



Zhang Baowen, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress standing committee, meets with Vaira Vike-Freiberga, president of the World Leadership Alliance, before the opening ceremony



Shen Yueyue, vice-chairwoman of the National People's Congress standing committee, poses with delegates to the reception for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Baltic states

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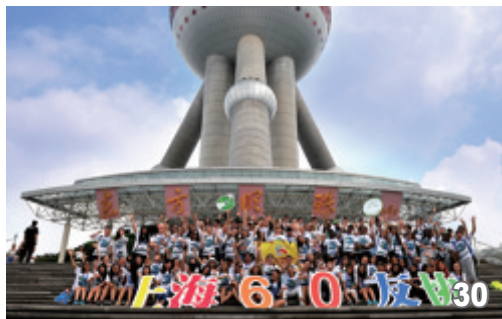
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**Front Cover:** Group photo of major guests attending the 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum.

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# President Li Xiaolin Meets with Lord Powell, Member of the House of Lords of the UK Parliament

**Wang Fan**



On Oct 12, President Li Xiaolin of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries met with Lord Powell, member of the House of Lords of the UK Parliament. The two sides extensively exchanged views on China-UK exchanges and cooperation, the China-UK Regional Leaders Summit and other issues of common concern to both sides.

President Li thanked Lord Powell for his hospitality to the Chinese leaders attending the inaugural China-UK Regional Leaders Summit. She is ready to work with the UK to deliver more fruitful cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Lord Powell expects a bigger role for the CPAFFC in promoting people's friendly exchanges and cooperation around the world and in safeguarding world peace.

# Vice President Xie Yuan Meets with Delegation of Colombian Governors

**Lin Zhichang**



On Oct 11, Vice-President Xie Yuan met with the delegation headed by Mr. Amilkar Acosta, Executive President of Colombian National Federation of Departments.

Xie welcomed Mr. Amilkar Acosta; Mr. Sigifredo Salazar, governor of Risaralda; and Mr. Nebio de Jesus Echeverry, governor of Guaviare. He briefly introduced the CPAFFC and reviewed the friendly exchanges between people from China and Latin America.

Colombian Ambassador to China Mr. Oscar Rueda García and Mr. Acosta appreciated Xie's participation and the efforts on exchanges between friendly cities carried by the CPAFFC. They also expressed their willingness to establish more intimate contacts with the CPAFFC to extend cooperation and develop the friendship between the two peoples.

# The Opening Ceremony of a Large-Scale Relics Touring Exhibition of Chinese Characters

**Yu Xiaodong**



On Oct 18, the opening ceremony of the Chinese relics touring exhibition of *Chinese Characters: A Legacy and Marvel Perfected Over Three Millennia* was held at the Tokyo Fuji Art Museum. Mr. Cheng Yonghua, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Japan, and Mr. Hu Sishe, vice-president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, attended the ceremony.

Hu said Chinese characters embody the development of 5,000 years of Chinese culture, and form the common cultural foundation for East Asian countries. The history of the exchanges between China and Japan would have been impossible without Chinese characters. He also hoped the two countries could further explore the rich cultural connotation of Chinese characters and promote exchanges between the two countries.

# Vice-President Lin Yi Meets with Premier of British Virgin Islands

**Wang Fan**



On Oct 19, Vice-President Lin Yi of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries met with Dr. Orlando Smith, premier of the British Virgin Islands.

Lin extended welcome to Premier Smith, and briefed him on the CPAFFC's work in people-to-people diplomacy and local government cooperation.

Smith thanked the CPAFFC for the invitation and its considerate arrangements. He expressed willingness to establish contact with the CPAFFC to facilitate bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

## Vice President Song Jingwu Meets with Mr. Kawamura Takeo

**Fu Bo**



Mr. Song Jingwu, vice-president of the CPAFFC, met in Beijing with Mr. Kawamura Takeo, former Japanese minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology on Sept 30.

Song conveyed CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin's greetings to Takeo and welcomed him to China during the Chinese National Day. He said that the CPAFFC is willing to work together with Japan to develop nongovernmental exchanges, and the sustainable and stable improvement of bilateral relations.

Takeo said that next year marks the 45th anniversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic relations and he would like to develop various commemorative activities and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

## Secretary-General Li Xikui Leads a Delegation to Jiangxi

**Sun Yutian**



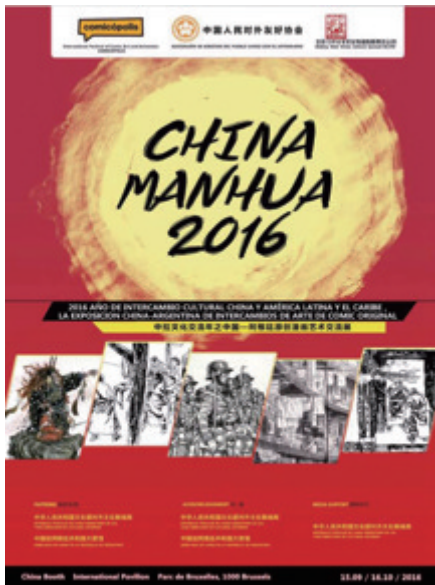
Secretary-General Li Xikui led a delegation of foreign diplomatic envoys and cultural officials to Jiangxi to attend an activity commemorating the 400th anniversary of the deaths of Tang Xianzu, Shakespeare and Cervantes.

Li said that the CPAFFC will continue to serve as an international cultural messenger to promote cultural exchanges and build a broader platform for the cultural and creative industries to cooperate.

The Diplomatic Envoys and Cultural Officials Cultural Tour Jiangxi station activities lasted from Sept 23 to 26, and showcased China's cultural image. It increased the diplomats' knowledge of Chinese traditional and contemporary culture, and it had profound meaning.



# China-Latin America and Caribbean 2016 Year of Culture Exchange



**Wang Lijuan**

China-Latin America and Caribbean 2016 Year of Culture Exchange, China-Argentina Original Comic Art Exchange Exhibition, hosted by the CPAFFC and the Vinetas Sueltas, presented by the Beijing Total Vision Cultural Spreads Co. Ltd., was held successfully in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, from Oct 14 to 16. The CPAFFC organized a delegation of eight cartoonists to attend the activities in Argentina. Deputy Director-General Ji Wei of the Cultural Exchange Department of the CPAFFC, Director Marcelo Panozzo of the Argentina Cultural Ministry, Cultural Counselor Yang Chuanying of the Chinese Embassy in Argentina and Director Thomas Dassance of the Vinetas Sueltas attended the opening ceremony and made speeches. More than 100 audience members from both home and abroad watched the exhibition.

# The Chinese Culture Tour for Cultural Officials of Relevant Embassies in China and Foreign Experts in Changsha

**Gao Hui**



From Oct 17 to 21, 2016, the CPAFFC organized 12 cultural officials from embassies in China, representing 10 countries, to attend the Chinese Culture Tour held in Changsha, Hunan province.

The delegation learned the current condition of culture, the arts and city development in Changsha from such perspectives as cultural heritage, artistic creation, ecological and environmental protection and green planning, and discussed the possibility of launching cultural exchanges and cooperation between the association, the city of Changsha and the countries concerned.

# Enjoy the Global “Music Journey” on the Doorstep

## Chengdu Friendship Association



On July 29, 2016 Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival, hosted by the Chengdu Municipal People’s Government, held a grand opening ceremony, with nine overseas professional music troupes delivering wonderful performances to the citizens of Chengdu.

Started in Chengdu a decade ago, the influence of Chengdu International Sister Cities Youth Music Festival has gained stature every year with sister cities and residents. The well-known festival features high-standard musical performances and has had tremendous social influence, building a fine interactive platform for accelerating exchanges between Chengdu and the international community in music and culture.

# “Panda Chengdu” Shines in Ljubljana

## Chengdu Friendship Association



On the evening of Oct 17 (local time), “Panda Chengdu” entered Ljubljana city in Slovenia, to host a gala commemorating the 35th anniversary of the founding of Chengdu- Ljubljana sister city relations. Leaders including Wu Dongmei, charge d’affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Slovenia, and Viktorija Potocnik, dean of the Ljubljana Children’s Palace, attended the activity.

Chengdu-themed cultural demonstrations were presented during the show. As mentioned by Wu Dongmei, the show fully showcased Chengdu’s cultural characteristics. It is hoped that more literary and artistic works will approach Slovenia and promote cultural exchanges between the two sides. Potocnik was delighted to see the cultural demonstrations of Chengdu artists again in Ljubljana and hoped the Chengdu-Ljubljana friendship would prosper.



# G20 Hangzhou Summit Points the Way for the World Economy

**He Yafei**

The 2016 G20 Summit was successfully held in Hangzhou, China on Sept 4 and 5. This fruitful meeting has set the course for the world in such respects as economic growth, response to global challenges and global governance system reform.

The world economy again stands at a crossroads since the financial crisis of 2008. China, having lived up to expectations, contributed its wisdom and proposals to encourage the leaders of G20 members to reach a consensus on pursuing innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economic growth. The achievements of the G20 Hangzhou Summit will without doubt influence the global economy and governance in a significant way.

Over the years, the G20 has been devoted to encouraging the world's economy to grow through sustainability, balance and inclusiveness. Nevertheless, growth momentum has been challenged lately by various risks and pressures. Over the last eight years

the shadow of the financial crisis has loomed over the world. New technologies and industrial revolutions replace the old, but have not saved the world from an economic downturn. Moreover, major economies are faced with "graying" populations. Anti-globalization and protectionism are rising in some developed countries, affecting economic globalization, the multilateral trade system, and free trade and investment. In addition, financial risks including over-leverage and economic bubbles are increasing worldwide.

In Hangzhou, G20 leaders agreed to continue enhancing communication and coordination of the G20's macro-policy. On top of that, the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth was adopted to support innovation of development concepts, systems and mechanisms, and business models stimulated by technological innovation. Having reiterated the commitment to reject protectionism, the G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth and the

G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policy-Making were worked out as well.

China's contribution in helping realize these action plans cannot be overlooked. Innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing – the new development concepts of China – have been integrated into the consensus of the Hangzhou Summit, and are regarded as a driving force in boosting future global economic progress. The world has witnessed China's participation and leading role in the G20 mechanism and global governance.

What's more, through China's efforts, development was for the first time placed on the summit agenda. Leaders are determined to promote inclusive and interconnected development whereby G20 cooperation will deliver benefits to the whole world. To be specific, development in the global macro-policy framework was for the first time given priority,



**Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, host a banquet at the Xizi Hotel in Hangzhou to welcome foreign heads of delegations and other participants in the G20 Hangzhou Summit on Sept 4, 2016.**

and a groundbreaking action plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development debuted. As victims of neoliberalism and the Washington Consensus, most developing countries are not benefiting from economic globalization. China has always striven to make development issues a highlight of the G20 Summit. Meanwhile, based

on its successful experience, China has put forward new concepts and projects, like the Belt and Road Initiative, in an effort to make joint progress with other developing countries. It not only identifies with its status as a developing country, but also unwaveringly stands with its peers. Representatives from several developing countries were

invited to the Hangzhou Summit to take part in discussions on the world's economic prospects. The action plans and practical outcomes are expected to help reduce inequality and imbalances in global development and deliver tangible benefits to the peoples of the developing world.

Decisions were also made to

transform the G20 from a crisis response mechanism to a long-term governance mechanism, and expand its focus from short-term policy response to a combination of short-, medium- and long-term policy making.

Leaders showed their determination to improve global economic and financial governance to enhance the resilience of the world economy. Further more, they agreed to advance the quota and governance reform of international financial institutions, broaden the use of Special Drawing Rights (SDR), enhance international cooperation on taxation, energy resources, and anti-corruption, as well as join hands to deal with global issues like climate change.

China has earnestly practiced what it preaches and played a leading role in this regard. Before the meeting, China and the US jointly deposited their legal instruments of joining the Paris Agreement.

China's greater participation in the G20 mechanism and global governance reveals that the relations between this responsible major country and the world are changing, and with historic significance. At the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out that China has reached a new historical starting point wherein the country will deepen reform across the board, foster new drivers of economic and social development, adapt its economy to the "new normal" stage and transform its growth model, further globally integrate itself, and increase worldwide

exposure. Increased interaction and greater openness highlight the new starting point of the relationship between China and the world.

The Belt and Road Initiative, first proposed by President Xi in 2013, has been warmly welcomed by over 100 countries. Under the guiding principle of "jointly building through consultation to meet the interests of all," China has signed cooperation agreements with more than 30 countries along the routes and launched international production capacity cooperation with 20 plus countries. Many countries have benefited from the cooperation with China.

The Belt and Road Initiative shows China's determination to open to the world – both to developed countries and developing countries. On top of that, China initiated the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund with the aim of providing new financing channels for developing countries to build up their infrastructure.

China has no intention of overturning the current system and setting up a brand new one. Cooperation and mutual benefits are the goal of the new mechanisms and initiatives launched by China. Its objective is not to build China's own backyard garden, but a garden shared by all countries. In the field of global economic and financial governance, China is playing a leading role in a substantial way.

China's international production

capacity cooperation is misinterpreted by some Western critics as a way of "letting out its domestic problems." But facts speak for themselves. The Belt and Road Initiative is widely welcomed; the philosophy it holds of cooperation and mutual development was echoed at the Hangzhou Summit. The country's leaders have on different occasions expressed that all countries are welcome aboard the train of China's development to share the fruits of its progress.

The world has complimented the Hangzhou Summit for the tangible outcomes it has achieved, the hope it brings to global economic growth, and the direction in which it points for a global governance system. However, quite a few people throughout the world still uphold neoliberalism, even though the philosophy has been disputed in the wake of the financial crisis. More effort is required to dispel neoliberalism and lead the world economy toward a more equitable global economic governance system that is more just, fair and reasonable. ■

*From China Today*

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He Yafei is the first G20 sherpa for China, former deputy foreign minister and former deputy director of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council.



# 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum

## Department of American & Oceanian Affairs

From May 29 to 30, the 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Australia China Friendship and Exchange Association, with support from the World Leadership Alliance-Club De Madrid, was held at the Imperial Springs International Convention Center in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. Under the theme "The Belt and Road: Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Cities", the forum explored subjects of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, city collaboration, infrastructure, resources development and investment, and featured in-depth discussions about the common opportunities and challenges faced by Chinese and foreign cities in their development in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Hu Chunhua, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee; Zhang Baowen, vice-

chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Li Xiaolin, president of the CPAFFC; Dr. Chau Chak Wing, president of the Australia China Friendship and Exchange Association and chairman of Kingold Group; and Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former president of Latvia and president of the World Leadership

Alliance, attended the opening ceremony and addressed the forum. Zhang met with the foreign VIPs before the opening ceremony. Eleven former heads of state and government leaders, including Vike-Freiberga; John Howard, former prime minister of Australia; Jorge Quiroga, former president of Bolivia; Jenny Shipley,



Group photo of major guests attending the 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum

former prime minister of New Zealand; Esko Aho, former prime minister of Finland; Han Seung-soo, former prime minister of the Republic of Korea; Benjamin Mkapa, former president of Tanzania; Olusegun Obasanjo, former president of Nigeria; George Papandreou, former prime minister of Greece; Andrés Pastrana, former president of Colombia; Petre Roman, former prime minister of Romania, and more than 100 experts, scholars and business leaders from 20-plus countries attended the forum and had in-depth discussions on four subjects related to the Belt and Road Initiative: inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities; cities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; cooperation and challenges for cities in the making; and infrastructure and resource investment.

**The Belt and Road Initiative is a path of cooperation and common benefit with Chinese characteristics**

Most of the forum participants believed the Belt and Road Initiative is a solution China offers for world development on a backdrop of globalization. The participating countries hoped that with the initiative, they could take advantage of China's rapid growth, innovate collaborative models and materialize shared development. Shipley, the former New Zealand prime minister, pointed out that the Belt and Road Initiative brought revolutionary changes to

international community and, as a result, world economies could break through traditional boundaries and realize mutual communication and cooperation regardless of their size.

Former Bolivian President Quiroga noted that world development was like climbing a mountain, which requires a correct path, a reliable guide and a rope for protection. The Belt and Road is a far-sighted and practical strategy which acts like a guide and could lead the world toward economic recovery and prosperity, Quiroga said.

Aho, the former Finnish prime minister, used ice hockey, a popular sport in his country, to elaborate on the strategic significance of the Belt and Road. The difference between a star ice hockey player and an ordinary player, Aho said, is that an ordinary player only chases the puck, while a star player is able to predict where the puck will be and skate to the correct position in advance. The Belt and Road is China's initiative to take a path of its own, based on its predictions, Aho said, adding that the initiative had great foresight and comes with huge potential. It will bring new technological breakthroughs to the world and contribute to a new ecosystem.

Former ROK Prime Minister Han noted that the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contained 17 subgoals, nine of which are relevant to the Belt and Road Initiative. The two agendas share common objectives and

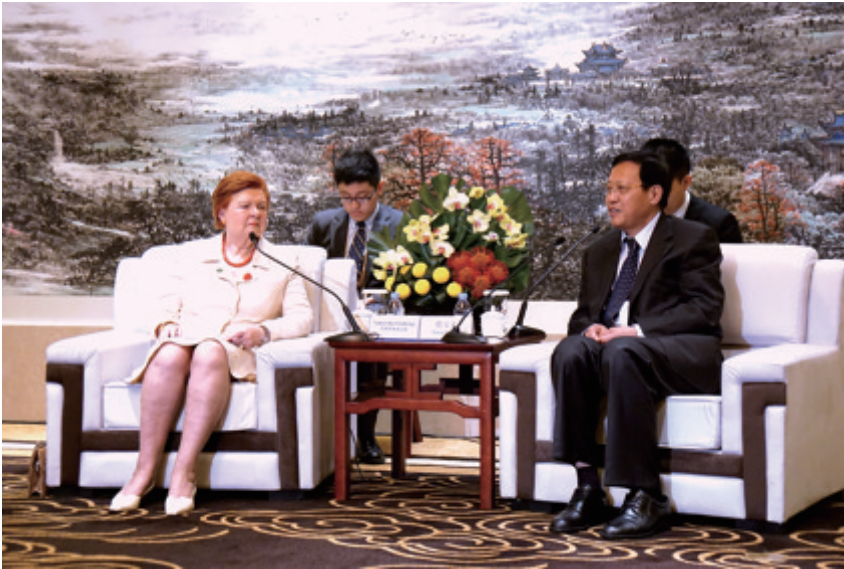
are complementary, Han said.

**The Belt and Road Initiative is “the second round of China’s reform and opening-up drive”**

Participants thought highly of the Belt and Road Initiative and believed it was an extension of China's reform and opening-up policy that would promote further opening, exchange and integration in a wider area, at a higher level and to a more profound depth. Guangdong CPC chief Hu emphasized at the luncheon that China's development was closely linked to its reform and opening-up policy. Proposed by President Xi Jinping, the Belt and Road Initiative highlights the crucial role of reform and opening-up. Several thousand years of Chinese history prove that whenever the country was open, it developed; whenever it was closed, it lagged behind, Xi said — “therefore we must persist in reform and opening-up”.

Quiroga said the Belt and Road Initiative was part of China's second round of reform and opening-up, and it will bring unprecedented development opportunities to the world, including countries in Latin America.

Former Australian prime minister Howard noted that the Belt and Road Initiative originated from the ancient Silk Road more than 2,000 years ago. The core of both ideas is to promote shared development and to resist risks jointly faced by different nations



**Zhang Baowen, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress standing committee, meets with Vaira Vike-Freiberga, president of the World Leadership Alliance, before the opening ceremony**

and people from different cultural backgrounds, he said, adding that it is the open and inclusive spirit of globalization embedded in the initiative that has helped China to realize rapid economic growth, lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the past three decades and benefited the world, especially the Asia-Pacific region. At present, globalization is threatened by populism and trade protectionism, so the Belt and Road Initiative comes at an opportune moment to help the world respond to the challenge effectively, he said.

Vike-Freiberga of Latvia expressed her belief that the initiative would further diversify and deepen collaboration between countries and cities along the Belt and Road routes,

further close the development gap and increase mutual understanding and trust.

#### **The Belt and Road Initiative brings important opportunities for city development**

Participants discussed how to implement the Belt and Road Initiative, respond to common challenges facing city development and improve governance in the context of globalization, digitization and urbanization. Today over half the world's population live in cities; the proportion will reach 70 percent by 2050. Cities are both economic centers and cultural centers. To promote the Belt and Road Initiative,

we should take better advantage of city's functions, especially through carrying out sister city activities extensively.

The Belt and Road Initiative also crosses national boundaries and provides new platforms and opportunities for cities to share resources and develop in a sustainable way. Shipley noted that the challenges facing cities epitomize those facing the world. The ideas of cooperation and common benefit between cities embedded in the Belt and Road Initiative were in tune with the trend of the times and could help increase social inclusiveness and commonality while addressing current problems. In practice, if we could soundly implement inclusiveness, it might be quicker to find a solution for the European refugee problem, Shipley said.

Olusegun Obasanjo, former president of Nigeria, thought the countries along the Belt and Road should take the opportunity it offers to strengthen coordination at the regional level and seek a city development model that is more effective, more sustainable and more inclusive to realize shared prosperity and peace.

At the closing ceremony of the forum, Vike-Freiberga officially invited ACFEA President Chau to take the post of Asia-Pacific director of the World Leadership Alliance. CPAFFC President Li presented the Award for Contribution to People's Friendship to Dr. Chau. ■



# Forum Spotlight: City Development and Cooperation Under the Belt and Road Framework

## Department of American & Oceanian Affairs

With the theme of “The Belt and Road: Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Cities”, the 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum focused on city cooperation and emphasized the idea of “city” as the pilot for cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, winning general recognition from forum participants.

Li Xiaolin, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, said that cities were important channels for the association to conduct international exchanges. She hoped all cities in the regions along the Belt and Road would grasp opportunities to promote interconnectivity and realize mutual benefits — and to create new momentum as they take on challenges.

Urbanization is one of the main ongoing trends worldwide. Statistics show that 2007 was a watershed year in which the balance shifted and more than half the world’s population consisted of city-dwellers. Today, the proportion has reached 70 percent. In developing countries particularly, the

urbanization process is burgeoning. The development status of a city often mirrors that of a country, be it on hardware or software, and cities are well-equipped for collaboration. What’s more, in the Belt and Road regions there are already many cosmopolises, forming a foundation for cooperation.

During breakout sessions, Esko

Aho, former prime minister of Finland, pointed out, from the perspective of future urbanization and development, that science, technology and innovation would be the three key drivers in the future, while sustainable development, digitalization and democratization would form the macro environment. Aho believes future city development



CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin delivers a speech at the 2016 Imperial Springs International Forum

should focus on four goals, starting with infrastructure.

Large amounts of investment and resources for infrastructure construction are needed, Aho said, adding that the Belt and Road “will support us in infrastructure, especially digital infrastructure development, which is exactly the feature of future development”.

Second is talent. The capabilities required for talent are different from the past.

Third is to optimize collaboration between government and business so that they can cooperate in a more scientific manner.

Fourth is to develop risk response capability. Risk here refers to idea change. We need to be more open and more receptive to innovation, including risk in innovation, Aho said.

Jordi Hereu, former mayor of Barcelona, emphasized the importance of building the city brand. He proposed that cities should develop under a clear concept or image, such as smart city, secondary city, people- and culture-oriented city, sustainable development city, global city, resilient city, and so forth. Ultimately, a city must have its own characteristics and identity to be remembered, Hereu said.

Green and people-oriented development was also one of the common understandings reached by the participants with regard to the trend of future city development. Professor Zhao Lei from the Institute for International Strategic Studies of the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China talked about what kinds of cities

can be models for the Belt and Road Initiative. The first, he said, are those emerging rapidly and realizing leapfrog development. They come from scratch, or in terms of innovation, from zero to one.

Second are those that insist on maintaining the most essential part of their culture. While everybody else gets lost, they still stick to the core. This, Zhao said, is also innovation. A city should be warm and people-oriented, and should be defined by its humanity instead of its functions. We should propose some trend-setting ideas for cities in the Belt and Road regions, Zhao said.

Many experts also suggested a city alliance be established for the more than 60 countries along the Belt and Road. Such a network would connect cities, enabling them to develop and respond together, and would especially help underdeveloped regions address their challenges.

Today people live in an economically globalized world where exchanges and collaboration between cities has become more and more frequent. It is the cities that organically coordinate the economic activities of all countries and regions. With more city collaboration, the exchanges and relationships between countries and regions along the Belt and Road will surely step on a new stage and usher in new opportunities of healthy interaction, joint exploration and win-win results. ■

# Imperial

Guangdong was one of China’s first foreign trade ports and the birthplace and starting point of the ancient Maritime Silk Road. At the forefront of China’s opening-up policy, Guangdong has continued to welcome the outside world. Through its open economic system it has become the most export-oriented economic region in China.

The Imperial Springs International Forum is the only high-profile international forum in Guangdong. It originated from the Imperial Springs Summit in 2011 and was approved by the Chinese government in 2015. It has been hosted by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Australia-China Friendship Association. The forum is located in Imperial Springs, Conghua, in the southern part of China, and is a major nongovernmental diplomatic and international exchange platform. Imperial Springs has played host to the China-Australia Media Forum, the Global Economic Forum, Global SME Leaders Forum, Chinese

# Springs International Forum: A Forerunner in People's Diplomacy

## Department of American & Oceanian Affairs

Enterprises in Latin America Forum, China-Australia Economic Forum and the Imperial Springs International Forum in 2015 and 2016. More than 300 international dignitaries, business

leaders, scholars and other celebrities attended the events here, including former US president Bill Clinton and former Australian prime minister John Howard.

Dr Chau Chak Wing, the founder of the International Forum, said that today's world is characterized by common pursuit and interests, as well as by many differences. To avoid



Chinese and foreign officials in a photo session before planting 'friendship Trees' prior to the meeting



misunderstanding and misjudgment, people need to understand each other. Dialogue is necessary, whether it is governmental or nongovernmental, formal or informal. Dialogue promotes policy communication, so that trade is more smooth, and more financial facilities will be in place and better connected. Imperial Springs is the ideal location for such high-profile dialogues, Chau said.

The forum is designed to promote understanding and consensus among all parties, as well as regional and global cooperation. It explores important issues in the economic, political and cultural sectors. For two consecutive years, China's Belt and Road Initiative has been the theme of the forum. Veteran politicians from Australia, Mexico, Greece, Italy, Sweden, and

Indonesia, and experts from home and abroad exchanged views on Belt and Road construction, security and cooperation in Asia, as well as global security, development, governance and challenges. Through in-depth discussions and dialogues, the forum will help countries along the Belt and Road to build credibility, erase doubts and achieve cohesion and consensus, which is of great significance.

The Imperial Springs International Forum invited the World Leadership Alliance this year for joint hosting, which greatly enhanced the forum's international influence. The alliance is the world's most influential coalition of former politicians, with 108 former prime ministers and premiers from 69 countries. These coalition members often share their expertise,

political experience, observations and judgments with the community about the challenges facing today's high-level government decision-making and effective leadership. Through the World Leadership Alliance, it is possible to establish an active dialogue and cooperation bridge with existing governments, international intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, national business circles and national experts and scholars.

At the closing ceremony, the president of the World Leaders Alliance and former president of Latvia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, invited Chau, president of Australia-China Friendship Exchange Association and chairman of Kingold Group, to act as chairman of the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Leadership Alliance. Professor Zhao Lei, a scholar at the Central Party School's International Institute for Strategic Studies, said this was not only an honor for any individual but also an affirmation of the increasing strength and status of China. It would promote cooperation between the World Leadership Alliance and China, and Chau would play an active role in supporting the Belt and Road Initiative.

Li Xiaolin, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, expressed hope that the results of the exchanges would help the international community understand the Belt and Road and strengthen China's cooperation with the rest of the world. ■



**Xu Qin, Mayor of Shenzhen, speaks at the forum**

# Interview with the Chilean Ambassador

## Staff reporter

**VOF:** *Chile was the first country in South America to establish diplomatic relations with China, on Dec 15, 1970. It was also the first to recognize China as a market economy and sign a bilateral free trade agreement with China in Latin America. With frequent exchanges at the top, China and Chile have maintained cooperation in various fields. Mr. Ambassador, what is your view on China-Chile relations?*

**Mr. Heine:** As we all know, there is no country that is farther from China than Chile. Yet, despite the distance, bilateral relations have flourished, and they are going from strength to strength. In 2014, President Michelle Bachelet and President Xi Jinping met not once but twice—first in Brasilia in July in the aftermath of the VI BRICS Summit, and then in November, when President Bachelet made a bilateral visit after the APEC Summit held in Beijing. In May of 2015, Prime Minister Li Keqiang visited Chile as part of a South American tour which also included Brazil, Colombia and Peru. Eighteen agreements were signed in Santiago on that occasion, including some as significant as one to avoid double taxation and another on extradition. China Construction Bank recently opened for business in Santiago, and it will be the clearing bank for all RMB operations in Latin America, which brings us closer to our goal of making

Santiago into the financial services center for the region. In terms of trade, bilateral trade flows have increased fourfold since the signing of the FTA in 2005 (reaching some US\$ 31 billion in 2015), making China into Chile's No. 1 trading partner in the world, and Chile into China's No. 3 trading partner in Latin America. Incidentally, this was not just China's first FTA with any country in Latin America; it was the first signed by China with any single country anywhere.

**VOF:** *There are two Confucius Institutes and over 20 Chinese language teaching centers in Chile. The Chinese language fever or the Chinese Culture fever is gaining more momentum in Chile. Mr. Ambassador, what is your expectation on people-to-people and cultural exchanges between our two sides?*

**Mr. Heine:** You are quite right. Because of our history, in Chile we have been traditionally more oriented toward learning English, French or German (I myself went to Santiago's German School) than towards learning Asian languages. Yet, China's rise has triggered a considerable interest in the Chinese language, and, although we still have a long way to go, Chinese is now part of the regular curriculum in a number of schools. The Confucius Institutes, one at Catholic University

and the other at St Thomas University (the latter doubles as a coordinating center for all the Institutes in the region) are doing an outstanding job. I am especially impressed by the work done by Cruzando el Pacífico (Crossing the Pacific), an NGO dedicated to teaching the Chinese language to young people across Chile. I have joined them in a number of their events, and it has been fascinating to see the passion with which my young compatriots have taken up the by no means easy task of learning Mandarin. We still have a long way to go, and we need many more Mandarin speakers in Chile, but we are moving in the right direction.

**VOF:** *2016 is the China-Latin America Cultural Exchange Year. Mr. Ambassador, what kind of activities has been arranged between China and Chile?*

**Mr. Heine:** In January, Patricio Guzmán, our leading documentary filmmaker, visited Beijing in what was his first visit to China. A retrospective of half a dozen of his films was held at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Arts (UCCA). His epic trilogy, *The Battle of Chile*, is widely considered to be one of the great political documentaries of our time, and it was very well received by the Chinese public, as were his most recent films, like *Nostalgia*

for the *Light* and *The Pearl Button*, which have received some of Europe's leading awards. In May, we had here Miguel Sayago, a well-established photographer, who had an exhibition of his work on Easter Island (a very popular destination among Chinese travelers) in Beijing. One of the biggest events has been an exhibition of 40 works by José Venturelli (1924-1988), the renowned painter, who was a great friend of China and lived here for most of the 50s. His work is being shown in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai over a three-month period (July-September). In August we shall have here Alejandro Zambra, perhaps the best known among Chile's new generation of writers, whose work is featured in *The New Yorker*. Many of his books have come out in Chinese editions by publishing house Shanghai99, and he is very much looking forward to interact with his readers both in Shanghai and in Beijing. We were lucky enough to be able to host Mo Yan here at the Chilean Embassy in Beijing not too long ago, as he signed an agreement allowing the adaptation of his novel *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out* into a play to be produced in Chile and in other Latin American countries. Mr Mo Yan has not visited Chile yet, and we very much hope that he could do so for the opening of this play. Chinese culture will also have a very strong presence in Chile in the second half of this year: Lang Lang will be performing in Santiago in August (in his second visit to Chile; he was there first in 2013). There are great expectations, and the event is sold out. From September to November an

exhibition on the Forbidden City, its art, its history and its architecture, will take place in Chile's Presidential Palace Museum, and in October and November Qingdao's Symphonic Orchestra will tour Santiago, Valparaíso and Rancagua. It is a very full and enriching year, as you can see.

**VOF: There are 13 pairs of friendship cities (including friendship provinces and states) in China and Chile. We can see very close contacts between these friendship cities. Mr. Ambassador, may I ask your opinions on the exchanges between China-Chile friendship cities?**

Mr. Heine: In today's world, cities and regions are playing an increasingly



significant role in foreign affairs. I am greatly encouraged by the very fruitful and productive relations being developed between Chilean cities and regions and their Chinese counterparts. In Chile, the Bio Bio region has taken the lead in this matter. The governor, Mr. Rodrigo Diaz Wornor, has visited China three times (twice since my arrival here in Beijing two years ago), he always does so with a delegation that includes both government officials and private sector representatives. Bio Bio is the Chilean region that exports the most in non-copper products to China, and its people are fully aware that their prosperity is closely linked to China's. Mr. Jorge Flies, the governor of the Magellan region (in Chile's Deep South) will be visiting shortly as well, and we hope it can give further impetus to Chile-China cooperation on Antarctic issues. Chinese tourists are keen to visit Antarctica, and the best way to do so is via Punta Arenas, the capital of the Magellan region. In turn, we have a regular stream of provincial and municipal authorities from China visiting Chile, furthering cooperation on a variety of fronts. I am especially upbeat about the upcoming visit of the Mayor of Shanghai to Chile in September.

**VOF: Chile is the third largest wine exporter to China. China imports 98 percent of its blueberries, 80 percent of its cherries and 50 percent of its apples and table grapes from Chile. Mr. Ambassador, besides the cooperation mentioned above, what about the economic bond between**



### *China and Chile?*

**Mr. Heine:** Trade has been in some ways the bedrock of these flourishing ties between Chile and China. Ever since the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed in 2005 (the first signed by China with any single country anywhere) trade increased fivefold. It reached \$32 billion in 2015. China is now Chile's No 1 trading partner, and Chile is China's No 3 trading partner in Latin America. Chile is the world's biggest producer and exporter of copper (we have 29 percent of the world's reserves), and China is the biggest importer and consumer of it, so copper forms the bulk of our exports to this country. But over the last few years we have seen a big increase in other items, such as the ones you mention. Chile is the world's biggest exporter of fresh fruit in the southern hemisphere, and the second-largest exporter of them to China. We are the fourth-largest exporter of wine in the world, and the third-largest to China. We are also making strong inroads in meats, fish, and all kinds of products from the sea. We are even exporting live cattle to China (20,000 of them last year), which is quite a feat given the distance and the very stringent sanitary requirements such exports demand. Ten or 20 years down the road, I see Chile providing an increasing share of China's food imports. With its Mediterranean climate, natural geographic barriers that keep plagues and diseases away and very strict sanitary conditions, Chile is ideally placed to become an important food supplier to this country. ■

## In Memory of Jakob Rosenfeld

**Lyu Hongwei**

Two doctors, Norman Bethune and Dwarkanath Kotnis, are household names in China, but the name Jakob Rosenfeld is seldom recognized. In fact, Rosenfeld, an Austrian doctor of Jewish ancestry, has made contributions no less than those of Bethune and Kotnis to China's victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. In a certain sense, Rosenfeld's contribution was even greater than theirs, because he took part in the War of Liberation of the Chinese people as a soldier of the People's Liberation Army and a member of the Communist Party of China.

In July 2014, on the 77th anniversary of the Lugouqiao Incident, China's ambassador to Israel Gao Yanping visited a cemetery in the outskirts of Tel Aviv to commemorate Rosenfeld, laying a wreath with great respect on behalf of Chinese Vice-Premier Liu Yandong. The memorial on the wreath read: "In Commemoration of Jakob Rosenfeld, the Anti-Japanese-

Aggression Internationalist Fighter". In May that year, during her visit to Israel, Liu told a story about the friendship between her father, General Liu Ruilong, and Rosenfeld during the war against Japan and presented to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a group photo of Rosenfeld with General Liu and a few other generals.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the victory in the war against Japan and World War II against fascism, we Chinese people remember the contributions our international friend made. In September 2015, the CPAFFC, on behalf of the Chinese government, invited nearly 200 international friends who helped us in wartime, along with their families, to attend the commemoration ceremony in China. Regrettably, none of Rosenfeld's relatives came.

Rosenfeld remained unmarried all his life. Many of his family members were persecuted and killed by the Nazis. When we attempted to contact his niece Freja, who had been to

China twice to attend commemorative activities, we sadly learned that she had died. If he could see from the heavens what was going on in China on Sept 3, Rosenfeld might feel greatly reassured, witnessing the strength and power of the PLA, the peaceful life of the Chinese people and the tremendous changes that have taken place in the nation for which he fought.

I joined the CPAFFC in 1993 after graduation from university. The first story about our international friends I heard was about Dr. Rosenfeld. At the end of 1992, our association and the government of Shandong province jointly unveiled a statue of Rosenfeld at a ceremony formally naming Rosenfeld Hospital in commemoration of this international humanitarian fighter. Some of my colleagues accompanied the Austrian delegation of senior officials, led by the executive vice-chairman of the Austrian Federal Council, to attend the ceremonies. When they came back, they told us touching stories about Rosenfeld. On the bookshelf in my office is a book titled *Dr. Rosenfeld in China*. The book's title was handwritten by General Zhang Aiping. Its preface was written by General Gu Mu. Twenty retired army generals, including Hong Xuezhi, Ye Fei, Ji Pengfei, Zhang Zhen, Chen Shiqu, Liang Biye, Cui Yueli and Chen Minzhang, contributed inscriptions. In addition, some veteran revolutionaries, such as Mrs. Lin Yueqin, wife of Marshal Luo Ronghuan, wrote articles to commemorate their old friend.

Mr. Chen Haosu, former president of the CPAFFC, once told us that Dr. Rosenfeld was the first person he saw in the world after his birth.

In 1995, the CPAFFC held a launching ceremony for the book *Biography of Dr. Rosenfeld*. The Austrian defense minister at the time led a delegation to visit the CPAFFC. I served as the interpreter during that visit. I still remember the presence of the famous General Wan Yi, who had served as commander-in-chief of the First Column of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army (later called the Fourth Field Army). Rosenfeld was then the head of the medical corps. Despite suffering from severe glaucoma, which made him almost blind, General Wan managed to find his way to the ceremony, helped by his assistant. The general told us he and Rosenfeld were great chums during the war, and that the Austrian doctor saved his life. He said he definitely would never miss the occasion commemorating his old comrade-in-arms.

All these stories made me more curious about Dr. Rosenfeld. After having read a large number of books and historical records about him, and having attended a series of commemoration activities and listening to stories from several of his former comrades and bodyguards in the Army — like Wu Zhili, Li Guang and Fang Zheng — I had a vivid, positive image of Dr. Rosenfeld in my mind.

The Chinese name Luo Shengte was given by Shen Qizhen, the director

of the Military Medical Service Department of the New Fourth Army, to Jakob Rosenfeld.

Born in Garizien in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1903 (within the territory of Ukraine today), Rosenfeld graduated from the University of Vienna with a doctorate in medicine. Unfortunately, as he was born to a Jewish family, he was persecuted by the Nazis and confined to a concentration camp. In 1938, he went to Shanghai, and opened a clinic in the French Concession. Despite his sufferings, he always harbored sympathy for the poor and for Communist Party members, since he had been educated with progressive ideas. Recommended by Hans Shippe, a member of the German Communist Party, Rosenfeld decided to give up his good living conditions and job in Shanghai, and join the New Fourth Army, to contribute to the war against fascism.

In March 1941, disguised as a Christian priest, he traveled to Yancheng, the headquarters of the New Fourth Army, after trekking through several Japanese blockades. He was the first foreigner to join the New Fourth Army. A welcoming meeting was held for him, hosted by Acting Army Commander Chen Yi, with remarks given by Political Commissar Liu Shaoqi. Rosenfeld was then appointed as the Health Consultant of the Army and was put in charge of training medical personnel. He helped set up the Army's Huazhong Health School. In 1942, on the recommendation of

Chen Yi and Qian Junrui, he became a special member of the Communist Party of China.

In order to treat Marshal Luo Ronghuan's serious kidney disease, Dr. Rosenfeld was transferred to serve as a consultant of the Department of Health in the Shandong Military Region of the Eighth Route Army in 1943. After the war, he went to the northeastern region with Marshal Luo and accepted an appointment as director of the Department of Health of the First Column of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army (which later became the 38th Army), the highest position any international friend has ever taken in our military. He followed the Army in the War of Liberation and participated in many significant battles including the so-called Four Battles in Siping, and the conquest of Jinzhou, a strategically important city in Northeast China. In early 1949, Rosenfeld came to Beijing as the Fourth Field Army took the city, and was diagnosed with severe coronary heart disease.

After the victory of the revolution, Rosenfeld returned to his Austrian hometown in November 1949, as he deeply missed his family. Before Rosenfeld's departure, Marshal Luo gave him his pocket watch as a memento of respect. The inscription read simply: "To Dr. Rosenfeld, Luo Ronghuan". Liu Shaoqi spoke with Rosenfeld in Tianjin. Chen Yi held a reception for him in Shanghai, and awarded certificates of honor (both in Chinese and German) from the Third

Field Army, the Fourth Field Army and the Shanghai government, commending him as a "living Dr. Bethune".

Rosenfeld took the uniforms of the New Fourth Army and the People's Liberation Army with him when he returned to his homeland.

After returning home, Dr. Rosenfeld sadly found that his mother and other family members had either died or were dispersed. It was the time of the Cold War, and local community refused to accept him because he had come from China, a communist country. He once hoped to go back to China; unfortunately, he didn't make it. In 1951, he went to Israel to visit his relatives, and a year later he died in Tel Aviv.

Dr. Rosenfeld was a man of integrity and firm faith. He took part in China's revolution out of hatred for fascism and sympathy for communist ideals. When he heard of the sudden attack on the New Fourth Army by forces of the Kuomintang in what was later known as the Southern Anhui Incident, he said in anger: "The KMT is destroying the anti-Japanese united front. How could they open fire on their compatriots? I have no attachment, and I'm going to northern Jiangsu province" to join with the remnants of the New Fourth Army based there. Shen Jizhen told him that life in northern Jiangsu was "the most primitive, which is not suitable for foreigners". Rosenfeld replied: "What I care about is justice. I have survived confinement in the Nazi concentration camps; the harsh living

conditions will not be a problem for me."

Rosenfeld experienced an ideological change before joining the Communist Party of China. At first, he just wanted to fight fascism. In the early years, he was a social democrat who could not accept certain policies of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by Stalin. After joining the New Fourth Army, he found the CPC different: The Chinese communists shared his ideals. So he joined the CPC, sparing no effort to contribute to the Chinese People's War of Liberation after World War II. Strong in faith, he risked his life to perform medical operations at the front. For the sake of his life, officials planned to send him to hospitals in the rear, but he replied sharply in Chinese: *Bu hao ban!* — meaning "that's impossible".

Rosenfeld never dwelled on fame or wealth; he lived a simple life. He gave up his comfortable circumstances in Shanghai and went to northern Jiangsu. His clinic — called "Dr. Rosenfeld" — was famous in the French Concession in Shanghai. After coming to Yancheng, leaders of the New Fourth Army hoped he would take the post of the director of the Health Department, but he declined. After he was transferred to Shandong province, Marshal Luo wanted to appoint him as the Health Department head of the Shandong Military District, but he declined that as well, saying: "I am a foreigner, I can't speak Chinese, and Huang Nong is more suitable than



me to take the post” — a reference to Wang Yutian, the former director of the Department of Health of the Northeast Democratic Allied Army and later the New China’s first ambassador to West Germany. Rosenfeld was then appointed by Marshal Luo as consultant to the Department of Health. Huang Nong was appointed director upon his arrival in Shandong to assist Rosenfeld in carrying out the work.

Dr. Rosenfeld never made any special demands about his living situation. He ate coarse grain pancakes like everybody else. Whenever coffee was found in the spoils of victory after battles, he would be very happy; and he would always share with others the chocolates, milk candies and other spoils given to him by comrades. In January 1945, in celebration of his 42nd birthday, his bodyguard asked him what he wanted to eat. He asked for 42 dumplings. The bodyguard was surprised at the simple request, especially since 42 dumplings seemed too many for one person to eat. Rosenfeld explained that he wanted to share the dumplings with others just as he shared birthday cake with his family back in Austria.

Rosenfeld possessed superb medical skills and noble ethics. Graduating as a doctor of synthetic medicine from the University of Vienna Medical College, he had the highest educational background of all the international friends working in liberated areas at that time, including work at the Affiliated Hospital of

the University of Vienna and private practice specializing in urology.

Despite the limited medical facilities in the base areas of the Communist army, he successfully treated the serious kidney disease of Marshal Luo, which allowed the commander to continue his work in Shandong province. In 1944, Wan Yi, chief commander of the Binhai Detachment of the Shandong Military District, was seriously wounded in a battle with Japanese troops. A bullet pierced his tongue and knocked out seven teeth. Rosenfeld treated him. Highly trusted by the leaders, Rosenfeld was the only physician authorized to draw from the limited stores of sulfanilamide and penicillin, which were very hard to get during wartime. Upon his arrival in Yancheng, Rosenfeld began to undertake operations immediately, working from 8 am to midnight and also helping others to carry the stretchers of the wounded. In addition, he set up medical schools, compiled teaching materials and gave lessons, fostering a large team of medical personnel for the army.

News that a “magical foreign doctor” had come spread around the base area. Local people flocked to the Army’s clinic, hoping Dr. Rosenfeld would treat their diseases. Rosenfeld never refused a request. At that time, local people were very poor and paid little attention to hygiene. Rosenfeld was not fazed: To make accurate diagnoses, he discarded his stethoscope and instead put his ear directly on the

body of the patient without hesitation. He suppressed the inevitable feelings of revulsion during the treatment of some cases so as not to offend the patients. He showed respect for them. In the base area, where medicines were scarce, he was a “panacea” doctor, who could deal with various diseases from parasites to inner-ear infections. Fifty years later, Zhang Yueqin, a peasant from Shandong province who had been treated by Rosenfeld, sent a silk banner to his niece to express her gratitude for his efforts. Stitched on the banner were the words: “There would not be my family if there were no Dr. Rosenfeld”.

Rosenfeld’s life became legendary. Of all foreign friends who served in our army, he served the longest — eight years. He took part not only in the fight against Japan but also in the War of Liberation, establishing deep friendships with many CPC and Army leaders. He interviewed some of them, hoping that he could write a book about those extraordinary leaders of the Communist Party of China, and promote the image of the new China to the world. He also tried to visit Yan’an, the revolutionary base, but failed because the roads were blocked by the enemy. Chen Yi wrote him a letter in 1942, saying: “Dr. Rosenfeld, as our anti-fascist ally, you have come a long way from abroad to China to take part in the anti-Japanese war and engaged in the work of the New Fourth Army on the front line. You have witnessed and experienced the arduous struggles

of the Army, which make you the most qualified witness of the New Fourth Army.”

When talking about Dr. Rosenfeld, we should pay tribute to Prof. Gerd Kaminski, executive vice-president of the Austria-China Friendship Association, for his efforts to collect and compile historical materials about Rosenfeld. His masterpieces, including *History of Austria-China Friendship* and *Biography of Dr. Rosenfeld* brings the doctor’s wartime experience and character alive.

According to Kaminski, the first time he heard about Rosenfeld was in the 1970s from Harry Sichrovski, who was a member of the Austria-China Friendship Association, and once served as a resident correspondent for *Volksstimme* of the Communist Party of Austria in Beijing. Later on, Tang Ke, former minister for the petroleum industry, also mentioned Rosenfeld’s contribution to the Chinese revolution during his visit to Vienna. An official in the delegation also presented to Harry an article written by Rosenfeld’s former bodyguard Liu Hongde, whose wife was a nurse in Rosenfeld’s department. Through the introduction of Liu, Kaminski made acquaintance with Li Guang, another of Rosenfeld’s bodyguards. The two provided him with firsthand information about the doctor.

Professor Du Wentang of the Institute of History at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has translated many German books, thus giving Chinese readers a chance to

know about the findings made by the Austrian researchers.

As China’s largest civil organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy, the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has held many activities in commemorating Dr. Rosenfeld over the past 20 years, in an effort to champion the deeds of that great soldier of internationalism and humanity, who is an enduring symbol of the friendship between Austria and China.

In 1992, a high-level Austrian delegation attended a Rosenfeld commemoration in Shandong province at the invitation of the CPAFFC. Members of the delegation were received by former Chinese President Yang Shangkun during their visit in Beijing. In 1998, Bu He, who was vice-chairman of the National People’s Congress at the time, paid a visit to Austria and inaugurated Rosenfeld’s residence as a monument, accompanied by the president of the Austrian Federal Council. On the 100th anniversary of Rosenfeld’s birthday in 2003, the CPAFFC held an exhibition at the National Museum, which was attended by Wang Zhaoguo, then the vice-chairman of the National People’s Congress, and Anna Haselbach, deputy president of the Austrian Federal Council.

The leaders of the CPAFFC have all attached great importance to activities commemorating Dr. Rosenfeld, to help more people learn about this great warrior of internationalism and

human dignity. In July 2015, President Li Xiaolin of the CPAFFC paid a visit to Austria and presented the Austria-China Friendship Association two items that had been used by Rosenfeld — a scarf and a cutlery bag — which were gifts sent by Rosenfeld to his former bodyguard Li Guang. On the 70th anniversary of victory in the Anti-Fascist War, Mrs. Gong Youlin, widow of Li Guang, made a special trip from Chengdu to Beijing to visit CPAFFC to donate those objects, which she has saved for 70 years.

CPAFFC President Li met with Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer, who knew a lot about the activities of our association in commemoration of Dr. Rosenfeld. Back in 1992, serving as the president of the National Council, he wrote a letter to our association to show his gratitude for our work.

In 2003, *Jakob Rosenfeld: Ich kannte sie alle, Das Tagebuch des chinesischen Generals Jakob Rosenfeld* was published. Former Chinese President Hu Jintao wrote a letter of congratulation for the publishing of the book’s Chinese edition, which reads: “From 1941 to 1949, Dr. Rosenfeld contributed his most precious years to the liberation of the Chinese people, and his brilliant achievements have been written into history. He is a symbol of the friendship between Austrian and Chinese peoples, and will be cherished in the memory of future generations forever.” ■

## A Trip of Linked Heart—The Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association Delegation’s Visit to China

**Zuo Fengqiang**

In early summer, some tourists on the Mutianyu Great Wall in Beijing were drawn to the beautiful, soft sound of a flute, which lingered around the watchtowers. Following the sound, they found a middle-aged European man reclining on the gray stairs of a tower, flute in hand, immersed in the music. That man was Mr. Vladimir Martinovski, a member of the Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association Delegation and the association’s secretary-general. He was performing a Macedonian song with a wooden Macedonian flute. The music brought the visitors a vision of charming pastoral scenery: a lush green hillside, a band of sheep enjoying a meal, a shepherd lying leisurely on the slope overlooking the sheep, playing his beloved pipe and envisioning the good life of the future.

The Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association delegation, led by Mr.

Ljupcho Malenkov, paid a visit to China at the invitation of the CPAFFC from June 7 to 15 this year. Among the delegates were Mr. Klime Korobar,



**Mr. Vladimir Martinovski played the Macedonian flute on the Great Wall**

the venerable honorary president of the SMFA, with his full white beard reinforcing his nickname, “Marx”; Mr. Vladimir Martinovski, secretary-general of the association and a versatile poet who played music during the trip; Mr. Reshat Ameti, a painter; and Ms. Suzana Stasovska, a Macedonian soprano whose graceful songs immersed the delegation in joy all the way.

It was my first opportunity since joining the CPAFFC to accompany Macedonian guests in China. We visited Beijing, Changzhou and Shanghai. During the journey, Hu Sishe, vice-president of the CPAFFC; Zhang Yue, vice-chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Changzhou committee; and Zhang Xiaosong, president of the Shanghai Friendship Association, met with the delegation.

During the delegation’s time in



Beijing, the Eurasian Department, China Friendship Art Exchange Association of the CPAFFC and the Songzhuang Jindian Gallery presented the 2016 China-Macedonia Friendly Art Exhibition and Academic Symposium for the delegation. The exhibition displayed 20 paintings by delegate Mr. Reshat Ameti. Artists from China and Macedonia exchanged their thoughts on the arts. Mr. Ilija Isajlovski, Macedonia's ambassador to China, also attended the exhibition, and delivered a warm speech at the opening ceremony.

The government of Xicheng District in Beijing invited the delegation to the Tianqiao Art Center and the Capital Museum. On behalf of the district director, deputy district director Wu Xiangyang invited the delegation to have tea and talks at the Dawancha Teahouse. The China Opera and Dance Theater sent a special car to pick up Ms. Suzana to watch its opera rehearsal.

In Changzhou, the delegates went to the Changzhou Museum, the Changzhou City Planning Exhibition Hall and the Liu Haisu Memorial, where they exchanged artworks with their Chinese colleagues. In Shanghai, the delegation paid a visit to the Shanghai Friendship Association, participated in the shooting of a film that celebrates the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Shanghai Friendship Association, and visited the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall.

It has been more than 10 years since the CPAFFC last received a Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association delegation. Before the visit, our association made elaborate prearrangements. Art is the external expression of the human mind. Although nations differ in language, art is without borders, enabling us to link our hearts. The interactive activities between painters from both countries in Songzhuang and Hangzhou's Liu Haisu Memorial served as a bridge to link the hearts of both peoples, and made the guests' trip a heart-to-heart journey.

Macedonia is a small, newly independent landlocked country on

the Balkan Peninsula. The people there are simple, honest, enthusiastic and vigorous. The delegation's visit to China was accompanied by songs and laughter all the way. And what we described at the beginning of this article was one of the most touching scenes. At the farewell dinner in Changzhou, Director Zhang Guojun of the Changzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Ms. Suzana sang in chorus a famous song, Meeting at the Yurt in Chinese. Their emotional singing touched the audience. Right after that, Mr. Martinovski played traditional folk music with the dobro, a traditional instrument of Macedonia.

The whole visit was full of touch-



**Painters from China and Macedonia make paintings together**

ing moments. June 8 marked the 58th birthday of Mr. Malenkov, the head of the delegation. Accompanied by the sweet song *Happy Birthday To You*, a cake was presented to him as a surprise at the end of the reception dinner hosted by CPAFFC Vice-President Hu Sishe. Mr. Malenkov was moved to tears. Ms. Suzana is very fond of Chinese liquor, but the drink was very expensive in the restaurant, so the CPAFFC receptionists went to the market to buy some for her. Martinovski is a music fan, who carried and played the traditional Macedonian instruments — the flute and dobro — throughout the journey. Unfortunately, he lost his flute on the high-speed train during the trip from Beijing to Changzhou. The accompanying CPAFFC personnel contacted the railway service personnel immediately, and upon their arrival in Shanghai, after visiting Changzhou, they went to the Hongqiao Railway Station to look for the missing instrument, and finally found it. All those heartwarming acts made the delegation's visit to China a touching journey.

During the visit, Mr. Malenkov often talked enthusiastically about the development of the Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association. He is also the curator of the Macedonian National Gallery. The Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association was established in 1995 with more than 300 members, most of them being celebrities in various fields. The first chairman of the Association was Mr. Kiro Gligorov, the first president of the Republic of Mace-

donia. The association holds activities relevant to China every year and receives Chinese delegations from time to time, which has won it high popularity and wide impact in Macedonia. Although the association is a nongovernmental organization, it has always been supported by the government.

The SMFA has some local branches in Macedonia. In 20 years, the association contributed greatly to the signing of many cultural cooperation agreements between China and Macedonia. Last November, the association elected Mr. Malenkov, the former secretary-general, as its president, when former president Mr. Klime Korobar resigned. Mr. Vladimir Martinovski, a professor at St. Cyril University and litterateur, took the post of secretary-general. The new president is very friendly to China and has not only sent his son to study Chinese culture in the country, but also encouraged the younger Mr. Malenkov to become a member of the friendship association, hoping his son would follow in his footsteps. He has said on many occasions that Macedonia attaches great importance to its relations with China, and always regards China as its best friend. He also said that the Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association will make unremitting efforts to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

Every time members of the delegation talked about their country, they beamed with pride. The Republic of Macedonia covers an area of 25,713 square kilometers and had a popula-

tion of 2.11 million in 2014, with a per capita GDP of \$5,371. Macedonia has enjoyed supreme glory in history: It is where the empire of Alexander the Great was born, with its border reaching to Persia. Nowadays, however, Macedonia's domestic economy has been hurt by the global economic recession. Fortunately, with nine years of unremitting efforts by the government and the people, Macedonia has reduced its domestic unemployment rate from 34 percent to 26 percent. In Macedonia, the air is filled with the scent of wine, fruits and vegetables, giving visitors a feeling of being in a fairyland.

On Oct 12, 1993, the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Macedonia at the ambassadorial level. The two countries have maintained stable development in their relationship ever since. In June 1997, then-Macedonian president Kiro Gligorov paid a visit to China and signed a joint statement with former Chinese president Jiang Zemin that ushered in a new era of friendly relations between the two countries. We sincerely believe that the Sino-Macedonian Friendship Association delegation's visit to China will open a new chapter in bilateral friendly exchanges. ■

## Key Chinese Concepts



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/qi á n/  
Heaven

“八卦”之一，由三个“阳爻”组成。又为“六十四卦”之一，由六个“阳爻”组成。按照易学的解释，由于“乾”卦全部由阳爻组成，因此具有纯阳之性，被用以象征各种阳性的事物或原则。“乾”卦的基本象征意义是天，在社会领域主要象征男性、父亲、君主等社会角色以及刚健有为的行事原则。结合“乾”卦的各种象征意义，“乾”还被赋予了创生、统领万物之义。

One of the eight trigrams, it consists of three yang lines. It is also one of the 64 hexagrams when it consists of six yang lines. According to experts on *The Book of Changes*, as the qian trigram is composed only of yang lines it is purely yang and is thus used to symbolize all yang things or principles. The qian trigram symbolizes heaven, and in society it symbolizes the social roles played by the male, the father, and the monarch, as well as decisive and vigorous ways of doing things. In view of what qian symbolizes, it also means creating and leading all things under heaven.



坤  
/k ū n/  
Earth

“八卦”之一，由三个“阴爻”组成。又为“六十四卦”之一，由六个“阴爻”组成。按照易学的解释，由于“坤”卦全部由“阴爻”组成，因此具有纯“阴”之性，被用以象征各种“阴”性的事物或原则。“坤”卦的基本象征意义是地，在社会领域主要象征女性、母亲、臣民等社会角色以及柔顺宽厚的行事原则。结合“坤”卦的各种象征意义，“坤”还被赋予了创生、长养万物之义。

One of the eight trigrams, it consists of three yin lines. It is also one of the 64 hexagrams when it consists of six yin lines. According to experts on *The Book of Changes*, as the kun trigram is composed only of yin lines it is purely yin and is thus used to symbolize all yin things or principles. The kun trigram symbolizes earth, and in society it symbolizes the social roles played by the female, the mother, and the subjects of the ruler, as well as gentle, kind and generous ways of doing things. In view of what kun symbolizes, it also means creating and nourishing all things under heaven. (*From China Today*)



# A Brief History of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries



Founded on September 13, 1956, the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) is one of the first local branches of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. In its 60-year history, it has been committed to people-to-people exchanges with foreign countries and regions. It is proud to say that up to 2015, it has forged a relationship of exchange with 345 friendly organizations in 100 countries, and has received nearly 1,000 delegations of 100,000 people from 100-plus countries. From 1979 to the end of 2015, it has dispatched more 600 goodwill missions and professional delegations of more than 3,000 delegates to visit nearly 50 countries and regions.

Upon the eve of its 60th birthday, the Voice of Friendship has produced a special column to record its 60 years of entrepreneurship, struggle, perseverance and achievements. It also highlights its commitment, insistence, innovation and creativity in the 21st century through this reflection. ■

# Questions & Answers on the SPAFFC and People-to-People Diplomacy

## Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

In 1954, on a trip to the Geneva Conference, then-premier Zhou Enlai took with him a film — *Butterfly Lovers* — the first color adaptation of a traditional Chinese opera, starring Yuan Xuefen, a master of Yueju Opera and former vice-president of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and Fan Ruijuan, another well-known actress. It was a sensation among foreign officials and journalists and made headlines in all the major media.

Unlike solemn official publicity, the film conveys in a natural way Chinese people's aspirations for peace and happiness.

Such is the power of people-to-people diplomacy.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the birth of the SPAFFC. Recently, we interviewed Yang Jiemian, chair of the Academic Committee of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies — a research fellow, doctoral

tutor and a counselor in the Counselors' Office of the Shanghai Municipal Government.

**Q: What is people-to-people diplomacy? What kind of an organization is Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries?**

**Yang:** Let me start from 1949. In its early years, the People's Republic of China was faced with a not-so-friendly international environment. Encircled by hostile international forces, China found itself in diplomatic relations with only a few countries. In order to break the blockade and enhance other peoples' understanding of China, Premier Zhou Enlai proposed that there should be official diplomacy, semiofficial diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy. The Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries falls into

the category of people-to-people diplomacy.

For example, before the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, our people-to-people diplomacy was flourishing, which served as good preparation for the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In the words of the common people, people-to-people diplomacy promotes official diplomacy.

Japan's Matsuyama Ballet Troupe came to China to perform *The White-Haired Girl*, and our ballet troupe also went to Japan to perform. During its tour in Japan, the Chinese side sent people to contact different circles. Zhu Shi, a veteran scholar of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, experienced the whole process as interpreter for the Shanghai Ballet Troupe.

Another example is ping-pong diplomacy. In the absence of contacts

between China and the United States for more than 20 years, the sport prides itself on this well-known slogan: “The small ball pushes the globe”.

Organizationally, people-to-people diplomacy — aside from the trade unions, youth federation and women’s federation — also contains cultural, educational, opera and other nongovernmental organizations. In general, people-to-people diplomacy is based on individuals and seldom makes forays into the arena of ideology. It represents a broad cross-section of the people, and it conducts exchanges with nongovernmental organizations in many countries.

**Q: People-to-people diplomacy continues to extend with social development, how should one look at this?**

**Yang:** Not only the extension. Its content is also changing. Since the start of reform and opening-up, our national interests have extended, not only in political and economic security but also development security and ecological security. It is only natural that people-to-people diplomacy has extended.

When Deng Xiaoping, as vice-premier, visited the United States in 1979, China and the US reached agreement to exchange the first batch of students and visiting scholars. Two years ago, President Xi Jinping and US President Barack Obama concluded an agreement that calls for exchange of

100,000 students. So we must go with the times and adopt a new approach. With the development of new media and new means of telecommunication, the work we do today is entirely different from what we did in the past. But our goals remain clear.

**Q: Official diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy go side-by-side, so how would the latter play a supporting role for official diplomacy in meeting national interests?**

**Yang:** It is not appropriate to say a supporting role. It is like what we said in the past, that a train depends entirely on its locomotive to run fast. But the high-speed trains of today have several engines, not just one locomotive. I fully agree with what you said earlier — that is, official diplomacy and people-to-people diplomacy go alongside each other.

On the other hand, the official side also works in concert with people-to-people diplomacy. When friendly

foreign organizations and people visit China, our officials also meet them. And people-to-people diplomacy has extended to individuals — for example, Bill Gates and Ma Yun. When Bill Gates came to China, China’s top leaders met with him, and President Obama and the king of Belgium also met with Ma Yun. Ma Yun is a business leader, who represents a new type of industrial sector and interacts with advanced science, technology and IT around the world.

**Q: What are unique features of people-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai?**

**Yang:** In my view, there are three. First, it has a long history. It started in the early years of New China, after its founding in 1949. The organization was called the China-Soviet Friendship Association, the predecessor of the SPAFFC. Some veteran members of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies took part in some friendly



Yang Jiemian



activities between China and the Soviet Union even before 1949. I personally have met with quite a few of them. Most of them have passed away now. They showed me a photo of Chairman Mao Zedong meeting with Soviet guests, with one of the veterans as the interpreter.

Another veteran official worked for the TASS Shanghai Bureau before 1949. These things were rarely seen elsewhere because Shanghai, which was forced to open as a port city after the Opium Wars, has maintained ties with other countries for a long time.

Second, Shanghai has always been a window of China for people-to-people friendly exchanges with foreign countries in different historical periods. Therefore, Shanghai has many things to show the world, such as the development of New China, the livelihoods of people after 1949 and the city's contacts with other countries.

Third, we have talented people in all sectors for people-to-people diplomacy, such as Yuan Xuefen and Du Xuan, a former leader of SPAFFC, from the cultural sector. They were giants in their respective areas, internationally and domestically.

Talking about ping-pong diplomacy, Shanghai is the birthplace of table tennis, and many of China's best players were from Shanghai at that time. The same is the case with scientists. Of course, other parts of China have all greatly developed today. But I think, on top of what we have achieved, we should look a bit further, go a little faster and do more than other

places.

**Q:** *How should we view the new national strategy put forward after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China? How will people-to-people diplomacy play its role?*

**Yang:** It is an opportunity, as well as challenge, that history has given us — which is not only an economic question but also a political one. What is important here is the common aspirations of the people.

We should note that the world is changing, and diplomacy has walked out of its ivory tower. Participation by the broad masses of the people has provided more driving power for people-to-people diplomacy.

**Q:** *On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of SPAFFC, what expectations and wishes do you have for the organization?*

**Yang:** When the association was first established, we were encircled by hostile forces, ring upon ring. Our country was poor and the level of education and living standards of our people low. Today, we have become the second-largest economy in the world. The G20 summit in Hangzhou was a grand global meeting in a real sense. So we stand now on a historical new starting point. There is a lot more we can do and achieve. Times have made it so.

We should make good use of all

kinds of means, platforms and forces. For example, in the past, when the world knew little about New China, we used the film *Butterfly Lovers* to communicate with the outside world. But it was merely a film, and not many people had the opportunity to see it. Today, there are films and videos about Shanghai we can show to the whole world.

If people-to-people friendly contacts are restricted to the exchange of material interests, then we will not be able to foster a vision and go far. We should turn it into a goal for which the Chinese people and the people of the world will strive. In the words of today, it is the common destiny of mankind. We should express clearly the thought behind this common destiny and make it a goal that can be accomplished with effort.

There is also a question of talent. In those years, Shanghai was at the forefront of the Chinese film industry, and table tennis was able to succeed with ping-pong diplomacy. Our football is not so good, so there is no football diplomacy. When the people of other countries all want to send their children to study in Shanghai, and when they all wish to borrow China's experience in reform and opening-up, then our friendship associations will have reached a new height in term of talent.

A private company in Shanghai has this motto: "To be second means falling behind". I fully agree with it. We should be ambitious and turn potential into reality. ■

# People-to-People Diplomacy Gives Full Play To “Soft Propellant Force” of People’s Friendship

## Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Li Xiaolin, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, reviewed the course of people-to-people diplomacy since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, especially its important role in cultural exchange.

Interviewed by Voice of Friendship magazine, Li said that in the past 60 years, people-to-people diplomacy — which aims to enhance goodwill, advance international cooperation, maintain world peace and promote common development — has focused on making friends worldwide, consolidated and expanded popular support for friendly relationships between China and countries around



the world and promoted the solidarity and progress of the entire human race.

As the oldest civilian organization in people-to-people diplomacy in China, the CPAFFC has maintained friendly and cooperative relationships with more than 500 nongovernmental organizations in 157 countries. It has done a massive amount of highly effective work and played an irreplaceable part in cementing people’s friendships, paving the way for developing relations between China and the rest of the world and enhancing international cooperation.

The Shanghai Association — the SPAFFC — is a non-governmental organization that also aims at cultivating people-to-people communication with other countries. Since its founding in 1956, it has forged friendships with 345 organizations in 100 countries and

received nearly 10,000 delegations from more than 100 countries, totaling 120,000 foreign friends. It has greatly promoted Shanghai's cooperation with the rest of the world in many fields — economics, trade, education, science, technology, culture, sports, medicine, health, social welfare, youth, history and personnel — and has contributed to Shanghai's economic and social development.

### 60 Years Ago, One Opera

#### Moved the World

When asked about her impression of people-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai, Li replied: "Since I joined the CPAFFC in 1975, Shanghai is the city I have been to the most times. It remains a top destination on the itineraries we prepare for visiting delegations, and almost all our guests want to include a visit to the city on their China trip. Shanghai holds a profound historical and cultural heritage, and it always radiates unique charms."

People-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai has been through a path rich in history and culture. In 1953, *Butterfly Lovers*, the first color opera art film of the People's Republic of China — starring Yuan Xuefen and Fan Ruijuan — was made in Shanghai and acclaimed internationally as the *Romeo and Juliet* of the East.

In 1954, Premier Zhou Enlai took

the film to Geneva when he went there to attend meetings. A big hit, it won a series of honors, including a prize from China's Ministry of Culture and awards at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 1954 and Edinburgh International Film Festival 1955.

"I have never seen such an extraordinary film before," film master Charlie Chaplin said at the time. "Such a film is essential. It contains several thousand years of Chinese culture."

Yuan Xuefen, one of the two leading actresses, was then president of Shanghai Yueju Opera House and vice-president of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. She devoted all her life to Yueju Opera. By "going international" with the opera, she promoted cultural exchange with other countries and contributed to people-to-people diplomacy. Today, *Butterfly Lovers* is a cultural treasure of the Chinese people and a beautiful memory for the people of the world.

### 60 Years Later, One Dance

#### Shakes the World

The crested ibis was a bird relatively unfamiliar to most Chinese people before 2014. In the 20 years of official diplomacy between China and Japan, the bird, as a friendly envoy, has become a bridge connecting the two countries.

When visiting Japan in 1998,

Chinese President Jiang Zemin presented, on behalf of his government, two of the birds — known as You You and Yang Yang — to the Japanese people. In 2000, Zhu Rongji, then-Chinese premier, visited Japan and also took another crested ibis — Mei Mei — along. And, on his Japan trip in 2007, Wen Jiabao, who was premier at that time, again presented a pair of birds — Hua Yang and Yi Shui, to China's neighbor on behalf of the Chinese government.

The crested ibis not only has been an envoy for official diplomacy between China and Japan but has also played a significant part in people-to-people diplomacy.

In 2014, a dance drama, *Crested Ibises*, was getting public attention. On Oct 8 that year, Xinhua News Agency published news and pictures under the headline "Dance Drama *Crested Ibises* Has Successful Premiere in Japan". Shanghai Dance Theatre performed, and was warmly received by the local audience, Xinhua reported. The performance was sponsored by the CPAFFC and a Japanese music association. CPAFFC President Li, along with Cheng Yonghua, the Chinese ambassador to Japan and some 1,500 people from political, business, culture and other circles of Japan attended.

The production was four years in the making, from script writing to rounds of discussion, rehearsal and final staging. When it was ready to "go international", Japan was chosen as

the venue for the world premiere. The important reason was that the crested ibis is an auspicious bird in the eyes of the Japanese, and they well remember their concern when this species was once on the verge of extinction because of pollution. This was about the Chinese and Japanese people joining hands to save these beautiful birds.

From May 31 to Aug 2, 2015, *Crested Ibises* went on tour in Japan for 64 days, giving 57 performances in 29 prefectures and cities and attracting a combined audience of 120,000. Wherever it went, there was a long line of spectators waiting hours for tickets before the performance, and the theatres were always packed.

Ambassador Cheng noted: “The crested ibis is a symbol land envoy for friendship between China and Japan. The dance drama conveys to the Japanese people the best wishes of the Chinese people for lasting friendship between the two countries. It has given a push to cultural exchanges between the two countries.”

CPAFFC’s Li calls it “a significant thing to co-produce *Crested Ibises* with friends in Shanghai. Its performance in Japan has greatly promoted people-to-people exchanges between China and Japan. It displayed Shanghai’s stage art and boosted the city’s image. Its impact and the concept of harmony it conveys continue to spread even today.”

Through the crested ibis story, Li appeals for “harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and cherishing the beautiful homeland of mankind”. ■

## Former Vice-Mayor on People-to-People Diplomacy in Shanghai

**Wang Jiaye**

When speaking about Shanghai’s contacts with the outside world, one name cannot be skipped, and that is Zhao Qizheng, former vice-mayor of Shanghai and head of Shanghai Pudong New Area administration. During his time in office, his responsibilities covered, among other things, local foreign affairs and Pudong’s development and opening-up.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, or SPAFFC. In a recent interview, Zhao told about Shanghai’s people-to-people contacts with other countries and expressed his new hopes for the SPAFFC.

### **Making Friends Sincerely**

#### **by Telling True Stories**

Zhao has made many speeches in recent years — for example, “*Do a Job Telling Stories About China: Image of the Country and the Value of Public Diplomacy*”. He encourages people to tell

stories in a way that foreigners can understand and not use language found in government documents and editorials.

“Generally speaking, what civil organizations say is more easily trusted. When they tell stories, they usually do not use political vocabulary or philosophical sayings to make things larger. The friendship associations are good at telling stories. They tell you things going on around them or what they do,” Zhao said.

“I was responsible for the SPAFFC, and it is my big friend”, he said. “Etiquette serves thinking. If you just shake hands and exchange cards with your guests and have no more fol-





low-up, it will not take you anywhere. What you want is to be able to contact them when Shanghai has needs. You should make true friends and stay in touch with them.

“I once accompanied the president of India on a visit to a suburban township in Shanghai,” Zhao recalled. “A village woman told the Indian president about her new house and showed the visitors where she and her husband lived, and where her son and daughter-in-law lived. When asked why her son’s room was better than hers, she replied that it’s because in China a daughter-in-law is an honored guest.

“A story is like an apple. In this case, the president took the vitamin C in the apple — that is, women are highly respected in China. Whether or not he absorbed the vitamin, that is his business, but it is ours to tell the story. If you tell it effectively, the apple will taste good. That is the difference between telling stories and directly talking about politics. It is not that we reject politics, but we put it in the stories,” Zhao said.

*Miracles in Pudong*, a book co-authored by Zhao and Shao Yudong, has been translated into English, Russian, Korean and Japanese.

### **For People-to-People Diplomacy, the Stage is Big**

Zhao said that with regard to foreign contacts the local foreign affairs office is a government department that

shoulders a heavy workload and faces a formal limit when performing its duties, whereas civil and social organizations are more flexible in both form and content. In this sense, the SPAFFC has a big stage for dances such as samba and rumba with Latin Americans, standard ballroom dancing with Americans and yangge dance with Asians. The civil organizations are making, and will continue to make, contributions. This is an important reason why Shanghai is developing fast, he said.

On the other hand, Shanghai historically has been an important port, with wide foreign contacts and fewer cross-cultural barriers, and whose dialect contains many words derived from English. Its boundary with foreign countries is relatively soft, a factor favorable for people-to-people diplomacy.

In fact, in its 60 years, the SPAFFC has scored brilliant achievements. The major events the association held for exchanges with foreign countries in recent years include celebrations of the 30th and 40th anniversary of the 1972 Shanghai Communique between China and the United States; the Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp; the “China, Japan and ROK Children’s Painting” exhibition; the “Shanghai in the Eyes of Latin American Journalists” effort; the Hudec architectural heritage protection project; World Expo Shanghai 2010; China International Sister-City Conference 2010; business exchanges between SOEs (State-owned enterprises) and private enterprises with countries along

the route of the Belt and Road Initiative and the 1+16 countries; and exchanges between Shanghai’s districts and their counterparts in other countries.

### **Thinking over the Terrestrial Globe and Spreading New Chinese Culture**

“Thinking over the terrestrial globe and dialoguing with the whole world are essential to all those engaged in people-to-people diplomacy,” Zhao said. “If you look at the WeChat startup screen, it means exactly that.”

He encouraged members of the friendship association to focus more on new Chinese culture. China’s traditional culture contains such classics as operas, calligraphy and painting, but today it is more important to introduce new Chinese culture — for example, how to use the essence of philosopher Laozi’s teachings to guide what we do today. And we should explain clearly to foreigners our domestic and foreign policies through stories.

It’s been six decades since the birth of the SPAFFC. With regard to its future development and that of people-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai, Zhao said he sees a good foundation and plenty of room for growth against a background of economic globalization and political polarization.

“I hope the SPAFFC will take off and fly higher for the Chinese dream,” Zhao said. ■

# Ex-CPAFFC Leader Talks on Shanghai's Civil Diplomacy

Yang Jun

To mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Shanghai local news portal Eastday.com conducted an interview with Zhou Muyao, Shanghai's former vice-mayor and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, who reviewed achievements in the city's people-to-people diplomacy since the beginning of the 21st century and expressed wishes for its future development.

In the early years of the 21st century, Zhou was president of the SPAFFC. Foreign affairs and people-to-people exchanges with foreign countries were then of great significance for China as it greeted a new golden era of development, Zhou recalled. He believes that people-to-people diplomatic work, or "making friends" as it's popularly known, serves the city's economic development through cultural exchanges and social development.

## What makes Shanghai's people-to-people diplomacy?

As China's largest metropolis, Shanghai boasts the spirit captured by a Chinese saying: All rivers run into the sea — which means the city always opens its arms to cultural diversity. The city regards it as an obligation to serve the whole country and to embrace the

rest of the world. Zhou said that since Shanghai opened to the outside world earlier than other places in China, it is easier for exotic cultures to survive in the city. Expats also find it easy to adapt to the local living environment, which is definitely beneficial to the development of people-to-people diplomacy.

The SPAFFC is a mass organiza-



tion committed to forging closer ties between Shanghai and the world and to making Shanghai better known to people all over the world. Since its establishment in 1956, the association has created a variety of opportunities for communication and exchange. For instance, in 2015 it received a total of 161 delegations from 58 different countries and organized and assisted in 28 groups abroad. So far, the association has maintained good relationships with 345 friendly foreign organizations. Zhou said Shanghai's people-to-people diplomacy is driven by a professional, seasoned team with 60 years of profound working experience.

### Children diplomacy

The SPAFFC devotes itself to collaboration and exchanges between the city and the world in their economy, society, hi-tech, culture, education, sports and other areas. Zhou emphasized that the association's real value lies in "making friends", which means connecting with other countries at a people-to-people level, especially in communication with adolescents and younger children from all over the world.

In the 1990s people-to-people diplomacy had its focus set on establishment of a smooth mechanism at home and abroad. The association organized the Shanghai International Children's Cultural and Art Festival and the Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp.

Begun in 1994, the art festival is the earliest and most lasting multinational children's cultural exchange program in China. So far, the festival has drawn nearly 6,000 participants from over 40 countries and regions that have built friendships with more than 10,000 Chinese children.

The child diplomacy also means letting domestic children go abroad, in addition to welcoming foreign children to China. The festival was held in Sydney in 2005 and in Rome in 2008.

From 2005 to 2016 the Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp has received more than 1,000 young participants from nearly 50 countries and regions. The camp features joy, interaction and friendship and emphasizes "being a folk ambassador" — all of which were shown in a string of experience programs such as "Be a Shanghainese for a Day", "I Love Shanghai" (an urban orienteering competition), and "A Bite of China", featuring Chinese cuisine. Folk crafts are also part of the mix.

### "Honorary Citizen" and "Magnolia Award"

Zhou hopes the SPAFFC will pass on the fine tradition of making friends to raise the global profile of Shanghai Honorary Citizens and the winners of the Shanghai Magnolia Award.

The year 1989 saw the beginnings of honoring foreigners who live in Shanghai for their outstanding contribu-

tions to the city's development. In 1992 the city created the Magnolia Gold Award and Magnolia Silver Award. In 1993 the Gold Award was given for the first time to foreign friends for their achievements in Shanghai's economic development, social development and foreign exchange. In 1997 the Shanghai Honorary Citizen title was introduced as the top prize for expats in the city. By the end of 2015, 39 expats had been recognized with that title. In addition, there were 289 winners of the Magnolia Gold Award and 1,009 winners of the Magnolia Silver Award.

### The future prosperity of Shanghai's people-to-people diplomacy

In the new century, Shanghai residents have shown mounting enthusiasm for foreign exchanges and thus have created closer ties with people from all over the world. For a future vision of people-to-people diplomacy, Zhou advised deeper engagement of the masses and innovation. The previous idea of "More welcome, less going abroad" has become "More welcome, and even more going abroad".

In March 2016 the association began a strategic cooperation with Eastday.com in overseas marketing, branding, event planning, and people-to-people exchanges, all of which Zhou highly praised, saying that people-to-people diplomacy should keep up with the development direction of "Internet-Plus". ■

# Shanghai Organization Promotes People-to-People Diplomacy

## Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Chen Haosu — son of the first mayor of Shanghai and former president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries — reviewed in an interview with Eastday.com the historic changes made since “yesterday” and summed up the glorious achievements of “today” and look forward to the bright prospects of “tomorrow” for people-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai.

### “Yesterday”—Braving Winds and Rains Along a Journey of 60 Years

“My father once put forward his judgment that people-to-people diplomacy is a distinctive feature and advantage of China's diplomacy,” said the son of the late Marshall Chen Yi, who served as Shanghai's mayor after the victory of the War of Liberation. The relations of countries rest on amity

between the peoples. Steady and sound diplomatic relations depend on amity and trust and on an ardent desire to become friends, Chen Haosu said.

In people-to-people diplomacy, the people are the foundation, and friendship is the focus. The Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries — a people's organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy — was founded

in the mid-1950s and saw marked development in its first 10 years, going through a period of readjustment in the next decade, from 1967 to 1977. In the 38 years since the start of reform and opening-up in 1978, the well-prepared organization has gone all-out to make a great abundance of accomplishments.

On Sept 13, 1956, the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries





Shanghai Branch was established. It was one of the first such branches in the country, and Shanghai's earliest civil organization for people-to-people exchanges across borders.

In the decade that followed, it received 1,200 delegations, totaling 20,000 members from 96 countries. During that period, it hosted performances by 120 cultural and art troupes, including renowned ballet troupes, circuses, symphony orchestras, song and dance troupes and film delegations from the United States, Canada and Germany. It held more than 80 foreign arts and crafts exhibitions, including painting, sculpture and calligraphy. On Jan 5, 1966, it changed its name to the Chinese People's Association for Friendly Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Shanghai Branch.

From 1967 to 1977, the organization underwent some major changes in its structure and mode of operation, but people-to-people contacts did not come to a halt. It carried out exchanges with countries including Albania, Romania and Vietnam in the form of cultural performances and photo exhibition and received friendly delegations from Britain, France, Spain, Australia and New Zealand. After the normalization of relations with the United States in the 1970s, China established diplomatic relations with Japan and Western countries, which resulted in a sharp rise in the number of foreign visitors — topping 150,000 a year by the end of

the decade.

Since 1978, responding to the deepening reform and opening-up process, the rapid economic development and the ever-increasing cultural needs of the people, the organization has opened up new channels, innovated its work style and shifted the focus of its work to economic development and social service. In December 1986, the Shanghai Branch changed its name to Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, or SPAFFC. Through hosting economic forums, briefings and business talks, it has acted as a go-between for foreign businesses and Shanghai departments and helped local enterprises “go global” and send study groups overseas.

In order to enrich the cultural life of the public, particularly exchanges with other countries by the youth and the elderly, the SPAFFC holds some 20 events annually, including the Shanghai International Children's Cultural and Art Festival, Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp and Shanghai International Elderly Cultural Festival.

### **“Today”— An Abundance of Fruits**

The SPAFFC has erected a bridge of friendship between Shanghai and the world, and numerous foreign friends have come to city, while residents of the city have returned the favor, visiting

many different parts of the world.

People-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai has received great attention from the Communist Party of China, as well as the government and social circles. The secretaries of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee have successively served as its honorary president, while Shanghai municipal leaders and internationally renowned personages such as Meng Bo, Zhao Xingzhi, Su Buqing, Li Shoubao, Zhao Yunjun and Zhou Muyao have been its president successively.

People-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai has covered a wide range of areas. The SPAFFC has conducted friendly exchanges in the political, economic, financial, cultural, art, educational, scientific, technological, municipal, transportation, legal, health, youth, children, women, elderly, civil affairs, welfare and other areas.

With the deepening of reform and opening-up, foreign friends are no longer content with superficial tours of China. They now want to walk through the alleys, visit the homes of ordinary people and experience local culture and daily life. Local residents, without even leaving home, now have frequent opportunities to make the acquaintance of foreign friends, have access to foreign cultures, broaden their horizons and get a taste of internationalization.

Over the 60 years of its life, the SPAFFC has established ties with 345 friendly organizations in 100 countries and received 9,749 delegations —

123,515 foreign friends in all — from more than 100 countries. From 1979 to 2016, it has sent some 600 delegations and study groups, totaling 3,300 members, to around 50 countries.

**“Tomorrow”—Writing a New  
Glorious Chapter**

The SPAFFC has accumulated a great deal of experience and resources and made numerous friends over the past six decades. These friends are all influential in their respective areas and are thus valuable resources. They should be brought into play in China’s development. At the same time, we will continue to advance friendly exchanges with foreign countries, building an economic network and carrying out cultural exchanges.

Today, the association stands on the starting point of a new journey. In the spirit of “Peace, Friendship, Cooperation and Exchange”, it will inherit and carry forward the fine tradition of people-to-people diplomacy in Shanghai, and blaze new trails and make innovations, enrich work content, expand work scope, improve working style and conduct friendly people-to-people exchanges with other countries in multiple areas and channels and at different levels. We should continue to treat friends with sincerity and warmth and strive for closer friendship and greater mutual support between the Shanghai people and other inhabitants of the world. ■

# Impressions of Komaki Kurihara

**Gong Yi**

**A**mong Chinese people of middle age or older, few are unfamiliar with the name Komaki Kurihara. *Sandakan No. 8* and *To Live Upon Death*, two Japanese films in which

she stars, were popular with Chinese audiences and known to almost every household in the country in the 1970s and 1980s. Like *Manhunt*, starring Takakura Ken, they have become



**Komaki Kurihara gave an interview to the Documentary Channel**

classic memories of that era. Later, other Kurihara films, including *Moscow My Love* and *Tora-san's Grand Scheme*, came to China; and Shanghai TV Station introduced two TV series, *A World of Two* and *A Family of Three*, starring Kurihara and Muga Takewaki, who plays the part of Sugata Sanshiro. In 1991, Chinese film director Xie Jin invited Kurihara to play in his film *Bell of Purity Temple*, in which she and Chinese actor Pu Cunxin act as mother and son.

Kurihara recently visited Shanghai in her capacity as vice-president of the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association. The Shanghai Stories program of Shanghai TV Station — which is making a documentary called *Everlasting Friendship* — has interviewed this great friend of the Chinese people.

### Forging an Indissoluble

#### Bond with China

In 1979, when Komaki Kurihara visited China with a Japanese film delegation, she brought along her film *To Live Upon Death*. Her portrayal of Natsuko, the film's heroine, left a deep impression on the Chinese audience with her beautiful and amiable image and sad ending. Many people can recite the classic dialogues in the film, and some still keep the movie poster today. In the film, the beautiful and kindhearted Natsuko dies in lab

explosion, but in real-life Kurihara has remained alive in the hearts of the Chinese. Before *To Live Upon Death*, Kurihara's other film, *Sandakan No. 8*, was shown in China in 1978. She plays a kind journalist with a strong sense of justice. Following the screening of these two films, Kurihara popularity with Chinese audiences rose dramatically. Writer Ba Jin and director Xie Jin said that from her films we can see the kindheartedness of the Japanese people.

"*To Live Upon Death* and *Sandakan No. 8* are of completely different styles," Kurihara said in the Shanghai interview. "I am so happy they are liked by the Chinese people. They began my bond with China and they are my very important works."

The Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association was founded in 1956. Koreya Senda, a renowned dramatist in Japan who taught Kurihara, was actively involved in its establishment. Kurihara took part in many of the association's activities.

"Later, I had the opportunity to participate with its former presidents Dan Ikuma and Yasushi Inoue in a music exchange and in a recital of literary works by Inoue and Ba Jin," Kurihara said. "We have carried out exchanges with China not only in film but also in drama and other cultural areas."

She comes to China almost every year now. "Be it my first visit to China or later ones making films, appearing in

TV programs or performing on stage, I have always been welcomed and felt the warmth and friendship from the Chinese people. Each meaningful exchange encourages me to carry on."

Looking back, she is thankful for the opportunity to visit China in 1979 with the film delegation. "Had it not been for that, I would not have been here talking to you," she said.

### Kurihara and Liu Guangning

"Do you still remember me?" Liu Guangning asked Kurihara at the Jin Jiang Hotel, where the interview took place, using the lines of Natsuko in *To Live Upon Death* — and the two artists embraced to greet each other.

Liu, a renowned dubbing artist, was a representative of artists during the high years of the Shanghai Film Dubbing Studio. In the films *To Live Upon Death* and *Tora-san's Grand Scheme*, as well as in the TV series *A Family of Three*, she dubs for Kurihara. Her superb dubbing art and sweet voice perfectly match Kurihara's on-screen image.

Liu recalls Kurihara's visit to the studio on Yongjia Road in the 1980s, where they had a pleasant conversation. On a visit to Japan with a Shanghai film delegation, Liu also met with Kurihara. But those meetings were more than 30 years ago. This time, the two senior artists were excited to meet again. Liu praised Kurihara's artistic creativity in all the

films and said her image always stays in her mind. Kurihara replied: “I am so moved. I want to thank you. Only through your vocal art have I become known and liked by the Chinese people. I thank you so much.”

### Kurihara and Shanghai

When it comes to Shanghai, a smiling Kurihara says she has pleasant memories, making films, performing and attending film festivals, among other things. She even tried a word or two in Shanghai dialect. Her

pronunciation was perfect. “That was taught to me by director Xie Jin,” she said.

In 1991, at Xie’s invitation, she played in *Bell of Purity Temple*. It tells a story of a Japanese war nurse, Oshima Kazuko, and her infant son during the retreat of defeated Japanese troops. They become separated, and a kindhearted Chinese family brings up the child. Twenty years later, the child has become a monk with the Chinese name Mingjing at Purity Temple. When he visits Japan with a Chinese Buddhist delegation, he takes along with him a silk waistband that eventually brings

about the reunion between the son and the mother. Kurihara plays Oshima Kazuko, with Pu Cunxin in the role of the monk Mingjing. In the making of this film, Kurihara, Xie and Pu Cunxin forged a profound friendship.

Since the 1980s, Kurihara has appeared many times on the drama stage in Japan. Even though she’s in her 70s, she continues to give more than 100 performances each year. With regard to her past performances in Shanghai, she recalls that then mayor of Shanghai Jiang Zemin once came to see a performance. “Maybe because of that, when President Jiang Zemin visited Japan in 1998, I was chosen to present flowers to him at a welcoming banquet hosted by seven Japanese civil friendship organizations,” she said.

In *Reflections*, his most important work after the “cultural revolution” (1966-76), in five volumes with 150 articles, Ba Jin devotes the first two to the Japanese film *Santakan No. 8* and his reception of Japanese actress Komaki Kurihara at his home. Speaking of Ba, Kurihara’s eyes brighten. She says that during exchange activities she often recites passages from *Reflections*. “Thinking back on a call with Koreya Senda and Kai Higashiyama on Ba Jin at his home, I feel like a dream coming true,” she said. “Sitting beside them and listening respectfully to their conversation was most exciting.” She recalled her meetings and friendship with other Chinese artists in those years, including Zhao Dan and Bai Yang. ■



Komaki Kurihara and Liu Guangning