

Voice of Friendship stems from  
*Shi Jing* (Book of Songs).



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**Front Cover: On November 10, Lin Songtian, president of the CPAFFC, met with Mexico's new ambassador to China, Jesus Seade.**

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# Symposium on President Xi Jinping's reply to families of international friends held in Beijing

**Jin Hanghang**

On Sept 25, a symposium was held in Beijing to study the letter Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote on Sept 14 to the families of several foreigners who had devoted their lives to China's revolution before 1949 and the country's construction after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Xi's letter was a reply to the family members of 12 "international friends" who had been acknowledged

for their lifelong devotion to the country.

Sixteen family members of Edger Snow, Shafick George Hatem, Rewi Alley, Israel Epstein, Hans Mueller, Michael Crook, Zheng Lvcheng, Elizaveta Pavlovna Kishkina, Richard Frey, Ruth F. Weiss, Eva Sandberg and Betty Chandler had written a letter to President Xi to congratulate the Communist Party of China on its centennial before the Party's birthday

on July 1.

The more than 100 participants in the symposium included CPAFFC President Lin Songtian, Vice President Jiang Jiang and other senior officials of the association, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, domestic think tanks and research institutions and well-known foreign experts and representatives of overseas students, among others. Lin read the







**President Lin Songtian gave a speech at the symposium.**

full text of President Xi Jinping’s reply letter and shared what he had learned from it.

Participants discussed their feelings about the letter and discussed how to implement its important contents. Noting that the CPC had just celebrated its centennial, they agreed that it is significant for Comrade Xi Jinping, in his capacity as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of the PRC, to have written such a profound and touching letter.

General Secretary Xi himself and the Party value friendship and remember and cherish the contributions and friendship of international friends and their families, symposium participants said, noting that the Party chief had pointed out the way to inherit and carry forward internationalism and

jointly build a human community with a shared future in the new era.

The president, they noted, also raised requests and expectations about what should be done in this regard. The letter deeply excited and inspired international friends at home and abroad, they said. “It will certainly encourage more people of vision to join China in forging ahead in the new era and make new contributions.”

Families of the 12 international friends were surprised by the promptness of Xi’s reply, which was unprecedented and heartwarming, they said. In the letter Xi recalled the deeds of their passed loved ones and gave them due recognition. The president also encouraged them to follow the great examples of their parents or grandparents.

The younger people said their

ancestors had lived in China for most of their lives and experienced China’s revolution, construction, reform and development. They have gone through the tests of life and death, good times and bad, never looked back and always believed that they had made the right choice.

Today, the younger generation said, they are witnessing the CPC leading the Chinese people in achieving the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, enabling all Chinese people to live a better life.

“We are proud of the choices our families have made and firmly believe that under the leadership of the CPC, China will become a more prosperous country,” they said.

Being born in a new era, they said, they must shoulder the responsibility of inheriting and carrying forward the internationalist spirit embodied by the older generation. They pledged that they would actively respond to President Xi’s call, follow the example of their ancestors and do their best to play a unique role in realizing China’s second centenary goal, promoting friendship and cooperation between the Chinese people and others around the world, and contributing to the building of a human community with a shared future.

Foreign experts, scholars and representatives of overseas students shared their feelings after studying Xi’s letter. They agreed that the president not only recalled the deeds of international friends of the older generation and acknowledged their



contributions but also enlightened, inspired and encouraged all those at home and abroad who are engaged in the cause of friendship between China and the rest of the world.

As the world faces global challenges such as COVID-19 and climate change, they said, it is of great practical significance to inherit and carry forward the spirit of internationalism. “We will follow the example of international friends of the older generation, work together, work hard and work energized, striving to be ‘the Snows in the New Era’ in our own posts,” they said.

They vowed to provide the world a more objective, rational and fair view of China and the CPC, make positive contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and foreign people and promote world peace and common development.

Lin Songtian said the centennial of the CPC and the 76th anniversary of victory in the Chinese people’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, President Xi Jinping’s reply to families of international friends who have stood shoulder to shoulder with the CPC and the Chinese people through thick and thin is of great and far-reaching significance.

First, Lin said, President Xi meant to express thanks and gratitude. The letter fully demonstrated that the CPC, and especially President Xi himself, remembers the valuable contributions and genuine friendship of international friends.

Second, Xi wanted to comfort the souls of those international friends who “made the right choice at that time” with the great achievements the CPC has made in the past 100 years, and to revere and remember them for their standing on the right side of history with their steady contributions.

Third, he hoped family members of the above-mentioned international friends inherit and carry forward the spirit of internationalism and contribute to building a human community with a shared future. He also hoped that the families of international friends and people of vision at home and abroad will follow the example of the older generation, enhance friendship and cooperation between the Chinese people and others around the world, and contribute to building a human community with a shared future.

Lin said that General Secretary Xi’s reply to the families of international friends once again demonstrated that the CPC and Xi himself attach great importance to the integration of China’s interests and development with other countries, and are committed to mutual benefits and common development.

The CPC and General Secretary Xi value friendship, defend justice and pursue the welfare of all. They will never forget those foreign friends who understood, supported and made contributions and sacrifices for China, the Chinese people and the CPC. China will never seek hegemony at the expense of the interests of others or other countries. The letter reflects the fine Chinese culture and the distinctive

features of the CPC and the Chinese people. It is also a solemn declaration of the CPC, Lin said.

Lin said the CPAFFC will keep in touch with international friends and their families. The association will uphold the common values of mankind. It takes it as its responsibility to inherit the patriotic gene and remain faithful to its mission to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and its goal to promote the building of a human community with a shared future. It will strive to build a family of international friends in the new era and adopt the “three bases” for telling Chinese stories — introducing the history of the CPC’s exchanges with foreign partners, publicizing the touching deeds of international friends and fostering the spirit of internationalism.

The CPAFFC will carry out people-to-people exchanges and cooperation to enhance understanding and created affinity among peoples of different nations, Lin said.

“We will implement what General Secretary Xi called for in his letter with concrete actions, and we will never fail President Xi’s kind care and ardent expectations,” he said, also expressing hope that the touching deeds of the international friends and the spirit of internationalism would be passed on from generation to generation.

Ten mainstream media outlets, including People’s Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Media Group and CCTV News, reported on the symposium. ■

# CPAFFC President Lin Songtian meets New Zealand ambassador

**Ding Li**

On Aug 25, Clare Fearnley, New Zealand's ambassador to China, visited the former residence of Rewi Alley in the compound of the CPAFFC. President Lin Songtian of the association met with the ambassador and accompanied her around the residence and pointed to the lasting friendship between the people of the two countries.

In the early 1900s, Rewi Alley, an outstanding son of New Zealand, came to China for what became a 60-year journey alongside the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people in their cause of revolution and reconstruction. He lived in the compound of the CPAFFC for more than 30 years and made remarkable contributions to the cause.

To celebrate the centennial of the CPC, the association renovated the former residence and held a photo exhibition there. On July 10, CPAFFC Friendship Day 2021 was held. The association reopened Rewi Alley's residence and held commemorative activities to express appreciation and admiration. The Chinese people never forget old friends and are dedicated



**President Lin Songtian had a cordial conversation with Clare Fearnley, New Zealand's ambassador to China.**

to promoting internationalism in the new era. It is expected that the former residence will become an education center promoting friendship between the two countries.

Lin noted that in June he had visited the graves of Rewi Alley, Alley's friend George Hogg, the Rewi Alley Memorial Museum and Shandan Bailie School in Shandan county,

Gansu province, to refresh the memory of the two international friends of the CPC and Chinese people, carry forward their spiritual legacies and explore new paths to promote people-to-people friendship and further bilateral relations between China and New Zealand.

Lin said that China attaches great importance to the development of friendly ties between the two

countries. In 2014, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to New Zealand, lifting the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership and drawing a new blueprint for its development. In recent years, high-level mutual visits have been made, and both sides have maintained political trust and mutual respect, laying an important foundation for mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas and bringing tangible benefits to the people of the two countries.

Lin noted that China has been the largest trading partner of New Zealand for several consecutive years, and said the two economies are highly complementary. Mutually beneficial cooperation has great prospects, he said. The 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, the 125th birthday of Rewi Alley, the 95th anniversary of Alley's arrival in China and the 35th anniversary of his death all come next year. Lin said the association would like to work with New Zealand partners to organize meetings between subnational governments, commemorative activities and youth exchanges to further people-to-people friendship and cooperation.

Fearnley said it's a pity that she missed the ceremony opening the former residence of Rewi Alley on Friendship Day. She said she visited in August to express her gratitude to the CPAFFC. Rewi Alley is a bridge

of friendship connecting the two countries, she said, adding that she had visited former residences and memorial museums of Rewi Alley in Shanghai and in Shaanxi, Gansu and Hubei provinces. She expressed her desire that more people from both countries would learn about his deeds and devote themselves to the promotion of friendship between the two countries. She also hoped more young people would carry on Alley's legacy and promote people-to-people friendship.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta attach great importance

to developing relations with China, Fearnley said. Not long ago, Mahuta participated in a virtual meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Subnational and people-to-people exchanges, trade and economics and climate change are major areas for cooperation between the two countries.

Next year is special in New Zealand-China relations. Fearnley said she looks forward to working with the CPAFFC to organize subnational dialogues and people-to-people exchange programs to remember Rewi Alley. ■



President Lin Songtian introduced the Rewi Alley's residence to Fearnley.



# CPAFFC President Lin Songtian delivers video speech marking 50th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy

**Zeng Guangming**

On Aug 26, a seminar commemorating the 50th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy was held in Nagoya, Japan. CPAFFC President Lin Songtian delivered a video speech at the event. More than 300 people attended the seminar online or offline, including Kong Xuanyou, Chinese ambassador to Japan; Liu Xiaojun, Chinese consul in Nagoya; Kondo Shoichi, secretary-general of the Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union; Hirosawa Ichiro, vice-mayor of Nagoya; Okazaki Yutaka, chairman of the Japan-China Friendship Association; a public welfare society; Goto Yasuyuki, president of the Japan-China Friendship Association of Aichi Prefecture; representatives of athletes of the 31st World Table Tennis Championships; and scholars and youth representatives from China and Japan.

Lin noted that China and Japan are important neighbors. In the history of friendly exchanges for more than 2,000 years, there were many stories

of friendship between the two peoples, with Ping-Pong Diplomacy being a unique chapter.

“A small ping-pong ball moving the globe ahead” is a well-known metaphor referring to table tennis as a diplomatic tool to open up a new chapter in people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States and between China and Japan. It has laid a sound foundation of public support for the improvement of China-US relations and the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic ties.

Lin said that after 50 years, in order to maintain its hegemony, the US has coerced its allies to contain, suppress and smear China in an attempt to hold back China's development. At present, the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, but peace and development remain the themes of our times. Mankind is a community with a shared future. The aspirations of people around the world for peace, friendship, cooperation and

development has not changed and will not change, he added.

Lin said the 21st century is the century of Asia. Peace between China and Japan will bring peace to Asia, and if Asia is at peace, the world will prosper. The association is willing to work with friends from all walks of life in China and Japan to take the 50th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations as a new starting point. We will uphold the faith of everlasting China-Japan friendship and carry forward the spirit of Ping-Pong Diplomacy and the tradition of people-to-people friendship, take history as a mirror, create the future and make new and greater contributions to the steady and sustainable development of China-Japan relations and the joint maintenance of peace and prosperity in Asia, he said.

The seminar was organized by the Chinese consulate in Nagoya and the Japan-China Friendship Association of Aichi Prefecture, with support from the CPAFFC. ■

# Successful China-Russia seminar: Remember History, Carry on Friendship and Build Future

Feng Miao

To commemorate the 76th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the China-Russia Friendship Association and the Russian embassy in China held a seminar themed "Remember History, Carry on Friendship and Build Future" at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing on Sept 14.

The more than 80 participants included Chen Yuan, vice chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of China-Russia Friendship Association; Ambassador Lin Songtian, president of the CPAFFC; Andrey Denisov, Russian ambassador to China; representatives of the descendants of Chinese and Russian revolutionaries; scholars, entrepreneurs, overseas students and youths.

In his speech, Chen said the great victory 76 years ago vindicated the friendship between China and Russia forged by blood and lives during the war. As major battlegrounds of World War II, China and Russia fought a



bloody battle against a common enemy and with great sacrifice, secured a final victory against fascism and militarism, making an indelible contribution to the saving of humanity and the preservation of world peace.

Chen said people-to-people diplomacy is finding new opportunities in a new era. As one of the major organizations promoting China-Russia people-to-people diplomacy, the CRFA will continue to work with friends from both countries, take the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between China and Russia as an opportunity, uphold the

principle of win-win cooperation and the confidence in the China-Russia friendship passing on from generation to generation, implement the important consensus reached by leaders of both countries, unite and mobilize people from all sectors of society from both countries to strengthen communications and learn from each other, and make greater contributions to the bilateral friendship for generations to come and benefit the people of both countries.

Lin, in his remarks, said World War II was the largest and most devastating war in the history of mankind. It has inflicted painful damages on more than 60 countries and



Representatives of the participants spoke at the seminar.

more than 2 billion people worldwide. In this unprecedented disaster in human civilization, justice triumphed over evil. China and Russia made tremendous sacrifices and decisive contributions in the War against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Lin said the COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating the transformation of international relations. Conventional and unconventional security threats are intertwined. Political viruses, a Cold War mentality, hegemony and power politics have been resurrected, he said, adding that whatever changes occur in the international arena, the original aspirations and shared missions of China and Russia to pursue win-win cooperation and carry on their traditional friendship have remained intact. Both countries will remain committed to defending their core national interests, promoting national revitalization and development, preserving regional and global peace and stability and upholding international equity and justice.

The best way to remember history, Lin said, is to open a new historical chapter and create a better future for all. President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin have sketched the blueprint for comprehensive development of China-Russia relations in a new era. The core mission of people-to-people diplomacy is to put the important consensus reached by the two presidents and their strategic plans into practice, bring a sense of gain to the people and strengthen people-to-people friendship.

The CPAFFC will work with its Russian counterparts, first of all, to mobilize friends, friendship organizations and friendship cities, utilize bilateral cooperation mechanisms and platforms and realize new achievements in win-win cooperation in friendship cities, subnational governments and people-to-people exchanges.

Second, he said, both sides will mobilize Chinese and Russian think tanks and media in collaboration to

create a friendly social environment, convey positive energy and hail the everlasting amity between the two peoples.

Third, Lin continued, both sides, with an eye on the future, will progress side by side to nurture and consolidate the strength of youth to carry on the friendship between the two countries.

Denisov spoke highly of the traditional friendship between Russia and China. He said both countries made an indelible contribution to the victory in World War II, citing an old Chinese saying: “Calamity is my teacher.”

President Vladimir Putin and President Xi Jinping have both stressed that Russia and China must unveil the truth of history and defend equity and justice in the world, Denisov said. The everlasting amity between the two peoples, mutual understanding, support and trust are the prerequisite bedrock for the high-quality development of bilateral relations.

Both sides need to further consolidate this fine tradition, deepen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, work together to build a comprehensive strategic partnership that is not an alliance but even stronger, and better benefit the two peoples, he said.

Others who spoke at the seminar included Li Yongquan, vice-president of China-Russia Friendship Association and president of the China Institute of Russian, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Studies; Galina Kulikova, first vice-president of the Russia-China Friendship Association and senior fellow at the Institute of Far-Eastern Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences; Li Duoli, son of Li



Fanwu, one of the early leaders of the Northeastern United Resistance Army and the first governor of Heilongjiang province; Liu Lida, great granddaughter of former Chinese president Liu Shaoqi; Huang Zuxiang, an executive council member of the China-Russia Friendship Association and chairman of the board of directors of Volga Abbey, a culture and tourism company in Harbin; Timur Andreev, representative of Russian Railways in China; and youth leaders from both countries.

They reviewed the revolutionary friendship forged when the two countries fought side by side, and the friendly exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. They noted that the United States and certain Western countries had formed an alliance against countries with different ideologies, instigated geopolitical conflicts to create international disturbances and tried to contain the development of China and Russia in every possible manner. Under these conditions, they said, it is crucially important for China and Russia to strengthen a comprehensive strategic partnership. They agreed to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries, work together to promote friendly exchanges and win-win cooperation, and contribute their wisdom and strength to the cause of friendship and the building of a human community with a shared future.

During the seminar, Lin and Denisov attended an unveiling ceremony for a photo exhibition — Fighting Together Against Japanese Aggressors — co-hosted by the China-Russia Friendship Association and Russian Cultural Center in Beijing. ■

## Celebration of 73rd anniversary of Democratic People's Republic of Korea held in Beijing

**Hong Lei**

On Sept 17, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the China-DPRK Friendship Association held a reception in Beijing to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. CPAFFC President Lin Songtian and DPRK Ambassador to China Ri Ryong Nam addressed the reception.

The approximately 60 attendees included representatives from the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office for International Military Cooperation of Central Military Commission of People's Republic of China, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, DPRK diplomats in Beijing and journalists.

In his speech on behalf of the CPAFFC and the China-DPRK Friendship Association, Lin offered warm congratulations to Ambassador

Ri Ryong Nam and other comrades from the DPRK, and extended brotherly regards and best wishes to the people of the DPRK. He said that in the past 73 years, the people of the DPRK have overcome numerous difficulties and made remarkable achievements in their socialist revolution and construction. They are united to fully implement the decisions and plans made by the Eighth National Congress of the Korean Workers Party and make every effort to achieve social and economic development. Lin expressed his belief that under the strong leadership of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee, led by General Secretary Kim Jong-un, the party and the people will surely make greater achievements.

Lin said China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors. During their revolutionary struggles and socialist constructions, the two countries forged a profound friendship that was further cultivated by generations of leaders in

both countries, tested by time and has endured dramatic international changes. It has renewed itself and become an invaluable treasure inherited and owned by the two peoples, he said.

Since 2018, General Secretary Xi Jinping and General Secretary Kim Jong-un have met five times. They have reached great consensuses on major issues in bilateral relations, and China-DPRK relations have entered a new era.

Lin noted that this year marks the centennial of the CPC. Over the past 100 years, the Party in China has united and led the Chinese people in making world-renowned achievements. The key to success lies in upholding the firm leadership of the Party, socialism with Chinese characteristics and the Party's fundamental purpose of wholeheartedly serving the people and practicing a people-centered philosophy of development.

In January, the Korean Workers Party held its Eighth National Congress, during which it reiterated the importance of people as cornerstone of the country and dedicated itself to the development and prosperity of the country.

China and the DPRK are socialist countries under the leadership of communist parties. Shared beliefs and common aspirations are the fountains of strength for the continuous development and consolidation of bilateral relations. China will work with the brotherly DPRK to implement important consensuses reached by top

leaders of both parties and countries, carry on the traditional friendship, promote pragmatic cooperation, strengthen people-to-people exchanges, accelerate the development of socialist causes, bring more benefits to the two countries and two peoples and contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region and the world.

Ambassador Ri Ryong Nam thanked the CPAFFC for holding the event to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. The founding has fundamentally transformed the fate of the people and the country and started a new era in building a strong and prosperous country.

The DPRK people, under the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong-un, are comprehensively implementing the principles of people being the cornerstone of the country, solidarity and self-sufficiency and working to meet the targets set by the Eighth National Congress of the Korean Workers Party for the first year of the five-year plan for national economic development, he said.

He said the Chinese people, under the firm leadership of the CPC Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, have gained victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and have embarked upon a new journey to build China into a modern socialist country in all respects. "The DPRK is glad to see China's great achievements and

wishes the CPC and the Chinese people new success in the historical journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects under the leadership of President Xi Jinping."

Ri hailed the traditional friendship between the two countries, noting that in recent years, top leaders of both countries had met five times, reached important consensuses on bilateral relations and further consolidated and polished the traditional friendship.

Since the beginning of this year, the top leaders of both countries have sent multiple telegrams and messages to each other, renewing the traditional friendship and highlighting their determination to develop bilateral relations, which is in line with the current trend and the common aspirations of the two peoples.

The DPRK will work with the Chinese comrades to carefully implement the important consensuses reached by both top leaders and promote the sound development of bilateral relations, Ri said.

Before the reception, Lin and Ri had a brief meeting. Both sides carried out candid and friendly conversations on bilateral relations and issues of common concern. Participants included representatives from various departments, who also attended the reception.

The Amber Quartet and Junior Oriental Song and Dance Troupe performed at the reception, and the event was suffused with a friendly and warm atmosphere. ■

# CPAFFC President Lin Songtian attends 2021 BMW Next City Talk

**Zhang Ji**

On Sept 22, the first anniversary of President Xi Jinping's declaration of China's carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, the CPAFFC, BMW and ThePaper co-hosted the 2021 BMW Next City Talk in Beijing.

CPAFFC President Lin Songtian attended the meeting and joined the opening discussion with Jochen Goller, president and CEO of BMW Group Region China, and Liu Yonggang, president of ThePaper. Five experts, including Tongji University Vice-President Lou Yongqi, made keynote speeches. Nearly 100 representatives from companies, universities and think tanks took part in the meeting, which included the debut of a digital handbook — 72 Strategies for A Low Carbon City — offering guidelines for a low-carbon city lifestyle. A live broadcast of the meeting was presented by ThePaper.

During the opening discussion, Lin noted the theme, “Urban Breath”, which focused on green, low-carbon development and met China's new development concept and new development goals. BMW and other German companies have been China's partners in its development, Lin said, adding that they have made positive contributions to China, realized their own growth and set a good example



**Lin Songtian and Jochen Goller at the meeting.**

of mutually beneficial cooperation and common development.

In 2020, three major German automakers sold 5.4 million cars in China, accounting for 38.2 percent of their global sales and 20 percent of Germany's total exports and creating nearly 1 million jobs.

In answering questions faced by the whole world, and in tackling practical challenges and threats to humanity, such as climate change, President Xi initiated the concept of building a human community with a shared future for mankind, contributed Chinese solutions and Chinese wisdom

and pledged to the world that China will aim to have its CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

China has taken concrete steps in domestic and foreign policy to support Xi's pledge, and it has won international recognition and support as it has made remarkable progress.

Lin said, China, Germany and Europe as a whole are major powers, markets and civilizations with highly intertwined interests and are inexorably headed for a shared future. China has become the largest trading partner of Germany and Europe and also their





**President Lin Songtian spoke at the opening discussion.**

largest source of overseas investment. Chinese tourists comprise the major chunk of foreign visitors to Germany and Europe.

In 2020, trade volume between China and Europe stood at 586 billion euros. And the China-Europe Railway Express has become a strong link connecting Asia and Europe for mutual benefits. From January to August, trains have made more than 10,000 trips, an increase of 43 percent over the same period last year.

Lin said state-to-state relations are forged to serve the countries' basic interests and enhance the welfare of their people. If the European Union loses its strategic independence and economic prosperity, the only thing left would be its reliance on a certain major power. China and Germany, as well as other European countries need to maintain and strengthen their strategic sensibilities, strategic independence

and mutual trust and work together to promote the welfare of mankind. They should stay alert to avoid being led astray.

China and Europe have made joint efforts to sign the Paris climate agreement, playing a leading role in the world, Lin said. In April, leaders of China, France and Germany held a video summit and decided to build a green partnership between China and Europe. China is implementing a new development concept in all respects and adopting a green, low-carbon development mode.

Germany and Europe possess advanced technologies and experiences in green development. Both sides are so complementary that there is huge potential for future cooperation. The CPAFFC, Lin said, want to make even greater efforts to promote friendship between the people of China and those in Germany and Europe, promoting

win-win cooperation and common development.

Goller said that sustainability poses a global challenge as we “share weal and woe”, as the Chinese have long said. He pledged BMW's full support in China's endeavor to build a low-carbon economy. The company has set sustainable development as its core strategic goal in China and will strike a balance between business success and decarbonization challenges through innovation and cooperation, he said.

Liu, of ThePaper, said carbon peaking and carbon neutrality are not only the goals of the country but also the responsibility of every citizen. ThePaper intends to play the role of a publisher, a supervisor, a practitioner and a matchmaker, he said, adding that it will cover more practices in technological and institutional innovation, follow more cases of reducing carbon emissions and call for more companies and individuals to pursue low-carbon development and lifestyles.

The BMW Next City Talk is a three-year program initiated by the CPAFFC, BMW and ThePaper that combines efforts of the government, business sector and media. It concentrates on issues concerning the sustainable development of Chinese cities and has become an innovative international mechanism.

The first BMW Next City Talk, with urban boundaries as its theme, was held in Shanghai and Munich in 2019. The second meeting, with a theme of urban regeneration, was held online. ■

# CPAFFC President Lin Songtian hosts luncheon for journalists from mainstream media from home and abroad during visit to Ningxia

**Liu Chang**

From Sept 25 to 29, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries hosted a delegation of more than 60 members — multinational corporate executives, journalists from mainstream media and youth leaders from 22 countries across all five continents — on a visit to the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, where they attended the First China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo and a symposium titled “China in My Eyes — Ningxia”.

On Sept 28, Lin Songtian, president of the CPAFFC, led the delegation for a visit to Minning town, a Juncao breeding base, a white mushroom production area and wine production bases in Jiadi and Delong. After that, he hosted a luncheon for the journalists from mainstream media from home and abroad, including Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun, the Republic of Korea's JoongAng Ilbo, Hindustan Times, El Pais (Spain), People's Daily Online, Xinhuanet, China Daily, Global Times and ThePaper. Lin outlined the purpose and significance of the symposium. Both the hosts and guests had a candid, in-depth and friendly discussion on topics of concern.



**President Lin Songtian took a group photo with journalists from mainstream media from home and abroad during a visit to Ningxia.**

Lin said the visit was designed to give the world a genuine, comprehensive and objective understanding of China and to allow visitors to witness China's development miracles and explore the future of win-win cooperation and common development. Lin named the miracles as follows:

- The purple miracle. Ningxia has developed its world-renowned wine industry, which looks purple and is built on barren land.

- The golden miracle. Minning town over the past 25 years has turned dry sand into golden sands that have

lifted its residents out of poverty.

- The green miracle. Ningxia has continued to promote the prevention of desertification through sand control, creating a green miracle where sandy land has been steadily reduced for more than 20 consecutive years and the ecological environment has been significantly improved.

As for why Ningxia can achieve these development miracles, Lin said that today's Ningxia is not only economically prosperous but also ecologically beautiful. It is worthy of the name of “a Jiangnan-style area northwest of the Great Wall” — a

reference to areas south of the Yangtze river known for their mild climate and lush vegetation.

The Ningxia Hui autonomous region was founded in 1958. At that time, its forest coverage rate was only 1.5 percent, but now is 15.8 percent, he said.

In 1996, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government made an important strategic decision on cooperation in poverty alleviation between the country's eastern and western regions. Fujian, an eastern coastal province, was responsible for providing assistance to Ningxia.

The cooperation brought new ideas and concepts to the northwestern region. Adherence to CPC leadership and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics is central to realizing the complementary advantages of Fujian and Ningxia. The development miracles of Ningxia are inseparable from the CPC's people-centered governance concept and the institutional advantage of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which requires those members of society who have developed considerable wealth to help the rest of society to become more prosperous. Such achievements cannot be made without specific planning, policy support, reliance on industry and social participation.

Regarding the development prospects of the Belt and Road Initiative, Lin said, Ningxia is an important hub. Upholding the principle of achieving shared benefits through extensive consultation and joint contributions, the initiative aims to promote policy coordination,

infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and closer people-to-people ties, as well as achieve win-win cooperation and common development.

In the first eight months of this year, more than 10,000 express freight trains ran between China and Europe, up 43 percent year-on-year to become a strong bond in Belt and Road cooperation. By the end of this year, the China-Laos Railway will be open to traffic. The railway network between China and ASEAN countries will be interconnected soon.

The Belt and Road Initiative originated in China and contributes to the world. It will create broader prospects for countries in Asia, Africa and Europe to further deepen connectivity, expand mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve common development.

Talking about the situation in Afghanistan and China's role, Lin noted that in the past 20 years, the United States had invaded the country in the name of a war on terrorism. Not long ago, the US pulled its troops out of the country, a move that acknowledged total failure. Over the past two decades, the US spent more than \$2 trillion in the war in Afghanistan, or more than \$200 million a day. The war left more than 200,000 people dead and tens of millions displaced. It caused untold suffering to the Afghan people, broke promises with allies and left behind numerous refugees.

Besides pulling its troops out of Afghanistan, the US has also withdrawn from places in the Middle East, or implemented what it says was

a strategic contraction. This shows that the US economy can no longer support its global hegemony, Lin said.

In a stark contrast, Ningxia has created a development miracle from "dry sands" to "golden sands" in the same 20 years, allowing all its people to live much better lives. It is obvious that different governments and policies led to different results, he said.

Afghanistan is an important member of the Asian family with a time-honored history, splendid civilization and rich resources. The Taliban has shown signs of commitment to peaceful development. As long as peace is achieved in Afghanistan and terrorist organizations are not allowed to undermine regional peace, China stands ready to actively share its development experience and play a constructive role in Afghanistan's postwar reconstruction and economic recovery, Lin said.

As for current international public opinion about China, Lin noted that before 2018 China had established various forms of partnerships with 112 countries and international organizations. Back then, he said, there was no problem with China's international image or public opinion. However, because of the accumulated political, economic and social problems in the US and the West, some American politicians have used their hegemony in international discourse to blame, smear and scapegoat China to deflect public attention from domestic problems in the US.

These moves, Lin said, have severely poisoned international public opinion. News reports reflecting the



real situation in China are unable to reach the global public. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has blocked international personnel exchanges, leading to a decline in international public opinion about China and even forming a vicious circle in some Western countries, where “politics poisons public opinion and public opinion kidnaps politics”.

Lin said he believes that if China-US relations return to rationality, international public opinion about China will improve immediately. The problem lies on the US side, he said.

On COVID-19 prevention and control, Lin noted that the virus continues to ravage the world. China is the only major economy in the world that registered positive growth last year. It is a major engine that supports the global fight against the pandemic and economic recovery. He said China puts people first, rather than capital first.

“We must coordinate epidemic prevention and control through economic and social development, and strictly prevent and control the pandemic. I believe people can understand the measures taken by China for epidemic prevention and control,” Lin said.

He expressed hope that all the visiting journalists would report to the world what they had seen, heard, thought and felt during their visit to Ningxia in a real, comprehensive and objective way, so that “people of all countries can truly see, hear and read about China’s development path, social system and values, and thereby contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind”. ■

## Multinational corporate executives, mainstream media journalists and youth leaders marvel at China’s miracle while visiting Ningxia

**Liu Chang**

To let the world have a more real, comprehensive and objective understanding of China, present a true picture of China and promote cooperation between China and other countries, the CPAFFC invited a delegation of more than 60 members to visit the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, where the multinational corporate executives, journalists from

mainstream media and youth leaders from 22 countries attended the First China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo and a symposium called “China in My Eyes-Ningxia”. The CPAFFC initiated the symposium.

The government of Ningxia and the region’s Communist Party of China Committee attached great importance



President Lin Songtian and guests from home and abroad visited a local vineyard.

to this event. Party Secretary Chen Runer and government Chairwoman Xian Hui of the region met with the delegation. Vice Chairman Wang Heshan accompanied the delegation during the major events of the visit.

While in Ningxia, the delegation attended the First China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo and Ningxia Development Planning and Major Industries Promotion Conference, visited Minning Town, a Juncao breeding base, a white mushroom production program, a wine production base at the foot of Mount Helan, Baijitan Natural Reserve, a rural ecology park, solar panel industries and Kocel.

They witnessed the tremendous transformations that had been taking place in Ningxia, learned the history and achievements of the joint efforts by Fujian and Ningxia in fighting poverty and the late-mover advantage and the development trend of western China. President Lin Songtian of the CPAFFC hosted a luncheon for journalists from home and abroad. Both sides had a candid and in-depth discussion on topics of concern.

At the conclusion of the visit on Sept 29, the CPAFFC and Ningxia government co-hosted the “China In My Eyes-Ningxia” symposium. Lin Songtian, Wang Heshan and former South African Ambassador Gert Grobler delivered speeches at the symposium. Youth leaders from Asia, Africa and Latin America shared their feelings and gains during the visit.

Lin said the friendship association had invited friends from around the world to join “China In My Eyes-Ningxia” in hope that delegation

members would make use of the visit to better see, hear and read about China, have a better understanding of China’s miraculous development, its development road, development concepts and strategy of governance. “It is also a great opportunity for them to learn about the arduous journey China has taken to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the miracle it has created and the huge potential for international cooperation and to discuss and promote future cooperation,” Lin said.

Lin said the five-day visit had shown the visitors three miracles. The golden miracle: Minning town in the past 25 years has turned arid sands into “golden sands” to lift its residents out of poverty. The purple miracle: Ningxia has developed its world-renowned wine industry, which was built on barren land. The green miracle: the Ningxia people have worked to build a green Great Wall, creating a green miracle in which people advanced and sands retreated and achieving a better understanding of the great thought that “green is gold”. They also saw that under the Belt and Road Initiative, western China is making full use of its geographical and late-mover advantage to embrace a brighter future of high-quality development. There are new hopes people in other parts of the world rise out of poverty and lead a better life.

Lin said that Ningxia’s story is the story of a phoenix reaching nirvana. “There are many things we can learn from Ningxia,” he said, citing upholding leadership of the CPC and socialism with Chinese characteristics as the fundamental principle; taking

the people-centered and coordinated approach to development as the prerequisite; implementing targeted measures for different regions as the correct way to fight poverty; using the endogenous power of the people as the source of strength; and adopting extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits as the right path. He expressed hope that delegates will tell others what they had seen and heard in Ningxia objectively. He also hoped more people from around the world would learn more about Ningxia and better understand China, draw inspiration from Chinese practices and contribute to common development of the world.

Wang Heshan welcomed the delegation on behalf of Ningxia government. He urged members of the delegation to see for themselves Ningxia’s development and thus acquire a deeper understanding of the profound content and practical significance of the CPC’s concept of governance. He hoped the delegation would see the important opportunities enjoyed by Ningxia in a new era, turn those opportunities into results that benefits all sides, actively tell the story of Ningxia and China in an authentic, stereoscopic and comprehensive manner, promote the friendship and cooperation between China and other countries and contribute wisdom and strength to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Grobler said, this trip has gone beyond his imagination. By visiting Minning, the delegation witnessed the Ningxia miracle of development and Chinese miracle of development, better understood the people-centered

approach to development held by the CPC and General Secretary Xi Jinping and the fundamental characteristics of socialism striving for common prosperity, as well as the implications of “Green is gold” initiated by General Secretary Xi and the remarkable achievements by China in practicing the concept of harmony between man and nature. The former South African ambassador said he was most profoundly impressed by the highly effective and creative planning, persistence and relentless efforts of Ningxia people, who “have decisively bid farewell to poverty and are more confident and happier than ever before.”

The youth leaders spoke of what they had seen and how they felt during their visit in Ningxia. Mariatu Kargbo, founder of the Sierra Leone China Friendship Association, said she deeply felt that without the CPC and the coordinated efforts made by Fujian and Ningxia in fighting poverty, Ningxia would not have made such great achievements. The development miracle of Ningxia has proved that through solidarity and concerted efforts on development, any dream can come true, she said.

Maruyama Aya, a Japanese graduate student from Tsinghua University, said, Ningxia’s desertification prevention and treatment reaffirmed the saying that “everything is possible in China” and fully explained that “when people are firm in their convictions, the nation will flourish”. She said young people need to learn from Wang Youde, the excellent tree-planter of Ningxia, and go wherever there is a need as Wang did.

Daniel, a Kenyan PhD student



**President Lin Songtian attended the symposium called “China in My Eyes-Ningxia” and delivered a speech.**

from Communication University of China, said that the fact that Ningxia people have built a large vineyard in a desert demonstrated Chinese people’s creativity and how hard they work. He hoped developing countries would learn from these experiences.

Ren Ruixue, a Peruvian undergraduate student from Peking University, said Ningxia has not only achieved innovative development in science and technology but also successfully transformed people’s ideas and culture and realized cultural innovation while maintaining traditions. Other countries need to learn from it, he said.

Pero, a Rwandan graduate student from China University of Geosciences, quoted a Confucius saying that “in any group of three men walking in a street, there must be one whom I can learn from” to support his allegation that the results and experiences in ecological protection and green development Ningxia has achieved in water

preservation, preventing desertification and restoring forests by planting trees deserve to be studied and learned from by the rest of the world.

Li Shihan, a Cambodian undergraduate student from Tianjin Normal University, praised Ningxia’s achievement in turning dry desert into green land, noting that forests are restored on the mountains and people are better off. “It demonstrates the government’s efficiency and people’s wisdom,” he said, adding that the way they combined economic development with ecological preservation is worth learning.

All the delegation members agreed that the trip had opened their eyes to Ningxia’s miraculous development. They now have a deeper understanding of China. They hoped to visit more places in China and enrich their knowledge of the country. They said they can now better tell the story of China and convey the voice of China. ■



# Dialogue between China's special envoy on climate change and C40 mayors a great success

**Chen Min**

On Sept 10, the CPAFFC and C40, a network of large cities committed to addressing climate change, hosted a virtual meeting between China's special envoy on climate change and the cities' mayors.

Xie Zhenhua, the special envoy, met with 16 mayors or deputy mayors from 11 countries from around the globe. The dialogue focused on accelerating climate action through international collaboration and building a resilient, inclusive and zero-emission future for all cities.

President Lin Songtian of the CPAFFC delivered a speech at the meeting. He said climate change threatens the existence and development of all people, has become a real global challenge and has to be tackled with global cooperation and effective responses.

President Xi Jinping has declared on behalf of the government and people of China that the country aims to have its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, showing China's responsibility as a major country and its commitment to preserving harmony between man and nature and building a human community with a shared future. It is also China's proactive strategic choice



**President Lin Songtian delivered a speech at the meeting.**

to achieve sustainable development and the nation's great rejuvenation.

Chinese cities are working toward the goals set by Xi on carbon emission peaking and carbon neutrality, Lin said. He pledged that his association would play a more active role in connecting major stakeholders, promoting international collaboration, working hand-in-hand in tackling the climate crisis and building a clean and beautiful world with a shared future.

Xie Zhenhua, the special envoy, noted that Xi announced China's commitment in September 2020 at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly,

promising that China will scale up its intended nationally determined contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures.

China has established a leadership group to oversee the work on carbon emissions peaking and carbon neutrality, and has made and will soon publish a timetable and road map for top-level plans and implementation measures and policies. Chinese cities will set their own targets and plans that suit local conditions.

According to Xie, cities are most at risk of damage from global climate change and are the major executors

of global climate policies. The United Nations Climate Change Conference will soon be held in Glasgow, Scotland, which is the right time to hold the current dialogue meeting to provide mayors from around the world advice on building zero-emission cities, he said, adding that with the participation of the world's leading cities for action, the meeting had created a great opportunity for mutual learning and dialogue.

Cities have different conditions, sizes and capacity and are in different stages of development, but they share common goals and have adopted similar measures in tackling climate change.

“It is critical to boost international collaboration in coping with climate change and supporting green, low-carbon and sustainable development,” he said.

Chinese city officials attending the meeting included Wu Xiande of Fuzhou; Luo Dongsheng, executive vice-mayor of Dalian; and Zhang Hua, vice-mayor of Shenzhen. Foreign officials were Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti, secretary general of the Executive Council of Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Adjei Sowah, mayor of Accra, Ghana; Ann Kananu Mwenda, governor of Nairobi, Kenya; Ekrem Imamoglu, mayor of Istanbul, Turkey;

Rafael Greca, mayor of Curitiba, Brazil; and Sally Capp, mayor of Melbourne, Australia. The vice-mayors of Salvador, Brazil; Venice, Italy; London, United Kingdom; and Portland, Oregon in the United States attended online.

The C40 was started in 2005 by Ken Livingstone, who was mayor of London at the time, and former U.S. President Bill Clinton. It is a US registered international NGO focusing on climate change, with 97 member cities worldwide. Thirteen Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Dalian and Fuzhou, are members. ■

## Dialogue between China Special Envoy for Climate Change and C40 Mayors

### 中国气候变化事务特使与C40全球市长对话会



C40  
CITIES

 <p><b>Xie Zhenhua</b> China Special Envoy for Climate Change</p>	 <p><b>Lin Songtian</b> President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)</p>	 <p><b>Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti</b> Secretary General of the Executive Council of Dubai</p>	 <p><b>Adjei Sowah</b> Mayor of Accra</p>	 <p><b>Ann Kananu Mwenda</b> Governor of Nairobi</p>
 <p><b>Ekrem Imamoglu</b> Mayor of Istanbul</p>	 <p><b>Rafael Greca</b> Mayor of Curitiba</p>	 <p><b>Sally Capp</b> Lord Mayor of Melbourne</p>	 <p><b>Wu Xiande</b> Mayor of Fuzhou</p>	 <p><b>Dalian China</b> <b>Luo Dongsheng</b> Deputy Mayor of Dalian</p>
 <p><b>Zhang Hua</b> Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen</p>	 <p><b>David Miller</b> C40 Managing Director of International Diplomacy</p>	 <p><b>Massimiliano DE MARTIN</b> Deputy Mayor, Venice</p>	 <p><b>Shirley RODRIGUES</b> Deputy Mayor for Environment &amp; Energy, London</p>	 <p><b>Mark Watts</b> CEO of C40</p>

# CPAFFC President Lin Songtian has a video conference with SCI Chair Carol Lopez

**Liu Wei**

On Oct 18, Lin Songtian, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, met in a videoconference with Carol Lopez, chair of Sister Cities International of the United States. They exchanged ideas on the two organizations' plans to jointly hold the China-US Sister Cities Video Dialogue in November. CPAFFC Vice-President Jiang Jiang and Zhang Heqiang of the Chinese embassy in the US and president of SCI also participated in the video conference.

Lin thanked Lopez for her efforts to enhance China-US relations over the years, saying, "We are fully aware of and attach great importance to the role of sister cities in relations between different countries. Chinese provinces and cities have established sister-city relationships with more than 2,800 counterparts in other countries, among which 283 pairs are between China and the US. Friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between sister cities and provinces/states have brought tangible benefits to both countries. Especially when

bilateral relations encounter difficulties, sister cities are a stabilizer and booster of China-US relations."

Lin noted that there have recently been positive signs in China-US relations. Since the beginning of this year, presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden have had two phone conversations, with candid, in-depth and extensive strategic dialogues that have pointed the direction for developing China-US relations. As Xi pointed out, China and the US are, respectively, the world's largest developing country and the largest developed country. Cooperation will benefit both countries and the world, while confrontation, on the contrary, will injure both sides and the world.

"Today's videoconference is very timely," Lin said. "It will help implement the important consensus reached by the heads of the two countries. China is ready to work with the US to actively promote exchanges and cooperation between sister cities and provinces/states and enhance the friendship and cooperation between the

two peoples.

"During World War II, for the sake of world peace and justice, the US sent the Flying Tigers to China to fight side by side with the Chinese people against Japanese invaders. Today, for the sake of world peace and development, the Chinese and American people will surely work together for common development."

Lin also shared the latest data on China-US economic and trade cooperation. He noted that from January to August this year, trade in goods between China and the US reached \$407 billion, up 22.52 percent year-on-year. US exports to China totaled \$94 billion, up 35.22 percent. Imports from China were \$313 billion, up 19.16 percent.

Lopez said the SCI had always been committed to promoting China-US exchanges and cooperation at the local and people-to-people level. At present, she said, mankind shares many global challenges. The American people hope to solve economic and social problems such as environmental



pollution, educational imbalance and poverty. Despite differences in culture, beliefs and political systems, the two peoples can learn from each other and prosper together. She said SCI is willing to maintain communication with China and promote local exchanges and cooperation.

Cindy Elliott, a member of the SCI and vice-superintendent of Fort Hays State University, said the US and China have established good cooperative partnerships not only between cities but also between universities and other educational institutions.

“For example, Fort Hays State University, where I work, has carried out teacher exchange programs with Lanzhou University in Gansu province many times,” she said.

Elliott lauded the story of the Flying Tigers mentioned by Lin as “moving people to tears”. The American and Chinese people should relive the touching story of the Flying Tigers, Elliott said, and continue to enhance friendship between the two peoples in the new era.

Lin noted many similarities between the Chinese and American people. “Last year,” he said, “I visited some US companies in China and talked with their leaders. They all hoped that China-US relations would return to rationality and friendship. They wished to make the cake of bilateral cooperation bigger and benefit from it.



**President Lin Songtian attended the video conference and gave a speech.**

In the past few months, I visited many provinces and cities in China, especially in the central and western regions, and I saw that once poor places — Gansu province, the Ningxia Hui autonomous region and other places — have got rid of poverty and are committed to high-quality ecological development. We look forward to inviting chair Lopez and other American friends to come back to China once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.”

The two sides also exchanged views on holding a video dialogue between sister cities of both countries and other relevant issues.

Lin said, “We hope to build a platform for sister provinces/states and cities of China and the US through

this dialogue. The participants will center on the theme “Promoting Win-Win Cooperation and Common Development Between Sister Cities of China and the US” and address such issues as climate change, green development, mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation and joint building of smart cities.”

Lopez said the theme and topics of the dialogue suggested by the Chinese side are also concerns of all sectors in the United States. The SCI, she said, will work with the CPAFFC to make careful preparations, design the video dialogue well and actively promote exchanges and cooperation between sister cities of both countries. ■

# CPAFFC President Lin makes keynote speech via video at US friendship body's convention

**Wang Yang**

On Nov 5, the 28th National Convention of the US-China People's Friendship Association was successfully held online. The theme of the convention was "The roots of friendship: Finding common ground". Lin Songtian, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, was invited to make a keynote speech via video.

Lin saluted the convention, saying that since its inception in 1974, the USCPFA has been dedicated to promoting the development of friendly bilateral relations. It is a pioneer, a forerunner, a witness and a defender of bilateral relations, as well as the CPAFFC's most trusted friend and partner, he said.

"At this difficult time when China-US relations are facing severe challenges, the USCPFA holds this national convention to send out the voice of rationality and justice about



**President Lin Songtian made the keynote speech via video.**

China. We highly appreciate this," he said.

Lin called it natural that China and the United States have diverse interests and concerns, even disputes,

given the differences in social systems, ideology, history, culture and values. What is important, he said, is to adapt to the new era; adhere to the new concept of win-win cooperation for

common development; get rid of the old mentality of “I win and you lose in a zero-sum game”; focus on the common interests of the Chinese and American people, as well as the people of the whole world; and properly handle differences and sensitive issues in a constructive rather than confrontational manner.

Lin cited facts over the past 42 years after the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations to illustrate that both the Chinese and American people aspire to a better life of peace, stability and happiness. He said it is highly feasible that the two cultures learn from each other and prosper together, that bilateral trade and economic cooperation bring mutual benefit and common development and that the two governments seek common ground while shelving differences, respect each other and jointly tackle global challenges. These moves, he said, will not only benefit the two peoples, but also safeguard world peace, stability, development and prosperity, and bring development opportunities and bliss to the people of China, the United States and the world at large.

Lin said the Chinese people have always been friendly toward the American people. Regretfully, however, since 2018, the US administration has stuck to a Cold War mentality, adopted erroneous containment policies against China based on incorrect understandings and strategic judgments,

incited ideological and geopolitical conflicts and tried to spread political viruses.

The US has also maliciously lashed out at the people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and set up obstacles for exchanges and cooperation, seriously poisoning public opinion and the basis for cooperation and leaving the bilateral relations in serious difficulty. In fact, Lin said, a sound development of China-US relations would benefit the two peoples, while the deterioration of relations harms both the interests of the people of the two countries and the whole world.

Lin noted that some positive signs have emerged recently in China-US relations. President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden had another phone conversation, during which they had candid, in-depth and extensive strategic communication and exchanges on bilateral relations. Lin said the phone call had charted the course for the improvement of China-US relations and sent a positive signal to the international community.

High-level Chinese and American officials in the fields of diplomacy, finance and commerce have also had frequent exchanges and interactions, Lin said. “We hope that the China-US relationship will get back on track.”

He went on to say that friendship between the people serves as an important foundation and source

of strength for bilateral relations. The China-US relationship, he said, bears on the fundamental interests of the two peoples. As the most direct stakeholders in the relationship, the two peoples should have the most say.

It is not up to a few politicians to decide on China-US relations, Lin said, adding that the USCPFA has played a historic role in promoting friendship, understanding and mutual trust between the two peoples, as well as in the normalization of China-US relations. Lin praised the organization for remaining committed to promoting friendship between the two countries.

“Our association is willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the USCPFA to fully mobilize all sectors of society and people from all walks of life, promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and light up and warm up bilateral relations,” he said. “With the light of the friendship, we will illuminate the future of win-win cooperation for common development between China and the US.”

Founded in 1974, the USCPFA is one of the oldest people-to-people organizations in the US aimed at friendship with China. It strives to promote understanding and friendship between the American and Chinese people through exchanges in culture, education and other fields. It is headquartered in Minnesota. Diana Greer is its president. ■



# Seminar commemorating centennial of the birth of Joan Hinton held in Beijing

Liu Yi

On Oct 19, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries held a seminar to commemorate the centennial of the birth of Joan Hinton in Beijing. Eighty people attended the seminar, including CPAFFC President Lin Songtian; Fred Engst, son of Joan Hinton; Tang Wensheng, former vice-chair of the All China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese; several retired ambassadors; overseas students; media representatives from People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Foreign Languages Publishing Group, Global Times, Beijing Weekly, People's Pictorial, and China Today; and experts and scholars from a variety of institutions —Tsinghua University, Peking University, the International Committee for the promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (Gung Ho-ICCIC), the Chinese National Academy of Arts, China Society for People's Friendship Studies and the China Internet Information Center.

A short film about Joan Hinton's life, *Our Beliefs Brought Us Here*, was played at the seminar. It was produced

for the event by China Foreign Languages Publishing Group.

Hinton was born in the United States in 1921. She was a nuclear physicist who participated in the development of the world's first atomic bomb. After learning that her scientific research results were used in the war, she resolutely gave up the study of nuclear physics.

In 1948, she came to China and arrived in Yan'an. She married Erwin Engst, an American agricultural expert in China. From then on, the couple worked and lived in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, and Beijing for more than 60 years, devoting their efforts to China's socialist construction and making outstanding contributions to the development of animal husbandry, mechanization and talent training. People said they were "true farmers and communists".

In 2004, Hinton became the first foreigner to obtain a Chinese green card. In 2010, she died in Beijing at the age of 89. Some of her ashes were scattered on the grasslands of Otag Front Banner of Ordos, Inner

Mongolia, where she worked.

In his speech, Lin of the CPAFFC called Joan Hinton a participant and pioneer in the great cause of Chinese socialism. She was also a practitioner of the lofty revolutionary spirit of China, he said, always with a clear goal of creating a better and happier life for all mankind. She was brave, persistent and courageous, never caring about personal gains and losses, and thus had lived a great life.

To commemorate Hinton, Lin said, we should remember her noble quality of upholding justice, pursuing truth and peace and devoting her life to striving for human happiness. He added that we should live by her noble commitment to do-it-yourself innovation, science for the people and improvement of people's livelihoods and thank her for her sincere friendship and great contribution to enhancing mutual understanding, friendship and trust between the Chinese and American people. We should also learn from her spirit of selfless work for the well-being of the people and her unswerving fight for the liberation of

all mankind, he said.

This year marks the centennial of the founding of the Communist Party of China. From the start, the CPC has taken the pursuit of happiness for the people, rejuvenation of the nation and progress for mankind as its highest aspiration and mission. The interests of the country, the nation and the people are considered the Party's highest interests and primary goals. This just cause and goal has not only been widely recognized and supported by the Chinese people but has long been understood and supported by a large number of international visionaries, including Hinton.

In his reply to the families of certain international friends on Sept 14, General Secretary Xi Jinping said that, since its founding 100 years ago, the CPC has lived up to the call of the

times, the expectations of the people and the trust of international friends. The Party has united and led the Chinese people in a long-term struggle and achieved the first centenary goal of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The Party is now leading the Chinese people toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in an all-around way and continually promoting world peace and development, he said. Our international friends made the right choice back then, Lin said.

The CPAFFC president said that as we embark on a new journey in the new era, it is important for us to carry forward the spirit of our international friends, represented by Joan Hinton, in pursuing truth, upholding justice, dedication and boundless love. We need

to enhance friendship and cooperation between the Chinese people and people around the world and promote the building of a human community with a shared future.

Lin said the association will continue to uphold the common values of mankind, take the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as its mission, and unite all forces that can be united. "We will," he said, "devote ourselves to the great cause of promoting mutual understanding and affinity among peoples of different nations and the building of a human community with a shared future. We should live up to the dedication and expectations of our international friends."

Hinton's son, Fred Engst, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics, said that an in-depth review of



World War II convinced Hinton that imperialism was a threat to human existence. It was the Chinese revolution, led by Chairman Mao Zedong, Engst said, that allowed his parents to find a new path in life, stay in China and remain committed to the cause of China's socialist construction.

He said: "My mother regarded the liberation of the Chinese people as her own cause. She considered herself a part of the Chinese people. She combined her own interests with the needs of the people and gradually morphed from a pacifist into an internationalist and a communist. Throughout her life, my mother, with a clear conscience, fought against imperialism and hegemony. Her spirit has influenced multiple generations. I believe that the seminar will help pass on the spirit of international communism."

A number of participants spoke during the seminar, including Tang Wensheng, former vice-chair of the All China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese; Gu Pin'e, executive vice-president of the China Society for People's Friendship Studies; Wang Hui, professor at School of Humanities, Tsinghua University; Li Xiguang, professor at the School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University; Zhao Yuezhi, distinguished visiting professor at the School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University; Michael Crook, chair of Gung Ho-ICCIC; Zhu Dongli, a researcher with the Chinese National Academy of Arts; Li Shuxi, former

president of Guangming Daily Press; Hosam Ahmed, foreign expert at the China Internet Information Center; and Alexandra Pozhidaeva, a master of arts student from Russia at the Peking University's School of Journalism and Communication. They covered topics in depth, including the life story of Hinton, outstanding contributions Hinton and her husband made to China's revolution and construction and the need to inherit and carry forward the spirit of internationalism in the new era.

The Chinese and foreign participants spoke highly of Hinton's noble moral character in pursuit of peace and justice throughout her life and her firm beliefs, plain lifestyle, love of truth and service to the people. They called Hinton an outstanding internationalist and a staunch communist. She loved China and the Chinese people, always regarded herself as an ordinary working person and closely connected her personal career with the destiny of China and the Chinese people.

She insisted on the use of science for the people and always maintained flesh-and-blood ties with the people. She is an exceptional individual in the eyes of the Chinese people. Today, embarking on a new journey in the new era, what she stood for is of great practical significance and value to the continuance of the internationalist spirit and to the building of a human community with a shared future.

Ahmed and Pozhidaeva spoke on behalf of foreign experts and overseas students. They said that as

foreigners working and studying in China they have witnessed China's great development and tremendous achievements, and deeply felt the CPC's governing philosophy that "the nation is composed of people, and people are all that matter to the nation". They said they will try their best to inherit Hinton's spirit and tell China's story well, spread the Chinese voice and present a true, three-dimensional and comprehensive image of the country to the world.

Lin said that over the years the CPAFFC has always taken it as an important mission to promote people-to-people diplomacy, publicize the historical contributions of international friends and carry forward the spirit of internationalism. The association is looking forward to cooperating with experts and scholars attending the seminar, he said.

"We will continue to explore the touching stories of international friends and publicize and inherit their noble qualities. We will implement what General Secretary Xi called for in his reply with concrete action. We will build a home for international friends in the new era and tell the Chinese story from three bases — a base to introduce the history of the CPC's exchanges with foreign partners, a base to publicize the touching deeds of international friends and an education base for the spirit of internationalism. We will unite with and encourage more international friends in the new era and make positive contributions to the building of a human community with a shared future." ■



# CPAFFC Vice-President Lin Yi delivers a video speech for the “China (Sichuan)-Asia Youth Exchange”

**Zhang Yujun**

On Oct 21, the China (Sichuan)-Asia Youth Exchange was held in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, online and offline simultaneously. It was hosted by the Sichuan People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the People’s Government of Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, with the help of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

A number of guests attended the event on site or online, including Lin Shucheng, vice chairman of the Sichuan Committee of Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, government officials of Liangshan prefecture, diplomats from the consulates of Asian countries in Chengdu, executives of multinational companies and representatives of overseas students in Sichuan province, as well as leaders of friendship organizations of Asian countries and youth representatives, among others. Lin Yi, vice-president of the CPAFFC, was invited to deliver a video speech at the opening ceremony.

Lin said Liangshan prefecture is a

land of rich history that has written the miracle of the times. As early as more than 2,000 years ago, Liangshan was an important town on the ancient southern Silk Road, across the southwest border area of China, southeast Asia and south Asia. After the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, Liangshan went through tremendous changes from slave society to socialist society. Now, the battle against poverty in the new era has been carried out in the deep mountains. It has helped all poverty-stricken counties in Liangshan out of poverty. This historic change spanning a millennium is the epitome of China’s efforts to seize opportunities and win

the battle against poverty.

Lin Yi said poverty eradication is the common ideal of mankind. As a big country with one-fifth of the world’s population, China has made great historic achievements in solving the problem of absolute poverty that has plagued the nation for thousands of years. It has made historic contributions to poverty eradication and peaceful development around the world.

Meanwhile, China has taken an active part in international cooperation on poverty reduction. In Asia, China and ASEAN countries have worked together to promote rural poverty reduction. The



**Vice-President Lin Yi delivered a video speech for the activity.**

Chinese side initiated the founding of the China-South Asia Center for Poverty Reduction and Development Cooperation. It was opened to use in July this year. Concepts of poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics, such as targeted poverty reduction and tailored measures to local conditions, are attracting more attention from the international community.

Lin Yi said that facing the risks and challenges in global poverty reduction in the post-COVID-19 era, it is all the more important for Asian countries to strengthen cooperation, share experience and create new development opportunities in the fight against COVID-19 side by side, so as to make greater contribution to global development. It is hoped that youth from home and abroad can make use of the event to enhance friendship and mutual understanding, taste the new atmosphere of unity and harmony in ethnic minority areas, unlock the “password” of shaking off poverty and striving to prosper in Liangshan, explore ways of high-quality and sustainable development, rally the Asian strength for common prosperity and make greater contribution to the building of an Asian community with a shared future and a global community with a shared future for mankind.

The theme of the China (Sichuan)-Asia Youth Exchange is to “walk into the new life of Yi ethnic group and feel the beauty and happiness of new Liangshan”. It aims to tell the story of poverty alleviation in China through Liangshan, and call on Asian youth to work together to build a harmonious, beautiful and prosperous Asia. ■

## “My Story of Chinese Hanzi” contest held in Xining, Qinghai province

**Wu Yuxuan**



**CPAFFC Vice-President Li Xikui gave a speech for the activity.**

On Oct 12, the final contest of “My Story of Chinese Hanzi” was held in Xining, Qinghai province. The event was hosted by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and organized by the Xining Municipal Government and

People’s Daily Online. CPAFFC Vice-President Li Xikui attended the event and delivered a speech.

Li said that Chinese characters are an important vehicle for inheriting and carrying forward Chinese culture and an identifying symbol of Chinese civilization. For thousands of years, the concept of benevolence has flowed in the blood of the Chinese people. It is found in their behavior and manners and has nurtured the Chinese nation’s common recognition of “harmony between man and nature” and “one world, one family”. With the theme of benevolence, the current event aims to convey the notion of benevolence advocated by Chinese civilization and expresses the peace, amity and harmony of the nation.

At present, COVID-19 continues to rage across the world, Li noted. Facing the common threat and challenge, the world needs the spiritual strength of benevolence to care for

everybody with a heart of generous love and work together to build a human community with a shared future.

Li said Xining of Qinghai province was once an important city on the ancient Silk Road and is now an important hub of the Belt and Road Initiative. It is endowed with green mountains and clear waters, a diverse culture of multiple ethnic groups and a dazzling heritage of cultural exchanges.

The “Hanzi story” contest offers participants an opportunity to appreciate the harmonious coexistence between man and nature in clear waters and green mountains, the prosperity of many ethnic cultures and splendid exchanges between civilizations. They will surely have a better understanding of Chinese culture and Chinese civilization, strengthen their capability to promote exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations and become ambassadors of friendly exchanges between China and the rest of the world.

Telling their own stories through the lens of benevolence, 10 contestants from Germany, Kazakhstan, Argentina, India, Japan, Syria, France, Zimbabwe, Republic of Congo and the United States shared their understandings of Chinese culture and expressed their desire to build a human community with a shared future. First, second and third prizes were given, as well as a top prize, which was won by Michael Mubaiwa of Zimbabwe.

More than 3,000 foreign Chinese learners from more than 50 countries have participated in the event since its global launch on May 17. ■





# Civilizations coexist in harmony

— Remarks by CPAFFC Vice President Jiang Jiang  
at China-Cyprus Youth Forum

## Jiang Jiang

Dear young friends,  
I truly appreciate this opportunity to connect virtually with you and the scholars present online at this China-Cyprus Youth Forum and exchange views with you on the topic of civilization.

To explore such a big topic, it might be useful to start by asking ourselves three big questions — a quintessential method in Western philosophy:

**First question: What is civilization?**

The definition of civilization, as one would expect, varies from culture to culture and from language to language. In the Chinese context, the word for civilization first appeared in *I Ching*, or the Book of Changes, which says “with dragon appearing in the field, civilization is born under heaven.” It defines civilization as a new era in people’s cultural and social advancement. In the Western context, the word “civilization” derived from the Latin word “civis”, which means “citizen” — that is, people who live in cities.

Undoubtedly, over the long course



Vice-President Jiang Jiang gave a speech for the activity.

of history, with progress of human society, the meaning of civilization has kept expanding. The concept of civilization that we talk about today has become all-encompassing, providing a fertile ground for dialogue among civilizations.

**Second question: When and where did civilization begin?**

Again, the answers vary. Some believe that civilization began with humans learning how to make fire by drilling wood. Some others argue it was when written language was first invented. Still others say civilization began when the first hunting tool was flung over the African savannah.

All these suggestions show that civilizations, since their inception, have

never been homogeneous. Over the long course of human history, people of different regions, races and languages have cultivated distinctive civilizations reflective of their unique ways of production, living conditions and social customs.

**Third question: Where is civilization headed?**

Opinions on this question also vary. Some are particularly focused on wars and conflicts that broke out in different periods of history. They believe in the theory of the Thucydides trap and the inevitability of a clash of civilizations. But others have chosen to see the bigger trend of history and come to the conclusion that civilizations can embark on a path of

harmonious coexistence and shared progress.

Dear young friends, the future of civilizations has a pivotal bearing on the future of humanity. What should we pursue in a world of diverse civilizations? What kind of relationship do we want between different civilizations? These questions call for some serious thinking. Personally, I consider three things to be vitally important.

First, it is important to have confidence in one's own civilization and to preserve the uniqueness of each civilization. There are more than 200 countries and regions and over 2,500 ethnic groups in the world. Each civilization contains the collective memory of a country and nation. Each civilization is shaped by unique natural geography, traditions, national conditions and ways of life and work. Each civilization represents its people's unique aspirations for a better life. And all civilizations have unique values and deserve full respect. We must love and preserve our own civilizations. And we need to keep progressing with the times, and be innovative in letting our civilizations thrive and keeping them forever young.

Second, it is important to uphold equality and respect cultural diversity. Diversity is the inherent nature of civilizations and the defining characteristic of human society. Between 800 and 200 BC, a period referred to as the Axial Age, great thinkers in both East and West such as Confucius, Mencius, Sakyamuni,

Socrates, Plato and Archimedes laid the foundational course for their civilizations. And together, they presented an extraordinary landscape of human civilizations flourishing together. Civilizations are diverse and they are all equal. No region or country should characterize a particular civilization as superior to others or rank civilizations in a hierarchical order. No one should perceive their own civilization as representing absolute truths or universal values, or even the only ultimate future for all civilizations.

Third, it is important to learn from each other and advocate cultural inclusiveness. A well-known Chinese philosopher once said, different colors bring out the best in each other and the ensemble of music notes makes a song of harmony. From the 15th century to the 18th century, there was a great encounter between Chinese and Western civilizations. Western natural science, linguistics, literature and art were introduced to China during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Euclid's *Elements* helped improve the Chinese calendar. Western orchestra was invited to perform in the Chinese court and a new school of painting was developed by blending Chinese and western painting methods. During the same period, people across Europe were fascinated by Chinese culture. It was considered a fashion among the upper class to drink Chinese tea and collect Chinese porcelain. European scholars began studying the Chinese culture. Montesquieu's work, *The Spirit of Laws*, was influenced by

Neo-Confucianism in ancient China. Today, in a globalized world, it is all the more important to learn to discover the beauty in each civilization while benefiting from the complementarities between civilizations.

Dear young friends, as we travel through the enormous span of humanity's journey, consider yourselves lucky to live in an era in which all countries and things are connected and interact with one another through smart technologies. The world is just one click away, and friends are never far away thanks to technology. For today's young generation, globalization and technology make life smarter and more convenient but, more important, they give you the ability and tools to be open-minded and accommodative in how you perceive the world.

I genuinely hope that you will cherish what this age has to offer and what you can offer to the world. It is crucial that the young people of today develop a sound outlook on civilizations, study your own civilization as well as those of others, embrace both the commonality and diversity of civilizations. I hope you will inherit and advance your own civilizations while at the same time be a contributor and advocate of exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations, so that there will be less prejudice and more mutual respect in our world. All in all, we should work together toward a future of harmonious coexistence, rather than a clash of civilizations. ■

# CPC takes pride in thriving Ningxia

**Gert Grobler**

At the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, a large group of foreign business and media representatives and scholars, paid a visit recently to the remarkable Ningxia Hui autonomous region, one of the cradles of ancient Chinese civilization.

Ningxia represents concrete, living proof of the people-centered policy of President Xi Jinping and the CPC which states that eradication of poverty is an essential requirement of socialism with the goal of improving the people's livelihood and achieving common prosperity. From the outset, we witnessed the profound impact on Ningxia that the policies of President Xi and the CPC had, as they focused on development-driven poverty reduction. We have seen concrete evidence of the innovative pooling of resources, of planned relocations and the combining of development-driven poverty alleviation with the enhancement of the local economy.

It was very evident to us that the impressive socio-economic development of Ningxia was the result of excellent joint efforts between the CPC leadership, business enterprises and the people. In fact, what was striking was the determination of the people of Ningxia at all levels, through effective, thorough planning and hard

work, to lift themselves out of poverty and to continue to build a thriving Ningxia with increased confidence.

From the outset we were dazzled by Ningxia's impressive natural beauty with its ecological diversity, including rolling plains, majestic mountains, rivers, deserts and wetlands. Blessed by the meandering Yellow River and located on the ancient Silk Road, Ningxia is indeed rich in both history and culture. In fact, it has all the attributes necessary to become an increasingly attractive tourism destination for domestic and international travelers.

Ningxia has also performed well in cultural preservation, from which the international community can draw strength and learn, and which will further contribute to its tourism potential.

We also noted that the different cultures of Ningxia have merged harmoniously, and various ethnic groups live in unity and that the Hui people, with significant autonomy, increasingly continue to benefit from economic progress in the region.

Ningxia has managed to build a thriving economy over a relatively short period of time, with a growing GDP currently amounting to 392 billion yuan. It has succeeded in establishing a broad industrial base with many vibrant enterprises in sectors such as electrical

power generation — particularly renewable and green energy — as well as communication and e-commerce, health, electronics, metalworking, machinery, chemicals, building materials, synthetic fabrics, medical and agricultural products, foodstuffs and fabrics such as wool and cotton.

Impressive presentations were made by the Ningxia Development and Reform Commission, the Ningxia Commerce Department and the Administrative Committee of Yinchuan Economic and Technological Development Zone, on future economic measures, in the context of Ningxia's 14th Five-Year Plan. It reflected well-planned, concrete and encouraging steps to further grow the region's economy.

All these augers extremely well for the future prosperity of the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, as a hub for Belt and Road cooperation, which will continue to open up many attractive opportunities for international cooperation.

It is evident that the region's foreign trade has grown considerably since the region's inception in 1958. Ningxia maintains growing economic and trade relations, with well over 140 countries and regions, which are destined to further expand. A vital factor which was stressed during the presentations was the ongoing



commitment to the further opening-up of the economy.

Ningxia's vibrant agricultural sector, with its intricate system of ancient and new irrigation canals and its extensive land reclamation projects — which have made improved agricultural yields and cultivation possible — is indeed admirable.

The exciting developments in the rapidly growing wine industry were a further eye opener. At the recently held First China (Ningxia) International Wine Culture and Tourism Expo in Yinchuan we learned that Ningxia has launched a national pilot zone to develop premium wine on the edge of the Gobi desert, aiming to turn the eastern foothills of the Helan mountains into China's own Bordeaux.

By 2035, the aim is to produce 600 million bottles with a total output value of \$3.2 billion. A number of wineries, characterized by modern technologies and a profound ecological awareness, were visited. There was general consensus on the excellence of

the local wines and the huge potential of the Ningxia wine industry, including increasing exports to international markets.

With more than 30 percent of its land surface prone to desertification, Ningxia's efforts since 1949 have made significant progress with soil control and the protection of the ecological environment. The commendable Baijitan Desertification Prevention and Control project — “turning the desert into an oasis” — in fact, continues to play a significant role in safeguarding the whole country's ecological environment.

What was noticeable is that all Ningxia development initiatives strike a harmonious balance between human activities and environmental sustainability through the combination of well-planned ecosystem regeneration, human capacity building and green entrepreneurship. This is in keeping with President Xi Jinping's “Beautiful China” initiative, which strives to create a good working and

living environment for the people and plays an increasing role in ensuring global ecological security.

Ningxia has an excellent story to tell, and its miracles are a result of the CPC's extraordinary ability during its 100-year history of combining an impressive reform capacity with an approach that is firmly rooted in Chinese society and culture.

We were convinced, reinforced by the visit to Ningxia, that based on China's phenomenal achievements its capacity for governance and the unity and resilience of its people, the CPC and China will continue to build on its many successes, meet any future social, economic and development challenges head-on, resolve them and give the Chinese people an even greater sense of fulfillment, happiness and security. ■

(The author is a former ambassador of South Africa and senior research fellow at the Institute of Africa Studies at Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua.)



Chinese and foreign guests took a group photo at the Baijitan Natural Reserve, Ningxia province.

# A brief discussion on exchanges of experience in party governance between Nigeria and China

**Charles Onunaiju**

The relationship between Nigeria and China is far-reaching and broad. Tangible results have been achieved. More than 50 years of bilateral cooperation have had a significant impact in various areas of their national progress. The Nigeria-China relationship plays a pivotal role in the region and the world and sets an example of bilateral cooperation. The two sides have been carrying out cooperation continuously, but there are still new areas to explore. Cooperation in other areas will further enhance the strategic partnership.

This year marks the centennial of the Communist Party of China. Over the past 100 years, the CPC has been a decisive force in building a modern China. Over the past 50 years, especially since the historic Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee in December 1978, China has embarked on a historic stage of reform and opening-up. Not only has it established a framework for sustainable and inclusive development, but it has truly passed many milestones in leapfrog development, with unprecedented results. In particular, it has accomplished the arduous task of eradicating absolute poverty. The country, under CPC leadership, has greatly improved people's livelihoods and boosted public confidence.

The CPC is a Marxist-Leninist party with a thoroughly proletarian worldview. In the process of leading the Chinese people in revolution, construction and reform, the Party and government have not only sought solutions to problems but also persisted in theoretical exploration and innovation. They kept on exploring the theoretical value of Marxism-Leninism in light of China's national conditions. The CPC is able to combine the country's reality in the specific context of each historical stage.

The policies it has produced can cope with the challenges of each era. To explore and build socialism with Chinese characteristics is not simply a political statement, but an action of active reform and practice. It has been improved in the inquiry on the laws of social development and carried out in the context of specific national conditions.

Through the process of constantly, dynamically, and realistically examining reality, the CPC has found the fundamental problems of the country in each specific historical stage by applying dialectical materialism, which in turn has produced specific policy choices needed to meet specific challenges.

The reason the reform and opening-up process has been successful is that it solves the fundamental

contradictions that restricted development potential of productive forces in the past. In the past 43 years of reform and opening-up, China has not only achieved sustainable and inclusive growth but also contributed about 70 percent of global poverty reduction. The CPC has not evaded the difficulties, but rather faced them squarely. Rather than indulging in vanity to declare victory as soon as possible, the CPC has faced up to all realities with considerable shrewdness and has made great strides in improving the well-being of the Chinese people.

The CPC recognizes the commonalities of people all over the world, tolerates diversity and respects the fact that each country has its own unique national conditions and different history. It means that sharing experiences can help countries absorb nation-building experiences and draw lessons from them. Every nation or country has to deal with its own problems and seek solutions based on its own national condition and history.

If the Nigerian political parties, whether ruling or opposition, can learn from the experience of the CPC through cooperation between Nigeria and China, they will gain greater vigor and vitality. They do not have to be Marxist-Leninists to learn from the CPC's

competence, efficiency and discipline.

The CPC has conducted extensive consultations with other democratic and patriotic parties under the framework of multiparty cooperation. The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference is a permanent and inclusive framework for ethnic dialogue on behalf of all the Chinese people. It is cross-ethnic, cross-religious, cross-cultural and cross-party. In terms of ideological and political lines, the CPC has adopted extensive participation and national consensus as its strategy for governing the country.

Whether in a competitive or consultative multiparty political process, it is critical to find and build consensus for the sake of advancing policy sustainability. Learning from the experiences of party and state governance holds bright prospects in developing bilateral cooperation between Nigeria and China and expanding China-Africa relations.

The CPC has always shown its willingness to share its experience with partners around the world. For all its earth-shaking achievements, the CPC is not arrogant. It insists on constantly learning and studying, and does not allow complacency or stagnation.

The 100 years of the CPC has involved hard work, arduous struggle and perseverance. At present, Nigeria has also vowed to lift 100 million people out of poverty in the next 10 years. The CPC has created the miracle of eliminating absolute poverty. Its achievements and experience are worthy of serious attention. ■

(The author is director of the Centre for China Studies, Abuja.)

# The Belt and Road Initiative: A basis for a new international order

**Smail Debeche**

Before President Xi Jinping introduced the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, China had already successfully and peacefully attained scientific and economic development for its 1.4 billion people, or about 25 percent of the global population.

The world should recognize China's achievements and respect its national unity and stability. China should be hailed as a model of development. This model is a great contribution to an alternative world system that has value for all, a sharing world guided by five core principles: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence.

The historical experience of the Silk Road more than 2,000 years ago inform the Belt and Road Initiative concepts and dimensions in the 21st century — coordinating states'

policies for land routes, railways, airports, dams, sea routes, ports, reduction of customs and trade barriers, financing of infrastructure and trade connectivity. All aim at increased trade volume and exchanges of culture, science and people, are constructive in nature, civic in character, human in objective and with meaningful new opportunities guided by mutual benefit and dimensions in the wake of exploitative policies and actions by Western imperialism or Western neo-imperialism as a whole and by the United States in particular.

Within such content, the Belt and Road Initiative can serve as a viable alternative, even for Europe, in escaping from US pressure and blackmail politics. The initiative is a major link for European and Asia Pacific economies, providing great opportunities and benefits to promote China-EU relations based on win-win cooperation.



The original aim of the Belt and Road Initiative was to promote the connectivity of Asian, European and African continents and their adjacent seas, establish and strengthen partnerships among countries along the routes, set up all-dimensional, multitiered and composite connectivity networks and realize diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable development in these countries.

The timing of the Belt and Road Initiative coincides with the gradual and globally progressing rejection of the unipolar world led by the US. Such unilateralism is resented even by Washington's allies in Europe, not to mention developing countries. The latter's governments under escalating pressures on their own people are heading for adopting policies and taking actions outside the Western orbit. The Western world system is shrinking, giving way to a balanced and multipolar international order.

Outside the West, the world is already witnessing new emerging alternative poles, especially China as a great world economic and industrial power and Russia as a major technological and military power. This is coupled with independent foreign policies. Thus, both powers together can take the lead toward a multipolar world order.

The West is no longer the dominant source of technology and industry. Western countries themselves are a market for the Chinese economy. The coronavirus pandemic has confirmed

the fragility and failure of the Western health system, and many other fields in the West may face the same destiny in coming years.

Human nature and the soft approach reflected in the civic pragmatism of the BRI suggests a promising initiative for an alternative to the existing international order beyond those of the current world system, which is full of wishful thinking, promises (democracy, freedom, human rights), far from being meaningful or realizable.

Western forces are rushing to reinforce the existing international order, rules and conditions, which are imperialist in nature, including creating crises and conflicts among nations in obtaining Western financial and economic interests — of course at the expense of the vast majority of peoples and states.

So far, the international system has been imposed on the world by Western domination. The vast majority of the countries did not exist when the international system was shaped by two world wars and their aftermath. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, which is peaceful in nature, along with other contributions, the time is ripe for a new international order or a multipolar world to replace the existing system of imperialist domination and US blackmail politics derived from international military crises and war. ■

(The author is president of the Algeria-China Friendship Association.)

Knowledge, understanding and respect for other cultures is crucial to people-to-people friendship. This principle is universally applicable and essential for world peace.

The years 2021 and 2022 are important moments in the history of Germany-China relations. This year marks the centennial of the Communist Party of China, and next year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and China.

My own relationship with China began in 1993 with the Villa Musica, a state foundation in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. The foundation has many tasks, including the mission of maintaining international exchanges. At that time, to enhance exchanges in the international music sector, I began to promote Villa Musica's contact with traditional Chinese music as the foundation's general director. In 1993, the first Chinese music group came to Rheinland-Pfalz and toured many German cities. It was well received by audiences.

In 1995, Villa Musica began cooperation with the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and I visited Beijing for the first time. Since then, we have invited a Chinese traditional music group to Germany every year and sent a European classical music group to perform in China in the following year. Such cultural exchanges are important and necessary for people to understand each other's cultures objectively.

# Understanding and mutual respect, basis of people-to-people friendship

— Written for the CPC’s centennial

**Kurt Karst**

Over the years, I have hosted many Chinese music groups and friends in Germany. I have also traveled to many provinces and cities in China.

China has become a tourist destination of particular interest to many Germans. We have seen the beauty of its mountains and rivers, the hospitality of its people and the richness of its culture. Another thing that has struck me during my many visits is the colorful culture of its 55 ethnic minorities.

Since my first visit to China in 1995, the country has really changed a lot. It’s incredible how fast the change has been. Following are a few simple examples:

In 1995, the streets of downtown Beijing were flooded with about a million bicycles. There are millions of cars today.

It used to be difficult for foreigners to get around on public transportation in China if they didn’t know Chinese characters. During the 2008 Olympics, English was added to street signs and

foreigners could travel easily in China without help from others.

China is also leading the world in electronics and artificial intelligence.

None of these achievements could have been made without the contributions of the CPC. I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to the CPC on its centennial!

The reform and opening-up initiated by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 has greatly improved the living standards of the Chinese people and created conditions for the complete success of poverty alleviation.

What about the relationship between Germany and China since 1972? Globalization has brought the two economies closer to each other and afforded mutual benefits. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral relations have grown, virtually unscathed. However, cultural exchanges between the two sides have been affected. Many scheduled performances and visits by Chinese music groups had to be shelved, and many had

to be conducted online.

We signed a cooperation agreement with the CPAFFC in 2018. I believe it is important to continue our cooperation within the framework of the agreement. I often happily recall co-organizing “Meet China” with the CPAFFC in Trier, Germany, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx.

We hope that mankind can overcome the pandemic as soon as possible. Face-to-face exchanges will be resumed in the near future and cultural exchanges between Germany and China will continue to be deepened. As I said in the beginning, knowledge, understanding and respect for other cultures is crucial to people-to-people friendship.

We live in the same global village! ■

(The author is chairman of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher China-Gesellschaften. His Chinese friends affectionately call him “Lao Ka”.)

# Friendship organizations in China, Africa appeal to WHO over origin-tracing of COVID-19

**Fang Ying**

On Aug 26, Lin Songtian, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and leaders of 22 people-to-people friendship organizations from 19 African countries jointly signed a letter to Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization, calling on the WHO to adhere to the spirit of science, professionalism and objectivity in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the WHO General Assembly to carry out global tracing of the COVID-19 origin, firmly oppose politicization and stigmatization and give priority to supporting pandemic prevention and control in Africa. The main points of the letter are as follows:

At present, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, having claimed more than 4.2 million precious lives and infected more than 200 million people. The emergence of the Delta strain and other mutations have exacerbated global panic. In developed countries such as the United States and Japan, the pandemic has worsened, with both daily deaths and infections reaching record highs, leading to lost confidence in the international community that the pandemic will be conquered anytime soon.

COVID-19 poses a serious challenge to public health systems and to

the prevention and control capabilities of all countries, especially those in Africa and other developing countries. The international community must attach great importance to the situation, since the lives and health of people around the world are in grave danger and the normal order of life and production have been seriously disrupted.

The coronavirus is now a common enemy and the greatest threat to mankind. The successful prevention and control practices in China show that COVID-19 is preventable, controllable and treatable. The key lies in putting people and their lives first and in respecting science. The "political virus" can never defeat the natural virus. The fact that COVID-19 continues to rage around the world once again demonstrates that mankind is a single community with a shared future. Only with concerted endeavors and scientific responses can the international community win the battle and safeguard people's lives and health.

It is sad to note that as the world's only superpower, the United States has taken an irresponsible attitude and responded negatively to the outbreak and spread of the pandemic in its own country. More than 36 million people were infected in the US and more than 620,000 have died of COVID-19.

In the face of the global pandemic,

the US government has failed to contain the pandemic within its own borders and prevent the virus from spreading to other countries, let alone supporting Africa and other countries in the fight against the virus. Instead, it is busy politicizing the pandemic, stigmatizing the virus, using origin-tracing as a tool, scapegoating others and shirking responsibility, which has seriously undermined normal international anti-pandemic cooperation.

What is totally unacceptable is that the US administration has maintained its misguided approach of political manipulation and scapegoating and has denied the joint report released by WHO experts after a field visit to Wuhan, China. What's more, it has repeatedly hyped up the "lab leak" theory and assigned the Central Intelligence Agency to fabricate theories with no scientific basis. Yet it will not allow any investigation into the Fort Detrick laboratory in its own country.

It is worrying that African countries are marginalized in the global fight against the pandemic, as the pandemic has intensified around the continent. The continuous spread of the pandemic has posed a serious threat to the lives and health of the African people due to a weak economic foundation, inadequate prevention and control capacity and vulnerable public health systems, and has had a serious impact on Africa's

economic and social development, greatly undermining the momentum of African countries' rapid rise in recent years. Only when developed countries effectively contain the pandemic at an early date and extend assistance to Africa and other regions can people of the world see any hope of defeating COVID-19.

All parties greatly appreciate China's initiative to build a community of common health for mankind and its being the first to fulfill the promise of designating the COVID-19 vaccine as a global public good. Having taken firm and effective measures to contain the virus domestically, China has actively promoted international cooperation on pandemic prevention and control, and has set an example for the world.

The signees of the letter expressed heartfelt thanks to China for providing African countries with a steady stream of anti-pandemic supplies and medical aid, as well as sharing its experience in fighting the pandemic. China has supplied vaccines to more than 30 African countries and more than 700 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine around the world.

All parties to the letter strongly appeal to the international community, especially developed countries such as the US, Japan and others in Europe, to fulfill the due international obligation, stop vaccine racism, step up efforts to help Africa by providing more vaccines, medical supplies and testing reagents to bridge the disease control gap and enable Africa to build a line of defense against the coronavirus. They call on the international community to unite and help one another, to firmly safeguard world equity and justice and to promote common development and prosperity. ■

# Pacific China Friendship Association members issue joint statement to the WHO opposing politicization and stigmatization in COVID-19 origin-tracing

**Jin Hanghang**

Recently, 16 member organizations of the Pacific China Friendship Association issued a joint statement to the World Health Organization strongly opposing the politicization and stigmatization in the origin-tracing of COVID-19, and calling for the international community to uphold the scientific spirit, strengthen anti-epidemic cooperation and jointly build a community of common health for mankind. Main points of the joint statement are as follows:

I. We believe we live in a community where we stand and fall together with a shared future. COVID-19 is the common enemy and greatest threat to humanity today. The only way to defeat the epidemic is for the international community to work together.

II. We believe science is the force that can be relied upon to defeat viruses

and eradicate disease. The origin-tracing of COVID-19 is a serious scientific issue. We can't jump to conclusions without scientific facts or evidence.

III. We believe origin-tracing is a shared obligation. The outline of the next step in a work plan unilaterally proposed by the WHO Secretariat has neither complied with what is stipulated in the relevant resolution of the World Health Assembly, nor consulted adequately with member states, still less reflecting the latest research achievements of global origin-tracing. We therefore call on the Secretariat of the World Health Organization to act on relevant resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly to advance global origin-tracing study, in conjunction with all member states, giving full consideration to emerging new scientific evidence and following



the recommendations of the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019.

IV. We support medical experts and scientific researchers in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit, covering multiple countries and multiple locations, to provide necessary references for the prevention of the next possible pandemic.

V. We believe allowing politicization of the tracing issue to run its course will seriously poison the atmosphere for cooperation on global origin-tracing and undermine the achievements of the international fight against COVID-19, serving the interest of no party. We resolutely oppose politicization, geographical labeling and stigmatization, as well as obstruction by any political faction, or political manipulation of the research or international anti-epidemic cooperation.

VI. We believe that we should redouble our epidemic prevention and control efforts. We need to ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries and ensure that vaccines become a global public good. We appreciate that China has made positive moves in providing vaccines to the rest of the world, particularly developing countries, making important contributions to global anti-epidemic cooperation. We call on vaccine-capable countries to refrain from imposing export restrictions or resorting to excessive

hoarding, and to decisively oppose vaccine nationalism so the global immunization gap can be narrowed and a stronger international fence against the virus can be built.

VII. We believe all political parties and organizations must shoulder their responsibility to enhance cooperation and work hard to facilitate global anti-pandemic cooperation, to be an unlimited driving force for the global fight against COVID-19 and the building of a global health community.

VIII. We believe that as long as members of the international community care for each other in these most trying of times, humanity will surely prevail over the pandemic, emerge stronger from this dark hour in history and embrace an even brighter future of human development.

NOTE: The PCFA was founded in October 2016. It aims to enhance friendly feelings of people in the Pacific region toward China and promote exchanges and cooperation in tourism, culture and youth, among other fields. Its member organizations include:

- American Samoa China Friendship Association
- Australia China Friendship Society
- Cook Islands China Friendship Association
- Federated States of Micronesia China Friendship Association
- Fiji China Friendship Association
- Tahiti China Friendship Association

New Caledonia China Friendship Association

New Zealand China Friendship Society

New Zealand China Maori Friendship Charitable Trust

Niue China Friendship Association

Palau China Friendship Society

Samoa China Friendship Society

Solomon Islands China Friendship Association

Tonga China Friendship Association

Vanuatu China Friendship Association

Wallis & Futuna China Friendship Association ■



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JOINT STATEMENT

As COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc globally, the situation is still grave. Political parties and organisations around the world must bear the responsibility of improving people's wellbeing, promoting national development and safeguarding world peace and stability. We have note with deep concern the recent attempts to politicise virus origin-tracing in international anti-epidemic cooperation. To promote international anti-epidemic cooperation, we hereby agree to issue the following joint statement:

- I. We believe COVID-19 is the most widespread global pandemic inflicted upon humanity for the past century and entails a war all must battle. We live in a community where we stand or fall together with a shared future. In the face of major crises, no single country can remain insulated and intact. Viruses know no borders or race. The only way to defeat them is for the international community to work together.
- II. We believe science is the force that can be relied upon to defeat viruses and eradicate disease. As the coronavirus is a novel virus still relatively unknown, its origin-tracing is a serious scientific issue to be studied by experts around the world through cooperation, before drawing any conclusion on the basis of facts and evidence.
- III. We believe origin-tracing is a shared obligation. The outline of the next step work-plan unilaterally proposed by the WHO Secretariat has neither complied with what is stipulated in the relevant Resolution of the World Health Assembly, nor been consulted adequately with Member States, still less reflecting the latest research achievements of the global origin-tracing. This is not conducive to offering guidance for future cooperation, and many countries have expressed their concern. We therefore call on the Secretariat of the World Health Organisation to act on relevant resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly to advance global origin-tracing study, in conjunction with all Member States, giving full consideration to emerging new scientific evidence and following the recommendations of the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019.

# 2021 GD Youth Link: 3rd Guangdong International Youth Sports Dialogue held in Guangzhou

**Zhou Wei**

“Sports are an important indicator of social development and human progress, and a significant manifestation of overall national strength and the cultural advancement of a society,” President Xi Jinping said.

Sport is also a form of people-to-people exchange that may touch hearts and bring people together.

The year 2020 witnessed sports events of national and international importance, including the Tokyo Olympics, the 14th National Games of China and the approaching 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

The Guangdong People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries attaches great importance to friendly exchanges in youth sports with foreign countries and joined the Guangdong Youth Sports Federation as the co-host of the Third Guangdong International Youth Sports Dialogue.

As one of the 2021 GD Youth Link series, a brand activity of the GPAFFC since 2018, the Sports Dialogue invited Olympic champions; high school and college students; experts in sports;

educators from the United States, Japan and China; and an emergency physician of the Beijing Winter Olympics to discuss and exchange views about the theme “Faster, Higher, Stronger, Together: Youth Sports Development and Safety” online and offline.

Wang Xunzhang, chairman of the Guangdong Overseas Returned Scholars Association and former vice chairman of the Guangdong Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference; Chen Guangjun, deputy general director of the Foreign Affairs Office

of the Guangdong government and vice chairman of the GPAFFC; Gao Jingping, chairman of the Guangdong Youth Sports Federation and vice chairman of the Chinese Rowing Association, also attended the dialogue and addressed the meeting.

“Safety comes first in sports. Young people come first in international exchanges.”

Wang Xunzhang said the theme of the dialogue — “Youth Sports Development and Sports Safety” — was well timed. He said he hoped international cooperation in sports



injury prevention and emergency treatment may help more young students enjoy sports.

Chen Guangjun said the dialogue helped bridge practitioners and educators from Guangdong and other countries in sports safety, sports science and sports accessibility, which diversified the province's international youth exchanges.

Gao Jingping emphasized that sports safety was essential to the development of youth sports. She called on young people of all ethnic groups in Guangdong to learn how to exercise correctly and called for public awareness on sports safety.

Professor Zhong Shizhen, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, welcomed the staging of the dialogue with his personal endorsement. "Safety comes first in playing sports," Zhong said. "Young people come first in international exchanges."

During the live connection, Jamie Zaninovich, vice chairman and chief operating officer of the Pacific 12 college sports conference (PAC-12) in the United States, said he looked forward to visiting China again to maintain youth sports exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

Toda Hirohisa, an overseas consul member of the GPAFFC and chairman of the Japan Rhythm Dance Federation, spoke on related measures in Japan's youth sports and the importance of sports exchanges. He had high expectations about restarting the China-Japan-South Korea youth aerobics

competition next year.

John Tanner, head coach of the women's water polo team at Stanford University and the 2020 US Olympic and Paralympic Committee College Coach of the Year, gave a speech on the proper balance of sports and academics.

Dr. Fu Yan, a member of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics skiing medical protection team, was invited by GPAFFC, with support from the CPAFFC, to share the story of China's first medical group specialized in the treatment of skiing injuries and to cheer for the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics.

#### Setting standards

Xian Dongmei, two-time Olympic champion in women's judo and chair of the Chinese Judo Association; Chen Bin, a Southern Medical University professor; Zhang Jiewen, an Olympic champion and associate professor at Sun Yat-sen University; Killian Hollo, International Sports Health Foundation (Singapore) executive director; He Peizhang, Arizona State University football (American) team member; Dean Bryant, sports teacher at the Guangzhou ISA School; Olivia Zoppa and Jinyao Zhang DeSandies, international students studying in Guangzhou; and other Chinese and foreign representatives also participated in the dialogue and shared their expertise or personal experiences.

With a view toward raising public awareness about the safety and physical health of youth, the organizing committee joined hands

with professionals and international consultants to issue a safety proposal for Guangdong youth sports. They called for "safe sports, healthy sports, smart sports, happy sports, and green sports". They also launched the Youth Sports Injury Emergency Response Protocols (National Group Standard). This protocol was drafted jointly by experts at home and abroad in sports medicine and the sports industry, representing an attempt for Guangdong to carry out international cooperation in youth sports management.

#### Multimedia coverage of hotspots

Media coverage of the dialogue included a warmup pre-release, live coverage on WeChat and Tiktok and photo coverage on Sina Weibo, as well as exclusive online interviews for journalists. Video footage of the dialogue can also be found on Bilibili. Voice of the Greater Bay Area Channel of China Central Radio, Nanfang Daily, Yangcheng Evening News, China News Service, Guangzhou Daily, Phoenix News, Ta Kung Pao, and Wen Wei Po covered the event from various perspectives: "Experts gathered for sports in Yangcheng", "Proud! Guangdong Shaoguan Youth, first Chinese to board the American college football field and score", "Smart sports for a strong body" and "Youth Sports Injury Emergency Treatment Procedures Released", among others. These multi-angle insights into the dialogue and related hot topics received positive responses and widespread attention. ■



# A review of exchanges between Baoji and ROK in 2021

## Baoji Foreign Affairs Office

The past decade has witnessed a booming of both governmental and non-governmental exchanges between Baoji, China, and Yecheon-gun, Republic of Korea, in such areas as culture, tourism, agriculture and sports since 2013. It has brought win-win cooperation and complementary development for both sides boosted by each other's advantages. Thanks to the efforts made by leaders and friendship-promoting people on both sides, Baoji and Yecheon-gun became twin cities in 2016, marking the start of lasting cooperation.

### Virtual meeting

The 22nd Twin Cities Conference of China, Japan and the ROK was inaugurated in Seoul on Nov 4. The conference was addressed by Lin Songtian, president of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; Song Hajin, president of the Korea Municipal Governor Agreement Association and mayor of Jeollabuk-do; and Tamotsu Okamoto, president of Council of Local Authorities for International Relations.

As a part of the conference, a virtual meeting was held by the



The award ceremony was held in Xi'an, Shaanxi province for the 2021 Children's Painting Competition entitled "Love toward my motherland and my country: Shaanxi in my sight".

Baoji Foreign Affairs Office and the Administrative Bureau of Yecheon-gun on Nov 5. The meeting centered on the history and future development of Baoji and Yecheon-gun as twin cities. Both sides expressed willingness to cooperate and exchanged ideas on various subjects.

"The Year of Chinese and Korean Culture" was designated for this year and next, marking the 30th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China. Both sides said they are willing to take the virtual meeting as an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and friendship. Agreements were reached for regular online meetings, detailed exchanges and practical cooperation in specific areas. Through joint efforts, Baoji and

Yecheon-gun were expected to be a model for twin cities communication and cooperation.

### Arts exhibition

On Oct 15, a children's arts exhibition co-sponsored by China's Shaanxi province and the city of Sejong, ROK, opened in Xi'an, Shaanxi's capital. The theme of the exhibition was "Hand in hand, we fight against the epidemic and create the future". An award ceremony was held for the 2021 Children's Painting Competition entitled "Love toward my motherland and my country: Shaanxi in my sight". All of the eight paintings recommended by the Baoji Foreign Affairs Office were awarded prizes and will be displayed in Sejong. A bridge of friendship was built by children with their imaginative brushes.

The year 2021 marks the opening of The Year of Chinese and Korean Culture. With China and the ROK being close neighbors, the exchange and cooperation between Baoji and Yecheon-gun is a good beginning. Ever since 2015, a rich variety of cooperative projects between the two cities has unfolded in culture, tourism, education, agriculture and international trade. The arts exhibition has transcended geographical and language barriers to contribute to nongovernmental friendship between the two peoples.

### Fruit industry cooperation

With aid from the Shaanxi Foreign Affairs Office and the Chinese consulate in Jeju, a virtual forum related to fruit industry cooperation

between Baoji and Jeju was held on Aug 26. It was a great success. Video conference rooms were set up in Jeju, Xi'an and Baoji. With an in-depth exchange on mutual benefits, an agreement was reached that both sides would make joint efforts to push forward the modernization of the fruit industry.

The forum was addressed by Wang Luxin, consul general of the PRC in Jeju; Yang Guangting, mayor of Baoji; and An Dongwoo, mayor of Jeju. Shaanxi Foreign Affairs Office Deputy Director Yao Hongjuan and Executive Vice President Cao Hui of the Shaanxi People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries attended the virtual meeting.

The forum was a boost to future cooperation across a wider range and at a higher level. Mayor An Dongwoo

said he was certain the industry would be successful, and the forum offered both sides a great opportunity for in-depth cooperation in terms of strains upgrades, planting technology and marketing.

With opportunities created by the Belt and Road Initiative, Baoji has made great efforts toward larger-scale opening in recent years. It aims at building a platform for oversea cooperation and widening channels for people-to-people exchanges. Six foreign cities have tied with Baoji as twins, including Yahata-shi, Japan, and Yecheon-gun, ROK. The friendly exchanges cover 13 cities from Japan, the US, France and Germany. Through a rich variety of publicity channels, including online conferences, Baoji hopes to show the world great changes in Baoji and China. ■



A virtual meeting of fruit industry cooperation between Baoji, China and Jeju, Korea was successfully held.

# Listen to the rhythm of the Winter Olympics and convey a message of friendship

— Russian reporters tour venues with youths from European countries in China

**Cai Yunzhe**

From July 27 to 30, a tour of 2022 Winter Olympics sites by youths from European countries was successfully held in Beijing and Zhangjiakou, Hebei province. The event was organized by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and operated by the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Hebei Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The launching ceremony and story sharing session of the Beijing Winter Olympics was held at the CPAFFC on July 27. Later, 52 youth representatives from 17 European countries living in Beijing, Hebei, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Hubei, Guangdong, Shaanxi and Sichuan went to the headquarters of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Shougang Park, as well as to Games sites in Yanqing, a district on the outskirts of Beijing, and Zhangjiakou, for field visits.

The youths from various countries sang and laughed all the way. Among them were two tall men well into their

maturity but full of energy. They kept themselves busy taking notes from the tour guide, filming every detail of the journey and sometimes talking into the microphone about what they saw and how they felt.

The two were Pavel Matvee, chief of the Beijing Bureau of C1R, and cameraman Sergey Aksenov from Russia. They were reporters traveling with the delegation. They hoped to see the preparations of the Winter Olympics and transfer the beautiful

scenery of Beijing and Zhangjiakou and stories of the Winter Olympics into a friendly message to spread across Russia.

On July 27, it was raining slightly when the group arrived at the former site of Shougang, or Capital Steel Group, where the headquarters of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games and the Shougang Industrial Heritage Park are located. It is the hub of preparations and operations for the 2022 Winter



**Pavel Matvee(L) and Sergey Aksenov.**



Olympic Games.

Shougang's blast furnaces and workshops became symbols of Chinese industry after its founding in 1919. Now, the elements of Winter Olympics revitalize the old factory area. An air of history is infused with vitality inherent in the upcoming Winter Olympics. If you take a walk around, lyrics of A Song of Ice and Fire will resound in your ears.

The two Russian reporters carefully observed the Shougang Industrial Heritage Park. They took out their notebooks to write this down: With a total area of 70 hectares, the Green Axis landscape is 1.9 kilometers long and took more than 300 days to build. What amazed them was not only the smartly reinvented industrial heritage sites, but also the determination and will of the Chinese people to restore the blue sky to the capital and resolutely reshape the former steel plant.

Suddenly it started raining heavily. The two reporters covered their notes and equipment with their bodies and hastily went indoors. There was a smile of satisfaction on their faces as a mixture of sweat and rain kept dripping. What they were carrying in their arms were accurate numbers, and interesting stories supporting fascinating reports.

In the bus to the Yanqing National Alpine Ski Center, Sergey squatted on the aisle to set up the camera to shoot the scenes on the sides of the road ascending the mountains. Seeing the cameraman curled up in a corner, the bus driver, out of safety concerns, warned him. Pavel, who was nearby, replied in fluent, standard Chinese,

“Don't worry, he can hold the camera steady and film it well. This video footage is to show that China has not only beautiful stadiums, but also perfect roads and other infrastructure. To get the right angle, my colleague will have to squat for a while.”

More than 10 minutes later, Sergey got up and rubbed his numb legs. Then he immediately started talking to his colleague about how to edit it to make it look better.

After arriving in the outer corridor on the roof of the National Bobsled Center, the two reporters were shocked by the new stadium. It was arguably most difficult to design and construct, and had the most complex construction process. They recalled how much effort the Russian people had put into building the Sanki Sliding Center for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. In order to find the best camera angle, the two reporters got permission to jump onto the tracks to report live. It was not only about the dragon winding along the mountain ridges but also about the hardworking Chinese who had, with the concept of Green Olympics engraved in their hearts, meticulously completed the background survey and topsoil backfill, so that the green mountains and clean rivers remained the same after the beautiful Yanqing stadium was constructed.

At Taizicheng Olympic village in Zhangjiakou, the delegation had a look at the rooms where the Olympic athletes were about to move in. The two reporters waited until everyone had left and then began their work. Here come some lines in their reports:

“Behind me is one of the rooms for the Winter Olympic athletes. It

is spacious, bright, well-decorated and furnished. The bed is neat and comfortable. I find myself comfortable in this bed despite my height of two meters. ...”

They scrutinized the footage they had just shot with critical eyes:

“The room doesn't look square enough from this angle. Let's do it again.”

“The camera was too high on the way in, so the door appears lower than it really is. Shoot it again.”

“It is a slip of the tongue. Start again.”

It took them a full 20 minutes to shoot enough to make 30 seconds of finished video. Because of this, they missed the group photo with the delegation. As they carried their equipment and hurried to the entrance of the Olympic Village, where five rings stand, the group photo session had finished. They took a photo of themselves and said humorously that they would make a complete group photo by adding it to the one they had missed.

Three days passed quickly. When the delegates got on the bus, the two reporters began to pack, having concluded their work. Their camera, recording gear and notebooks were neatly packed into the equipment box.

“The box feels heavier than it was when we arrived,” said Sergey, again with typical Russian humor.

Yes, how could it not be heavier? It carried with it the hard work of the two Russian reporters, joyful memories of members of the delegation and the Chinese people's dream of hosting the Winter Olympics and welcoming the world with open arms. ■

# Overseas students from Peking University visit Xinjiang

**Cai Yunzhe**

To give the world a more authentic, comprehensive and objective understanding of China, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Peking University jointly organized 20 overseas PKU students from 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the United States to visit the cities of Kashgar, Hotan, Urumqi and Shihezi in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region from Oct 1 to 6.

Li Xuejun, deputy secretary of the Leading Party Group of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the region and deputy director of the committee, met with the delegation. Zumrat Obul, deputy director of the Standing Committee of the region's People's Congress accompanied the delegation throughout the tour.

Xinhua News Agency, People's Daily, China Media Group, China News Service, China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration, China International Television, Xinjiang TV and Xinjiang Daily covered the visit.

Students from various countries walked into villages, factories, schools, cotton fields, and bazaars to experience Xinjiang's social stability, ethnic unity, economic development and overall happiness. They presented what they saw to their families and friends



**Overseas students wore cloths of Xinjiang minority ethnic groups and took a group photo.**

through oral communication and made it known to the world through social media.

## **Xinjiang has a stable society, abundant goods and contented people**

Lusine Safaryan from Armenia saw the satellite factory built near villages. He said, "Rural residents in Xinjiang can find jobs near their home, working eight hours a day. That allows them to take good care of the elderly and children in their families while earning a considerable salary.

Moreover, the working conditions are good. They are really happy."

After watching farmers drive large cotton-harvesting machines, Joseph Olivier Mendo'o of Cameroon said, "Xinjiang's cotton planting and production applies a plethora of technologies such as drip irrigation and mechanized picking, which no longer requires too much manpower. I haven't seen any 'forced labor' as described by some Western media. This experience also shows that we should not jump to conclusions about many things, but should go and have a look

and experience them personally. Rather than believe the reports of certain Western media outlets, I trust my own eyes more.”

After visiting peaceful Siksán village in Hotan, Thomas Donglona Adawa from Chad said, “I didn’t expect Xinjiang’s new villages to be so beautiful. The villagers are beautifully dressed, and their doorways, streets and alleys look clean. During the visit, I saw that the Xinjiang farmers are full of confidence. I hope the farmers in my hometown can also do so well and live such a happy life.”

At the end of the visit, Aberemane Younoussa from Comoros said, “As I came to Kashgar and Hotan, I felt the happiness of the people in Xinjiang. The happiness index is high. I will share what I have seen, heard and felt here with my families and friends.”

### **Xinjiang has diverse cultures and freedom of belief**

Knowing that the Chinese government had invested heavily in rebuilding the ancient city of Kashgar under the concept of “repairing the old as before and rebuilding the original site”, Yasin Rahim, a student from Pakistan, said, “I am touched that the Chinese government attaches so much importance to protecting and inheriting the traditional culture of all ethnic groups.” After talking with the trainees in the education and training center, he said, “Some parts of my country also suffer from religious extremism. This Chinese lad is leading a happy life through vocational education and training. I am very happy to see the way he lives today.”

At the square in front of the Id

Kah Mosque, the scene of children running after doves fascinated the overseas students. Mubarak Mugabo from Uganda had just finished prayers with his Muslim classmates. He said, “I feel that there is no racial discrimination in Xinjiang. Worship in the mosque makes me feel at peace.”

In an exchange with the local representatives, Alexandra Pozhidaeva from Russia said, “Xinjiang is located in northwest China. It was once an indispensable stop on the ancient Silk Road. Today, Xinjiang has established a well-connected three-dimensional network under the Belt and Road Initiative. It has become an important bridge connecting China and the rest of the Eurasian continent. Every road we pass and every person we meet shows us how inclusive, developing and prosperous Xinjiang is today.”

Sunny Md Mahedi Hassan, a student from Bangladesh, said, “It is difficult for people of different cultures to enjoy the present with a common understanding. Xinjiang has shown that it can be accomplished. The support of the CPC and the Chinese government is essential. Since ancient times, exchanges between different ethnic groups in China have been expanding and the degree of integration has been deepening. It has formed a symbiotic and complementary pattern. Now we have truly understood the profound meaning that Han people cannot live without ethnic minorities, ethnic minorities cannot live without Han people, and ethnic minorities cannot live without each other.”

### **Xinjiang has rustic customs and beautiful sceneries**

In the Fragrant Imperial Concubine Garden in Kashgar, Alexandra from Russia and Sapargeldi Amangeldiyev from Turkmenistan were invited to play the bride and groom in a performance of the unique Uygur wedding custom. Sapargeldi said excitedly, “The experience of playing a bridegroom in Xinjiang is unforgettable. It gave me a feel of the Xinjiang people’s happy life.”

In the ethnic musical instrument village of Shufu county, the overseas students were treated to a feast of Xinjiang songs and dances and experienced the charm of the Twelve Muqams, a representative item of world intangible cultural heritage. Wickramasinghe Himasha Lakmini from Sri Lanka said, “The performance is great! I filmed it all on my phone and sent it to my family and friends!”

Every now and then, local residents and tourists from all over the country greeted the overseas students or requested a group photo. Some Uygur children even played football with the foreign students. Martin McAllister Francis, a student from the UK, said, “The people here are very warm and friendly. We felt very welcomed.”

At the Populus Euphratica Ecological Scenic Spot in Hotan, a natural lake is surrounded by an expanse of sand. The rippling emerald lake water shimmers by the golden sand beach. The overseas students were fascinated by the amazing scenery. Exclaiming that “seeing is believing”, they also gained a deeper understanding of Xinjiang people’s adherence to the philosophy that “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets”. ■



# The Seagulls of Salt Lake City: Helen Foster Snow and China

He Yan

Two seagulls, one ready to soar higher, the other ready to land, were hovering high and low over the top of a monument. Their graceful posture showed rhythmic beauty in the golden sunshine of October. Seeing the scene, I felt like going back more than 30 years. In the English class of the third grade of junior middle school in Hangzhou, my hometown, my classmates and I read *The Seagulls of Salt Lake City*.

The text tells such a story: Over 100 years ago, the first eastern settlers traveled a long way to Salt Lake City, Utah, in the United States. They worked hard to claim the arid land. The harvest season was coming. All of a sudden, the locusts came down from the sky like dark clouds covering the sun. The crops were devoured, and the farmers despaired. Then a flock of seagulls flew in from the direction of the Great Salt Lake and ate all the locusts. The people were thankful for the seagulls and thus built a monument at Temple Square in the city. The monument was right in front of me!

Helen Foster Snow was a beautiful woman born in Utah who forged a deep bond with China.

## Traveling alone to China

Helen's ancestors were English

Puritans. In 1635, they sailed across the Atlantic to America in a ship. In the mid-19th century, Helen's great-grandfather Solon Foster led his entire family to escape religious persecution. Together with Mormon pioneers, they trekked more than 1,500 miles on foot, on horseback, in ox carts or pushing handcarts across the Western Great Plains from Eastern US to the Great Basin.

Helen's father, John Moody Foster, was a successful lawyer; her mother, Hannah Davis Foster, was an industrious and capable woman. She was also an active member of the Mormon Church, serving as head of the church's welfare organization for many years, engaged in education, service and charity work.

In June 1906, Helen's parents got married in Farmington, Utah. The couple had their first child, Helen, on September 21, 1907, in Cedar City, Utah.

The Mormon family background and education had a profound influence on Helen. When she was a child, her mother told her about her ancestors' history of exploring the West, taught her how to create a family tree and a biography of a family member and emphasized the importance of family

roots. The Puritan ethics embodied in her ancestors, such as frugality, diligence and courage, as well as dedication to the truth, had long been integrated into her blood and become the core of her spirit.

Helen finished elementary school in Cedar City. In 1923, she went to West High in Salt Lake City, where she lived with her grandmother and aunt. In high school, she was vice president of the Student Union and deputy editor of the school yearbook. She had blossomed into a talented and beautiful young woman. Not only did she excel academically, but also show great leadership and organizational skills.

After graduation, Helen attended the University of Utah. Later, she joined the American Federation of Mining, the backbone of the Silver Lobby in Congress, as assistant permanent secretary. She worked and studied at the same time. She did so well at work that she got handsome pay and built up considerable savings. She also passed the examination for Diplomatic Civilian Service.

During her tenure in the mining federation, one of Helen's jobs was to collect and edit information about Asia from newspapers and magazines. She found that most of the articles

about China published in American newspapers and magazines were written by a correspondent in China under the byline Edgar Snow. She was deeply moved by his literary talent. As she sat at her desk, picking up her scissors and preparing to cut newspapers, she often wondered: “Why can’t I do interviews and write articles like these?”

Helen had wanted to be a great writer ever since she read *The Wizard of Oz* at the age of eight. She had also read an Edith Wharton book and admired one of her quotes: “You have to stay abroad in a foreign country to get perspective before you can write about your own American experience. Let cultural contrasts strengthen your intelligence and talents.”

She said: “I know I have to go abroad and stay there a while, about a year or so. Otherwise, I would never become a great writer. But I didn’t jump on the bandwagon and rush to Paris. Ever since I was a child, I’ve been a stickler for rules. I’ve always identified with my ancestors who were Puritans. They came to Massachusetts in 1635. China is different and has a higher exchange rate for the dollar.”

Reed Smoot was one of the leaders of the American Federation for Mining where Helen worked. He was a senator from Utah and a leader in the Mormon Church. He was senator for 30 years and longtime chairman of the Senate Finance and Legislation Committee. One of Helen’s missions when visiting China was to write a report for the US Silver Lobby, led by Smoot. The report would provide evidence for the silver currency standard bill that the substitution of silver for gold proved profitable.

On July 14, 1931, Smoot wrote a letter of recommendation for Helen: “To whom it may concern: this letter will introduce Miss Helen Foster from Salt Lake City, Utah, who is visiting abroad for business and educational purposes. Miss Foster is a young lady of unquestionable integrity and character. She is an exceptionally intelligent girl. Any courtesies extended Miss Foster will be greatly appreciated by her many friends among whom I count myself.”

At the end of July 1931, Helen left Salt Lake City for Shanghai, China. She boarded the “President Lincoln” steamboat from Seattle. This beautiful seagull, flying from Salt Lake City across the Pacific Ocean, was about to write an immortal story in the history of China-US relations.

### Supporting December 9th Movement

In August 1931, the steamer entered the Huangpu River. Helen raised her camera and took pictures of the Bund. Before coming to China, her mother gave her the Kodak camera. Over the next 10 years, she used this camera to take pictures of many important historical events in China.

On her first day in Shanghai, Helen met Edgar Snow, who was then a correspondent for China Weekly Review, at Sullivan’s Cafe on the Bund. Among the foreigners at the time, Snow was in fact persona non grata. He sympathized with the Chinese revolutionary movement and was known for his pro-China stance. In an almost threatening tone, an influential foreign national said to Helen: “Don’t associate with Edger Snow and J. B. Powell. They are pro-China.” Helen disagreed with him: “I don’t want

to be influenced by the prejudgment that ‘pro-China’ is a scary thing. I’ve always had independent academic ideas and opinions.”

At the US consulate, Helen was promoted to personal secretary and social secretary of Edwin S. Cunningham, consul at Shanghai. She became a hot figure in society. On Christmas Day 1932, Helen married Snow at the US consulate in Tokyo, Japan. In 1933, on their honeymoon, the Snows went to Cuiheng village, Xiangshan county, Guangdong province. They visited the former residence of Sun Yat-sen, forerunner of the Chinese revolution. Then they boarded a steamer from Kowloon, Hong Kong, and made a brief stopover in Shanghai before heading for Peiping.

After the September 18th Incident in 1931, Japan occupied Northeast China. The situation in North China was precarious. The ancient city of Peiping appeared calm on the surface, but in fact anti-Japanese sentiment was surging.

At first, the Snows lived at No. 21 Meizha Hutong. In March 1934, they moved to a village in Haidian in a suburb of Peiping, not far from Yenching University. Snow taught at the university’s Department of Journalism. The next autumn, they moved to No.13 Kuijiachang street in the Chongwenmennei area. In Helen’s words: “Our experience in China was unique and mysterious, at the corner of the Arrow Tower of the Beijing city wall. As two foreigners around here, we formed a two-man party and a two-man people’s diplomatic corps, alone in the face of the Japanese and all the fascists, as well as their local minions. The

December 9th Movement blossomed here.”

On an autumn day in October 1935, a group of university students gathered together in Snow’s living room. They were Yu Qiwei (Huang Jing) from the Mathematics Department of Peking University, Yao Yilin (Yao Keguang) from the History Department of Tsinghua University and students from Yenching University Zhang Zhaolin, Chen Hanbo, Wang Rumei (Huang Hua), Li Min, Gong Pusheng and others. A dozen days earlier, the Snows entrusted the American writer Agnes Smedley to deliver a letter to Madame Soong Ching-ling when she went to Shanghai. The letter was drafted in English by students from Yenching University Wang Rumei and Chen Hanbo, and typed by Helen. The main content of the letter asked, “What should we do when our country is in crisis?”

Snow took out the letter he had just received from Madame Soong and read it out: “Dear students, I admire your patriotic spirit very much. Chiang Kai-shek’s traitorous behavior is shameful. You young men on the northern front can’t just be depressed or bury yourselves in your books. You have to do something! You need take action!” The letter caused heated discussion.

Helen spoke fast and intensely and came up with an idea: “You go out on the street to protest! Tie a dummy with straw and write the Chinese characters ‘Hua Bei’ on it. Place it on the coffin and carry it away for burial. This is the way to tell the public that North China is going to perish!” Chen Hanbo said it was a good idea, but too

American. Helen’s face flushed a little, but she insisted that her way made sense. Yu Qiwei suggested: “First, we should fight for freedom of the press, speech, assembly and association. Otherwise we cannot go out on the street to protest.”

Later, on Oct 22, the Student Union of Yenching University held a general meeting of all students. After the meeting, Chen Hanbo and other leaders of the Student Self-Government Association of Yenching University, entrusted Gao Mingkai, a graduate student of philosophy of Yenching University, to draft a declaration, called the Declaration of Freedom for Anti-Japanese and National Salvation by Student Self-Government Associations of 10 Universities and Schools in Peiping and Tianjin. It was issued on Nov 1, 1935, and secretly circulated among students in Peiping and Tianjin. The mimeograph copy of the leaflet was taken to Snow’s home, translated into English by Wang Rumei and others, and handed over by Helen to United Press International for broadcast to the rest of the world.

On Dec 3, the Peiping Students’ Federation held a meeting and decided to contact all universities and middle schools in Peiping and launch a large-scale petition to the highest authorities in North China. On Dec 6, the Student Self-Government Association of Yenching University led the drafting of the Telegram to All Universities and Schools in Peiping, saying that “The only way to survive today is to mobilize the whole nation to stand up to resist the invaders.”

On the same day, the Peiping Students’ Federation was officially

founded. On Dec 8, the Students’ Federation held a general meeting of representatives from all universities and schools, and determined to gather in Tian’anmen Square before 10 o’clock on Dec 9, and then go to the Xinhua Gate to present a petition to He Yingqin, representative of the Kuomintang government, and state the demand of “resolutely resisting the Japanese aggression and opposing surrender”.

Wang Rumei brought back the news and said to students of Yenching University: “The protest will take place tomorrow!” Students of Yenching University also told the Snows the news. On the day of the protest, the Snows invited foreign correspondents from The Associated Press, United Press, The Times and Chicago Daily News, to follow the protesters all the way and do live coverage. That night, Snow sent a piece of exclusive news to The New York Sun. On December 28, Helen also published a long report in China Weekly Review, along with photos of the police crackdown on the student movement in Peiping.

Soon after arriving in Peiping, Helen became acquainted with the great Chinese writer Lu Xun and many other left-wing writers. She said: “My initial interest in the Chinese revolution was more aesthetic than political. I was surprised to find that left-wing artists, writers and students were intellectual leaders. They had more personal appeal than others.”

Encouraged by Lu Xun, the Snows translated and edited a collection of short stories by left-wing Chinese writers, *Living China*, which was published in London in July 1936.

Among the articles, Helen wrote the first English essay on the New Literary Movement, entitled *The Modern Literary Movement in China*, under the pseudonym Nym Wales. It is a lasting contribution to the Chinese people.

### Going to Yan'an for news

It was a year when China's domestic situation changed dramatically. In June 1936, introduced by Soong Ching-ling, Snow set off from Peiping through Xi'an to reach the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border area under the administration of the Communist Party of China, regardless of hardships and danger. He became the first Western journalist to report the Red districts.

Helen wrote: "In June 1936, Edgar Snow made his famous trip to Bao'an county in northern Shaanxi. There he collected material for his book *Red Star Over China*. He also interviewed CPC leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, etc. Ed's book was the only one on Bao'an. Mine, *Inside Red China*, was the first one on Yan'an. Because Yan'an was not taken back from the Kuomintang until after the Xi'an Incident."

On Oct 22, Snow returned to Xi'an from Bao'an, then returned home to Peiping, just before the Xi'an Incident broke out. Helen helped sort the interview materials and did all the chores around the house, so that Snow could concentrate on his writing. Every afternoon at tea time, Snow read his work to Helen and listened to her suggestions. "The most important thing that Ed had brought back was Mao Zedong's own account of his life. It would be a surprise for many

people. Ed asked me to condense Mao's account. He said he was going to rewrite some of it anyway, in his own words. I disagreed. These contents would be the core of Ed's book."

After typing up Mao's biographical material on a typewriter, Helen realized: "At any cost, I would have to make a trip to the Red districts and get all the biographies that Ed had left out, especially the ones about women and children." On Nov 14, 1936, Mao's long conversation with Edgar Snow was first published in *China Weekly Review*. Along with this article, Snow also published a photo featuring Mao in his Red Army cap.

In early 1937, Yu Qiwei (Huang Jing) told Helen that a Communist Party congress would be held in Yan'an in early May. Shortly after Snow's return, the Second and Fourth Front Armies of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army also completed the Long March. They joined forces with the First Front Army led by Mao Zedong in Northern Shaanxi. The capital of the Red districts moved from Bao'an to Yan'an. The Kuomintang and the Communist Party were negotiating to establish a united front against the Japanese aggression. Helen was acutely aware: "Most of the Communist leaders would be together and who knew when they would be together again, if ever." On April 21, Helen left Peiping for Yan'an via Xi'an. The trip was a turning point in her life.

"On my second visit to Xi'an in 1937, the friendly forces led by Young Marshal Zhang Xueliang (who was then under house arrest) had already withdrawn from the city. Chiang Kai-

shek's fascist forces returned to avenge their loss of face. It was the result of our news report a year ago. I was told that Edgar's life would be in danger if he came to Xi'an again, which made me very worried, but also more determined."

In 1936, when Helen visited Xi'an for the first time, the Northeast Army led by General Zhang Xueliang was ordered to station in Xi'an. On Oct 3, Helen and Zhang Zhaolin took a rickshaw to the Northwest Bandit Suppression Headquarters, for an interview with General Zhang Xueliang. "Since early October, Young Marshal Zhang's Army had been ready to fight to protect the Red Army from attack. That's exactly where I wanted to go. As the only foreign correspondent in the area, I was asked by Young Marshal to blow up the situation in Xi'an on *The Daily Herald*, a London newspaper for which Edgar wrote articles. A small number of Chinese journalists were also invited to the interview, but were not allowed to publish anything." It happened two months before the Xi'an Incident. Through Helen, Zhang Xueliang's proposition of "cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party and joint resistance against the Japanese aggression" was made public for the first time. One can imagine the shock it caused.

Yu Qiwei, a delegate of the Communist Party of North China to the congress, helped Helen arrange her trip and escorted her to the train for Xi'an. They pretended not to know each other. As soon as Helen got off the train in Xi'an, she was taken by the military



police to Xi'an Guest House, where she was watched by the police.

"When Chen Hanbo arrived early in the morning, I was sheltering from the rain between the grain sacks in a warehouse. He planned to help me sneak into Yan'an. A few minutes later, head of the police who had been looking for me all night came. He handed me over to six secret agents and guards who took turns to watch me. Chen was forced to secretly flee to Yan'an. Chiang Kai-shek's government in Nanjing had recently issued a military order forbidding any journalists from going to the Red districts."

In the middle of the night of April 29, Helen ignored the official martial law. She risked her life by jumping through a window and got away from the guards. With the help of her friend Kempton Fitch, she fled from Xi'an and headed for Sanyuan, gateway to the Red districts. She arrived in Yan'an on May 3.

Helen recalled: "As soon as I arrived, Mao Zedong and General Zhu De paid me a formal visit and expressed their welcome. It was one of Mao's few formal visits. I asked Mao a long list of questions and he was happy to answer them. I had quite a few conversations with him. He agreed to provide me with sufficient information to write a booklet on the nature and course of the Chinese revolution. We had our first exchange of views on the booklet on July 7. Unfortunately, this was the day of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident and the beginning of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. So it was impossible for him to continue our

conversation. He introduced me to Luo Fu and Wu Liangping."

During the four months in Yan'an, Helen interviewed 61 revolutionaries and wrote biographies for 34 of them, including generals of the Red Army, women leaders and "Hong Xiao Gui" — young soldiers still in their adolescence, some even in childhood. In particular, the information on Zhu De's account of life was collected. It added important content to Snow's writing of *Red Star Over China*.

On Sept 20, 1937, Helen finished her trip to Yan'an. On Oct 17, she returned to her home in Peiping. Also in this month, Snow's famous book *Red Star Over China* was published in London and caused a big stir. In 1939, Helen wrote another book, *Inside Red China*, which was published in New York.

In the history of journalism, Helen's trip to Yan'an can be described as unprecedented. She also witnessed the moments when the Chinese United Front against Japanese Aggression was formed and the Red Army was reorganized into the eighth Route Army of the National Revolutionary Army. As part of the national regular forces, the Eighth Route Army went to the front and fought the Japanese in hand-to-hand combat, winning the first great victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression at Pingxingguan, Shanxi province. This victory greatly inspired all of North China in the fight against Japanese aggression.

### **Gung Ho movement in China**

"On Nov 21, 1937, I left Peiping

and Tianjin. A few days later, I stood at the window of a Butterfield & Swire coastal steamer, as six years before I had stood on the deck of the S.S. President Lincoln looking out at the harbor of Huangpu. What a different scene met my eyes today," wrote Helen. "Shanghai was still on fire. Japan had occupied the entire Chinese part of Shanghai."

On Dec 3, 1937, Helen arrived in Shanghai. Earlier, on Aug 13, the Japanese army launched a large-scale attack on Shanghai. Snow reported the news for The Daily Herald. The Japanese army wreaked havoc on Chinese industry. Eighty percent of the factories were bombed. Thousands of refugees were left homeless on the streets in poverty and sickness.

Seeing the ravages and horrors caused by the war, Helen recalled her ancestors' experience of establishing the United Order to explore the American West. She put forward an initiative: "There must be a movement of people's production. The only way to achieve this is to organize the people so that they can govern themselves and unite their production units. Industrial Cooperatives are the answer!"

Together with their New Zealand friend, Rewi Alley, the Snows launched the Gung Ho movement, which gained bipartisan support from both the CPC and Kuomintang. Helen attributed this to Madame Soong Ching-ling and Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr, British ambassador to China. Without their efforts, "no wheel of 'Gung Ho' would have turned."

Gung Ho is shorthand for Industrial Cooperatives, which

means working together. On Aug 5, 1938, the Association of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives was founded in Wuhan. Over the next seven years, under extremely difficult conditions, 30,000 people joined more than 2,000 industrial cooperatives. The refugees started production to help themselves and provided material support for the front line. The Gung Ho movement was carried out throughout the country.

Helen wrote: “Here was the democratic foundation for whatever kind of society the Chinese might decide to have in the future. It was a bridge between the Kuomintang and Communist Party.” Instead of organizing cooperatives in China, as Alley did, the Snows traveled to the US and the Philippines to raise funds for Gung Ho. This was done in close association with the International Committee of Indusco chaired by Soong Ching-ling. Along with Ida Pruitt, Helen helped found and served as vice chairman of the American Committee in Aid of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives in New York. The US president’s mother, Anna Roosevelt, served as honorary chair, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was a patron. The committee raised \$5 million in wartime relief funds for Gung Ho.

In addition, Helen wrote many articles on Gung Ho under the pseudonym Nym Wales. Her book *China Builds for Democracy* was published in New York in 1940. It was the only monograph on China’s Gung Ho movement.

On Feb 26, 1942, after the attack on Pearl Harbor the previous December, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote

in her column *My Day*: “Back at the White House, I had a most interesting talk with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Snow, who have been back from China about a year. Mrs. Snow was very enthusiastic about China’s Gung Ho movement, which received support from anyone interested in Chinese industry. They built their own machines, and gradually replaced products made entirely by hand. It seemed to be the best foundation on which to build a better standard of living for the people.”

In the same year, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru republished Helen’s book *China Builds for Democracy* in New Delhi and personally wrote the preface. It was considered as a textbook on industrial development. Since then, 50,000 cooperatives were set up in India. Nehru wrote: “In today’s war-torn world, the democratic foundation of these cooperatives and their development is of great influence and significance.” In India, Helen was known as the queen of co-ops.

In early 1941, Snow returned to the US to join Helen, who had returned earlier. In the spring of that year, they bought an old farmhouse in Madison, Connecticut. They lived a quiet life until their divorce in 1949.

After the Korean War broke out, China and the US were in isolation from each other. During the time of McCarthyism, Helen was considered a Communist sympathizer and lived in poverty. Snow was kicked out of the US and moved to Switzerland with his second wife. He died in 1972. Helen lived alone in the old farmhouse. She continued to write year after year

and eventually finished 64 books and manuscripts, mostly on China. She sees herself as a bridge-builder to build bridges of understanding and friendship between the two countries she loves.

After the thaw in China-US relations, Helen Snow arrived in Beijing on Dec 4, 1972. It was the first time she had visited new China. She was met by Zhu De, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, Deng Yingchao, Kang Keqing and other CPC leaders. She also met with student leaders of the December 9th Movement, Chen Hanbo, Gong Pusheng, among others. Accompanied by Zi Zhongjun, she visited Shaoshan, Hunan province, Mao Zedong’s hometown. On Jan 31, 1973, Helen returned to the US by plane from Shanghai.

In 1978, Helen visited China again at the important moment of the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the US. She revisited the sacred places of the revolution — Yan’an, Bao’an, and other places. After returning to the US, she wrote *Travel to the Northwest in 1970s*. In Beijing, Helen had a conversation with Deng Yingchao, then vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress. Deng said: “You have been contributing to the friendship between the Chinese and American people since the 1930s. We are deeply moved by the spirit.” In January 1997, Helen died at the age of 90. A year before her death, the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries awarded her the title of Friendship Ambassador. ■