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Front cover: Li Xiaolin, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

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Create New Glory on Achievements of Past 60 Years

—In Commemoration of CPAFFC's 60th Anniversary

Li Xiaolin

As 2014, a year of hope and expectations, approaches, we are filled with joy and excitement to greet the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). Looking back at the brilliant course over the past six decades, we are full of pride; looking into the future of people-to-people diplomacy, we are determined to continue the good work and achieved new glory.

Carrying on Its Mission of Making Friends

On May 3, 1954, in accordance with the principle of "placing hope on the people" in New China's diplomatic work put forward by Chairman Mao Zedong and on the initiative of Premier Zhou Enlai, a brand-new organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy—the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (assuming its present name in 1969)—was founded with its sacred mission of "making friends for the country".

Over the past 60 years, it has received great attention and care from successive Party and State leaders and the enthusiastic participation and sup-

port from friendship organizations and personages at home and abroad in its people-to-people diplomatic work. Holding high the banner of "Friendship, Cooperation, Peace and Development", several generations of CPAFFC workers have made friends extensively in the international arena, sowed the seeds of friendship in the hearts of the people of many countries, and spread the hymn of peace to every corner of the five continents. Through its hard work of the past six decades, it has made innumerable international friends who support China's construction and development; through unremitting efforts, it has made indelible contributions to the country's people-to-people diplomacy.

Great Results from Hard Work of 60 Years

The 60 years of the CPAFFC are years of reaping friendship, years of furthering cooperation, years of advocating peace and years of promoting harmony.

Up to now, the CPAFFC has established friendly and cooperative relations with nearly 500 non-governmental organizations and institutions in 157 countries and set up friendship associations with 46 countries and regions. This has laid a strong foundation, in-

jecting vitality and deepening the connotation for State relations.

Through the efforts of the past 40 years, the work of international friendship cities under the CPAFFC's coordination has made great headway. Now, more than 2,000 cities in China's 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have established friendship-city/province ties with their counterparts in 131 countries, providing a solid and broad bridge of communication and cooperation between local governments of China and other countries.

Every year, the CPAFFC receives about 3,000 person/time visitors from about 130 countries, sends more than 2,000 people on friendly visit to 60-odd countries, and organizes nearly 100 large-scale activities in an effort to let the world have an objective understanding of China and the Chinese people have a rational look at the world, thus playing a key role in the country's public diplomacy.

The CPAFFC, together with more than 300 local friendship associations in China, have made contributions to the country's overall diplomacy, the development of the motherland and world peace, and injected positive energy to the creation of a good international

environment for China's reform and opening up.

A New Starting Point for Greater Goals

On May 15, 2014, the CPAFFC will host activities in celebration of its 60th anniversary. It will invite Chinese and foreign friends of various circles who have cared for and supported its work over the years to participate in the activities. Together we will review the course the CPAFFC has traversed, talk about friendship between the Chinese and other people, and express our appreciation for the great support given to us by people of various sectors both at home and abroad. The CPAFFC will take the 60th anniversary as an opportunity to carry forward its fine tradition, be creative in its work and make new achievements in fulfilling its mission. It will use the 60th anniversary as a new historical starting point to continue its efforts to uphold the banners of friendship and cooperation and add a new glorious chapter to the annals of people-to-people friendship between China and other countries for realizing the goals set for the Party and the People's Republic's centenaries and the Chinese dream of great national renewal. ■

Seventh China-Spain Forum Held in Beijing

Wu Wei



Main speakers of the plenary meeting of CSF's Economic Committee

The seventh China-Spain Forum (CSF) sponsored by the CPAFFC was held in Beijing on September 12. With the theme of "40 Years of China-Spain Relations — Reviewing the Past, Meeting the Challenges and Looking Forward to the Future", the meeting focused on using the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations to consolidate friendship, enhance mutual trust, expand consensus and deepen cooperation and open up new channels and fields for cooperation.

Among more than 500 people present were Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC); Ma Biao, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative

Conference (CPPCC); Uyunqing, former Vice Chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee and Chairperson of the CSF Chinese Committee; Miao Xu, Minister of Industry and Information Technology; Li Xiaolin, CPAFFC President; Xie Hangsheng, Vice Foreign Minister; Meng Xiaosi, Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation; Pedro Solbes, Chairman of the CSF Spanish Committee and former Deputy Prime Minister of Spain; Jose Manuel Soria, Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism; Gonzalo de Benito, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Juan Llado, President of the Council of Spanish-Chinese Foundation; and Manuel Valencia Alonso, Spanish Ambassador to China.

CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping

presided over the opening ceremony, after which plenary sessions on economic cooperation and local cooperation, and six sub-committee round-tables were held.

The plenary meeting on economic cooperation, “Spanish and Chinese Enterprises: Global Cooperative Partners under the New International Economic Model”, was co-chaired by Jaime Garcia Legaz, Secretary of State for Trade of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, and CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping. Li Jinzao, Vice Minister of Commerce addressed representatives from some 200 famous Chinese and Spanish enterprises. Zhang Hongli, Vice President of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China; Bai Haibo, CEO of the HNA Hotel Group; Qu Wenchu, Senior Vice President of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.; Juan Rodriguez, consultant with the Santander Bank Ltd. of Spain; Jenaro Garcia Martin, President and CEO of Company GOWEX; and S. A. J. Jon Imaz, Director of Industrial Zone and New Energy Division of REPSOL, spoke on behalf of their respective enterprises.

Everyone agreed that, over the past four decades, bilateral trade has experienced sustained and rapid growth and two-way investment has increased continuously, with the fields of investment further expanded and cooperation in many fields deepened. They discussed how Chinese and Spanish enterprises as global cooperative partners could employ their advantages for common development under the changing global trade environment and make efforts to win more cooperation opportunities and expand into new markets.

During the forum, ICBC, a leading Chinese commercial bank, and Santander Bank reached a cooperation agreement.

The CSF Local Government Committee, set up in 2010, successfully built a platform for local governments to enhance mutual understanding and exchanges. To accommodate the needs of rapid urbanization in China and exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Spanish cities, a round-table meeting on local cooperation was expanded to a plenary meeting hosted solely by the CPAFFC.

The meeting on “Comprehensive and Sustainable Development of Cities” aimed to boost inter-city cooperation, promote the sharing of experiences in pursuit of sustained and efficient development, encourage the application of new technologies benefiting social and economic development, and analyzed the existing effective mechanism in coordination and cooperation between localities and cities.

Inigo de la Serna, President of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and Mayor of Santander, and the mayors of Valladolid and Villafranca de los Barros were present. Liu Shuguang, Mayor of Weifang, Yang Shihao, Deputy Chief of the Tianjin Binhai New Area, and Zhu Aixun, Vice Mayor of Wuxi, also spoke at the meeting that drew more than 50 people from provincial, regional, municipal people’s associations for friendship with foreign countries and foreign affairs offices.

Participants fully exchanged views on how to implement rational planning, reduce emissions and occupancy of land used for environment,

improve the overall environment, develop energy-saving and environment-friendly transportation and new alternative energies, and respond to the needs of residents in the process of city development.

They all agreed there were many opportunities for cooperation in the city development. The meeting helped bring local leaders and entrepreneurs of the two countries together to explore some innovative schemes to solve the developmental difficulties confronting cities. Through the forum they hoped to find specific projects in the fields of science and technology and environmental protection so as to promote common development and bring benefit to the people of cities of both countries.

Six round-table meetings on law, tourism, language, gender equality, education and food were held. Of them the meetings on language and food were held for the first time. In order to make the contents of the discussions more target-oriented, Chinese and Spanish organizers set topics for discussion and provided a brief explanation of the topics to further define the scope and focus of the discussion. In the spirit of “seeking actual results by holding short meetings and making short speeches”, the six round-tables, each lasting 75 minutes, were held simultaneously. After each short speech, the participants interacted with the speaker. The meetings achieved good results in a lively atmosphere.

A reception in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of China-Spain diplomatic ties was held on the evening of September 12 after the forum concluded. ■

City Development in a Global Context

—2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum

Liu Yan

The 2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum co-sponsored by the CPAFFC, the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) and the People's Government of Jilin Province was held in the provincial capital of Changchun from September 6 to 7.

It attracted over 400 participants, including 93 local government officials, heads of local government organizations and city associations from 20 countries, along with 227 representatives of Chinese local governments including 17 mayors and 56 heads of foreign affairs offices from 23 provinces and 70 cities. There were also 54 representatives from Chinese and foreign businesses.

Wang Rulin, Secretary of Jilin Provincial CPC Committee, and Ba-yanqolu, Governor of Jilin Province, met with the principal foreign participants. Li Xiaolin, President of the CPAFFC and CIFCA; Chen Weigen, Deputy Governor of Jilin; Andrey Denisov, Russian Ambassador to China; Choi Moon-soon, Governor of Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea; and Karoly Takacs, Mayor of Oroszlanyi of Hungary, spoke at the opening ceremony.

Within the forum's general framework of "city development in the global context — changing the growth model, adjusting economic structure and promoting development", key participants spoke on such topics as China's urbanization requires global perspective and

experience, urban economic development and urban planning in the era of globalization, and the overall functions and orientation of cities. The forum enabled attendees to gain an in-depth understanding of new changes and new characteristics of the international environment, as well as promoting scientific city development and boosting pragmatic cooperation between cities of different countries.

In his meeting with the principal foreign participants, Wang Rulin said that to advance urbanization actively yet prudently was an important strategic task in China's endeavor to build an all-round, moderately prosperous society and realize modernization as well as an inevitable trend of the economic

The main venue of the 2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum



and social development. Since 2011, the One Hundred Cities Forum (the predecessor of China International Cities Cooperation Forum) had made achievements in summarizing experience of Chinese and foreign cities in urbanization and the modernization and internationalization of future cities.

Jilin should earnestly learn from the successful experience and good practices of those at the forum and strive to blaze a way of urbanization tallying with local conditions and with its own characteristics.

In her speech at the opening ceremony Li Xiaolin said: “Up to now, China has formed 2,022 pairs of friendship cities (provinces/states) with 131 countries. Friendship cities had become a principal channel for carrying out exchanges and cooperation in all fields. International friendship-city activities play an irreplaceable important role in China’s modernization drive and have far-reaching impact on promoting urbanization and local development in the country.”

“China which is at an important stage of urbanization and a critical moment of economic upgrading and social transformation, has a huge potential and great space for development. We are under enormous pressure in our development and confronted with ‘two unprecedented factors’, the first being a country with a population of 1.3 billion striving to achieve modernization, and the second the difficulties encountered in the modernization process to protect the environment and conserve resources to achieve

green development.”

She put forward three proposals for pressing ahead with green development, putting people first and deepening international cooperation. Friendship-city activities should take urbanization as a new platform and a new bright spot for practical cooperation.

Russian Ambassador Andrey Denisov said the forum held as an international event for the first time reflected its significance. His country placed particular importance on developing regional cooperation including exchanges and cooperation between the border areas of Russia and China.

The choice of Changchun, located near Russia, was also significant. China and Russia conducted a large scale regional cooperation exemplified by 203 pairs of friendship cities. He hoped the two countries would continuously seek cooperation opportunities and jointly create a better future on the basis of deepened exchanges between them.

To promote practical cooperation, sub-sessions and presentations of international city projects were also held at the forum, exploring such topics as sustainable development in creating new-type urbanization, the role of intelligent environmental protection in urbanization, etc.

At these meetings, Chinese and foreign experts on urban studies, government officials and entrepreneurs shared their views, studied existing problems and trends in urbanization, and considered the strategic direction for sustainable development of cities in the future. ■

The Forum on China-Japan Agricultural Exchange and Cooperation was held in Beijing on September 10. It was jointly sponsored by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA), Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and the Keizai Koho Center (KKC) to promote friendly exchanges and practical cooperation in agriculture on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

The more than 100 participants were experts and scholars in agriculture, and representatives of relevant organizations and enterprises from both China and Japan.

CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan’s Meeting

On the morning of September 10, CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan met with Muneo Kurauchi, Head of the Planning Department of the JBF Committee on China and Senior Managing Executive Officer of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, and other principal Japanese participants. Also present was CJFA Vice President Wang Xiuyun.

Tang noted that bilateral exchanges in various fields had been seriously affected since the implementation of the so-called “nationalization” of the Diaoyu Islands by the Japanese government.

The CJFA and JBF signed an agreement on friendly exchanges and cooperation in November 2012 with the aim of giving impetus to the development of Sino-Japanese relations through people-to-people contact so

Forum on China-Japan Agricultural Exchange And Cooperation Held in Beijing

Wang Lei

that they would return to the track of normal development.

Under this framework, the two sides successfully organized the Seminar on Sino-Japanese Relations in Tokyo in March as well as the agricultural exchange and cooperation forum. These activities would enhance mutual understanding and trust and have practical significance, he said.

Tang said that, in times of difficulties in Sino-Japanese relations, non-governmental organizations of the two countries should uphold their belief in friendship and work in a persistent and down-to-earth way to promote exchanges and cooperation in economy, trade, culture, local government, youth and other areas.

By bringing into full play their role of “promoting official ties through people-to-people contact” and “promoting political relations through economic and trade contact”, they could inject positive energy into Sino-Japanese friendship and improve relations.

Although China had made tremendous achievements in agriculture since the reform and opening up, it still had a long way to go to achieve modernization in agriculture.

China’s new leadership had stressed on many occasions that the country would advance towards its goal of industrialization, information-



CJFA President Tang Jiaxuan meeting with Muneo Kurauchi, Head of the Planning Department of the JBF Committee on China

ization, urbanization and agricultural modernization (the “new four modernizations”). It would deepen reform and opening up to achieve greater economic development, and this would provide many new opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

Tang noted that China and Japan had a long history of agricultural exchanges and cooperation. These had intensified since the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Japan’s advanced technology, experience and ideas had played an important role in China’s agricultural development.

He hoped that the two sides would take the forum as an opportunity to summarize the fruitful results of

bilateral agricultural exchanges, adapt themselves to new situations, explore innovative ideas and discuss how to use scientific methods to promote greater progress.

Mr. Kurauchi said the Sino-Japanese relationship was one of the most important bilateral relationships of all for Japan. Being the world’s second and third largest economies, it was of great importance for the development and prosperity of Asia and the world that China and Japan should strengthen friendly cooperation in various fields.

Agriculture was a major area concerning national life and the two countries were confronted with some pressing problems. The two sides, being

highly complementary in agriculture, should enhance mutually beneficial cooperation and work to achieve common development.

On the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and China, the JBF was willing to take the opportunity to strengthen communication and cooperation with the CJFA and other relevant organizations in China and carry out more grassroots-oriented friendly exchanges to enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

The Forum

The forum on China-Japan Agricultural Exchange and Cooperation with the theme of “Prospects of Cooperation in Agriculture” aimed to increase mutual understanding, strengthen bilateral pragmatic cooperation and open up more cooperation channels to realize complementary advantages and mutually beneficial results.

CJFA Vice President Wang Xiuyu and Mr. Kurauchi both addressed the forum. Wang Xiuyun said agriculture

had been a major component of bilateral cooperation. The two countries had made remarkable achievements in agricultural exchanges and cooperation, playing a positive role in the development of bilateral friendly relations.

China and Japan enjoyed natural advantages and a long history of agricultural cooperation. They had broad common interests and vast space for cooperation. She hoped that the forum would promote further pragmatic exchanges and deepen and expand cooperation in agriculture.

Kurauchi said bilateral economic and trade exchanges and cooperation at the people-to-people level had become increasingly important. He hoped forum participants would have an in-depth discussion to promote further agricultural exchanges and cooperation.

Well-known Chinese and Japanese experts and scholars in agriculture and business representatives including Bian Zhenhu, President of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-Products, Zeng Yin-

chu, professor of Remin University, Teng Rengui, Deputy Director of the Management Committee of Dalian’s Jinzhou New Area, Shinichi Shogenji, professor of Nagoya University, Kenji Someno, research fellow of the Tokyo Foundation, and Yoshiyuki Shimizu, Director and Senior Managing Executive Officer of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., discussed enthusiastically the agricultural policies of the two countries, trade of agricultural products, investment and technical cooperation in agriculture and relevant fields, and other topics of common concern, and reached consensus.

The forum hosted by the CPAFFC and the JBF was a new attempt to promote pragmatic bilateral cooperation and it achieved complete success. The two sides had a frank, pragmatic and fruitful discussion, of not only practical significance to better carry out bilateral exchanges and cooperation in agriculture, but also set a good example for efforts to promote early improvement of the bilateral relations at the non-governmental and economic levels. ■

Chief speakers at the forum



Governor Brown Revisits China After 27 Years

Zhang Heqiang

“California is the largest state in America, facing China, and conducts the most frequent exchanges with it. I hope California can build a bridge of friendship across the Pacific Ocean between the United States and China,” said Premier Li Keqiang in his meeting with state governor Jerry Brown at Zhongnanhai on April 11.

He also expressed a wish that California could play a leading role in promoting exchanges and cooperation between states (provinces) and cities of the U. S. and China.

Governor Brown, once the youngest and now the most senior holder of the position in US history last visited China 27 years ago. The 75-year-old Governor led a trade delegation of more than 100 members who visited Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen between April 8 and 16.

This action alone fully shows that the CEO of the 9th largest economy of the world (California’s GDP in 2012 approximated US\$2 trillion) and the most innovative state of America attaches great importance to the fast-growing Chinese market.

Governor Brown said California had unique strength in agriculture, information technology, medicine, clean energy, high education and scientific innovations while China possessed a



Premier Li Keqiang meeting with Californian Governor Jerry Brown

rapidly growing economy, dynamic market and bountiful talents. If China and California could join hands and cooperate, it would create unlimited business opportunities and bring benefits to both sides. It was safe for China to invest in California. “Together we can overcome all difficulties, and we can move mountains,” he said.

On the issue of how to look at the proposed collaboration, he was full of expectation. His weeklong schedule in China was very tight, and his diligent and down-to-earth work style resulted in a rich harvest. In addition to winning high-level support like the meeting with Premier Li Keqiang, Governor Brown

paid visits to the Minister of Commerce, the Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and the Minister of Environmental Protection, and signed cooperation agreements or memoranda of understanding.

For example, he signed the MOU on the Establishment of the Chinese Provinces and California Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation. An official of the Ministry of Commerce said that, with the aim of promoting mutual investment and trade between Chinese provinces/cities and foreign states/cities, the agreement with California was the first of its kind.

Wherever he went, Governor

Brown was accorded a high-level reception. Han Zheng, Party Chief of Shanghai, Luo Zhijun, Party Chief of Jiangsu Province, Hu Chunhua and Zhu Xiaodan, Party Chief and Governor of Guangdong Province, held a meeting or a banquet to welcome the delegation.

Governor Brown's visit was highly focused and rewarding. In Shanghai, he presided over an unveiling ceremony for the Californian Trade and Investment Office in China. In Nanjing, he identified the exchange and cooperation projects for the next stage with Jiangsu Province, California's sister province in China.

In Shenzhen, Governor Brown paid a special visit to the BYD Company. Thanks to the in-depth cooperation with BYD, he became more confident in achieving his goal of increasing renewable energy share from 23% to 30%, and raising the electric automobile ownership to a million in California by 2020.

Accompanying Governor Brown, the 100-odd delegates made full use of the opportunity and held many business meetings and talks. Many deals were

sealed and letters of intent signed, translating into reality the Governor's election pledges of increasing employment and creating win-win opportunities.

Returning after 27 years, Governor Brown sang praises of the high buildings, wide streets and an atmosphere of fashion and vigor in the large cities. What struck the Governor even more was the moment when he and his delegation took bullet train rides from Beijing to Shanghai, and then on to Nanjing. It took only five hours thirty minutes to get to Shanghai from Beijing, and only 90 minutes from Shanghai to Nanjing. He was amazed at the speed and comfort of Chinese high-speed train, and impressed by groups of high rises and modern plants flashing by before his eyes.

Not only did Governor Brown return home with fruitful results in trade and business contracts, but he also forged a profound friendship with Chinese leaders both at the central and local government levels. He will not forget the cordial talk with China's new premier, the youthful and dynamic Premier Li Keqiang, and the exchange of

gifts with him.

He will not forget that, while he was still in Guangdong Province, President Xi Jinping especially entrusted a friend to convey his kind regards to the Governor and his wife, welcoming them to visit China again. He will not forget the welcoming banquet hosted by CPAFFC President Mme. Li Xiaolin.

Governor Brown was so busy during his stay in China. Nonetheless, he did not forget to show his care for the Chinese with him on his tour. I myself accompanied the Governor throughout his trip on behalf of the CPAFFC. The Governor courteously called me "Mr. Friendship".

He and his wife signed on the book I happened to bring with me as a souvenir. This was an evidence of the title of "Mr. Friendship" he had especially conferred on me, and gave full expression to the fact that Governor Brown cherished friendly sentiment for ordinary Chinese and that he recognized the service I provided to ensure the success of his mission to China.

Governor Brown returned home via Hong Kong after visiting Shenzhen. His off-the-cuff speaking style on all occasions allowed us to appreciate a statesman's elegant demeanor, who was elected Californian Governor three times, Mayor of Oakland twice, and campaigned for Democratic Presidential nomination three times.

In his meeting with Premier Li Keqiang, he said he would employ oriental wisdom in his efforts to win the Californian gubernatorial election next year, and become the longest serving governor in US history. ■

The writer of the article with Governor Jerry Brown and his wife



Friendship Spanning Two Centuries Between China and Canada

Shu Zhang

Xinchang, in Dayi County of Chengdu, Sichuan Province, is a beautiful town with quaint residential houses, winding corridors, verdant trees, stone bridges and rippling streams. In June, it greeted a 26-member delegation of descendants of Canadian friends on a “home coming” visit, the fifth of its kind.

The Chinese and Canadian Governments designated 2013 as the China-Canada Year of Culture to deepen mutual understanding between the two peoples and enhance friendship.

This included “Welcoming Canadian Friends Returning Home” and the opening ceremony of the Museum of Old Historical Photos on June 11 in Xinchang, jointly sponsored by the Si-

chuan Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), the Chengdu Municipal People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CMPAFFC), the Dayi County Committee of the CPC, Dayi County Government, the Canadian Embassy in China and the Canadian Consulate General in Chongqing; it was supported by the CPAFFC and the China Society for People’s Friendship Studies (CSPFS).

The opening ceremony was held in the square in front of the museum. Sarah Taylor, Minister-Counselor of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing, and her party and representatives of the CSPFS and the Beijing Peace World Painting and Calligraphy Academy attended the

ceremony.

Fu Yonglin, Vice Mayor of Chengdu, and Chen Lizhang, County Magistrate of Dayi, as well as many Xinchang residents warmly welcomed the Canadian friends. It was a very warm day with bright sunshine, but what warmed people even more was the deep friendship that emerged.

The people of Xinchang performed traditional programs such as Yao-mei (youngest sister) lantern dance, Niuer (calf) lantern dance, lion lantern dance, dragon dance and folk wedding ceremony, and also presented dough figurines, sugar paintings and paper-cuts to visitors.

In 1891, several Canadians set out from Vancouver to cross the ocean on

The Canadian delegation in front of the Museum of Old Historical Photos





Having a picture taken in front of the exhibition board

a long journey to Sichuan Province to run hospitals and schools and disseminate modern civilization. Their children and even grandchildren who were born and grew up in Sichuan continued to engage in medical, educational and charitable work and forged profound friendship with the Chinese people.

Among them were Dr. O. L. Kilborn, C.W. Service and Ashley Woodward Lindesay, who set up schools and hospitals, bringing advanced science and technology to China. There were also James Endicott, Earl Willmott and William Small, who went deep among the Chinese people, understood and sympathized with them and supported their War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the cause of liberation.

They were cordially received by Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and other Chinese leaders of the older generation, and some, including Endicott and Willmott, received the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador by the CPAFFC. Among the members of this delegation were two granddaughters of Endicott and a granddaughter of Willmott.

A century ago, these Canadians not only lived and worked in Sichuan, but also took a great number of photos that are now precious historical records for studying modern Chinese history. To preserve these memories, and to review the past to understand the present, the Dayi County Government built the Museum of Old Historical Photos. There are over 1,000 photographs on display and even the cameras they used.

The museum consists of an introduction hall and four sections. In the first section are photos showing the life and work of Canadians in Chengdu and how they traveled extensively around Sichuan to spread Western learning, disseminate modern civilization and set up the West China Hospital and the West China Union University.

In the second section are photos about the culture, history, local conditions and customs and natural landscape of old Chengdu, Dujianyan, and the upper reaches of the Minjiang. In the third section are photos of students of the Canadian School, offering education kindergarten to high school, first

built to solve the education problems of children of the Canadian volunteers in Sichuan. These photos show how the students studied in this special school, and the contributions to the development of Canada-China relationship made by them. The fourth section highlights how Chinese and Canadian volunteers underwent all kinds of difficulties and spent eight years to collect these old photos and organize the exhibition and “homecoming” activities.

The museum has not only recorded a century of the cultural exchanges between China and Canada, but also become a new tourist attraction in Xinchang.

Chen Lizhang said: “With the passing of time, memories have blurred, but the history is still clearly discernible. Three years ago, more than 500 old photos showing the history of that period found their ‘home’ in Xinchang at an exhibition, serving as a new bridge for promoting friendly exchanges between China and Canada and raising the level of our county’s opening up.

“In the past three years, the historic moments fixed in these black and white images and the touching stories behind them moved us deeply, as well as every visitor, and these stories will be told far and wide.”

He went on to say that only two days before, he received an autographed letter from the Mayor of Owen Sound, a city in Southwestern Ontario. The Mayor expressed her wish to establish friendly and cooperative ties with Dayi County. Owen Sound is a city where Dr. Norman Bethune, a legendary doctor who died in the course of treating wounded Red Army soldiers in

the 1930s, once studied and lived.

Phyllis Beverley Donaghy, daughter of Dr. Steward Allen, spoke on behalf of the delegation. She said, the members had been born in Chengdu, Chongqing, Zigong or Omei Mountain respectively, and there they had attended school and worked. The homecoming visit made them very excited.

Her parents came to Sichuan in 1929 with the hope of pursuing their dreams together with the Chinese people. They stayed for 22 years and contributed to China's health care undertaking. Even on his deathbed, her father had said how he missed China and never felt regret for his work and life in Sichuan.

This was the third time she had returned "home". She had seen for herself that the Chinese people and her Sichuan fellow-townfolk had not forgotten them, and the friendship was passed on from generation to generation. This would have been a great consolation to her late father.

In her speech at the museum's opening ceremony, Sarah Taylor extended her sincere thanks to the CPAFFC, SIFA and the CMPAFFC for their support to and organization of the activity, and to the Chinese volunteers for their years of effort and dedication to collecting the old photos and inviting Canadian friends to "return home". She stressed that friendly contacts between the people were most precious.

When looking at the old photos, Canadian volunteers recalled their happy childhood. Marion Walker, granddaughter of Dr. Kilborn, founder of the West China Hospital—China's first Western-style hospital—and the West China Union University, drew her

daughter Barbara Lyn Anderson to a faded old photo and pointed at a small girl in the photo, saying, "This is me. I was six years old at that time."

She told Wang Mingfeng, a correspondent of the overseas edition of the *People's Daily* standing beside her, that, "I brought my daughter 'home', hoping Canada-China friendship will pass on from generation to generation".

The granddaughter of Earl Willmott donated some old photos that had never been published.

The 97-year-old Isabel Crook, who has settled down in Beijing and who once taught in the Beijing Foreign Studies University, especially asked her sons Carl Crook and Michael Crook to present to the museum two books written by her about rural areas and farmers in northern China.

Marion Walker donated to the museum an oil painting *The Three Gorges of the Yangtze River* painted by her father, Lewis C Walmsley, the second principal of the Canadian School, in the 1930s.

Beth Leach, daughter of Professor A.F. Lutley, who worked in the West China Union University in the 1930s, donated a piece of well-preserved, exquisite hand-made embroidery of the Qing Dynasty.

David Spooner, son of Roy Spooner, once Dean of the Department of Chemistry of the West China Union University, donated a water color *Dinghy on the Water* painted by Mrs. Morse. He explained that Dr. and Mrs. William Reginald Morse came to China in 1914 and Dr. Morse had participated in the founding and developing the Medical School of the West China Union University and had worked there.

Later, he served as Dean of the Department of Medicine. Mrs. Morse was a painter and did many oil paintings. According to records, the couple left China in 1937 because of Dr. Morse's poor health. Mrs. Morse passed away in 1959.

David Spooner also donated to the museum a clay toy figurine of a Chi-

Canadian friends joining in the folk dance



nese boy in traditional costume of the 1930s. He said his father Roy Spooner and Mother Kathleen came to Chengdu in 1931 and his father taught chemistry in the West China Union University. He was born in Chengdu in 1933.

He talked about the special meaning of the figurine. “This figurine was made by Dr. Marion Manly. When I was a child, it was already at my home. Dr. Marion Manley was born into a missionary’s family in 1898. Her parents Wilson Manly and Florence Manly came to China in 1893.

“Dr. Marion Manly grew up in Sichuan. After finishing her study in medicine in the United States, she came back to Chengdu as a medical missionary in 1925. When she saw the backward state of obstetrics in Chengdu, she founded the first school of midwifery in Sichuan—Jinyi School of Midwifery in Chengdu in 1931. Due to the war, our family left China in 1945.

“Most of my memories about Dr. Marion Manly came from talks with my parents. My parents described her as a very skilled doctor, and a lady with gentle disposition and full compassion. From the figurine she gave to my parents, it can be seen that she was also an artist. My family, living whether in China or Canada, has always kept this figurine.

“When I thought of China and saw the figurine, I began to do some research on Dr. Marion Manly’s life and found there was a very touching story between her and an old Chinese man named Hu Zhongyi living in Chongqing. Mr. Hu was born in Jinyi School of Midwifery in 1939.

“Not long after this baby left the hospital, he suffered from pneumonia

and came back to the hospital for treatment. The baby’s illness grew worse. After the hospital treated him with the steam therapy, his condition began to take a favorable turn.

“But when a nurse was turning on the steam, an accident happened and the baby’s face was burnt and became deformed. Dr. Manly was shocked, and, to facilitate the treatment, she arranged for the baby’s parents to live with her in the hospital. She brought him up as her own son before he was discharged at the age of seven. You can read the book *My Memory of Dr. Marion Manly* written by Hu Zhongyi. I know that a friend of Mr. Hu has also written a book about Dr. Marion Manly *Mother of Myriads of Babies in Chengdu*.”

Many Canadian friends said they would continue to collect old photos, books and materials and donate them to the museum to make the museum become a window of cultural exchanges between China and Canada and a memorial hall with international influence.

David Crook said with emotion: “After seeing so many old photos that record that period of history in Xinchang, Dayi, I have learned more about the past and have become more interested in that period. These photos are older than me.”

“When I look at them, I seem to enter another world. I am happy that these old photos have ‘settled down’ in Xinchang and they have made this beautiful town our second home.”

Zhang Biao, chief adviser to the Old Photos Project Team and renowned calligrapher, said at the museum opening ceremony how much he was

touched by these old photos that inspired him to spare no effort to support the activity of collecting them.

Xiang Suzhen, a member of the team, gave a briefing about the preparations for the exhibition: “Nine years have passed since Robert Edmonds, who was born in Zigong, proposed to hold an exhibition of the old photos during his visit to Sichuan in 2004. Over the past years, led by the team’s chief adviser Zhang Biao and feeling obliged and moved by the old photos, we have held six exhibitions, among which three were held in Beijing, published a large album *Chengdu, My Home* and organized four ‘Canadian friends returning home’ activities.”

“As a non-government volunteer team, we feel proud to participate in this great cause of carrying forward China-Canada friendship. We are willing to continue to do our part.”

Fu Yonglin, Vice Mayor of Chengdu, said, “We government officials often mention the importance of people-to-people contacts. To me, the old photo project is an example. The project created by those Canadian and Chinese personages who are devoted to work and full of enthusiasm will exert huge positive impact on the relationship between our two countries.”

Thanks to the unremitting efforts made by volunteers of the two countries, the museum has been founded. It carries over a century of friendship between the Chinese and Canadian people. We sincerely congratulate Dayi County on building the museum and its farsighted pioneering work and hope that more entities of this kind that reflect people-to-people friendship will be set up. ■

Philippine Local Government Delegation in China

Hu Yang

A 20-member Philippine local government delegation headed by Victor A. Yap, Governor of Tarlac, visited China in early September and attended the 2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum, a sub-forum of the China Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo held in Changchun, the provincial capital.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin met them on September 4. She recalled her pleasant visit to Manila in 2010, experiencing the warm friendship of the Philippine people.

“There is a long history of friendship between China and the Philippines and many Filipinos have Chinese blood. Although our two countries have differences on some issues at present, I believe they will be resolved through negotiation and dialogue as long as our two countries proceed from the fundamental interests of our peoples and continue to strengthen people-to-people friendship, especially local government cooperation.”

Governor Yap told Li Xiaolin his father had been governor of Tarlac and was very friendly towards China. In 1986, at the age of 22, he had visited China with his father with the first Philippine parliamentary delegation. The visit left beautiful memories.

He, himself, had Chinese blood.



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin presenting a calligraphy scroll to the delegation

During the 1986 visit, his father took him on a trip to Nanan in Fujian Province to discover his ancestral roots. He said, he would attend the 2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum during the current visit and would use the occasion to enhance cooperation in trade and investment with China.

Enrique D. Conjuangco, Jr., Vice Governor of Tarlac, said China’s rapid development was obvious to all and there were many things worth learning from it. He liked Chinese culture and was studying Chinese language. He had experienced the friendship of the Chinese people for the Philippine people during the trip. He emphasized that the Philippines and China should live in amity and that he was willing to

do anything practical to promoting the bilateral friendly relations.

Mr. Lorenzo Ku, the organizer of the visit, is honorary chairman of the Association for Philippines-China Understanding, Chairman of the Philippines-China Economic and Trade Council, Honorary Trade Representative of the Philippines Department of Trade and Industry to China, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Textile Producers Association of the Philippines, Inc. and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of Volunteer Fire Chiefs & Firefighters of the Philippines, Inc.

He said the CPAFFC was a very important friendship organization and he would work together with it to con-

tribute to the development of friendly relations between the two countries. He noted that, three years before, he had invited and received in the Philippines a friendship delegation headed by CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, who conferred on him the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship, which moved him greatly.

Despite of his old age, he would seek to make fresh contributions to the continuous development of bilateral relations. This time he had brought young and promising governors, mayors and Assembly members with him so that they could learn more about the country, thus strengthening mutual trust.

He was proud to have helped Tarlac Province and Lipa City establish contact with Henan Province and Fushun City, leading to friendship-province/city ties.

The delegation attended the 2013 China International Cities Cooperation Forum. Vice Governor Enrique D. Cojuangco, Jr. and Lipa Mayor Maynardo Marciano A. Sabili introduced their local areas to the forum. They held that to "transform the pattern of development and promote economic restructuring in order to seek development" was an issue confronting all cities of the world.

The successful experiences of China were worth learning and the forum had broadened their own vision. They hoped to enhance communication with relevant Chinese departments and organizations and make contributions to the continuous development of friendship between the people of China and the Philippines and the promotion of common development. ■

CPAFFC Delegation Visits Three West African Countries

Tang Ruimin



Daniel Kablan Duncan (L.3), Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire, meeting with Feng Zuoku (L.2), leader of the delegation and Vice President of the CPAFFC

Invited by Robert Beugre Mambe, Governor of Abidjan District of Cote d'Ivoire; Yao Bloua Agbo, President of the Togo-China Friendship Association, and Kojo Amoo-Gottfried, President of the Ghana-China Friendship Association, a CPAFFC delegation led by Vice President Feng Zuoku paid a goodwill visit in early August.

The delegation called on Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire, and Robert Mambe, Governor of Abidjan District. In Togo, it met Edem Kodjo, former Prime Minister of Togo. It then had meetings with Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of

Trade and Industry, Akwasi Opongofosu, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, and Hannah Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, in Ghana.

It also attended a working meeting presided over by Cote d'Ivoire Prime Minister Duncan. The Minister of Commerce, Crafts and Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME) Promotion, Minister of Livestock and Aquatic Resources, and Minister of the Environment, Water Resources and Forests were also present.

The delegation made an inspection tour respectively to Port of Lome in Togo, and the Accra Market in Ghana.

In Cote d'Ivoire

When attending the Second Dialogue between Chinese and African Governors and Mayors in the Chinese provincial capital of Jinan in June 2013, Abidjan Governor Mambe established contact with the Liaoning Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (LPPAFFC).

Sun Delan, Deputy Secretary General of the LPPAFFC, specially inspected the rice cultivation project in Abidjan aided by the China Liaoning International Cooperation Corp. The project is making good progress and has won praise from both Chinese and Cote d'Ivoire sides. The project's scale is to be expanded in the near future.

Abidjan is Cote d'Ivoire's gateway to the sea and trade port, through which 90 percent of the country's goods are imported and exported. It was a desolate fishing village bordering on Ebrie Lagoon with a population of less than 20,000 before World War II.

After the completion of the 27-kilometer Vridi Canal linking Ebrie Lagoon and the bay in 1950, Abidjan underwent rapid urban construction and is now a metropolis with a population of 4.35 million. On entering Abidjan, it seems like a European or American city. Everywhere there are high buildings and large mansions in many designs, cloverleaf intersections, promenade parks with lush vegetation and stores with gorgeous shop windows.

The hot climate and plentiful of rainfall ensure trees and flowers bloom all year round.

During the delegation's stay, the government of Cote d'Ivoire repeatedly

stated their intention to build it into an emerging country by 2020 and that they needed to learn China's experience in development, particularly the economic development model of Wenzhou.

The Cote d'Ivoire side discussed with members of the delegation who came from the Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce Beijing Branch about the project for a large-scale comprehensive trade center in Abidjan as well as the development project of the surrounding area of Ebrie Lagoon.

The delegation was told that in the near future, the Governor of Abidjan would send a delegation to Wenzhou on a study tour in preparation for building a Chinese commodity wholesale center in the capital.

In Ghana

Located on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea facing the Atlantic Ocean, Accra, the capital, is the African city nearest to zero longitude and latitude. Bright sunshine, gaily-colored flowers, green trees and blue seas make this tropical coastal city all the more beautiful.

During the delegation's visit, Haruna Iddrisu, Minister of Trade and Industry, said the government welcomed Chinese private capital to enter Ghana and would accelerate the modernization process of Accra market by adopting a joint State-private operation.

The Ghanaian President has instructed the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Accra Municipal Government to establish a joint commission to help Chinese enterprises solve problems

cropping up in the market's development.

Now, Accra has joined the Millennium Cities Initiative. Iddrisu expressed his belief that with the concerted efforts of Chinese and Ghanaian entrepreneurs, Accra would develop into a more beautiful city.

In Togo

Since the 17th century, Togo, taking advantage of its favorable location facing the Atlantic Ocean, has vigorously developed its foreign trade. At present, the volume of China-Togo bilateral trade has approached US\$ 3.5 billion.

Kodjo Tsro Fogan Adegnon, Mayor of Lome, the national capital, and Managing Director of Port of Lome, presented a key of the city to CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku and conferred upon him the title of Honorary Citizen of Lome. He briefed the delegation about the conditions of the port.

Despite its relative small scale compared with other West African ports along the Atlantic coast, Lome is a natural harbor with deeper water and has great development potential as the country enjoys political stability and attaches great importance to the development of the port.

Entrepreneurs in the Chinese delegation all agreed that Port of Lome had a bright prospect and that if Chinese private companies wanted anywhere in West Africa, they should take part in infrastructure construction.

The three West African countries visited not only have beautiful scenery and hospitable people, but also huge economic growth potential. ■

Yangzhou, a City Full of Charm in China

Yuan Dan

Located in central Jiangsu Province where the Yangtze River and Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal meet, Yangzhou is a major city in the Nanjing-Zhenjiang-Yangzhou City Belt and a nodal city of the Shanghai Economic Circle and Nanjing Metropolitan Circle, both of which are part of China's most dynamic Yangtze River Delta Economic Circle. The city has jurisdiction over one county, two county-level cities and three districts and covers a total area of 6,634 km² with a population of 4.6 million.

A City with Rich Cultural Heritage

Yangzhou was founded about 2,500 years ago, but the area enjoys a civilization history of over 6,000 years.

As early as 1982, Yangzhou was listed by the State Council as one of the first batch of 24 historical cultural cities in recognition of its rich natural, cultural and intangible cultural heritage. The ancient city ruins of the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 CE) and the ancient city of the Ming (1368 - 1644CE) and Qing (1636 - 1911 CE) Dynasties covering an area of 5.09 km² have been well preserved. In the city proper alone there are more than 500 historical buildings, more than 500 traditional streets and alleys, and 168 cultural relic protection units including nine units under national protection and 16 under provincial protection. The Slender West Lake and the historic residential blocks have been included in the tentative list

China had prepared for World Heritage Site listing. Yangzhou School of Paintings, Yangzhou gardens, Yangzhou arts and crafts, and Yangzhou style cuisine, which roughly represent the city's culture, occupy a unique place in Chinese history. Huaiyang cuisine is one of China's four major cuisine styles and Yangzhou style bonsai is one of five bonsai art schools in the country. Lacquer ware, jade carving, embroidery and other craftsmanship are well known all over the world. Currently, Yangzhou Paper-cutting, Woodblock Printing, and Yangzhou *guqin* (a seven-stringed plucked musical instrument) have been included in the *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*. Sixteen projects

New Western District of Yangzhou



including Yangzhou Opera, Yangzhou Ballad, jade carving, lacquer-ware and paper-cuts are listed as national intangible cultural heritage items. There are 94 cultural facilities in Yangzhou including Yangzhou Historical Museum & Yangzhou China Block Printing Museum, Yangzhou Arts and Crafts Gallery, and Museum and Memorial Hall of Yangzhou School.

An Ecological City with Beautiful Environment

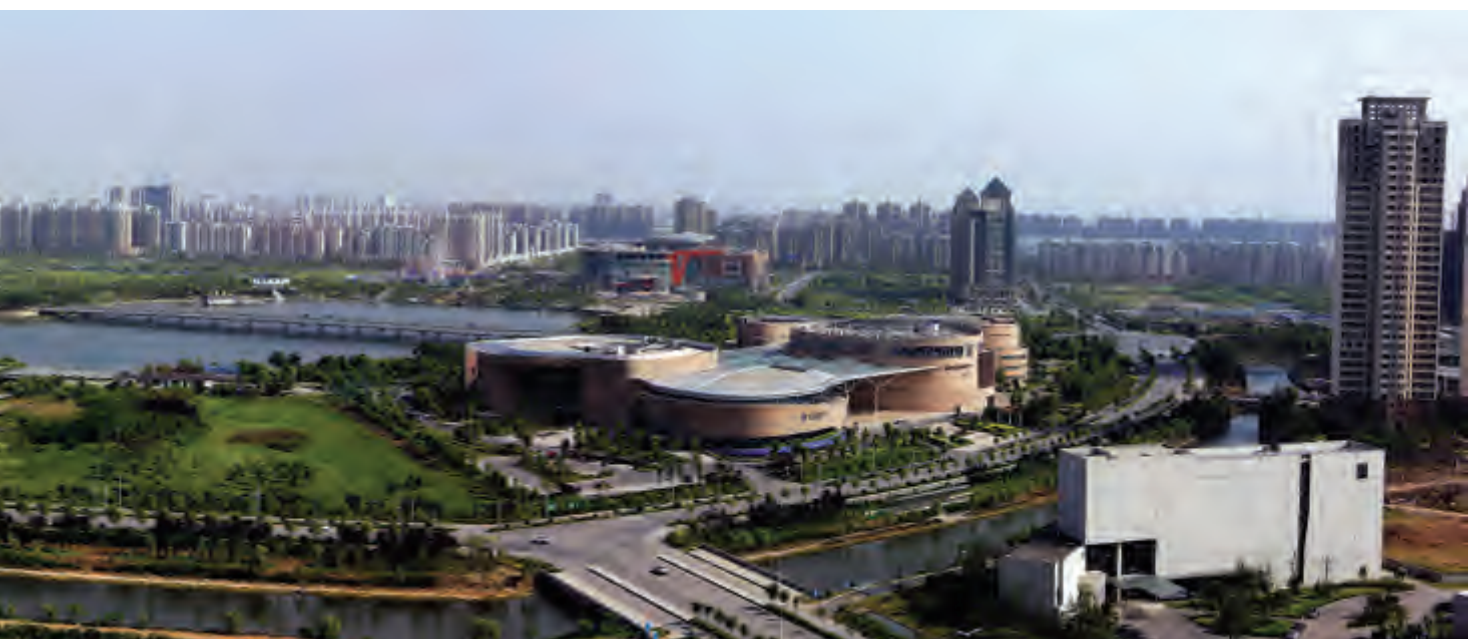
Fascinated by Yangzhou's beautiful scenery, the literati of different dynasties wrote many poems in its praise. In recent years, efforts have been made to promote a conservation culture. The city has carried out environmental management projects such as channeling flowing water into the Slender West Lake and remedial work on the urban section of the Grand Canal, and restored ecological vegetation by building parks including Shugang Xifeng Ecological Park and Runyang Forest Park. With an annual increase of urban

green area of 1 million m², the city's green coverage rate is now 43.34% and the number of days of excellent urban air quality remains at 320 days or more a year. The city now presents a pleasant view of greenery with picturesque gardens. It has won many titles such as National Civilized City, National Forest City, China's Excellent Tourism City, National Sanitary City, National Garden City, National Model City for Environmental Protection, National Demonstration City for Ecology, China Habitat Environment Prize and the United Nations Habitat Scroll of Honor.

A City with Vibrant Economic Development

The construction of major transport links such as the Runyang Yangtze River Highway Bridge, Yangzhou Railway Station on the Nanjing-Qidong Railway, Yangzhou Taizhou Airport, etc. provide strong support for economic development. In the next few years, the completion and opening to traffic of the Nanjing-Qidong Railway (double

line) and the Lianyungang-Huai'an-Yangzhou-Zhenjiang High Speed Railway will further integrate the city into the economic circle of the Yangtze River Delta. It now has a State-level export processing zone, a State-level economic and technological development zone, a provincial-level high-tech zone and eight provincial-level development zones. The city has maintained sustainable development in its five major industries—automobiles, shipbuilding, machinery, petrochemicals, new energy and new lighting sources, while promoting rapid development of its tourism, software, information services, modern logistics and other new service sectors, and steady growth of its modern and high-efficiency agriculture. Yangzhou's foreign economic cooperation has been strengthened. World top 500 companies including Mercedes-Benz from Germany, Colgate from the U.S., Pirelli from Italy, Texas Instruments from the U.S. and Philips from the Netherlands have opened branches or set up joint ventures. Last year the



city's GDP reached 295 billion Yuan, an 11.5% increase over the previous year; its fiscal revenue reached 55.451 billion Yuan and public budget revenue 22.5 billion Yuan; its tax revenue was 18.061 billion Yuan, up 16.2%; and its per capita GDP exceeded US\$10,000.

An Open and Inclusive City

Yangzhou became a flourishing town in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BCE - 24 CE) and a prosperous metropolis in the Tang Dynasty, and reached its heyday in the Qing Dynasty. In the Tang Dynasty, being the largest city in Southeast China, one of the four major ports for exchanges with the outside world, and a junction of the Maritime Silk Road and the land Silk Road, it enjoyed great prosperity, attracting over 10,000 foreign merchants. During the reigns of Emperor Kangxi, Emperor Yongzheng and Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, Yangzhou became one of the world's top 10 metropolitan cities with a population of more than 500,000. Korean scholar Choe Chi-won, Arab missionary Puhaddin and Italian traveler Marco Polo all left their footprints. Yangzhou, where ancient culture and modern civilization add radiance to each other, has cultivated a city spirit of "respecting different cultures and esteeming virtues, and being open-minded and inclusive, innovative and creative, and loving and caring". It has established friendship-city relations with 19 cities of 11 countries in Asia, Europe, America and Oceania, friendly-exchange ties with 29 foreign cities, and trade and cultural contacts with 163 countries and regions. More than 1,600 foreign-funded enterprises from 93 countries and regions have their factories or offices in the city. ■



Yangzhou puts friendship first while paying attention to achieving practical results in its contact with its international friendship cities. It has carried out fruitful exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, science and technology, culture, sports, and personnel training, giving impetus to economic and social development of both sides, and accelerating Yangzhou's transformation into a city of the world.

Yangzhou first developed friendship-city ties with Karatsu in Saga Prefecture of Japan in 1982. It has since established such relations with 19 cities in 11 countries in Asia, Europe, America, and Oceania, and friendly-exchange relations with 29 cities.

Increasingly Close Youth Exchange

Youth exchange is one of the major programs in sustaining and developing friendship-city ties. Yang-

zhou has carried out exchange visits of young people friendship envoys and student cultural delegations, and organized children's painting competitions respectively with its paired cities of Kent, Westport and Stanford of the U.S.

The friendship envoy exchange program between Yangzhou and Kent has been conducted for the past 17 years with the participation of over 70 teenagers on each side. The program received the attention of the two city governments and support of various social circles. During their visits, the young envoys made extensive contact with the local government, schools, friendly personages and their peers, contributing to understanding and the sustainable development of the friendship-city ties.

The middle and primary school student exchanges between Yangzhou and Atsugi in Japan involves calligraphy and painting, martial arts, choral music, sport, etc. The GP Youth Football Team from Atsugi

Expand Friendship-City Platform to Build Yangzhou as a World City

Deng Qing

has visited Yangzhou 27 times since 1986 with the participation of nearly 900 players; Yangzhou Baoying Youth Football Team has also visited Atsugi many times involving more than 100 young people.

In addition, Yangzhou has sent a dozen middle or primary school art troupes comprising over 300 students to Japan, the Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Germany, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. It has also hosted an “International Youth Gala” to promote understanding and friendship. More than 200 youths from Japan, the ROK, the U.S., Germany and Australia joined over a thousand middle school students in Yangzhou in various activities.

The youth exchanges have also led to the participation in the friendship cause of participants’ families, schools, and society, thus broadening the scope and increased the depth of contact.

Fruitful Cultural and Sports Exchanges

Up to now, the “Three-Country Three-City” Friendship Cities Go Invitational Tournament has been successfully held 14 times involving Yangzhou, Karatsu, and Yosu of the Republic of Korea; the China-Japan Friendship Wood of Sakura Preservation Association has made 25 visits to

Yangzhou; and the annual Yangzhou Jianzhen International Half Marathon in April, has received strong support from friendship-cities including Atsugi and Karatsu of Japan, Rimini of Italy and Bree of Belgium. Mayors and leaders of city council of Atsugi and Karatsu led goodwill or sports delegations to take part in the event.

Yangzhou has sent delegations on cultural exchange and art performance tours to its friendship cities in Australia, Japan, the ROK, Singapore, Belgium, Germany and the United States. Successful events such as Huaiyang cuisine demonstration, sampling the dishes of the Red Mansion Banquet recreated in accordance with the Chinese classic *Dream of the Red Mansion*, puppet shows, storytelling in Yangzhou dialect to the accompaniment of stringed instruments, and pedicure demonstrations have also helped Yangzhou’s bid to be a world city.

Beginning from 1997, Yangzhou has carried out exchanges of teachers and personnel training with its partners. It has sent more than 20 teachers

to teach in Westport, Connecticut and a dozen teachers from Westport have come to China. Teachers dispatched by Kent and Atsugi to work in Yangzhou University, Yangzhou Polytechnic College, Jianghai Polytechnic College and other colleges have raised the level of the city’s foreign languages teaching.

Since 1998, the personnel training programs Yangzhou has carried out in cooperation with its twinned cities have achieved good results. So far, it has dispatched nearly 200 people to the U.S., Japan, the ROK, Germany, Australia, and Singapore for training for one to three months, sometimes half a year, during which the trainees not only learned advanced management concepts and work methods, but also laid a solid foundation for future communication.

Members of the Bree Orchestra of Belgium performing in the street of Yangzhou in 2007



In-Depth Friendship-City Interaction

The annual “Flowery March” Yangzhou International Economy and Trade Tourism Festival receives enthusiastic participation of the international friendship cities including Breda of the Netherlands, and Bree of Belgium, Yongin and Gyeongju of the ROK. Since 2007, Yangzhou has successfully hosted the China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo for seven years, establishing contact with more than 30 canal cities in more than 20 countries and regions.

Through it, Yangzhou has established friendly exchange relations with over 20 emerging canal cities like Ismailia on the Suez Canal in Egypt; Strasburg on the Midi Canal, France; Buffalo on the Erie Canal in the U.S.; Panama on the Panama Canal; Kingston on the Rideau Canal, Canada; Wolfsburg on the Mittelland Canal, Germany; Balashikha on the Moscow Canal, Russia; and Amsterdam on the Amsterdam Canal in the Netherlands. Yangzhou has strengthened friendly ties with the World Canal Conference organization and staged the event in 2012.

In addition, the city has organized activities to commemorate friendship-city twinning anniversaries. These have included the Exhibition of China Yangzhou International Friendship Cities mounted in Yangzhou, and “Sister-City Day”, “Yangzhou Day” and “Yangzhou Week” held in its international friendship cities.

Pragmatic Economic Exchange

International friendship-city ties have become a major channel for Yangzhou to attract foreign businesses and

investment. It has sent trade and entrepreneurial delegations overseas to visit companies and hold business talks, while mayors and other city officials of its twinned cities came to attend large-scale activities in the city at the head of industrial and business delegations.

Il-Yang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. from Yongin, the ROK, invested more than US\$10 million in Gaoyou, Yangzhou to set up the Yangzhou Ilyang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. Sales have risen 30% since inception and its products have been included in China’s Catalogue of Drugs for Basic National Medical Insurance. JBC from Bree has set up a research and development center in Hanjiang District. VITO, a research institute from Belgium, has cooperated with Yangzhou in building an air quality monitoring network. Companies from Italy have set up Marcegaglia China Co., Ltd. and the Italian Industrial Park in Guangling District and Baoying County of Yangzhou respectively.

In 2010, a Shanghai Volkswagen project with an annual output of 300,000 passenger cars was launched in Yizheng. It has facilitated economic, trade and administrative communications between Yizheng and Wolfsburg, headquarters of Volkswagen. In 2011, Echo Point was registered in Yangzhou, becoming the first Dutch company in Yangzhou.

So far, Yangzhou has carried out economic and trade cooperation and exchanges with more than 160 countries and regions, and more than 30 of the world’s top 500 companies have set up factories or businesses through the channel of international friendship and friendly-exchange cities. ■

The Grand Canal of China, an important record of the Chinese civilization, has been making significant contributions to the country’s economic development, national unity, social progress, and cultural exchange between the north and the south. As the only city that was born and grew along with a canal in China, Yangzhou gains its prosperity through this canal and in return enhances the beauty of the canal. People in Yangzhou call the canal their mother river with deep affections, treasuring and protecting it wholeheartedly. Since 2007 in the name of canals, Yangzhou has been inviting other cities in the world to participate in the China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo, which it held for 7 consecutive years.

The Grand Canal Brings Prosperity and Cultural Diversity to Yangzhou

In 486 BCE, the construction of the Han Canal and Han City began under the orders of Fuchai, the King of the State of Wu, thus starting the history of Chinese canals. Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty (581 - 618 CE) ordered to dig the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal which linked five major river systems in China and joined the Yangtze River at Yangzhou. This gave Yangzhou its great significance as a hub of both water and land transportation in China, a gateway linking the country’s north and south and a window of communication with other countries.

In the early years of the Han Dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE), King Liu Bi of the State of Wu developed

A Grand Session with the World in Name of Canals

—Retrospect on China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo

Xu Pei

industries of coin-casting and salt-production in Yangzhou, thus attracting a great number of merchants to the city to do business. In the Tang Dynasty, Yangzhou became the junction of the Marine Silk Road and the Silk Road on land and the largest city in Southeast China, enjoying the fame of the best commercial city in the country. In the Qing Dynasty, the booming salt economy brought Yangzhou to a period of great prosperity. Taking the advantages of its administrative power over water transportation of grain to the capital, salt industry and watercourse management, Yangzhou became a hub of water transportation of grain to the capital and the largest salt distribution

center in China. In the early 19th century, Yangzhou ranked the sixth place among the world's ten biggest cities with a population over 500,000.

The geographic advantage has made Yangzhou a city where cultures of different parts of the country and the world meet. It has developed its unique urban culture through inheritance and continuous innovation. It is here that history and reality, material and spiritual, human civilization and natural environment all blend into a harmonious whole. The tangible and intangible cultural heritages, such as Yangzhou Painting, Yangzhou School, Yangzhou garden, Huaiyang cuisine, Guangling music, Yangzhou lacquer-ware, Yang-

zhou jade-carving, Yangzhou opera, Yangzhou folk songs, Yangzhou bonsai, etc. have been inherited and developed.

In order to push forward the study, protection, inheritance and development of canals and canal culture—the common wealth of mankind, the Yangzhou municipal government, in cooperation with PECC-China, has been hosting the China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo seven times in succession. Administrators and experts from domestic and foreign canal cities gathered in Yangzhou to discuss common problems confronting canals and canal cities' economic and social development, expecting to reach con-

The experts forum at the 2010 China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo





The launching ceremony of the permanent site of China Yangzhou World Canal Cities Expo

sensus through this communication platform. The establishment of the World Historic and Cultural Canal Cities Cooperation Organization in 2009, and the completion of the permanent site of World Canal Cities Expo in 2011 have further perfected the mechanism of the Expo. In 2012, the World Canals Conference and the 6th World Canal Cities Expo were held at the same time in Yangzhou, helping upgrade the expo to an international symposium.

The World Canal Cities Expo, a Unique Platform to Show Yangzhou's Charm

By holding the World Canal Cities Expo for the past 7 years, Yangzhou shows to the world its unique charm of being a “renowned canal city”. The expo has not only attracted mayors and experts of cities along the Grand Canal, but also more and more domestic and foreign canal cities, international organizations and canal management agencies to Yangzhou. It has become a grand cultural gathering with Yangzhou characteristics and international vision,

a communication platform for friendship and cooperation among canal cities all over the world, and a festival for promoting Yangzhou to the world.

On September 26, 2013, in the “Heart of the Grand Canal”—the permanent site of the expo—by the Grand Canal, nearly 400 representatives and experts from 5 international organizations, 16 foreign canal cities and 35 Chinese cities along the Grand Canal gathered in Yangzhou to share their ideas and discuss the mode for protecting, developing and rejuvenating ancient canals on the theme of “water ecology, water civilization and renowned cities”, which deepened the economic cooperation and cultural exchanges among world canal cities and enabled them to join efforts to create a better future of sustainable development for world canal cities.

The World Canal Cities Expo, an Important Forum for Canal Cities

The themes of the seven World Canal Cities Expo changed with the times, from “tourism in canal cities” to

“low carbon economy”, from “enhancing the canal cities by designing” to “the Grand Canal, a living heritage”. “Water ecology, water civilization and renowned cities”, a major topic of the world today, was set as the theme of this year’s expo. Participants from both China and other countries shared their experience in protecting canal cities and their historical and cultural heritage and utilizing canals. By making presentations and submitting written speeches, they discussed from different perspectives the topics such as ways and methods of building water ecological civilization cities, water landscape in modern cities, the protection and application of water cultural heritage. Also held during the expo were the groundbreaking ceremony of a national water ecological civilization city pilot project—the construction of urban section of the ancient Grand Canal in Yangzhou—and a boat trip along the canal, through which the participants learned the humanistic, ecological, exquisite and livable features of Yangzhou. After 6 years of development, the expo has become an important brand of Yangzhou and China for canal culture development and heritage protection; and an ideal platform for world canal cities to share experience in protecting their historical heritage, carrying on cultural traditions, tapping potential for canal development, and promoting regional cooperation. In the future, Yangzhou will continue its efforts to make the World Canal Cities Expo the most unique platform for international exchange to advance common development of world canal cities. Let canal cities prosper because of canals and canals become beautiful because of cities. ■

Jade Buddha Statues Witness Friendship Ties Between Yangzhou and Yangon of Myanmar

Yuan Dan

In Myanmar, Buddhism is widely practiced. Despite tens of thousands of public temples, there is a shrine for worship in almost every family home. For average income families, they usually have a painted image of Buddha or a wooden Buddha; rich households, however, have gold, silver or jade Buddha statues. Jade statues are the most difficult to make, but their delicate and lustrous texture, are most precious.

In Daming Temple in Yangzhou, there are seven jade Buddha statues each of a different size and posture, with serene and solemn looks. All seven came from Myanmar. They were given at different times over the past 15 years by the city of Yangon to celebrate the success of friendship-city ties with Yangzhou.

An Inevitable Bond

The story of the jade Buddha statues of Daming Temple began in the 1990s. Yangon, then capital of Myanmar, wanted to twin with a Chinese city. It so happened that Chen Baoliu, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar at the time, had just returned from a visit to Yangzhou.

He knew well the culture and national conditions of Myanmar and recommended Yangzhou to Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay. Thus, Yangzhou was fortunate to be listed as a candidate together with Beijing and Shanghai.



The Reclining Buddha

In July 1995, Mayor U Ko Lay headed a delegation to China. Having visited Beijing and Shanghai, the party arrived in Yangzhou and made a formal visit to Daming Temple. Given the Burmese natural affinity for Buddhism, the visit to the thousand-year-old world-famous Daming Temple aroused the party's great interest.

The majestic halls, towering pagodas and the deep-rooted Buddha dharma overwhelmed the Mayor. When he learned that the newly built Tower of Buddhist Shrine would enshrine jade Buddha statues, he immediately pledged to present five statues as gifts to the Temple and suggested Yangon establish friendship-city relations with Yangzhou.

Though Yangzhou was not as famous as Beijing and Shanghai in the world, its profound Buddhist culture

was highly valued by the people of Yangon, thus cementing the bond.

In the wake of the visit, Nengxiu, Abbot of the Temple, as well as a group of jade masters of Yangzhou went to Mandalay, the second largest city in Myanmar known for its jade production, to select raw material. They walked all over the jade mountains in the city and used geomancy to select a valuable piece of land.

Dozens of Burmese workers worked and lived in the mountain and dug out a piece of jade weighing about 400 tons, the largest in the world to date. It took half a year and more than 20 jade-carvers of the well-known father and son carving society of the city to complete the work of five jade statues, which were shipped to Yangzhou on April 29, 1996.

Of the five statues, one was a re-



Sitting Buddha Statues

clining Buddha while the other four adopted a sitting pose. They all bore fine features and calm expression characteristic of Myanmar. The Reclining Buddha, 5.7 meters long and weighing 18 tons, is the largest of its type in China; the four sitting Buddha statues, all 1.75 meters high and weighing four tons each, are very rare in China.

Later, a big hall was built specially to house the Reclining Buddha, and the four sitting Buddha statues were enshrined in the Tower of Buddhist Shrine.

To express gratitude for the profound friendship of the Yangon people, Yangzhou gave in return a pleasure boat named “Yangzhou” and an octagonal pavilion. In July 1997, Mayor U Ko Lay once again led a delegation to Yangzhou and signed an agreement on friendly exchanges. He promised that every future mayor of Yangon would give a jade Buddha statue to Yangzhou.

A Witness to In-Depth Exchanges

Frequent contacts between Yangzhou and Yangon have been carried out ever since. On the government level, frequent exchanges of visits have helped increase the friendship; in the

economic and trade fields, business groups and entrepreneurs conduct regular inspection tours seeking business opportunities; in culture, visits by performance troupes have been exchanged and TV specials filmed; in agriculture, expert groups have been sent by Yangzhou to give guidance for Yangon’s agricultural devel-

opment and fine-quality rice seeds have been provided; in the field of religion, high monks exchange constant visits.

In May 2008, when Cyclone Nargis hit Yangon, Yangzhou Mayor Wang Yanwen sent a message of condolences, the Yangzhou Municipal Government donated 100,000 RMB, and Daming Temple also donated 10,000 RMB.

The fruitful exchanges and cooperation have added new contents to the traditional “paukphaw” friendship between China and Myanmar. In May 2000, Mayor U Ko Lay made a keynote speech at the International Friendship Cities Conference held in Beijing, introducing the friendly exchanges between Yangon and Yangzhou.

In 2004, Aung Thein Lynn became Mayor of Yangon. He visited Yangzhou in May of the same year and the following year to continue bilateral exchanges. In 2005, Yangon once again presented Yangzhou with a jade Buddha statue — one that had been standing in the Government Square of Yangon.

It is the first and the only giant standing Buddha statue in Yangzhou and is now placed in the compound of the Jianzhen School of Buddhism.

A Statue for Celebration of 15 Years of Friendship-City Ties

In 2012, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of friendship-city relations, Yangon Mayor U La Min visited Yangzhou, when he told Xie Zhengyi, Secretary of the Yangzhou Municipal Committee of the CPC, that his city would again give Yangzhou a jade Buddha statue.

On December 25, entrusted by the Mayor, a delegation of the Yangon City Development Committee presented a statue to Yangzhou for the third time to mark 15 years of friendly ties.

On the morning of Dec. 26, presentation and consecration ceremonies were held in Daming Temple. Sun Yongru, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Yangzhou Municipal People’s Congress, accepted the seated Sakyamuni Buddha statue carved out of white marble that was consecrated by Abbot Nengxiu before all the monks in the Temple. This Buddha statue with delicate texture and masterful art work is 2.8 meters high and weighs 10.8 tons. It is now placed between the Hall of Reclining Buddha and the Tower of Buddhist Shrine.

Now, there are seven jade Buddha statues in Daming Temple. In return, Yangzhou has given 300 magnolia grandiflora to Yangon that now grow luxuriantly in the city’s central park as an evergreen symbol of friendship.

The friendly contacts between Yangzhou and Yangon will continue under the witness of the jade Buddha statues, and the profound friendly sentiment the people of the two cities cherish for each other will grow under their joint care. ■

Mr. Jaak Gabriels' China Ties

Zhao Lan

Mr. Jaak Gabriels, Mayor of Bree in Belgium, arrived in Kunshan of Jiangsu Province on March 28, 2012 to attend the China International Imported Products Expo. He was accompanied by the staff of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yangzhou Municipal Government, a city that has friendship-city relations with Bree.

He looked a bit tired. In less than a week, he had visited Beijing, Nanjing and Yangzhou, and met several old friends including former Chinese Ambassador to Belgium Zhang Qiyue, made a formal call on Aigo, a well-known company, in a bid to persuade it to conduct a study tour of his city, gave exclusive interviews, putting forward suggestions for building Yangzhou into a world famous city.

To someone who was approaching 70, such arrangements were indeed a bit too tight. But the work was far from finished. After sharing a bottle of white wine with his fellow delegates to refresh himself, he appeared in high spirit at the meeting with provincial leaders that evening together with Herman Reynders, Governor of Limburg.

At the Expo's opening ceremony the next day, wearing a T-shirt commissioned by the Expo, along with a big smile, he handed out 1,000 color leaflets on the friendly exchanges between Bree and Yangzhou specially made for



Mr. Jaak Gabriels

the occasion. It was most touching and impressive to see the profound feelings he cherished for Yangzhou.

Indeed, Mr. Gabriels has every reason to be proud. The contact between the two friendship cities has not only reached unprecedented heights, but also ensured the economic and cultural cooperation he initiated between Limburg and Jiangsu fruitful. At the Expo, Limburg Province organized an economic delegation and set up an exhibition stall to promote its advanced products and technology.

A Senior Politician

Jaak Gabriels had been elected mayor of Bree six times, serving for 35 years until retirement in 2012 as one of the longest serving mayors in Belgium. What's more, he was also a se-

nior member of the Belgian Parliament and the Flemish Parliament, and once served as minister of agriculture and small enterprises and Flemish minister of economy, foreign policy and trade and housing.

Because of his outstanding performance, he was granted the title of "Minister of State for life" by the King and the Federal Government of Belgium.

Ties with Yangzhou

Jaak Gabriels also showed he had international vision. In 1999, he headed a 25-member Bree Municipal Government and trade delegation to visit Yangzhou for the first time, during which he held an exhibition of Bree products and signed with Yangzhou Mayor Su Zequn a MOU on establishment of friendly exchange relations.

He made great efforts to develop ties. From 2005, he led a delegation to visit Yangzhou at least once a year. Under his influence, Vice Mayor Marie-Jeanne Raedschelders-Savelkoul, Secretary General Stefan Goclon, Director General of the Finance Bureau Jean Gielen and adviser to the Mayor Guy Hallet gave full support to the economic and cultural exchanges.

Whenever a Yangzhou delegation visited Belgium, Mayor Gabriels would personally accompany it on its visit. In

2005, when Wang Jun, Deputy Secretary of the Yangzhou Municipal Committee of the CPC, led a delegation to Belgium, the Mayor not only organized a grand welcoming ceremony in the City Hall, but also arranged a meeting with Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and with the Chairman of the China Committee of the European Commission.

In 2006, when the two cities signed the agreement on the establishment of friendship-city relations, he invited the Belgian Royal Air Force to give an aerobatics display. He also attended the activity held by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrating the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Belgium and China.

To let more people know about Yangzhou, he designated one meeting room in the City Hall, named it “Bree-Yangzhou Embassy” and appointed Jean Gielen “Ambassador to Yangzhou”. On display are articles relating to bilateral exchanges, gifts from Yangzhou, reference material and photos, recording the events and stories in the contact between the two cities.

In May 2005, at the opening ceremony of “The Embassy”, Zhang Qiyue, Chinese Ambassador to Belgium, spoke highly of this new way of publicity and economic and cultural promotion, saying it had boosted the friendly relations between China and Belgium and given great support to her work.

Build a Cultural and Art Bridge

Under the initiation of Mayor Gabriels, a “Yangzhou Week” and a “Bree Week” were held in the two cities respectively in 2006 and 2007. The activities included cultural and art performances, culinary exchanges, arts and crafts exhibitions, economic and trade inspection tours, tourism promotion, etc.

During the Yangzhou Week, chefs from the city reproduced the dishes and delicacies described in the Chinese classic novel *Dream of Red Mansion*, folk artists put on puppet shows and *tanci* (storytelling in Yangzhou dialect to the accompaniment of stringed instruments), showing the long and rich cultural tradition of the city. Yangzhou’s arts and crafts, pedicure and photo exhibitions distinctive of local

features drew over 2,000 visitors from Belgium as well as from its neighboring countries like Germany and the Netherlands.

In 2007, Mayor Gabriels headed a 110-member delegation of government officials, businesspeople and an art troupe to visit Yangzhou for a colorful Bree Week much enjoyed by citizens. The activities included Belgian food culture demonstrated by Belgian chefs, on-the-spot making of the world-famous Belgian chocolate, a dance show by young people, a special opera show, and the beautiful singing of young vocalist Martine Reyners.

Belgian food and delicacies available in the streets gave local people the opportunity to try Belgian snacks while listening to foreign music outside supermarkets. The get-together between hundreds of Yangzhou youth and their Belgian peers certainly forged great friendship between them.

Whether it was economic exchange, culinary demonstration or cultural performance, Mayor Gabriels would be on hand to provide guidance and offer encouragement to the performers. His close ties with people moved everyone. On occasions, we were surprised to see the Mayor singing heartily with the singers and could not help admire his artistic accomplishment.

Actively Promotes

Economic Cooperation

Economic cooperation is the foundation of exchanges between friendship cities. In 2007, Yangzhou held its first economic promotion in Brussels. With the help of Bree, over 100 personages from the Belgian political, economic and press circles attended the activity.

Culinary exchange at the “Bree Week” held in Yangzhou in 2006



JBC, the largest chain of clothing-stores in Belgium and the third largest in Europe, has more than 100 stores across the region. In 2006, Jan Baptiste Claes, President of JBC, came to Yangzhou with Mayor Gabriels on a study tour. He became so fond of the city that he decided to set up a China Procurement Center there.

In three years, the company's procurement in China rose from 10% to 30% of its total global procurement with an annual value of US\$40 million. JBC attached importance to supporting local economic development, making an effort to find suppliers in Yangzhou and neighboring cities. It now has regular cooperation partners such as Botai Group and HuBao Group, the former honored as a "best supplier".

VITO NV is a Belgian research institute engaged in the application of environmental protection technology. In 2005, encouraged by Mayor Gabriels, a letter of intent on cooperation in environmental protection was signed with Yangzhou. It was the first time Yangzhou received a foreign government grant.

The cooperation project was carried out between 2006 and 2008. The two cities respectively invested 250,000 euros for the introduction of EU-standard Aurora technology for monitoring and forecasting air quality in Yangzhou. It helped Yangzhou analyze its air pollution, formulate environmental protection policies, draw urban development plan and train qualified personnel.

Initiate New Model of Friendly Exchanges

In 2009, Mayor Gabriels was appointed Shanghai Expo Ambassador by

the Government of Limburg for his outstanding leadership and organizational ability and rich diplomatic experience. He used his personal influence to actively promote the establishment of friendship-province relations between Jiangsu and Limburg and helped the twinning of five pairs of friendship cities — Nanjing and Hasselt, Pingjiang District of Suzhou and Genk, Changzhou and Lommel, Guangling District of Yangzhou and Maaseik, Hanjiang District of Yangzhou and Harmont Achel.

He paid formal calls on the governments of Chinese city or district to explain his vision of starting a comprehensive provincial-level cooperation through friendship-city ties. His suggestion received a positive response from all sides. On May 14, 2010, Zhang Weiguo, Deputy Governor of Jiangsu, and Herman Reynders, Governor of Limburg, signed the MOU for friendship and cooperative ties and witnessed the signing of five MOU's between cities of the two provinces in Nanjing.

Later, all participants were invited to attend the opening ceremony of "Limburg Week" in the Belgium-EU Pavilion at the World Expo Shanghai. Deputy Governor Zhang Weiguo praised Yangzhou for initiating a new model of friendship-city exchanges at the provincial, municipal and district levels with foreign countries.

Jaak Gabriels cherishes profound feelings for China and treats friends sincerely. Having visited Yangzhou many times, he had gained a deeper understanding of China and its culture. In 2007 and 2008, when some anti-China activities in support of "Tibetan Independence" and sabotaging the Olympic torch relay took place, he refuted the slander on China and publicized its development at every opportunity.

Jaak Gabriels retired from his mayoral post in 2012, but he is still concerned with China. Invited by Governor Reynders, he now serves as Limburg Ambassador to China and helps the province to carry out the exchange and cooperation with China. ■

Mayor Jaak Gabriels and his party in Yangzhou



CRFA's New Leadership Elected

Our Staff Reporter

The China-Romania Friendship Association (CRFA) held a council meeting in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC in Beijing on August 29. It heard the work report delivered by CRFA President Su Guang, adopted the Statutes of the China-Romania Friendship Association, and elected a new leadership and invited advisers and council members.

President Su Guang said: "The friendship between China and Romania dates back to ancient times. The friendly relations between the two countries remain unchanged and grows ever strong

despite the vicissitudes of the international and Romania's domestic political situation. It can be said that Romania is an all-weather friend of China."

Reviewing the work in the past ten years, the outgoing President said the CRFA had made unremitting efforts to consolidate and develop friendship by carrying out exchanges of personnel and delegations to enhance mutual understanding and by building multi-level platforms to serve cooperation and economic development between the two countries.

In the next five years, the Associa-

tion would continue to expand channels and enrich contents of exchange with Romania, and promote local communications to make greater contributions to the further growth of bilateral relations, he said.

The meeting elected a new CRFA leadership with Liu Guchang, Chairman of China Foundation for International Studies and former Vice Foreign Minister, as president; Wang Tieshan executive vice president; Lin Xuerong, Ding Chao, Liu Yanfeng and Luo Dongquan vice presidents; and Kang Jingyuan as secretary general. ■

SPF Donates a School Bus to Basa Middle School in Yunnan

Xing Shuhua

At a CPAFFC ceremony on August 30, Secours Populaire Francais (SPF) and the Air France Foundation donated 20,000 euros to Basa Middle School of Hekou County, Yunnan Province to buy a school bus. SPF President Julien Laupretre, Li Jianping, Vice President of the CPAFFC, Zhou Hong, President of the Yunnan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, were among those attending the ceremony.

Li Jianping said the donation again showed the deep friendship for the Chinese people held by the French people and SPF, and the cooperation between the CPAFFC and SPF.

In May 2012, a SPF delegation

went on an inspection tour of Basa Middle School at the invitation of the CPAFFC, leading to the decision to provide funds for a school bus. Despite an economic downturn in France, SPF stuck to its commitment; overcoming difficulties, it raised enough money for one bus and promised to donate another to the school later.

Since 2007, SPF, through the CPAFFC, has made donations to projects including construction of Friendship Water Cellars in Zhaona Village of Tianshui City, Gansu Province; emergency aid to the Wenchuan earthquake-hit area in Sichuan Province; a multimedia library in Mengjia School of Deyang City in Sichuan Province; and

a music classroom in the teaching complex of Naqin Primary School of Beidou Township, Taishan City, Guangdong Province.

This demonstrates SPF's international humanitarianism and helps the cause of friendship between the people of China and France.

At the ceremony, both sides pledged to use the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2014 to further cooperate. SPF President Laupretre informed the Chinese side of a large-scale activity "World Children are one family" it would organize in 2015 for its 70th anniversary and hoped the CPAFFC would participate. Li Jianping gave a positive response. ■

Carry Forward the Spirit of The Flying Tigers

Chuan You

September 6, 2013 marked the 120th anniversary of the birth of General Claire Lee Chennault. A meeting was held in Chengdu the following day to commemorate his contribution to the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

It was sponsored by the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) and co-hosted by the Comprehensive Science Research Center of Sichuan University and the Claire Lee Chennault Research Institute of Donghua Comprehensive Science Academy of Sichuan Province. A SIFA representative and Mr. Kelly Busby, Political Unit Chief and representative of the American Consulate General in Chengdu, addressed the meeting attended by experts, scholars and personages from various social circles.

General Chennault was a great friend of the Chinese people. Upon the outbreak of the anti-Japanese war. As chief adviser to the Chinese air force, he participated in the battles of Shanghai, Nanjing and Wuhan together with American, Chinese and Soviet pilots.

The American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the China Air Force was founded on August 1, 1941. Chennault became its leader with the rank of colonel. Later, he served as Air Commodore of the Task Team of U.S. Air

Force, Major General of the US Army 14th Air Force, Chief of Staff of the China Air Force and Commander of the China-U.S. Joint Air Force.

The American team was publicly known as the "Flying Tigers". In 1942, he took the risk to open the air route known as "The Hump" in order to transport strategic materials from southern Asian bases over the mountains to China. The U.S. lost over 1,500 aircraft and nearly 3,000 aircrew due to the complex terrain, harsh weather and Japanese attacks. The heroic spirit of General Chennault and his Flying Tigers was widely popularized among both the Chinese and the American people.

In his speech, the SIFA representative said Sichuan was China's strategic rear against the Japanese aggression, where the Flying Tigers fought many bloody battles. In order to fight against the Japanese invaders, the U.S. Air Force established a number of bases outside Chengdu. The local people actively participated in the construction of runways under extremely hard conditions and forged a profound friendship with the American pilots. The U.S. bombers that took off from Chengdu delivered a heavy blow to the arrogant Japanese aggressors.

The renowned Flying Tigers gave strong support to Chinese people's just

war. Over the years, SIFA has been working to promote mutual understanding and friendly exchanges between the people of China and the U.S. It received General Chennault's widow, Mrs. Anna Chan Chennault, when she visited Sichuan, and called on her in the U.S.

It invited Mr. Groper, a veteran of the Flying Tigers, to visit Chengdu on the occasion of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. He donated Flying Tigers' uniforms and other items to the Jianchuan Museum, six items of which were classified as grade one cultural relics by the State Bureau of Cultural Relics.

In 2008 and 2011, the SIFA co-hosted activities in commemoration of General Chennault with relevant organizations of Chengdu, and, in 2012, it received the 98-year-old Hump pilot Peter Goutier and more than 10 relatives and descendants of members of the Flying Tigers.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein sent a letter, on behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of California, to express her gratitude to the Sichuan people for their warm hospitality and their praise of the heroic deeds of the Flying Tigers.

In his speech, Consul Busby thanked the SIFA for organizing this event. He quoted the former U.S. President George Bush's words that the tough resistance of the Flying Tigers and their courageous fight for freedom had left a legendary chapter in the U.S. military history. They had won everlasting respect from the American people and their sacrifices would never be forgotten.

It was because of the participation of General Chennault, the Flying Tigers and many other courageous Chinese and American soldiers that victory was achieved. Chennault's experience told people that cooperation between the U.S., China, and other friendly nations could overcome huge challenges.

Mrs. Nell Calloway, granddaughter of General Chennault and Curator of the Memorial Museum of General Claire Lee Chennault in the U.S., sent a message to the meeting to express her thanks, saying that her grandfather would have felt deeply gratified that the Chinese people did not forget his dedication to the great cause, and that it was his sincere wish to see this historic moment become a foundation for the building of a bright future between China and America.

The participants, including professors and scholars from Sichuan University, Chengdu Normal College and Sichuan Media College, as well as personages from various social circles, recalled the legendary experience of General Chennault and spoke highly of the heroic spirit and devotion of the Flying Tigers. They all agreed that people should remember the history and work hard to create a bright future for friendship and cooperation between the people of China and the U.S. ■

The Fourth International Children's Art Festival of Xinjiang, hosted by the Xinjiang People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (XPAFFC) was held in Urumqi, the regional capital, from July 20 to 26.

Eighteen children's art troupes comprising more than 260 students from eight countries took part, including nine foreign troupes (120 students) from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, India and Mongolia, and nine Chinese troupes (140 students) from Urumqi, Kashgar, Aksu, Tacheng, and Ili, Changji and Bayingolin prefectures.

The festival started on the morning of July 21. In his speech at the opening ceremony, Muzapar Mijit, Head of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Government of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region and President of the XPAFFC, said the festival was a cultural event for both Chinese and foreign young people. By organizing various activities, the Autonomous Regional Government aimed to strengthen exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and friendship, and promote Xinjiang's external exchanges and cooperation. He hoped the participants would create a song of peace and friendship with passion and idealism.

In the weeklong festival, the troupes gave four performances and carried out exchange activities such as talent shows in painting, calligraphy, paper cutting, playing musical instruments and making handicrafts. They attended bonfire evening parties, played games and attended lectures. They made a tour of Urumqi, and visited the Xinjiang Science and Tech-

nology Museum and the Grand Canyon Scenic Spot in Nanshan Mountain.

The organizing committee hosted a variety show at the closing ceremony on the afternoon of July 23, when both Vice Chairman Erken Tunijaz of the Autonomous Regional Government and CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan delivered speeches.

Vice Chairman Erken said the International Children's Art Festival in Xinjiang took advantage of the region's geographical closeness to many countries to enhance exchanges and understanding, improve the popularity of Xinjiang, and promote the region's people-to-people exchanges and cooperation with the outside world with beautiful songs and dances.

He hoped that more platforms would be built to show the achievements and the spirit of Xinjiang and contribute to establishing a peaceful and friendly international environment for the region's vigorous development and long-term stability.

Vice President Xie Yuan stressed: "Lasting friendship between different nations lies in people-to-people communication and youth exchanges. The Xinjiang International Children's Art Festival has set up a bridge of cultural communication to enhance understanding and friendship between the young people of different countries."

He hoped the seeds of friendship would foster the cause of people-to-people friendship for generations. The CPAFFC would continue to support this activity and make the festival even better.

Camilova Sidojatto, Leader of

Fourth China Xinjiang International Children's Art Festival Promotes Friendship

Zhang Jiahu

the No.3 Children's Conservatory Delegation of Tajikistan, said they had participated in the festival on three consecutive occasions, and she considered it very meaningful in providing children with opportunities to broaden their horizons and make good friends through exchanges and conversations about culture and lifestyles.

Dereyghere Corrina, a little performer from the "Berdsk Girl" Delegation of Berdsk Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia, said, "This is my first visit to China. It is so beautiful here and there are lots of people in the streets. Children from Xinjiang are especially warm and hospitable, always talking and playing with us. I also made a few

friends from other countries including India and Mongolia. I communicated with them in English and gestures. I had great fun with them despite language barriers."

A child from India joyfully told reporters it was his first time to take part in the festival, during which he not only performed on stage, watched brilliant performances by other foreign children, while also studying Chinese calligraphy and paper-cut making, greatly stimulating his interest and learning ability.

In the sitting room for the Delegation of the Secondary Art School Attached to Xinjiang Arts Institute, I learned that girls from the delegation

had made many friends coming from different countries. They played games after the performance.

One Chinese girl said: "We taught them to play hide and seek while they taught us games they played in their countries. Indians spoke English with us and we translated it into Uighur language for children from Kyrgyzstan, who then translated it into Russian for our Tajikistan peers. Everyone had a good time despite the difficulties we encountered in our languages."

The organizing committee presented performance certificates and souvenirs to leaders and student representatives of the troupes at the closing ceremony. ■

A dance item performed by a Russian troupe



International Tour of Exhibition of Chinese Characters Launched at the Opening Ceremony of Its Capital Show

Our Staff Reporter

The International Tour of the Exhibition of Chinese Characters, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the Henan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Anyang Municipal Government and the National Museum of Chinese Writing, was launched in the Capital Museum of China on August 13.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and Vice President Xie Yuan, Anyang Mayor Ma Linqing, leading members of relevant department of Henan Province, joined over 100 representatives from China's cultural and academic circles, ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Peru and Uzbekistan, and diplomats from the embassies of the United States, Canada, France, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Nepal, to attend the opening ceremony. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin declared the exhibition open and cut the ribbon, and visited the exhibition together with the diplomatic envoys.

The exhibition consists of three parts — "Origin and Evolution", "Research and Dissemination" and "Art and Innovation". Among more than 120 exhibits were such precious cultural relics as oracle bones, bronze ware, pottery, bamboo slips, coins, jade and paper, showing the evolution of Chinese characters from oracle bone script and bronze script to small seal script,

clerical script and regular script. It fully revealed the essence of Chinese writing culture and showed the splendor of China's ancient civilization and the wisdom of humanity.

The exhibition aims to carry out cultural and art exchanges with countries of the world through Chinese characters and introduce to the people of various countries the ancient but still flourishing Chinese culture. Its "Capital Show" in the Capital Museum of China was planned to last for a month, before moving on in Canada, Uzbekistan, Nepal and other countries.

In his speech at the ceremony, CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan said, "The CPAFFC, since its inception 59 years ago, has been active in carrying out friendly cooperation and exchanges with other countries to promote peace and development in the world. At present, with the development of economic globalization and regional integration and increasingly frequent cultural exchanges between China and other countries, people around the world are showing strong interest in the ancient Chinese civilization, resulting in the surge of enthusiasm for learning Chinese."

"The Exhibition of Chinese Characters will be held in countries across the world in the next three years. The CPAFFC will conduct cross-cultural exchanges centering round the exhibition and organize activities including forums on writing and multi-culture, so as to provide a new vision for those elsewhere who love and follow with interest Chinese culture and the art of Chinese characters."

At the launching ceremony, the Uzbekistan Embassy and the CPAFFC signed a letter of intent on cooperation in the exhibition's international tour. Ambassador Daniyar Kurbanov said the exhibition, showing the unique and ancient civilization of China, was very appealing. In his country, more and more people had become interested in China. He believed that the exhibition would be well received when mounted in his country. ■

A corner of the exhibition hall



Visit to ROK by Chinese Young Envoys of Friendship

Zhou Xiaodan

At the invitation of the Korea Foundation and Korea-China Friendship Association, a 200-member Chinese delegation of young envoys of friendship, headed by Mr. Liu Xinsheng, Adviser to the China-Korea (ROK) Friendship Association and former Chinese Ambassador to Brunei, paid a visit to the Republic of Korea from June 10 to 18. Members included young civil servants and university students from Beijing, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Chongqing, Sichuan, Xinjiang and Guizhou.

Experience Korea

Korea is a country where tradition and modernity coexist and restraint and openness mingle. The Chinese delegation witnessed the bustling streets of fashion, the convenience offered by the state-of-the-art public infrastructure, the modest people with good manners and the stability and harmony of society.

During the delegation's visit to the Academy of Korean Studies, Dr. Xu Zhi, Director of the Confucius Institute at Incheon National University and Ms. Li Mei, postgraduate student majoring in history of art, made speeches about "power of Korean culture". They told



Chinese youth performing wushu (martial arts)

the delegation that Korea highly valued its cultural tradition, rich in content and treasured by succeeding generations.

In Kongju city, Chinese university students were divided into groups of three or five people and stayed with local families. Some students put on Korean national costumes and learned traditional etiquette; some played waist drums at family parties; some shopped at supermarkets with their "Korean moms" and learned to cook local dishes. The Chinese students quickly formed deep friendship with the host families and all were reluctant to part.

Learn from Korea for Common Development

By visiting museums and meeting with local government officials, the Chinese delegation learned more about

the country's development and the progress local governments had achieved by exploiting their advantages.

In Gangnam District of Seoul, the Chinese delegation was deeply impressed by the remarkable changes in the former villages. In Pyeongchang County of Gangwon Province, the delegation supported Korea's determination to host the 2018 Winter Olympiad.

In Pohang City, the delegation highly appreciated the corporate development concept of "Resources are limited, but creativity is unlimited". In Cheongju City, the delegation marveled at the miracles produced by LG's technologies for healthy life. In Jeju Province, the delegation admired this charming island of "Oriental Hawaii".

Delegates from local governments in China showed their willingness to learn from the advanced experience of Korea and further promote exchanges and cooperation between localities of the two countries.

Carry forward China-Korea Friendship

Senior officials from the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and educational authorities met the delegation.

Mr. Park Joon-yong, Director General of the Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Korea would provide more convenience for bilateral personnel exchanges and become one of China's neighbors with the closest ties in the next few decades. Mr. Chung Chong-wook, former Korean Ambassador to China, pointed out that the Chinese dream was also the dream of Koreans and hoped that the youth of the two countries would work hand in hand to realize the same envisioned future.

Mr. Chung Chung-kil, President of the Academy of Korean Studies, expressed the idea that Korea and China were good neighbors throughout history with common social values, so the two countries should further their cooperation for the recovery of the world economy.

Mr. Han Suk-jung, Vice President of Dong-A University, told Chinese students that Premier Zhou Enlai advocated to "study for the rise of China". Young people in China cherished great

aspiration for the future and shouldered the arduous task of safeguarding peace and stability in Asia. He expected the Chinese delegation would contribute more to enhancing Korea-China friendship, and common progress in harmony.

Ambassador Liu Xinsheng, head of Chinese delegation, said there was an old Chinese saying: "A good neighbor is better than distant relatives". In the short period of 21 years since China and Korea established diplomatic relations, great progress had been made.

Three reasons were applied here. First, China and Korea were close geographically. The two countries shared much common ground in cultural traditions and complemented with each other economically. Second, China and Korea both held that all countries, big or small, were equal. Third, China and Korea agreed to solve disputes through dialogues. The Chinese side was fully confident in a better future of bilateral relations and believed that the forthcoming visit to China by Korean President Park

Geun-hye would surely be a success.

Ambassador Liu Xinsheng emphasized that the endeavor to develop China-Korea friendship would never end. He encouraged the youth in China and Korea to infuse positive energy into carrying forward China-Korea traditional friendship and making greater success for bilateral relations.

The theme for this visit to ROK was "2013 Journey to Korea for People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges". The Chinese delegates summarized their visit by saying that Korea was a country both familiar and strange to them as they had only learned about it from Korean TV series, Korean food and media reports, which were superficial.

This visit provided an opportunity to experience, learn and forge friendly relations. Delegates broadened their horizon, now knew more about the country and its people, and felt more obliged to further develop the cause of China-Korea friendship. ■

The delegation with Shin Yeon-hee, head of Gangnam District of Seoul



Cultivate Successors to Sino-Japanese Friendship in the 21st Century

Chuan You

Invited by Cel Corporation of Japan, the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA) sent a delegation consisting of students and SIFA staff to Tokyo to take part in the 2013 Kizuna Koshien Baseball Exchange from August 2 to 5. The four students in the delegation came from Beichuan and Wenchuan counties, the worst-hit areas in the catastrophic earthquake that shook Sichuan Province on May 12, 2008, all losing either one or both parents.

This was the third time this event has been held. Since 2011, after the Great Eastern Japan earthquake on March 11, Cel Corporation began organizing such activities between the two countries. This time by inviting students from Sichuan earthquake-stricken area, it hoped to build a platform for Japan-China youth friendly exchange based on the idea of "for children, for the future and generation after generation".

Its desire is to enhance mutual understanding between the youth in the quake-hit areas of both countries, and help them draw courage from each other through their similar experiences and build up their confidence to overcome difficulties so that they can grow up healthily and play their part in reconstruction of the disaster areas in the future.



A Japanese coach giving some coaching tips to the Chinese students

This year's event, with a four-leaf clover symbolizing ties and renewal as its logo, was funded by over 500 companies; all employees of Cel Corporation, some 200 in total, enthusiastically plunged into the organizational and coordination work, including transportation of players and equipment.

Eight teams from schools in the Japanese earthquake-affected area and four teams from schools in Tokyo, totaling more than 400 people, took part.

The Kizuna Koshien Organizing Committee gave a complete set of baseball equipment including a bat, batting helmet, a cap, mitt, sports outfit and shoes to each of the four Sich-

uan students, and specially presented a set of gloves to the Beichuan Middle School Baseball Team. Having changed into their new outfit, the two players from Beichuan headed for the baseball diamond. The two students from Wenchuan who had never played baseball before, learned earnestly how to pitch with the help of a Japanese coach. Masayoshi Nishimoto, Cel's Senior Managing Director, talked with the players from Beichuan, inquiring about their respective positions in the team and discussed playing skills with them. On learning that they would go to Suining City to take part in China's National Youth Baseball Championship as soon

as they returned home, he arranged for the coach of Japan's championship team to give them some coaching tips.

The four Chinese students pitched together to start the event. Their synchronized pitching brought waves of cheers and greetings of “*ni hao*” from the Japanese students present. Then, Fukushima Baseball Team from the earthquake area presented baseballs to the Chinese players as souvenirs.

Masatsugu Jinno, Chairman of Cel Corporation, attended the evening get-together. He chatted cordially with the Sichuan students, had pictures taken with them and encouraged them to make contributions to the reconstruction and development of their hometown when they grew up.

A SIFA staff member speaking at the get-together introduced the friendly contacts between Sichuan and Japan. He expressed heartfelt thanks to the organizers and on behalf of SIFA extended an invitation to the youth of quake-hit East Japan to visit Sichuan to see its

new look and share experiences of their growth with young baseball players there.

Long Xin, a student from Wenchuan, presented to the Kizuna Koshien Organizing Committee his oil painting implying peace and friendship between the people of China and Japan, which brought the evening party to a climax.

Mr. Nishimoto said that, with the successful conclusion of the latest Kizuna Koshien Baseball Exchange, Cel Corporation was determined to hold this activity for 10 consecutive years. He expressed warm welcome for youth baseball teams from Sichuan to participate in future activities.

While in Japan, the delegation paid an official call to the Headquarters of Cel Corporation in Ginza, Tokyo. The 200-odd staff and workers led by Mr. Nishimoto gave the delegation a warm welcome. The four students talked about what they had seen and heard in Japan and impressions of

their visit.

They were surprised to discover that those who had coached them in the baseball field were actually Cel staff. They were deeply impressed by the fact that Japanese people who had a strong sense of responsibility at work also pursued their hobbies untiringly in their spare time.

Several Japanese companies made great efforts to ensure the success of the delegation's visit to Japan. Yuna Sato, General Manager of Cel China, had flown from Shanghai to Tokyo to accompany the delegation throughout its visit. He had to leave for Kyoto on business after the delegation's call on the Cel Headquarters, but he insisted on escorting the students on their visits to the Imperial Palace and the National Diet, carrying his suitcase with him, and briefed the children on Japanese history and culture.

Fujita Kanko Inc., a hotel sponsor, provided complete hospitality services. The general manager of the hotel in which the delegation stayed greeted the students on their arrival and saw them off on departure. He also presented them with gifts like kaleidoscopes and stationary.

In their four days in Japan, the members of the delegation, with baseball as the medium and through interaction with Japanese young people, demonstrated the good mental outlook of youth in the Sichuan quake area. They contributed their bit to consolidating the basis for lasting Sino-Japanese friendship and injected vitality into the friendly contacts between the Chinese and Japanese people that have lasted for over 2,000 years. ■

Giving an interview



Experience Korean Culture on A Visit to Gwangju

Zhang Yan

The 10th China-ROK Youth and Children Art Exchange Activity, co-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the Government of Gwangju Metropolitan City, was held there from July 19 to 23, 2013. Sixteen Chinese primary and middle school student art troupes comprising over 500 people from 16 provinces, regions and municipalities including Beijing, Guangdong, Shandong and Xinjiang demonstrated their performing skills on stage together with nine Korean student art troupes.

The participants, through songs and dances, gained knowledge and created friendships in sharing joyous and touching moments.

This was the first major activity held since the signing last May of an agreement on friendly cooperation and cultural exchange between the CPAFFC and Gwangju Metropolitan City Government. The latter attached great importance to the activity and its relevant departments gave great support. Vice Mayor Oh Hyung-kook was present at the opening ceremony and made a speech.

Art Exchange

The Chinese and Korean children gathered in the Grand Theatre of Gwangju on the morning of July 20



Korean youths performing *Fan Dance*, a traditional Korean dance

and jointly staged a performance to show their different cultures. The Chinese performers brought to the stage Chinese ethnic group dances, performances of traditional Chinese musical instruments, *wushu* (martial arts) and calligraphy and painting demonstrations, to provide a realistic portrayal of the multi-ethnic character of China.

The Korean students presented such traditional items as fan dance, circle dance, Pansori, Taekwondo and K-pop, enabling their Chinese peers to have a more intuitive understanding of

the Korean culture. The 36 items presented by the young performers of both countries showed the cultural diversity and development of their respective countries through their unique understanding and interpretation.

After the performance, the Chinese children learned Korean fan dance from Korean teachers. Having mastered the basic movements, they joined in a dance with the Korean students, the fans in their hands sometimes forming a mountain and sometimes a flower to the audience's delight.



The Chinese and Korean students exchanging contact information

Experiencing Korean Culture

It was the first time for the Chinese students to visit Korea. Their knowledge of the country had come from Korean TV series broadcast at home in recent years. The visit to Gwangju, traditional home of Korean

culture and art, enabled them to experience Korean culture through their eyes, hands and taste buds.

They visited schools, exchanging contact information with Korean students, learning *Gangnam Style Dance*, and witnessing the signing of the agreement on the establishment of friendship-school relations between China's Chengdu Yulin Middle School and Gwangju Speer Girls' High School.

They went to a folk village—Naganeupseong Fortress—in Suncheon, Jeollanam-do, to see the efforts of the Korean government to protect the ancient village and its 90-odd thatched houses dating from the Joseon period (1392-1910) and to learn about the local life and customs.

They visited Boramae Safety Experience Center watching videos that reproduced scenes of earthquakes and typhoons and walking into earthquake and typhoon simulation chambers. They learned how to avoid danger and help each other in a disaster.

They went to the theatre to watch *Nanta*, a representative Korean cultural show and a non-verbal performance, telling the story of four crazy chefs given the impossible task of creating a wedding banquet in just one hour. The performers used knives, pots and pans, water bottles, cutting boards and other kitchen utensils to make rhythmic music and their performance, combining acrobatics, magic tricks and comedy, was hugely enjoyed.

They attended a kimchi-making class, where they learned that lack of fresh vegetables had helped create kimchi from ancient times. Under their teacher's guidance, they spread evenly the pre-mixed chili paste on pre-treated cabbage. They were excited to learn that the fruit of their labor would be sent to a local home for the aged.

The five-day visit soon came to an end. The Chinese children left the country with beautiful memories and deeper understanding of Korean culture. ■

Chinese children performing *Fan Dance* they have just learned with Korean teachers and students



Jean Ping, a Legendary Figure In Sino-African Contacts

Tang Ruimin

Jean Ping completed his term of office as Chairman of the Commission of the African Union in 2012, and, this year, made his sixth visit to China at the invitation of the CPAFFC to receive its honorary title of Friendship Ambassador.

He was born in Gabon in 1942. His father, Cheng Zhiping, was a well-known local timber merchant from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province who emigrated to Gabon in the 1930s, married the daughter of a local chief and reared three sons. Being brought up in a bicultural environment, Jean Ping eventually became like a seed of Sino-African friendship planted in the soils of Gabon, taking root and eventually bearing much fruit.

After finishing his primary education in Gabon, he went to study in France and received a doctorate in economics. His diplomatic career began in 1972, when he started to work at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an international civil servant, and later, he became Executive Officer of the Assistant Director General for Cooperation and External Relations.

Then, he was appointed counselor of the Gabonese Embassy in France and Permanent Delegate of the Gabonese Republic to UNESCO. From 1990, he



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin presenting the medal of Friendship Ambassador to Jean Ping

held various ministerial posts such as minister of information, mining, energy and hydroelectric resources, finance, and planning. He was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Francophony in 1999.

He also served as President of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Vice Chairman of the Group of 77, and President of the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; in February 2008, he was elected President of the Com-

mission of the African Union.

In his diplomatic career, he always adhered to the values of his father, and his calm, tolerant, intelligent and diligent character won him wide praise and recognition. He has been awarded medals of Grand Officer of the Equatorial Star (Gabon); Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor (France); Officer of the Pleiades, the Order of the Francophony; Grand Cross of Merit (Portugal). In 2004, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from China Foreign Affairs University.

Nurtured in the traditional cultures of China and Africa, Jean Ping has profound feelings for China and his hometown Wenzhou. In the mid-1980s, as director of the President's Office, he accompanied Gabonese President on his visit to China.

That was his first visit to the country; his second was made in 1994 when he was Foreign Minister and accompanied the Gabonese Prime Minister. He went to Wenzhou during the visit and was accorded warm hospitality. The hard working, self-improving and pioneering spirit of Wenzhou left a deep impression on him.

In October 2003, he participated in the World Wenzhou People's Conference and in September 2009, he returned to his hometown to attend the

opening ceremony of the Museum of China-Gabon Friendship. He was present at the ceremony for the publication of the Chinese version of his book *Et l'Afrique brillera de mille feux* (Africa Will Shine Brighter than a Thousand Flames) in November 2010, and the Second Dialogue Between Chinese and African Governors and Mayors in June 2013.

Due to his China ties and cultural identity, Jean Ping has worked enthusiastically to promote contact between the people of China and Gabon. He set up the Gabon-China Friendship Association in 2003, and became its president. Through his encouragement, Port Gentil of Gabon and Wenzhou established friendship-city relations in 2010.

He said then that he was an African with Chinese roots and feelings and concerned about the changes and development of the country. He believed that the 21st Century would see the rise of the Chinese nation and that China's prosperity and progress would bring incalculable influence on peace and progress of the world.

Today, the Museum of China-Gabon Friendship, a modern building with Chinese and African features, stands in Yitou Village of Linjiang Township, hometown of Jean Ping. The cost of more than 8 million Yuan for its construction was covered by fund-raising in Wenzhou.

In the Museum, the rich collection of photos and African sculptures relates Jean Ping's ties with Yitou Village, his extraordinary process of growth, his achievements, as well as his outstanding contributions to China-Africa friendship. ■

Galina Kulikova, Cultural Envoy Of Sino-Russian Friendship

Qian Guangjian



Staff of the Russian Embassy in China and the Kalinka Choir singing together at a concert in the Beijing Concert Hall in 1995

Russian Songs Performed at the Beijing Concert Hall

"Our country is so vast with numerous fields and forests. We have never seen other nationals breathe as freely as we do." These words open the first song *Motherland March*, performed by the Kalinka Choir at a concert of Russian songs in the Beijing Concert Hall on June 25, 1995.

Since there was scarce opportunity to see a performance of Russian songs on Chinese stage for almost 30 years, the concert drew a large number of music lovers, including members of the National Day Alumni Association Chorus, Western Returned Scholars Association Chorus, Beijing Tongxin Chorus and the Friends of Folk Song Chorus, as well as local media, staff

of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Russian Embassy, and students from Russia, etc.

We included in the repertoire songs familiar to the audience, such as *The Song of the Perturbed Youth*, *My Dear Mother*, *Five Daughters like Five Flowers*, *Hawthorn Tree*, *Quiet Field*, earning warm applause each time. When the MC announced the last item, a female chorus of the Russian Embassy, there was thunderous applause.

Galina Kulikova, Vice President of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA), and nine others, dressed in white blouses and black skirts, walked onto the stage and sang two songs. The beautiful melodies and their passionate singing excited the au-

dience, who clapped and cheered at the end of each song.

After that, our choir joined the Russian performers in singing *Moscow Nights* together with the audience under the baton of conductor Chen Shiwei. The words reverberated through the concert hall, followed by a long ovation.

I felt relieved to see such a warm scene. Only seven days earlier, when I announced that our choir would hold a concert at the Beijing Concert Hall during a party for World Women's Films Week, I was not so confident.

Ms. Kulikova said she would attend. After the party, I wrote to her, inviting her to perform in the concert. She immediately called me back and told me they would sing two songs. Although they only rehearsed three times over the weekend before the show, their performance added extraordinary color to the concert.

Shortly after the concert, Ms. Kulikova wrote a passionate letter to our choir, expressing her amazement at our performance which not only embodied the art of music, but also the connotation of Russian vocal music.

She admired our endeavor to bring about a revival of singing Soviet and Russian songs in China and considered the poetic name of our choir "Kalinka" (meaning edelweiss in Russian) as evidence of the cultural interaction, mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

A Good Friend and Competent Diplomat

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the victory of World Anti-Fascist War, our choir was invited to join the

celebration in the Russian Embassy that winter. We sang several classical Russian songs such as *The Bird of Happiness*, *Kalinka* and *My Moscow* at the party, and Ms. Kulikova presented honorary certificates to those making outstanding contributions to the promotion of Sino-Russian friendship.

I was very excited to receive the certificate on behalf of our choir. After all, we were just a group of fans of Russian culture.

The first time I met Ms. Kulikova was in 1993 at a Mid-Autumn Festival get-together at the Russian Embassy. The middle-aged woman with big eyes and beautiful blond hair spoke excellent Chinese. In her capacity as Cultural Counselor of the Russian Embassy and Vice President of the RCFA, she introduced our choir to all the guests present.

Russian Ambassador Igor Rogachev even offered us piano accompaniment. This first meeting left a beautiful memory and was the start of continuous contact.

Ms. Kulikova was very energetic. Her warm laughter and elegant demeanor attracted everyone around her. She often went to watch concerts of Russian songs held in Beijing and performances by visiting Russian art groups and attended other cultural activities. Besides, she often joined the small gatherings with our choir.

In 1997, she led a group of Russian experts in Beijing to perform in the Russian-style friendship party hosted by Yang Hua from Beijing Music Radio Station featuring a dozen amateur choruses. She sang with passion and danced beautifully at the party.

In 1998, she led a group of Rus-

sian children from the Russian Embassy to participate jointly with us in a Retrospect of Songs in Soviet Films organized by China Central Television. The children sang *Blue Train* and their tender voice and sweet smiles drew warm applause.

Excellent works of Russian music, dancing, poetry, literature, painting, audio and video products, and collections of Russian songs have emerged in large numbers in recent decades. Russian Concerts and Chinese choruses singing Russian songs have become popular.

There have been frequent exchanges between cultural groups of the two countries. The Russian Alexander Rolf Red Flag Song and Dance Troupe, Moscow Classical Ballet, National Little Birch Tree Dance Troupe, and Igor Moiseyev Ballet have made several tours of China.

Chinese fans of Russian culture always rush to the venues such as Beijing Concert Hall, Tianqiao Theater, Poly Theatre, Exhibition Center Theatre and the Great Hall of the People to enjoy the excellent performances.

Promise to Meet Again at Departure

The Russian Embassy held a farewell reception for Ms. Kulikova on January 19, 2001, and a few representatives from our choir were among many Chinese and foreign guests.

In his speech, Ambassador Rogachev spoke highly of her excellent service for 11 years. Art performances then followed. Two members of our choir, Dai Misheng and Li Ming, sang in Russian *The Russian Field*, a favorite piece of Ms. Kulikova while I accompanied them at the piano.

Ms. Kulikova was very pleased

and came over to give each of us a hug. Other guests also came over, gave her gifts and had pictures taken with her. Ms. Kulikova shook hands and hugged everyone while saying goodbye with tears in her eyes. She told us: "You must go to Russia to visit the famous Summer Palace and Winter Palace, and the Volga River. See you in Moscow."

Reunion in Moscow

Ms. Kulikova often thought of us after returning to Russia. At Christmas of 2003, she arranged for New Year greeting cards to be brought to us together with a passionate letter and a big box of delicious chocolates. In the letter she invited us to visit Russia. All of us felt a touch of sweetness in our hearts while tasting the Russian chocolate.

In August, 2004, a tour group composed of members of our choir and our relatives visited Russia. Ms. Kulikova came to see us at the hotel on the day of our arrival in Moscow. We were very excited to see our old friend again.

Ms. Kulikova invited us to visit

the RCFA that evening, where members had prepared a variety of Russian dishes and drinks. Also present were Colonel Somov, Head of the Alexander Red Flag Song and Dance Troupe and several well-known Russian singers and artists.

After the welcome speech by Ms. Kulikova, everyone began to enjoy the delicious food and talk in Chinese, Russian, or English mixed with gestures. After dinner, the Russian artists and ourselves presented solo, duet, chorus and musical instrument performances. The three-hour long get-together ended with all present singing in unison *The Song of the Perturbed Youth* by the famous composer Aleksandra Pakhmutova.

It is said the best way to know Russia was to take a tour along the Volga River. We began our cruise from Moscow on the third day. During the day, we visited several cities; at night, we stayed on board, the only group from China (most of others came from Russia).

On the cruise ship was Alexei Alexeyevich who played the Bayan

(the Russian-style accordion) remarkably well. He would play after dinner every night and that was the most enjoyable time. Hearing the music, people would head towards the deck to dance and sing in turns.

We took out *The Collection of 88 Russian Songs*, and asked him to accompany us. We sang over a dozen Russian songs to our hearts content. The Russians on board were really surprised. They had never seen Chinese who could sing so many Russian songs.

I stood on the deck gazing at the direction towards Moscow where Ms. Kulikova lived. Our hearts were close despite our ship slipping further away. We visited the famous Summer Palace, Winter Palace and sang on the Volga River, Mother River of Russia, just as she wished.

Music and dance go beyond borders. Friendship between the Chinese and Russian people is just like the Volga River that never stops flowing. As sincere fans of the Russian culture, we will always remember that wonderful time. ■

Galina Kulikova (L.6 in the second row) and Russian film and TV workers at a Russian-style friendship party with personages of various circles in Beijing in 1997



Unceasing Dream to Return “Home”

—On a Dedicated American Lady Eunice Moe Brock

Miao Baotian, Bo Zheng

“I’m American, but I have a Chinese heart.” Those who were familiar with her remember clearly these words Mrs. Eunice Moe Brock uttered in less than perfect Chinese. This loving and tender “Chinese heart” ceased to beat on April 28, 2013. This fine lady who devoted the last years of her life to charity in China left forever this land she loved so dearly and the people who loved her.

The “China dream” of this old American woman inspires people. Her high moral character shown in her philanthropic deeds and her dedication to the cause of public health and public welfare becomes a spiritual monument towering over Liaocheng City.

Unbreakable China Ties

Eunice Moe Brock was born in central China’s Hebei Province on August 11, 1917. Later she moved to Liaocheng in Shandong Province with her missionary parents. It was here that she grew from an infant into a graceful maiden. In the more than a dozen years she spent in Liaocheng, the young Eunice experienced the diligence, kindness and wisdom of the Chinese people and witnessed their poverty and sufferings during the chaotic warlords period. Before going back to the United States with her parents, she had already cherished the wish to return some day.

After she returned to the United



American Lady Eunice Moe Brock, dressing as Santa Claus, sending gifts to villagers of Liumiao Village at Christmas in 2004

States, nothing in her tranquil life over long years could weaken her attachment to China. She became a nurse of a children’s hospital after graduation from university. Later, she was promoted to the post of director of the education department and then president of the hospital.

No matter how busy she was with her work and life, her memories of China were always remained fresh, keeping alive her strong longing to return to China.

There were many reasons why this desire remained unfulfilled; however, she always followed with interest what was happening in the country of her birth. Major events such as the

founding of the People’s Republic of China, the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, etc. lifted her spirits. In 1992, both Eunice and her husband retired. Freed from work, she reminded her husband Edwin of her wish to visit China. Seeing the eagerness in her eyes, he finally agreed. So after an absence of over 60 years, Eunice, together with her husband, returned to China — to find Liaocheng had undergone earth-shaking changes from the place she had known.

She saw a thriving country that had shaken off war, starvation and poverty. This visit ignited her eagerness to settle down in China.



Eunice Moe Brock with the children of Liumiao Village

The passing of her husband in 1998 brought unspeakable loneliness to Eunice, and her yearning for the faraway land grew increasingly stronger. In 1999, amid much puzzlement from family and friends, she sold all her property, including 40 acres of forest, her villa, garden and car; traveling alone across the ocean, she arrived in China on November 15.

With the help of China Youth Development Foundation and the Liaocheng Municipal Government, she settled down in Liumiao Village of Yanggu County, Liaocheng, where economic conditions were relatively good and transport was convenient, and became an honorary villager.

After nearly 70 years, she had finally fulfilled her wish of coming back to China.

In Pursuit of Her Dream

“Ring, ring ...”, the bell rang in the primary school of Liumiao Village. The children had just finished the first computer class of their lives. But they wouldn’t leave the computer lab, excitedly typing and seeing the words appear on the screen. They knew that they were gifts for the new school term from

Grandma Eunice.

Eunice loved children. On learning that the village primary school had not been able to run a computer course due to lack of equipment and funds, she immediately donated US\$30,000 for the purchase of com-

puters and other electronic teaching equipment.

In the following few years, she donated a total of 20,000 RMB to help Liumiao Village kindergarten and other schools in the township buy toys, and teaching equipment for music, sports and fine art classes, while she herself led a frugal life.

She often said, “I don’t want to live a luxurious life. What I want is to contribute my bit to the Chinese people with my limited savings and remaining energy. Doing good will make life more meaningful.” When Wenchuan of Sichuan Province was hit by a catastrophic earthquake (in 2008), she made generous donations.

When she learned that Liumiao Village would carry out greening work, she donated US\$6,000 to buy trees, plants and flowers in 10 varieties and helped to plant them together with children; she subscribed newspapers and magazines for the Village and gave suggestions for its development.

Being the honorary president of Liaocheng International Peace Hospital, she organized free medical consultations and covered the cost of cataract surgery for five senior patients and the

expenses for over 100 pairs of glasses fitted for the elderly.

Every weekend, she would go to Liaocheng International Peace Hospital to give lessons to the doctors and nurses and she also donated a new-type therapeutic apparatus and organized a training course to facilitate its usage...

According to local calculations, she had donated a total of more than 350,000 RMB in cash and kind in the past 14 years. She did not know how many good things she had done, how much money she had donated to the locality; yet, from the honorary titles conferred on her, such as Charity Ambassador of Shandong, Charity Ambassador of China, Ten People Who Moved Shandong in 2006, Ten People with Their True Stories That Move China, Ten News People in Shandong, etc., we can understand the profound feelings she had for the Chinese people and their recognition and appreciation for her noble morality.

Lin Fenghai, Secretary of the CPC Committee of Liaocheng, said at the memorial meeting for Eunice: “When I was the Mayor of Liaocheng, she came to see me to talk about the problem of 27 laid-off workers. She hoped that we would help solve the problem. We were deeply moved. Later, a decision was made by the Mayor’s Office to confer upon her the title of Honorary Citizen of Liaocheng.”

Her Dream Fulfilled

July 24, 2009 was an unforgettable day for Eunice. On this day, the 92-year-old Eunice was granted the Foreigner’s Permanent Residence Card in China—the Chinese “Green Card”—by Shandong Province, becoming

the first foreigner in the province to receive the card in the category of “special talents”.

In a meeting room in the Public Security Bureau of Liaocheng City, Eunice received the card with trembling hands, her face glowing with happiness.

She was very frank when talking about death. On February 16, 2005, she submitted the body donation application form to the Liaocheng Red Cross Society. She said: “To me, my body will be useless when I die. It’s maybe too old, but they can use my corneas to help restore other people’s sight. My body can also be made into cadaver specimens for scientific research. I will pay for the transportation of my body. I have written all this in my will.”

She stuck that little sign on her passport for fear it would be forgotten.

At 4:50 on April 28, 2013, Eunice died of multiple organ failure caused by coronary heart disease, completing her life of 96 years and engraving her love for China forever.

After the ceremony to pay last respects, and in accordance with her will, Eunice’s corneas were donated to the Shandong Red Cross Society for organ transplants; and her body was donated to Liming Medical College for teaching and research. In this way, this lovely American old lady passed on her love and at the same time fulfilled her “China dream”.

Eunice Moe Brock has passed away, but her kind deeds will always be remembered. We cherish profound memory of her is not only to commemorate her contributions to people-to-people exchanges and friendship between China and the United States, but also to carry forward her spirit of great love featuring selfless dedication and ceaseless pursuit of her dream, so that her story will touch and influence more people and encourage them to pursue their dreams in a life-long process of struggle for success in a down-to-earth way. ■

Japanese Silk Road Tour Delegation in Xinjiang

Zhang Jiahu

A Silk Road Tour Delegation from Nara, Japan visited Urumqi and Kuqa of Xinjiang from July 24 to 30 and called on the Cultural Relics Bureau of the Xinjiang Autonomous Regional Government and the Xinjiang People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (XPAFFC).

XPAFFC President Muzapar Mijit met them on the evening of July 29. He said that it was quite admirable for the delegation to visit China at a time when Sino-Japanese relations were suffering. Their visit would surely have a positive significance on promoting exchanges and enhancing mutual understanding and trust between the people of Xinjiang and Nara.

He thanked the Japan-China Friendship Association (JCFA) and Nara JCFA for the long-term support and help given to the XPAFFC for carrying out people-to-people exchange activities with Japan.

Delegation head Ms. Junkei Yasuda said many members of the delegation had visited the region several times and had developed a special bond with it. She told Muzapar Mijit that the trip had been

postponed from the original schedule of September 2012 due to the dispute over the Diaoyu Islands, so they were deeply honored by the warm hospitality accorded them, which demonstrated the great attention attached by the XPAFFC to their visit.

When she returned to Japan she would tell her colleagues the high courtesy and friendship they had received in Xinjiang and encourage them to continue to make unremitting efforts for the cause of Sino-Japanese friendship.

Members of the delegation spoke highly of Xinjiang’s achievements in economic development, social progress and ethnic unity in recent years. Both hosts and guests at the banquet recalled their friendship and toasted to each other expressing their wishes to create a better future hand in hand.

The delegation was composed of old and middle-aged friendly personages from all walks of life in Nara. Most of them had visited Xinjiang several times since the 1980s and made generous donations to the maintenance and restoration of cultural relics and historical sites. ■

A Trip to China

Daniel Martin (Colombia)

Editor's Note: The Vermont School of Colombia is one of the few middle schools in the country that teaches Chinese as the second foreign language. In early June 2013, a 77-member student delegation came to China to attend a summer camp jointly hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the North China University of Technology (NCUT). The following is an essay written in Chinese by a Colombian student recording his tour in China.

On May 30, 2013, over 70 students from our school, the Vermont School of Colombia, all dressed in green uniforms, arrived at the airport to begin our trip to China. After two hours at the airport, having said good-bye to our parents, we finally boarded the plane. We were very excited and impatient, wishing the plane would land in Beijing, China as soon as possible. About 10 hours later, I saw the beautiful red sunset across the blue sky from the window when our plane landed in Paris. As our flight had been delayed, we ran quickly through the transit passageways and boarded the plane to Beijing.

As soon as we arrived in Beijing, we immediately bought the SIM phone cards at the airport and called our par-

ents at home. Then, we got onto a bus and headed towards the NCUT while listening to a tour guide's introduction.

At lunchtime, we found the food here was quite different from that in our country. However, without hesitation, we took the first bite and slowly discovered the delicious and unique quality of Chinese food.

In the following days, we visited the Beijing No.2 Middle School where we learned the art of Chinese pottery, painting and calligraphy, and became good friends with Chinese students. Then, we visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Great Wall—one of the Seven Wonders of the World, through which we deeply felt China's long history and

the ancient culture.

Then, we went to Xi'an and saw the Terracotta Warriors that I had long dreamed of seeing. They looked very tall, and large, as well as very old. Besides, we also visited the Xi'an City Wall, on the top of which we rode bicycles. There we saw another side of ancient Xi'an.

It was very hot the day we arrived in Shanghai. But the hot weather could not stop us from visiting the beautiful city. We went to the Yuyuan Garden, appreciated the classical architecture and lovely carp in the beautiful lake. We also went to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, a building with an exterior made of glass. I was rather scared when entering the tower at first. Then we found it was very solid and became happy to see such a special building.

Finally came the day for us to return to Colombia. On the one hand, we felt happy because we missed our parents; on the other, we were very sad about leaving China so soon.

I swear I will never forget this trip to China. After visiting three beautiful Chinese cities, I've known the ancient China through Xi'an, the present China through Beijing, and the future China through Shanghai. What a great country! The trip will always remain in my mind. ■

The Colombian students at a pottery class in the Beijing No. 2 Middle School

