate and enhance mutual understanding and friendship, and hoping the two countries would hold various kinds of cultural exchange activities so as to further develop traditional friendship and friendly cooperation between the two peoples.

A book donation ceremony was also held, at which Shanghai donated to “Window of Shanghai” community library in Gdansk 180 books on learning Chinese language as well as on China’s politics, economy and tourism, albums and digital pictures.

At the awarding ceremony held on the evening of April 22, CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping and Ambassador Chomicki conferred the Best Local Cooperation Award on Shanghai-Pomerania Province, Liaoning Province-Silesia Province, Guangdong Province-West Pomerania, and Shenzhen City-Poznan City for their outstanding achievements in China-Poland local exchanges and presented cups and certificates to the awarded provinces and cities. ■

On a sunny day in early summer, about 320 guests including 100 from 19 French-speaking African countries gathered in Jinan, Shandong Province for the Second Dialogue between Chinese and African Governors and Mayors. The aim was to explore cooperation between Chinese and African local governments and consider future prospects of bilateral economic and trade ties.

Today, Africa has become one of the regions with the fastest economic growth in the world. It has maintained a rate of over five percent for more than 10 years, and become the third global “growth pole” after Asia and Latin America. With China-Africa relations entering the fast lane of social and economic development, the dialogue sponsored by the CPAFFC came at an opportune time.

On the Chinese side, among those present were Abdul’ahat Abdulrixit, former Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and Director General of the Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation; Guo Shuqing, Governor of Shandong; Li Xiaolin, President of the CPAFFC; Xia Geng, Deputy Governor of Shandong, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the China Development Bank, and the Export-Import Bank of China, as well as 17 mayors and representatives of enterprises in Shandong.

The African visitors included Jean Ping, former Chairman of the African Union Commission; Arame Ndoye, Minister of Land Planning and Local Collectives of Senegal; Jean Francois Emame, former Prime Minister of Gabon and current Mayor of Libreville; local

Second Dialogue Between Chinese and African Governors and Mayors Held in Jinan

Tang Ruimin

government officials including mayors of capital cities and governors of provinces and regions, as well as diplomats from the embassies of the 19 countries in China and personages from economic and trade sectors.

Focused on the theme of “promoting prosperity of localities through developing industries and infrastructure”, the Chinese and African participants discussed cooperation between Shandong and African provinces and cities and building cooperative ties between their enterprises.

A companion exhibition on Shandong and the participating African cities was held. At the closing ceremony, Shandong Province signed memoranda on further strengthening cooperation and letters of intent on friendly cooperation respectively with Abidjan District of Cote d’Ivoire, Boke Region of Guinea and Sousse Province of Tunisia. The cities of Jinan, Zaozhuang, and Tai’an signed Letters of Intent on the Establishment of Friendly and Cooperative Relations respectively with their counterparts in Gabon, Morocco, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Shandong Branch of the China Chamber of International Commerce, Shandong Dejian Group Co., Ltd. and Shandong Hi-Speed Group Co., Ltd. separately signed Memoranda

of Understanding on Cooperation with the African side. Both Chinese and African entrepreneurs felt that they had gained a lot from the dialogue and that the cooperation between the two sides had huge potential and bright prospects.

During the meeting, Li Xiaolin conferred upon Jean Ping the title of Friendship Ambassador in recognition of the contributions this 70-year old man of Chinese and Gabonese descent had made to promoting Africa-China friendship and presented him with a certificate and medal.

More than 100 Africans visited China National Heavy Duty Truck Group Co., Ltd., Langchao Group Co., Ltd., and Linuo Group Holdings Co.,

Ltd. The modern equipment and scientific management of these companies left a deep impression, encouraging them to strengthen cooperation with Shandong in all areas.

Though the dialogue only lasted three days, both sides were satisfied with its results. China and Africa are separated by vast oceans but share a belief in pursuing their respective dreams — the “Chinese dream” of realizing great national rejuvenation and the “African dream” of achieving unity, development and revitalization. Hence, they can work hard side by side, giving much momentum to the speedy development of cooperation at the local government level. ■

The opening session



Round-Table Meeting on China and Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership

Wen Guangmei

Round-table meeting — “Strategic Partnership between China and Uzbekistan: experience, present condition and future” — jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, China Foundation for International Studies (CFIS), the Center for Political Studies (CPS) of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the China-Central Asia Friendship Association (CCAFA), concluded in Beijing on May 15.

It was the first activity held since the signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the CPAFFC and the Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan Foundation (Fund Forum) last year during CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin’s visit to Uzbekistan. It was presided over by CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping. Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping, CCAFA President Zhang Deguang, CFIS Executive Chairman Liu Guchang and Vice Chairman Yu Zhenqi, and Gulnara Karimova, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Fund Forum and Director of the Center for Political Studies of Uzbekistan all attended and spoke at the meeting.

The two sides summed up the



Ms Gulnara Karimova, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Fund Forum, speaking at the meeting

achievements in various fields over the past 20 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, analyzed the present bilateral relationship as well as challenges and opportunities they faced under the new complex international situation, and considered the future development of the strategic partnership between China and Uzbekistan.

Proceeding from the viewpoint of growth in bilateral relations, Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping made positive appraisal of the present situ-

ation and future prospects. China and Uzbekistan had established a political relationship of high-level mutual trust, a cooperation structure of mutual benefit and win-win results, and an unbreakable security barrier, he said.

The concept of lasting friendship between China and Uzbekistan was deeply rooted in people’s hearts. He noted that the two countries were at a critical stage of national development and revitalization so that there was a great need for them to get even closer

to each other than ever before. The close fit between their strategic goals provided unlimited opportunities and broad space for development, and he was optimistic about the future.

Chairperson Karimova gave a deep analysis of the development of China-Uzbekistan relations in the political, economic and trade, investment, energy, transport and cultural fields. The relationship had become an important strategic component of Central Asian security. Their close cooperation in a series of areas including energy had also achieved substantial results. Further enhancing widespread cooperation between China and Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan was conducive to expanding the space for security and stability of the inland region, she stressed.

CCAFA President Zhang De-guang said China and Uzbekistan had accumulated much experience in the smooth development of their strategic partnership, while still facing some difficult problems. As long as they unswervingly adhered to their chosen path suited to national conditions, all difficulties would be overcome properly according to law, however.

Personages of various circles, Uzbek Ambassador to China Daniyar Kurbanov and diplomats of the Uzbek Embassy in China, totaling about 80 people, attended the meeting. CCAFA President Zhang and the Fund Forum Chairperson Karimova were interviewed by mainstream media after the meeting. ■

A Trip of Enhancing Understanding And Cooperation

Ai Lin



CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku meeting with President Yousef Al-Amiri of the Kuwait-China Friendship Committee

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a seven-member Kuwaiti delegation led by Yousef Al-Amiri, President of the Kuwait-China Friendship Committee (KCFC) and the Kuwait House for National Works (KHNW), paid a goodwill visit to China from May 16 to 24.

The delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai and Zhejiang Province where it had talks with leading members of people-to-people friendship organizations and relevant enterprises to enhance mutual understanding and explore fields and channels for future exchanges and cooperation. The delegation also visited Yiwu International Trade City and Shanghai World Expo Museum.

Strengthening ties between friendship associations and exploring new channels for exchanges

The KCFC, founded in 2012, is composed of 50 successful personages in various social segments of Kuwait, among whom four are members of the royal family along with two former Kuwaiti ambassadors.

During the meeting with CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, Yousef said the KCFC was working enthusiastically to promote Kuwait-China friendly relations. It hoped to get support from the CPAFFC and was willing to sponsor the 5th China-Arab Friendship Conference. He said, the KHNW

holds a Children's Film Festival every October and welcomed Chinese participation. He suggested the two countries hold a Kuwait-China Week, set up Chinese language teaching center in Kuwait, organize student exchanges as well as promoting exchanges in the fields of economy, trade and culture through mutual visits and forums.

Feng Zuoku pledged the CPAFFC's support for the proposed Kuwait-China exchanges within its capacity. He hoped the KCFC under the leadership of President Yousef would become an example of friendship-with-China organizations in Gulf Arab nations, and the two friendship organizations would achieve closer cooperation in various fields and further promote China-Kuwait friendly relations.

Enhancing mutual understanding between enterprises of the two countries and boosting economic and trade ties

During its stay in Beijing, the delegation had talks with leading officials

Mao Qiping, Deputy Director General of CNPC's Overseas Business Department, at a meeting with the KCFC delegation



of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). Mao Qiping, Deputy Director-General of the Overseas Business Department of the CNPC, talked about the CNPC and its business in Central Asia, Africa and Arab countries.

Yousef, hopeful of strengthened ties with the CNPC, discussed the possibility of cooperation in exploiting oil resources in Chad and other African countries.

During his meeting with the delegation, Liu Zhiming, Vice President of the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CCECC, said the latter always attached weight and paid close attention to Kuwait, and had actively participated in the project bidding for construction of large-sized bridges and roads.

However, due to the Gulf wars, frequent changes of Kuwaiti government officials and Kuwait's reverse investment law (The law stipulates that foreign companies that have signed agreements with the Kuwaiti Govern-

ment must invest 30 percent of the contract amount in Kuwaiti society or be fined six percent of the contract amount if they fail to do so), some projects had been put off. He hoped President Yousef would give necessary instructions and help in this regard.

Yousef said, the KCFC was designed to support Kuwait-China economic and trade exchanges. Currently, the Kuwaiti Government was considering expanding airports and other major infrastructure projects. He, himself, was now in charge of the construction of a museum. He hoped that the CCECC would consider getting involved.

Meeting Wang Daxiong, Deputy General Manager of the China Shipping Group (CSG), Yousef said Kuwait had high-quality ports and supporting transportation facilities; particularly, the completion of the railway network within the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council would boost the development of transportation, especially in allowing goods to be shipped from Kuwait to Iran, Iraq as well as Egypt and other North African countries.

Kuwait's Emir had set two goals of development: one was to build Kuwait into a financial center, and the other to construct the Mubarak Port. Yousef hoped the CSG would take note of this and attach weight to Kuwaiti market.

Waleed Al-Qadeeri, member of the KCFC and Chairman of the Committee for Public Facilities of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, said he was involved in logistics business in Kuwait and hoped to have an opportunity to cooperate with the CSG.

In his meeting with the delegation, Vice Mayor of Yiwu City Dong

Fengming, said Yiwu was making efforts to build an international market of the means of production so as to form two markets: one for consumer goods and the other a production and processing market to provide greater convenience for foreign businessmen.

Besides, every year Yiwu, in cooperation with the Ministries and Commissions of the State Council, holds large economic, trade and cultural exhibitions. Dong hoped, Yousef would introduce Yiwu's market and exhibitions to Kuwaiti businessmen and encourage more of them to visit the city for talks on cooperation.

Yousef said he was willing to introduce the development of Yiwu and exhibitions to Kuwaiti businessmen. He suggested that the two sides organize meetings for the Kuwaiti and Chinese entrepreneurs to facilitate communications and cooperation between privately owned enterprises of the two countries. He hoped that Yiwu would give consideration to build a Chinese commodity center in Kuwait.

Vice Mayor Dong said that talks between entrepreneurs of the two countries could be held simultaneously with Yiwu's large-scale exhibitions so as to achieve win-win results through the economic and trade platform provided by Yiwu. When conditions were right, Yiwu could send delegations to Kuwait to explore the possibilities of building the proposed Chinese commodity center there.

Promoting Chinese cities and strengthening cooperation in tourism

Meeting the delegation, Ruan Zhongxun, Vice President of the Zhe-

jiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, expressed his hope that friendly contacts between Zhejiang and Hawalli Province of Kuwait would be strengthened.

Yousef said he was very happy to visit Hangzhou, a famous historical city. Arab businessmen's impressions of China mostly focused on economic and trade development. The booming business in Yiwu and the beautiful environment of Hangzhou had enriched his understanding of China in its entirety. He would tell more Kuwaiti people about these cities and encourage them to visit China to experience different cities and experience their different ambiances.

Wang Xiaoshu, Executive Vice President of the Shanghai Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, spoke at a banquet held in honor of the delegation. He said the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the Kuwait Water Towers, respectively

landmarks of Shanghai and Kuwait City, were similar in appearance, helping shorten the psychological distance between the two cities to develop contacts.

Yousef said, the architectural style and climate of Shanghai was similar to Kuwait. In Shanghai, he seemed to feel he was back home. Every year, during the hottest season from June to August, 70% of Kuwaiti people and their families traveled abroad on vacation. Tourists from Gulf Arab countries pay more attention to the service quality of hotels, food and sightseeing.

Most of Kuwaiti people get information about tourism from domestic newspapers. He hoped, Shanghai would use the media to promote tourism to fill the blank in Kuwait's promotion of China's tourist market. Wang promised to pass the information to the Shanghai tourism department, urging it to give more attention to Kuwait's tourist market and promote friendly exchanges between the two sides. ■

Ruan Zhongxun, Executive Vice President of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, with the Kuwaiti friends



Delegation of Myanmar-China Friendship Association Visits China

Xu Yiyi

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a nine-member delegation of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (MCFA) headed by its president U Sein Win Aung visited Beijing and Tianjin May 28-June 4.

This was the first visit to China since MCFA was founded in April 2013 to establish closer ties and cooperation with relevant Chinese organizations. Those meeting the delegation included Xu Jialu, former Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National

People's Congress and honorary President of the China-Myanmar Friendship Association (CMFA), Wang Yi, Foreign Minister, Li Jinjun, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC; and Tian Guiming, Deputy Secretary General of the Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of the Tianjin Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

U Sein Win Aung had a working

meeting with Feng Zuoku, Vice President of the CPAFFC and President of the CMFA, to sign a memorandum of cooperation.

The delegation also attended a seminar with Chinese entrepreneurs and visited some enterprises.

Aspire to Consolidate and Strengthen China-Myanmar Traditional Friendship

Xu Jialu cited a Chinese proverb that, "A distant relative is not as helpful as a near neighbor" and stressed that China and Myanmar were both close relatives and neighbors, and friendly ties were the only choice for the two countries.

They should keep frequent contacts, strengthen mutual understanding and maintain communication. "Countries need dialogue between each other not confrontation, and the world needs peace not war," Xu said. Respecting each other's history and culture was the proper basis of state-to-state friendly relationship. The "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship between China and Myanmar should last for generations.

Wang Yi quoted the late Marshal Chen Yi's poem *To a Burmese Friend*
I live at the upper stream,

CMFA Honorary President Xu Jialu (R.5 in the front row) meeting with the MCFA delegation



*You live at the lower stream.
We deeply love each other,
We drink from the same river.*

Wang said, China and Myanmar were good neighbors, good partners and good brothers and shared the same fate. To consolidate and strengthen traditional friendly relations was conducive to the stability of border areas, economic growth and mutually beneficial cooperation. The Chinese new administration would continue adhering to the bilateral traditional friendship and carry out more friendly policies based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It was willing to provide help and support without any political strings attached for Myanmar in its process of reform.

Any problems during contacts should be handled properly through friendly consultation. The two sides should guard against anyone with ulterior motives attempting to politicize economic issues, magnify individual issues and complicate simple issues. Under the new circumstances, the two sides needed to fully control the general direction of bilateral relations from a strategic viewpoint to ensure the good-neighborly relationship to stay on the track of healthy and steady development.

To maintain, consolidate and develop the social basis of China-Myanmar friendship was an important task and mission of the friendship organizations of the two countries, Wang stressed. He hoped the two friendship associations would actively carry out exchange activities and pledged that the Chinese Government and the Foreign Ministry in particular would render necessary support.



The MCFA delegation visiting the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City

Li Jinjun observed that China-Myanmar friendship has a long history. During Myanmar President U Thein Sein's visit to China last April, the two heads of state had reached important consensus on further deepening the comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership. China would adhere to its good-neighborly policy and strive to make its own development benefit neighbors like Myanmar and promote common regional development.

U Sein Win Aung said the long Myanmar-China relationship was a relationship firmly established on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Over the past 60-odd years, the two countries had always treated each other on an equal footing, and helped each other sincerely. There had been no serious problems.

The two countries had successfully resolved issues related to their common border some 2,200 kilometers long, setting a good example for others. Myanmar was one of the countries

that first recognized the People's Republic of China after its founding, and had actively supported New China in its efforts to regain its legitimate status in the United Nations, as well as giving firm support to China in negotiations on its accession to the World Trade Organization.

Meanwhile, China had always given strong support to Myanmar on matters of principle concerning national interests, and particularly, provided selfless support for Myanmar when the country suffered from sanctions imposed by foreign countries, which the people of Myanmar would always remember.

Now, Myanmar was carrying out political, economic and social reforms, and widening its opening to the outside world. He hoped Chinese friends would show understanding to some unstable factors and different voices that appeared during the process. Under no circumstances would Myanmar change its friendly attitude and policy towards China, he stressed.

Establish Ties and Discuss Plans for Cooperation

The CPAFFC and the MCFA held a working meeting in Beijing.

During it, Feng Zuoku extended congratulations on the establishment of the MCFA. The fact that MCFA President U Sein Win Aung had led a delegation to visit China only one month after the establishment of the association reflected strong aspiration for developing Myanmar-China relations. Feng expressed his gratitude to the MCFA for donating rice worth US\$66,000 through the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar as soon as earthquakes occurred in Lushan, Sichuan Province.

Meanwhile, the China-Japan Friendship Association together with the Japan Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd. planned to donate through the MCFA 40,000 mosquito nets to help poor areas in Myanmar prevent malaria.

U Sein Win Aung said he felt

honored to be personally involved, as a former Myanmar ambassador to China, in the further development of ties, and very glad to see bilateral relations keeping up good momentum after the political transformation in Myanmar. Just as the consensus reached between President U Thein Sein and President Xi Jinping stated, Myanmar and China should always resist external disturbance and carry on the traditional “Paukphaw” friendship from generation to generation. The MCFA had been founded at the right time. Despite its youth it would enthusiastically promote the cause of Myanmar-China friendship.

U Sein Win Aung expressed his willingness to strengthen people-to-people cooperation with the Chinese side in various areas. He thanked the Chinese side for donating the mosquito nets and said, the Myanmar side would implement the donation project as soon

as possible.

After the meeting, the two sides signed a memorandum of cooperation, unanimously agreeing to set up a mechanism of mutual visits, carry out cooperation in various areas, hold a “Bringing light tour” and “China-Myanmar border friendship gala”, among other activities, at a proper time and join the multi-lateral cooperation mechanism within the framework of the Conference on China-ASEAN People-to-People Friendship Organizations.

Economic and Trade Exchanges and Mutually Beneficial Cooperation Explored

Most of the members of the delegation were well-known entrepreneurs engaged in jade, mineral resources, real estate, building, new energy, medicine, and telecommunications industries. During its stay in China, the delegation called on China Nonferrous Metal Mining (Group) Co., Ltd., Southeast Asia Pipeline Co. under China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and the North Petroleum & Chemical (Group) Co., attended a seminar with Chinese entrepreneurs, had discussions with their counterparts and reached some initial intentions on cooperation.

Coordinated by the CPAFFC, Glorious Myanmar Energy Investment Co., Ltd. donated to Myanmar 1,000 off-grid independent solar power generation systems during a ceremony in Beijing.

In Tianjin, the delegation visited the Binhai New Area and Sino-Singapore Eco-City. The Chinese enterprises pledged to pay more attention to investing in Myanmar. ■

The Glorious Myanmar Energy Investment Co., Ltd. donating to Myanmar 1,000 sets of solar power generation systems



Latin American Mayors Delegation Visits China

Hua Jianguang

A Latin American mayoral delegation visited Beijing and Tianjin from May 19 to 26 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Of the 55 members, 23 were mayors from nine countries, namely Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Salvador, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay and Mexico.

They came to learn the experiences of China's localities in urban economic, social, cultural and tourism development, enhance mutual understanding, establish mutual trust and friendship, through exploring new ways of exchange, and tapping new potentials for cooperation.

Impressed by China's Speed of Development

On the afternoon of May 20, the delegation visited the headquarters of Baidu Online Network Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Guo Guangyi, Director of the International Media Relations, introduced the company's history, showed delegates new products and discussed Internet development. The visitors expressed their admiration of the rapid development of China's Internet technology.

On the morning of May 22, they visited the Yizhuang Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone, learning about its construction and

achievements, as well as details of the enterprises located in the zone and their future product development direction. The mayors showed a keen interest in various new high-tech products and technologies, and hoped they could introduce the mature technology of Chinese enterprises to their countries.

Explore New Areas of Cooperation

On the morning of May 21, the delegation held a discussion with the Beijing Tourism Development Committee on tourism management at the city level. Deputy Director Yu Debin briefed the guests on Beijing's experiences during an in-depth exchange and

invited the visiting mayors to join the World Tourism City Federation headquartered in Beijing.

During the meeting, an agreement was reached for Mexico City to carry out a plan for promoting and showcasing Beijing Tourism Culture.

In the afternoon, Sun Shuo, Deputy Head of Xicheng District, together with people in charge of urban construction, conducted a fruitful exchange with the delegation on urban management and development of Xicheng, the protection of historical and cultural heritage sites, city planning and community construction.

The Latin American mayors ex-



CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan hosting a dinner in honor of the delegation

Friendly Contacts

pressed their strong wish to develop direct contact with Chinese localities at various levels as part of an enhanced program to further develop friendly exchanges between Chinese and Latin American cities.

The delegation drove to visit Tianjin on May 23. Tian Guiming, Deputy Secretary General of Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice President of Tianjin People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, hosted a luncheon for them during which the two sides had a sincere and pleasant conversation.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Tianjin City Planning Exhibition Hall and the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City in Binhai New Area to see how the area along the banks of the Haihe and the sea coast was being developed. They deeply admired China's achievements in new city development by using green building technology for the construction of the eco-city, applying wind and solar energy, introducing high-quality personnel, etc., and they hoped to cooperate in green development technology with Chinese local

Latin American mayors visiting the Exhibition of the Yizhuang Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone



The delegation having a working meeting with leading members of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association

governments and enterprises.

Broad Prospect for Friendship-city Development Between China and Latin America

As an important part of Sino-Latin American friendly relations, friendship-city exchanges play an irreplaceable role in promoting mutual understanding between the peoples, expanding further cooperation and achieving valuable development in many areas between China and Latin American countries.

There is great potential for cooperation in urban development, tourism culture, agriculture, mining, and infrastructure construction between local governments. The Latin American side was most enthusiastic about cooperation with China and hoped to achieve rapid development by obtaining support such as investment, technology and drawing on Chinese experiences.

On the morning of May 24, the delegation came to

the CPAFFC compound where it had a working meeting on local government exchanges, especially those involved the friendship-city concept, with Deng Lan, Deputy Secretary General of the China-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship Association.

Deng gave an account of the history and current situation of China's friendship cities and discussed extensively with the mayors on how to increase the number of twinned friendship cities. Members of the delegation listened with great interest. They took notes and asked many questions.

The meeting proceeded in an enlivened atmosphere. At end, Deputy Secretary General Deng Lan and Head of the delegation Jose Antonio together presented commemorative certificates of the visit to members of the delegation.

Xie Yuan, Vice President of the CPAFFC, hosted a banquet in honor of the delegation at the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC. The Vice President made a welcoming speech. Jose Antonio expressed his sincere gratitude to the Chinese hosts for the hospitality accorded to the delegation and extended an invitation for a Chinese local government delegation to visit Latin America. ■

SPF Delegation Visits China Seeking Cooperation and Exchanges

Xing Shuhua

Jean-Louis Callens, Secretary General of Federation du Nord of Secours Populaire Francais (SPF), led an eight-member delegation composed of the mayors of Lille, Gravelines and Douchy-les-Mines in the Departement du Nord of the Region Nord Pas de Calais and federation members to visit China from April 15 to 22. The visit was made at the invitation of the CPAFFC. The delegation visited Beijing and Henan and Shandong provinces, witnessing China's social development. They attended the China International Friendship Cities Mayors (Weifang) Ecological Summit and the launch ceremony of the International Kite Cities Alliance, and had in-depth discussions with relevant government departments and schools on closer city-to-city cooperation and youth exchanges.

Enhancing Understanding and Friendship

Since the CPAFFC and the SPF established contact in 2007, they have organized four youth delegation exchange visits, among which three Chinese youth sports and cultural delegations visited the region Nord Pas de Calais and were warmly welcomed and

received by the local people.

The French delegation toured the Beijing Olympic Park and the Anyang Municipal Park in Henan Province, and watched a square dance performance in Anyang, Henan Province, and kite flying by tens of thousands of people in Weifang, Shandong Province. Bertrand Ringot, Mayor of Gravelines, was deeply impressed at the obvious way the Chinese Government paid great attention to people's wellbeing and made huge investments and efforts to enrich people's spare time. The gap between China and developed European coun-

tries in public sports and cultural facilities was not large, he observed.

While in Anyang, the delegation and representatives of the Anyang Municipal Government planted trees of China-France friendship together in the International Friendship Forest. The Mayor of Douchy-les Mines, Michel Lefebvre, said that the activity was of great significance. "The friendship between France and China has a long history. Trees as source of life will symbolize the evergreen nature of the friendship between the two countries and the rich fruits to be produced by bi-

The delegation in Penglai, Shandong



lateral cooperation.”

Exploring Potential of Cooperation Between Chinese and French Localities

The delegation had talks with leading officials of Anyang, Weifang, Yantai and Penglai respectively, on possible cooperation in industry, tourism, education and transportation.

The Departement du Nord, with abundant resources in nuclear power, fishery and port transportation, is eager to cooperate with China. As its industrial structure and development orientation are similar to those of Shandong, both sides were enthusiastic about plans to carry out cooperation in various fields, particularly to an open trade route between Yantai and Dunkirk to boost economic growth and create employment opportunities for the two port cities. Gravelines Mayor Bertrand Ringot expressed the hope to establish friendship-city relations with Penglai.

The delegation visited the mushroom plantation Guxianyuan and the mushroom processing workshop of the Fanglu Agricultural Science and Technology Co. Ltd. in Zouping County, Shandong Province. Mme. Ringot, wife of the Gravelines mayor, appreciated this model of industrial operation of agriculture integrating industrialized production of edible fungi, industrialization-driven growth, special food services and popularization of science and technology. She hoped that the two sides would carry out cooperation in eco-agriculture and invited delegations of Chinese en-

terprises engaged in processing agricultural products to visit France and set up enterprises there.

Lille and Douchy-les-Mines also hoped to conduct cooperation in culture and education with local governments in Shandong and invited Chinese delegations to visit French colleges and universities, and cultural centers to enhance understanding and communications.

Promoting China-France Youth Exchanges

The China-France youth exchange project, a long-term cooperation program between the CPAFFC and the SPF, has achieved great success in enhancing mutual understanding and friendships. At the time of writing, the SPF was planning to send a 20-member youth delegation to China with the theme of “Sports and Music—Language of Unity” in July 2013, using sports competitions and joint concerts to enhance friendship between the younger generation of the two countries.

Nord-pas-de Calais with its superior geographic location and convenient communications was the largest pre-games training base for the London Olympics and more than a dozen countries sent their teams there. Now it has become the sports training and competition center for Europe’s high-level sports events. Jean-Louis Callens, head of the delegation, said, all the cities in Nord-pas-de Calais welcome Chinese youth to have sports exchanges with local youth and sports clubs during their winter and summer vacations. ■

A delegation of the Morocco-China Friendship and Exchange Association (MCFEA) led by Chairman Mohammed Khalil visited China from June 1 to 7 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. The delegation visited the Beijing Sports University, Confucius Institute Headquarters and the 50 Moganshan Road Contemporary Art District in Shanghai, and had a discussion with teachers and students of Shanghai International Studies University.

Understanding Between the Two Friendship Associations Enhanced

At a welcome banquet, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin said that, although it was her first meeting with Chairman Khalil, she knew he was an old friend of the Chinese people, had visited China many times and contributed a lot to promoting bilateral friendship. She looked forward to visiting his beautiful country this October, having been invited to attend the Fourth Congress of United Cities and Local Governments and the Second World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Rabat.

Chairman Khalil said the Arab world had been experiencing some turbulence. On the premise of maintaining domestic stability, Morocco had introduced some changes such as a new constitution under which non-governmental organizations could play a bigger role in national political life. To adapt, the MCFEA carried out a reorganization last year, setting up six special committees and enlarging its membership. It kept frequent contact with public personages and the Chinese Embassy in Morocco and held a series of activities for promoting bilateral friendly relations.

Jaafar Alj Hakim, Moroccan Ambassador to China, said friendly relations

Delegation of Morocco-China Friendship and Exchange Association Visits China

Ai Lin

between Morocco and China could be traced back to the famous navigator Ibn Battuta in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and exemplified today in Chairman Khalil, who was not only the first Moroccan student to graduate from China, but also the first doctor of traditional Chinese medicine in Morocco.

Ambassador Jaafar, who established the Association of Ibn Battuta after assuming his post in China, said an international symposium would be held next year on the navigator.

Meeting the delegation, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku expressed his hope that the MCFEA would become a model for all friendship associations in Arab countries and that the relevant entities of the two countries would cooperate closely in organizing the Fifth China-Arab Friendship Conference for new achievements in promoting bilateral relations.

Chairman Khalil said that, after MCFEA's reorganization he called on the Trade and Industry Secretary and the Foreign Secretary who both attached great importance to strengthening Morocco-China relations. The MCFEA had also increased its contact with the Chinese Embassy in Morocco and cooperated with it in organizing the Symposium on China-Morocco Economic and Trade Relations, the China-

Morocco Entrepreneurs Forum, and the Reception to Commemorate Ibn Battuta.

The present regional situation provided new opportunities for the development of China-Arab and China-Africa relations. Morocco, as one of the most stable countries in Africa and enjoying a good geographical location, signed the Free Trade Agreement with the Euro-American countries and Moroccan manufactured goods could be exported to those areas tariff-free.

Stable development of Morocco-

China relations would benefit the people of the two countries, which would also be conducive to the growth of relations between China and Africa in general. The MCFEA would like to cooperate with the CPAFFC in people-to-people exchanges, and hoped to push for more practical results in friendship-city exchanges.

Bilateral Exchanges in Sports and Culture

The delegation visited the Beijing Sports University and the Confucius

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin meeting with the delegation



Institute Headquarters. Professor Chi Jian, Vice President of the University, met them and arranged a tour of the indoor track and field training ground and that of the National Women's Gymnastics Team. Vice President Chi said that the university would soon send a delegation to Morocco and hoped it could visit the University of Hassan II Casablanca to explore ways to strengthen cooperation.

Chairman Khalil expressed the hope that the exchange of visits would strengthen ties and promote communication between the athletes and coaches of the two countries.

In the Confucius Institute Headquarters, the delegation visited the Experience Museum of Chinese Culture and talked with Chinese staff overseeing the work of the Confucius Institute in Morocco. Katima Yatribi, a professor of the Mohammed V University, said there were two Confucius Institutes in Morocco, one in his university, and the other in the University of Hassan II Casablanca.

He hoped more courses, such as *taiji quan* (traditional shadow boxing), etc. would be added to enrich the teaching content.

In Shanghai, the delegation visited the Shanghai International Studies University to be welcomed by University President Cao Deming. The two sides discussed how to further promote exchanges and cooperation. The delegation also had discussions with teachers and students of the School of Oriental Languages majoring in Arabic and French. ■



Lita Youriewa with the neighbors' children

Ms. Lita Youriewa from the Russian city of Perm contacted the Qingdao Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (QMPAFFC) by phone on May 3, to inform us in Chinese with Qingdao accent that, "I'm going back to Qingdao at last."

In October 2006, Qingdao formed friendship-city ties with Perm. When a QMPAFFC delegation visited Perm in November of that year, Lita Youriewa, a Russian lady in her 60s, came to see the delegation at the hotel to begin turning her dream to revisit Qingdao into reality.

Lu Jiyong, an interpreter working for in the QMPAFFC who accompanied the delegation on its visit, said that when Lita learned that a QMPAFFC delegation had come to Perm, she and her mother of over 90 years of age were overjoyed. They warmly invited the delegation to their home and showed the Chinese guests postcards and photos of old Qingdao and some souvenirs they had brought back. Lita could still sing Chinese songs and was often immersed in her memories of Qingdao.

She told the delegation: "I was

born in Qingdao in 1946 and went back to Russia with my parents at the age of 10. I don't know where the three Chinese kids in the group photo with me are now."

On May 5, 2013, Lita together with her son and daughter-in-law arrived in Qingdao to begin tracing her childhood memories. She told us that her family had an indissoluble bond with the city. Her maternal granduncle had worked as consul in the French Consulate in Qingdao. Her uncle Vladimir George Yourieff came to Qingdao in 1924. He later became a prominent architect and designed many famous buildings in the city such as the Princess' House on Badaguan, the Qingdao Aquarium, etc. At present, among the famous historical buildings in Qingdao, about 30 of them were designed by him. Lita's nephew Igor Sapko is the current mayor of Perm, which has friendship-city ties with Qingdao.

Coming back to Qingdao 57 years later, Lita was filled with deep emotion. "Qingdao is still so beautiful, but it is much bigger than it was before," she observed.

Her parents came to Qingdao

Old Russian Lady's Deep Affection For Qingdao

Lu Ming

in 1942 and worked in a French trading company. The family was living on Jiayuguan Road in 1946 when she was born and moved to Qixia Road when she was four. Lita recalled how she spoke Chinese better than Russian when she was little because of her Chinese nanny. Now, she still can say some colloquial words that old Qingdao natives know.

When we came to the Russian school at No.21, 1 Jinkou Road, Lita, pointing at the building in front of us, said, "I received my primary schooling here, and this building was also designed by my uncle. I have a warm feeling seeing so many buildings designed by my uncle during this tour."

Lita said with emotion that she had become more nostalgic as she was getting older and wanted to bring her family to Qingdao to visit the places where she had once lived. Besides retracing the places of her childhood, she hoped all the more to find her childhood friends.

She recalled: "My father always said that Qingdao was my hometown and I always think so. When I lived in Qingdao, I didn't feel at all that I was in a foreign land. At that time, many of our neighbors were Russian. We all felt that Chinese people were kind-hearted and easy to get along with."

In order to help Lita find her old friends and neighbors, the QMPAFFC contacted the Qingdao TV Station and *Peninsular Metropolis Daily* which covered Lita's visit to Qingdao. On the evening of May 8, a day before her departure, Lita at last met four of her childhood friends and neighbors. For example, Zhang Ruixue and her brother and sister living at No.4 Qixia Road; they were all several years younger than Lita.

Mr. Xiao Shenghua, 86, remembered clearly that Lita's mother Youriewa was his teacher in those years. He said, she was graceful in manner, warm-hearted and had helped quite a number of Qingdao people learn to speak Russian. Lita and her friends together sang songs *The East is Red* and

The Song of the Chinese People's Volunteers: "Valiantly and spiritedly, we march across the Yalu River..."

Lita told us that her mother, although already over 90, could still speak Chinese and still remembered the days she had spent in Qingdao. She had taught many Chinese children, mostly girls, to play the piano. Even now, she still misses these children and wonders whether any of them have become professional pianists.

Lita was surprised at the expansion and changes of Qingdao, in her impression it had been very small. We took her and her family to some new scenic spots such as the Olympic Sailing Center, May Fourth Square, etc. She said, "Qingdao is very beautiful now, but I like the old streets better." ■

Lita Youriewa meeting her childhood friends



Art Goes Beyond Borders

Wu Qiang

Cultural exchange between China and Japan dates back to the glorious Tang Dynasty (618-907). The legendary experience of Chinese monk Jian Zhen's eastward voyage across the sea to Japan with his disciples is a much-told tale in the history of contacts between the two countries.

As an artist and member of the Art Exchange Delegation of the China Friendship Art Exchange Association, I was privileged to visit Japan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic ties. It was my first visit and to learn the life and customs of the local people close up was a real experience.

Last year, some of my paintings were exhibited in Tokyo, and, over the years, Japanese friends have collected some of my works. From reading books, watching TV and some direct and indirect contact, I had some basic knowledge about Japan. However, from the cultural perspective, Japan is a mysterious country good at learning and absorbing foreign cultures, as well as protecting and inheriting the legacies from previous generations. Western art historians often cite Japan as the representative when introducing Oriental art despite China's 5,000-year history and culture.

The influence of a country de-

pends not only on economic strength but also on the importance attached to cultural transmission. The modern Japanese media is well developed, good at reviewing itself and sparing no effort to publicize Japan to the whole world. This might be the reason why so many Westerners mistake us for Japanese when we go abroad and consider my ink paintings as being in the Japanese style.

As a Chinese painter, I dare not say that my works can represent the country's 5,000-year culture, yet they may at least display one standpoint of the Chinese artists' current exploration and research.

Art transcends borders. The work of artists represents the progress of human civilization, embodies the concept of beauty, and brings us great fun and enjoyment. From the perspective of advancing human civilization, cultural transmission and exchanges among nations are necessary. It's especially important for China, with its rapid economic take-off, to rebuild its image of the land of decorum where nature and people are respected and good faith is practiced, and to present to the world the splendid Chinese culture through people-to-people communication and interaction.

The "China-Japan Modern Elite Calligraphy and Paintings Exhibition"

The author (R.1) and other Chinese painters demonstrating their painting skills



opened in Kyoto Museum of Culture on March 7. Visitors must take off their outer clothing and shoes when entering the unique Tatami-style exhibition hall, a way to show their respect and admiration for the excellent works of the artists.

The exhibits covered 73 Chinese and 38 Japanese artists. Although we didn't speak the same language, yet the same cultural roots brought us a spiritual connection and encouraged us to learn from each other. We shared our experiences and technique by comparing the way we painted.

We undertook many field explorations and made sketches during the six-day visit. From observing urban development and folk customs, we learned the country's careful and prudent way of doing things and good order everywhere; watching a kimono show and visiting handicraft workshops, we were intoxicated in its unique folk culture; from sight-seeing in Osaka and Mount Fuji, we saw the importance attached and protection given to the ancient ruins and ecological environment, and the harmonious coexistence of people with thousands of spotted deer in Todaiji Temple; and from the Kamakura habitat in high mountains, we saw the respect for the architectural culture of the aborigines.

It was a fruitful visit. Here, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizer—the China Friendship Art Exchange Association—for giving me this opportunity and to our Japanese friends for their warm hospitality. The art exchange may have been brief, yet the Sino-Japanese friendship ensuing from the exchange will last long. ■

Embracing Space Hand in Hand

—Impressions on Space Camp Turkey

Xu Yan

I have paid a number of official visits to Turkey in the past few years and have been greatly amazed by its glorious history and profound cultural heritage. I also found myself fascinated by a special Turkish institution — Space Camp Turkey (SCT).

SCT is located in Izmir, the country's third largest city. In 2000, Mr. Kaya Tuncer, founder of the Aegean Free Zone, established SCT within it. His wife joined him in initiating the foundation named Global Friendship Through Space Education (GFTSE) in 2002, enabling more people to gain

some knowledge of space while getting to know each other at the SCT.

It has a special building of its own, including dormitories, canteen, shop, activity hall, auditorium, classrooms, library, laboratories, observatory, simulators as well as administrative, financial, liaison, medical, sanitary and security departments. SCT provides astronomy courses for Turkish people and conducts international summer camps using English as the teaching language.

So far, around 125,000 students from over 50 countries have completed their courses, including nearly 6,000

Students from different countries at the camp



from 27 countries receiving full scholarships.

The cooperation with the CPAFFC goes back to 2009, when SCT expressed through the Turkish Embassy in Beijing its willingness to invite 12 student victims of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake to attend the summer camp free of charge as a token of support for restoration of the affected region.

The Embassy contacted us and we acted immediately together with Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. In July 2009 we dispatched 12 students to the summer camp. Ever since, SCT has offered scholarships to our association every year and we have altogether sent several dozen students from Chinese provinces and cities. We also invited the SCT delegations to visit China in March 2011 and again in April this year, during which the two sides signed a MOU on cooperation.

A lesson on the Milky Way



Besides, the CPAFFC held an Exhibition of Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy at SCT in July-August 2012 on the occasion of the Chinese Cultural Year in Turkey. Some of the painters and calligraphers gave demonstrations at SCT to much appreciation.

Helping Hand with English

During the initial stage of organizing students, we were not sure whether the English level of Chinese participants was good enough for the courses. Then, we found our worries not necessary as SCT provided all participants with a favorable and relaxing environment for practicing and improving their English.

SCT teachers are all young and energetic and easily mingle with students. Students are divided into different classes with mixed nationalities to encourage their potential to adapt to international settings. In addition, to avoid students developing any dependency, the adult team leaders of every country do not attend the daily courses.

Besides, SCT organizes activities like gala nights and barbecue parties for the students to show their talents with enthusiasm and make them aware more deeply of the importance for all countries living together in harmony.

Student Comments

Now let's see some comments from the students on SCT:

"We have various classes such as the basic history of astronomy and our favorite experience of simulators. What's more, we made model rockets, launched hot balloons, enjoyed swimming, played mini-golf and attended the gala party and dance night. We also



Having a class

played different roles in a simulated return journey of a space shuttle with me as the commander. That was great fun."

"Practice makes perfect. I adjusted myself to "English mode" in a few days' time and understood almost all the teachers said in class. When needed, I could even interpret for others. I felt my life in SCT very meaningful."

"I was on good terms with my classmates. We took photos with each other and played jokes during breaks. I also taught them some Chinese. Then, the seeds of friendship started to grow."

"Their behavior should not be considered wrong when you understand that their national customs are different from ours. They also have passion and want to be our friends, only in their own way. This tells us that we need to know more about other cultures, then we will have more foreign friends."

"I found a big difference. We, students from such a vast country, were so shy compared with those from other countries. They always put up their hands to express ideas no matter in class or during a quiz. Even if they answered wrongly, they just laughed it off and still regarded it as an honor.

“However, for us, we did not dare to speak even when we knew the answer, because we were still afraid of making mistakes or losing face. Therefore, less Chinese students speak during class. I think we should be more confident with ourselves. We should not focus only on exams and dare not speak our mind in class.”

“What touched me most was my birthday spent at SCT. Many students came to me that day and sang birthday songs. They watched me blowing the candles and making a wish. Our teacher gave me a piece of paper and asked all my classmates to put their signatures. I was moved so much that I cried at that time.”

“They were all very kind. During the six days with them, I learned a lot. Now I know how to become a person whom others like and how to find a real good friend.”

“SCT was always filled with our laughter and left me beautiful memories to cherish. We were all unwilling to bid farewell to each other. Tears blurred our eyes, brown, blue or black.”

We, as organizers, feel much encouraged by the appreciation of our students and feel more responsible to do more practical job for enhancing the mutual understanding between all people of the younger generations in the world. Mr. Kaya Tuncer, founder of SCT, passed away last year, but his contributions to the global friendship will always be remembered by people from different countries. It is also a big honor for myself to be engaged in establishing cooperation between the CPAFFC and SCT. ■

The Glamour of People to People Cultural Exchange

Xi Wei



The delegation of the Iksan municipal government of the ROK visiting a neighborhood community in Zhenjiang

In May, Zhenjiang Municipal People’s Government held a series of activities to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of friendship-city relations with Iksan, the Republic of Korea (ROK). More than 80 Korean guests were invited to join the celebration, including staff from the ROK Embassy in Beijing and the Consulate General in Shanghai, delegates from Iksan Municipal Government and City Council, representatives from ROK chambers of commerce in East China, and major Korean media.

Window of Beautiful Iksan

As part of the celebration, an exhibition — “Window of Iksan” — was held in Zhenjiang Library to display

books and pictures on Korean history and Iksan’s traditional culture. Zhenjiang’s Vice Mayor Cao Lihong attended the opening ceremony with Iksan delegates and local citizens. Madam Cao Lihong, Mayor of Iksan Municipal Government Mr. Lee Han Su, Speaker of Iksan City Council Mr. Kim Dae Oh made speeches and jointly cut the ribbon at the ceremony.

Vice Mayor Cao Lihong said the past 15 years had witnessed an increasing number of people participating in cultural exchanges between the two cities, strongly boosting sustained development of the two cities’ friendship. The opening of the “Window of Iksan” at the city library would be a new channel for citizens to learn about the ties of friendship.

Mayor Lee Han Su cited a Korean proverb: “The world is totally different from the one ten years ago” to describe the great changes he felt in the dynamic city of Zhenjiang. The Iksan delegation brought with them many books about Korean history and culture, together with photographic works reflecting Iksan’s sceneries in different seasons to promote understanding of the ROK and Iksan. The Mayor also expressed his expectation of even more cooperation between the two cities in future.

Zhenjiang Library and Iksan Library established friendship relations three years ago. Since then, the latter has collected about three hundred Korean books, including folk tales of Iksan, paintings of animals, comic books, photo albums and historical books. These books are available in the “Window of Iksan” section of the Reading Department on the second floor. The comic books will attract teenagers who are interested in Korean pop culture, and language learners can improve their skills by reading books by Korean authors. Alongside the “Window of Iksan”, another exhibition was held to display 124 photographic works presenting a panorama of Iksan’s history and folk culture.

At the photo exhibition, Mayor Lee Han Su took the job of explaining the interesting stories behind every picture, which gave the audience a vivid impression of Iksan’s scenic spots, traditions, festivals, and modern development. Vice Mayor Cao Lihong, while leafing through a Korean comic book, said these interesting books and pictures could help the younger generation know more of Korean culture despite language barriers, and the “Window of

Iksan” would be an important bridge connecting the two friendship cities.

Zhenjiang Library and Iksan Library also held a seminar on their experiences in library management. Mr. Ren Gang, Curator of Zhenjiang Library, introduced its history. Established in 1933 as the Provincial Library of Jiangsu, it shoulders many social responsibilities, such as preserving documents and delivering knowledge to the public. It has a collection of over one million books and documents, including 180,000 ancient books, and also foreign language works.

The opening of the “Window of Iksan” further enriches the library. Iksan Library, according to its Administrative Officer Ko Min Chul, is managed and operated by volunteers. It organizes regular reading salons for parents and children. The two libraries agreed to open a “Window of Zhenjiang” in Iksan Library in October to display Chinese books, paintings, and pictures. After that, the two libraries will exchange books regularly.

Colorful Community Activities

In order to have a better understanding of Zhenjiang women’s work and life, the 14 women delegates from Iksan, leaders of women nongovernmental organizations, had a meeting with leaders of the Zhenjiang Women’s Federation to exchange experiences. The women delegates, led by Han Dong Yeon, chairperson of Iksan’s Korean Mother Association, also visited a local community and Zhenjiang Uni-



The 90-year-old Chinese lady giving Korean friends her papercuts of Chinese zodiac animals

versity for the Aged.

Ms. Hu Yunxia, chairperson of the Zhenjiang Women’s Federation briefed about the role and function of the organization. The two sides discussed their policies towards women and the importance of nongovernmental groups in society. Ms. Han appreciated the fruitful outcome of the discussion, and said Iksan had enacted many advanced policies for women; she was looking forward to more exchanges in such fields as culture, gender equality, and children education.

The delegation later visited Yingjiang Road Residential Community of Jinshan Street. The Community employs a group of female staff to provide multiple services for the elders, such as the 24/7 speed dial help system, the craftsman workshop, the club for elder people who have lost their children, free-lunch canteen, and day care room.

At the craftsman workshop, an artist made a traditional pyrographic picture, a panorama of Zhenjiang’s famous historic scenic spot Jinshan Hill, and gave it as a souvenir to the guests; an old lady of 90 used a pair of scissors to make a series of lovely paper-cut

animals, impressing the visitors who had their pictures with her. Staff also helped handicapped people rehabilitate with various facilities. When the guests arrived at the rehabilitation center, the mentally retarded children greeted the guests who were greatly moved.

The children played a fishing game, and everyone rejoiced when they caught a plastic fish. The guests were greatly impressed by the development of new communities in Zhenjiang and the way of community management.

At Zhenjiang University for the Aged, the female students performed traditional Chinese dances and musical instruments for the guests, and showed their multiple talents such as cooking, calligraphy, and painting. The guests were impressed by what they had seen, and commented that the women in Zhenjiang lived a colorful life and played an important role in society.

Dazzling Traditional Dances

When the lights were turned on in the evening, the scenic block of Xijin Ferry Street turned into a fairyland. The crowds gathered at Jianyuan Square to

watch the dancing performance jointly prepared by Iksan Dancing Troupe and Zhenjiang Xijin Ferry Community Troupe for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of friendship-city ties. About a thousand people watched the show.

Iksan Dancing Troupe was established in 1996 and has performed in many countries, participating in many international contests and winning many prestigious prizes. By doing so, the Troupe presents to the world a fresh image of the Korean traditional dances. Iksan Dancing Troupe had performed in Zhenjiang twice before, on the occasions of the International Friendship-City Conference in 2005 and the Qixi Festival (the Chinese Valentine's Day) in 2007.

This year, they took "Heartbeat in Dream" as the theme and added modern dancing techniques to traditional dances, giving a fresh and breathtaking visual enjoyment to the audience. The traditional Korean dances such as *Fan Dance* and *Long Drums Dance*, together with the Chinese dances, for example, *The Beauty in Color* and *Fine Rain* drew much applause.

Fan Dance by Korean artists

The choreographer of Iksan Dancing Troupe also spoke highly of the Chinese traditional dances, saying the music, costumes and the dancing style were "poetic". The music and dances transcend the boundary between the two nations, and fully proved the common saying: "The treasure that belongs to a nation is also appreciated by the world".

Apart from giving performance, the Iksan Dancing Troupe also watched Zhenjiang artists' performance of Peking Opera and Shaoxing Opera. They exchanged experience and had discussion on dancing skills.

The Xijin Ferry Street has a history of about a thousand years. It was opened to the outside world at a very early time, and traces of Western culture and styles can be easily found. The street represents the essence of the city's history and culture, and is also a stage for cultural exchanges with foreign countries.

The Zhenjiang-Iksan Dancing Performance adds a new and remarkable episode in the cultural exchange history of Xijin Ferry Street.

(Translated by Liu Wenqin)



Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe's Performance Tour of Japan

Zhang Yaqin

To mark the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Japanese Peace and Friendship Treaty, a 50-member Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe sent by the CPAFFC undertook a performance tour of 44 Japanese cities from February 25 to May 31, 2013 at the invitation of the Min-On Concert Association of Japan (Min-On).

Over 96 days, the troupe staged 85 performances with a total audience of about 100,000 person/times. Governors of 11 prefectures including Oki-

nawa, Ishikawa and Aichi, and Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua and Chinese consul generals in Nagoya, Niigata, Nagasaki, Fukuoka and Sapporo were among the audience. In Tokyo, diplomats from embassies of 36 countries including 19 ambassadors watched the performance.

The troupe traveled from Sapporo in the far north to Okinawa in the south, performing to full houses wherever it went. The audience felt the show *Sky Mirage* fully demonstrated

the innovative Chinese acrobatic art and the tenacious spirit of the performers. The acrobats through enthusiastic performance expressed their aspiration for China-Japan friendship.

Governors of various prefectures expressed their welcome to and followed with interest the troupe's performance in their area, while the Japanese audiences responded with great enthusiasm, showing that Japan-China friendship is deep-rooted in the hearts of the two peoples and were an inspira-

Hiromasa Ikeda, Vice President of Soka Gakkai International at the ceremony of conferring upon Mr. Daisaku Ikeda the title of Honorary Head of the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe

tion for more cultural exchanges of various forms with China in the future.

Arranged by the CPAFFC and Min-On, in early May the troupe went to the tsunami-devastated area for four charity performances in Iwaki City of Fukushima Prefecture, Oofunato City of Iwate Prefecture and Ishimaki City of Miyagi Prefecture. About 3,000 people watched the performances.

In his welcome speech before the show, Min-On's President Yasuhiro Kobayashi quoted Daisaku Ikeda's famous saying: If



politics and economy are compared to a ship, people-to-people communication is a sea. The ship will be stranded when caught in a storm, but as long as there is understanding and communication between people, the ship will be pushed forward.

Mayors of various cities also went to the performances and made speeches extending their thanks to the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe for its charity shows, and expressed deep sympathy to the Chinese people suffering from the Lushan earthquake that occurred on April 20, 2013.

In Ishimaki, the city hit hardest by the tsunami on March 11, 2011, the performance was put on in the gymnasium that served as a refuge in the wake of the disaster. After the performance, the acrobats went down from the stage to shake hands with the audience and say goodbye to them. Many people were deeply touched. Disaster victims who had come to watch the show said, they were greatly encouraged by performers' spirit of challenging the extremes, and expressed their gratitude to the acrobats from China's Northeast for bringing loving care to Japan's Northeast.

To further consolidate the long-term cooperative relations between the CPAFFC and the Min-On, and to extend our gratitude to Daisaku Ikeda, founder of the Min-On, for his devotion to the cause of cultural exchanges between the two countries over the years, on April 1, a ceremony was held to confer upon him the title of honorary head of the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe. Hiromasa Ikeda, Vice President of Soka Gakkai International, was present at the ceremony.

The Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe

is the fifth acrobatic troupe sent by the CPAFFC to tour Japan in cooperation with the Min-On. The two sides began to exchange opinions on item selection and program arrangement six months in advance of the tour. Such items as *Lion Dance* and *Mice Get Married* highlighted the unique features of China's Northeast; the extremely difficult acrobatic stunts made the whole performance thrilling and breathtaking; and humorous and cartoon elements added entertaining effects to the performance.

Particularly, the *Lion Dance* with some seven-or-eight-year-old young performers joining in and their interaction with the audience greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the performance.

Though the tour was made at a time when China-Japan relations faced difficulties, in the places where the performance was given, we still felt that Japanese audience liked Chinese acrobatic art, and the willingness of the Japanese public and personages of various social sectors for the early improvement of Japan-China relationship



and their wish to carry out cultural exchanges.

Quite a few Japanese media covered this performance tour, noting that this cultural exchange activity had linked the hearts of the two peoples through art, which effectively enhanced mutual trust and understanding between the two peoples and spread friendship throughout Japan. ■



Break Cultural Barriers with Music

—Notes on *China-Germany Friendship Night Concert*

Wang Wei

It was early summer in Beijing and the sun spread its scorching rays unsparingly. On May 14, a dozen workers, bathed in sweat, were bustling about the historic, 110-year-old compound of the CPAFFC. The soundman, complaining about the weather, took off his coat to provide shade for his mixing console. A stage was being erected, lighting facilities installed, wires connected, musical instruments put in place... The empty square in front of the Main Building gradually turned into an open-air theater as each task was completed. The two Bronze Lions on each side of the stage seemed to watch all this frantic activity with bemused curiosity.

The musicians sought shelter from the heat in the shadow of the Main Building while waiting for the final sound check. Though my colleagues and I had only met them a few days earlier, we had already become good friends. While calculating the time needed for this sound check, we exchanged good-humored jokes.

Vassily, sitting on the steps of the Main Building, started to play his accordion. Pretending we were passersby, we threw coins into his accordion case. Vassily said he would buy a Rolex with



Frankfurt Colors Quartet's open-air performance in Beijing

the money. In the midst of music and laughter, the differences of nationality, race, culture and language seemed to disappear.

The band is from Frankfurt, Germany, but it is not a German band in the common sense. In fact, the members of the Frankfurt Colors Quartet come from different countries. Vassily Duck, the humorous accordionist, comes from the vast Siberia region of Russia. Duck is a typical German family name, however. It turned out that his ancestors had moved to Siberia with Catherine the Great.

The slim figure of Angela Frontera, a percussionist of Brazilian descent, was belied by her explosive power. To her, music is everything and everything is music. That afternoon, she had visited the canteen of the CPAFFC to beat dozens of pots and pans before finally choosing the one with which she would play a tune at the evening's concert after filling it with water.

Deniz Koseoglu, a young Turkish saz player, can produce reverberating music with religious hues as well as more worldly songs about people. Matthias Frey, the pianist and producer, is

the only German in the band. He possesses all the virtues of the German race – being precise, having a strong thirst for knowledge and never imposing his opinions on others. He has a magnetic character.

Coming to China with the band was an important person Peter Schneckmann. Those in China engaged in people-to-people exchanges between China and Germany will surely clap their hands and say: “Hey, I know him!”. He is an old friend of the CPAFFC. As early as 1986, in cooperation with the CPAFFC, he introduced the famous Rock band BAP that became the first German band of its type to tour China.

Peter Schneckmann’s feelings for China can hardly be expressed with words. He has employed every social tool to maintain contact with his Chinese friends—blog, micro-blog, wechat, QQ, etc.—and the words following his signature always are: My Chinese friends are my second home.

As night fell and colored lights

Accordionist Vassily Duck



punctuated the darkness, the concert began. It was a performance of world music. The music, sometimes soft and melodic and sometimes passionate and exciting; by adopting the musical expression of different nationalities, the band seeks to show the cultural diversity of Frankfurt.

The music seemed to carry us to the flourishing financial city of Frankfurt, to the exotic Bosphorus, to the enchanting Amazon River and the vast Siberian forests. But the piece that excited the Chinese audience most was *Dragon Dance*. When the familiar melody rose, the first reaction from the audience was surprise, followed by loud cheers and warm applause.

This Chinese folk music interpreted by foreign musicians became so different in their hands and gave the audience a warm feeling. Those who did not understand the term “world music” began to swing with the rhythm and beat time with their hands and feet. They were moved by the fact that Western musicians recognized Chinese music and by the concert’s perfect blending of the Chinese and Western music.

Bursts of applause and cheers followed the last note of the concert. In response, the Band played an impromptu encore. Udo Hoffmann, a German concert planner in Beijing, said, “It was really embarrassed that I had cried, you know. I was touched by the music and the atmosphere. The CPAFFC compound is so beautiful that it is really the best place for an open-air concert.”

I looked at Udo who was very excited and said to him. “Your tears are the highest praise for the concert.” Udo Hoffmann, who has masterminded over



Percussionist Angela Frontera making music with a basin

1,000 concerts, is a big name in China.

What is China like? What is Germany like? When people are asked this they may not be able to give a satisfactory answer on the spot. But when all this melts into music, the answer will appear on their happy faces, warm applause and smiling eyes. Cultural barriers seem to be the thickest wall between different countries and nations. But when music is heard, the wall preventing people from understanding and forging friendship with each other will gradually disintegrate.

Just as CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping said in his speech at the concert: “The world wants peace, nations want development and people want happiness. All this is built on the basis of friendship and trust. People-to-people friendship can be achieved in various ways and music is a refined and pleasant way. Musicians, while bringing us the enjoyment of beauty, have sowed the seeds of friendship and trust. And this is reason for the CPAFFC to host this *China-Germany Friendship Night Concert*.” ■

Music Connects People's Hearts

—On 20 Years of Cooperation Between CPAFFC and
Villa Musica Foundation of Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany

Gan Qianyi

In 1993, introduced by Karl-Heinz Gass, a German friend of the CPAFFC and a recipient of its title of Friendship Ambassador, the Villa Musica Foundation (VMF) of Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany established working contact with the Cultural Exchange Department of the CPAFFC.

In September of the same year, the CPAFFC sent a folk music group consisting of musicians from the China National Orchestra to Iceland on a performance tour, and, on the way back, it visited the foundation's headquarters to launch 20 years of friendly cooperation between the two organizations.

Exchange Programs Between Chinese and German Young Musicians

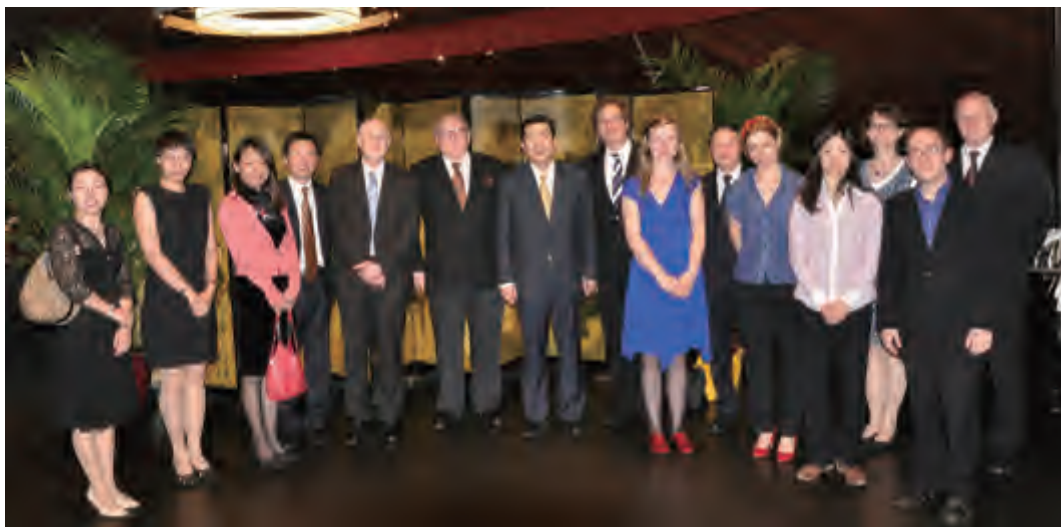
Exchanges of visits between young musicians are the main form of cooperation. Every year, a young musicians group is sent by one of the two organizations on a 15-day performance tour of the other country. Up till now, the CPAFFC has sent 13 Chinese music groups from professional institutes.

These have included the China National Orchestra, China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra, China Conservatory, Chinese People's Liberation Army Academy of Art, and the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. Well-known musicians such as vocalist Li Shuangjiang,

erhu performer Zhou Yaokun, *sheng* performer Cao Jianguo, *pipa* performer Yang Jing and *huqin* performer Shen Cheng have taken part in the activities.

The VMF has also organized a corresponding number of chamber music groups to visit China. Among the performers were famous cellists Alexander Hulshoff and Wen-Sinn Yang; Adam Markowski, violinist and laureate award winner at many concerts in Germany; Endri Nini, pianist who had won the special prize at the Concours International de Piano Ile de France in Paris; Anna Szulc-Kapala, viola player who won first prize at the Joseph Joachim Chamber Music Competition in Weimar.

CPAFFC Vice President Jing Dunquan with Walter Schumacher, State Secretary and Vice Minister of the Cultural Department of Rheinland-Pfalz and the German musicians group at the celebration marking 20 years of cooperation



Over the past 20 years, the German musicians have performed in more than 20 Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Qingdao, Hangzhou, Guilin and Xiamen. Chinese musicians, helped by the VMF, have been able to travel to countries like Luxembourg and Poland to give performances.

Photo Exhibition in Cooperation

The frequent music and art exchanges have enhanced friendly communications between the staff and further strengthened the mutual trust between the two organizations.

With the efforts made by the VMF, Peter Schule, Landtagvizepräsident of Rheinland-Pfalz, headed a 16-member brass band to visit China in 2000, and State Secretary Roland Hartel led a string quartet to China in 2002. These visits laid a foundation for the cooperation between the CPAFFC and the Government of the State of Rheinland-Pfalz.

From October 16 to November 30, 2005, a photo exhibition on the "World Cultural Heritage — The Upper Middle Rhine Valley of Germany", co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Rheinland-Pfalz State Government was held at 12 different venues in Beijing, Qingdao, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Nanchang, Lijiang, Chengdu, Changsha, Xi'an and Shanghai.

20th Anniversary of Cooperation Marked

To mark 20 years of cooperation between the CPAFFC and the VMF and of the exchange program between the Chinese and German young musicians, a group of German musicians headed by Mr. Walter Schumacher,

State Secretary and Vice Minister of the Cultural Department of Rheinland-Pfalz and President of the Board of the VMF, visited China this year to take part in the celebration activities. The musicians gave concerts in Beijing, Chengdu and Xiamen.

Enhance Understanding and Deepen Friendship

Trust between the two organizations has been built through years of friendly cooperation. The frequent exchanges have enabled them to learn more about each other's countries and explore new cooperative ways. Meanwhile, more young Chinese artists have been able to go abroad, creating impetus for the inheritance and development of Chinese music.

The young musicians sent by the VMF come from different countries of the world. They are winners of major international competitions of classical music and will play an important role in international classical music world and produce great impact in the next



The Chinese folk music group from Sichuan Conservatory of Music visiting Germany in 2012

two or three decades.

Their experiences in China will help them understand Chinese music and Chinese culture. And through music, the people of the two countries will gain a deeper understanding of each other's cultures, thus helping enhance mutual understanding and trust, and promote friendship between them. ■

The String Sextet sent by VMF touring China in 2009



Museum of Old Historical Photos of Chengdu Opens in Dayi County

Rong You

The Museum of Old Historical Photos of Chengdu opened in Dayi County, Chengdu at a ceremony on June 9. It houses the exhibition of old photos taken by Canadians living and working in Sichuan in the last century. The more than 1,000 photos on display show the life and work of the Canadians, the life and customs of local people, and the natural landscape.

The activity was jointly sponsored by the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Chengdu Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Dayi County Government, the Canadian Embassy in China and the Canadian Consulate General in Chongqing with the support of the CPAFFC.

Sarah Taylor, minister of the Canadian Embassy, and a 29-member Canadian delegation traveled to Sichuan specially to participate in the activity. Most of the delegation members were the children and grandchildren of Canadian missionaries, who grew up in Chengdu and attended the Canadian School (CS). Thus, they called themselves "CS children". It was a real homecoming for them.

Their parents or grandparents had come to Chengdu 100 years ago, opening schools and setting up hospitals. The West China Union University they set up has now become the West China Center of Medical Sciences of Sichuan University where China's modern stomatology techniques were developed. ■



Canadian friends accorded a warm welcome on their home visit in Dayi County, Sichuan

In the Museum of Old Historical Photos of Chengdu



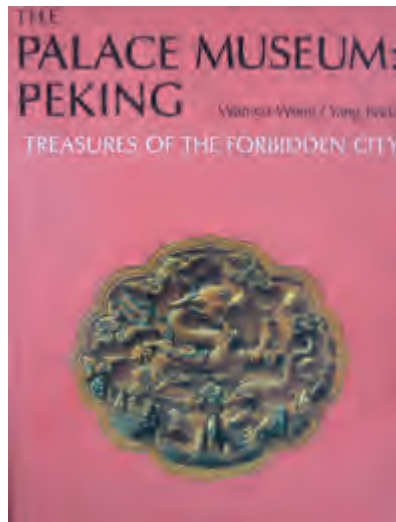
Wan-go Weng — Propagator of Chinese Culture

Liu Gengyin

Wan-go Weng is a well-known Chinese-American social activist. His original ancestral home is Changshu, Jiangsu Province. He went to the United States in 1938 to study electrical engineering. After graduation, he taught in universities in the United States. Later, he shifted his interest to studying and propagating Chinese traditional culture, becoming a pioneer of disseminating Chinese traditional culture not only in the United States but throughout the West.

Wan-go Weng is a descendant of Weng Tong-he, who tutored Emperor Tongzhi and Emperor Guangxu. He inherited many of Weng Tong-he's collections, in particular calligraphy and paintings by celebrities of past ages. The head of the China Guardian Auction House once commented: "Among the overseas collectors we know of, Wan-go Weng is the only one who has such wide collection of [Chinese] calligraphy and paintings, both in quality and heritage significance that cannot be replaced by any other collectors." Because of this, he has close contacts with eminent Chinese experts engaged in identification of cultural relics such as Xu Bangda, Yang Boda and Xie Zhiliu, who are the honored guests at Weng's country villa designed by himself in the suburbs of New York.

In the early 1980s, Wan-go Weng



was elected chairman of the influential China Institute in America, a non-profit organization, founded by Hu Shi and other prominent Chinese cultural celebrities in the United States in 1926 with the aim of promoting cultural and educational exchanges.

After assuming chairmanship of the institute, Weng has laid more stress on introducing Chinese traditional culture to the American people.

In 1982, at his proposal and with the assistance of the Palace Museum in Beijing, the English version of the book *The Palace Museum: Peking — Treasures of the Forbidden City* co-authored by Wan-go Weng and Yang Boda, Deputy Curator of the Palace Museum, was published. This is the first and only book that gives a detailed introduction about the treasures of the

Palace Museum to Western countries, and also a great contribution made by Weng to Sino-Western cultural exchanges.

The Palace Museum: Peking — Treasures of the Forbidden City consists of 600-plus illustrations with English explanations of carefully selected articles among the millions of cultural relics collected by the Palace Museum falling into eight categories: architecture of the Forbidden City, ceramics, bronzes, paintings and calligraphy, sculptures, jade carving, minor arts and gold and gems. The book took three years to complete and was printed in Italy and published in the United States.

In September 1984, again through a proposal by Weng, the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of trade between China and the United States co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the China Institute in America was held in Beijing. This activity was of far reaching significance.

In 1784, the newly independent United States of America, affected by the blockade and embargo imposed by Britain and France, sought to ease the economic crisis by opening trade with China. To express its respect to China, the merchant vessel it sent was named Empress of China and it left New York harbor on February 22, birthday of the first American President George Washington.

Pakistanis Eager to Welcome Premier Li Keqiang

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani (Pakistan)

“We the Pakistani Nation, are very much eager to welcome Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on his first visit to Pakistan after taking over the Premiership of the People’s Republic of China whom we are enjoying deep rooted and exemplary friendship for all seasons,” This was stated by Mr. Arif Nizami, Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Postal Services of Pakistan, while speaking at a luncheon hosted by Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary-General of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA)-Khyber Chapter in honor of a visiting Chinese Trade Delegation from Kashgar in Islamabad on May 21.

Mr. Arif Nizami appreciated

the efforts of PCFA-Khyber Chapter for further strengthening the friendly relations between Pakistan and China in all fields of daily life and mentioned that with the visit of the Chinese Premier, our relationship would be further enhanced.

Mr. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani mentioned that Chinese Premier’s forthcoming visit would also play a vital role in strengthening and developing the Pak-China Friendship and fruits of this friendship would bring economic prosperity in Pakistan. He also mentioned about the important role of various Chinese and Pakistani non-governmental organizations, such as All Pakistan-China Friend-

ship Association and its chapters specially Khyber Chapter, the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and its local associations specially those in Shanghai, Xinjiang, Urumqi and Kashgar, Urdu Services of China Radio International, through which our relationship turned into friendship and people to people interaction.

The leader of the visiting Chinese Trade Delegation Mr. Tang Hailong thanked PCFA-Khyber Chapter for the hospitality it accorded and said that being an old friend of China, PCFA-Khyber Chapter always worked for the noble cause of further strengthening the China-Pakistan relationship. ■

After a six-month voyage, the vessel, fully laden with American goods such as animal skin, ginseng, pepper, etc., arrived in Guangzhou in August 1784. Captain John Green wrote in his diary: The Empress of China has gloriously hoisted the first American flag that has never been raised or seen by anyone in this sea area. That day is August 28, 1784.

The Americans sold all their cargo in Guangzhou and bought Chinese ceramics, tea and silk there and returned

to New York in May 1785. The Chinese products were well received by the American people. The vessel’s voyage to China gained both fame and wealth. Robert Morris, a fiscal official who had made the suggestion, was promoted as Secretary of the Treasury and in charge of trade with China.

This voyage served as a prelude to friendly contacts between the Chinese and American people.

In Spring 1994, Wan-go Weng who was then over 70, returned to

China for the last time, to collect materials for the Biography of Chen Hongshou, a renowned painter in the Ming Dynasty, that he was writing. Helped by Shi Shuqing, a famous expert on identification of cultural relics, Weng photographed Chen Hongshou’s paintings collected by the Palace Museum. At that time, he wanted to meet his old friend Han Xu, the then CPAFFC President. As Han was ill in hospital, however, he asked his wife Ge Qiyun and me to meet Weng on his behalf. ■

Departure Ceremony for Chinese International Friendship Volunteers Held in Beijing

An Xin

The CPAFFC launched the “Program of Chinese International Friendship Volunteers” in 2012. On July 18 this year, it joined with the Program’s organizer, Zhongxie Human Resource Consulting Center (Zhongxie HR), to hold a departure ceremony for the first batch of volunteers in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC. Present were Xie Yuan, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Guo Quansheng, Director of the Zhongxie HR, and over 50 representatives from Hanban/ Confucius Institute Headquarters as well as the media.

Xie Yuan announced the first group of volunteers would set out for Fiji and Guatemala. He said the CPAFFC had launched the program for better utilization of China’s people-to-people diplomatic resources to publicize the country’s peaceful development concepts and help other countries achieve social progress. He wished the volunteers every success and hoped they would take with them the Chinese people’s friendship and best wishes and make many friends so that more people would know about China and want to be friendly with it, and also come to like Chinese culture.

Volunteers Wang Rui and Song Yuchen would work in Fiji for three months, making preparations for the convening of the China-Fiji symposium on economy and trade to be held there early next year and help gather infor-

mation for future bilateral investment and economic cooperation programs.

At the invitation of the Guatemala-China Friendship Association (GCFA), Li Yating and Liang Jingfeng, both teachers, would go to Guatemala to teach Chinese for a year to conduct Chinese language classes in four educational institutes. Xie hoped their service would promote more educational and cultural exchanges.

In order to ensure the quality of teaching and publicize Chinese culture, the CPAFFC donated Chinese language textbooks worth 50,000 RMB to the GCFA.

At the ceremony, the CPAFFC

and Zhongxie HR respectively presented to the Fiji-China Friendship Association and the Guatemala-China Friendship Association a calligraphic scroll with the words: “Make friends extensively in the world through international volunteer services” to be carried by the volunteers.

The CPAFFC is committed to promoting friendship, peace, cooperation and development. The program of sending volunteers overseas is an important step in exploring new ways of further expanding areas of cooperation and injecting fresh vitality into friendship between China and foreign countries. ■

The volunteers showing the calligraphic works to be given to the Fiji-China Friendship Association and the Guatemala-China Friendship Association



Second Sino-Indian University Students Forum Held

Zhang Ran

The Second Sino-Indian University Students Forum, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the China-India Friendship Association, the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) of Peking University and the Charhar Institute, was held in Beijing from April 25 to 28.

It provided students with a platform for communication and an opportunity for exchanging ideas and gaining inspiration, enhanced friendship and broadened areas of contact between the two countries for long-term cooperation and development.

Forty-six student representatives from 10 Chinese universities, including Peking University, Tsinghua University,

Fudan University, Nanjing University and Nankai University, and 35 Indian delegates from eight Indian universities such as the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University and Visva-Bharati University, as well as the London School of Economics, took part.

With the theme of “Writing the Future of Chindia: Our Opportunities and Challenges”, participants had in-depth discussions on cultural exchanges, economic contacts and diplomatic relations, deepening their mutual understanding and trust.

The opening ceremony, presided over by Professor Jiang Jingkui of the

CSAS, was held at Shou Ren International Conference Center of Peking University. Among those present were Feng Zuoku, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Li Yansong, Vice President of Peking University, Han Fangming, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, Vinayak Chavan, First Secretary of the Indian Embassy, and Liu Shusen, Vice Dean of the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University.

In his address, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku spoke highly of the traditional friendship between

Participants of the Second Sino-Indian University Students Forum



China and India and encouraged young people of the two countries to fully play their bridging role as bilateral relations deepened. Feng reviewed the achievements of the first forum, affirming its important role in promoting people-to-people contacts, especially youth exchanges.

Vice President Li Yansong, recalling the personages of insight in past China-India friendly contacts, said that due to their concerted efforts, the two great civilizations of the world, had supplied each other's needs and complemented each other, building state-to-state relations of mutual trust and common prosperity.

First Secretary Vinayak Chavan expressed his full recognition of the positive role of the forum as a platform for student exchanges in promoting friendship. He urged the students to deepen their knowledge of the present bilateral relations while reviewing the history and make good use of the forum for further cooperation.

Vice Dean Liu Shusen said the Department of Indian Language and Literature, an important component of the School of Foreign Languages of Peking University, was active in conducting friendly exchanges between China and India while carrying forward its fine academic traditions, combining academic studies, personnel training and international cooperation.

Professor Jiang Jingkui said youth exchanges were an important part of State relations, and talked about his study tour of India in January 2013 at the head of a 10-member delegation of Peking University graduate students of Indian language and literature. University students of the two countries had



A delegate making a presentation at Forum's Cultural Committee

great interest in each other's cultures and activities such as forums gave them valuable opportunities for face-to-face and heart-to-heart exchanges in an open atmosphere.

The forum had three committees covering Culture, Economy and Diplomacy. The delegates were divided into 15 groups, five groups under each committee, for free discussion according to their cultural background and the thesis they had submitted. They exchanged views on such topics as "Images of women in culture: a comparative discussion between China and India", "The

influence of globalization on local life patterns in China and India", "Challenges and opportunities facing China and India: under the international financial crisis", "Comparison between China and India from the aspect of economic development patterns", "Military growth and its influence on Sino-Indian relations" and "Media influence on Sino-Indian relations".

The heated debates, efficient cooperation, excellent presentation of the results of the discussions and the profound friendship engendered ensured the forum's success. ■

The Chinese and Indian students at a get-together



Meaning of Friendship

——Person-to-Person & People-to-People

Billy Lee (The United States)

Having been appointed Membership Director of the USCPFA-South Bay Chapter last March (2012), I began to ask myself more seriously “Why the need of Friendship and Friends, What is really the meaning of Friendship — Person to Person and People to People? What sparks Friendship? What nurtures Friendship? What are the causes for Lack of Interest, Irritations or Failures?”

I have spent time to do some reading and googling on this subject and of course reflect on my own life the many different relationships with people.

Having immigrated to the U.S. from China at age 15, Cross-cultural Relationship and Friendship is naturally most relevant to me.

From childhood days in China, I was taught by my parents: Dzai Jia Kao Fu Mo, Tsu Wai Kao Pon Yu – At home you rely on your Parents. Away, you Rely on Friends. I have discovered that it is not just for practical considerations but more importantly for MEANING in LIFE. I now believe that TRUE FRIENDSHIP should be our STRIVE, as important as Love, Education, Envi-

ronment, and Innovation - too important to leave it to CHANCE and HAPPENSTANCE !

I started to search for definitions of Friends and Friendship. Webster dictionary offered the following; A Friend: 1) One attached by Affection and or Esteem, 2) One not hostile, 3) a favored person. Oxford dictionary on Friendship: Relationship between Friends. These definitions are almost too obvious and not especially enlightening.

What I read about True Friendship was more telling! True Friends: Are there for you no matter what / Don't lie to you / Keep their promises / Don't stick you from the back / Kind and Caring towards you / Enjoyable being together / Accept each other as is / Loyal and Faithful / Someone you trust and willing to share your inner feelings with.

A few HUMOROUS ones were: Friends you actually call up to do stuff with / Can borrow \$5 and not to have to pay back / Wow! Okay to fart in front of. And yes on Different types of Friends: Sincere Friends — look you in the eyes / Listening Friends — quietly attentive / Big Mouth Friends — talking incessantly about everybody and everything / Wise Friends — know when to keep quiet or move away for a moment / Annual Friends — only connect once every year / Interest seeking Friends — always ask-

The Entire Wall at the International Children's Mural Painting Park of the China National Children's Center in 2009



ing for something / Magnet Friends — bring you along everywhere / Suspicious Friends — always worrying about being cheated / Neurotic Friends — asks 500 times if you are still friends / Daydream Friends — always happily floating in air / Virtual or Cyber Friends — so close yet untouchable / Banker Friends — always willing to bail you out when you have financial needs / Tight-fist Friends — opposite of the above / Exclusive Friends — Don't want you to have other friends / Popular Friends — too busy to engage you much of the time / Protective Friends — protect you physically and your good reputation / Pessimistic Friends — Can some times make you feel depressed / Comfortable Friends — come to your house, lie on your sofa, put feet on the coffee table, turn on the TV, and dose to sleep / Straightly Honest Friends — will sometimes yell at you, "For God's sake, Billy! Use your head!" / Imposing Friend — You must think and do what he thinks is Right and what he wants you to do. Yes, I have all these different types of Friends! It's a Rich World I live in!

Most of us believe that we know about Friends and Friendship on a Person to Person level. International and Cross-cultural, People to People, relationships puzzled me a bit. Is it about two groups of people from different countries with different cultural backgrounds wanting to better understand each other and befriend one another? It is a wonderful concept, but is there actual emotional connections that can be deeply felt between groups of people and result in True Bonding? I have given this some thought and from my limited experience I can at least feel certain that People to People's Friend-

ship efforts can definitely promote more Person to Person relationships, and in reverse the latter can validate and reinforce the former idea.

I learned that President Dwight D Eisenhower initiated People to People International (PTPI) with the purpose to enhance international understanding and friendship through education, culture, and humanitarian activities by involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures. Tolerance and mutual understanding were its central themes. A non-government and non-profit organization, respecting universal values and aspirations, enabling international youth to value long-term friendship and understanding, believing that individuals can often be more effective than governments in promoting human relationships and world peace, advocating more tolerance and accepting of differences, trusting people's basic goodness and intelligence, it strives for Peace thru Friendship, Understanding, and Bonding.

Many similar organizations were formed subsequently like Public Diplomacy etc. It is most unfortunate that the word Diplomacy has been given a self-serving connotation today. The word Soft Power for example has also started to ignite more fear in ordinary people



Gu Xiulian, Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation, and Sarah Randt, wife of US Ambassador, at 2000's awards program — Chinese Children's Art on the Environment

by suspicious cynics. Indeed, the world is getting more and more connected. Countries and people are getting more and more inter-dependent. I may be naive, but I strongly believe in Eisenhower's non-sibi (not for self) approach. Once our focus is placed on negative thinking, there will be no end to Tic for Tac, then Tac for Tic. etc. etc. There will never be any long-term satisfactory solutions for World Peace subsequently.

Building Relationship with People from Different Cultures, an article by Marya Axner published in Kansas University's *The Community Tool Box*, offered some valuable input I found thru Googling. "We must come together and solve problems that we have in common. Trusting Relationships are the glue that hold people together as they surely need each other's support. Building Relationships with people from different cultures is key to achieving most significant goals. To become aware of one's own culture is a first step in learning about other people's culture," so stated the author. Why ex-

amine your own identities and culture? Learn what influenced your own views on others and learn how others view you in reverse. How to build relationships with people from other cultures? Realize the difference between learning about others from indeed building relationships. Several important steps suggested were: Make a conscious decision to establish friendship with people from other cultures. Put yourself into situations where you can meet them. Restrain your biases about those who are different. Ask them to tell you their cultures and histories. Listen to their stories and the way their stories are told. Notice differences in communication styles and value emphasis. Identify their positive aspects first. Learn how to be their ally. In summary, the article emphasized that Friendship is our connection to each other and meaning in life. Caring for each other brings us together and motivates us to establish coalitions to solve problems affecting us all together.

One interesting book I discovered from the local library was *The Art of*

The author with Ms. Su Ling, Director of Foreign Liaison at China National Children's Center



Friendship by Christine Leefeldt & Ernest Callenbach — published as early as 1979. My Architectural Profession background makes me especially interested in the Art of Creating, the smart Methodologies, and the magic Results. The research covered many intimate life stories, and it stressed that Friendship is indeed a crucial factor in people's Emotional Health and Happiness. One chapter on Friendship and Power was not totally convincing to me, however. It suggested that mixing profession or business with friendship, like Employer-Employee and Teacher-Student, is unwise because they are inherently divisive. I find that among my best friends in life are my earlier employees, employers, students and/or teachers. I think the issue is not positions or status but rather attitudes and behaviors. But of course the authors were saying that many of us do get carried away by Power and Prestige, thus sometimes forget about Mutual Respect and Caring.

In the chapter, Resolving Conflicts in Friendship, I learned about

Timing and Discreetness, Open self-revelations vs Need of privacy by certain people, Blunt honesty vs Kind Explanations, Right and Wrong vs some Compromise but just and fair. Equal status

or perfect willingness to lead or follow in Cooperation. The most powerful and most needed ingredient is ATTENTIVENESS, and SYMPATHY could be just your Wordless Presence, a Quick Hug or Pat on the Back, or an Understanding Compassionate look.

The last three chapters inspired me most: Old Friends and New, Crossing the Barriers, and Creative Friendship. Old friends appreciate your strength and accept your weaknesses. New Friends introduce new stimuli and wider perspectives. Crossing the Barriers (Age, Gender, Social-Economic, Educational, Political, and Religious,) require open-mindedness, tolerance, and flexibility, Globalization makes it even more urgent today. How to be creative in maintaining old friends, new friends, provincial or foreign friends is definitely an Art. Creating moments of shared joy and pleasure with impact; offering sympathy, comfort, or material help; giving as well as receiving to and from each other etc. are all Friendship-making skills. But we need to improve our Friendship-making skills in Intellectual as well as Emotional spheres with Honesty and Sensitivity. We know it's more blessed to Give than to Receive always, but both Gratification (from giving) and Feeling Grateful (from receiving) provide indescribable Joy and Happiness.

One aspect most important in Creative Friendship urged us to be Proactive in Cultivating Friendship. The challenge however still lies often with our lack of Trust due to lack of interacting experience and the Fears promoted by expert Cynics and by people earnestly but exclusively focusing on security threats. The author's conclud-

ing statement was, “We owe it to ourselves and to our society to combat this Negativism about Human Conditions. Friendship cannot exist without Trust. Vital interchanges of Friendship can provide us with networks of secure, enlivening, resilient relationships, and mobilize our Human Potential for Warmth, Concern, and Mutual Support, without which we cannot thrive.”

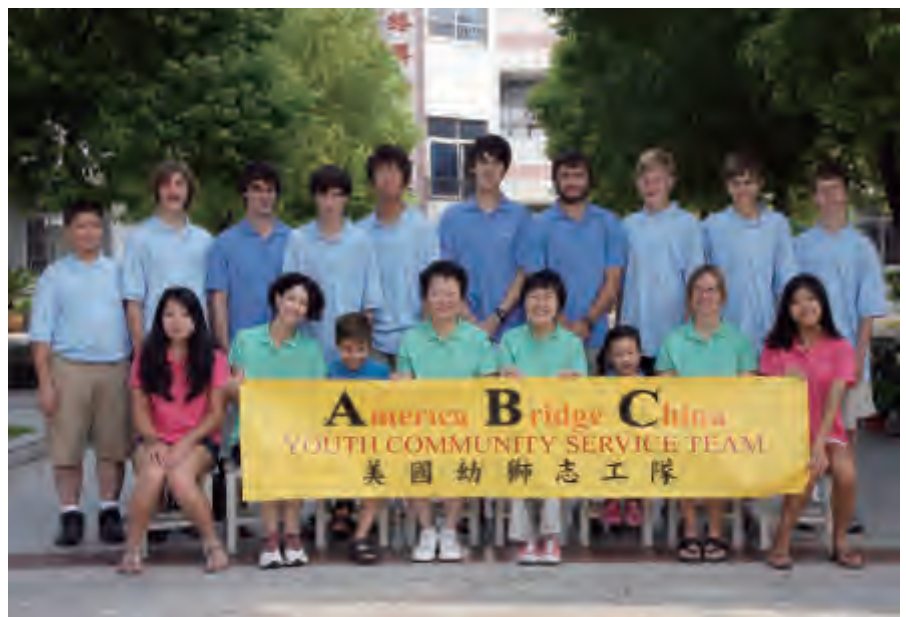
From my own life experience, I have learned not to judge people too quickly, not to stereotype people based on limited or out-of-date information, avoid uncalled-for criticisms or demeaning comments, stop proving you are superior by snide and snotty jokes which are not really humorous to others. Admit your own mistakes and apologize for having caused hurt or harmed other’s self esteem. Be a True Friend to others without demanding equal reciprocation. Understand other’s aspirations and needs. Do whatever you can to help. Appreciate, Enjoy, and Promote Trust.

I am personally 100% committed to the idea of building and promoting Cross-culture Friendship — Person to Person and People to People. Hoping to connect the children from U.S. and China twelve years ago, for example, I initiated the C2C, C2C, (Children to Children, Connecting 2 Countries) Magic Moments Exchanges, via The 1990 Institute — in collaboration with All China Women’s Federation, China National Children’s Center, and China’s Environmental Protection Ministry. Promoting Cross-cultural Friendship among Children, and promoting Art simultaneously with Environment, we ultimately persuaded China National Children’s Center to

inaugurate an International Children’s Mural Painting Park in their beautiful Beijing Campus. The Art is always related to Environmental Concerns, and the Annual Festival always involves children from different countries. The immediate effect on all involved — children as well as adults — is validated by their apparent joy and enthusiasm. The long-term effects may actually be more meaningful and more remarkable. The celebrations also involve government leaders representing the children’s countries. We hope that people’s intrinsic needs, feelings and priorities will ultimately affect state and international policies.

To combat CYNICISM, FEAR, and DISTRUST, we must build TRUST and ENGAGEMENT with diligence, determination, creativity, and commitment. A most encouraging message is indeed what I heard from watching KQED’s special presentation by a Harvard Professor in Neuro-Psychology.

Allison Lee’s ABC Team from San Francisco teaching English in an elementary school in Jiangsu Province



Professor Rudy Tanzi was introducing his SUPER-BRAIN THEORY to the vast TV audience. His main point was that each one of us should and in fact has the ability to control our own Brain instead of letting it control us emotionally and physically. A person can at will lead the brain to focus on happy positive issues, conditions, or ideas and practice it repeatedly. The brain subsequently produces chemical effects that can help the person reduce anxiety and feel healthy and optimistic thus more capable in engaging others. Yes we are better persons when we are not under stress. Why not try this “Think kind and Be kind, Feel good and Be good” practice, and let Friendship THRIVE for a BETTER WORLD ? !

(April 2013)

The author, an 80 year-old retired architect, is a founding director of The 1990 Institute and membership director of USCPFA-South Bay.

The Best Place for the Belle

Shihabur Rahman (Bangladesh)

When I first came to Beijing in March 2011 to work for China Radio International, the state-run multi-language radio station, I lacked enough knowledge about the present condition of the women in China. The perception that I had about the women in the world's most populous country were largely dominated by what I, like many other Bangladeshis, read in books during our young age. The books were mostly based on situation prevailing many years back and obviously devoid of the condition of today's China. The books focused more on imperial-era traditions, which bar the women from working outside their houses and having official positions, than on the progress that the country has attained in protection and promotion of women rights after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

But my perception started to change fast from the very first day of my coming to China. To my utter surprise, I saw that male journalists at our Bengali department of the radio station were distinctively outnumbered by females. I later discovered that same was the case in almost each of the over 60 language departments. And I continue to discover through my visits to shops, department stores, banks, restaurants and many other establishments that the women are not lagging even one step behind the males; rather they are leav-

ing the males behind in many sectors. I find most of the shops here are run by women and department store staff members are dominated by them.

Most of the credit for the success goes to the government, which has made great efforts to achieve a high level of economic status and liberty for the women. Thanks to the efforts, now officially Chinese women account for over 44 percent of the country's workforce. It is surprising to many how China has attained such women advancement and male-female equality at workplace despite having the history where it was unimaginable for a Chinese woman to hold any official positions only six decades back.

Well, let us have a look on the history to know how it has been possible. The history of new China, that is the People's Republic of China, says that the women started to be involved in nation-building efforts — initially through manual labour for farming and for urban industrialisation — from the beginning of Chairman Mao Zedong's leadership in 1949. The leader, who made his famous observation that “women hold up half the sky” to project importance of the females, is considered by many the father of Chinese feminism. At the beginning of his government, a complete ban was put on foot binding, which prevented the women from doing any sorts of physi-

cal labour.

As the women started to engage in hard work, the government began to provide them with access to education and politics in exchange, apart from monetary compensation. Now the Chinese women receive the same amount of money as the men do for the same amount of work. According to government version, the percentage of girls attending school already neared hundred percent three years back from now, compared to below 20 percent before the foundation of the People's Republic (*China Daily's* report published on November 5, 2009).

Safety and security of the women in China is another aspect that deserves great acclaim. It is rarely heard that any woman has been violated or abused anywhere in the country, which has an over 1.344 billion population, 22.4 percent of the world's total. How much safety and security the Chinese women are enjoying is well evident through their scare-free movement across Beijing and elsewhere in the country. As a subway commuter, I see how rush of passengers the metro experienced every day, particularly just before the office time in the morning and after the offices and business establishment start closing in the afternoon. Every train becomes so jam-packed that most of the passengers standing find it very difficult even to place their feet. But I

have never seen or heard of any case of harassing or teasing females by their male co-passengers. Let alone harassment, no man even gazes at women in a way that can make them feel embarrassed.

Even at night, the women here are as safe as during the daytime. On many occasions I saw, through the windows of my road-side apartment, girls strolling on the street alone at dead of night without any fear in their gestures. It is quite unimaginable in most of the countries on the globe. The situation is like this not only for the Chinese people; foreign people alike enjoy the same safety and security. My experiences can substantiate the claim. I roamed with my female friend around China – from suburban villages to solitary mountains, from unknown localities to crowded sea beach – but found nobody even to ask a question out of ill intention. When we strolled on the lonely footpaths or on the beach at night, we forgot to be scared of security. We do not get this sense of security from anyone's word; rather it was from the situation that prevails.

One Bangladeshi-born American artist was once telling me, while visiting Beijing, that the United States could envy China for the safety and security of the women. That was a very objective observation. I only wish to add some points to it: China deserves jealousy for its success in women liberty and freedom too. And Nations across the globe should learn from China how it has attained this success and made the country a heaven for the women only in six decades' efforts. ■

A Japanese War Veteran's Ties with China

—On Japanese Friend Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki

Liu Pu, Chen Qiang



Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki

Forward

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of friendship-city relations between Jinan of China and Wakayama in Japan, the first foreign entity to have had such ties with Jinan. In this regard, a very special person stands out: a soldier during China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression who helped bring about this particular friendship-city relationship and open the way for people-to-people friendship between the two countries.

He was also one of the prototypes of the Japanese soldier Kadokawa in

the film *Nanjing!Nanjing!* directed by Lu Chuan. It is now 72 years since he escaped from the Japanese army because he could not bear to see the atrocities being committed against the Chinese people; and over that time, he gave up many opportunities to return to Japan and reunite with his family. Instead, he did his best to provide free medical treatment to people in Jinan and with a heart of penance and redemption — although as an army doctor he stayed in the barracks and never fired a shot — dedicated his life to people-to-people friendly interactions between China

and Japan.

He has moved Jinan residents throughout that period by his whole-hearted medical services to its people. His name? Hiroshi Yamasaki, the last soldier of the Japanese invasion army remaining in China.

On December 1, 2010, the 102-year-old Yamasaki passed away peacefully in Jinan. His body, according to his last wishes, was donated to the School of Medicine of Shandong University through the Red Cross Society of Jinan. He was the first foreign friend to do so in Shandong.

From his legendary experiences, we see the evil nature of war, and at the same time marvel at the shining humanity transcending national boundaries and races. He conquered worldly discrimination and prejudices with his unconventionality and purity and become a model for opening the door for people-to-people friendly contact and friendship between China and Japan.

In January 1982, a joint government delegation of Shandong Province and Jinan City visiting Wakayama Prefecture and Wakayama City to promote the establishment of friendship-city/province relations



Bonds Started Here

At No. 67, Yingxiongshan Road, an ordinary apartment building in Jinan, we found a sign “Qilishan Clinic” written on a piece of yellow paper glued to a time-worn burglar-proof door. Pushing the door open gently, we entered. The room was not big, but full of light.

On one corner of the desk stood a framed picture of an old man, looking hale and hearty with an affable smile in seeming welcome to every visitor. This was Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki, known locally as “devil doctor” (the invading imperial soldiers were called “Japanese devils” in China).

When talking about him, we cannot help but reopen the history of Japan’s invasion of China. In 1937, when China groaned under the trampling feet of the Japanese aggressors, he, as a Japanese doctor of Chinese medicine, came into contact with China in an unexpected way and such contact lasted

for the rest of his life.

On November 25, 1908, Hiroshi Yamasaki was born into a doctor’s family in Okayama Prefecture. From his great grandfather onwards there had been three generations in the family practicing Chinese medicine. His mother died when he was one year old and he was brought up by his older brother and sister.

He studied medicine in a hospital of Japan’s Red Cross Society when he was a teenager and later became a well-known doctor of Chinese medicine in the locality. Curing the sickness to save the patient had been his dream and also his mission as a doctor.

In July 7, 1937, the Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) Incident on the outskirts of Beijing shocked the world. In that year, the 29-year-old Hiroshi Yamasaki was compelled to go to China as an army doctor, leaving his peaceful hometown where grapes grew in profusion. He did not know what he was going to do in China, but understood that if he refused, he would be shot.

Once in China, the dreadful sights he saw along the way shocked him: dense smoke from roaring guns, the clank of knives and swords, countless Chinese families broken up and their members killed because of war. He loathed this brutal “sacred war” (in Japanese eyes) and could not come to terms with this sudden change of his role from saving people’s lives to killing. Late one night in April, 1938, risking his life, he escaped. The only thought he had in his mind was to get to the tip of the Shandong peninsular where he hope to board a ship for Japan. He did not dare to talk to anyone on his escape route and nobody ever

doubted that this ragged and unkempt man could be a Japanese soldier.

Penniless, he begged his way from Hebei Province to Henan Province, and then to Jinan City in Shandong Province and settled down there. Later whenever he was asked why he had come to Shandong, he would reply, "People here were nice, giving me food and water, and it was closer to home from here, and I wanted to go back home."

The war, however, went on for years and the fact that he was a deserter made him give up the idea of going home. In the years that followed, he hid his identity and got a job as a keeper in the materials depot of the Japanese-controlled "North China Transportation Department" in Jinan masquerading as a Japanese long-time resident of China.

Once, seeking to save the life of a Chinese co-worker, he was beaten black and blue by a Japanese squadron leader and was locked up, narrowly escaping death. Later, recalling the incident he said: "People of Jinan are my benefactors. I will never let them fall into the hands of the Japanese army. I only suffered the pain of my flesh, but if I betrayed them, the pain inside me will kill me."

After Japan surrendered in August 1945, Japanese living in China, including members of the Anti-War League of Japanese in China, were repatriated. Hiroshi Yamasaki was resolute in his decision to stay in the country so that he could do something to express his gratitude for the Chinese people and atone for the crimes committed by the Japanese militarists.

He opened a clinic in his capacity as a member of the International



Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki seeing a young patient

Red Cross Society and with his medical skills offered free treatment to poor people. In this way he eased his feeling of deep guilt and consoled those who suffered from the wounds of war.

Mr. Li Baosheng, a neighbor of Dr. Yamasaki, visited the clinic whenever he got ill as a child. He learned from his parents that during the "difficult period" from 1959 to 1961 when there was great famine, the doctor would not charge for his services even it meant starvation for himself. He often said: "It doesn't matter if you call me Japanese or Chinese. Nothing is more important than to serve the people whole-heartedly, which is the greatest virtue."

Li Baosheng's grandson also sought treatment from Dr. Yamasaki. Whenever a child needed an injection, he would always play with the youngster first and gave a quick shot before the child could realize it. He would tell the parents how to take care of the child after the treatment.

"Dr. Yamasaki had high medical skills," said his colleague Liu Motong. "He treated his patients as his kins-

folk and went out of his way to meet their needs without thought of personal gains and losses." Liu recalled the remote village of Liangzhuang by the mountain where wolves could be spotted from time to time. In those years when people from that area took their children to see Dr. Yamasaki for emergency treatment in the evenings, he would escort them home with a flashlight afterwards.

Guo Huayong from Jinan University, the four generations of whose family had been treated by Dr. Yamasaki, held him in high esteem. "Dr. Yamasaki did his work quietly. He came into the public view only after a newspaper report on him a couple of years before his death. He always believed that to do more good for the Chinese people was a way of repentance. Though he has gone, his high medical ethics have remained. Whenever thinking of him a feeling of warmth rises up inside us."

"The Entrance to the Great Way" Is Open

After the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and

Japan, Dr. Yamasaki went back to Japan in 1976 to visit his family for the first time. Stepping onto the soil of his hometown after 40 years and seeing his elder brother and sister and the tombstone his brother had erected for him several decades ago, many emotions welled up in him.

Reading the time-worn inscription on the tombstone, their eyes were blurred with tears. His Japanese family found a well-paid position for him in a local hospital and arranged everything for him to settle in Japan; however, Yamasaki expressed his determination to return to China. He said: "As the moon has light, people have feelings. I must go back." Thus, after a stay of some 20 days, he bid farewell to his kinsfolk and returned to China.

With the development of friendly relations between China and Japan, Jinan and Wakayama City started to discuss twinning friendship-city ties in the early 1980s. However, the two sides differed greatly over the necessary procedures due to their cultural differences and the negotiation came to an impasse.

Mr. Yamasaki who was in Japan for a family visit learned about this. He immediately went to see Toshio Yamasaki, Chairman of the Wakayama Prefectural Assembly, to discuss the matter. He used his own experience in Jinan to strongly recommend the arrangement. Towards this end, he worked as a go-between shuttling between the two cities at his own expense.

He also wrote a letter to the then Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, expressing his desire to dedicate himself to promoting people-to-people friendship between China and Japan. Moved by his sincerity, the Prime Minister wrote an inscription for him: "No entrance to the Great Way."

On January 14, 1983, the signing ceremony was held at the city hall of Wakayama. Mr. Yamasaki went back to attend the ceremony. At the banquet marking the occasion, Chairman Toshio Yamasaki, Wakayama Mayor Shozo Ujita and Jinan Mayor Li Yuanrong together offered the first toast to him, expressing their gratitude for his "ice-breaking act" during the negotiations

and their appreciation of his unremitting efforts to promote the establishment of friendship ties.

After that, Mr. Yamasaki worked with great zeal to promote the friendly relations between Shandong Province and Wakayama Prefecture. In April 1984, accompanied by him, Shandong Governor Liang Buting visited Japan and signed the agreement on the establishment of friendship-province/prefecture relations between Shandong and Wakayama.

In the brightly-lit Assembly Hall, Wakayama Governor Shiro Kariya, handed a note of gratitude to Mr. Yamasaki in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the friendly relations between China and Japan. It was the 26th such note ever issued by the prefecture. He was also elected a council member of the Wakayama-Shandong Prefectural/Provincial Friendship Association. Thereafter, the septuagenarian became an envoy of friendly exchange and toiled for the growth of China-Japan friendly relations.

While Japanese war veterans who had got stuck in China gradually moved back to Japan because of their homesickness, Mr. Yamasaki settled down in Jinan and devoted his whole life to services to the people. In the history of contact between China and Japan, the contributions of Monk Jian Zhen's eastward voyage to Japan have been told for over a thousand years; and the story of our Japanese friend Hiroshi Yamasaki tells us that greatness grows out of ordinariness.

He used his whole life to atone for the crimes committed by the Japanese militarists and to express his gratitude to the Chinese people; he worked

Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki with his brother and sister and their families in Japan



as a people's envoy for Sino-Japanese friendship with sincerity and hard efforts. He said humbly, "no entrance to the Great Way' are words of encouragement from the Prime Minister, which means there is no ready entrance to the Great Way, having no predecessors and being unprecedented, but the entrance can be created. The Great Way can be learned, practiced and achieved."

The Last Atonement

In August 2003, the 95-year old Yamasaki was hospitalized. Then, he wanted to donate his body for medical research after his death, and filled an application form for body donation in April 2004. As there was no clause in the Shandong Provincial Regulation on Body Donation regarding the acceptance of foreigners' bodies, his application wasn't approved.

As unified State laws and regulations on body donation had not yet been enacted in China, there were only some regulations issued by local governments. Despite the complex procedures for body donation, the old man, firm in his resolve, would not give up and applied time and again. When the Foreign Affairs Office of the Jinan Municipal Government and the Jinan Municipal People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries learned about his wish, they designated staffers to take charge for the coordination.

After concerted efforts, Mr. Yamasaki's application was finally approved in November 2007, one year before the old man's birth centenary. Upon receiving the Donation Card and Certificate of Honor, he said happily, "The right of honor of laborers transcends national boundary. To serve the people whole-

heartedly is the highest virtue with no restraint of nationality."

On December 1, 2010, this legendary man who had experienced hardship of life closed his eyes forever, taking with him the love of his children and friends, his love for his native land, and his yearning for Sino-Japanese friendship. When sorting through his belongings, his daughter found a piece of paper with the words: "The last atonement of my life" signed on July 31, 2010.

After the body donation, the Red Cross Society of Jinan had his name inscribed on a special tombstone in the Fushouyuan Cemetery in Changqing District. Hiroshi Yamasaki, together with other body donors, rest in peace on the beautiful and serene hillside by the water. At every Qingming Festival (Tomb-Sweeping Day), staff of the Foreign Affairs Office of Jinan Municipal Government and the JMPAFFC will go to the cemetery to pay respect and remember this legendary man who had lived through a century and more in two countries.

An Extraordinary People's Envoy

Mr. Shi Wenliang who served as Deputy Secretary General of the Jinan Municipal Government and Director of its Foreign Affairs Office in the early 1980s was an old friend of Mr. Yamasaki. He participated in the negotiations for the establishment of friendship-city relations between Jinan and Wakayama and witnessed the signing of the agreement.

Today, this 83-year old man still remembers clearly how Mr. Yamasaki helped the two cities carry out exchanges. Besides promoting city-to-city



"The last atonement of my life" written by Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki when his application to donate his body for medical research after death had been approved

ties, Mr. Yamasaki also helped promote cooperation between Jinan Knitting Mill and Japan's Gunze Co. Ltd. The Japanese side supplied equipment such as weft knitting machines, bleaching machines, sewing machines, etc. with a value of US\$98,000 and sent four technicians to give technical support, while the Jinan Knitting Mill provided factory buildings, public facilities and workers. The project went into production in May 1982.

Its products were all sold in Japan. This was a successful case of compensation trade between China and Japan in the 1980s. The Jinan Knitting Mill through cooperation turned into a star enterprise of foreign exchange earning in the city then. The cooperation between the two sides has lasted till today.

Li Zhongxue, former director of Foreign Affairs Office of Jinan Municipi-

pal Government, recalled, since Jinan and Wakayama twinned friendship-city ties, exchanges increased markedly between Japan and Shandong Province and Jinan City. Whenever delegations from the prefecture or city of Wakayama came for a visit, Hiroshi Yamasaki would take part in the reception, and even acted as interpreter.

He played a valuable role in coordination with the Japanese side, helping Jinan to win over projects, funds and technology. In the middle of 1980s, automatic glove knitting machines were introduced from Simatsu Manufacturing of Wakayama City to Jinan Knitting Mill, and sueding machines from Japan to the No.1 Dyeing and Printing Mill of Jinan.

During the talks for introducing the equipment, Mr. Yamasaki helped clinch the deal at half the price. In those years of extreme shortage of funds, he saved for China quite a lot of foreign exchange. Li Zhongxue also

The Foreign Affairs Office of the Jinan Municipal Government holding a centenary birthday party for Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki on December 28, 2007



remembered, after the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, the Japanese Government provided financial support for all the Japanese veterans staying in China to visit Japan.

He also donated the total sum of living subsidies the Japanese Government had given him for the duration of his stay in China and the remainder of the traveling expenses to Jinan Jingwulu Primary School. At that time he didn't even have a decent house.

He explained that he enjoyed his life and wouldn't want to put the government to any trouble. Taking into consideration of the actual condition of his family and to express gratitude to him for his efforts to promote exchanges between Jinan and Wakayama, an apartment unit was allocated to him. It houses the Qilishan Clinic and is where he and his family have been living.

After the catastrophic earthquake hit Wenchuan of Sichuan Province, he immediately made donations to the disaster area. He often said, "Japan should take some of the blame for poverty and backwardness in China. Therefore, it should give more assistance to the country. China and Japan must strengthen economic exchanges. They should discard previous grievances to develop friendly relations so that war would never be fought again. This is what our generation must do. We must set a good example for the next generation. Children are the future of China-Japan friendship."

Mr. Yamasaki won people's respect with his deeds. On December 30, 2007, a birthday party to mark his centenary, hosted by Li Min, Director of Jinan Foreign Affairs Office and Li

Zhongxue, President of the JMPAFFC, was held in Jinan. In a warm and friendly atmosphere and amid the singing of *Happy Birthday*, a big birthday cake on a tea trolley was pushed to the center of the hall.

In the light of the candles, the old man with tears in his eyes said with emotion that it was the first grand birthday party he had ever had, especially one held in a foreign country, which he had never dreamed of. He expressed his gratitude to the government and people of Jinan for accepting him and to the Foreign Affairs Office and the JMPAFFC for their profound friendship, and pledged to continue his role of friendship envoy between the Chinese and Japanese people and contribute his bit to the development of Jinan in the remaining years of his life.

In recognition of his contributions, both China and Japan conferred on him many honors including Shandong Person of the Year for 2009, the Prime Minister's Award of Japan, and Persons of the Year Who Have Moved Jinan in 2010.

Mr. Hiroshi Yamasaki was an ordinary man who treated his patients with a benevolent heart. He was also a great man who left a significant page in the annals of China-Japan friendship. He had dedicated his life to the friendly exchanges between the people of China and Japan and proved with his deeds 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 was a true "people's ambassador". Where there was great love, there was his "home". ■