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**Front cover:** The dance drama *Crested Ibises*, jointly sponsored and created by the CPAFFC, the Publicity Department of the CPC Shanghai Committee and the Shanghai Dance Theater, premiered at the National Center for the Performing Arts (December 9, 2014)

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# 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference

**Liu Yan**

The 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and the Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference co-sponsored by the CPAFFC, China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA), and the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government, and hosted by the latter's Foreign Affairs Office were held in the Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Center last November 28-29.

Over 600 Chinese and foreign delegates took part, including more than 30 Chinese leaders above vice-mayoral level, some 80 directors-general and deputy directors-general of provincial and municipal foreign affairs offices, as well as more than 60 foreign mayors and leading officials of local government organizations from 277 cities (provinces, states) of 56 countries and regions and international organizations.

Among attendees at the opening ceremony were Chen Changzhi, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Chairman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic National Construction Association; Li Jianping, Xie Yuan and Hu Sishe, CPAFFC Vice Presidents; Ma Xingrui, Deputy Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial CPC Committee; Ren Xuefeng, Secretary of the Guangzhou Municipal CPC Committee; Zhou Tianhong, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the



**The opening ceremony**

Guangdong Provincial People's Congress; Liu Zhigeng, Deputy Governor of Guangdong Province; Chen Jianhua, Mayor of Guangzhou, Lin Yifu, Vice Chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and former Senior Deputy President of World Bank; Eugenio Rojas Apaza, President of the Senate of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia; and Wim Kok, former Dutch Prime Minister.

Focusing on the theme of "Friendship Cities and Urban Innovation", special topics included "Urbanization and the Smart City" and the "Silk Road and Local Government Cooperation". On the sidelines, the CPAFFC and the Association of Communes of Romania signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation, and Guangzhou signed an agreement on the establishment of friendship-city relations respectively with Pokhra of Nepal and

Quito of Ecuador.

Chinese and foreign cities/provinces making outstanding contributions to friendship-city work in the past two years received awards. The International Friendship City Special Contribution Award was conferred on five Chinese provinces and cities; the International Friendship City Exchange and Cooperation Award was conferred on 38 Chinese provinces, regions, municipalities and cities at prefecture level while the Award to Friendship Cities for Exchanges and Cooperation with China was conferred on 81 foreign cities/states.

Photo exhibitions on the history of the CPAFFC and achievements of the Chinese international friendship cities were also held.

The 2016 China International Friendship Cities Conference will be held in Shandong Province. ■

# Jointly Create a Bright New Future for International Friendship Cities

— Speech by NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairman **Chen Changzhi**

The 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and the Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference are now convening here in Guangzhou. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Government and in my own name, I'd like to extend warm congratulations on the convocation of the conference and a sincere welcome to all the delegates, especially foreign friends from afar.

China's international friendship city activities carried out for more than 40 years have become an important component part of our friendly contacts with other countries, greatly enhancing mutual understanding and friendship. In 1973, Tianjin of China and Kobe of Japan established the first friendship-city relationship, opening an important channel for Chinese local governments to conduct external exchanges and cooperation. With the continuous advancement of reform and opening up, China has seen a vigorous development of these friendship-city links, now involving 2,154 pairs. International cooperation has been expanded from bilateral to multilateral and the areas of their cooperation have been extended from personnel exchanges to politics, economy, culture, social development, etc., further facilitating friendly contacts and mutually beneficial cooperation. Meanwhile, international friendship-city



activities have helped the world know China better, and broadened, deepened and upgraded China's opening up. It can be said that China's international friendship-city activities and reform and opening up have greatly benefited from each other. The CPAFFC, which is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the friendship-city activities of local governments, has played an important bridging role.

The Chinese people are working toward the two "centenary goals", which is to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020 and to build China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious by the middle of this century, thus realizing the Chinese Dream of the great renewal of the Chinese nation. The people of other countries also have their own dreams and are endeavoring to achieve economic and social development and prosperity and stability. The Chinese dream

not only represents the Chinese people's pursuit of happiness, but also reflects the aspirations of people all over the world.

This conference, with the theme of "My City, My Dream", reflects the wishes of the Chinese people to work together with the people of all countries to promote international exchanges among cities and give impetus to the realization of the dreams of their respective countries.

China loves peace. Chinese culture advocates the concept of harmony. For over 5,000 years, the Chinese nation has been pursuing and maintaining the philosophy of peace, friendship and harmony. More than 2,100 years ago, in the Han Dynasty, the Chinese people opened up the Silk Road. Equal and profound exchanges between eastern and western civilizations promoted the spirit of peace, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation, tremendously benefiting the people of the countries along the Silk Road. Peace as being the most precious; treat others with kindness; do not do to others what you do not want others to do to you. These traditional ideas have passed on from generation to generation and taken root in the hearts of the Chinese people and are reflected in their behavior.

The Chinese Government has stated publically many times that China

will unswervingly pursue peaceful development. Over the past 30 years since China adopted the policy of reform and opening up, the Chinese people have successfully blazed a road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and made historical progress in development. China's economic aggregate has become the second largest in the world, its comprehensive national strength has been markedly enhanced and people's livelihood obviously improved.

History has proved that peaceful development is a strategic option China has made on the basis of its national conditions, social system and cultural tradition, which conforms to the trend of the times and serves its fundamental interests and the interests of all other countries. We shall persistently follow this path.

Currently, the world is undergoing profound and complex changes. The new adjustments in international pattern and increased uncertain factors affecting the global and regional situation are hindering peace and development. China has scored remarkable achievements in its development, but it

remains the world's largest developing country facing many challenges and a long and arduous journey ahead. We need to draw upon the achievements of other civilizations.

Facing the complex and ever-changing world situation, countries of the world should make concerted efforts, further strengthen friendly exchanges and continue to expand their cooperation in various fields. The international friendship-city work as the main channel for deepening international cooperation will play a prominent role in this. Here I would like to make a three-point proposal for future development of international friendship cities:

First, we need to cultivate friendship among the people. Affinity between the people holds the key to state-to-state relations while mutual understanding holds the key to people-to-people relations. We should respect each other, enhance mutual understanding and handle differences in a rational way. We should treat the people of other countries with sincerity, inclusiveness and friendship and work to

**NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairman Chen Changzhi accompanied by CPAFFC Vice President Li Jianping visiting the exhibition of the history of the CPAFFC before the opening ceremony**



bring the relationship between the Chinese and other peoples closer and increase their affinity and sense of identity.

Second, we need to blaze new trails in a pioneering spirit. In our international friendship-city work, we should progress with the

times, foster innovative thinking, find and know well the new trends, master new laws, carry out multi-tiered friendly exchanges among cities in extensive areas and through diverse channels, and work out new models of international friendship-city work.

Third, we need to strengthen cooperation. International friendship cities should vigorously carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education and among youth, elevate the level of result-oriented cooperation in various areas, and promote resources sharing and win-win cooperation so that the fruits of cooperation will benefit the people of all countries.

Today, countries in the world are more interdependent than ever, and people's life more closely connected than ever. The times call on us to continue to follow the road of peace, development, cooperation and win-win progress. China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development and an open and mutually-beneficial win-win strategy. It will play an active role in international and regional affairs, integrate its development with the development of the world so that all countries can help and complement each other in their development.

We are willing to continue to work hard with all the delegates present here to push the friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between cities of China and other countries to a new height. Let us join hands and make concerted efforts to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and shared prosperity.

I wish the conference full success. Thank you. ■

## Speech by CPAFFC Vice President Hu Sishe at 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference

Today, we are gathering here to convene the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and the Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA)

and CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, I'd like to express warm welcome to everyone present.

The China International Friendship Cities Conference, initiated by the CPAFFC in 2008, has been successfully held in Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu respectively. It has received strong support from Chinese state leaders, local governments of various countries and international friendship-city organizations, and has grown into China's most influential specialized international forum for studying and discussing international friendship-city activities and conducting exchanges. Today, in Guangzhou, together with over 600 delegates from 56 countries around the world, we are holding our fourth conference. The theme "My City and My Dream", I think, not only re-



flects the times, but also corresponds with our original intention in holding the conference.

Now, the Chinese people are making unremitting efforts to realize the Chinese Dream of great renewal of the Chinese nation. Its realization needs support and assistance from people of all countries; moreover, it needs us to carry out extensive exchanges and cooperation with other countries. Entrusted by the Chinese Government, the CPAFFC and the CIFCA coordinate and oversee the work of China's international friendship cities, encourage Chinese provinces and cities to establish friendship-city/province relations with foreign counterparts, and promote sustainable development of friendship-city work.

At the same time, through holding

such international conferences and forums, the two associations are making active efforts to provide an international exchange platform for local governments of China and other countries, strengthening dialogue and understanding, encouraging city innovation and seeking their sustainable development. The dream we are pursuing may be called the "City Dream".

Its realization needs to draw nourishment and wisdom from the Chinese Dream, while creating an important cornerstone for its realization.

The CPAFFC has long been committed to playing a bridging role in local government cooperation between China and other countries. It is one of the founding members of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the world's largest organization at local government level. It has been actively promoting the participation of Chinese local governments, encouraging them to conduct exchanges and cooperation in all fields with other countries. At the Fourth UCLG World Congress in 2013, Chen Jianhua, Mayor of Guangzhou, was elected co-chairman, and Haikou City was chosen to hold the 2014 UCLG World Council Meeting which

was successfully convened there on November 26.

I'd like to give a brief account of the development of friendship cities in China. In 1973, Tianjin and Japan's Kobe established the first international friendship-city relationship, opening an important channel for Chinese local governments to carry out external exchanges and cooperation. Up to now, a total of 475 entities at the provincial and city level have created 2,154 pairings with 1,932 foreign counterparts. In the past four decades, following the principles of stressing friendship, mutual benefit and practical results, the Chinese side has actively carried out friendship-city work by strengthening friendly exchanges with their foreign counterparts. Their cooperation has developed from the initial bilateral to multilateral cooperation and the areas have been expanded from economy and trade to culture, education, urban

construction, environmental protection and personnel exchanges. A pattern of external contacts of a wide range and multiple levels has taken shape. International friendship-city activities are playing an irreplaceable role in China's socialist modernization drive.

In May 2014, President Xi Jinping, when attending the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the CPAFFC, stressed that more efforts needed to be made on the international friendship-city work to encourage exchanges between Chinese and foreign local governments. His words have given us huge support and encouragement. Today, on the basis of summing up the experience in development over the past four decades, we convene this conference to work out the direction of future development of international friendship cities.

To this end, I would like to make the following three-point proposal for

future international friendship-city work.

**First, to promote the development of friendship cities, we should adhere to mutual understanding between the people of China and other countries.** An old Chinese saying goes: "Being friends, it is important to know each other. Being true friends, it is important to understand each other." During his visit to Central Asian and South-east Asian countries in 2013, President Xi put forward the initiatives of developing the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, i.e. the Belt and Road Initiatives.

One of the priorities is to promote mutual understanding between the Chinese people and those of other countries. At the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the CPAFFC in May, President Xi said, "Affinity between people holds the key to state-to-state relations while mutual understanding holds the key to people-to-people rela-

### The Forum on Urbanization and the Smart City in session



tions”; “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.”

In conversation with my colleagues, I often say that the work we are doing can be summarized simply as “making friends”. Friendship cities are an important channel in this regard. We should make good use of this channel as we can do a lot together. Through establishing friendship-city relations, we can enhance mutual understanding and deepen friendship; we can hold bilateral and multilateral forums on local government cooperation, establish a local government exchange mechanism and mobilize Chinese and foreign local governments to fully participate in exchanges and cooperation; we can increase exchanges of personnel, carry out cooperation in various areas including urbanization and promote practical cooperation; we can step up our efforts to increase student exchanges and through offering scholarships encourage young people to learn each other’s culture and social systems and view differences in a rational way.

**Second, to promote the development of friendship cities, we should persist in innovation, which provides an inexhaustible power for human development and progress.** In this way, we can raise the quality of friendship cities rather than just increasing their number. In overseeing the establishment of friendship cities, we should proceed from the actual conditions and formulate scientific and effective policies that are more targeted and instructive, and innovate the development

model in an overall way.

In local government cooperation between China and other countries, we should encourage both sides to open up more channels and conduct practical cooperation in energy resources, energy conservation, environmental protection, and other areas. We should share our experience in innovation to help each other take the road of development featuring openness, cooperation and sharing.

As to fruits of cooperation, this year we are conducting a thorough study on the exchange activities of more than 2,000 pairs of friendship cities. When we have the first-hand data, we will take steps to remove those friendship cities that exist only in name. This is a means to inject life into friendship cities so that they will be truly “active” and “get started”, so that the fruits of their development will benefit more people.

**Third, to promote the development of friendship cities, we should pay great attention to integration of resources.** So far, the CPAFFC has founded 46 bilateral and regional friendship associations, and formed friendly and cooperative ties with over 500 non-governmental organizations and institutions in 157 countries, laying a solid people-based foundation for the normal development of relations between China and other countries.

Besides, the CPAFFC has about 500 cities as its members, a number still growing. This is a huge resource for the CPAFFC to carry out external work. To meet Chinese local governments’ need for urbanization and their desire to carry out international cooperation, the CPAFFC, by establishing a number

of bilateral and multilateral platforms for local government dialogue, such as China-US Governors Forum, local leaders forum on regional cooperation along the Yangtze River of China and the Volga River of Russia, China International Friendship Cities Conference, BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum, has created a bridge for effective exchanges and cooperation between China and the relevant countries and regions.

Of course, different cities in China are at different stages of development and have diverse demands for development; thus we have much to do in aiding their economic and social development. This requires us to continue to expand our work, and at the same time pay attention to integrating available resources, give play to comparative advantages, make full use of the mechanisms and the friendship basis that the CPAFFC has established through various channels, and make concerted efforts to propel the growth of friendship cities in a focused way.

Chinese friendship cities have undergone a development of over 40 years, making remarkable achievements. I’d like to express my gratitude to all the friends present here and all those who have made unremitting efforts to its development. There is a Chinese saying: “Share the same views and have a common goal”. Let’s have lofty goals, join hands and work in a down-to-earth way for the sustainable development of international friendship cities and for the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.

I wish the conference full success.

Thank You. ■

# Deepening Exchanges and Cooperation Between Sister Cities and at Local Government Level

— Speech by Wim Kok, Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands

First of all, being former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and on behalf of the Club de Madrid, let me thank the organizers of the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference for their kind invitation and for offering the opportunity to address this very engaged and distinguished audience.

The Club de Madrid is a worldwide organization that brings together nearly 100 former Heads of State and Government from over 60 countries, working to foster social values, leadership and governance. As political leaders we are keenly aware of the fact that nowhere is the impact of these three elements more directly felt than in cities, where more than half of the world's population currently lives. We have, therefore, worked with cities and at the local level since we were established. At the local level of government you are closest to the citizens and this offers unique opportunities to address the problems and challenges that concern people most and to make a real difference.

The Club de Madrid has worked and still works on urban issues, being increasingly prominent on national policy agendas, from a number of different angles, such as issues related to pollution and climate change, and initiatives promoting social inclusion and shared societies.

The concept of town twin-



ning, was initially intended to foster friendship and understanding between different cultures and even between former foes, as an act of peace and reconciliation, based on the hope that “people who know each other cannot hate each other” and that these types of efforts would contribute to more stable and peaceful relations. Gradually, twinning also became a means of encouraging trade, tourism and cultural exchanges.

Given deepening globalization, the role of cities as effective nodes for this purpose became even more apparent, as did their recognition as major contributors to national economies. Such cooperative relationships have become good examples of peaceful co-existence and win-win cooperation between cities from different countries with different social systems, cultural

backgrounds and development stages.

I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Club de Madrid, our sincere gratitude and recognition of those cities, represented here today, which have contributed to more stable and developed communities and across-the-border relations.

The partnerships cities have developed have the potential to carry out the widest possible range of activities. Sister City programs are also unique in that they inherently involve the three main actors and stakeholders in a community: local government, businesses, as well as citizens (individually and organized in civil society or non-profit organizations).

Sister city exchanges can be broken into cultural, academic, informational, and economic. And, although eco-



## Speech by Jose Luis Schafer, UNALE President of Brazil, at 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference

I will start my speech greeting the event organizers for the opportunity to meet you in this so prosperous city and an example of development and industrialization to the world. I believe that everyone who is here for the first time is impressed with the development of the region and the selected audience that is present.

I am a Brazilian parliamentarian from the State of Acre, in the region of the Brazilian Amazon, and I chair UNALE — National Union of Brazilian State Legislators and Legislatives, an entity that congregates the 1,059 state representatives of Brazil. We represent the State legislature from 27 states and we know the importance of the topics that are being discussed at this conference.

With the disorganized growth of the cities, we often



economic exchanges are perhaps the hardest to foster between sister cities, there are good reasons to encourage them.

The sister city relationship sets the foundation for diverse participants from each city to come together to promote engagement and mutual understanding, what we, from the Club de Madrid, call a Shared Society.

But these forms of cooperation are not only established for economic purposes. There are many examples on the sustainable urban environment field, such as the “sister-city partnerships” between Guangzhou, Shanghai, or Beijing with other major cities around the world to boost cooperation on ways to increase energy efficiency and meet renewable energy targets, as well as in the reduction of congestion problems in

the two cities.

In this framework, practical benefits accruing to both cities from the partnership include developing sustainable urban heating and cooling infrastructure, and public transport systems. Another field for this type of partnership is water management.

Those examples show how, by recognizing the value of strategic partnerships in the globalized world, cities have leveraged existing sister city relationships to meaningfully contribute to the international global economy, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the protection and good management of our environment and natural resources.

Sister cities relationships offer an economic, cultural, environmental and social benefit that leads to the promo-

tion of peace and the understanding and validation of other cultures.

Cities around the world must see these relationships as a source of environmental, social and economic development, as an opportunity for its citizens to have a sustainable living in a shared society and a way to position them in the global economic sphere while promoting peace and prosperity.

The Club de Madrid with its experiences and diverse membership will be happy to work with you or to advise you on a number of these issues being beneficial to everyone in a world of growing interdependence. We are dedicated to the promotion of EU-China relations and the Netherlands-China relations in particular. I wish you a fruitful conference. ■

face serious problems that disturb and endanger our citizens. For this reason I desire, in this short time, refer to the concept of smart cities.

Cities are increasingly the central and fundamental element of economic and population growth of countries. Already in 2007, 50% of the world's population lived in urban areas.

With the accelerated pace of these concentrations it has become necessary to develop studies and evaluations on how to reconcile increasingly populated environments and how to meet the most essential needs of its inhabitants.

According to experts, the current context and alert of possible crisis coupled with limited resources, requires a systemic innovation, without which, there will be no social, economic and environmental development of the urban ecosystem.

In this context, these same experts claim that the current global development model is unsustainable. You must construct alternatives that meet at the same time, economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability.

The expansion in sharp pace of cities, has been the primary triggering factor of global climate change with the known consequences. This is due to the growth of economic activity, industrialization and consumption level of cities.

The conclusion is substantiated by simple statistics: the cities consume 75% of the planet's energy and produce 80% of greenhouse gas emissions. The dizzying and uncontrolled urbanization has compounded also, critically, the quality of life of urban populations, stressing the difficulty of managing the cities.

In this context, the notion of

“smart cities” emerges as a suggested solution for the related problems, undoubtedly the great challenge of the coming years.

A group of researchers from different universities led the Smart Cities Project in Europe, whereby a city should be considered intelligent if it presents substantial progress in six situations: smart governance, intelligent citizens, intelligent environment, intelligent mobility, smart economy and intelligent ways of life.

This means a set of actions and concurrent positions.

Cities with good performance in subjects like economics, portability, governance, environment, life and people fit in the process.

“Intelligent city is a city whose community learned how to learn, to adapt and to innovate”, say the scholars.

The evolution of a city in economic, social and environmental terms depends largely on its ability to create a conducive environment to innovation in the various sectors of society, uniting governments, industries, companies, universities and research centers, organizations, communities and citizens to work cooperatively.

This innovation required, from actions based on information and communication technology would be the process through which are found solutions to problems ranging from the fight against fatal diseases to climate changes; this would be the essential source of improvement of quality of life, for the current generation and for our descendants.

An example of a smart city in Europe is the small Santander, in Spain,

with almost 200,000 inhabitants, where there are sensors scattered throughout the city to inform about air quality, traffic conditions and even where there are public parking spaces, to prevent the person crosses beyond their need with the car.

Issues related to logistics and urban mobility are increasingly present on the day of the great metropolises. Coexistence between public and road transport are some of the main challenges in the current agenda of big cities.

In Brazil, for example, the fleet of cars and motorcycles has quadrupled in the last 10 years. On the other hand, public transport did not follow this trend and, nowadays, it is not considered an alternative able to meet satisfactorily the demands of society.

In this sense, Curitiba, capital of the State of Parana, in southern Brazil, is a good example. It will be the first city to house the deployment of the Brazilian pilot project of the Smart Cities 2020 Index.

In other Brazilian cities it increases the implementation of technological intelligence for traffic flow control and there is an improvement on public security situations, through the installation of cameras and monitoring stations.

Anyway, it becomes necessary to invest in technology as a form of aid to the rulers.

In our view, it is actually far more effective — and more prudent — that human and financial resources are directed to the studies and to technological initiatives that target achievable alternatives in order to enable the harmonious coexistence of the Urbanization-

# First China-Australia Provincial/State Leaders Forum Held in Sydney

**Xu Fenghua**

In November, it was already winter in Beijing, but in Australia in the southern hemisphere it was early summer. The lush grass, pleasant climate plus the hosts' hospitality warmed the Chinese guests from the far north.

On November 19, the CPAFFC, in cooperation with the New South Wales State Government, held the First China-Australia Provincial/State Leaders Forum in Sydney. Chinese President Xi Jinping, then on a state visit, and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott addressed the closing ceremony in Four Seasons Hotel. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and Mike Baird, Premier of New South Wales, also spoke. Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu and Yang Jiechi were among the other Chinese Party and State leaders present.

In his speech, President Xi extended congratulations on the successful convening of the Forum. Local governments operating at the most primary and practical level of bilateral cooperation could do much to benefit people's lives. Exchanges and cooperation between them played an important role in boosting relations between the two countries. As deep tree roots provide necessary binding force for the earth, the development of China-Australia relations needed to take root in local governments for all-round benefit. Friendly ex-



**President Xi Jinping addressing the forum**

Smart Cities.

Actions and energies should be directed to this, instead of high spending on permanent palliatives, in particular in the area of urban mobility, especially in road area and the displacement of people.

Thus, I am convinced that the solution for many of our problems lies in the dialogue and exchange of experiences. This friendship we are establish-

ing and the opportunity that people of different nationalities and continents have in this debate, must be harnessed and developed into working tools to improve people's lives.

In this regard, I wish to inform you that annually we perform a Brazilian Parliamentary Conference, and we receive international delegations to show our potential, to learn and to cooperate, in the most diverse segments

of public administration. All experiments are welcome, as well as your presence. The meeting will take place in May 2015, in the State of Espirito Santo, southeastern Brazil.

Thank you for your attention. Let's stick together exchanging experiences, helping each other because we live in the same planet and its future depends on our dedication and organization. ■

changes between local governments were an important component part of the China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. The establishment of the mechanism of exchanges and cooperation between the Chinese and Australian provincial/state leaders was a milestone for bilateral local cooperation, and would surely become an institutional platform for long-term exchanges between provincial/state leaders.

President Xi hoped both sides would take the opportunity to further boost cooperation between local governments bearing the overall situation in mind, adopting suitable measures in line with local conditions, complementing each other in advantages and paying attention to practical results.

Tony Abbott said the mechanism of exchanges and cooperation between Australian and Chinese state/provincial leaders was one of several important outcomes of President Xi's visit to Australia, and also an event of great

significance in bilateral relations. The convocation of the Forum coincided with the establishment of the Australia-China comprehensive strategic partnership and substantive conclusion of the negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement.

The Forum was an undoubted success. He hoped that both sides would make good use of the platform it provided.

In her speech, Li Xiaolin said that, entrusted by the Chinese Government, the CPAFFC coordinates and oversees the work of establishing and developing friendship-city relations between localities in China and their counterparts in other countries. Since the launching of friendship-city activities in 1973, China had arranged 2,146 pairs of friendship-province/state and friendship-city relations with 133 countries, including 94 pairs in Australia. She noted that the Chinese and Australian provincial and state leaders present at the forum had reached consensus on

a number of issues, and held that cooperation between Chinese and Australian provincial and state governments was highly complementary and had a huge potential in the areas of agriculture, mining and tourism. People-to-people exchanges between the two countries were growing and the forum mechanism is established at the right moment.

Mike Baird said, Australian states and territories attached great importance to developing relations with China, and expected to strengthen contacts with Chinese provinces, regions and cities to push the cooperation in various fields to a new level.

At the closing ceremony, Li Xiaolin and Campbell Newman, Queensland State Premier and Rotating Chairman of the Council for the Australian Federation, exchanged copies of the "Agreement on Establishment of Exchanges and Cooperation Mechanism between Chinese and Australian Provincial/State Leaders" signed formally by the two sides to lay a solid





**CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and Chairman of the Council for the Australian Federation Campbell Newman exchanging copies of the Agreement on Establishment of Exchanges and Cooperation Mechanism between Chinese and Australian Provincial/State Leaders witnessed by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Abbott**

political foundation for continued exchanges and cooperation.

At the forum, with the theme of “Challenges and Opportunities for Exchanges and Cooperation between Chinese Provinces and Australian States”, representatives had in-depth discussions on promoting the economy, trade and investment and strengthening contacts and communications.

In her speech at the Forum’s opening session, Li Xiaolin said, “Sino-Australian relations cannot develop without the support and promotion by various social sectors, particularly the provincial and state governments. The exchanges and cooperation are an important force for boosting Sino-Australian relations. It is also where the public support and social base lie.” Mike Baird said friendship-state/province ties between New South Wales and Guangdong in the past 35 years had laid a solid foundation for cooperation

in various fields, and its successful experience further proved the significance of the establishment of the mechanism of state/provincial leaders exchanges and cooperation.

Leaders of Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government and leaders of Australian states and territories made keynote speeches respectively at the forum. They unanimously held that the establishment of the mechanism of state/provincial leaders exchanges and cooperation created a good platform for Chinese provinces and Australian states and brought new opportunities for result-oriented cooperation. Through this platform, the Chinese provinces and Australian states would jointly explore to build effective ways of cooperation, concentrate efforts to deepen exchanges in all areas and further upgrade the level of exchanges and cooperation. They held

the establishment of China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership and virtual conclusion of the China-Australia FTA negotiations created new historical opportunities for all-round, mutually beneficial cooperation.

In order to find cooperation partners according to their specific needs, leaders of the Chinese provinces and Australian states also engaged in one-to-one dialogues. The CPAFFC in cooperation with the Australia-China Council organized the China-Australia Business Forum for over 100 Chinese and Australian businessmen, discussing opportunities for bilateral economic and trade cooperation brought by the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Luo Zhijun, Secretary of the Jiangsu Provincial CPC Committee; You Quan, Secretary of the Fujian Provincial CPC Committee; Jiang Yikang, Secretary of Shandong Provincial CPC Committee; Peng Qinghua, Secretary of the CPC Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; Wang Guosheng, Governor of Hubei Province; Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong Province; Huang Qifan, Mayor of Chongqing Municipality directly under the Central Government; Lou Qinjian, Governor of Shaanxi Province; as well as Mike Baird, Premier of New South Wales; Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria; Campbell Newman, Premier of Queensland; Colin Barnett, Premier of West Australia; Jay Weatherill, Premier of South Australia; William Edward Felix Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania; and Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister of Australian National Territory; respectively led delegations to attend the Forum. ■

# Launching Ceremony of China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum Held in Auckland

**Xu Fenghua**

The Launching Ceremony of the China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum jointly organized by the CPAFFC and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) was held in Auckland on November 21, 2014. Chinese President Xi Jinping who was on a state visit to New Zealand and his host Prime Minister John Key attended and gave speeches. Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and other Party and State leaders of China were among the 100 people attending the event.

In his speech, President Xi said the timely launching of the China-

New Zealand Mayoral Forum created a platform for exchange and cooperation between cities of the two countries and injected new vigor to the development of a China-NZ comprehensive strategic partnership. Cooperation at local government level played an important role in development of bilateral relations. Cities of both countries were endowed with rich resources. He hoped the two sides would persist in promoting the forum and bilateral practical cooperation through this new platform.

He compared the relationship between China and NZ to an oil paint-

ing, and hoped to make it more colorful through enhancing cooperation between local governments of the two countries.

Prime Minister John Key spoke highly of the significant development of bilateral relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties 42 years before, and the continuous effort made by the LGNZ and the CPAFFC to promote exchanges between local governments of the two countries. Bilateral cooperation did not just depend on the work of the central governments, but also on the concerted efforts of local governments,

**Chinese President Xi Jinping and NZ Prime Minister John Key with the participants of the forum**



especially between friendship cities, and only thus could new achievements be made continuously in bilateral relations.

In her speech, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin said that, entrusted by the Chinese Government, the CPAFFC coordinates and oversees the work of establishing and developing friendship-city relations between China and other countries. Over the past 41 years, China has established 2,146 pairs of friendship-state/province and friendship-city relations with 133 countries. The 31 pairings involving New Zealand had become an important channel to enhance people's friendship and promote local cooperation.

She went on: "Rewi Alley, an old friend of the Chinese people from New Zealand, came to China 87 years ago, starting his journey of 60 years in supporting the Chinese people's cause of liberation and national construction. Today, with the great attention and support from President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister John Key, we embark

on a new journey of win-win cooperation between local governments of the two countries. The CPAFFC will work hand in hand with the LGNZ to make continuous efforts to push forward exchanges and cooperation at the local government level."

LGNZ President Lawrence Yule said the forum brought more opportunities for practical cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, culture, science and technology, etc. He hoped cities of the two countries would increase personnel exchanges, deepen friendly communication and strengthen win-win cooperation to contribute to long-term friendship.

Witnessed by President Xi and Prime Minister Key, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and LGNZ President Lawrence Yule exchanged the *Arrangement on Establishing the Mechanism of Exchange and Cooperation of Mayors of New Zealand and China between Local Government New Zealand and the Chinese People's Association for*

*Friendship with Foreign Countries.*

A high-level exchange meeting of mayors was held before the launch ceremony. The two sides discussed on "Establishing and Developing the Mechanism of Exchange and Cooperation of Mayors of New Zealand and China". CPAFFC President Li and LGNZ President Yule made keynote speeches. Municipal Party secretaries or mayors of Chinese cities such as Guiyang, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Lanzhou and Zhangye, and the mayors of Auckland, Hastings, Dunedin, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton and Gisborne also attended.

Launch of the Mechanism of China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum was one of the important achievements of President Xi's visit. As a long-term cooperation mechanism, it provides guarantees for practical cooperation in various fields at local government level and lays a good political foundation for their future exchanges and cooperation. ■



# Fourth High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation Held in France

**Kang Jingyuan**

To substantiate the Medium and Long-Term Plan for China-France Relations and build a strong people-to-people and cultural exchange mechanism, the Fourth High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation was held in Strasbourg from November 6 to 7, 2014.

The Forum, jointly sponsored by the CPAFFC, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, the French National Committee of Local Government Cooperation (Le Comité National de Coopération Décentralisée-CNCD), and Alsace Region, promoted the theme of “strengthening cooperation in innovation and promoting urban and rural development”, building on the work of previous events on local government cooperation — namely, the Wuhan Forum, Bordeaux Forum and Nanjing Forum.

Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, led the visiting delegation and gave a key-note speech listened to by over 800 Chinese and French representatives, including Zhai Jun, Chinese Ambassador to France, and Zhang Guobin, Chinese Consul-General in Strasbourg.

Ji elaborated on China’s endeavor to deepen reform in an all-round way to



**Ji Bingxuan, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, delivering an important speech at the opening ceremony**

realize the two “centenary goals\*”, and comprehensively advance law-based governance of China determined by the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

Cooperation between local governments was an important component of the China-France relationship and also an engine to promote sustainable development of bilateral friendly relations, he said. The closer the two countries cooperated, the greater the benefits, leading to win-win results. Cooperation was based on friendship. Only when the two countries respected each other and had friendly relations, could they carry out closer, broader and

deeper cooperation.

Cooperation was rooted in credibility, mutual respect and mutual trust. The essence of cooperation was practicability. As long as both countries continue to take a realistic and pragmatic attitude, gave full consideration to and respect for the other side’s national conditions, public feelings, economic development situation and cultural traditions, viewed and dealt with problems emerging in development in a pragmatic way, they would surely achieve greater results.

Phillippe Richert, President of the Regional Council of Alsace, noted that, 50 years ago, General Charles de



Gaulle and Chairman Mao Zedong with their strategic wisdom and extraordinary courage had opened a new era of France-China relations. This comprehensive strategic partnership not only served the fundamental interests of the two countries, but also benefited the world.

Local governments of the two countries should take the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the Fourth France-China Forum as a new starting point, give full play to the unique advantages of local governments and follow the principle of seeking common ground while shelving differences and mutual respect, so as to create a new-type of partnership oriented towards the 21st century.

The French Ambassador to China, Madame Sylvie Bermann, said that President Xi Jinping's successful visit to France in March 2014 had injected

new vitality into bilateral relations. These were maturing and mutual trust was being steadily enhanced. In September 2014, the two countries had jointly initiated high-level people-to-people and cultural exchange mechanism.

Cooperation between local governments could play a key role in the mechanism and be an important supplement to the overall relationship. She hoped that local governments on both sides would strengthen cooperation in urban and rural sustainable development and in the areas of culture, economy and trade, particularly between small and medium-sized enterprises. The French Embassy in China would give active support, she pledged.

Chinese Ambassador Zhai Jun said cooperation between local governments was one of the priorities of China-France practical cooperation, and could help turn the national gov-

ernment's political will of promoting cooperation into rapid concrete actions. To ensure a sustained China-France relationship of closeness, there must be people-to-people exchanges and cooperation at various levels. Zhai expressed his belief that cooperation between the two countries would further expand and have a brighter prospect in the future.

Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg and President of the French Cities Union; Li Jianping, CPAFFC Vice President; Xia Geng, Deputy Governor of Shandong Province; and Jacques Valade, Roving Ambassador for Asia of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, also spoke at the opening ceremony while Philippe Richert and Zhong Mian, Deputy Governor of Sichuan Province, spoke at the closing ceremony, which was attended by Christian Poncelet, former President of the French Senate.

#### The conferring ceremony of the China-France Local Government Cooperation Award



The special topic workshop drew 43 representatives from the two sides divided into three panels on “urban and rural regional governance”, “local economic development” and “scientific research, higher education and innovation serve the local development”. At the special topic workshop, six speakers appointed by the three panels briefed all the representatives on the discussions.

As an innovation of this forum, the “entrepreneurs’ forum” and “one-to-one” trade talks parallel to the special topic workshop were added, building a platform of interaction between entrepreneurs of the two sides.

Through this forum, the local governments of the two countries shared useful experiences and ideas of innovation in urban and rural sustainable development, and discussed about bilateral pragmatic cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, science, technology, education, health care and tourism, thus enhancing mutual understanding and friendship and laying a foundation for cooperation.

In order to recognize the substantial achievements made by the local governments of the two countries in cooperation in various fields, the China-France Local Government Cooperation Award, which was specially set up at the forum, was conferred on selected Chinese and French provinces/regions and cities participating in the Convening Plan of China-France Local Government Joint Projects.

Li Jianping and Jacques Valade presented cups to representatives of local governments of the 10 awarded

pairs of China-France friendship cities (provinces and regions). Philippe Richert presented cups to two Chinese enterprises deemed to have made remarkable achievements in the economic cooperation with Alsace Region.

Li Jianping and Jacques Valade, on behalf of the two sides, signed the *Conclusion of the Fourth High Level China-France Forum on Local Government Cooperation*. This stressed the importance of cooperation between the localities of the two countries, summarized the achievements of such cooperation in the past decade since the first China-France Forum, and the consensus reached on the three special topics at the forum, and put forward future targets and tasks of cooperation. The two sides unanimously agreed that the Fifth High Level China-France Forum would be held in Chengdu, China in 2016.

At the forum the CPAFFC signed a cooperation agreement respectively with the French Cities Union and the Association of French International Cultural Centers (ACCR).

**\*The two “centenary goals” are to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and doubling GDP and per capita income over the 2010 level by the end of this decade when the CPC celebrates its 100th anniversary, and build China into a strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious modern socialist country by mid-century when the People’s Republic celebrates its 100th anniversary. ■**

The CPAFFC, the China-Vietnam Friendship Association (CVFA), Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) and the Vietnam-China Friendship Association (VCFA) jointly held the Sixth Meeting of China-Vietnam People’s Forum in Nanning, capital of China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from December 1 to 3, 2014, attracting delegates from political, economic, academic and media circles long engaged in promoting China-Vietnam relations.

The Chinese delegation was headed by Qi Jianguo, CVFA Vice President and a former Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam; the Vietnamese delegation was led by Pham Van Chuong, Vice President of VUFO and the Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation.

The theme of the discussions was “Safeguarding Traditional Friendship and Promoting Pragmatic Cooperation”. Delegates had candid discussions on the present China-Vietnam relationship and offered ideas for future development.

The two sides agreed on the following: (1) China-Vietnam friendship has a solid foundation, meticulously fostered by Chairman Mao Zedong, Chairman Ho Chi Minh and other state leaders of the older generation and carried forward by the present generation supported by the overwhelming majority of people on both sides. More efforts should be made through people-to-people channels to carry on the work from generation to generation.

(2) China and Vietnam are neighboring major socialist countries,

# The Sixth Meeting of China-Vietnam People's Forum Held in Nanning

**Xu Yan**

each considering the other's development as an opportunity for its own development. Under the circumstances of economic globalization and regional integration, they should stick to the principle of "maintaining long-term stability, looking ahead, deepening good-neighborly relations and carrying out cooperation in all aspects", the spirit of "good neighbors, friends, comrades and partners" and the China-Vietnam comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. On this basis, pragmatic cooperation in various fields should be promoted to push bilateral relations to

a new high.

(3) Maritime disputes are practical matters in China-Vietnam relations. The two sides should make good use of the existing negotiation mechanism, earnestly implement the Agreement on Basic Principles Guiding the Settlement of Maritime Issues Between China and Vietnam and relevant international laws, to properly settle any disputes, in a bid to make new contributions to the sound and stable development of bilateral relations as well as peace, stability and prosperity of the whole region.

Vice President Feng Zuoku of the CPAFFC, Deputy Governor Zhang Xiaoqin of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Vice Mayor Tao Lijian of Guilin respectively met with Chinese and Vietnamese delegates. During their stay in Guilin, the delegates visited Nanxishan Hospital (built in 1960s by the Chinese Government as a rear hospital supporting Vietnam's War of Resistance Against America) and the Memorial Hall of Vietnam School (a general term for Vietnamese schools moved to China during 1950s~1970s) in Guangxi Normal University. ■

**The Chinese and Vietnamese participants with CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku outside the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC in Beijing**



# China-Switzerland Women Entrepreneurs' Meeting Held in Lausanne

Zuo Fengqiang

C o-sponsored by the CPAFFC and the French Section of the Swiss-Chinese Association (FSSCA), the China-Switzerland Women Entrepreneurs' Meeting in Lausanne last November 4, drew about 60 participants.

FSSCA President Gerald Beroud made an opening speech and presided over the meeting. The Swiss-Chinese Association (SCA), with a history of nearly 70 years, has long been engaged in promoting friendship with China and has a good cooperative relationship with the CPAFFC. President Beroud said the aim of the Lausanne meeting was to set up a platform of interaction for Chinese and Swiss women entrepreneurs.

Philippe Monnier, Executive Director of the Economic Development Agency of the Greater Geneva-Berne

area (GGBa), described the agency's services for foreign investment and the advantages foreign-funded enterprises enjoy if they invest in western Switzerland. Andrea Tasinato, a leading official of the Canton of Vaud Bureau of Economic Development, meanwhile, talked about the region's economic development and the advantages it offered, including a "one-stop" service for foreign-funded enterprises preparing to establish a long-term presence. Lawyer Thomas Hua Xia explained the relevant laws and regulations on establishing enterprises in Switzerland, while Jean-Marc Metrailler, Director of the Marty Innovation Center of the Industrial and Technology Park, gave a briefing on the park's plan, functions, specialties, and scale of future development.

Long Jiangwen, Vice President of

the Chinese Association of Women Entrepreneurs (CAWE) delivered a warm and enthusiastic speech, elaborating on the importance of the exchanges between China and the West by citing the example of China's initiative to build the Silk Road economic belt, and briefing about the CAWE's main task of providing training, consultation and business opportunities for Chinese women entrepreneurs, and helping them to establish ties with relevant Chinese government agencies and foreign cooperators.

The Chinese women entrepreneurs present then briefed in turn about their respective enterprises, expressing their hope to cooperate with Swiss counterparts. The two sides exchanged name cards and materials. Some of them even entered into negotiations on cooperation. ■

A group photo of the participants at the meeting



# CRFA President Chen Yuan Leads Delegation to Visit Russia

Wen Guangmei

The year 2014 marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Russia as well as establishment of the China-Russia Friendship Association (CRFA). The successful meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in May of the year elevated the China-Russia comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to a new stage of development and set key areas and directions for expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation. The just concluded visit to Russia in October by Premier Li Keqiang, the first since assuming office, also achieved rich fruits. The two countries have important opportunities to expand cooperation in all fields.

Against this background, Chen Yuan, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and recently elected CRFA President, accepted an invitation from the Russia-China Friendship Association (RCFA) to make a goodwill visit to Russia from October 18 to 23.

He met Elvira Nabiullina, Governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Dmitriev, Chairman of the Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank), and Ildar Khalikov, Prime Minister of the Republic



**CPPCC National Committee Vice Chairman and CRFA President Chen Yuan addressing the meeting in celebration of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia diplomatic relations and the founding of the CRFA**

of Tatarstan; with RCFA President Mikhail Titarenko, he signed the annual plan of cooperation for 2015.

He also attended and addressed the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the PRC, establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Russia and establishment of the CRFA jointly sponsored by the RCFA, the Russia-China Committee of Friendship, Peace and Development (21st Century Committee), the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad, and International Cultural Cooperation and the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sci-

ences, as well as a welcoming reception held by the representatives of the Chinese and Russian business circles. The Chinese delegation also visited Kazan State University.

Meeting with RCFA President Titarenko, Chen said he was very happy to pay his first visit to Russia and participate in the various celebration activities in his capacity as CRFA President. The Chinese entrepreneurs' delegation he headed had come to join with the RCFA to look into the prospects for future development of China-Russia friendship in the next 65 years and continue to expand bilateral people-to-

people exchanges.

“China and Russia are traditional friendly neighbors. The Chinese nation will never forget Soviet Union’s assistance in the early years of New China.” The CRFA would work actively to publicize the 156 Soviet-aided large industrial projects and protect these sites as a way to commemorate the important contributions made by the Soviet Union to China’s effort to establish an industrial foundation, and further enhance friendship between the two peoples.

Titarenko emphasized that Chen Yuan and the CRFA had played an irreplaceable role in consolidating the friendship between the two countries, to which friendly personages of various circles in Russia expressed their respect and gratitude.

“China, through 65 years of independent development, has emerged as an economic power in the world, and we express our admiration and respect.” The successful implementation of the 156 Soviet-aided projects indeed offered a good historical experience for the development of the current Russia-China relations, further enhanced by the sincere assistance China had offered his country at times of difficulty.

He hoped the two sides would conduct practical cooperation in various fields through multiple channels so as to realize national rejuvenation. For this, the RCFA would actively participate in China’s Silk Road economic development initiative. At the same time, he sincerely wished the Chinese people under the leadership of President Xi Jinping would realize their great dream of national prosperity at an early date.

Chen Yuan’s visit to Russia was an important people-to-people diplomatic activity at a time when Sino-Russian relations entered a new stage. It has played a positive role in further consolidating the social and public opinion foundations for bilateral relations and turning high-level political relations into substantial practical cooperation. ■



**The delegation having a meeting with the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development of Oman**

At the invitation of the Iran-China Friendship Association (ICFA) and the Oman-China Friendship Association (OCFA), a 12-member CPAFFC delegation led by Vice President Feng Zuoku visited the two countries from October 17 to 25, 2014.

In Iran, the delegation attended the 5th Annual Conference of China-Iran Friendship Associations and the Forum on the Iran-China Relationship, and paid official calls on leading officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and the Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization. They had an in-depth discussion on carrying out the Belt and Road Initiatives and strengthening bilateral cooperation in culture and tourism. In Oman, the delegation met leading officials of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, A’Sharqiyah University and the OCFA, and had talks with Omani businesspeople.

#### **5th Annual Conference of China-Iran Friendship Association and Forum on the Iran-China Relationship**

ICFA President Ahad Mohammadi addressed the opening ceremony of the annual conference, saying the Iran-China relationship had a long history and there was huge potential for cooperation in the areas of energy and tourism. Iran attached great importance to the initiatives of developing the economic belt along the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, and was willing to promote cooperation in economy and trade promotion, culture and tourism.

The friendship associations of the two countries should play a more important role. For this purpose, he suggested they jointly hold a forum on revival of the Silk Road, study the potential of cooperation in its development and hold related exhibitions and meetings. He hoped Chinese companies would invest in hotels

# CPAFFC Delegation Visits Iran and Oman

Gong Xu

and Chinese restaurants so as to attract more Chinese tourists to visit Iran.

At the Forum, participants briefed about their work in developing tourism and cultural programs and youth exchanges, and discussed how to strengthen cooperation in culture, economy, trade, tourism, language teaching and youth exchanges, and the friendship associations' role in public diplomacy.

At the closing ceremony, Feng Zuoku and Ahad Mohammadi signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the CPAFFC and the ICFA.

## Iran Hopes to Strengthen Practical Cooperation with China

In his meeting with the delegation, Ali Moradkhani, Vice Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and a member of the ICFA, said Iran and

China were important countries with ancient civilizations. Iran attached great importance to the relationship and was willing to strengthen cooperation.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is one of Iran's most important ministries, responsible for art, films, publication and news affairs. He suggested the two associations establish a joint committee to conduct art exchanges and hold film weeks. The Iranian side could provide part of the funds for making a promotional documentary "Made in China" that would be filmed by an Iranian director, invite Chinese painters to Iran to sketch from nature, and organize Silk Road art trips.

Morteza Rahmani, Vice Chairman of the Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization, said, tourism was an important component of state-to-state public relations. His-

torically, official relations had ebbs and flows because of changes of governments, but friendship between peoples continued especially through tourism. Now, Iran was making efforts to draw Chinese tourists and was ready to provide high-quality services, he said. There was huge potential for cooperation and was an important task for the friendship associations of the two countries in the fields of tourism, culture and art.

Feng Zuoku said the Chinese side would take seriously the suggestion made by the Iranian side to conduct practical cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiatives, and make active efforts to implement the relevant projects. They should encourage youth exchanges to carry on the traditional friendship. Both sides could also cooperate in organizing Chi-

## The 5th Annual Conference of China-Iran Friendship Associations and the Forum on the Iran-China Relationship in session





**The delegation members looking at the books on Chinese language teaching in Iran**

nese media on self-drive trips in Iran to publicize the country.

Delegation member Chen Aizhen, Vice President of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries said that, in cooperation with the Iranian side, it would organize Chinese women painters for painting trips along the Silk Road.

### **Oman Values its Contacts with China and Explores Bilateral Exchanges in Various Areas**

Oman set much store by the dele-

gation's visit, even though it lasted only one-and-a-half days. Quite a few institutions had contacted the Oman-China Friendship Association hoping it would help develop bilateral exchanges.

Leading officials and businessmen of the Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry respectively had talks with the delegation, briefing about Oman's policies on attracting foreign investment and discussing bilateral cooperation in areas such as tourism and new energy.

Abudulla Al Busaidy, a member of the Omani royal family and Vice President of A'sharqiyah University, entertained the delegation. He said, A'sharqiyah University, one of the important private universities in Oman, hoped to strengthen cooperation with China in teaching and learning the Chinese language and traditional Chinese medicine.

Khalid Al-Saidi, Secretary General of the State Council of Oman and member of the OCFA, said Oman hoped to cooperate with China in construction of railways and ports, alternative energy sources, Chinese language teaching, compilation of dictionaries and other areas.

Mushtaq Al-Saleh, former Omani Ambassador to China and member of the OCFA, said, 2015 marked the 25th anniversary of Sohar vessel's arrival in Guangzhou. The OCFA was willing to collaborate in a forum on the Maritime Silk Road and relevant celebration activities.

Feng Zuoku said, the friendly relations between China and Oman were well established. Oman was a major spot on the Maritime Silk Road. China was willing to strengthen cooperation with the Omani side. ■

### **CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku and ICFA President Ahad Mohammadi signing a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between the two organizations at the closing ceremony**





# CPAFFC Delegation Visits South Africa And Namibia

**Tang Ruimin**

At the invitation of the South Africa-China Friendship Association (SACFA) and the Erongo Region of Namibia, a CPAFFC delegation led by Vice President Feng Zuoku paid a visit last November.

South Africa, known as the “Rainbow Nation”, is the second largest economy in Africa. China is its largest trade partner, while South Africa is China’s largest regional trading partner. During President Xi Jinping’s state visit to South Africa in 2013, the two countries reached an important consensus on holding the Year of China and the Year of South Africa in each other’s country.

As a result, 2014 was China’s “Year of South Africa”. South Africa held a series of activities in China such as cultural promotions, art exchanges, economic and trade fairs and exhibitions, academic forums and educational exchanges. In turn, 2015 is South Africa’s “Year of China” involving many rich and colorful publicity and exchange activities.

The CPAFFC delegation had a working meeting respectively with Pravin Gordhon, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the SACFA.

Minister Gordhon gave a briefing on the urban development of his country and hoped South Africa could learn



**Pravin Gordhon, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, meeting with the delegation**

from China’s experience in development so as to narrow the gap between rich and poor and promote integration of different social strata. CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku extended an invitation to Minister Gordhon to lead a delegation to China in 2015 to attend the Second China-Africa Forum on Local Government Cooperation, and at the same time expressed the hope that a dialogue between governors and mayors of China and Southern African Development Community countries would be held in South Africa at a convenient time to boost regional local govern-

ment cooperation.

So far, South Africa and China have 28 pairs of friendship cities/provinces, ranking first among African countries. To further consolidate the bilateral friendly cooperative relations, Minister Gordhon proposed that South Africa send local government officials to China for two months of study on its experience in governance. He also welcomed China to send local government officials to visit South Africa to jointly explore ways to address all kinds of social challenges.

Witnessed by South African



**CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku calling on former Namibian President Sam Nujoma**

President Jacob Zuma and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the SACFA was established in early 2013 with the aim of boosting economic cooperation and cultural exchanges by carrying out all-dimensional, multi-tiered and wide-ranging people-to-people friendly exchanges. During its stay in South Africa, the delegation and the SACFA discussed holding a “Chinese Characters” exhibition in South Africa and organizing businesspeople of the two countries to participate in the economic and trade forum during President Zuma’s visit to China.

The two sides also enthusiastically discussed how to participate in the Year of China activities in South Africa.

Namibia is known as “strategic metal reserves bank”, and its mining industry is a pillar of the economy. Its diamond production is world famous. It also boasts abundant fishery resources and ranks among the world’s top 10

fish-catching countries.

In Namibia, the delegation paid an official call on Sam Nujoma, founding President of Namibia, and had working meetings respectively with Maj. Gen. Charles Ndaxu Namoloh, Minister of Regional and Local Government, and Housing and Rural Development; Jerry Ekandjo, Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture; and Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region.

Nujoma is an old friend of the Chinese people, having been received by Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai many times in the 1960s. The armed struggle for Namibia’s independence waged by the Southwest Africa People’s Organization under his leadership got aid from China and won victory in 1966.

Later he was elected President of the Republic of Namibia and left office in March 2005. He has visited China 20 times and given his support and as-

sistance for China to set up a space measurement and control station in Namibia. He was also the first state leader to voice his support for China’s bid to hold the World Exposition in Shanghai, which took place in 2010.

The delegation called on Nujoma at his home. Despite his advanced age of 85, he was hale and hearty, with a clear mind and a smile always on his face. His well-trimmed beard and broad brimmed glasses set off his optimism, firmness and wisdom. He recalled the course of friendly exchanges between the two peoples, hoping that one day he would have another chance to visit China and contribute to building a bridge for people-to-people exchange. Feng Zuoku happily invited him to visit China in 2015 at his convenience.

So far, Namibia has established 10 pairs of friendship cities/provinces relations with China, and the exchanges between the local governments of the two countries are quite active. In 2012, when he served as Minister of Regional and Local Government, and Housing and Rural Development, Jerry Ekandjo led a governors and mayors delegation to attend the first China-Africa Forum on Local Government Cooperation. He is now Minister of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture.

He thanked the CPAFFC for inviting him to visit China in 2012 and hoped to keep contacts with the CPAFFC and organize youth training courses, football, table tennis and boxing matches between the two countries.

Maj. Gen. Charles Ndaxu Namoloh, who once served as Minister of Defense is currently Minister of Regional and Local Government, and

# Maori People's Warm Friendship Recalled

**Liu Gengyin**

In 1981, at the invitation of the New Zealand-China Friendship Association, I had a chance to join a delegation headed by then CPAFFC President Wang Bingnan to pay my first visit to New Zealand.

There, the CPAFFC delegation was accorded a warm and friendly reception, particularly by the Maori people.

They are New Zealand's aboriginal people, belonging to the Polynesian race. Since the beginning of the 19th Century, great numbers of Europeans migrated to New Zealand, mostly from Britain. The proportion of Maori people in the population gradually declined, and now it accounts for less than 10 percent. However, it is commendable that the Maoris retain their own life style and customs, and have their own spoken and written language. In 1987,



**A dance by the Maoris**

the New Zealand Government stipulated English and Maori as the country's official languages

Many Maori people believe their ancestors came from Asia. There is much resemblance between them and

Housing and Rural Development, has a deep friendly feeling towards China. He hoped to promote exchanges between local governments and learn China's managerial experiences in economic development, particularly its advanced practice in land use.

Feng suggested that the two sides hold a friendship-city mayors' forum to exchange experience and tackle common challenges arising from urban de-

velopment.

Governor Cleophas Mutjavikua entertained the delegation. Erongo Region is rich in mineral and fishery resources. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, it enjoys convenient transportation and has abundant stocks of abalone and oyster. The governor hoped his region would export marine products to the Chinese market, and welcomed China to build textile factory and seal

fur processing factory in Erongo. Feng extended an invitation to Mutjavikua to lead a delegation to visit China in 2015.

The delegation's visit enhanced mutual understanding, promoted contacts between the local governments and boosted economic and trade exchanges between China and the two countries, creating the right climate for expanded cooperation. ■

Chinese in facial features and complexion. That's why they have an intimate feeling towards Chinese visitors.

We visited a Maori village near Auckland. The local Maori chief held a traditional ceremony to welcome us in a hillside courtyard where the Maoris often gathered. The courtyard was surrounded by a wall made of tree trunks. At the centre was an ancestral hall (the *Marae*), in front of which were standing dozens of young Maori men and women in two lines. The men were bare to the waist and wore straw skirts, and the chaperoned women wore home-woven skirts. They sang and danced while shouting loudly. When the dance was over, two elders eulogized their ancestry in a conversational style in their native language and made an address to welcome us.

Then, all the Maoris shook our hands vigorously and performed the traditional greeting of *hongi*, in which

each of them, with eyes closed tightly, pressed his/her forehead against ours; then, both sides pressed their noses together three times. The host told us that this kind of ceremony was performed only for the most honored guests.

Before we left China, our old New Zealand friend Rewi Alley living in Beijing told us in detail about this traditional Maori greeting, so we didn't feel embarrassed when it was performed.

The last part of the welcoming ceremony was to give gifts to each other. The gift should be put on the ground first, and then the recipient should pick it up by himself; anything else would be thought impolite.

After the welcoming ceremony, the host invited us to enter the *Marae*. It is a place where the Maori worship their ancestors and have meetings, and outsiders usually are not allowed to

enter. On its inside walls, eaves and corners were carved many portraits of ancestors, each having different facial expressions, absolutely lifelike, showing the Maori's superb carving art. The host told us stories about every ancestor.

Another important function of this place is as a venue for mediating disputes. The two sides in dispute are allowed to quarrel in the *Marae*, but when the mediator has made a decision, they must abide by it. After walking out of the *Marae*, they should not mention again what was said inside.

To return the Maori people's warm reception and enhance understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Maori people, Wang Bingnan, on behalf of the CPAFFC, invited the community to organize delegations to visit China at their convenience. ■

#### A Maori woman weaving



# US Local Government Delegation Visits Sichuan Province

**Chuan You**

A 12-member US Local Government Delegation led by Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch visited Sichuan Province December 11-13 at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Consisting of lieutenant governors, state legislators, mayors, government officials of cities and counties from eight states — Wisconsin, Washington, New York, Colorado, Illinois, Tennessee, Kansas and Missouri — the delegation was organized by the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF).

Established in Hong Kong in 2008 by Tung Chee Hwa, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the CUSEF attaches great importance to maintaining good relations with future leaders of US local governments. The mission is to enhance their knowledge and understanding of China's development through exchanges and visits to promote long-term development of China-US relations.

Zhong Mian, Deputy Governor of Sichuan Province, met with the delegation in Chengdu on the afternoon of December 12. He said that, with more frequent cooperation and exchanges between the two sides, the U.S. has already become the most important partner of Sichuan. He hoped the delegation's visit would deepen mutual understanding and promote practical exchanges and cooperation in economy

and trade, culture, education, etc.. Lt. Gov. Kleefisch said that the eight states, represented by the 12 members of the delegation, had many things in common with Sichuan Province, creating broad space for cooperation. The visit not only allowed them to gain deep understanding of Sichuan, but also laid a good foundation for future cooperation. The American side would make efforts to further the friendly exchanges and cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, education and tourism with the province.

During his meeting with the delegation, Chengdu Vice Mayor Zhu Zhihong pointed to the friendship-city ties with Phoenix and Honolulu and friendly cooperative relations with

Atlanta, Houston and Louisville. Extensive exchanges and cooperation not only achieved win-win results, but also brought out great potentials for development. He welcomed more American companies to come and invest in Chengdu, especially in the newly approved national-level development zone — the Chengdu Tianfu New Area. He also introduced the two scholarship programs — the Sister Cities Scholarship for Foreign Students and Civil Servants and the Chengdu America Center for Study Abroad Government Scholarship — and expressed the hope that more American students would come and study in Chengdu.

On the evening of December 12, the delegation attended an exchange

**Zhong Mian, Deputy Governor of Sichuan meeting with the delegation**



meeting between Chinese and American local government officials hosted by the Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SIFA), meeting the mayors and department heads of Zigong, Suining and Jiangyou.

In his welcome speech, SIFA President Luo Yubin said that, by inviting the mayors, the SIFA aimed to help American friends know more about Sichuan and provincial cities so as to provide an opportunity for the two sides to exchange ideas on stronger cooperation. The SIFA would make continuous efforts to serve as a bridge for cooperation projects and the smooth advancement of Sino-US friendship.

Zigong Vice Mayor Zhang Bangju, Suining Vice Mayor Deng Wei and Jiangyou Vice Mayor Wang Lei introduced their cities with Powerpoint presentations and expressed a wish to strengthen contacts with the U.S. to promote practical cooperation in various fields at the city level.

The delegation also visited Huaxi High School, Chengdu High-Tech Development Zone and Sansheng Flower Town. Members of the delegation had a short yet happy time with the students of Huaxi High School, learning to do *taiji* and calligraphy and playing table tennis in the beautiful campus. Lt. Gov. Kleefisch said in excitement that the smiles on the students' faces and their warm friendship were the most precious memories.

The delegation also had a discussion with leading members of the Education Bureau and schools of the city's Chenghua District and reached consensus on future cooperation.

At the Chengdu High-Tech De-

velopment Zone, the delegation learned about 20 years of its development, achievements and future goals through photoelectron display. They asked in details about the zone's industries and preferential policies to attract foreign enterprises, and spoke highly of Chengdu's beautiful natural environment and good investment climate, expressing their willingness to introduce Chengdu to their hometown companies and encourage more American companies to invest in Chengdu. In Sansheng Flower Town, the delegation visited the Happy Plum Wood, Bailu Bay Wetland and Eco-Industrial Park of Flower Production, showing admiration for the successes achieved by the governments at all levels of Chengdu in coordinating urban and rural development, improving ecological environment and helping farmers increase income.

Members of the delegation were deeply impressed by Sichuan's rich resources, vibrant economic development and warm and friendly people and the visit deepened mutual understanding and friendship. Cyrus Habib, State Representative of Washington, emphasized repeatedly that he came from a sister state of Sichuan and hoped to have closer contacts and cooperation in future. Upon learning that the City of Zigong would build a general aviation industry nesting zone together with the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, he expressed his willingness to introduce Zigong to Everett, the largest production base of the Boeing Company, so that the two cities could cooperate in the field of aviation and develop sister city relations. Nicole Malliotakis, New York State assemblywoman, conveyed her strong wish to develop sister-

ly relationship with Sichuan to promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields. Bridget Gainer, Commissioner of Cook County, Illinois, said most delegates knew only Beijing and Shanghai and never expected Sichuan, in the far West, to be such a beautiful and developed place. After returning home, she would work to set up a representative office in Chengdu to promote bilateral economic and trade and friendly exchanges.

Wayne Palmer, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Fontheim International, explained his company engaged in consulting business and provided services to American governments at all levels. The current visit organized by his company was the first of its type. He was very satisfied with SIFA's reception and promised to introduce more American personages in various social circles to visit Sichuan.

Members of the delegation said that after returning home, they would actively carry out bilateral cooperation in education and work for the establishment of more China-US sister schools. Delegation head Kleefisch said before departing that she learned a lot from this short trip to Sichuan and was deeply impressed by the province's achievements in manufacturing, agriculture, education and tourism, as well as the warm hospitality of its people. She expected tremendous opportunities for cooperation in future. This trip to Sichuan had made her fall in love with this Chinese province, just like she loved her home state. She would publicize Sichuan among her colleagues and friends when she returned home and encourage more Americans to visit Sichuan. ■

# FLAI Delegation Visits China

**Gong Xu**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, a 10-member delegation led by Chairman Haim Bibas of the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel (FLAI) visited Shanghai, Haikou, Guangzhou and Shenzhen from November 20 to 29, 2014.

It attended the UCLG World Council Meeting held in Haikou and the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference in Guangzhou.

During the UCLG meeting, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin met with the delegation and recalled planting a friendship tree together with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during her visit to Israel in early 2014.

Chairman Haim Bibas extended his gratitude to President Li Xiaolin for meeting the delegation and said their visit would be a good opportunity for Israeli mayors to gain further understanding of China and enhance coop-

eration in all fields with Chinese cities.

CPAFFC Vice President Hu Sishe met with the delegation in Beijing. He said the CPAFFC and the FLAI had engaged in friendly exchanges since 1995 playing an important role in promoting exchanges between local authorities.

Guangzhou Vice Mayor Xie Xiaodan met with the delegation at the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference. He said, despite its small territory, Israel was a world leader in many fields and he hoped to enhance exchanges in education and technology with it.

Delegation members said China and Israel had a long history and the friendship between the two peoples could be traced back to ancient times. They hoped to enhance cooperation with China and welcomed more Chinese mayors to visit Israel.

The mayors of Eilat, Karmiel and Migdal Ha'Emek, leading officials of

the foreign affairs office of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Huangshan City and Harbin had enthusiastic discussions on establishing contacts, assigning persons in charge of friendship cities' exchanges, organizing students exchanges and carrying out agricultural programs, etc.

The delegation had meetings with the leaders of Kuantech (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. on cooperation in urban lighting system, and visited the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center.

Members of the delegation said that the visit not only helped them to gain a deeper understanding of China, but also gave them opportunities to meet Chinese local authorities to establish and deepen their relationship.

FLAI Vice Chairman Ruth Lande proposed designating 2015 as the Year of Friendship between Israel and China to organize more exchange activities. ■

**CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin with the delegation**



# ROK Young Friendship Envoys Delegation in China

Xu Yan

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Mr. Kim Sung-yup, former Council Member of the Korean Foundation (KF), led a 120-member delegation of the Republic of Korea “Young Friendship Envoys” comprising young entrepreneurs, artists, deaf-mutes and high school students on a visit to Beijing, Hebei and Zhejiang from October 26 to November 2. This was the first delegation the CPAFFC received after the signing of the second five-year cooperation plan (2014–2018) with the KF.

Among the personages the group met were CPAFFC Vice President Hu Sishe, Deputy Governor Qin Boyong of Hebei Province, President Yang Quanshe and Executive Vice President Ye Changqing of the Hebei Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Baoding City Vice Mayor Yan Liying and Executive Vice President Chen Aizhen of the Zhejiang Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

## Encourage Youth to Carry Forward Friendship

The Chinese literary classic *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* is popular in Korea. Since taking office, the new state leaders on both sides have attached great importance to youth exchanges. After discussions with the Hebei and the Zhejiang provincial peo-



**Qin Boyong (right), Deputy Governor of Hebei Province, meeting with Kim Sung-yup, leader of the delegation**

ple’s associations for friendship with foreign countries, the CPAFFC decided to arrange a “Journey of The Romance of the Three Kingdoms” for the youth delegation.

In Zhuozhou City of Hebei Province, the Korean delegation visited San Yi Palace, in the peach garden where Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei became blood brothers. The visit enabled them to better understand the loyalty, benevolence and righteousness the three heroes showed towards each other. In Zhengding County where Chinese President Xi Jinping once worked, the delegation visited the Temple of Zhao Yun. In Fuyang City of Zhejiang, they saw the home village of Sun Quan, re-

calling his rule of the region east of the Yangtze River.

At the welcoming banquet, CPAFFC Vice President Hu Sishe said he believed the Journey of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms would help the young Korean delegates know more about Chinese history and culture and they, in turn, could help more Korean people develop an affection for China.

Mr. Kim Sung-yup said *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* was a widely read classic enjoyed by Korean youth. The book emphasizes the Chinese spirit of doing one’s best and safeguarding the homeland, which represents the refined style of China as a major country, while the heroism it



describes symbolizes the personality of Korean and Chinese youth today. The story of the three heroes becoming blood brothers reflects the Chinese tradition of cherishing friendship. Mr. Kim believed his delegation would understand more about the deep meaning of the word “friend” through this visit.

### Promoting Understanding and Cooperation Through Various Activities

Hebei and Zhejiang provincial people’s associations for friendship with foreign countries arranged activities according to the composition of Korean delegation.

In Baoding City, the delegation toured the facilities of the Yingli Group for advanced solar product technology. Then, the Korean delegates were divided into three groups to visit Hebei University, Baoding Foreign Language School and Baoding Center of Special Education respectively. In Shijiazhuang City of Hebei, the delegation visited Tayuanzhuang Village to meet youth representatives of the province.

In Hangzhou, the delegation, divided into four groups, visited the eco-

nomic and technological development area, learning about favorable policies for foreign investment and successful experience of LG Electronics. With their own hands they made handicrafts together with students of Hangzhou School for the Deaf. In Zhejiang Vocational Academy of Art and Zhejiang Shuren University, the Korean youth experienced Chinese culture in the classroom.

### Deepen Local Governmental Cooperation by Young People

Hebei’s Deputy Governor Qin Boyong extended gratitude to the CPAFFC for its assistance in organizing the young people of her province to visit Korea and cultivating their ideal of striving for a better China-Korea relationship. Madame Qin believed the visit by Korean young delegates would further consolidate the cooperation between her province and Korea.

Vice President Chen Aizhen of the Zhejiang Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries expressed the hope that the youth of Zhejiang and Korea would conduct more exchanges by taking advantage of similarities in land area, population,

length of coastal line and the number of islands.

Kim Sung-yup said, the accelerating process of globalization made it urgent for Korean and Chinese young people to strengthen communication, keep pace with the times and cope with changes in a better way. The leaders of the two countries had made important political decisions to strengthen youth exchanges, which serve as an important platform of communication and would surely play a more important role in the new five-year period between 2014 and 2018.

After visiting different provinces and cities, the Korean delegation had gained more insight into Chinese reality that would help them think more deeply on how to further develop Korea-China relations.

Many Korean delegation members said their visit provided insights into China’s past as well as present achievements and its brighter future, making them more determined to contribute to better bilateral relations. Some deaf-mute delegates expressed with sign language that this visit was the most heart-moving one in their lives and they would cherish the memory forever. ■

### The ROK young friendship envoys delegation at the welcome dinner in Beijing



# Dance Drama *Crested Ibises* Staged at National Center for the Performing Arts

## Our Staff Reporter

*“By the floating mist of the lake, several pink feathered crested ibises are flying slowly across the crimson rays of the setting sun, causing rhythmic ripples with their red feet, quietly and elegantly……”*

The premiere of a fascinating and poetic dance drama was staged at the Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) on December 9, 2014. *Crested Ibises*, jointly sponsored and created by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Publicity Department of the CPC Shanghai Committee and Shanghai Dance Theatre, is based on the true story of harmonious coexistence between humans and na-

ture through international protection of the endangered species.

Foreign diplomats were invited to enjoy the performance and welcome the coming New Year.

Crested ibis is a beautiful and precious rare creature symbolizing happiness and good luck. Centuries ago, in agrarian times, humans lived in harmony with the species. In our minds, they are passionate birds, reserved, elegant, sacred and noble, a species that used to be widely distributed in northeast Asia, which, however, has been declared endangered by the 1970s.

Fortunately, Chinese scientists accidentally discovered seven wild living crested ibises in Yangxian County,

Shaanxi Province in 1981, and carried out a conservation program. Thus, the “bird of good fortune” can continue to give its blessing.

The dance drama *Crested Ibises* consists of two acts: ancient times and modern times. On the stage, the pure and beautiful images accompanied by melodious music took people back to ancient agrarian times. Honest villagers busy in the fields lived in harmony with the beautiful crested ibises, sharing the gifts of nature. However, with the rapidly advancing industrialization, the colourful birds gradually faded away in the grey air of the cities. The lad dancing sweetly with the crested ibis turns into an old man living on his memory.



Children had to go to the museum to see the beautiful image of the crested ibis. Not until human beings began to realize the need and carry out careful protection did the size of population of crested ibis become an auspicious sign.

During the four-year creation process, artists made field trips to Yangxian County, Shaanxi Province to get a profound understanding of the living habits of the crested ibis to enrich the materials for creation of the dance drama.

On the stage, dancers combine traditional Chinese dance with classic ballet and modern dance, using graceful body language to present the story of how human beings begin to realize the damage they were causing to the natural environment during the process of industrialization and urbanization and then take measures to protect nature and environment and build a harmonious relationship with various kinds of creatures. Through the loss of crested ibis in the past, the dance drama calls on people to cherish nature and to cherish our common homeland.

NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairman Arken Imirbaki who is also President of the China-Arab Friendship Association, President Gu Xiulian of the China-ASEAN Association, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, as well as over 200 foreign diplomats and guests from more than 80 countries and regions watched the performance. ■

## Beijing's Rich Legacy in Sound

**Colin Chinnery (The United Kingdom)**



**A Beijing courtyard model of the section between Shijia Hutong and Ganmian Hutong virtualized according to information of the 1950s**

Last year I embarked on a new project for which I still don't have a satisfactory title. It started out being the Beijing Hutong Sound Project, then the Beijing Sound History Project, and now the Beijing Sonic Re-enactment Project. The lineage of titles reflects the project's conceptualization from last summer, when it first began, up until the moment earlier this year when I started realizing its potential to transform my life and reconcile the gap between my identity and my heritage. My identity is that of a half British (I write "British" because my father, John Chinnery, was English, but I was born and raised in Edinburgh.) and half Chinese contemporary art critic and exhibition curator who lives and works

in Beijing. I speak fluent Mandarin but look completely Western – people tell me I'm a spitting image of my father. My heritage can be understood in terms of culture or family, but I have to confess that I am woefully ignorant about both.

This is where I need to introduce my Beijing family home, which last year was transformed into the Shijia Hutong Museum – from which you can infer that we don't live there anymore. My mother struggled many years for the return of the beautiful courtyard house where she grew up, but ultimately settled for a "swap" – the 1,700 square metre courtyard house in the centre of Beijing for a 120 square metre flat on the fourth ring road. An



### Programming the Beijing Sound Project

important clause was inserted into the contract ensuring the government couldn't take advantage of the house's amazing location for commercial purposes, so it sat there derelict for many years until the Prince's Charities Foundation (This is the first time that Prince Charles's foundation has done a project outside of Britain.) started looking for a location to build a museum in Beijing. They not only found a venue, but a site with rich family history. My mother's parents, Ling Shuhua and Chen Xiying, were illustrious writers, and my mother's maternal grandfather was the last Qing dynasty mayor of Beijing. Shijia Hutong was, after all, home to many powerful families. The rather unique qualities of this particular hutong ended up giving the museum its theme and contents. However, during its planning process I asked whether the museum planners had considered the idea of doing anything with the rich soundscape of traditional Beijing. They were intrigued and thought it best to task me,

a descendent of the house's previous owners, with the job of making it happen.

Let's now make another digression and rewind to 2005, when I ran the arts programme for the British Council in Beijing. I invited four British experimental musicians to Beijing to create a different kind of music project. The musicians were commissioned to experience Beijing's sound environment, and create music or sound projects in response. They were asked to each create something from a different perspective that could not be presented in a concert hall or art gallery. Their works had to be offered back to the city, in the city itself. One of these musicians was Peter Cusack, someone who went around the world looking for rich and interesting sound environments. He told me that Beijing had the most interesting sound environment anywhere in the world. The project he created was to ask members of the Beijing public to name their favourite Beijing sounds as part of a radio competition; the most popular requests would be recorded by students and made into a CD. However, many of the sounds requested were almost impossible to record, as they had disappeared. This got a lot of media attention discussing the disappearance of Beijing's way of life.

Although this last fact didn't really come as a surprise, it was interesting that sound, of all things, alerted people to this fact. Sound is ethereal. It is emitted and disappears. Yet it remains in our memories like smells. Sound and smell are quite similar in that way; they interact with a more primitive form of memory than cognitive or even visual memory, the kind of memory

that elicits a more emotional response before analytical abilities kick in. Although people don't think about sound when asked to remember something, it might be interesting to relate to memory the other way round – by asking people to remember sounds. The memory of sound can elicit associated memories like a receptacle for history. Peter Cusack's ideas stuck with me over the years but did not relate to my work in a direct way until recently, when the Shijia Hutong Museum project began.

When the museum wanted to create content based on Beijing hutong life, Cusack's project immediately came to mind. I remembered the amazing response people had to his radio competition and the surprising amount of media attention it attracted. The importance of sound in people's memories has been underestimated, or perhaps barely even considered. I thought a project in a hutong museum should concentrate on the sounds of Beijing's old hutong life, that of the street hawkers with their various instruments and calls to sell different wares. This indeed was much of what made Beijing's sound environment so unique.

Beijing's culture has been made unique because of the presence of the Forbidden City at its heart. The entire city radiated away from this central symbol of power, and no building could rise higher than the Forbidden City's walls or compete with its symbolic colours. As a result, all residential buildings were limited to one storey, and the grey colour of courtyard walls and roofs was an enforced deference to the red-walled and yellow-tiled palace.

Imperial power not only dictated Beijing's architecture, it also was home to the ruling elite's aristocracy, keeping a whole class of people with money in their pockets and no occupation to keep them busy. This leisurely class was famous for its love of flowers, birds, fish, and insects – lovingly bred to their genetic and aesthetic limits. Two of this quartet – birds and insects – were often bred and kept for the sounds they made. This taste for small, exotic creatures often got stronger the higher up in the aristocratic hierarchy, with the emperor at the top.

All of these cultural traits are still discernible in Beijing today. You will see old men taking their covered bird-cages to parks, swinging them to an almost alarming degree from side to side as they stroll leisurely while humming some Peking opera tune. They hang the cages on their "own" tree branch, uncover the cages, and listen to the birds warble their territorial trills. You'll see rickshaw riders sleeping in the shade of an alleyway, with Guoguo crickets (*Gampsocleis gratiosa*, a large chirping insect sometimes called the Chinese bush cricket) in small wicker cages bundled together under their tricycle's awning making an ear-piercing racket. You might see the knife sharpener making his rounds and advertising his trade by clanking metal plates strung together like fish scales. And if you're very lucky you might even hear the melancholic and magical sound of pigeons flying in a circle overhead with drone whistles attached to their backs. You're more likely to come across these sound cultures in south Beijing, where traditional life is more intact. Needless to say, after one hundred years since the

fall of the Manchu dynasty, there is hardly an aristocracy left to carry the torch. However, their mantle has been taken up by Beijing's working class, many of whom came from the Manchu aristocracy and others that used to serve them.

Apart from the sounds produced by small pets like those described above, the most obvious and abundant sound comes from hawkers selling their goods and services to people living in hutong courtyards. Hutongs and their courtyards are remarkably quiet. Sound finds it difficult to penetrate the thick outer walls. Even today, the loud Beijing traffic noise is completely cut off when one ventures deep into a hutong. To sell their wares, street hawkers developed a whole range of simple instruments and voice calls to penetrate deep into courtyards to allow their occupants to know immediately what is being sold outside. Everything from daily essentials like water delivery and waste disposal to services such

as hair-dressing and foot massages, and even luxury items for women, was sold in this manner. Even late at night, hawkers would sell snacks for nocturnal mahjong addicts. Everything sold is customised for its neighbourhood, and every sound is customised to accurately communicate a distinct message. The combination of singing hawkers and sonic pets, as well as musical games I haven't had time to mention yet – one can only imagine the richness of traditional Beijing's street life. The ruptures and changes to history and Beijing's way of life means most of these sounds have now disappeared completely. It is both a shame and inevitable. The hutong way of life has disappeared for both good and bad reasons, and neither nostalgia nor naiveté is going to bring it back. However, that doesn't mean we can't try to recreate that sound environment in an attempt to experience something amazing. At the very least, it can help us understand Beijing culture better. However,

### The museum in memory of Ling Shuhua and Chen Xiying



there are many challenges that accompany such a project. For a start, if these sounds have disappeared, how does one recreate them?

The thinking at the beginning of the project concentrated on Beijing's traditional way of life. Inspired as I was by the amazing richness of a by-gone era, I named it the Beijing Hutong Sound Project. However, this train of thought very quickly developed into something more ambitious. If one is going to recreate a time using sound, it shouldn't stop in the past; it should continue all the way up to today, creating an up-to-date history of Beijing using sound. This was a significant breakthrough in my approach. The Beijing Hutong Sound Project was fundamentally a cultural heritage project, but this new way of thinking connects everything to the contemporary, and potentially offers a new way of looking at history itself. At this point I changed the project's name to the Beijing Sound History Project to reflect its new focus on sound and history rather than hutong culture.

However, the challenge of the endeavour, and the excitement of it, can only be discovered in the process of our attempt at being rigorously accurate in the recreation of each sound. This process requires the participation of a whole gamut of different kinds of people and professions. The sounds, after all, need to be recreated. Historians, experts on traditional culture, collectors of old instruments, performers of all kinds, theatre companies, residents of all ages, and people of all walks of life participate in this project at different stages to re-enact sounds that they

remember from their own past. The traditional sounds of street hawking and pet sounds were by far the easiest sounds to recreate. It is the more subtle sounds that are far harder to get right. In Beijing we are used to the sound of wind blowing through massive poplar trees that were all planted since the 1950s. Before that Beijing's wind blew through far smaller trees and plants, creating an altogether different sound. The sound of rain falling on tarmac is quite different from that on the old mud streets. Bicycle bells and car horns of different eras all need to correspond. Bus brakes have a distinctive moan with each passing era. These compose the backdrop against which history happens, but they form an invisible memory that makes up our history. Not the history in books, but our embodied emotional memory. The kind of memory that makes up life. Only through re-enacting these sounds can they come back to life. That is why I have changed the project's name for the second time to the Beijing Sonic Re-enactment Project. It's not as snappy as I'd like, but it's more accurate than before.

I realise that I haven't yet adequately explained how this has changed my life. Although I am mostly known as a curator, I am also a practising artist. This project is a goldmine of previously untapped content that can be represented in a myriad of possible ways. This sound history can be straightforward history, a giant artwork, a rich database of sounds, and a conduit to all kinds of other projects. Just a month ago I met with a pigeon whistle expert who is helping me to train pigeons

outside of Beijing to fly and carry the drone whistles on their backs for me to record. He told me the story of his great-grandfather who invented a way for the emperor to enjoy exotic butterflies in the snow. On a perfectly still day in a snow-covered courtyard, he would fill a wide vat with boiling water, upon which he would place a special gourd with a butterfly inside. The steam would rise up in a wide column of humid warmth. After the gourd's lid was opened, a butterfly would gingerly climb to its edge and fly up into the air. It would flutter about within the confines of the steam column against a snowy backdrop. As the water cooled, the column slowly descended, and the butterfly with it, all the way until the butterfly was forced back into the warmth of the gourd. This winter I plan to succeed in getting a butterfly to fly in the dead of winter. I believe that having a pointless skill like that can change one's life.

This project is currently up and running at the Shijia Hutong Museum. But this is merely phase one. We have recorded and processed only about 5% of the sounds we need to record for this project to be ultimately meaningful. While this project will hopefully always have a home at the museum, it needs to be shared with a larger audience in the future, so the next phase will be to place it on the internet. When that happens, perhaps I'll have more stories to share with you.

**Colin Chinnery is Honorary Vice-President of the Scotland-China Association.**

# Review of China-Arab Friendship Association's Major Work in 2014

**Ai Lin**

Since it was founded on December 21, 2001, the China-Arab Friendship Association (CAFA) has worked hard to fulfill its mission to enhance mutual understanding and friendship, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas and jointly maintaining regional and world peace.

In the election of CAFA leadership on March 25, 2014, Arken Imirbaki, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress, became the new president. Since then, he has actively supported and participated in the activities organized by the CAFA and won praise from personages of various circles in Arab countries, further promoting people-to-people friendship with Arab countries.

## **Major Activities in Multilateral Public Diplomacy and City Diplomacy**

The First China-Arab Cities Forum, co-sponsored by the CAFA and the Arab Towns Organization (ATO), was successfully held in Quanzhou June 17-18. It proved to be one of the CAFA's most important activities in multilateral public diplomacy and city diplomacy for the purpose of carrying forward the Silk Road spirit and implementing the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping at the Sixth



**Arken Imirbaki, Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, presenting materials on China-Arab Friendship Association to Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani**

Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.

The forum was attended by about 200 people, including Arken Imirbaki, Deng Liping, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fujian Provincial People's Congress; Zheng Xiaosong, Deputy Governor of Fujian Province; Feng Zuoku, CPAFFC Vice President; as well as Chinese and Arab representatives from 36 towns and cities of 10 Arab countries, academic institutions, enterprises and media.

The First China-Arab Cities Forum Declaration and the Initiative of

Establishment of City Alliances along the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century were approved. It was decided that a mechanism for holding the forum every two years would be established and the organizer of the next forum would be determined by the CAFA and the ATO through consultation. Five pairs of Chinese and Arab cities signed letters of intent on forming friendship city ties.

## **Meeting Between High-Level Leaders of Two Countries**

On November 4, 2014, Arken Im-

Arken met with Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani who was on a state visit to China. The Sheikh said the Chinese people were friends of the Arab people. Qatar had never forgotten China's consistent support of the just cause of Arab countries. During his visit, the two countries upgraded their bilateral relations to the strategic level.

As to people-to-people exchanges, the Sheikh said nongovernmental organizations, particularly the CAFA, had played an important role in promoting a friendly cooperative relationship between the Chinese and Arab people. Qatar attached great importance to the CAFA, and was willing to strengthen cooperation to jointly promote further development of people-to-people friendly cooperative relations.

Arken briefed the Sheikh about the CAFA and its work in recent years, saying that China attached importance to friendly cooperative relations with Qatar,

and the CAFA was willing to fully cooperate with the Qatari side and contribute to furthering friendship and cooperation.

### Reception in Celebration of Diplomatic Relations and Commemoration Meeting

On the evening of November 28, the CPAFFC, the CAFA and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in China co-sponsored a reception in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the UAE. Among about 500 attendees were CAFA President Arken Imirbaki, Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Ming, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, leading officials of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, as well as UAE Ambassador Omar Al-Bitar, envoys of Arab and relevant countries, and representatives of Chi-

nese and Arab media.

Feng Zuoku and Omar Al-Bitar spoke at the reception. Feng said, in the past 30 years, the governments and people of the two countries had displayed mutual respect and sincere cooperation and formed profound friendship. Particularly, since the two countries formed their strategic partnership in 2012, the bilateral relations had developed rapidly in an all-round way, and the two countries had carried out fruitful cooperation in various areas, bringing tangible benefits.

Ambassador Omar Al-Bitar expressed his satisfaction with the smooth development of bilateral relations. He spoke highly of the outstanding achievements China had made in various fields, and hoped that the two countries would work to push the bilateral relationship towards broader areas at deeper and higher levels.

On December 4, the CPAFFC and the CAFA held a reception in

**The reception marking the 43th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the UAE**





commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and in celebration of the China-Arab Friendship Day. CAFA President Arken Imirbaki, Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin, CPAFFC Vice President Feng Zuoku, leading officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and other relevant departments, as well as CAFA council members, Sadi Jaber, Charges d'Affaire of the Palestinian Embassy in China; diplomatic envoys of Arab countries to China, representatives of the Office of the League of Arab States to China, overseas Palestinians living in Beijing and representatives of Chinese and Arab media, totaling about 140 people, were present.

Feng Zuoku, Omani Ambassador Abdullah Saleh Al Saadi, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps of Arab Countries to China; Sadi Jaber, and Ghanim Al Shibli, Director of the Representative Office of the League of Arab States to China, delivered speeches.

Feng said China had always firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people for restoring their legitimate national rights, and paid great attention to the development of the situation in Palestine and Israel. China was a firm supporter of Palestinian-Israeli peace, and had been making efforts to mediate a cease-fire and promote negotiations. It was willing to unremittently continue these efforts.

Ambassador Abdullah Saadi commended the Palestinian people on their unremitting efforts to restore their legitimate rights and spoke highly of China's support. Sadi Jaber expressed appreciation to the Chinese Government and people for their firm support of the Palestinian people's just cause. Ambassador Ghanim Al Shibli read out the speech of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States Nabil Elaraby in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2014. ■

## Professors David and Isabel Crook and Their Family

Shu Zhang



**In 1948 David and Isabel Crook accepted invitation to teach at the Foreign Affairs School attached to the North China Military and Political University headed by Ye Jianying. During this period there were periodic air raids, during which the students and faculty would disperse into the hills. From left: Ye Jianying, Bill Hinton, David Crook, Isabel Crook.**

Professors David and Isabel Crook and their family are loved by the Chinese people. Four generations of the family live and work in China and regard China as their homeland.

Born in Britain in 1910, David graduated from Columbia University in the United States. He joined the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1935. Being an anti-fascist internationalist fighter, he joined the International Brigades and plunged himself into the anti-fascist struggle in Spain.

In 1938, he came to Shanghai and taught in Saint John's University in Shanghai, and later taught at the University of Nanking in Chengdu. He went back to Britain in 1942 and joined the Royal Air Force, fighting against fascists with the Allied Forces in South Asian countries. After the war, he studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies of University of London.

David had read the book *Red Star over China* when he was in the International Brigades in Spain. In his article entitled "Red

*Star*” *Guides Me to China* he wrote, “Snow’s report on the Soviet area in China touched me, and I was tempted. It seemed to me at the time that there was something in common between the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in China and the anti-fascist war in Spain. So, when the International Brigades withdrew from Spain, I wanted to go to Bao’an and join the revolutionary struggle there.” His dream of coming to China came true.

Isabel was born into a Canadian missionary family in 1915. Her maiden name was Isabel Brown. She received a master’s degree on child psychology at the University of Toronto in 1938.

**In 1947 Isabel and David Crook arrived at the village of Shilidian and observed village life while living in the home of a village family. They interviewed villagers over a period of several months. Later, a land reform work team arrived and they joined the team. Isabel Crook (L.1) having lunch with team members and villagers.**



While there, she took anthropology as minor. Later that year she returned to Chengdu and conducted anthropological investigations and researches in the surrounding areas. It was here that she met David and they married in Britain in 1942. She also joined the Communist Party of Great Britain. She had worked in a munitions factory, and later joined the Canadian Women’s Army Corps.

Dispatched as international observers by the CPGB, David and his wife Isabel came to China in 1947 to observe and cover the whole process of Land Reform reexamination and Party Rectification movements led by the CPC. Having passed many places, they

reached the newly liberated Shilidian (Ten Mile Inn) in the Shanxi-Hebei-Shandong-Henan Boarder Region. They had planned to work in China for one and a half years. After familiarizing themselves with the reality at the grassroots, their views on China changed, so did the rest of their lives.

The second year after their return to China, David and Isabel accepted an invitation from Comrade Wang Bingnan to teach in a foreign affairs school (now Beijing Foreign Studies University) run by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in a small village called Nanhaishan in Huolu County in the suburbs of Shijiazhuang, becoming pioneers of English teaching in New China. Because of this job, they settled down in China and forged inseparable bonds with the Chinese people including their students and villagers. They have trained generation after generation of foreign affairs workers and English translators and interpreters for new China. They have students all over the country as some of their students have become teachers themselves. What’s more valuable is that they have taught their children and grandchildren to serve the Chinese people as well.

They, sharing weal and woe with the Chinese people, have tied their fate closely with the destiny of the Chinese nation and formed inseparable ties with the revolutionary cause of the Chinese people. What should be mentioned specially is that at the height of the “cultural revolution” in October 1967, David was put in jail for over five years without formal charges while Isabel was also detained for three years “for investigation”. Their three teen-aged children, unattended, were sent to work in a farm machinery repair fac-

tory in Haidian District. They all did well. They took care of themselves and learned fine qualities from Chinese workers. Not until 1973 when Premier Zhou Enlai took up the matter personally were their grievances redressed, but they never uttered a word of complaint and regret.

After rehabilitation, Isabel once again took up teaching while David joined the work of compiling a Chinese-English Dictionary, the first comprehensive Chinese-English dictionary since the founding of the People's Republic. Soon after its publication, Professor Ying Manrong, Deputy Director of the Editorial Committee, gave me a copy, which I still use when doing translation.

I have worked in the cultural counsellor's office of the Chinese Embassy in some American and Oceanian countries, during which I got to know and had contacts with friendly personalities there. People such as Edgar Snow, Rewi Alley, Ma Haide (George Hatem), Israel Epstein, in particular, left deep impressions on me. When I retired, Comrade Gao Liang, Vice President of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies (PFS), invited me to work in the PFS. As PFS President Huang Hua had previously been my leader, I was more than happy to join them. Years of work in the PFS have enabled me to learn more about those international friends whom I respect all the more.

It was Comrade Gao Liang who introduced Mr. and Mrs. Crook to me. He told me that there was a living Bethune named David Crook and his wife Isabel, who were both professors of the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute. He had special ties with them. He said, in 1947, he worked as an interpreter of the United Nations Relief and Rehabili-



**During the “cultural revolution”, both David and Isabel were detained: David in Qincheng prison 1967 – 1973, and Isabel on Beiwai campus 1968 - 1972. Shortly after their release they went back to work: Isabel back at teaching and David working on a new Chinese-English Dictionary which was published in 1976.**

tation Administration in the liberated areas and lived in Cangxian County (now Cangzhou City) of Hebei Province. Cangxian was not peaceful, as it had just been liberated, and the People's Liberation Army was still fighting the remnant forces of the Kuomintang. He got instructions to escort a young foreign couple who had come to China on an investigation tour to the temporary guest house of the Liberation Army in Cangxian. It was a difficult mission to ensure their safety under inconvenient transport and going through dangerous areas such as combat and guerrilla areas and no man's land. He successfully completed the task. The couple later moved to Shilidian Village in Shexian County, the seat of the Shanxi-Hebei-Shandong-He'nan border area government. This young couple was David and Isabel. They have become Gao Liang's teachers and good

friends ever since.

Under the direct leadership of PFS President Huang Hua and Vice President Gao Liang, I have learned quite a lot about international friends and made many new friends. Apart from doing research on the three American journalists Agnes Smedley, Anna Louise Strong and Edgar Snow in the office, we go to different parts of the country to visit those who have supported us in China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

There are many such international friends in Beijing. They come from different countries and have different beliefs, but they have one thing in common, that is, to seek truth, sympathize with and support the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people. Now the war is over and we live in a peaceful environment. They still render their assistance at different posts.

## China's Foreign Friends

They include Dr. and Mrs. Richard Frey, Dr. and Mrs. Hans Muller, David and Isabel Crook, Joan Hinton and Erwin Engst, Gladys Yang, Sidney Shapiro, Julian Schuman, Prof. Elizaveta Pavlovna Kishkina (wife of Li Lisan), Eva Sandberg (wife of Xiao San), Ruth Weiss, Tatsuko Yokokawa, Sol and Pat Adler, Betty Chandler, and Denise Ly-Lebreton. They all spent decades living in Beijing. They have taken the cause of Chinese revolution and construction as their own and dedicated their lives to it. I am very lucky to have been able to get to know them, learn from them and express my respect for them in my work.

And this is how I got to know Isabel. I went to visit her with Gao Liang

and she often comes to our gatherings. Once, upon the invitation of the Western Returned Scholars Association, Chen Hui, Chen Xiuxia and I accompanied Isabel and Pat Adler on a trip to Jiaozuo, He'nan Province. A few days of traveling together made us more familiar with each other.

Carl is the eldest son of Isabel. I have been to his house for a function. In 1971, he met Marni Rosner, niece of William and Joan Hinton, and married her after he left China in 1973. In February 2012, Joseph Wampler, son of an American missionary who had worked in Shanxi, came to visit us at the PFS. He brought with him a diary with the titled *Two Years in Guerrilla Relief* writ-

ten by Howard Sollenberger, a missionary with the Brethren in Shanxi during the same period as Joseph Wampler's father. The Diary recorded how the mission cooperated with the guerrillas and the Eighth Route Army in distributing relief to the refugees in enemy occupied area in Shanxi between 1938 and 1940. The book contained some very valuable information. Carl and I, in company with Wang Jinbao, went on a trip to Shanxi to visit the places where Wampler's parents and Howard had worked by following the entries in the Diary. Carl told us a lot about his family that we did not know, so we became very familiar with each other. Carl and Marni have three sons. The youngest, having graduated from the agricultural department of the University of McGill, came back to China to work at the International Potato Center under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Michael is the second son of Isabel. Like his parents, he is engaged in teaching and friendship work. He helped found an international school in Beijing and is concurrently chairman of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Taking advantage of his family background, he has contacted the descendants of friendship-with-China personages and formed a group called Wuhusihai (All Corners of the World). This is of great help to the work of the PFS. Michael is an executive council member of the PFS. We in the society have close contact with him and often ask him to translate or polish articles of the PFS, so he is our English teacher. His elder daughter Lang Walsh has been teaching English in a kindergarten in Beijing for years. She gave birth to twin girls two years ago. Isabel is great

**During the “cultural revolution”, Chairman Mao made a call for students to learn from workers, peasants and soldiers. Around that time, a famous oil painting appeared, showing Chairman Mao walking from Pingxiang to Anyuan in 1921 carrying an umbrella. Carl, Michael and Paul walked the same route in 1972 and went down the mine to do some taken labour.**



grandma now, enjoying the life of a big family of four generations. Nicolas Crook, youngest son of Michael, graduated with a Master of Medicine degree from the Sichuan Medical College in Huaxiba where his grandparents had met. He has worked in the department of burns and plastic surgery for three years.

Paul, Isabel's youngest son, is in Britain. I don't remember if I have met him.

Isabel is not only a teacher, but a scholar who has studied anthropology in the University of Toronto. She pays special attention to changes in people's life and shows preference to conducting social investigations. After she arrived in Hebei Province in 1947 to study agrarian revolution, she collaborated with David Crook to write *Ten Mile Inn: Mass Movement in a Chinese Village* and *Ten Mile Inn: Revolution in a Chinese Village* (Chinese translation has been published by the Shanghai People's Publishing House) and *First Years of Yangyi Commune* after careful observation. The books provide detailed, rich historical information and serve as good textbooks for Chinese and foreigners to learn about the land movement in China. In 1941 when she was in Sichuan, she conducted a door-to-door survey in a place named Xinglongchang, a township in present day Bishan County, 35 km to the west of Chongqing, and co-authored a book with the title *Property's Predicament*, with Prof. Christina Gilmartin, published in the U.S. in 2013, and also a Chinese book titled *Xinglong Chang — Field Notes of a Village Called Prosperity 1940-1942* with Yu Xiji, which was published by Zhonghua Book Company, also in 2013. Like *Ten Mile*

*Inn*, the book is also a rare historical document on Chinese society, for very few people in China have written such survey reports. This has reminded me of Prof. Fei Xiaotong, who had carried out on-the-spot investigations on China's countryside and written the well-known book *Economy of Jiangcun Village*, contributing to the study of anthropology. He received the Thomas Henry Huxley Award. Now very few people do what Isabel has done. It is indeed rare.

On Nov. 9, 2014, the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) hosted a big party in celebration of the 100th birthday of Isabel. Those invited were senior alumni. Mao Guohua, a senior alumnus, presided over the party. Peng Long, President of the University, was among the 103 attendees. The hale and hearty Isabel accepted bouquets of flowers, calligraphic works and paintings, and other gifts presented to her. In her speech at the party, He Liliang, widow of Huang Hua, said, 73 years ago, that is in 1941, she had studied at the Foreign Affairs School in Yan'an, the predecessor of BFSU, and therefore, she could be considered an old alumna. She regarded Isabel as her teacher and specially created a bright-color painting *Wintersweet* as her birthday present.

Professor Chen Lin said: "We love you, Isabel, because you are an internationalist fighter. We love you because you are our teacher. We love you because you have made contributions to our country. We love you because all your life you live amongst us." The speech was short, but moving. As the celebration drew to a close, all present sang in unison the song *Unity Is*



**From left: Paul, Michael and Carl on the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in 1971**

*Strength.*

When the party was over, a small-scale ceremony was held in a peaceful and secluded place on campus, where the bust of David Crook, donated by alumni of the year of 1949 on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary, stood. Now, two benches were added, one on each side of the bust. They were unveiled by Isabel, He Liliang, BFSU President Peng Long and Prof. Chen Lin with the families of Carl Crook and Michael Crook in attendance.

Being advisor to the PFS, Isabel cares very much about its work. Recently she put forward valuable suggestions. She hoped that we would get in touch with those old friends whom we had lost contact with and provided us with their contact information. She wrote a couplet for the PFS: "Cherish old friends from period of liberation and socialist construction, let their descendants continue the friendship; Make new friends from the period of reform and opening to help build peace and harmony." The volunteers of the PFS are proud to have such a warm-hearted senior among them.

**Written on November 18, 2014**

# Cherishing the Memory of My Father

—In Commemoration of 10th Anniversary of Death of Richard Frey

**Richard Frey Jr. (Germany)**

**(Continued from the previous issue)**

**M**y father, as a Chinese revolutionary of Austrian decent, was self-disciplined and low-key all his life. In a 65-year revolutionary career in China — his second homeland — he witnessed the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, War of Liberation, New China's construction and development, the "cultural revolution" and reform and opening up; he underwent all kinds of hardships and suffered from illness. Being unfairly treated and distrusted for quite a long time, he felt depressed in both his work and daily life.

My father, as a man of firm belief, gave no thought to personal gain, and worked tenaciously without attracting public attention. In 1983, at the age of 63, he was appointed by the State Council as an advisor to the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, and later he was elected member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). As a member of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth CPPCC, regardless of his old age and poor health, he often went to the countryside, border areas and grass-root units to do research work and offer suggestions on the country's economic construction and development of medical services.

In his twilight years, he told me several times that he missed the times



**Dr. Richard Frey (L.3) with Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis (L.2), Jiang Yizhen (L.4) and Yin Xipeng (L.1) in Tangxian County, Hebei Province**

in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei battlefield during the anti-Japanese war. "The three years from early 1942 to the end of 1944 were the hardest and most dangerous, as well as the happiest, most exciting and memorable times in my life."

In October 1944, my father, a member of the health department of the United Defense Headquarters of the Eighth Route Army, together with Nie

Rongzhen, went to Yan'an from the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei border area to discuss with Zhu De, Ye Jianying and representatives of the US Army observer group how to ensure medical supplies reached the Eighth Route Army.

After the meeting, he was asked to stay in Yan'an by the CPC Central Committee. He then made repeated requests to return to the Shanxi-Chahar-

Hebei battlefield, but later due to work on research and production of penicillin, he never had a chance to return to the battlefield. After retirement, however, he went back to the old revolutionary base area to meet villagers and the owner of the house where he had lived during the anti-Japanese war. That's why he hoped that, after his death, his ashes would be scattered on the land in Tangxian County to keep company with his lost comrades-in-arms.

In 2004, my father's health was rapidly deteriorating in the Peking Union Medical College Hospital. I and my younger sister wanted to take him to Vienna for treatment, but he insisted on staying in China to the end of his life and donating his remains to the hospital for scientific study. On November 15, none of his children was at his bedside when he became comatose.

I know everyone will die eventually. But, the day when my father did leave me forever, I could not accept this irrevocable fact. Even today when I recall this, I still feel the pain in my heart. I was a disobedient son at home. When my father was alive, we often squabbled. Now he is gone, all I remember is his kindness to me. He had been very strict with me. After his death, I came to know from the memoirs of some old comrades that my father had quietly cared for and helped me.

After he passed, the Chinese President and Premier, and Austrian President, as well as many departments and old comrades laid wreaths at his funeral. In 2005, on the occasion of commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, I was invited to take part in the

commemorative activities in Beijing and accepted, on behalf of my father, the commemorative gold medal of the War of Resistance.

In February 2006, the CPPCC set up a memorial plaque honoring him at the middle school in Vienna where my father had been a pupil. The text was written by Austrian President Heinz Fischer. Now, in many museums in various places of China, and in Austrian and Israeli national museums, there are exhibits on my father's legendary life. Many Chinese historical records include his deeds and newspapers, magazines, books and pictorials have published articles about his miraculous life.

In 2007, to commend his historic contributions and spirit of internationalism and to educate and inspire the future generations with his revolutionary deeds, a monument was built for him in the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs in Tangxian

County, the battlefield during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

Today, my father rests in peace in the place where he fought heroically side by side with the military and civilians of the border area over 70 years ago, and beside the tombs of Canadian doctor Norman Bethune and Indian doctor Dwarkanath Kotnis who had died in his arms. The three internationalist doctors working in the Eighth Route Army of the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei area were successively buried in Tangxian County.

In 2012, I took my son and the daughter of Jiang Yizhen, former President of the Bethune Military Medical College, to Tangxian County to lay wreaths, accompanied by leaders of the college. Seeing the well-managed Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs, I felt gratified. I took some pictures and sent them to Dr. Kotnis' relatives in India.

#### Children paying respect at Dr. Frey's memorial



In July 2007, my mother died in the Social Medical Center in Southern Vienna (Sozialmedizinisches Zentrum Sud Wien) where my grandmother had breathed her last. On July 22, I placed my father's ashes in his tomb in the Cemetery of Revolutionary Martyrs in Tangxian County. At the same time my mother's ashes were interred in the Vienna Central Cemetery next to my great-grandfather's tomb. According to the local custom, we siblings had my father's name, dates and places of his birth and death engraved on my grandparents' tombstone.

After she lost touch with my father, Hanna joined the Anti-Fascist United Front in Britain. After the war, she and her husband (a senior general of the Czechoslovak People's Army) lived in Prague. During the 10 years after my father's death, she lived alone, but talked with me almost every week by phone and told me a lot of stories about the past. In the small hours of February 26, 2014, she closed her firm,

wise and kind eyes for the last time in a Prague hospital.

Today, marching on the road of national rejuvenation, China has become the world's second largest economy and plays a prominent role in international affairs. But, the Chinese people have never forgotten those international friends fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Chinese people for China's independence and freedom in the most difficult times of the Chinese nation, or dedicating their lives to supporting and helping the construction of new China. Likewise, today, an open and strong China will have more Chinese "Norman Bethunes" working for the benefit of the people all over the world.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the death of my father and the 75th anniversary of his arrival in China, it occurred to me that, in 2015, the people of the world will greet the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. During the war, my father's family in Europe like many thou-

sands of other families lost members of three generations. In the past 30 years, my younger sister and I have not been able to find any of our close relatives, nor their offspring in Europe.

At the time of commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Second World War, I, on behalf of Germany, signed the Beijing Peace Declaration and the Zhijiang Peace Declaration in Beijing and Zhijiang respectively. We wish peace will last forever and the people of the world will never suffer again from such calamities as the Second World War.

In the past 70 years after the war, the fast scientific and technological and economic developments in the world have changed lifestyles and raised people's living standards. However, because of ethnic clashes, religious conflicts, different ideologies, gaps between the rich and the poor and bloody scramble for interests, today's society is still far from being peaceful and tranquil. Having entered the 21st Century, humankind still relies on violence to resolve political problems. At present, the flames of war are burning uninterrupted in many places around the world; wanton massacres or persecution by terrorists are hard to prevent; the influence of militarism remains and arms race and military exercises are escalating. Therefore, we must call loudly on the peace-loving people of the world to unite, maintain high vigilance and make joint efforts to prevent war so that the tragedy of the Second World War will never repeat.

**This article is dedicated to my deceased father.**

**Written in October 2014**

**Dr. Frey with his sons in Beijing**





# Jean Augustin Bussiere, “Bethune from France”

—In Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism

**Zuo Fengqiang**

“We will never forget the important contribution made by numerous French friends to the cause of China’s development: Jean Augustin Bussiere, a French doctor, risked his life to transport much needed medicine on his bike to base area of anti-Japanese aggression in China,” said President Xi Jinping at the meeting commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic relations in Paris on March 27, 2014.

“Comrade Norman Bethune, a member of the Communist Party of Canada, was around fifty when he was sent by the Communist Parties of Canada and the United States to China; he made light of traveling thousands of miles to help us in our War of Resistance Against Japan. He arrived in Yen’an in the spring of last year, went to work in the Wutai Mountains, and to our great sorrow, died a martyr at his post. What kind of spirit is this that makes a foreigner selflessly adopt the cause of the Chinese people’s liberation as his own? It is the spirit of Internationalism, the spirit of communism...”

This is a quote from one of Chairman Mao Zedong’s works, *In Memory of Norman Bethune*, issued on December 21, 1939. In the 1960s and 1970s,



**Dr. Jean Augustin Bussiere**

almost every Chinese could recite this article and Dr. Norman Bethune, the Canadian doctor coming afar to help China, became a household name across the country. However, little has been known about Jean Augustin Bussiere, a French doctor who also traveled thousands of miles to help China in its War of Resistance Against Japan and selflessly adopted the cause of the Chinese people’s liberation as his own. On October 31, 2014, I had the opportunity to visit the Beijing Western Hills Exhibition on the History of China-France

Cultural Exchange and began to have some understanding of this “Bethune from France”.

Jean Augustin Bussiere was born in Creuse, a department of central France, in 1872. He received a doctor’s degree in medicine at the age of 20. In 1913, with his wife Marion and two lovely daughters, he came to China to work and taught at the Tianjin High Business School. In 1914, he came to Beijing to work as a doctor for the French Embassy and as President of St. Michelle’s Hospital, also known as the “French Hospital”.

In 1915, he bought a courtyard house at No.16, Datianshuijing Hutong, on the western side of Wangfujing Street, where Chinese and foreign diplomats, scholars, poets, explorers and social activists often gathered. It became a social salon at that time. In 1918, the then President of Peking University Cai Yuanpei invited Dr. Bussiere to work as a doctor of the university.

In 1923, his wife Marion died and his two daughters caught tuberculosis. In order to help his daughters recover, he purchased a plot of land in Niujiangou, at the foot of Mount Yangtai in Beijing’s Western Hills and constructed a Tibetan style villa, which was called “Bei Jia Hua Yuan (Garden of the Bussieres)” by the local people; it became



**Dr. Jean Augustin Bussiere with local peasants at the Garden of the Bussieres**

his second home in Beijing.

Dr. Bussiere was an easy-going and generous person who often gave free medical treatment to people living around his two homes. He was called “Lao Bei (Old Bussiere)” affectionately by the local people according to native custom.

On July 8, 1937, gun and cannon fire in the Wanping Fortress, on the southern outskirts of Beijing, shattered the peace of the Western Hills. The Japanese invaders flagrantly launched full-scale aggression against China, triggering an eight-year war of resistance by the Chinese army and civilians. On behalf of medical personages of diplomatic missions in China, Dr. Bussiere immediately wrote to the Red Cross Society of China (Beijing Branch) offering help and set up a field first-aid team.

On July 27 and 28, Tong Linge,

Deputy Commander of the 29th Army and Field Commander in Nanyuan, and General Zhao Dengyu, Commander of the 132 Division sacrificed their lives for the country. Beijing was occupied by the Japanese on July 29. The next day, Dr. Bussiere accompanied the military attaché of the French Embassy to Wanping Fortress to take pictures of the damaged gate towers as records and treat wounded Chinese.

Thereafter, he began to secretly help Chinese people’s War of Resistance Against Japan. His two residences became important links in the underground line of transportation for the western Beijing anti-Japanese base. At that time, the Japanese army set up a “Japanese Army Hot Spring Garrison” in the area and numerous checkpoints on the way to the city, causing great tension.

Cheng Yanqiu, then a well-known

master of Peking Opera, living in seclusion at Qinglong Bridge, wrote in his diary: “There are two checkpoints from Haidian to Qinglong Bridge. I have witnessed the police blocking the way to seize all kinds of food in extremely violent and wicked manner”. People in the western districts fought indomitably against the Japanese invaders in a variety of ways amid great difficulties. Miaofeng Mountain in the area was an important anti-Japanese base and the guerilla forces was headquartered not far from the Garden of the Bussieres. During this period, a white bearded foreigner was often seen riding a bicycle on the dirt road of about 50 km to and from the city of Beijing and the Garden of the Bussieres. This was Dr. Bussiere, then nearly 70 years of age.

As a representative of the Alliance Francaise in China and the French Red Cross Society, he brought medicine from hospitals in the city to his villa in the hills, most of which were delivered to the western Beijing anti-Japanese base and the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei border area through underground lines of transportation. Dr. Bussiere even went to the base area personally to treat wounded Chinese soldiers and civilians, regardless of his own safety.

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and started the Pacific War. Two friendly personages of Yenching University, Professors Michael Lindsay and William Band, drove university president John Leighton Stuart’s car to escape from the city. CPC underground workers and guerillas escorted them to the western Beijing anti-Japanese base through the Garden

of the Bussieres. Later they arrived in Yan'an. The high power transmitter-receiver they brought to the base area not only helped the War of Resistance Against Japan, but also played a significant role at the beginning of the war of liberation when the Central Committee of the CPC fought in northwest China. The telecommunications talents they cultivated in rear areas later became pioneers of New China's telecommunications sector.

On the afternoon of April 11, 2014, a journalist interviewed Mr. Mei Hongkun, son of Mr. Mei Xiaoshan, Dr. Bussiere's chauffeur. According to Mei Hongkun, his father had served Dr. Bussiere as chauffeur since 1926. He himself was born in the courtyard at No. 16 Datianshuijing Hutong in 1934. Around 1948, Dr. Bussiere introduced his father to an employer in Shanghai for safety's sake since his father knew details of how Dr. Bussiere had supported Chinese people's War of Resistance Against Japan.

Mei Hongkun still remembered that each time his mother asked his father where he was going whenever he started his car, he always made the sign of eight with his fingers. At that time he didn't know what that gesture meant, but later he understood it meant the Eighth Route Army. He once accompanied Dr. Bussiere, taking a rickshaw to the St. Michelle's Church in Taijichang Street to fetch guns for later delivery to the Western Hills.

This "bicycle route" mentioned by President Xi Jinping was a legendary story of Dr. Bussiere unknown in China. The doctor had written down the following words to describe the ex-

perience, "I once witnessed and experienced how the Chinese army and civilians fought against the Japanese invaders and was greatly moved. I'd like to help this courageous nation as much as possible because I love China and the Chinese people deeply."

In 1950, the 77-year-old Bussiere married Wu Sidan, a 26-year-old girl from an eminent family. The age difference did not become an obstacle to their love. Dr. Bussiere was fascinated about Chinese culture, especially in the study of similarities between Christianity and Taoism. The older he got, the more wisdom he unfolded.

Madame Wu was well versed in music and painting and learned Chinese landscape painting from famous painters Fu Jin and Fu Quan. However, their peaceful life in the Garden of the Bussieres was soon interrupted by outside storms. In 1954, with more French troops being sent to Vietnam, the wave of anti-French feeling in China intensi-

fied. Dr. Bussiere returned to France with his wife.

Mr. Shu Yi, Vice Chairman of the China Public Diplomacy Association, who has been studying and exploring contributions made by French friends such as Dr. Bussiere to the progressive cause of the CPC for years, described him as a true internationalist anti-fascist fighter, a true friend of the Chinese people and a close comrade-in-arms of the progressive cause of the CPC.

During the eight-year war of resistance, many international friends, such as David Iancu and Dr. Bucur Clejan from Romania, British friend Michael Lindsay and Professor William Band, like Norman Bethune, actively supported Chinese army and civilians in a variety of ways. However, they did not become household names like Dr. Bethune. In today's China, people who haven't experienced the unprecedented war of resistance should remember their names forever. ■

#### No. 16 Datianshuijing Hutong, Beijing



# To Promote Friendships, Be a Friend

**Billy Lee (The United States)**

**M**y article on “Meaning of Friendship” was published by *Voice of Friendship* in September 2013. I was proud to show it to my friend, Ashfaq Ishaq, Executive Chairman of International Child Art Foundation in Washington DC. In my cover letter, I ended up saying that Friendship to me means simply sharing good feelings. To my great surprise, Ashfaq replied enthusiastically, and suggested, “Why don’t you consider coming to DC in July 2015 to conduct a Workshop on Good Feelings at the ICAF’s World Children’s Festival?”

Although not at all experienced in leading workshops, I did have some experience in teaching, and I thought that the platform ICAF provides could help me launch a possible idea that “Friendship should not be left to Happenstance, and Positive Relationship are more possible if Children of the World are first induced to have a Positive Attitude to seek Friendly Good Feelings.” I accepted Dr. Ishaq’s invitation without hesitation.

I subsequently invited a good friend, Stephen K. Smuin and another young friend, Christopher Fiorentini, to join me to lead the inspiring activities necessary for such a Workshop. Stephen is retired from the famous Odyssey School in San Mateo, Ca. and is presently CEO of Da Vinci Educational Consultants. I have seen Smuin’s performance many times and found them especially effective with younger students from different cultural backgrounds. Chris is a film maker who

has also tutored youth for fifteen years. Both are innovative, kind, and very friendly individuals.

With Stephen’s leadership we decided that our workshop theme will be, “To Promote Friendships, Be a Friend. While we are still devising how best to create a long-term impact on this selected group of international students within a limited amount of time, I am now designing a souvenir for them to bring home after the Festival. The souvenir should be attractive and contemporary in design, but the message will be a simple reminder of “what it means to be a friend”. Since our selected international students will be between 10 to 13 years old, we better make things as clear, simple and effective as possible.

The latest idea: Simple Friendly Principles — “Dos” & “Don’ts”

**12 “Dos” Reach out & be a friend:** Be joyful & positive; be encouraging & sympathetic; be competent & helpful; be trustworthy & reliable; be open & tolerant; be patient & calm; be considerate & respectful; be humble & willing to apologize; be enthusiastic & engaging; be sincere & loyal; be smart but also kind; and be generous & unselfish.

**12 “Don’ts” Avoid stirring up fear, suspicion, anger & resentment:** Don’t be indifferent, passive, or afraid; don’t be self-righteous, arrogant & demeaning; don’t be disrespectful & inflexible; don’t be humorous while hurting others pride; don’t be hurtful & not give a darn; don’t be a bully – only

feared but never loved; don’t be carelessly critical & pour cold water over another’s enthusiasm; don’t be cynical or spread false fears; don’t be pretentious or hypocritical; don’t expect other people to change instantly; don’t expect others to agree with you on everything; don’t let a small difference turn into heated argument, an insult on one-another’s pride, to anger then hatred.

Smile, put Happiness into lives of others, and Share Good Feelings; you will gain many Good Friends. It’s simply the Golden Rule: Do unto others what you would have them do unto you! Conversely, don’t do unto others what you would not want them to do unto you.

Good feelings is what we are striving for. To know the what or what not is reasonably easy. To actually devise the How Tos – really how to spark and induce friendship, how to avoid misunderstandings, how to create and share happy or meaningful moments, and how to make friendship flourish worldwide are, indeed, far more difficult and complicated.

I hope to make another report on this after Stephen, Chris, and I have completed our Workshop at the ICAF’s World Children’s Festival at Washington DC’s National Mall, this July. I seriously think that it’s time to start a school of friendshipology as we now have Harvard School of Education, Berkeley School of Environmental Design, Yale’s School of Divinity, and Stanford’s School of Medicine, etc., etc.. ■