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Front cover: Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting with current and former foreign government leaders coming to attend the China International Friendship Conference in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the CPAFFC (May 15, 2014)

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A Series of Activities in Commemoration of CPAFFC's 60th Anniversary Held

Our Staff Reporter

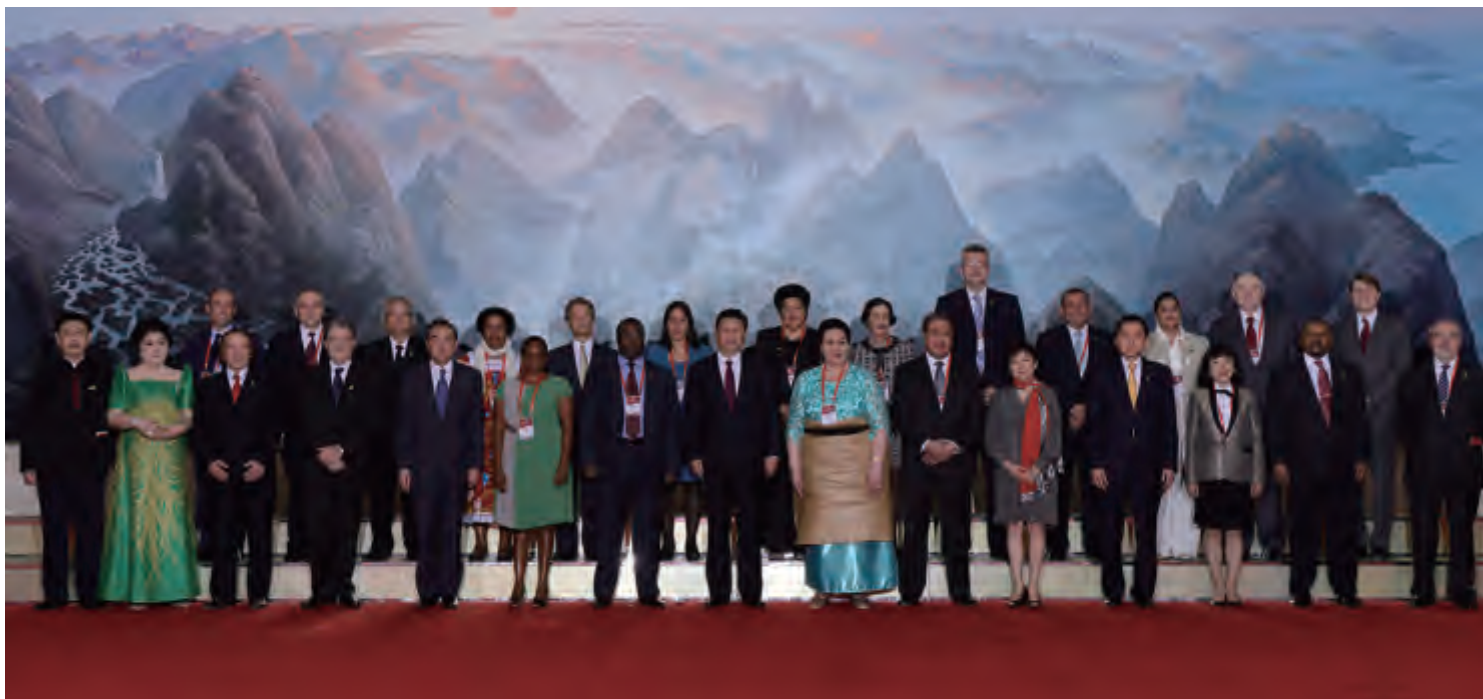
The China International Friendship Conference in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) was held at the Great Hall of the People on the afternoon of May 15. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin spoke on the work of the CPAFFC in the

past six decades, and five international friends also made remarks.

On the morning of May 16, *60 Years Unforgettable*, a special TV program in commemoration of China's people-to-people diplomacy over the past 60 years was recorded live by China Central Television (CCTV). The 12 stories of friendship between the Chinese and other peoples included in the

program spanned from the revolutionary war years to the present period of deepening reform in a comprehensive way.

Present at these occasions were current and past State leaders—Chen Changzhi, Arken Imirbaki, Chen Yuan, Wang Jiarui, He Luli, Cheng Siwei, Gu Xiulian, Uyunqing, Jiang Shusheng, Sang Guowei, Tang Jiaxuan, Hu Qili,



Luo Haocai, Xu Kuangdi, Bai Lichen, Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit and Zheng Wantong; 24 incumbent and former national leaders of foreign countries and nearly 400 representatives of friendship associations and friendly personages from 47 countries.

President Xi Jinping Delivers an Important Speech

President Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, extended warm congratulations on the opening of the conference and paid tribute to all the peace-loving international friends cherishing friendship with China and sympathizing with and supporting its revolution, reform and development over the years.

He expounded, in a systematic way, the significance of people-to-people friendship for world peace and development and reaffirmed China's consistent stand and steadfast determination to pursue the path of peaceful development. He said, "Friendship among peoples is the foundation for world peace and development as well as a precondition for win-win cooperation." China would open itself wider to the world, advance mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries, and promote the development of the economic belt along the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road so that countries involved could create and share development opportunities together.

He continued, "The Chinese nation always loves peace" and "has been pursuing and maintaining the philosophy of peace, friendship and harmony." It would continue to pursue peace-

ful development and encourage other countries to follow the same path.

He stressed that exchanges between different cultures and mutual learning should be strengthened for the maintenance of world peace and promotion of common development, and "people-to-people diplomacy represents the most profound force in such exchanges and mutual learning."

President Xi spoke highly of the achievements of the CPAFFC over the past 60 years and put forward further requirements for the work of people-to-people diplomacy. He said, "Over the years, the CPAFFC has followed China's independent foreign policy of peace and devoted itself to making friends with other countries and peoples." "It has played an irreplaceable role in deepening people-to-people friendship, enhancing state-to-state relations, and advancing international cooperation," adding that throughout its existence, "the CPAFFC has fully demonstrated the power of friendship between people of different countries in promoting world peace and development as well as the important place people-to-people diplomacy has in China's overall diplomatic agenda."

He expressed the hope that the CPAFFC would build on its past accomplishment to achieve greater success in promoting people-to-people diplomacy, city-to-city diplomacy and public diplomacy, and make still greater contributions to friendly exchanges between China and other countries.

He emphasized that people-to-people diplomacy needed innovation. Efforts should be made to conduct

multi-tiered friendly exchanges in various fields and through diverse channels. Sincerity was the key to bringing the Chinese people and those of other countries together. People-to-people diplomacy should leverage its advantages to open more channels for communication, set up more platforms for cooperation, and encourage more foreign institutions and talents to contribute to the modernization of China.

He urged that more efforts needed to be made on the sister city project to encourage exchanges at the local government level. Attention should be given to public diplomacy to spread China's message, share China's story, and present to the world a true, multi-dimensional picture of China. (see full text, page 6)

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin Reviews History

In her speech at the commemorative conference, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin reviewed the association's development course over six decades and talked about the important role people-to-people diplomacy played in different historical periods. The CPAFFC had constantly endeavored to enhance understanding and friendship, strengthen exchanges and cooperation and promoting peace and development.

Speaking of the "Chinese Dream" of great national renewal as consistent with the world's dream of promoting peace and well-being, she said: "The realization of the Chinese Dream needs the understanding and support of people of all countries and the extensive exchanges and cooperation between



China and the rest of the world. In the new historical era, we will continue to hold high the banner of ‘friendship, peace, cooperation and development’, continue to innovate the content and methods of our work, play a leading role in promoting people-to-people diplomacy and a key role in public diplomacy, serve as a bridge for local government cooperation between China and other countries, and make new contribution to the great renewal of the Chinese nation, to world peace and development, and to the worthy cause of people-to-people friendship!” (see full text, page 9)

Remarks of International Friends

In her speech, Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita, President of the Tonga-China Friendship Association, fully affirmed the efforts the CPAFFC had made to develop friendly relations between China and other countries. She

said: “True friendship has no boundaries” and expressed the hope that the CPAFFC’s philosophy, belief and actions in upholding this belief, would help the world support peaceful and friendly processes in reducing tensions and solving conflicts.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said, Japan caused immense pain to the Chinese people in the 20th century, for which it had expressed deep remorse and was determined to become a nation that would never involve itself again into any form of warfare. He emphasized “friendship” as the only proper way to cure the current political chaos.

Gian Franco Terenzi, former Captain Regent of San Marino and President of the San Marino-China Friendship Association (SMCFA), said he was much impressed by China’s diplomatic principle that all countries, big or small, should be equal. He said

the SMCFA was a mainstream friendly force China could trust in Europe and that China was his second home.

Dr. Jean Ping, Former President of the African Commission, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon, recalled the friendship highlights of Sino-African cooperation and expressed his wish that China and Africa would join forces for fostering and securing intercultural dialogue, and for “ensuring fair trade and sustainable development which will greatly enable us to live together in peace, in friendship and in dignity”.

The last speaker, Christopher Nixon Cox, grandson of Former US President Nixon, recalled the latter’s visit to China 42 years earlier and said, China-U.S. “friendship based on understanding and respecting the interests we have and the ties we share constitutes the very foundation for building a new type of bilateral relations between the

two great powers of this century”.

CCTV Special Program *60 Years Unforgettable* Recorded

A special TV program, *60 Years Unforgettable*, commemorating the six decades of people-to-people diplomacy was recorded on May 16. It was produced by the CPAFFC in cooperation with CCTV to show that the Chinese people value friendship and never forget their old friends.

The program consisted of four parts—“Eventful Years”, “In the Same Boat”, “Advance Hand in Hand” and “Sail Towards the Future”. Through video clips, live presentations and art performances, 12 stories of people’s friendship spanning from the revolutionary war years to the present period of deepening reform, were presented. The tales of friendship between the Flying Tiger pilot Glen Beneda and the Chinese people, the Indian doctor

Dwarkanath Kotnis who came to help China in its efforts to resist Japanese aggression during WWII, New Zealand friend Rewi Alley who initiated the Gung Ho movement and set up Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, I. V. Arkhipov of Russia who supported China in its socialist construction, the entire family of Pholsena of Laos devoted to promoting China-Laos friendship, the Brazilian lawyer Danilo Santos who spoke up in court in defense of innocent Chinese people, the Matsuyama Ballet performing *The White-Haired Girl* wholeheartedly for decades, the ping-pong diplomacy that opened the gate for China-US Exchanges and the American friend Sarah Lande’s friendship with Chinese President Xi Jinping renewed after 27 years, Gian Franco Terenzi, former Captain Regent of San Marino who founded the San Marino-China Friendship Association, Former President of the African Commission Dr. Jean Ping

who has actively promoted cooperation between China and Africa, and the young Hiria Ottino from the French Polynesia who sailed 16,000 nautical miles across the ocean to China to look for Polynesians’ roots, touched the audience and showed the affinity of people-to-people diplomacy.

CCTV attached great importance to the production of the program. A special team was organized and the preparation and shooting of the video clips lasted for half a year. The program, hosted by famous CCTV presenters, was broadcast on Channel 1 and 4 on May 29 and 31 respectively. These stories of people-to-people diplomacy are told to show that the Chinese people never forget those foreign friends who had sympathized with and supported China’s revolution, reform and development and that the friendship between the people of China and other countries is deep-rooted. ■



Speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping At China International Friendship Conference in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the CPAFFC

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Good morning! It gives me great pleasure to be here and celebrate with you the 60th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and also in my own name, I would like to extend warm congratulations on the opening of the conference and sincere welcome to all friends present.

Confucius, a Chinese philosopher, said over 2,000 years ago, "It is such a delight to have friends coming from afar." We have invited friends from home and abroad to gather here so that we can thank you for your unremitting efforts in enhancing the friendship between China and other countries, review our extraordinary journey in pursuit of our common aspirations, and celebrate our long-standing friendship and cooperation.

The Chinese nation always believes in repaying the kindness of a drop of water with a wellspring of gratitude. The Chinese people will never forget our friends. Here, I would like

to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of our peace-loving international friends who have cherished our friendship and sympathized with and supported China's revolution, reform and development over the years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Friendship among peoples is the foundation for world peace and development as well as a precondition for win-win cooperation. Trust and equality are the prerequisite of mutually beneficial cooperation. Only when peoples from all countries are united with friendship can we achieve the common aspiration of peace and development.

As trends toward a multi-polar world, economic globalization, and greater application of information technology gather momentum, countries are inter-connected and inter-dependent in terms of their national interests, fortune and security. They are in a closely-knit community of shared destiny. Facing the complex and ever-changing world situation and acute global issues, people of all countries need to strengthen friendly exchanges and work together

to overcome challenges.

Today, China is in the midst of growth, reform and progress. We have set two "centenary goals", i.e. to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society and double China's 2010 GDP and per capita income of rural and urban residents by 2020 and to turn China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious and realize the Chinese dream of the great renewal of the Chinese nation by the middle of this century. The Chinese dream not only represents the Chinese people's pursuit of happiness, but also echoes the aspirations of the people all over the world. In pursuing the Chinese dream, China will go hand in hand with all other countries to help them realize their dreams.

The Chinese people's endeavor in realizing the Chinese dream will bring a huge opportunity to the world. In November 2013, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held its third plenary session, sounding the clarion call for the deepening of reform in a comprehensive way. China is working to translate the reform blue-

print into reality. This new round of reform will be a strong driver for China's development. It is certainly good news for the world economy.

As a Chinese saying goes, "The ocean is vast for it admits hundreds of rivers." China will open itself wider to the world, advance mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries, and promote the development of the economic belt along the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century so that countries can create and share development opportunities together. With greater openness, inclusiveness and broad vision, China will vigorously engage in cultural exchanges with other countries and make due contribution to the advancement of world civilization through mutual learning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

In recent years, with the rapid development of China, some people have started to worry that a powerful China will seek hegemony and some people have put forward the "China threat theory". These views are mostly due to misperceptions and in some cases, they are the result of a strong bias against China.

The Chinese nation always loves peace. As an important part of Chinese culture, the concept of harmony has a long history and strong appeal. We believe in unity between man and nature, peace among countries, the approach of "agree to disagree" and the good nature of people. In China's 5,000-year history, the Chinese nation has been pursuing and maintaining the philosophy of peace, friendship and harmony. Peace is most precious; treat others with kind-



ness; don't do to others what you don't want others to do to you. These ideas have passed from generation to generation and taken root in the mentality of the Chinese and is reflected in their behaviour.

Our forefathers knew that a warlike state would eventually perish however big it might be. Since ancient times, the Chinese nation has been keen on foreign trade and communication, rather than invasion and expansion. The Chinese have focused on protecting their country under patriotism, instead of grabbing more land under colonialism. More than 2,100 years ago, the Chinese people launched the Silk Road, which facilitated equal-footed exchanges between eastern and western civilizations and brought about success stories of mutually beneficial cooperation, tremendously benefiting people of the various countries along the Silk Road. Over 600 years ago, a

Chinese navigator named Zheng He led what was then the most powerful fleet in the world on seven expeditions to the Pacific Ocean and the western Indian Ocean. They visited over 30 countries and regions, without taking a single inch of land. They were there to sow the seed of peace and friendship, leaving behind many stories of friendship and cultural exchanges with the local people. The modern history of China before the founding of the PRC is a tragic chapter of humiliation, disaster and defeat. But it is also a great history of the Chinese nation's resistance against foreign aggression and its struggle for national independence. The Chinese people, who have been through such trials and tribulations, cherish peace and will, under no circumstances, impose its own woeful experiences upon other nations.

The Chinese people don't have the gene for invasion and hegemony in

their blood. The Chinese reject the argument that a country is bound to seek hegemony once it becomes powerful. The Chinese want to live in harmony and share common development with the people of other countries so that together we can seek, safeguard and benefit from peace.

History has told us to stay on high alert against war, which, like a demon and nightmare, would bring disaster and pain to the people. History has also told us to preserve peace with great care, as peace, like air and sunshine, is hardly noticed when people are benefiting from it, but none of us can live without it. The world today still faces the danger of war. People in many countries and regions are trapped in wars, and the lives of countless women and children are threatened. All peace-loving people with a conscience should act to stop war and uphold peace.

China will continue to pursue peaceful development and encourage other countries to follow peaceful development. China will shoulder more international responsibilities, work with other countries to stand up for humanity and international justice, uphold justice in international and regional affairs, and take a more active part in seeking solutions to hotspot issues. China will develop itself through maintaining world peace and promote world peace through its own development. China will stay committed to equal consultation in handling problems and differences and demonstrate utmost sincerity and patience in seeking a negotiated settlement of differences.

2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. Over the years, thanks

to the joint efforts of all peace-loving people around the world, the outcome of the victory of the Second World War and the post-war international order have been maintained, and peace and development have become the theme of our times. This has created an enabling environment for the development of all countries. The Chinese people will, together with the people of other countries, commemorate this great victory and cherish and safeguard the hard-won peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

As the Chinese saying goes, “Affinity between the people holds the key to state-to-state relations while mutual understanding holds the key to people-to-people relations.” On a recent visit to the UNESCO headquarters, I saw, on the stone wall at the entrance, a message in several languages. It reads, “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” The message underscores the truth that the key to peace and common development is to make sure people of different countries fully understand the importance of peace and development to mankind. Therefore, we should strengthen inter-civilization exchanges and mutual learning. And people-to-people diplomacy represents the most profound force in promoting such exchanges and mutual learning.

Diversity and richness of civilizations is a result of exchanges and mutual learning. Such exchanges and mutual learning are a major driver behind the progress of human civilization and peace and development of the

world. We need to encourage inter-civilization interactions that transcend national boundaries and temporal and spacial limits to promote mutual understanding, support and assistance among people of different countries, foster conviction in peace and common development, and forge a strong power that prevents and opposes war and promotes common development.

Over the years, the CPAFFC has followed China's independent foreign policy of peace and devoted itself to making friends with other countries and peoples. It has made a great deal of good efforts and played an irreplaceable role in deepening people-to-people friendship, enhancing state-to-state relations, and advancing international cooperation. In its 60 years of history, the CPAFFC has fully demonstrated the power of friendship between people of different countries in promoting world peace and development as well as the important place people-to-people diplomacy has in China's overall diplomatic agenda.

China has scored remarkable achievements in its development, but it remains the largest developing country with a lot of challenges and a long and arduous journey ahead. We need to draw upon the fruits of other civilizations created by people around the world.

I hope the CPAFFC will build on its past accomplishment to achieve greater success in promoting people-to-people diplomacy, city-to-city diplomacy and public diplomacy, and make still greater contribution to the friendly people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries. People-to-people diplomacy needs innovation. Efforts should be made to conduct multi-

Build on Past Achievements to Write a New Chapter in the Cause of People-to-people Diplomacy

Li Xiaolin (CPAFFC President)

Your Excellency President Xi Jinping,
Distinguished guests from home and abroad,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Today we are gathered here at this grand China International Friendship Conference to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). We are deeply honored to have with us His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, who will deliver a keynote speech in a few minutes. On behalf of the CPAFFC, I

wish to pay high tribute to President Xi and other leaders attending the Conference. I would also like to express our warm welcome to all foreign friends coming from afar and hearty gratitude to people from all walks of life who have long supported our work.

The CPAFFC was established in May 1954. The people-to-people diplomacy it has been engaged in is an important part of China's overall diplomatic efforts and can be traced back to even before the founding of People's Republic of China. During the Yan'an period, the older generation of revolutionaries including Chairman Mao Zedong seized every opportunity to make

international friends to win sympathy and support for the Chinese people's cause of national liberation. In 1936, after an exclusive interview with Chairman Mao, American journalist Edgar Snow wrote the book *Red Star Over China*. The book presented to the world the Communist Party of China and the revolutionary cause under its leadership, and created a big stir in the world. Canadian doctor Norman Bethune and Indian doctor Dwarkanath S. Kotnis travelled thousands of miles to China to help the Chinese people in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and laid down their lives on this vast land. Their sacrifice composed an

tiered friendly exchanges in various fields and through diverse channels so as to make as many friends as possible. Sincerity in such exchanges holds the key to bringing the Chinese people and people of other countries together and bringing about greater mutual friendship, affinity, empathy and support. It is especially important that we encourage exchanges among young people so that the friendship between our countries will have successors.

People-to-people diplomacy should leverage its advantages to open

more channels for communication, set up more platforms for cooperation, and encourage more foreign institutions and talents to contribute to the modernization of China. More efforts need to be made on the sister city project to encourage exchanges at the local government level for the benefit of resources sharing, mutual complementarity and win-win cooperation. Attention should be given to public diplomacy to promote broad participation in NGO activities across the world, spread China's message, share China's story,

and present to the world a true, multi-dimensional and full picture of China.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

With hope, dream and hard work, nothing is impossible. The Chinese people have their dream, so do the people of other countries. This will bring unlimited vigor and a promising future to the world. Let us work together for our dreams and the noble cause of peace and development for all.

Thank you!



immortal paean of upholding justice and internationalism.

In the early years of New China, a pressing diplomatic task for the country was to oppose war, advocate peace and break Western countries' blockade. The CPAFFC, since its founding, regards conducting people-to-people diplomacy and making friends for the country as its mission, and has made unremitting efforts to present China and win friendship. To celebrate the opening of the Helsinki World Peace Congress in 1955, the CPAFFC invited 14 renowned Chinese calligraphers and painters including Master Qi Baishi to jointly produce a huge traditional Chinese painting *Ode to Peace*, which expressed the ardent wish of Chinese people for peace and their opposition to war.

an important role in opening the door of China-US relations. It was branded by media organizations as “ping-pong diplomacy” in which the small ping-pong ball affected the whole globe. In 1973, with the personal attention of Premier Zhou Enlai, Tianjin of China and Kobe of Japan forged the first international sister-city relationship in China, extending people-to-people diplomacy to the sub-national level.

Since the launch of reform and opening-up, successive Party and State leaders including Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao have all valued and supported people-to-people diplomacy. President Xi, in particular, has placed high importance on people-to-people diplomacy by taking time to attend various CPAFFC activities and has given us huge support and encour-

agement. As a major player in people-to-people diplomacy, the CPAFFC has played an active role in China's reform and opening-up, economic development and the great cause of peaceful reunification. It has constantly broadened its work fields and innovated working methods, and achieved fruitful results.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

In 1971, Chairman Mao invited a U.S. table tennis delegation to China, which riveted the attention of the world and played

The past six decades have witnessed our endeavor in enhancing understanding and friendship. In the past 60 years, the CPAFFC has set up friendship associations with 46 regions and countries and established relationship of friendly cooperation with more than 500 non-governmental organizations and institutions in 157 countries, thus laying a solid social foundation for the normal state-to-state relations between China and other countries. Among the friends of CPAFFC, regardless of their social status, age and residence, their friendship and goodwill toward the Chinese people have never changed, and their support and assistance to China have never ceased. Sitting in the audience today are many such good and old friends. The Chinese people will always remember you.

The past six decades have witnessed our endeavor in promoting exchanges and cooperation. Entrusted by the Chinese government, the CPAFFC is responsible for coordinating and managing sister-city affairs. Thanks to more than 40 years of efforts, China has forged 2,106 pairs of sister-province/state and sister-city relations with 133 countries. In addition, we have

established a number of bilateral and multilateral platforms for local government dialogue and exchanges, including China International Friendship Cities Conference, China-US Governors Forum, Forum for Local Leaders of Yangtze River Region of China and Volga Federal District of Russia, China-Japan Governors Forum, High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Local Government Cooperation and BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum.

The past six decades have witnessed our endeavor in promoting world peace and development. In its modern history, China has suffered greatly from foreign aggression, war and turmoil. Therefore, the Chinese people are resolute in their resolve and determination to follow a path of peaceful development. The CPAFFC is an active advocate of peace and opponent of war. In 1986, the CPAFFC held the Chinese People's Rally for World Peace and organized the torch-lighting ceremony for the First Earth Run at the Tian'anmen Square. In 2005, to mark the 60th anniversary of the victory of the world's anti-fascist war, the CPAFFC invited more than 200 veterans and their relatives from 22 countries to China for the commemorative activities to review history, draw lessons for the future, and call on the world to jointly uphold the victory of the war against fascism.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

As we take stock of our achievements in the past six decades, we will never forget the personal care of Party and State leaders, the strong support from friendship organizations and individuals in other countries, and the hard work of our colleagues in 315 local friendship associations across China. At this moment, I'd like to acknowledge with sincere respect those who made outstanding contributions to the cause of people-to-people diplomacy, the CPAFFC Honorary Presidents Madam Soong Ching Ling and Deng Yingchao, Chairman Guo Moruo of the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, and the CPAFFC former Presidents Chu Tunan, Wang Guoquan, Chai Zemin, Wang Bingnan, Zhang Wenjin, Han Xu, Qi Huaiyuan, and Chen Haosu, for their persistent efforts in the development of the Association.

Sixty years is a milestone as well as a new starting point. At present, the Chinese people are working hard for

the "Chinese Dream" put forward by President Xi Jinping featuring great national renewal, economic prosperity and happiness of the people. The Chinese Dream is consistent with the world's dream of promoting peace and well-being of all mankind. The realization of the Chinese Dream needs the understanding and support of people of all countries, and the extensive exchanges and cooperation between China and the rest of the world. In the new historical era, we will continue to hold high the banner of "friendship, peace, cooperation and development", continue to innovate the content and methods of our work, play a leading role in promoting people-to-people diplomacy and a key role in public diplomacy, serve as a bridge for local government cooperation between China and other countries, and make new contribution to the great renewal of the Chinese nation, to world peace and development, and to the worthy cause of people-to-people friendship!

Thank you!



Remarks by Princess Salote Pilolevu Tuita President of Tonga-China Friendship Association

It is indeed an honor for the Pacific delegation and I, to be invited and to participate in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. I have been given the privilege of representing the Pacific island nations as a guest of the Association, and to address you here this afternoon.

This wonderful tradition of people to people's relationship, fostering peace, harmony, goodwill and equality, together with enhancing friendship, is the foundation and the core of this Association. The vision of the forefathers and Leaders of this country, in creating and supporting this principle, has brought all of us here today regardless of how big or small our country may be, in itself, it promotes harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Today, there is some tension in certain parts of the Pacific Ocean and I would like to draw your attention to this, so that you and I together, can support a peaceful solution to eliminate these tensions. In the past, there have been many unfortunate events in the Pacific Ocean. Therefore today, we hope that the Chinese Friendship Association's philosophy, belief and acting on this belief, will be the solution that will help us to support a peaceful and friendly process in reducing these ten-

sions and solving the conflicts, because true friendship has no boundaries. Ferdinand Magellan named the biggest Ocean in the world—Pacific, meaning Peaceful because of the calm waters, and Captain James Cook named the Kingdom of Tonga the Friendly Islands because he found the people to be friendly. My experience with my relationship with the people of China has been both peaceful and friendly.

The People's Republic of China, has initiated and maintained a mutual friendship, mutual cooperation, mutual trust and equality to all Sovereign Nations and has provided support in so many areas including culture, industry, education, health, information and technology to the Pacific Region. Credit must be given to the Leadership of Madame Li Xiaolin and the Association for the role it has played in developing the relationship between countries in the Region and the People's Republic of China. For that, I extend my most sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Madame Li Xiaolin and the Association.

The long term support and dedication given by China to our Region has grown

from strength to strength to which we are all grateful for, it has been done based on people to people's relationship, mutual respect for each other and this has been my experience with my friends in China.

I anticipate that the Conference will be successful over the next few days and I truly believe that this will be an event that will continue for years to come and we look forward and will be honored to participate as a family member of the Association.

May the spirit of friendship and peace be amongst all now and forever.



Remarks by Mr. Yukio Hatoyama Former Prime Minister of Japan

Today, witnessed by The Honourable President Xi Jinping and many other distinguished friends from all over the world, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is celebrating its 60th birthday. I'd like to express my sincere congratulations on the occasion.

Meanwhile, as a member of the Japanese delegation invited to the event, I take it as a great honor to have the opportunity to speak in front of the most influential and eminent people in this house.

The 20th century was an era troubled by wars and conflicts, when world wars came up in swift intervals. In the turbulent whirlpool of history, Japan caused immense pain to the Chinese people. Japan has expressed deep remorse for this and determined to become a nation that will never involve itself again into any warfare. This is a determination to which we should commit forever.

Unfortunately, the world is still far from free of disputes and conflicts. We find disputes continue in numerous parts of the world, and the use of brutal force will get us nowhere near the fundamental settlement of these hostile disagreements.

We must start from the treatment of hearts and minds to fundamentally solve the disputes. I firmly believe that "Friendship", advocated by Count

Richard Nikolaus von Coudenhove-Kalergi of Austria and my grandfather Ichiro Hatoyama, is the only proper idea to cure the current political chaos.

The friendship means to respect one's own dignity and freedom and that of the others. This idea should apply to not only interpersonal relationships, but also state-to-state relations, and even the communication between man and nature.

We should not be opinionated, yet instead, we need to listen to each other, try to understand and trust each other, and always be ready to help.

Today, I think I stand and speak on behalf of Asia, and then to act as a representative of Asia, I believe that the realization of the idea of fraternity means to establish an integrated east Asian community. Now that Europe has built the European Union, and however, I reckon there is little reason to prevent us from making a united Asia.

If the Asian countries strengthen cooperation in areas of education, culture, environment, health care,

and social security besides their close economic partnerships maintained in trade and finance, and enhance a sense of community, then Asia will undoubtedly make far more significant contribution to world peace and development.

Thus, in this regard, President Li Xiaolin together with members of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and by now the friendly cooperative relationships established with friends all over the world in various fields, have all greatly contributed to world peace and development.

We sincerely welcome that China, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, is now playing an important



Remarks by Mr. Gian Franco Terenzi President of San Marino-China Friendship Association

It is my great honor to be invited to the China International Conference in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) today, which indicates that CPAFFC fully recognizes the importance of the work done by San Marino-China Friendship Association (SCFA).

I have the privilege of being the President of the SCFA for up to 26 years. During these years, the SCFA has actively carried out many activities to promote the understanding of Chinese culture among people in San Marino, including hosting Chinese painting and art craft exhibitions, Chinese folk song and traditional dance performances, as well as Chinese delicacies display. We have sent several delegations to China to meet with Chinese entrepreneurs and

people from all walks of life. We have also received many Chinese delegations from different provinces and cities.

Among these Chinese delegations, I have to make a special note of President Xi's visit in 2003 at my invitation. It was such a great honor for us to receive President Xi in San Marino. We still vividly remember that visit which has further promoted our friendship.

My first contact with China can be traced back to 1988 when I made my first visit to China as Captain Regent of San Marino at the invitation of



then Chinese President Li Xiannian. At the welcome banquet, President Li stressed that all countries, big or small, should be equal, which impressed me so much. I bore his words in mind and started an idea of setting up a China-

role in regional and global affairs as a responsible great country. Recently, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA) of Asia will be held, and will discuss the new Asian security concept, which coincides with my idea of the establishment of an integrated east Asian community. I highly appreciate it.

Today's Asia moves on the path of development and prosperity in

twists and turns, thanks to the tremendous post-war hard works by our great predecessors. In order to maintain sustainable and stable order in East Asia region, we must follow the footsteps of our ancestors and make more efforts.

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, with efforts of our friends of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, I

believe that in the near future, we will meet on the day with both flourishing plum and cherry blossoms.

60 years equals a complete cycle of Chinese traditional calendar. Here, I would like to wish the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, an organization steadily growing to maturity, in view of new goals and determination, a greater development.

friendly organization. Right after my visit, I actively promoted the founding of the SCFA and have held the position as its President ever after. In the past 26 years, the SCFA has stood the test of the ever-changing international and Sino-European situation, resolutely supported Chinese people as always and remained as a reliable mainstream China-friendly force in Europe. We always hold the view that Taiwan is forever an inseparable part of China's territory, support China's fundamental policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", and strongly oppose all kinds of separatism. In 2005, I made positive efforts to convince the people of all circles in San Marino, and successfully rejected the Dalai Lama's attempt to visit San Marino when he was already in Europe.

I have also promoted an initiative to issue stamps commemorating the 55th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the 50th anniversary of the CPAFFC. San Marino, the microstate far away in Europe, has set precedents one after another for China, for the Chinese people, and for our friendship.

It was my great pleasure to invite a CPAFFC delegation led by President Li Xiaolin to visit San Marino in September 2013. All delegation members were deeply touched by the hospitality and friendship of our local people. They enjoyed a pleasant and memorable stay in San Marino.

Since my first visit in 1988, I have been to China for more than 40 times. My deep and sincere friendship to China and the Chinese people has never stopped. To me, China is my second home.

Remarks by Dr. Jean Ping Former President of the African Commission

It is indeed a special honor for me to be invited to this highly significant 60th anniversary of the establishment of the CPAFFC. Allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to China for its paramount contribution to world civilization and for developing deep roots of solidarity and friendship amongst nations.

During the past sixty years China has taken a giant step forward on the world scene. Indeed China represents today the most impressive case of economic catching up process in history. In only a few decades it has evolved from a poor developing Third World country to a major Super Power with a dominant global economy in the 21st century.

This celebration enables us to take stock of our glorious past and present and to help pave the way forward. I should like to recall that we both come from vast and ancient continents. We in Africa have the fossils of Lucy and you have the Peking Man. We have the Pyramids and the Pharaohs; you have the Great Wall of China, and the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. We both

have ancient traditions and customs. We share some common values—we believe in hospitality, community responsibility, well-being, friendship and solidarity. We both have enormous economic potentials.

We Africans never forget that in 1955 our two continents—Africa and Asia came together and convened the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, which laid the foundation for decolonization and our political independence and for strengthening the role of Afro-Asian solidarity.

Eight years later in 1963 our two continents were extremely active with China in setting up the Group of '77 (G-77) aimed at defending collective economic interests of the Third World. A year later China's Prime Minister Zhou Enlai made his historical visit to Africa.

In 1974 the G-77 secured the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration calling for a New International Economic Order (NIEO). This Order aimed notably to stabilize and raise the prices of the commodities that G-77 members relied on to earn foreign



China has an instrumental role to play in improving the present economic order. This year, 50 years after Zhou Enlai's historical visit to Africa, the Prime Minister Li Keqiang has just finished his touring of Africa.

Intercultural dialogue has become a prerequisite for peace at local, national and international levels. May China and Africa join forces for fostering and securing such dialogue, and for ensuring fair trade and sustainable development which will greatly enable us to live together in peace, in friendship and in dignity.

exchange and to overcome the deterioration of their terms of trade.

Today China has become the main source of capital flow in the world and the first source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa. It is also our first commercial partner. Furthermore for the first time in the history of international trade, the long occurring deterioration of the terms of trade which constituted the main claim of the G-77 has now been drastically improved and even reversed. The price of raw materials, which was constantly dropping, increased dramatically thanks to China's high demand. Moreover, your country has become the cradle for manufactured low cost goods. What seemed impossible to achieve in spite of decades of UN and UNCTAD conferences has now been suddenly accomplished. Africa is now growing rapidly with an av-

erage rate of growth of almost 6% with some countries reaching two figure rates of growth.

Long life.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Remarks by Mr. Christopher Nixon Cox

It is a great honor for me to be here with you today in Beijing, in the Great Hall of the People, to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Since it was founded sixty years ago this month, the Association has played an important part in the way China looks at the world—and the way the world looks at China.

My grandfather, President Nixon, looked at China in a totally new way. When he came here for the first time, forty-two years ago in February 1972, his meetings with Chairman Mao Zedong, and his discussions with Premier Zhou Enlai, ended a quarter century of separation between our two great nations. His travels during those seven days in Beijing and Hangzhou and Shanghai, represented a dramatic end to the unhappy era during which relations between China and America were unfriendly and frozen.

On his last day in China, he called his visit “the week that changed the world.” And over the last four decades and more, the world has confirmed that assessment.

When there are hard times and rough patches—as there inevitably will be between even the closest of friends—it is important to be reminded of the underlying interests, and the common goals of peace and stability and prosperity, that can overcome particular problems and that will outlast temporary differences.

For six decades now, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship

with Foreign Countries has played an important role in bringing the people of China together with the people of the world.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Richard Nixon Foundation have had a particularly close and fruitful relationship—beginning with the memorable programs celebrating the internationally famous “ping pong diplomacy” that were held at the Nixon Library in California.

Under Mme. Li's leadership, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has become admired and respected all around the world—and especially in Yorba Linda, California.

I'm especially pleased that in July, the Association and the Nixon Foundation will be bringing together outstanding young American and Chinese students and entrepreneurs for two days of meetings and discussions at the Nixon Library.

I know that that great work will continue, and I hope that it will be possible to have even more people to people contacts between Americans and Chinese in the years ahead.

My grandfather used to tell me how important it was to understand the differences between tactics and strategy. He said that it was important not to view the world in terms of short term diplomatic battles and decisions, but to look

for the great forces that really move the world.

President Nixon died twenty years ago last month. He lived to see China reemerge as the great and powerful nation he knew it could become. And he believed deeply in the importance of the deep friendship between America and China which benefited greatly two nations in the cold war era. I believe, it is that same deep friendship based on understanding and respecting the interests we have and the ties we share constitutes the very foundation for building a new type of bilateral relations between the two greatest powers of this century.

Thanks to the work of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, our bonds are stronger and our friendship is deeper still.

Thank you very much.



Happy Birthday to the CPAFFC

Nirj Deva

(Chairman of the EU-China Friendship Group of the European Parliament)

As Chairman of the EU-China Friendship Group of the European Parliament (EUCFGEP), I first came in contact with the CPAFFC in 2007 when the newly founded EUCFGEP was invited by the CPAFFC to visit China. The delegation was composed of 6 members and the secretary general of the European Parliament (EP).

The visit helped EP members gain better knowledge of China's economic growth and strengthened the cooperation between the parliament and various Chinese ministries and commissions. Indeed, with the help of the CPAFFC, we had a very successful visit.

Since I had a Chinese assistant in the EP in 2005, I began to organize EP members to visit China. At that time, very few parliamentarians knew about China and some even had a biased view about China, I thought it was important to let EP members experience the warm-heartedness of the Chinese people.

We'd undertaken visits before 2007, but the one hosted by the CPAFFC was quite different. The Chinese side proposed, of its own accord, that the itinerary could be arranged according to the delegation's wishes. It was a special privilege for us. I could see some of my colleagues were very excited, for this could help us know about China more actively and comprehensively. I remember that at that time we made all sorts of requests and some were rather unrealistic. However,

almost all of these requests were taken seriously by the CPAFFC with great sincerity that moved us all.

From May 27 to June 2, 2007, we met with relevant leaders of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, and the National People's Congress. During our stay, we visited the Palace Museum, the Great Wall, the Olympic venues in Beijing, and the Shanghai Aircraft Manufacturing Company, General Motors Corp., and the Environmental Protection Bureau in Shanghai. In this way, we witnessed China's economic development and gained more positive understanding.

After visiting the Beijing Urban Planning Exhibition, one of my colleagues said with emotion that, compared with China, Belgium was only a small village. Another colleague was bewildered, asking: "How unthinkable it is! Why there are not many people riding bicycles in the streets of Beijing". This was because, whenever we saw pictures of Beijing in the European media, the streets usually swarmed with cyclists.

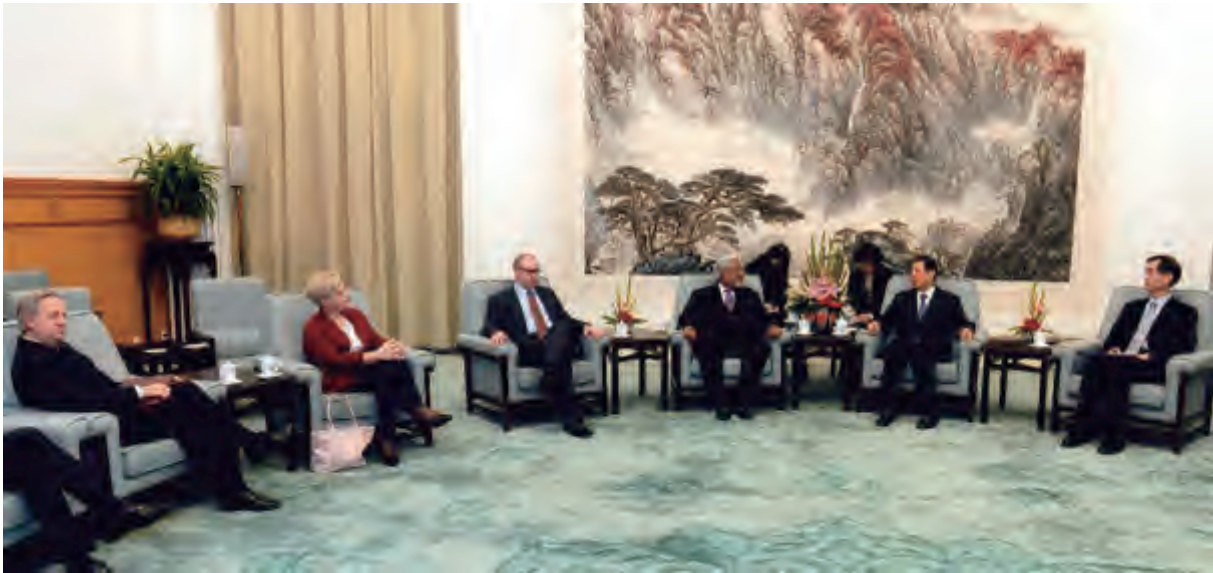
In Shanghai we were amazed to see skyscrapers everywhere. Maglev trains were not widely used in Europe even though it was a German technology. However, to our surprise, this kind of train without wheels traveling at a rate of about 500 kph, ran in Shanghai!

The wife of a delegation member suddenly suffered a stomach spasm, and she was taken to the largest hos-

pital she had ever seen. She told me it was very modern with its medical facilities as good as those in Europe, with very good service. In my view, it was thanks to China's rapid modernization and the CPAFFC staff's efforts that she could soon recover and be so positive about Chinese hospitals.

With the CPAFFC's careful coordination, the delegation had in-depth discussions with the various government departments, and the two sides put forward a series of constructive suggestions on how to improve China-EU relations. We suggested that China and the EU establish a visa-free mechanism for high-ranking diplomats, and hoped the two sides make joint efforts to establish the parliamentary system in the World Trade Organization.

Some colleagues even said to me half jokingly that they hoped in the future the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament would be held once in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. This visit even made the delegation members change their political views. For example, some left-wing parliamentarians originally advocated that the EU member countries should strengthen macro-economic control, raise taxes, expand social welfare, narrow the gap between rich and poor and solve the unemployment problem. However, after they saw China's tremendous achievements, they changed their original views and held that the European people should work hard and



Vice Chairman Zhang Ping of the NPC Standing Committee meeting with Nirj Deva and his party in 2013

reduce their dependency on social welfare. They began to accept the center-right's view of reducing taxes and social welfare and solving the unemployment and other social problems through stimulating investment.

Before the visit, right-wing politicians had misgivings about China's peaceful development. But afterwards, they were full of hope of the cooperation between China's National People's Congress and the EP. It may be said that the visit amid such good atmosphere not only enabled the EP members to know more about China, but also harmonized their political concepts. Thus, the EUCFGEP's work entered a new stage and enhanced its influence in the EP, playing a positive role in promoting the steady development of EU-China relations.

The 2007 visit started the formal cooperation between the EUCFGEP and the CPAFFC. In 2010, after having expanded its size in the new European Parliament, our group again accepted the CPAFFC's invitation.

With the aim of promoting more active and extensive exchanges between the EU and China and remedying the weakness of EU-China relations being only at the political level, at the end of 2010, the EU-China Friendship Association (EUCFA) launched by the core members of the EUCFGEP was founded in Brussels. It is an independent nongovernmental organization to promote EU-China relations. In 2011, at the invitation of EUCFA, a CPAFFC delegation paid a visit. In 2013, invited by the CPAFFC, EUCFA made a successful visit to China.

This contributed to the establishment of a cooperative partnership with Liaoning Province, enabling the latter to conduct deep cooperation with EU member governments, organizations, enterprises and schools at various levels and in the fields of economy, trade, culture, tourism, education, etc. We hope that under this cooperation framework we can integrate all resources of the EU, focus our efforts and help China develop in a correct and all-round

way while more effectively benefiting both sides. The CPAFFC has done a great deal of work in bringing us into contact with Liaoning Province.

So far, we have been cooperating with the CPAFFC for about eight years. We hope we can conduct closer cooperation under the framework of governmental cooperation, NGO cooperation and cultural cooperation and personnel exchanges modes. We are also willing to work together with the CPAFFC to explore and invent new cooperation modes and continue to help further better EU-China relations so as to bring benefits to the people of both sides.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CPAFFC, on behalf of all the members of the EUCFGEP and the EUCFA, I sincerely wish her a happy birthday. We also would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all the staff of the CPAFFC for their years' support given to our work and unremitting efforts for promoting EU-China relations. ■

Congratulations on CPAFFC's 60th Anniversary

Annie L. Vial Chen (President of Latin America and the Caribbean Federation of Friendship with the People's Republic of China)

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries celebrates the 60th anniversary of its founding in 1954, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Federation of Friendship with the People's Republic of China extends congratulations to it.

The CPAFFC, through unremitting efforts and hard work, has established friendly and cooperative relations with about 500 organizations in 157 countries up to now.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Federation of Friendship with the PRC wishes to thank the CPAFFC for establishing contact and developing relations with friendly organizations and personages in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Meanwhile, activities carried out by those organizations and personages have also received support and collaboration from various sectors of society in China.

The tasks of the CPAFFC are to develop friendly and cooperative relations with friendship organizations, social groups and personages of various circles in other countries, and to coordinate and oversee the work of establishing and developing friendship-city (province) relations across the world. It enhances mutual understanding and people's friendship through many ways, such as organizing exchange of

visits, holding commemorative activities and symposiums, participating in bilateral meetings and exchanging material and information.

To engage in the cause of human progress such as safeguarding world peace, economic and cultural development and protecting ecological environment, and to support the people of all countries in their just struggle to achieve national liberation and maintain national independence are the common tasks of the CPAFFC and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region. We in this region also want to thank the CPAFFC for what it has done.

Through the friendly relations established with the CPAFFC, we have been able to carry out cooperation with more relevant organizations, promoting the exchanges in the fields of economy, trade, society, science and technology, professionals, etc.

Undoubtedly, to develop friendship with China is something Latin American and the Caribbean countries have been doing in constant solidarity. Therefore, our friendly relations with China are always full of vigor in a world where integration and world peace remain causes for which we must fight.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Federation of Friendship with the

PRC has enjoyed close cooperation with China in such areas as reform of the international financial system, arts and culture, in addition to more intense coordination on global issues of mutual interest. We are convinced that in the future this friendship and cooperation will deepen and benefit everyone.

The economic and trade cooperation between China and the region of Latin America is getting ever stronger. China plays an increasingly important role in this region. A survey conducted recently shows the majority of people in Latin America and the Caribbean held a positive attitude toward the growing influence of this Asian giant in their region.

Finally, I call on all countries to work together for harmony and friendship among all countries and between sister cities and carry out more cultural exchanges, and to strengthen friendly contact with China in this way.

As President of the Latin America and the Caribbean Federation of Friendship with the PRC, and on behalf of all the friendship-with-China organizations in the region and their members, I once again extend congratulations to the CPAFFC on its 60 years of fraternity and cooperation with the peoples of the world. ■

Twenty Five Years' Friendship with CPAFFC

Countess Monika von Borries (President of Association for Germany-China Friendship Donnersberg)

The year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). On behalf of the Association for Germany-China Friendship Donnersberg (AGCF-Donnersberg), I wish to extend my sincere congratulations.

In September 2013, our own association celebrated its 25th birthday. Looking back, we have cooperated with the CPAFFC for a quarter of a century.

I can't help thinking of my first visit to China in 1985, three years before the inception of our association. At that time, we didn't expect that the visit would change our lives so profoundly. Frankly speaking, when the plane landed on the shabby-looking Beijing Capital Airport, my mind was full of misconceptions and prejudices against this country. But in the following days, I was deeply touched by its time-honored glorious culture and hospitable people. In them I saw a noble character, i.e., a strong will to build up a happy homeland from scratch, which reminded me of my childhood in Germany after the Second World War.

Later, I visited China many times, and my admiration for the country and its people was increasing with the passing days. What I aspire to now, is to let more German people know how lovely China and the Chinese people are, and to see how the promotion of Germany-

China friendship will benefit both countries. I am happy to see that our years' efforts to promote friendship have contributed to dispelling skepticism and prejudice.

Reviewing the Germany-China relationship, there are no longer any problems left over from history. The German and Chinese people admire each other's splendid cultures. On my first visit, I had a chance to call on the CPAFFC. It is admirable and, indeed a source of envy, that the Chinese Government so strongly backs the CPAFFC, an organization specially engaged in non-governmental external communication and promotion of friendship between China and foreign countries. This fully shows China's goodwill to other countries in the world.

Though in Germany every municipal and state government has the department for external communication, most of the friendship-with-China organizations are operated in the form of associations established by private individuals. However, both the German people-to-people friendship organizations and the CPAFFC are rich in experience and proficient in the principles



The author speaking at the launching ceremony of the Chinese version of her book *Princess Jincheng*

and methods for intercultural communication. Thus, we develop a real, permanent and warm friendship between us.

Here, I sincerely thank the CPAFFC for its successful cooperation with our association. The activities jointly held and exchanges of visits are most impressive, and the support and help rendered to us by the CPAFFC is too numerous to mention. They are all of great significance in our lives.

Here again, I wish to express my gratitude to the CPAFFC and the friendship associations of various Chinese provinces and cities that keep cooperation with us. Wishing our exchanges and cooperation in the future will continue to be as close and smooth as ever.

“With a good friend, no road is long.” ■

My Family and France-China Friendship

Alain Caporossi (Secretary General, Federation of French-Chinese Associations)

The first trip I made to China, together with my wife in 1981 was pure sightseeing. For years, we had always wanted to make such a visit. We thought then that it could be our only chance, so we read lots of books on history and culture so that we could enjoy the travel as much as possible. In those days, China had not yet started on its great “rise” and there was no developed and modern transportation to speak of. Our journey began in Hong Kong with Guangzhou as the first stop.

We did not enter the PRC by car or plane, nor on the back of a camel or horse, like in the times of Marco Polo; instead, we took a train to a station in the “New Territories” on the boundary with China. Alighting, we carried our bags across a bridge and finally “walked” into China. The river under-

neath.

Fascinated by that first journey, we went to China again in 1983 by pinching and scraping. After returning to Besancon, the hometown of Victor Hugo where I lived, I gave a slide show on China for my friends, who then asked me to organize a trip to the Far East for them. The visit finally materialized in 1985. In 1986, I, and my fellow travelers established the Franc-Comtoise (our region) Association of French-Chinese Friendship. In the years that followed, I organized 36 trips to China and accompanied them all during my vacations. Besides, our association has joined the Federation of French-Chinese Associations and, under this organizational framework, I made 15 study tours to China at the invitation of the CPAFFC. If entering

China on foot of my first visit was something special, then the way I ended my 47th visit and left China was even more exceptional. As a representative of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations, I was attending a friendship cities conference in Chengdu along with representatives of more

than 20 cities from different countries. I was packing for the trip back home after the conference concluded when I had a sudden illness—enterobrosis. I was rushed to the hospital immediately, being operated on for the next few hours, and remained unconscious for two days. When I awoke, I unexpectedly saw at my bedside two French-speaking friends from the CPAFFC in Beijing. My vital signs in the first three days were not optimistic, but this Chinese hospital saved my life. On the fifth day, at the request of my insurance company, and when my condition finally permitted travel, I was taken to Hong Kong by a medical helicopter and 10 days later returned to France safely accompanied by a doctor and a nurse. Now you know how I left China in my 47th visit.

I took my 10-year-old daughter to China for the first time in 1985 and after that she accompanied me to China many times. During her first visit, she stayed for a day at the home of a Chinese friend in Shanghai, communicating with the host’s son of her own age and making dumplings together. We have been keeping in touch with them ever since. Three years later, the Shanghai Municipal Government and a local publishing house contacted the associations in cities that have established friendship-city relations with Shanghai in the hope of publishing a book with the title *Shanghai and I*. The

The author (R.1), President Alain Labat (R.2) of the Federation of French-Chinese Associations, and others at the unveiling ceremony of the bronze bust of Victor Hugo in Yuanmingyuan Park, Beijing



Franc-Comtoise Association of French-Chinese Friendship and its branches participated. We sent my daughter's article about her and her Chinese pals as well as her impressions of China. Friendship organizations in over 20 countries contributed to the book, which was published in the authors' native languages and Chinese. Four articles written in French were included: one by a Belgian, one by a Swiss, and the other two by French authors — a university student and my daughter, the only child among all the authors.

When I was seriously ill in Chengdu, my daughter came all the way to visit me. Seeing my bad physical conditions, she told me: "You have to fight for your life. Don't forget that you have promised your grandson to take him to China. You should keep your word."

Therefore, in August 2013, I organized my 50th visit to China, which was also my first "family trip". The 10 relatives that I took on the trip, except for my daughter, were first-time visitors. My eight-year-old grandson also got to know the country well through the typical travel route of Shanghai, Guilin, Xi'an and Beijing.

Every evening during the visit, my grandson would tell me what he had seen and heard during the day — things that were interesting, amazing and curious, and things that adults would miss but would be engraved in a child's mind. He put photos, and wrote down bits and pieces from the trip, in his travel diary. In the future, whenever he opens this diary he will remember his first contact with China.

Written in March 2014

A Bridge of Friendship CPAFFC's Past Glory and Tradition

Ken Yokokawa

**(Director of the Japan-China
Cultural Exchange Association)**

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CPAFFC, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations and also pay high tribute to its great contributions to the cause of Japan-China friendship, serving as a bridge of people-to-people contacts.

The CPAFFC was founded on May 3, 1954, that is the fifth year of the founding of the People's Republic. In that year Premier Zhou Enlai visited India where he and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru put forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and showed the great importance New China had attached to peace and friendship when he attended the Geneva Conference, as well as the Bandung Conference the following year.

The Chinese Government paid great attention to people-to-people diplomacy from early on, and it was under this guiding principle, the CPAFFC

(then named the Chinese People's Associations for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries) came into being. In the past 60 years, it has played a unique role and established friendly and cooperative relations with 500 people-to-people organizations in 157 countries never before seen in world diplomacy.

In the early days of the People's Republic, the then Japanese Government followed the United States in adopting a hostile policy toward China and did not restore diplomatic relations with the country. Japan and China are close neighbors separated by only a strip of water. Their friendly contacts have a history of 2,000 years. To restore and develop friendly relations between them would not only contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of the two countries, but also to that in Asia and the world at large.

In November 1955, a Japanese delegation, consisting of personages

of various circles in support of the Japanese Constitution and headed by former Japanese Prime Minister Tetsu Katayama, visited Beijing. When meeting the delegation, Premier Zhou Enlai elaborated on the necessity of active promotion of cultural exchanges between China and Japan. To facilitate such exchanges, the delegation and the CPAFFC sign an agreement on the establishment of a Japan-China cultural exchange association. It was signed by Koreya Senda of Japan and Chinese personages of insight including Zhao Yiming, Yang Hansheng, Lao She, Ouyang Yuqian, Ma Sicong, Liu Kaiqu, Cai Chusheng, Dai Ailian and Chen Zhongjing. After that, Kenzo Nakajima, Norio Shirato and others started preparation and finally set up the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association (JCCEA) on March 23, 1956.

After the Meiji Restoration, an ungrateful Japan embarked on the road of militarism and invaded and ravaged China — the mother country of its culture from which it had benefited so much — bringing untold sufferings to the Chinese people. The founders of the JCCEA had a deep reflection on the crimes committed by Japan and held firm conviction that the same mistakes should not be repeated. Under extremely difficult conditions, they carried out various kinds of cultural contact and worked actively to rebuild friendship with the Chinese people and promote the early realization of normalization of diplomatic relations.

The exchanges in the 1950s and 1960s were conducted mainly according to the Joint Statement on People-



Ken Yokokawa

to-People Cultural Exchange Between Japan and China signed annually by the CPAFFC and the JCCEA.

As all contacts between the two countries had been suspended for a long time, they had to start from scratch. Though “everything is difficult in the beginning”, the concerted efforts of the CPAFFC and the JCCEA overcame various difficulties and advanced the exchange programs steadily. During this period, delegations of various circles including literature, art, academia and sports visited China one after another, with the CPAFFC always playing the role of host.

From 1956 to 1966, numerous cultural and art delegations consisting of such famous personages as writers Suetichi Aono, Mantaro Kubota, Koji Uno and Kenzaburo Oe; film director Kyohiko Ushihara; archaeologists Yoshito Harada and Yuzo Sugimura; physicist Shinichiro Tomonaga; calligrapher Shunkai Bundo; visual artist Kazumasa Nakagawa; photographer Ihei Kimura; the Matsuyama Ballet; and the sports leaders’ delegation co-led by Kenzo Kono, President of the Japan Associa-

tion of Athletics Federations and Masaji Tabata, Honorary President of the Japan Swimming Federation.

The staff of the CPAFFC, making nothing of hardships, went all out and did a remarkable job in their reception work. During this period, Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai met with most delegations. Besides, in 1956, a Peking Opera troupe with Mei Lanfang as its leader visited Japan for the first time after the founding of New China, and in 1958, the Dunhuang Art Exhibition was mounted in Tokyo and Kyoto, the first cultural relics exhibition in Japan from New China.

These activities opened the door that had been shut for a long time. The Japanese people paid more attention to what was happening in China and their friendly sentiment grew. The exchanges in various sectors starting from that period have continued to expand in scale and scope. The CPAFFC has opened up channels for people-to-people contacts and sowed the seeds of friendship, playing an important “pioneering” role.

At every major juncture in the Japan-China relationship, the CPAFFC has always played an important role. In May 1958, the then Japanese Cabinet headed by Nobusuke Kishi adopted a hostile policy toward China. This led to the Nagasaki Flag Incident (in which Japanese ruffians tore up the Chinese national flag). The incident gravely affected non-governmental exchanges that had been carried out smoothly up to then.

Japanese delegations visited China as before, but only a small number of delegations from China were able to

visit Japan. This abnormality lasted for several years. Not until 1961, after the visit to Japan by a Chinese culture and friendship delegation with CPAFFC President Chu Tunan as its leader did delegations of Chinese cultural circles resume their visits and people-to-people exchanges revive.

In March 1971, the 31st World Table Tennis Championships was held in Nagoya. China sent 60 players to take part. During the championships, the U.S. table tennis team was invited to visit China where Premier Zhou Enlai met them. This had much bearing on the eventual visit of President Nixon, contributing greatly to the improvement of Sino-US relations and the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China.

Yang Hansheng, Vice President of the CPACRFC, and Kenzo Nakajima, President of the JCCEA, congratulating each other after signing the Joint Statement on Cultural Exchange between the People of China and Japan on August 16, 1960



The “ping pong diplomacy” was materialized on the basis of the Minutes of Talks Among the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Chinese Table Tennis Association, the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association and the Japan Table Tennis Association.

The wheel of history rolled on. Benefiting from years of exchanges and with the normalization of diplomatic relations in sight, in July 1972, the China Shanghai Dance Troupe, consisting of over 200 members and headed by Sun Pinghua, made a performance tour of Japan. The ballet *The White Haired Girl* and *The Red Detachment of Women* it staged were warmly received.

Takeo Miki and Yasuhiro Nakasone, members of the Japanese Cabinet

attended the functions of the ballet troupe on the first day, and before the troupe’s departure, Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka met members for a talk. By then, normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries had become an irresistible trend of history.

Two months later, Prime Minister Tanaka

visited Beijing. On September 29, the Joint Statement Between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Japan was issued, realizing the normalization of relations.

Since its establishment, all the successive presidents of the CPAFFC, namely, Chu Tunan, Wang Bingnan, Zhang Wenjin, Han Xu, Qi Huaiyuan, Chen Haosu and Li Xiaolin, have visited Japan at the invitation of the JCCEA. Likewise, JCCEA Presidents such as Kenzo Nakajima, Yasushi Inoue, Ikuma Dan, Takashi Tsujii, etc. also organized delegations and visited China as guests of the CPAFFC.

Such exchanges of delegations have already lasted for half a century. Through this channel, many famous and influential personages of the two countries have deepened understanding of each other through interaction and become an important force in promoting Japan-China friendship. “Perseverance is a kind of strength”, and it is the fine tradition of the CPAFFC to remain committed to carrying out these exchanges continuously, generation after generation.

At present, the world is undergoing profound and complex changes, and Japan and China are experiencing some difficulties in their relations. We wish the CPAFFC that has a splendid history and tradition and serves as a bridge of friendship between the Japanese and Chinese people will make fresh contribution to peace, friendship and progress of humanity.

March 20, 2014

CPAFFC and CJFA Are Practitioners of People-to-People Friendly Exchanges

**Kazuteru Saionji
(Japan)**

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) once had another name—the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (CPACRFC), which is memorable for me.

In 1958, my father Kinkazu Saionji moved the whole family to Beijing and we lived in the compound of the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace (CPCWP) that people used to call Heda. It is now the seat of the CPAFFC. In May 2014 the organization will usher in an important event—the 60th anniversary of its establishment.

During our stay in Beijing, the CPCWP took good care of us. In 1963, initiated by 19 people's organizations including the CPCWP and the CPACRFC, the China-Japan Friendship Association (CJFA) was founded. Last year, therefore, it celebrated its own 50th anniversary.

The histories of the twin bodies are an epitome of China's vigorous people-to-people friendly exchanges

with other countries including Japan. In this regard, one person must be mentioned—Premier Zhou Enlai.

Premier Zhou was a leader much loved by the Chinese people and he gave them much through his work to promote China's external relations.

One day in 1958, our family was invited to the Xihua Hall of Zhongnanhai, Premier Zhou's residence and office, to attend a reception to mark our move to Beijing. The Premier's wife, Deng Yingchao, was also present. To this day, I can still remember clearly the scene. That day, Premier Zhou offered me three key points. Firstly, "you should make more Chinese friends. They are not only your friends; they are the precious treasures of both China and Japan." Secondly, "Since from now on, you will live in China and have all kinds of experiences and see and hear many things. China has both good and bad sides, and both advanced and backward sides. When you see the bad and backward side, I hope you will point it out frankly. It won't matter if you criticize. I do not like to hear just fine

words."

As at that time I was only a middle school student, I could not fully understand the profound meaning of the third point, however. He said: "China hopes to normalize relations with Japan, a decision we have made in the early 1950s. The normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations faces two major problems. One is Japan's response to the idea; the other concerns the feelings of the Chinese people." When I gradually got to know more about mundane affairs, I came to understand the important meaning of what he said.

In the early 1950s, the Chinese Government decided to normalize its relations with Japan and made great efforts for it. After the Second World War, a great number of Japanese nationals stayed on in China. In order to help them return home, the Chinese Government, out of humanitarianism, offered them all kinds of assistance and convenience. It released all the Japanese war criminals and prisoners of war and assisted their repatriation. This



Kazuteru Saionji

was a clear signal to Japan.

Besides, under Premier Zhou's instruction, the Chinese Consul General in Geneva twice handed letters to his Japanese counterpart there, appealing the Japanese Government for negotiations on normalization of diplomatic relations.

I also remember what Premier Zhou once said. "We have had in-depth discussions on how to thaw the Chinese people's resentful and hostile feelings towards Japan. We should educate the Chinese people to distinguish between a handful of militarists and ordinary Japanese people."

The Chinese Government worked hard to inculcate this thought in the Chinese people for a long time. During my 10-year stay in Beijing, when I was at school or walking in the streets, or even when I did manual labor in the countryside, I was never insulted, embarrassed or discriminated against, because I was a Japanese.

However, regrettably, the then

Japanese Government completely ignored China's goodwill. Moreover, in 1957 after Prime Minister Tanzan Ishibashi retired due to illness, Prime Minister Nobusuki Kishi came into power and adopted an undisguised anti-China policy, and brazenly supported the Kuomintang regime that had fled to Taiwan after defeat in its attempt to "counterattack on the mainland".

In 1958 two incidents happened, i.e. Liu Lianren incident and Nagasaki incident in which Japanese ruffians tore up the Chinese national flag. In 1960 the Japanese Government amended and extended the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty to further escalate the anti-China trend.

Under such circumstances, the Chinese Government began to study a changed strategy—namely, from trying to have direct negotiation with the Japanese Government to promoting Sino-Japanese relations in an orderly and gradual manner based on extensive people-to-people exchanges.

Consequently, "promoting official ties through people-to-people contacts" became the mainstream in development of the bilateral relationship. Since the 1960s, China-Japan people-to-people exchanges have developed well. Despite twists and turns, the cause of friendship has become an irresistible trend of the times.

In my understanding, "promoting official ties through people-to-people contacts" is a distinguishing feature of the development of the post-war China-Japan relations. It is known to all that the CPAFFC has always been at the forefront of nongovernmental diploma-

cy, carrying forward the fine tradition and playing an important role in normalization of diplomatic relations and continuous development of ties.

Recalling the days I spent in the CPAFFC compound, the voice and faces of many people who worked for the great cause seem to appear before my eyes, such as Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yi, Li Xiannian, Xi Zhongxun, Guo Moruo, Liao Chengzhi, Wang Zhen, Wang Bingnan, Xia Yan, Zhang Xiangshan, Sun Pinghua, Zhao Anbo, Xiao Xiangqian, Wang Xiaoyun, Jin Sucheng and Huang Shiming, etc. In this compound, however, there are also many staffers working conscientiously for the cause of nongovernmental diplomacy in obscurity.

Also in Japan, many people are working hard for safeguarding and developing Japan-China relations. Inejiro Asanuma, a statesman who had advocated Japan-China friendship even gave his life for it.

The cause of Japan-China friendship brought on by forerunners of both countries through many years' painstaking efforts is still developing. But, recently there is an adverse current in Japan, and some people vainly attempt to challenge the post-war international order and destroy the basis of the bilateral relations carefully laid down by the older generations of the two countries.

We will never allow it to happen. We should make concerted efforts, carry forward the behests of our predecessors, continue to carry out people-to-people exchanges, and jointly safeguard the friendly relations between our two countries. ■

Congratulations on CPAFFC's 60th Anniversary

**Dr. Massoud Daher (President of Lebanese-Chinese
League for Friendship and Cooperation)**

The Lebanese-Chinese League for Friendship and Cooperation (LCLFC) was founded on March 3, 2003, bringing together a group of talented Lebanese cultural and arts experts, women leaders, former diplomats, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs and lawyers. It has received great support from successive Chinese ambassadors to Lebanon and its members are often invited to attend various activities hosted by the Chinese Embassy.

The first successful cooperation

between the two sides was the erection of the memorial bust of Dr. Ma Haide (George Hatem), a humanitarian doctor and a great model for selfless dedication to the lofty cause of promoting Chinese-Lebanese friendship and cooperation. His bust was erected in his hometown of Hammana on August 31, 2003.

For years, the CPAFFC has given us great support. Since 2005, the two sides have jointly held a number of seminars and cultural forums in Beirut and Beijing, and published various books and publications. In May 2005,

the first China-Lebanon Relations Conference was held in Beirut. In 2006, the original schedule for several Chinese scholars to visit Lebanon and attend cultural forums was delayed by warfare and other cultural activities of the LCLFC were also canceled abruptly.

However, at the kind invitation of the CPAFFC, quite a few Lebanese and Chinese scholars attended the second China-Lebanon Relations Conference in Beijing on May 30, 2006. Through cooperation with Notre Dame University-Louaize, the Lebanon-China Mutual Investment Conference was held in Lebanon on November 16, 2007 and a collection of conference documents was published. Since 2008, the two sides have jointly organized many successful seminars, tourism forums and youth exchanges.

In 2013, with great support and effort from the CPAFFC, the President of the Lebanese University and his party paid a successful visit to China and signed intercollegiate cooperation agreements with Peking University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing International Studies University and Shanghai International Studies University respectively. During the visit, I was granted the Award of Con-

CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku presenting the Award of Contribution to China-Lebanon Friendship to the author of the article





Dr. Adnan El Sayed Hussein, President of the Lebanese University, meeting with a CPAFFC delegation

tribution to China-Lebanon Friendship.

At the time of writing in 2014, the two sides had already reached consensus on important cooperation projects: the Chinese Youth Academic delegation's visit to Lebanon in April and the Lebanese delegation's visit to China in September; preparation for the exchange visits of local government officials of China and Lebanon scheduled in late April and August.

Through these activities, more and more Lebanese scholars value the study of Chinese history, experience of modernization, culture, arts and literature and have written a number of works very beneficial to the strengthening of China-Lebanon cultural relations. The LCLFC hopes to expand academic cooperation between universities of the two countries, sign more intercollegiate cooperation agreements, enhance exchanges between teachers, students, technical and management personnel, and set up a Confucius Institute in the

Lebanese University to teach Chinese language and literature.

For a long time, the CPAFFC has attached great importance to the study of China-Arab Cultural Silk Road that ended in Sur, a seaport city in South Lebanon, at that time. It is a clear evidence of the long history of China-Lebanon cultural and economic relations.

Lebanon hopes to upgrade the ancient Cultural Silk Road to a Silk Road of modern science and technology by means of modern communications technology and internet.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary

of the founding of the CPAFFC, therefore, we express high appreciation of its great support and selfless assistance to bilateral cooperation of its staff. Without such support, it would have been impossible to organize such important activities to strengthen people-to-people relations between China and Lebanon.

At present, China ranks second in the world economy and actively participates in the formation of a new international pattern and a more humanitarian globalization. During such a crucial period of world history, the LCLFC hopes to bring the cooperation with the CPAFFC to a new level. All friendship organizations of Arab countries should further develop their relations with it. The current situation is conducive to such development and the consolidation of China-Arab people-to-people relations at all levels.

Written in Beirut
March 5, 2014

The LCLFC delegation with the students of the Beijing International Studies University



China and Russia Jointly Celebrate The Joyful Occasion

Galina Kulikova

**(Vice President of the Russia-China Friendship Association, Honored
Culture Worker of the Russian Federation)**

The year 2014 is memorable for both China's history and Russia-China relations.

It is the 65th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the 65th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia diplomatic relations, the 65th anniversary of the founding of the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA) and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the leading organization of non-governmental diplomacy—the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

The CRFA was China's first bilateral friendship association founded in Beijing 5 days after the proclamation of the founding of the PRC on October 1, 1949.

Over the past 65 years, China has made great achievement in social and economic development, science and technology, education and culture and enjoyed increasing international prestige.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China has been smoothly carrying out the tasks set forth at the Second and Third Plenary Sessions of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC; people of all ethnic groups are striving to build the

country into a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious modern socialist one to realize the dream of rejuvenating the Chinese nation. Besides, the Second Session of the 12th National People's Congress was held successfully. We in Russia would like to congratulate our Chinese friends for the great achievement made on their way to realize the Chinese dream.

Relations between China and Russia have reached unprecedented heights and set an example for international harmonious coexistence. The two countries play an important part in the world today and jointly promote peace and security in Asia and across the world.

The CPAFFC has played a significant role in the cause of nation building and consolidation of China's international status. Many well-known Chinese figures and social activists such as Wang Bingnan, Zhang Wenjin, Han Xu, Qi Huaiyuan and Chen Haosu have served as its president.

Ms. Li Xiaolin was elected and became the first female president of the CPAFFC in September 2011. There is a famous Chinese saying: "Women hold up half the sky". We sincerely hope Ms. Li will make great achievements.

The CPAFFC is also responsible for coordination of people-to-people

friendly exchanges of the country's 46 regional and bilateral friendship associations with other countries. The CRFA (former Sino-Soviet Friendship Association) founded on October 5, 1949, was the first set up under the CPAFFC. It is also a long-term and reliable cooperative partner of the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA—former Soviet-China Friendship Association), the first association set up for friendship between the Soviet Union and other countries in Moscow on October 29, 1957.

Fifty-seven years have passed since the founding of the RCFA. In these years my life, destiny and career have always been closely related to it. The RCFA forms a glorious chapter of the annals of friendly relations between our two countries and our two peoples.

The first time China entered my life was during my high school years. The news of the establishment of the PRC was widely spread and accepted joyfully and enthusiastically by the Soviet People.

Sixty-five years later, I reread the poem written by the famous Soviet poet A. A. Surkov: "We are fortunate, for this nation marches hand in hand with us, together we grow strong, towards tomorrow."



In those earlier days, the song *Moscow-Beijing* composed by Vano Muradeli was broadcast almost every day and became a symbol of Soviet-China friendship. Until today, its words still mean a lot to both peoples.

By the time of my high school graduation, I decided to apply for a college specialized in studies of China. I realized my dream of becoming a student majoring in Chinese of the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies. After its reorganization, I was transferred to the Department of Oriental Studies of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations for further study.

Professor Sergei L. Tikhvinsky taught us Chinese history. He is a well-known sinologist, veteran diplomat who has participated in the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and China, and now Honorary President of the RCFA. We felt very proud that the Soviet Union was the first to recognize New China, establishing diplomatic relations the second day after the founding of the PRC.

My first contact with Chinese friends was in my college years. At the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship (Moscow), I got the opportunity to work with the Beijing Experimental Ballet Troupe and the Guangdong National

Orchestra, as well as Kuang Jianlian, a famous Cantonese opera master better known by her stage name Hung Sin-nui or Hong Xiannu. In November 1957, when we, the first batch of college students sent to the Soviet Embassy in Beijing for an internship, arrived in Beijing, Chinese friends met us at the platform of the old Beijing railway station situated in the central part of the city. This was my first visit. I still remember vividly the endless streams of bicycles and rickshaws when we entered the city.

Before my departure for China in November 1957, a significant event that greatly influenced my life had taken place in Moscow.

The inaugural meeting of the Soviet-China Friendship Association was held at the auditorium of the Moscow State Conservatory named for P. I. Tchaikovsky on October 29, 1957. More than 2,000 representatives from various circles attended the meeting and unanimously adopted a resolution to announce the founding of the SCFA. I was deeply touched by the wonderful speeches given by participants of the meeting and hoped to join the newly founded organization after graduation. Then, my dream came true.

In March, 1960, I was invited to work as a counselor of Chinese issues in the Department of Oriental Socialist Countries of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (USSFCRFC) founded in February, 1958. I gradually moved up from a common cadre to department head, from SCFA Secretary General to SCFA Vice President until the USSFCRFC sent me to

work as a counselor at the Soviet Embassy in China in December 1989.

I became the First Vice President of the RCFA when I returned to Moscow in 2001. Today, I am still working wholeheartedly for the cause without reward.

Decades of working at the RCFA have given me privileges to witness the great achievements of our great neighbor and the significant changes in its people's life.

When Premier Zhou Enlai, President Soong Ching Ling of the China-Soviet Friendship Association and First Secretary Hu Yaobang of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League met with the RCFA delegations, I attended the meetings and can never forget such memorable moments. Marshal Chen Yi, who was Foreign Minister at the time, received a delegation sent by our association in the difficult period of Sino-Russian relations.

What I least expected was that many years later, I got acquainted and became good friends with his son Chen Haosu, who headed the CPAFFC for many years.

Working at the association has brought me opportunities to have close contacts with prominent representative personages of Chinese literature and art circles, such as Mei Lanfang, Ge Baoquan, Cao Jinghua, Ye Shuifu, etc. Unfortunately, these masters have passed away. However, others carry on the work. For example, Gao Mang has been tirelessly devoting himself to the studies and popularization of the Russian literature and arts for six decades; Professor Li Mingbin, Professor Zhang



The CPAFFC delegation led by President Wang Bingnan at the Red Square when visiting Russia in June 1984

Jianhua, Professor Ren Guangxuan and many other Chinese literary representatives have made continuous efforts to nurture talents for Russian literature and art.

Among all these precious contacts, the most unforgettable one was when Mei Lanfang, a world-renowned maestro of Peking Opera, led a CSFA delegation to visit the Soviet Union. Sergei Mikhailovich Eisenstein, a famous Soviet film director, called him “wizard in the theatrical world” before the Beijing Peking Opera Troupe’s performance tour of the Soviet Union in the spring of 1935. A quarter of a century later, Mei visited the Soviet Union again. It was my great honor to accompany him to the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre where he once performed. Then the ballet *Le*

Corsair (The Pirate) was being staged. During the intermission, he was so excited to see the stage photos of his last visit being placed on the background wall of the theatre together with those of the Soviet theatrical masters such as Nemirovich Danchenko, Vsevolod Meyerhold and A.L. Tairova.

Before the second act, the conductor turned to the audience and told them that the famous Peking Opera Maestro Mei Lanfang was present. A standing ovation ensued. Mei tearfully rose to express his thanks. After returning to his hotel, he repeatedly expressed his wishes of leading his opera troupe to perform in Moscow again, because he believed that cultural communication helped promote good-neighborly and friendly relations. But life is full unpredictability. Maestro Mei passed away soon after returning to China. However,

the Beijing Peking Opera Theater still exists and has been attracting Peking Opera lovers with unparalleled charm of elegance and has been listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. I treasure the picture given to me by Maestro Mei with his warm inscription on it.

Xue Fan, a famous translator, composer and writer, is another figure worthy of praise. Despite being wheelchair-bound due to illness from childhood, he has always been committed to introducing Soviet songs and Russian contemporary pop music to the Chinese people, as well as bringing the most popular Chinese folk songs and contemporary music to Russia.

Besides, Professor Guo Shuzhen, a famous Chinese soprano, Wu Zuqiang, an artist and promoter of Russian classical music in China, and Zheng Xiaoying, China’s first female conductor, among others, are all extraordinary people we rate most highly.

I will never forget the experience of getting acquainted with these outstanding people and making friends with the Chinese students (offspring and family members of Chinese revolutionary martyrs) of the Interdom (Ivanovo International Boarding School), including Li Min, daughter of Mao Zedong, Zhu Min, daughter of Zhu De, and Li Tete, daughter of Li Fuchun and Mrs Cai Chang, who regard Russia as their second homeland.

During the 55 years of my work at the SCFA (now RCFA), I have had many opportunities to participate in great events and meetings attended by state leaders of China and Russia.

On July 16, 2001, President Vladimir Putin and President Jiang Zemin signed a Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation in Moscow. It was such an exciting scene when leaders of the two countries met with the teachers and students of the Lomonosov Moscow State University and members of the RCFA at the auditorium of the university. The two leaders praised the treaty as a milestone in the history of Sino-Russian relations, a guiding document and legal basis for building friendship and mutual trust, and a strategic partnership of coordination in the 21st century. It legalized the concept that the people of the two countries shall be friends generation after generation and never be enemies.

I clearly remember these words induced thunderous and prolonged applause, because they called on the two peoples to be “good neighbors, friends and partners” and the youth of the two countries to carry on the tradition of the older generations.

President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Russia from March 22 to 24, 2013. The fact that Russia was the first country he visited after assuming presidency eight days before showed the high level and special nature of the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia and was testimony to the great importance China places on its relations with Russia.

The presidents of the two countries signed the historic Joint Statement on Deepening the Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the PRC and the Russian

Federation.

As stated in the Joint Statement: Sino-Russian relations have reached an unprecedented high level..... The two countries will elevate to a new stage their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination featuring equality and trust, mutual support, common prosperity and lasting friendship, and make it priority of their overall diplomacy. The statement also points out that youth exchange shall be given the priority in cultural and people-to-people cooperation, for young people are the future of bilateral relations. To ensure the long-term and steady development of bilateral relations, exchanges between the young people are imperative.

The best example of it is President Xi’s cordial meeting with the students of the Moscow State Institute of

International Relations subordinated to the Russian Foreign Ministry, where he also delivered a speech entitled *Follow the Trend of the Times and Promote Peace and Development in the World*, elaborating on China’s official stand on global issues and Sino-Russian relations.

“The China-Russia relationship is the most important one in the world, and also the best one between major powers. President Putin has said that Russia needs a prosperous and stable China and China also needs a strong and successful Russia. I cannot agree more.” His speech received warm applause.

On the eve of the important festive occasion of the anniversaries of the founding of the PRC, the CPAFFC and the CRFA, we have every reason to say that RCFA has never stopped organiz-

The joint delegation of the Union of Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Association headed by Ivan Arhipov posing for a group photo in Tiananmen Square on September 30, 1989



ing activities even at the most difficult period of bilateral relations. More than 300 activities from 1966 to 1988 are clear evidence of its efforts to maintain Soviet society's respect for and friendly sentiment toward the people, the heroic history and splendid culture of thousands of years of China.

After the resumption of exchanges between various circles of the two countries, the RCFA, the CPAFFC and the CRFA participated in a series of major activities of the Year of China and the Year of Russia, the Chinese Language Year, the Russian Language Year, and the Tourism Year and the Youth Friendly Exchange Year held in each other's countries.

The RCFA takes it as its duty to help the Russian public understand China and the Sino-Russian relations objectively, enhance mutual trust and expand social basis of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. Each year in Moscow alone, it holds 25 to 30 large-scale commemorative activities of various kinds, including the anniversary celebration of the signing of the Sino-Russian Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, celebrations of birth anniversaries of well-known personages and social activists of both countries and famous Chinese writers and artists. It has local branches in more than 20 cities and frontier regions across Russia, from Vladivostok to Kaliningrad, from Saint Petersburg to Rostov-on-Don.

The RCFA also held a series of seminars in commemoration of the 120th birth anniversary of Soong Ching Ling, the 115th birth anniversary of Zhou Enlai, the centenary of the birth

of the outstanding revolutionary and statesman Xi Zhongxun, as well as a birthday party for the-95-year-old Academician Sergei L. Tikhvinsky who is Honorary President of the RCFA, and commemoration for the 95th birth anniversary of M. I. Basmanov, a noted diplomat and translator of Chinese poems.

This year, the RCFA will organize a number of activities to celebrate the various anniversaries mentioned at the start, and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Qi Baishi, a great Chinese painter of the 20th century. It will host a party to celebrate the 80th birthday of Wang Meng, a contemporary Chinese writer.

President Putin and President Xi Jinping declared 2014-2015 as the Year of China-Russia Youth Friendly Exchanges. The RCFA will, together with the CRFA, take an active part and organize youth and children art troupes and science groups to visit each other's countries, hold the Russia-China Youth Forum, send youth representatives to participate in local cooperation activities between the basins of the Volga River and the Yangtze River, etc.

Young people are our future. What needs to be passed on to them is not only the baton of friendship, but also the firm belief that common development is the only way to successfully solve future problems between our countries and people. Only thus, can our two great countries live in friendship generation after generation, and be good friends, neighbors and partners forever.

March 20, 2014

The beautiful story of friendship began in 1987 when I served as Captain Regent (Head of State) of San Marino. Back then, I had some knowledge of China and decided to realize my dream of paying an official visit there during my tenure.

It was my first trip, so I did not know what was awaiting me. However, I was sure it would be something positive.

At the head of a delegation, I arrived in China in February 1988. The reception was meticulous and incomparable from any perspective; we received a warm welcome everywhere we went.

Although many years have passed and I cannot recall every detail, it remains a unique experience.

I arrived at the Great Hall of the People together with the delegation to meet President Li Xiannian. I remembered that our convoy stopped at the gate of the Great Hall to be greeted by a 20-gun salute as I walked up the steps and entered the building. At that moment, I felt deeply moved and honored. Recalling the scene today, I still find it very touching.

After several meetings, President Li Xiannian held a banquet in our honor. His welcome speech deeply touched us all.

President Li left a deep impression for his quick wittedness and ability to handle different situations with ease. I still remember his special emphasis on China's attitude that all countries, big or small, are equal when he talked about San Marino.

Over the years, I have always felt the friendship. It is this friendship that

My Beautiful Relationship with China

Gian Franco Terenzi
(President of San Marino-China Friendship Association)

has closely united the biggest country and the smallest republic in the world and their respective peoples, and also reflects the former's respect for us.

During the visit, I was very happy to take the famous Red Flag car because I knew it was the national symbol of China. Moreover, I managed to ship a model to San Marino with the help of the CPAFFC. It is the only Red Flag car in Europe.

The visit had great importance and strengthened my wish to establish a close relationship with China and the Chinese people. In order to continue and deepen such friendship, the San Marino-China Friendship Association (SMCFA) was founded. Over the past 26 years, the SMCFA has actively promoted cultural, political and economic exchanges and greatly enhanced friendship.

As President of the SMCFA, I feel deeply honored for providing my fellow citizens with so many opportunities to explore the extraordinary oriental culture through organizing various activities and sending different delegations to visit China. At the same time, our association has maintained long-term, friendly and cooperative relations with the CPAFFC through receiving delegations from different provinces and cities of China, exhibiting Chinese

paintings and handicrafts, introducing traditional Chinese food, songs and dances, organizing meetings for businesspeople of both countries and activities to promote Chinese culture in San Marino.

As President of the SMCFA and a member of the San Marino government, I have helped in the signing of agreements between government departments of our two countries, put forward cooperation projects in areas of common concern, and supported organizing various activities such as building the San Marino Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai and receiving important Chinese government delegations in San Marino.

I remember inviting President Xi Jinping to visit San Marino in 2003, when he was still working as Secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China. He made the visit as guest of the SMCFA. All the council members of the SMCFA wanted to personally welcome him, hoping the visit would leave him with a good and positive impression. We accompanied President Xi throughout his visit to main historic sites of the old city of San Marino, choosing a route of special significance and combining visits with meetings.

The San Marino government paid

great attention to his visit. As soon as he set foot on the main stairs of the government building, a protocol officer stepped forward to extend greetings and the guard of honor gave a salute. The meeting place was arranged in the most ornate room decorated with beautiful murals and the national flags of San Marino and China. It showed the great importance attached to his visit and the deep friendship between the two countries.

Through my contact with him at that time, I noticed he was a very special, amiable and approachable person. The final part of the meeting was to exchange gifts. Minister of Finance of San Marino presented him with a precious collection of stamps specially issued by the San Marino Postal Authority and my gift was a commemorative coin of historical and artistic value.

His visit not only left us a deep impression but also ignited our interest in Zhejiang Province. Later that year, the SMCFA organized a delegation to visit Zhejiang to help people better understand the local customs.

In 2004, at the invitation of the CPAFFC, I attended the celebration for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the association. It was an important event held in the Great Hall of the People. The then President Hu Jintao was



In 1988, Chinese President Li Xiannian hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting Head of State of San Marino Gian Franco Terenzi

present at the function. I did not hesitate to contribute my bit and personally promoted the issuing of commemorative stamps for the occasion by the Autonomous State Agency for Philately and Numismatics.

In 2009, I was honored to be invited by the CPAFFC to attend, together with China's top leaders, the celebration for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

The SMCFA's cooperation with the CPAFFC, China's local friendship associations and the Chinese government has played a very important role in bilateral relations. Our association has held many important activities such as celebrations for the 20th anniversary of its founding in 2008, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between San Marino and China in 2011 and the 25th anniversary of the SMCFA in 2013. These events

were attended respectively by the then CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and current President Li Xiaolin, as well as delegations from different provinces of China.

Above all, the 20th anniversary of its founding in 2008 was the first milestone in SMCFA's work for promoting the increasingly mature relationship between the two countries. We held a number of celebratory activities. Many Chinese friends came to take part, including Chen Haosu.

In addition, a special postmark composed of its logo and founding date was jointly designed by the SMCFA and the Autonomous State Agency for Philately and Numismatics and was stamped on the postcards issued for the 20th anniversary.

I collected various materials and published a commemorative book to record the most valuable and meaning-

ful data over the past 20 years, including cooperation agreements signed by the two sides, SMCFA delegations' visits to China, Chinese delegations' visits to San Marino, photos of SMCFA's Beijing Office and Zhejiang Office set up to promote economic and trade exchanges, commemorative stamps issued on the occasions of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CPAFFC. The cover of the book carries a poem entitled *Embrace of the Two Republics* written by President Chen Haosu during his visit to San Marino.

We held a number of activities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and San Marino in 2011. As President of the SMCFA and Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand and General Council of San Marino, I led a delegation to China. We visited Beijing and Shanghai to call on several government agencies and meet representatives of Chinese enterprises, strengthening cooperation and promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences.

At the same time, at the invitation of the SMCFA, a Chinese delegation consisting of a large number of representatives of different industries from 10 provinces came to celebrate the 40th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties together with the people of San Marino.

In 2013, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the SMCFA organized a number of celebration activities and was fortunate to have invited the new CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and her

party to participate. The San Marino people's warm and friendly reception was the most vivid proof of our friendship.

The joyful dinner party that evening was further evidence of the San Marino-China friendship. The warm hospitality of the SMCFA, the classical opera arias sang by the famous Chinese artists, exchange of gifts, and bursts of laughter and applause demonstrated the close relationship between China and San Marino, the small republic built on Monte Titano.

With continuous efforts, the SMCFA has not only consolidated and promoted relations, but also maintained and strengthened an open, lively, effective and constructive dialogue with China.

As a member of the San Marino government, I have always attached importance to and kept promoting San Marino-China relations. Under my

active promotion, intergovernmental agreements between San Marino and China, such as the agreement on economic cooperation between the San Marino Ministry of Industry and the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, and agreements on tourism development with China International Travel Service and a travel agency in Shanghai, were signed.

Among all the efforts to promote understanding and friendship between the two peoples, I am very pleased with the success of promoting friendship-city ties between the two countries, especially the crucial role the SMCFA played in the twinning of friendship-city relations between Huangshan and Serravalle in 1999.

Under my initiation, the San Marino government published a Chinese version of the brief introduction of San Marino with the aim of letting the Chinese people gain better knowledge and

understanding of us.

Most recently, with the help of some Chinese friends, I have been actively promoting the establishment of a Confucius Institute in San Marino and the cooperation between Beijing City University and the University of the Republic of San Marino. Right now, the project is ready for startup. As a tourist resort located in the center of Europe, San Marino is the most ideal place to disseminate the Chinese language and culture.

I have received several honorary awards for my continuous efforts over the years, including the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC in 2008 and the title of Honorary Professor granted by the Beijing City University in 2013.

In a word, through the unremitting efforts by the SMCFA over the past 26 years and my 38 visits to China, progress has been made in promoting and consolidating friendship between the people of San Marino and China, and my participation and enthusiasm have contributed to enhancing the understanding between them.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the CPAFFC, an organization for carrying out concrete cooperation with people of different countries with different cultural backgrounds so as to bring them closer to one another. We will celebrate this important and meaningful occasion together with it.

Here, I would like to express my sincerest and warmest wishes to the CPAFFC for its continued efficient organization of activities and progress in its pursuit of world peace. ■

SMCFA President Gian Franco Terenzi accompanying CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin during her visit to San Marino in 2013



Work Together and Renew Achievement

Dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of CPAFFC

Manne Dipico

(President of SA-China People's Friendship Association)

How Time flies! 2014 has come when everything happened in 2013 is still vivid in our mind. As the "Year of South Africa" in China, 2014 also coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). SA-China People's Friendship Association (SACPFA), at

this meaningful moment, extends our warmest congratulation to your Association.

Witnessed by the President of China, Mr. Xi Jinping and the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, CPAFFC and SACPFA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Union Buildings in Pretoria on

March 25, 2013, which is a special and memorable day for both sides, marking an official cooperation between our two Associations.

We two Associations have kept good and close relations ever since. On October 28, 2013, Mr. Tom Cao, Executive President of SACPFA, visited CPAFFC's President, Ms. Li Xiaolin in Beijing and co-held the SA-China People's Friendship Association banquet on October 29 in honour of the visiting of South African Deputy President Mr. Motlanthe to China, as an opportunity to promote bilateral cooperation and exchanges in economy, trade and culture in 2014, the "Year of South Africa" in China.

With CPAFFC's support, SACPFA has also established relationship with many local friendship associations in Shanghai, Beijing, Shenyang, Anhui, Guangdong, Chongqing, Qinghai, Jiangxi, Hebei, Xiamen and Lanzhou etc., among which we created exchange and cooperation opportunities for local organizations, companies and projects via all kinds of events.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and SACPFA President Manne Dipico, signing a Memorandum of Understanding



Congratulations and Best Wishes

Amaradasa Gunawardana
(President of Sri Lanka China Society)

As the most developed country in Africa, South Africa has witnessed three major leaps in relations with China over the last 15 years since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1998, from partnership to strategic partnership and to today's comprehensive strategic partnership, which is a significant growth in bilateral relationship.

As the only people's association for friendship with China in South Africa, SACPFA builds a new world in people-to-people diplomacy between the two countries. SACPFA absorbs elites in all walks of life in South Africa, while "go global" strategies of Chinese companies and culture also fit well in South Africa's developmental needs. Thus, SACPFA could be the platform to facilitate bilateral cooperation, making face-to-face exchanges available.

And we two Associations working together, will definitely be a milestone in SA-China friendship cause. It will help peoples to understand each other's value, life and way of thinking more directly and more thoroughly, achieving real cultural exchanges. On the basis of inter-working and mutual trust, exchanges in other areas such as economy and trade, technology and academic between our two Associations will be further broadened and deepened.

The march of people-to-people diplomacy is long but far-reaching, we wish to make some real contribution as we can to benefit the friendship between our two countries, and work together with comrades and friends like your Association to undertake the role of the positive energy messenger and renew achievement. ■

We all in Sri Lanka China Society (established in 1981) would enjoy joining hands with our friends and colleagues all over the world, to share the ecstasy and delectation enjoyed by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) on the memorable occasion of the completion of six decades of methodically planned programs and activities sagaciously implemented to produce potent results. It is our lucid observation that the results of these activities of the reflective and vivacious leaders of the CPAFFC during the last 60 years really matter not only to the Chinese people but to all 157 countries associating the CPAFFC.

We convincingly believe that in the CPAFFC, which is a breeding ground of international friendship, the seeds of friendship are sowed with the inspiration and brilliant guidance given by the proletarian revolutionaries of old China. We feel proud to notice the indelible contributions the CPAFFC has made to expand and strengthen people-to-people diplomacy. It is our fortune that we in Sri Lanka are also in it.

The word "friendship" has been a key-word inscribed in the line of thinking of the policy makers of the People's Republic of China. These leaders were so anxious and keen about the establishment of friendship with other nations and improve people-to-people

diplomacy that they got their messages inscribed. One example is that on 20th February 1994 Jiang Zemin the then President of the People's Republic of China got the following message inscribed "make friends extensively, increase understanding and strengthen co-operation."

The literal meaning of the word "diplomacy" is "management of international relations." The Chinese policy makers extended their targets beyond the limited boundaries when they on 3rd May 1954 founded what we today call the CPAFFC. It is a step to strengthen people-to-people diplomacy. Prominent priority is attached by the Chinese policy makers to the healthy friendship relations with foreign countries irrespective of proximity or the geographical size of the land. The world has observed that in this process the Chinese policy makers have introduced spectacular transformation of the foreign policy along with far-reaching economic development.

The makers of people-to-people diplomacy introduced by the CPAFFC has pointed out that "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."

This short note from Sri Lanka is to sincerely congratulate the CPAFFC and to wish a brighter future. ■

Long-Standing Partnership Between CPAFFC and Swiss-Chinese Association

Dr. Thomas Wagner
(President of Swiss-Chinese Association)

My first contact with the CPAFFC was in 1987 when I had the privilege to meet the former President, HE Mr. Han Xu. He explained the mission of the CPAFFC to me. He presented me with a wonderful bowl of Chinese porcelain as a symbol of our mutual understanding and appreciation. Later on I had the opportunity to meet his successor, HE Mr. Qi Huaiyuan and afterwards HE Mr. Chen Haosu, first in

his function as Vice-President and then as President of the CPAFFC from 2000- 2011. I had the honor to see him many times and we became good old friends. We always had very good discussions with the aim to set a goal for building bridges of a mutual comprehension between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland. I feel very happy and honored that this tradition has been continued by HE

Mrs. Li Xiaolin since 2011. The relationship between the CPAFFC and the Swiss-Chinese Association reflects also the very long and good mutual understanding between both countries; Switzerland is one of the first countries in Western Europe, which recognised the PR of China on a diplomatic level in 1950.

The CPAFFC, like the Swiss-Chinese Association, is an organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy of the People's Republic of China. The aims of the Association are to enhance people's friendship, further international cooperation, safeguard world peace and promote general and common development. The Swiss-Chinese Association pursues the same objectives. May I mention one example: For many years we received official delegations from the PR of China and from the CPAFFC in Switzerland with the aim to explain our federalistic and democratic system, our cultural and scientific activities and our strong regulations of environmental protection as well as our social and economic success. On the other hand the Swiss delegations have

In March 2009, Dr. Thomas Wagner receiving the certificate of Friendship Ambassador from CPAFFC President Chen Haosu



the opportunity to get an impression of the huge dimensions of China with its 56 ethnic groups, to witness the fast economic and social development of the country and to admire its wonderful cultural heritage as well as the diverse and beautiful landscape.

This continuous and fruitful exchange of experiences is the foundation of our cooperation. I also feel very honored that the CPAFFC awarded me the title of Friendship Ambassador in 2009.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the CPAFFC I would like to take the opportunity to express our congratulations and to convey our best wishes for a further, healthy development of your organization. I would like to express our gratitude for the confidence which the CPAFFC shows to the Swiss Association as a reliable partner. I would like to thank President Li Xiaolin as well as the staff and all employees of the CPAFFC for their wonderful contribution. Together, they all fulfill an important task and meet a great challenge in a rapidly changing world.

The CPAFFC can count on its older counterpart, the Swiss Chinese Association, with its over 65 years of excellent relations between the two countries. I sincerely hope that our friendship will set a good example in the world of today: showing how two countries—different in their languages, in their culture, in their sizes and also in their political systems—can cooperate successfully in peace, with mutual comprehension and understanding and with great respect for each other. ■

A Bosom Friend Afar Brings A Distant Land Near

Gerald Beroud

(FSSCA President and SCA Vice President)

In 1999, I joined the Vaud-Shaanxi Association (VSA) that had been founded by Mr. Simon Chappuis in 1986, and got the opportunity to make contact with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) for the first time.

Since then, the VSA has established friendly and cooperative relations with the CPAFFC and successfully sent its first group of visitors to China with its aid. A variety of activities has been gradually developed, especially mutual visits and cultural exchanges (children's drama, Chinese food festival, peasant painting, paper cuts, etc.).

The generous and effective help offered by the CPAFFC and its branches located in various regions of China make it an important partner for cooperation. Without it, neither the exploratory tourist projects nor the special visits to small and medium-sized enterprises, industries, wineries and the building in-

dustry could have gone so smoothly.

The Swiss-Chinese Association (SCA) started to get help and support from the CPAFFC much earlier than the VSA, which was absorbed by the French Section of the SCA (FSSCA) in early 2010. It had developed many cooperative projects and maintained good relations with the Chinese partners, including pediatricians in Nanjing, company managers in Baotou, people of the Bai, Uygur and Hui ethnic groups, peasants in Jingyang County of Shaanxi, tea makers in Guizhou and architects in Shanghai.

The CPAFFC has satisfied our wishes to visit places we usually couldn't reach, including a psychiatric hospital of the social medical center, factories, wine estates and paddy fields, rural sceneries, gardens, museums and natural reserves.

After the reform and opening up in China in late 1970s, Swiss people thought bilateral exchanges would gradually decrease, but the result was

just the opposite. Over the past three decades, cooperation between the two sides has been gradually expanded. China has attracted more attention and people have shown more interest in visiting China.

Although the Swiss Federal Government has been strengthening cooperation with China since the beginning of the century, it's still difficult to meet everyone's needs. The expanding area of cooperation has stimulated participation of more provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions and organizations such as the Bureau of Economic Development, professional teams, industrial science and technology parks and arts organizations, so that more people choose to file directly applications to the friendship associations in Switzerland.

Provincial and municipal friendship associations as well as other local cooperative partners of the CPAFFC often ask us to find a suitable friendship city candidate in Switzerland. But few cities in our country have sufficient human and financial resources and the wish to engage in this activity.

This is the reason why we usually suggest discussing cooperation on particular projects. It's easy to sign a friendship-city agreement, but to implement the agreement is very difficult. The CPAFFC understands the situation very well.

Associations in Switzerland were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to receive delegations introduced by the CPAFFC, including many senior Chinese officials. These visits also gave me a chance to learn more about my

own country through visiting different places and companies including relationships that I had never known before and the talented people of all circles in Switzerland.

The Chinese government and the CPAFFC have attached great importance to organizations such as the SCA and the FSSCA, because they deeply appreciate the uniqueness and diversity of direct exchanges between associations and the special diplomatic ties established at the same time.

The Chinese cooperative partners attach great importance to our associations. For example, during his visit to Switzerland in 2013, Premier Li Keqiang had a personal meeting with members and representatives of the Swiss friendship associations.

Now, it's important for us to know more about China's progress and development. Members of our association and part of the general public in Switzerland often ask us about China's current situation. The SCA and the FSSCA are willing to present the modern China completely, thoroughly, truly and respectfully.

As representatives of the two Swiss friendship associations, there are so many places throughout China for us to explore, from Heilongjiang to Tibet, from Shanghai to Kashgar in Xinjiang. Such prospects will inspire the SCA and the FSSCA to have further and long term cooperation with the CPAFFC as well as its leadership and cooperative partners. Sincere thanks to the CPAFFC!

March 12, 2014

The US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) sends our most heartfelt congratulations to the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), as the organization celebrates its sixtieth anniversary in 2014. We applaud the extraordinary friendship work that has been accomplished in the 60-year history of the CPAFFC, which will continue and expand under the capable and remarkable leadership of President Li Xiaolin.

The CPAFFC has been instrumental in linking cities and regions of China and of other countries, and in linking countries with China. China has established 2,022 sister-city relationships in 131 countries. The CPAFFC brings these together in a biennial conference to consider common concerns and identify best practices. These face-to-face encounters build friendship and understanding. This spirit of cooperation with so many people in so many different places contributes to world stability and strengthens world peace efforts.

USCPFA celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and, since its beginning, USCPFA has been involved with the CPAFFC. In September 2012, US-CPFA leaders were proud to be among the 700 delegates representing 95 cities in 49 countries and 90 Chinese cities at the China International Friendship Cities Conference. At the 2010 CIFCC in Shanghai, the USCPFA delegation was able (with the help of the CPAFFC and the Carter Center) to present an engraved USCPFA medallion to former

USCPFA Congratulates CPAFFC on 60 Years of Friendship Work

Diana Greer (President of US-China Peoples Friendship Association)

President Jimmy Carter to acknowledge his “extraordinary achievements in U.S.-China relations.” This brought us full circle, because Mr. Carter was president when the American government established diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China on Jan. 1, 1979 — a moment for which USCPFA had worked.

Over its 40 years, USCPFA has organized and/or hosted many educational people-to-people exchanges through tours and delegations, photograph and art exhibits, and exchange of publications. In the early 1980s, the CPAFFC hosted an annual Local Leaders delegation of about sixteen active USCPFA members (3-4 from each region) and a leader. These tours introduced chapter leaders to different areas of China, providing briefings at local factories and other sites; there was always a gracious meeting at CPAFFC headquarters. Some of these groups received 16-mm films to bring back for use at chapter meetings, to acquaint Americans with Chinese culture. These films later became part of USCPFA’s film library. The CPAFFC-hosted Familiarization Tours were designed to train USCPFA members to become future tour leaders, in order to introduce more Americans to China. The CPAFFC continues to host USCPFA tours as a part of our continu-

ing exchange. Then and now, CPAFFC tour guides (and other staff) become good friends with tour participants because of their friendly and efficient manner and their gracious hospitality. For some years, USCPFA chapters/members home-hosted CPAFFC staff members who were in the U.S. for short-term study.

USCPFA’s Seminar on US-China Relations (held in Washington DC) is an important tool for accomplishing its purpose of promoting friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and the U.S. We are pleased to host CPAFFC representatives or delegations who attend and speak at the Seminar and at National Conventions. A three-member delegation recently came to the USCPFA National Convention in Richmond, Virginia, and we look forward to having CPAFFC representatives at the next Seminar on U.S.-China Relations on April 24-25, 2014.

The CPAFFC provided a generous gift of \$10,000 to help in the rebuilding process in the southern part of the U.S., badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Channeled through USCPFA, the money was used to help Alba Middle School in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, refurbish its storm-damaged library. USCPFA volunteers visited the school several times and helped select and

purchase special items, building another bridge of friendship.

My first trip to China in 1993 led me on an incredible life journey to learn more about China, its culture and its people. Our Youxie guides were “fountains of wisdom” and so patient with us. Traveling extensively throughout China, I met people from all walks of life which exponentially expanded my horizons and positively changed and impacted my teaching in music and international studies. I thank the Chinese people and the CPAFFC for their constant kindnesses and fabulous hospitality shown to USCPFA over these many years.

With great excitement and anticipation, USCPFA looks forward to working with the CPAFFC to create new avenues of friendship for the future. Let us look ahead together and see what we can do to invigorate our long-sustaining members and initiate concrete ways to energize more young people and students to see the importance of working together for successful outcomes in international relations that will mutually benefit all of us.

May the peoples of the United States and China always reach out to each other compassionately, and walk both ways on the open Bridge of Friendship for decades to come. ■

Deep Friendship Between Vietnam And China

Vu Xuan Hong

**(Member of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam and President of Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations)**

Vietnam and China are neighbors joined by rivers and mountains. Geographical location and history ensure close friendship. This is especially true since they both endured a long revolutionary struggle to achieve national liberation, forging what Chairman Ho Chi Minh once praised as “deep friendship between comrades and brothers”.

The history of the past 60 years

or more has vividly shown how traditional friendship becomes the precious wealth of the two peoples. Enhancing communication and promoting mutual understanding, respect and trust play an important role in meeting their desires and long-term interests.

Less than three months after normalization of relations in November 1991, the Vietnam-China Friendship Association (VCFA), in collabora-

tion with the China-Vietnam Friendship Association (CVFA), organized a performing tour of Vietnam by Jinjing Acrobatic Troupe from Shandong Province. This was the first Chinese performing art delegation to visit with resumption of cooperation between the two friendship associations after over a decade of suspension.

The visit created a friendly atmosphere for the development of bilateral relations. In 1993,

In June 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping and the visiting Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang officiating at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the CPAFFC and the VUFO from 2013 to 2017 inked by CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku and VUFO President Vu Xuan Hong



the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) and the VCFA formally restored relations with the CPAFFC and the CVFA and began a program of exchanges and other activities.

In 1999, Le Kha Phieu, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid a historic visit to China. The leaders of the two countries set the guideline and overall framework for developing relations known as the

“16-Chinese-character principles” — “good-neighborliness, comprehensive cooperation, long-term stability and future-orientation”. In 2002 when visiting Vietnam, Jiang Zemin, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, put forward the “four-good spirit” — “good neighbors, good friends, good comrades and good partners”.

In 2008, consensus was reached to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation for a new stage of development. Viewing Vietnam-China relations from a strategic perspective and long-term interests, the two sides have now provided favorable conditions for bilateral cooperation in various areas.

As core organizations of people-to-people diplomacy between the two countries, the VUFO and the CPAFFC have created many activities to consolidate and strengthen friendship. In 2008, to commemorate the 118th birth date of Chairman Ho Chi Minh, they co-hosted a “Meeting in the Hometown of Uncle Ho”. At the end of the same year, the two countries completed a boundary survey and erection of boundary markers along their land border.

The two organizations co-sponsored the “2009 Vietnam-China Border Peoples’ Friendship Gala” in Mong Cai of Vietnam’s Quang Ninh Province and Fangchenggang of China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to build the land boundary into a peaceful, friendly, stable and cooperative one, implementing the 2009-2010 Agreement on Cooperation signed by them.

The year 2010 became the Year of Vietnam-China Friendship. A series of activities were held, including Vietnam-

China People’s Forum, Vietnam-China Knowledge Competition, Vietnam-China People’s Gala, etc. Besides this, we also cooperated in organizing the Vietnam-China Friendship Bringing-Light Tour, during which Chinese doctors gave free surgery to Vietnamese cataract patients, and the Vietnam-China Friendship Bringing-Light Program with Chinese side donating a Wind-Solar Photovoltaic Hybrid Generation System to Vietnam’s Con Co Island. All these events were deeply rooted in people’s hearts.

Projects such as Vietnam-China People’s Forum and Vietnam-China People’s Gala have become exemplary brands of cooperation between our two associations with substantive contents highly appreciated by Party and government leaders and the public. The VUFO and the CPAFFC not only maintain close cooperation at the bilateral level, but have also taken an active part in holding the Conference on ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organizations, China-ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs’ Start-up Forum, China-ASEAN Friendship Tour and China-ASEAN Youth Cultural Exchange Festival.

On June 17, 2013, witnessed by Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, and General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the leaders of our two associations signed the 2013-2017 Plan for Cooperation in the Great Hall of the People, giving a clear direction for cooperation for the next five years.

We are happy to see the bilateral cooperation is in a stage of stable and sound development. Both Vietnam and China treasure our friendship and have

the responsibility to maintain it and carry it forward. As envoys and bridges of friendship, our two organizations have done much to deepen the friendly ties between our peoples, making a positive contribution to the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Both Vietnam and China are facing arduous and difficult tasks in reform and development. Continuously consolidating bilateral friendship and promoting win-win cooperation conform to the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, safeguard of the cause of socialist countries and requirement of the times. Both Vietnam and China have always attached great importance to the people-to-people diplomacy and regard it as an effort to build bridges of friendship and an important channel for uniting the two nations.

With the aims of enhancing people’s friendship, furthering international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, the CPAFFC has made great contributions to the people-to-people diplomacy since its establishment 60 years ago. The VUFO expresses its appreciation for CPAFFC’s achievements and is willing to maintain close ties with the CPAFFC and together with your association make new contributions to deepening mutual understanding between our two peoples and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to all CPAFFC leaders and staff my best wishes. May your association grow stronger and develop faster. May the Vietnam-China friendship last forever, generation after generation. ■

An Icelander and *The East Is Red*

The story of Arnthor Helgason, Chairman of Icelandic Chinese Cultural Society

Sun Chi

The winter breeze blew through Beijing at the start of November, while inside the tranquil compound of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Arnthor Helgason smiled at the camera, a gleam of warmth shone on his face. "*The East Is Red* is my wedding song, and I hope it would be also played in my funeral," he said.

Helgason, Chairman of the Icelandic Chinese Cultural Society (ICCS), came to China to be interviewed for an eight-episode documentary on people-to-people diplomacy in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the CPAFFC.

A story of his first contact with China took us back to the fall of 1967. A 15-year-old Icelandic blind boy first heard Chinese songs on the radio. Eight years later, he visited China for the first time to find out more about the enchanting melody and its vocal of 96 words — *The East Is Red*. The host of that visit is the CPAFFC.

This simple invitation fulfilled a dream of that Icelander to make a 7879.27 km journey for such a simple purpose. No one ever expected that this 23-year-old young man would eventually lead ICCS to be the most active partner with China.

Since his first visit to China, ten ICCS delegations headed by him have left their footprints all over China. Meanwhile, ICCS has received many delegations from the CPAFFC, local friendship associations and cultural exchange groups. Among them, the visit of the Jinan National Orchestra in 1980 might be the most impressive, for Ms. Peng Liyuan was one of the delegates. No matter whether in front of the camera, or in the audience at the 60-year celebration of ICCS, Arnthor Helgason recalled it as follows:

"We could proudly say the wife of your president is an old friend of ours".

He also took this pride in his long friendship with the CPAFFC, in his speech on the 60th anniversary of ICCS.

"Respected audience,

"On October 20, 1953, the Icelandic Chinese Cultural Society was founded with Jakob Benediktsson as its president. In the beginning, there were 77 members, but the number increased in the following years and in the 1970s there were more than 400.

"The main purpose of ICCS has been to introduce Chinese culture to Icelanders as well as help introducing

Arnthor Helgason receiving an interview in the CPAFFC





Arnthor Helgason recording the melody of *The East Is Red* at the Beijing Railway station

Icelandic culture in China. The society has always been based on members' voluntary work.

"The ICCS is now probably the oldest cultural organization with mutual contacts with the CPAFFC. A Peking Opera Troupe visited Iceland in 1955 with Chu Tunan, the first President of the CPAFFC, as delegation head.

"The second generation of ICCS is now step-by-step leaving the stage and the 3rd generation will soon take over. We hope to be able to keep nursing our cultural exchanges, strengthening our mutual friendship and understanding through bilateral cultural exchanges."

Present for his speech were a lot of his friends who also devoted themselves to the friendship between Iceland and China. Former Ambassador Wang Ronghua helped translate his speech into Chinese, and wrote in his postscript:

"I was there when Arnthor delivered this speech, and I am very hon-

ored to attend the 60th anniversary of the founding of ICCS. It gives me great pleasure to meet my old friend, Arnthor Helgason, a recipient of the title of Friendship Ambassador conferred by the CPAFFC. I first saw him right after I became the ambassador to Iceland. It was a seminar organized by ICCS on the theme of the poems of Chairman Mao.

"Their passion for Mao and his poems deeply touched me, especially since there were three editions of Mao's poetry in Iceland, a small country with 280,000 people. I was utterly inspired by the organizer. Since then, I participated in a lot of activities hosted by ICCS and got to know more about Arnthor. We became very good friends in my four-year term. Arnthor's love for China and Chinese culture is sincere, and his view on China is objective and just.

"He had the melody *The East Is Red* played at his wedding ceremony, and he knew more about Chinese folk

songs than many Chinese. Last year when he visited China, Mr. Chen Haosu, former President of the CPAFFC attended the party for welcoming him and sang Chinese folk songs on the occasion. Arnthor played the piano, and whatever Mr. Chen chose to sing, Arnthor could easily accompany him.

"For all those years he devoted himself fully to the friendship with China, and the drive was just his great love of Chinese culture, and his sincere wish to introduce Chinese culture to Icelanders. It is absolutely my honor to translate his speech into Chinese, as a way to pay back all his friendship for so many years."

Arnthor Helgason has made a lot of friends from the CPAFFC, as well as those from all walks of life who engage in the cause of friendship between Iceland and China. Many are inspired by his spirit upheld in his daily life and not just in speech. This time, Arnthor came to China for the documentary film made for the 60th birthday of the CPAFFC, and before he departed from Beijing, he once again raised that seemingly odd request: "I want to go to the Beijing Railway Station to listen to *The East Is Red*."

On that day, this old friend stood on the square in front of the railway station, with people coming and going. He smiled and waited patiently for noon, and when he heard the bell begin to ring out the melody of *The East Is Red*, he smiled.

At that moment, I suddenly recalled what his wife once said: "China is Arnthor's fiancé, and has been long before I met him." ■

Wang Bingnan and Rewi Alley

In His Later Years

—In Commemoration of CPAFFC's 60th Anniversary

Lu Wanru

In the summer of 1975, the “cultural revolution” had not yet come to an end; there were still repercussions with the struggle against the “Gang of Four” escalating daily. Heavyhearted people in China were expecting a storm that would bring about a radical change in the situation. It was at this moment that Comrade Wang Bingnan, a veteran revolutionary and diplomat well known at home and abroad, was appointed as the fourth president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

All staff of the CPAFFC felt very excited, expecting him to lead their organization that shouldered such an important task of China's nongovernmental diplomacy to “turn a new leaf after the chaos”. As expected, he did not let the staff down, and guided the CPAFFC to shape an image of making new friends while not forgetting the old ones, and exploring new areas for people-to-people friendly exchanges and letting the world have a true understanding about China after the “cultural revolution”.

As an old leader of the diplomatic field, he held the post of CPAFFC president for over ten years and made outstanding contributions in various aspects of its work. He was deeply loved,

respected and remembered by all the staff, for adding glory to the organization's history.

His first speech after taking office in August 1975 was encouraging to all staff. Disregarding the persecution he had suffered during the “cultural revolution” and his previous high post in the Foreign Ministry, he was glad and quite optimistic about the new assignment as president of the CPAFFC. He said that, in the spirit of “pushing the cart forward as long as it does not turn over”, he would undertake the work of resuming and developing China's nongovernmental diplomacy suspended for about 10 years because of the chaos caused by the “cultural revolution”.

His sincere and frank inaugural speech demonstrated a time-tested veteran revolutionary's magnanimity and brought warmth and hope to all.

Shortly after President Wang Bingnan took office, came the year of 1976 when New China experienced the great tragedy since its founding: the successive passing away of Premier Zhou Enlai, Marshal Zhu De and Chairman Mao Zedong and the catastrophic Tangshan earthquake, offset only by the great victory of smashing the “Gang of Four”.

These major events that had bear-

ing on the destiny of China shocked the heart of every Chinese. Thanks to President Wang's farsightedness and prudent and meticulous leadership at this critical juncture, the working staff of the CPAFFC showed patriotism with a sense of urgency and political maturity, keeping calm in adversity.

He then took a series of actions of strategic meaning bringing order out of chaos and mobilizing the enthusiasm of all the working staff. Soon, friendly exchanges that had been suspended for many years were resumed and new channels for friendly contacts were established. The working atmosphere in the CPAFFC was changed completely henceforth.

Happy Reunion of Old Friends

I had my first contact with President Wang in the second half of 1977 when the CPAFFC was preparing to celebrate the 80th birthday of Rewi Alley. Comrade Wang Bingnan met Rewi Alley for the first time in 1938 when the latter went to Wuhan working for the establishment of Association of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (the National Headquarter of the Gung Ho cooperative movement). In the Eighth Route Army Office, Rewi Alley met Zhou Enlai for the first time, and solici-

ited opinions about the movement from the viewpoint of the Communist Party of China and discussed about how to get support from the Kuomintang Government. After that, Wang Bingnan was assigned to help Rewi Alley in concrete matters. At that time, the Indian Aid-China Medical Mission sent by the National Congress Party of India was also in Wuhan waiting to go to Yanan. Thanks to the arrangement by Wang Bingnan, Rewi Alley was able to travel together with them to Yanan with his mission to report to Chairman Mao about the aim and plan of the Gung Ho movement.

Though after liberation Wang and Alley hadn't much contact with each other, they maintained mutual trust. When learning that during the "cultural revolution" Rewi Alley had been slated as a "mole" by the "Gang of Four", and quite a few of his adopted sons and students had become the "targets of the revolution" because of their relations with him before liberation, President Wang was rather disturbed.

Learning that 1977 would be the fiftieth year of Alley's stay in China and December 2 of that year would mark his 80th birthday, he decided that the CPAFFC should organize a grand birthday celebration to express the respect of the Chinese Government and gratitude for his contribution to China for the past half a century. At the celebration banquet Deng Xiaoping, then Vice Premier, spoke on behalf of the Chinese Government. Leaders of various departments, the New Zealand Ambassador to China, and Alley's foreign old friends, as well as his adopted Chinese sons who had been incriminated during the "cultural revolution", old

friends of the Gung Ho movement in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and former graduates from Shandan Bailie School were all invited to attend.

Deng Xiaoping's pertinent and warm speech voiced what all those present had in their minds: "Tens of thousands of foreign friends have devoted themselves to the cause of Chinese revolution. Even so, rare are those like Comrade Rewi Alley, who for 50 years on end has done tremendous work for the Chinese people, in our years of difficulty and hardship, in our pioneering days and after our victory. Hence the Chinese people's respect for him is right and proper."

This was the most earnest and comprehensive appraisal of Rewi Alley's contribution to China from the Chinese Government and Chinese people for the first time, which dispelled the doubt and discrimination held by some people who were unaware of the truth. It certainly eased the burden on the minds of Alley's relatives and friends, and let the people begin to know a real Rewi Alley.

From then on, the Chinese people acknowledged him as their "good friend, good comrade and good comrade-in-arms."

Rewi Alley came to Beijing in 1951. After handling matters relating to discontinuing the Gung Ho move-

The then Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping drinking a toast to Rewi Alley at the latter's 80th birthday party given by the CPAFFC on December 2, 1977



ment and the Shandan Bailie School, he planned to stay in the city to finish his book *Yo Banfa (There Is a Way)*, which described the contrasts between new and old China. It happened then that Beijing was preparing the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions to be held in October 1952 and the Preparatory Committee supported his plan.

At that time, the Korean War had not yet ended and most countries in the world had not recognized the PRC. Many European and American delegates came to China at some political risk. The convocation in Beijing of such a large-scale peace conference with delegates from over 30 countries would create huge impact on the world. Due to the fact that there was little information in foreign languages about China in those years, *Yo Banfa* almost became the initiatory textbook for foreign delegates to know about China. Rewi Alley, as deputy head of the New Zealand delegation, was later elected as New Zealand Representative of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions headquartered in Beijing. From then on, he permanently resided in the capital.

In 1958, he moved to the compound of the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace (China Peace Committee for short) located at No.1, Taijichang Street, Beijing, and became a "permanent resident" there.

When he first moved to the Peace Committee compound, he lived upstairs of the suite occupied by renowned American writer Anna Louise Strong in the northern building near the gate. Kinkazu Saionji, then known as

Japanese "unofficial ambassador", and his family lived in the southern building opposite. After liberation, not many people really knew about Rewi Alley due to his complex history since he arrived in Shanghai in 1927 and made China his home ever since.

In 1968, when the "cultural revolution" was gaining force, some "rebels" in the China Peace Committee even hung a big streamer on which was written "Imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers" in front of his door. The incident shocked Mme Soong Ching Ling. She immediately wrote a letter to the CPC Central Committee, testifying with many facts that Rewi Alley "is a true, loyal and staunch friend of New China", "Like Dr. Norman Bethune, he follows the teachings of Marx and Lenin and is a believer in international communism." She said straightforwardly: "I trust him utterly".

This letter stopped the incident from developing further.

Publicity of Rewi Alley's Life

As early as in the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, when the Gung Ho movement emerged, Rewi Alley's story had already become a much-told tale outside China. In 1941, Edgar Snow published an article entitled *China's Blitzbuilder, Rewi Alley* in *Saturday Evening Post*, arousing much Western interest, people in Britain, the United States and New Zealand regarded Alley as a "legendary hero".

Though some people in China had also written stories about Rewi Alley, a full and accurate account of his life was lacking. After the celebration of his 80th birthday drew the attention of

the Central Government and various departments, President Wang Bingnan felt the CPAFFC had a duty to tell the Chinese people a true story about the life and deeds of Rewi Alley as a witness of and participant in contemporary Chinese history.

Under the guidance of President Wang, the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs of the CPAFFC shifted their work dealing with Rewi Alley from passively satisfying his routine requests to actively seeking his opinions, and with his help, it was able to resume contacts with old foreign friends. Meanwhile, the Department provided him with a full-time young secretary to assist him in handling writing, translation, publication, etc. Leaders of the Department and President Wang himself often managed to find time to chat with him and know about his needs. Since then, more of his old friends came to visit him and more Chinese and foreign personages came to interview him. The new atmosphere brought him many good hopes.

In 1982, there were two memorable events for Rewi Alley: One was that he had been living in China for 55 years since he arrived in Shanghai on April 21, 1927; the other was his 85th birthday falling on December 2. President Wang grasped this opportunity and asked the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs to write a biographic article giving a full account of Alley's life and work, which was to be published on the *People's Daily* on April 21.

I was asked to write it. At that time I only had limited knowledge about Alley. However, on President

Wang's advice and with my colleagues' support, I finished the task of writing the long article of some 6,000 words entitled *A Veteran's Glorious History* on schedule. Unexpectedly, this article drew interest of many readers, among whom there were Alley's old colleagues and students, and also some others who only knew the story about Dr. Norman Bethune from Canada, but had never heard of Rewi Alley, a New Zealand internationalist fighter who had dedicated all his life to the cause of Chinese people.

One day, President Wang told me that he was thinking about writing under his own name an article about Alley, which would be published on his 85th birthday on December 2. He wanted me to collect some related materials for him. Wang said that Alley was a man of thought and vision, and had a deeper and broader understanding about China even than many Chinese, adding that we should make a careful study of Alley and learn from him.

A few days later, Wang told me the preliminary contents of his article, saying it would focus on Alley's contribution to the construction of New China. He said, Alley was not only a "micro-encyclopedia about China" in the eyes of foreigners, but also had made valuable suggestions on and given criticism to some of China's major policies. The issues he was concerned with covered many areas, and his suggestions had substantial contents worthy of our consideration.

Wang asked me to dig out Alley's recent letters to the CPAFFC Secretariat. In these letters Alley expressed his opinions and offered suggestions on many issues; for example, he pointed

out that ecological disasters would be caused by excessive logging and deforestation; building dams while not solving the silt accumulation would lead to endless disastrous aftermaths; to prevent peasants from logging for firewood, methane gas and solar energy should be developed in the countryside, etc.

Alley also stressed the importance of education of youth after China embarked on reform and opening up. He said, young people should not be corroded by bourgeois ideology, should not forget the tradition of hard struggle and plain living, and should not only yearn for comfortable life. All the above opinions and suggestions were given after he visited the Northeast, Guangxi and Hainan during the period between 1977 and 1984; yet, at that time, they went unheeded in the departments concerned. President Wang said that Alley's forward-looking opinions deserved careful study. So, in his article he would write more about Alley's positive suggestions on the construction of New China after liberation, besides his deeds beforehand, thus helping the people have a better understanding about Alley's deep love and concerns about China. The title of the article was finalized as *Good Soldier of the Revolution, Good Adviser to the Construction*. For this article, President Wang did meticulous work and was scrupulous about every detail including choosing topics, looking for references, making the outline of the content and revising the draft word by word.

I felt enlightened and gained inspiration from his foresight and conscientious working style which contrib-

uted to my later studies of Rewi Alley.

“Rewi Alley of New Zealand” and “Rewi Alley of China”

New Zealanders had long known of Rewi Alley's legendary stories in China and took pride in him. As he approached his twilight years, some New Zealand friends and experts suggested making a documentary film about his life in China as early as possible. In 1979, Geoff Chapple, a New Zealand writer, and some filmmakers came to China and invited Rewi Alley to accompany them to visit the places where he had once lived and worked. Based on this, the film team made a documentary about Rewi Alley's life *The Second Blade of Grass*. Later, Geoff Chapple published a book entitled *Rewi Alley of China*. The book, which recorded the author's experience when he traveled with Alley to the old places and stories of those years, was commended in New Zealand.

Furthermore, film studios and TV stations in Beijing, Shanghai and Gansu Province one after another asked the CPAFFC to assist them in making documentaries about Alley's life, producing dramas and feature films on Alley and the Bailie School. At one time, Alley became the one whom New Zealand and Chinese media competed constantly to interview and make films on.

Through him, moving stories of many other old foreign friends who had supported the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression and construction of New China became known. For example, Kathleen Hall, a New Zealand nurse, who helped build clinic and saved the lives of villagers

in Songjiazhuang and wounded soldiers of the Eighth Route Army in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei border area during the resistance war.

Rewi Alley, with his special status and contribution, became a solid bridge of friendship linking the Chinese and New Zealand people. No wonder, in China he was called “Rewi Alley of New Zealand”, while in New Zealand they labeled him as “Rewi Alley of China”.

Since 1982, President Wang focused more on how to persuade Alley to write his autobiography so as to leave a credible work for later generations. But Alley always declined by saying that he had more important things about China to write, and “what I have done is nothing to rave about”. Finally, he agreed to relate an oral history for his autobiography, which would be written down and compiled by others.

This time, the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs again entrusted me with this task, and asked me to lose no time to finish it while Alley was still in good health.

I got acquainted with Rewi Alley in 1952 when the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions was held in Beijing, and met him often in various foreign affairs activities after he moved into the compound of the China Peace Committee. However, I did not know much about his past. In 1982, at the request of the alumni of the Bailie School, the Gansu provincial government agreed to hold a meeting in Lanzhou to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the school’s establishment, giving alumni a chance to meet Alley and visit Shandan.

Alley suggested that the CPAFFC invite Robert Spencer, a New Zealand surgeon who had helped the Bailie School to set up the school clinic, to visit China and attend the meeting, and that I accompany them on their visit to Gansu. It was the first time that I had a chance to visit other parts of the country together with Alley and also for the first time I experienced what a high prestige Alley enjoyed among the school alumni and the Shandan people, and how he had formed an inseparable bond with them.

The Shandan Bailie School is a lasting legend in the history of Shandan. It is also a spiritual and material treasure created jointly by Chinese people and foreign supporters who were enthusiastic in public welfare causes under extreme difficult wartime conditions.

The return of Rewi Alley and Dr. Spencer to Shandan caused a great sensation among the local people and inspired the Gansu Provincial Gov-

ernment to rebuild the Bailie School. President Wang, in the name of the CPAFFC, did a lot of coordinating work to push various departments concerned to give active support. Finally, the plan of rebuilding the Shandan Bailie School was approved and secured support contributions from New Zealand and the United States. Tom Newnham, an active member of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society, entrusted by Alley, lived for a while on the construction site together with Ni Caiwang, an old SBS alumni and now the school principal, engaged in designing the new building and project supervision. The official opening was announced on April 21, 1987. Alley’s 30-year dream at last came true. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the opening ceremony due to ill health.

Earlier, with the development of China’s reform and opening up, the revival of Gung Ho, which Alley had born constantly in mind, had been put on the

A warm welcome from the teachers and students of the Lanzhou Bailie Oil School in Gansu Province when Rewi Alley arrived on June 5, 1982 to attend the activities in celebration of the school’s 40th anniversary



agenda. At the suggestion of Hu Yuzhi and other old Gung Ho leaders, the Association of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ACIC) was reestablished on November 20, 1983 after being approved by the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the CPC.

Alley had planned to continue his efforts to revive the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ICCIC) in its original pattern with the support of old friends of Gung Ho from the United States, Britain, New Zealand, Australia etc., so as to find new sources of funds and build contacts with other international cooperative organizations. Unfortunately, not long after the re-establishment of the ICCIC on September 3, 1987, he passed away due to a heart attack on December 27, 1987 soon after the celebration of his 90th birthday.

Setting Up an Office of Rewi Alley Studies

Between 1982 and 1985, for finishing writing Alley's autobiography, I accompanied Rewi Alley three times on his holidays in Beidaihe and Sanya. During his free time, I would begin my work by chatting with him on various subjects he interested, and then turned to ask some of my questions about his personal life stories and things related to the background. I got the talks taped and on return to Beijing, my colleagues who had been Alley's secretaries and familiar with his way of talking would help typed the records. After adding and revising the text based on oral and written materials Alley had provided, the draft was examined and approved by Rewi Alley himself.



From left: Wang Bingnan, Rewi Alley, Liao Chengzhi and Jiao Ruoyu at the ceremony of conferring the title of Honorary Citizen on Rewi Alley by the Beijing Municipal Government on December 2, 1982

Later, on the request of various sides, it was decided that both Chinese and English versions of the book *Rewi Alley, an Autobiography* would be published at the same time. This increased our workload. Many colleagues in the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs were engaged in the translation of the book. Wang Xiaobo, the veteran English translator, was also asked to advise and help in emendation. We made concerted efforts to achieve publication on December 2, 1986, Rewi Alley's 86th birthday, as formally announced by the CPAFFC and the publisher of the magazine *China Reconstructs*. We did it. And did it in the Gung Ho spirit of "Work & Work Together" which Rewi Alley appreciated.

Rewi Alley enjoyed a happy and fruitful life in his late years. No doubt that his reunion with old friend Wang Bingnan had made it possible for him to realize his dream of reviving Gung Ho and rebuilding the new Shandan

Bailie School and left the world a legacy of his colorful life and precious reflection on human life in the form of an autobiography. President Wang with his global vision, political wisdom and historical responsibility helped Alley realize his dreams one after another in his remaining years. The publicity of his true life story also enabled the Chinese people to learn the real value of Alley's spiritual and material legacy and how we should cherish and treasure them.

The last decision President Wang made before he ended his term in January 1986 was the approval of setting up the Office of Rewi Alley Studies in the CPAFFC which was to direct all affairs related to Rewi Alley and in charge of collecting, arranging and studying his archives and materials and holding related commemorative activities. I was appointed as director of the office.

After I retired in 1990, I worked as a volunteer for the reestablished IC-CIC until 2006. ■

Sixty Years of Friendship

Liu Gengyin

On December 2, 1977, the CPAFFC held a grand reception in the Great Hall of the People to celebrate the 80th birthday of Rewi Alley, an old friend from New Zealand. Comrade Deng Xiaoping attended the reception and declared: “Tens of thousands of foreign friends have devoted themselves to the cause of Chinese revolution. Even so, rare are those like Comrade Rewi Alley, who for 50 years on end has done tremendous work for the Chinese people, in our years of difficulty and

hardship, in our pioneering days and after our victory. Hence the Chinese people’s respect for him is right and proper.”

Rewi Alley continued to work for the cause of China’s construction for another 10 years until his death. On April 21, 1987, the CPAFFC again held a meeting in the Great Hall of the People commemorating the 60th anniversary of his arrival in China.

The CPAFFC was founded on May 3, 1954. The year 2014 marks the

60th anniversary of its founding. In the autumn of 1953, Rewi Alley was invited to move from Shandan, Gansu Province, and settle in Beijing. After that, he lived in the compound of the CPAFFC until his death. Therefore, he was one of the important witnesses of the development of the CPAFFC.

Rewi Alley’s life in China can be roughly divided into three phases.

He stayed in Shanghai for about 16 years from April 1927 when he first arrived from New Zealand. For a time, he worked in the Shanghai Municipal Council until autumn 1943, when he went to Shandan to establish the Bailie School.

During that period, he made acquaintance of Soong Ching Ling, George Hatem (Ma Haide), Agnes Smedley and other progressives. In 1934 together with a dozen of progressives including Agnes Smedley and Alec Camplin, he organized the first international Marxism study group in Shanghai. The Shanghai underground organization of the Communist Party of China installed a secret transceiver in his home to keep in contact with the Red Army.

After the outbreak of the Chinese

Rewi Alley with orphans in Shandan





In May 1980, Rewi Alley and the author in Chongqing

People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in 1937, a large number of unemployed workers in Shanghai escaped to the rear area. In order to help find jobs for these people, Rewi Alley and Edgar Snow jointly launched the Chinese Industrial Cooperative ("Gung Ho") Movement to set up cooperatives and organize the unemployed workers and poor peasants into production. The Gung Ho, as explained by Rewi Alley, meant "get united and work together".

In order to raise funds for the development of the Gung Ho, the International Committee for the Promotion of

Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (IC-CIC) was founded in Hong Kong in the early part of 1939. Soong Ching Ling was elected as its honorary chairperson and Rewi Alley a committee member and field secretary.

Thanks to Soong Ching Ling's high prestige and firm stand of opposing Japanese aggression, foreign donations poured in, at one time reaching tens of millions of US dollars. These donations were loaned at low interest rates to the cooperatives.

At its initial stage, Gung Ho was supported by both the Kuomintang and the Communist Party. In August 1938, the Association of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives was officially established to organize cooperatives in non enemy-occupied areas. Dr. H.H. Kung (Kong Xiangxi) became chairman of the board of directors, and Rewi Alley was secretary general. He was also specially appointed by the Kuomintang government as technical advisor to the Executive Yuan (the highest administrative organ). Zhou Enlai, later Premier, decided to send Wang Bingnan to take

part in the preparations of the Gung Ho.

Before long, the Gung Ho set up more than ten cooperatives to produce much needed goods for the resistance war such as food, blankets, medicines, etc. Rewi Alley formulated a number of rules such as at least seven members being needed for setting up a cooperative; it adopts a shareholding cooperative system with each member having one share, and big bosses not allowed to have controlling shares. Major problems related to the cooperative should be discussed by all members and decided by majority vote.

The resistance war needed the Gung Ho as an organization required by the times. In a short period of three to four years, it developed into a mass organization with over 2,000 cooperatives comprising about 30,000 members. Its products not only met the needs of people's life, but also provided a large quantity of things for the anti-Japanese armed forces.

The Kuomintang gradually realized that Gung Ho, in fact, was the largest domestic workers' organization at that time. Most of its leading cadres were patriotic intellectuals and the vast majority supported the anti-Japanese forces under the leadership of the Communist Party. This caused nervousness and fear in the Kuomintang ruling clique.

In 1942, the Executive Yuan removed Rewi Alley from his post as its technical advisor on charges of "making secret contacts with the Communist Party". The Kuomintang also imposed restrictions and even sabotaged the Gung Ho. But, Rewi Alley remained



Comrade Hu Yaobang visiting Rewi Alley in Peking Union Medical College Hospital in March 1982

steadfast and focused his energy on establishing the Bailie School training cadres for the Gung Ho movement.

The second period of Rewi Alley's life in China lasted 10 years from the autumn of 1943, when he established the Bailie School in Shandan, to the autumn of 1953, when he was elected New Zealand member of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Regions and settled in Beijing. During this period, he concentrated on running the Bailie School.

In 1942, Rewi Alley and George Hogg, a British citizen, established the "Bailie School" (homonymous with "Pei Li" which in Chinese means "train for the dawn") in Shuangshipu, Shaanxi Province to train managers and technicians for the Gung Ho. However, the school suffered frequent depredations by Kuomintang troops and bandits. In December 1943, therefore, after a four-

day arduous journey, they moved the school to Shandan County, a remote area under relatively weaker Kuomintang control. The students called this journey a "Little Long March".

After George Hogg, former headmaster of the Bailie School, died in 1945, Rewi Alley succeeded him and took on the difficult task of running the school. His efforts won support from international progressive forces. According to statistics, a total of 27 foreign friends from various countries gave assistance to the school so that the number of students reached more than 400 at one time; most were children of poor peasants and orphans of revolutionary martyrs. Rewi Alley was both a teacher and a foster father. He not only taught them knowledge, but also looked after their lives, and even gave them bath and cut their hair. For the sake of looking after the orphans of the

revolutionary martyrs, he never married.

Through running the school, Rewi Alley accumulated rich experience in education, his thinking summed up as follows: Education must serve rural economic construction and social development; Education must serve the purpose of improving material and cultural life of the broad masses of peasants; Education must follow the principle of combining theory and practice, and training of students must proceed from the actual conditions and give play to creativity for building new countryside.

Based on this, the Bailie School took "using both brain and hands, creating and analyzing" as its school motto. He later wrote a book *An Adventure in Creative Education* revealing his far-sightedness in education.

The third period of Rewi Alley's life in China lasted for 34 years from the autumn of 1953 when he settled in Beijing until his death on December 27, 1987.

His main activities included participation in the movement for safeguarding world peace, as well as travel and writing. Since being elected as New Zealand member of the Peace Liaison Committee of the Asian and Pacific Region in 1953, he attended many meetings such as the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions in Beijing, the World Peace Conference in Vienna, conferences related to the World Council of Peace in Stockholm, World Conferences Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Japan, etc.

These experiences created opportunities for the creation of much report-

age. According to incomplete statistics, he published over 50 books and a dozen of translations, the contents of most of the books publicizing New China's achievements in construction, such as *Yo Banfa!* published in 1952, *The People Have Strength*, *Human China*, *Travels in China*, *Rise of the Asian and Pacific Regions*, etc. In 1987, his last book *Rewi Alley, an Autobiography*, was published.

As he had worked tirelessly for a long time and grew old, his health deteriorated. He was hospitalized because of heart attack for three times. The first time was in May 1980 when he fell ill in Chongqing. On learning the news, Comrade Deng Xiaoping instructed the then CPAFFC President Wang Bingnan to send some people to help him return to Beijing immediately. Wang Bingnan sent me to Chongqing and asked me to carry his personal handwritten letter. After I got to Chongqing, I read out Wang's letter persuading him to return, and conveyed Deng Xiaoping's regards to him.

He expressed his gratitude to Deng Xiaoping and Wang Bingnan for their care, but then he said to me emphatically: "Please don't bother Comrade Deng Xiaoping with things about me as he is busy with a myriad of State affairs every day. When you get back to Beijing, please ask Comrade Wang Bingnan to pass on my words to Comrade Deng that I am in good health. The Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has arranged for me to visit some places, and I will go to these places as planned. So, I won't be able to go back to Beijing for the time being. To let the

comrades who care for me rest assured, I can have a picture taken with you. You can show the photo to them and let them see that I am as fit as before and there is nothing seriously wrong with my health."

It was in March 1982 that he was hospitalized in Peking Union Medical College Hospital due to a second heart attack. The then General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Hu Yaobang personally went to the hospital to visit him. Comrade Wang Bingnan and I accompanied General Secretary Hu on the visit.

The private ward where Rewi Alley stayed was very small and there was only one sickbed and a two-seater settee. When Comrade Hu entered the ward, Wang and I had to stand at the door. Comrade Hu presented a bunch of flowers to Rewi Alley and inquired about his condition and thanked him for his contribution to the Chinese revolution and construction. Before departure, Hu wished Rewi Alley longevity, saying he must live to the 21st century to see with his own eyes the changes of New China.

Rewi Alley said modestly: "I have lived in China for more than 50 years, but what I have done for China is too little."

In March 1983, he was hospitalized with a third heart attack. He was on a visit to Hainan Island at the time. As one of the comrades who accompanied him on the visit was drowned, he felt very sad and that led to a heart attack. Wang Bingnan again sent me and Dr. Wu Weiran, then Director of Beijing Hospital, to bring Rewi Alley back to Beijing.

December 2, 1987 marked his 90th birthday. On that day, Party and State leaders Zhao Ziyang and Li Peng went to his residence to celebrate the occasion. Unfortunately, only less than one month later, on December 27, Rewi Alley passed away of another heart attack.

In his will, he indicated that his funeral should be simple; "All such things that take up people's time and money to be dispensed with". "It is only another soldier who has died on the march." "When somebody or my friends go to Shandan, ask them to take my ashes there and scatter them on the field of Sibatan" (Sibatan is the place where he grazed the sheep and reclaimed wasteland when he first arrived). According to his will, half of his ashes was scattered over the field of Sibatan, and the other half was buried beside the tomb of George Hogg (now known as the Rewi Alley and George Hogg Mausoleum). On the tablet in the mausoleum is inscribed a tribute by Deng Xiaoping: "Eternal Glory to the Great Internationalist Fighter."

To perpetuate the memory of this "all-weather" old friend, the CPAFFC preserves his former residence in its compound for Chinese and foreign friends to pay respects to him.

The two undertakings he sponsored — the Bailie School and the IC-CIC are operating as ever.

Rewi Alley has passed away; however the Chinese people will always cherish memories of his spirit and friendship.

The author is former vice president of the CPAFFC.

CPAFFC: China's Aide of People-to-People Friendship

Jinith de Silva

China has maintained good friendly relations with neighboring countries since bygone days due to two reasons. One was trade and the other was Buddhism. China's links with Sri Lanka goes back to 2500 years. China did not occupy or annex any country as some European nations did.

By the 15th century, China had become a big naval power with navigator Admiral Zheng who crisscrossed the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea seven times during 1405-1433 for trade purposes. But these visits also helped China to cultivate friendly relations with the countries he visited. He took some of the representatives of these countries to China and introduced them to the then emperor.

After the people's revolution of 1949, China continued its policy of pursuing good foreign relations and took steps to establish diplomatic ties with many countries. Post-revolution Chinese governments also realized that in addition to inter-state connections, there should be people-to-people connection for relations to be meaningful. Former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping once said if there was only cooperation between the two governments without people-to-people contacts there would not be a solid basis for relations between two countries.

Therefore, for the cultivation of state-to-state and people-to-people relations the CPAFFC (Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries) was set up in 1954. Enhancing people's friendship, furthering international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development are some of its key objectives.

This organization receives the fullest cooperation of the Chinese government and other organizations to achieve these objectives. Today there are more than 500 NGOs connected to the CPAFFC in 157 countries. Since 1981, the Sri Lanka China Society has been maintaining social and cultural relationship with the CPAFFC.

It invites representatives of other countries to visit China to promote people-to-people contacts. In addition to visits, seminars, forums and workshops, the CPAFFC also helps states in activities that promote economy, science and technology to achieve win-win results. It also promotes the exchange of cultural troupes and performers.

It sees that the twin city concept is another way of promoting people-to-people contacts. In this manner Sri Lankan cities like Colombo, Hambantota, Galle and Polonnaruwa are connected to Chinese cities.

Senior officials of these societies are offered the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador or an award for their contribution towards people's friendship. When Sri Lanka celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations with China in 2007, a CPAFFC delegation visited Sri Lanka and conferred honorary titles on 15 Sri Lankans who had worked tirelessly to develop Sino-Lanka relations.

In its mission to safeguard world peace and common security, the CPAFFC believes it can play a positive role in preventing world wars. It publishes an international magazine *Voice of Friendship* to focus on the principles it believes in.

Under the leadership of its present president, Li Xiaolin, the CPAFFC has received wider recognition and risen to greater heights.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the setting up of the CPAFFC, the Sri Lanka China Society together with the CPAFFC's Cultural Exchange Department will be holding an exhibition on the evolution of Chinese characters on December 4 and 5, 2014 at the National Art Gallery of Colombo. The CPAFFC marked the anniversary on a grand scale in Beijing this May.

The writer is Vice President of Sri Lanka-China Society.

Letter of Thanks by 2013 CAYCEF Participants

Editor's note: The CPAFFC and the China National Committee for the Care of Children (CNCCC) hosted the first China-ASEAN Youth Cultural Exchange Festival (CAYCEF) in Beijing from August 1st to 6th 2013, organized by CNCCC Public Service Center. Around 250 young delegates participated in the event. They came from 20 provinces or cities in China's mainland and Taiwan as well as from 10 ASEAN countries including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Through visits, experience tours, courses and joint performances, young delegates established friendship and deepened understanding with each other. Recently, 10 ASEAN young delegates sent a letter to the CPAFFC, sharing their thoughts of the CAYCEF and expressing gratitude to the hosts and organizers.

To: The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Hi, we are the 10 representatives from each Southeast Asian Country. Our average age is 18 years old and most of us are still studying in high schools. In this hopeful beginning of 2014, we are happy to share an overseas friendship story with you.

In the first week of August in 2013, the 10 countries of ASEAN sent approximately 10 youths to go to Beijing, China to join the first "China-ASEAN Youth Cultural Exchange Festival", which was hosted by China National Committee for the Care of Children, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and organized by the CNCCC Public Service Center. We were hand in hand to





represent all of our ASEAN friends who were fortunate to be part of the festival. We are still grateful to have experienced this precious, meaningful and historical grand event.

In the journey, we experienced and touched the four-thousand-year history, culture and wonders of China. Our ASEAN friends got a deep and good impression of the main coordinator Mr. Wu Jiong, the MC Ms. Xu Jing and each instructor from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Although we did not have the same mother tongue, they treated us like a friend and made us feel that we were not alone in the far place away from home.

Actually for us, the most valuable thing was to meet plenty of new friends in life. This kind of new friend never gets old. We were from 10 different countries in ASEAN, speaking different languages, living in a completely different cultural background, with different customs, and educational structures. Hence, the processes of knowing each other, sharing the similarities, celebrating the differences, until accepting each other and becoming friend, are always fresh.

Five months have gone, and 2014 a brand new year has started. Recalling the memories, we thought that after the festival, everybody going back to their own country and continuing their regular lifestyles, our connection would slowly disappear. But it is so amazing that we continue our friendship until now by Internet! Perhaps it is because destiny brought some true friends together. However, there is still an uncertain future of us, but we believe it is beautiful still.

Moreover, we have a group on Facebook with one hundred members and some of us have established a private team

called “The ASEAN Youth Summit” to make sure the friendship is still tight with lots of continuing discussions and conversations. We always work hard to increase our international knowledge in real life, and work towards of our shared dream — Reunion!

It is only a pure thought and a dream, which is why we created those things. We are having some thought now, for example: backpacking together to experience the world, and meeting each other on a glorious international stage. We sincerely believe that we will achieve it someday.

Finally, we feel grateful to all of the organizations like those we have mentioned, and of course the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations. All of you let the world share each other and increase the interest between human to have more positive possibilities. Thank you very much!

Warmest regards,

- Soon Jian Jun, Brunei
- Nguon Sony, Cambodia
- Aulia Pratiwi, Indonesia
- Khamla Sabpaso, Laos
- Lee Set Jin, Malaysia
- Myat Min Hein, Myanmar
- Mau Romero, Philippines
- Zhang Zheng Lin, Singapore
- Wannawat Em-ong, Thailand
- Nguyen Ha Chi, Vietnam