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Volume 1 the Opening Ceremony, the Welcome Dinner, the Closing Ceremony and the Party

1. Address by Zhao Jiaqi, at the Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship ——Zhao Jiaqi, President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Address by Zhao Jiaqi at Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship

September 6th 2011

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning:

Autumn is the season of harvest, and it's also the best season of the year in Beijing. With the autumn wind breezing gently, we are now holding the 'Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship' successfully. First of all, Please allow me, on behalf of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, other organizers and sponsors, to express my heartfelt gratitude and warmest welcome to the friends from more than twenty countries and forty friendly organizations, to the leaders, experts, scholars, delegates from different provinces and cities, and council members of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries present at the forum.

Established in 1981, Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC) is a people's organization engaged in the work of people-to-people friendship between Beijing and foreign countries. Over the past 30 years, BPAFFC stood in Beijing while eyed the globe, actively committed itself to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the people of Beijing and other parts of the world, promoting exchanges and cooperation with foreign countries, actively conducting people-to-people friendship work in all aspects in different fields at various levels. By 2011, BPAFFC has established links with 160 international organizations in 54 countries, which positively promotes the standard of modernization and internationalization of Beijing.

Now, Beijing is advancing steadily towards its goal of building up a world city with Chinese characteristics. We hope to make full use of our special advantages through this forum, learn the advanced experiences from the friendly organizations of other countries, promote people-to-people friendly exchanges between Beijing and other cities around the world, explore the way and method to achieve a win-win situation, create a favorable international exchange environment for Beijing, further upgrade the influences towards outside world and standard of internationalization of Beijing, and finally to promote the common prosperity and development of Beijing and the other cities all over the world.



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Taking the advantages of the platform of Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship, I hope that we will actively exchange and share the experience on people-to-people friendship, learn from each other and give full play to the advantage of friendly organizations from the different cities all over the world. Let's join hands to open up a beautiful future of the world.

Finally, I wish Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship a great success, and wish you a pleasant stay in Beijing!

Thank you very much.

2. Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship
——Ji Lin, Member of Standing Committee of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, Executive Vice Mayor of Beijing

**Speech at the Opening Ceremony of
Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship**

Ji Lin, Member of Standing Committee of
the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, Executive Vice Mayor of Beijing
September 6th, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades and Friends,
Good morning!

Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship is inaugurated today. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and the Beijing Municipal People's Government, to extend my cordial congratulations to the opening of the forum and express my warm welcome to all the international friends and representatives of the friendship associations of other provinces and cities.

As the capital of the People's Republic of China and the political, cultural and international communication center of the country, Beijing has a history of 3,000 years as a city and dates back 850 year when it first became the capital of the country. It assembles a splendid Chinese culture, plenty of famous scenic spots, landscape and historical sites, boasting a city with the most world cultural heritage in the world and attracting more than 147 million guests both at home and abroad who come to visit every year.

Since the success of the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and based on the strategic goal of building up “People's Beijing, High-tech Beijing and Green Beijing”, the 19 million Beijing people, under the leadership of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and the Beijing Municipal Government, have made great effort to transform the mode of economic development continuously, ensure and improve people's living standards and advance the construction of harmonious society, steadily upgrading the level of city's modernization and civilization. Especially when the 8th plenary session of the 10th Conference of Beijing Municipal Party Committee put forward the goal of constructing a world city with Chinese characteristics to make Beijing a city of international activities, a city of the world high-end enterprise headquarters, a city of the world best talents, a city of advanced culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics and a city suitable to live, a new requirement and higher for the work of people-to-people friendship between Beijing and foreign countries are advanced. With the opening of the Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship, the organizers and sponsors of the forum like Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will surely bring into full play their special advantages. Further promote international cooperation, attract more advantageous resources and make continuous contributions to improvement of the international standard of the capital and to the building up Beijing into a world city with Chinese characteristics.

Finally, I wish Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship a complete success!
Thank you!



**3. Speech at Beijing International Forum on People-to-People
Friendship by UN official
——Remarks by Qian Haiyan, Director of Public Administration and
Development Management Division of ECOSOC, United Nations**

**Speech at Beijing International Forum
on People-to-People Friendship**

Qian Haiyan, Director of
Public Administration and Development Management Division of ECOSOC,
United Nations
September 6th, 2011

Respected Ms. He Luli,
Respected Mr. Prodi,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning!

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to offer warm congratulations to the opening of the forum and express my heartfelt solicitude and gratitude to the organizers, delegates and all the working staff who have been working so hard to make the forum a reality!

Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship offers a great opportunity for the representatives of friendly organizations and friendly personages to exchange and share experience with and learn from each other, which will definitely boost the development of cause of people-to-people friendship with foreign countries and promote the friendly relations among participating countries.

Beijing is the capital of China. Its fast development has drawn worldwide attention. I hope that all the delegate to the forum will learn the long history of Chinese culture and find her old but young mysteries while exploring the essence of the international people-to-people friendship.

Nowadays, some relaxation of the world situation is brought about. The world is moving towards multipolarization and economic globalization. The global and regional economic cooperation is quickening its pace. Therefore, Safeguarding world peace and promoting development have become the common wish of all the people in the world. Let's join hands and strengthen cooperation to create a more beautiful future for the harmonious world and the welfare of the people all over the world.

Finally, may I wish the forum a great success!

Thank you!

**4. A Speech at the Opening Ceremony of Beijing International Forum
on People to People Friendship**
——Chen Tao, Vice President of the Chinese People's
Institute of Foreign Affairs

**A Speech at the Opening Ceremony of
Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship**

Chen Tao, Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

September 6th, 2011

Respected Madam He Luli,
Respected Mr. Prodi,
Dear friends, Ladies and Gentleman,
Good morning!

Today, Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship hosted by Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and other organizers has officially opened. I have the honor, on behalf of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, to take this opportunity to express my warm congratulations to the opening of the forum and sincere gratitude to Mr. Prodi who accepted the invitation to attend the forum.

The Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) was founded in December 1949 on the initiative of the late Premier Zhou Enlai, the first of its kind devoted to people-to-people diplomacy after the founding of New China. The purposes of CPIFA are to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese people and the people of all other countries, promoting the establishment and development of friendly relations and cooperation between China and other countries and making contributions to peace, harmony, development and cooperation of the world. It has maintained wide contacts with well-known statesmen and diplomats (including former heads of state, former heads of government and foreign ministers, members of parliaments, leaders of political parties and leaders of some countries that have not established diplomatic relations with China), as well as public figures, prominent entrepreneurs, famous research institutions on international issues and scholars of more than 120 countries in the world, and established some bilateral or multilateral exchange mechanisms with the relevant institutions in some countries, promoting to a great extent the scientific development of people's diplomacy.

At the requirement of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and other organizers, we have invited Mr. Romano Prodi, former Italian Prime Minister and former chairman of the European Union, to attend the opening ceremony of Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship during his stay in Beijing. It is a good example of how we bring into full play the advantages of our institution to establish and develop contacts and exchanges with foreign political activists and social celebrities. It is also an important initiative that we actively involved in assisting organizing Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship, matchmaking for relevant organizations, and promoting exchanges, cooperation and common development. In the future, we will continue cooperating with Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and other relevant organizations so as to make our due contributions to the promotion of



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people's diplomacy and demonstration of a good image of Beijing and China.

Finally, I wish Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship a complete success!

Thank you.

**5. Beijing International Forum on People-to-People
Friendship Declaration**
——Wang Jian, Vice General Secretary of Beijing People's Association
for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Declaration
Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship
September 6th, 2011

We the delegates of friendship organizations from 25 countries gathering in Beijing to attend “Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship” have discussed the positive role the non-governmental friendship organizations play in promoting international friendly cooperation and development, and in creating a harmonious world. In conclusion of the forum, we wish to issue the declaration as follows.

I. We the delegates of people-to-people organizations of all countries and people of all circles take it as our own responsibility to promote mutual understanding and friendship among the people all over the world, enhance international cooperation and development, and create a harmonious world, and joining hands we have made positive contributions to the promotion of friendly exchanges and cooperation among all countries.

II. People-to-people friendship is an effective assistance and supplement to international governmental diplomacy. Non-governmental exchanges and cooperation have become a vital component in maintaining friendly relation among all countries, while People-to-people cooperation serves as an important means to promote international and regional cooperation, boasting broad prospects. All friendly organizations should make full use of their own advantages and influences to enhance friendly relations among all countries and develop toward peace and prosperity from the perspective of people-to-people cooperation and under the guidance of established principles of international relations.

III. Under the current international situations, we should further strengthen mutual understanding and trust among all people throughout the world and boost people-to-people cooperation on the basis of such trust. Therefore, friendly organizations, and their leaders in particular, should maintain constant contact and exchanges, and keep close communication and consultation, so as to display their own influence and promote people-to-people exchanges.

IV. We will be consistent in promoting friendship, strengthening cooperation and exchanges, gradually establishing the mechanism for communication and consultation. Taking this forum as an important platform for people-to-people intercourse, we shall make joint effort to advance the platform to play a more positive role.

Participants of All Friendly Organizations



**6. Speech at the Closing Ceremony
——Zhao Jiaqi, President of Beijing People's Association
for Friendship with Foreign Countries**

**Speech by Zhao Jiaqi at the Closing Ceremony of
Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship**

September 7th, 2011

Dear friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning!

With our concerted efforts, Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship has come to a successful conclusion, achieving all the scheduled tasks. Focusing on Development of Friendly Cooperation and Creation of Harmonious world, in two days' time, we not only exchanged experiences, knowledge and plans for people-to-people exchange, but also unanimously adopted the Constitution of Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship, ending with fruitful achievement. I am proud to see the success, magnificence and prestige of the forum, and would like, on behalf of BPAPFC and all the other organizers, to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the distinguished guests present these days.

After the forum, some of you will leave for your own countries with the deep-rooted friendship from people of Beijing. While others are staying to visit and investigate the great achievement of Beijing by further learning the local conditions of the city and experiencing the enthusiasm and friendliness of the local people. The forum staff members will continue offering their high-quality services to our friends.

We sincerely hope that all the friends from different organizations, cities and countries of five continents would join hands and follow the principle of the Constitution of the Forum, further promote international people-to-people friendly exchanges, and consolidate the important achievements of Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship with practical action. Let's make joint efforts to promote cooperation and common development worldwide and create a happy, magnificent and harmonious world.

May our friendship last forever.

Thank you very much.

Volume 2 the Main Forum

1. Consolidation of Friendly Cooperation, Promotion of City Development ——Keynote Speech by Li Xiaoqiang, Executive Vice President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Consolidation of Friendly Cooperation, Promotion of City Development

Li Xiaoqiang,

executive Vice President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

September 6th, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My dear Friends,
Good morning,

Today, we are gathering here with foreign friends of 50 friendly organizations from over 25 countries of the five Continents in the world. We are focusing on the theme of Development of Friendly Cooperation, Creation of a Harmonious World and on introducing the experience of the friendly exchanges of these organizations from different cities and countries. We are here to renew friendship, discuss the cooperation and development, build up a harmonious society, join hands and act positively to create a bright future of mankind through joint efforts. Let me take this opportunity to introduce to you the work of people-to-people friendship conducted by BPAFFC. I'd like to share it with our friends present today.

Established in 1981, Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC) is a people's organization engaged in the work of people-to-people friendship between Beijing and foreign countries. Over the past 30 years, BPAFFC stood in Beijing while eyed the globe, actively committed itself to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the people of Beijing and other parts of the world, promoting exchanges and cooperation with foreign countries, actively conducting people-to-people friendship work in all aspects in different fields at various levels. By 2011, BPAFFC has established links with 160 international organizations in 54 countries. It selected and sent more than 900 groups with nearly 10,000 persons in all to visit other countries, and received more than 2,100 groups with over 30,000 persons in all from other countries, which positively promotes the standard of modernization and internationalization of Beijing. The 30-year development has shown the following characteristics:

1. Serve China's overall diplomacy and broaden the development space with great efforts. Over the past 30 years, BPAFFC actively adapts to the change and development of international situation and the overall guideline of China's diplomacy by carrying out related work coordinately, serve the official diplomacy with people-to-



people contact. For instance, at the critical moment of Beijing's bid for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, we held a large-scale performance with the theme of Beijing's bid— “The Summon of Beijing” on the Tiananmen Square and other similar activities, which helped the bid to some extent. During the Games in 2008, we organized volunteers to serve foreign friends voluntarily. In 2009, we also organized some international friends to take part in the 60th anniversary celebration of the National Day, which helped greatly the official diplomacy and broadened development space of BPAFFC.

2. Serve the people's exchanges with foreign countries and highlight the people-to-people friendly characteristic. Over the past 30 years, we have taken advantage of the relations with NGOs of different countries to hold various exchange activities based on the principle of “Invitation first and going out at the same time” , which attracted many foreign people to take part and promoted the friendly exchanges between Beijing people and foreign friends. We have held such activities as “the Visiting Performance to China by the GLAY Youth Band from Japan” ; “Chinese Tibetan Culture Expedition by Vehicles” ; “the Traditional Art Exchange between China and Japan—Japan's Takiginou Performance in Beijing” ; “Planting Friendship Tree by Chinese and Foreign Friends” ; “Foreign Friends Visit to Suburban Villagers in Beijing” . We have also held annual event “Beijing International Ekiden” for 21 years in succession, “Walking around Kunming Lake for Foreign Friends” for 11 years and three photography cultural events “Beijing in the Eyes of Foreign Friends” , which attracted many foreign friends to take part. We have dispatched the Peking opera troupes to stage visiting performances to such countries as Holland, Belgium, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Croatia. We have organized photo exhibitions in Amsterdam, Tokyo, Seattle and Cairo, featuring the historical culture, city development and citizens' daily life in Beijing. We have also exhibited Chinese calligraphy and painting works in Germany, Britain, the United States, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. In 2010, we invited Amsterdam Dance Group of Holland to perform in Mentougou District and Miyun County of Beijing, which enriched the artistic and cultural life of Beijing suburban peasants and fully showed people-to-people contact and the involvement of general public.

3. Serve the promotion of city development and form a main line of people-to-people diplomacy. Over the past 30 years, centering on the reform and development of the capital, during visit to foreign countries and reception of foreign delegations, we have always paid attention to introducing the economic and social development of Beijing, promoting enterprises of the city toward the world market, and attracting foreign-invested enterprises into Beijing. We have successively organized representatives of such large-scale enterprises as Yansha Group, Beijing Energy Investment Holding Co.,Ltd. and Beijing Pharmaceutical Group Co.,Ltd. as council members to join in the visiting groups. We have invited world-famous business executives to visit Beijing many times such as Japanese Panasonic Electricians. We have worked as a bridge to promote the economic and social development of Beijing. Based on the principle of “People's Beijing, High-tech Beijing and Green Beijing” , in recent years, we have selected and sent visiting groups together with Beijing Research Institute of Culture and History. We held “Calligraphy expresses friendship; Painting connects sister-cities —Traditional Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition” in London City Hall and Cologne STATT Museum respectively, starting new exchanges in calligraphy and painting with foreign friends, which not only promoted the friendly contact between Beijing and cities like London and Cologne, but also expanded the publicity of the capital city

Beijing towards outside world and making positive promotion of the concept “People's Beijing”. At the same time, to carry out the Green Beijing Action Plan(2010—2012), we sent environmental protection exchange groups to Japan and Singapore to study advanced environmental protection experience and the garbage sorting and treatment technology. The suggestion was put forward to realize the recycle, reduction, and safe treatment of garbage processing, which functioned as a bridge to promote the economic and social development of the capital.

4. Serve the friendly contacts between young people and promote sustained development of the people-to-people diplomacy. Young people are the hope and future of the cause of people-to-people friendship with foreign countries. Over the past 30 years, we organize various exchange activities among young people every year with over 300,000 taking part, among whom more than 10,000 participate in the visits and receiving foreign groups. Up to 2011, the Association has held such exchange activities as American and Chinese high school students exchange for 20 years in succession, the Sino-Japanese friendship summer youth camp for nearly 20 years, Norway Cup World Youth Soccer Tournament for 12 years, young people exchange visits with Musashino City of Japan for 10 years, the youth animation exchange with Japan for three years. We have received the American high-school student delegation to visit Beijing ten times and this year we also received the youth delegation to visit Beijing from Incheon, South Korea, which not only focus on the present, but also promote the sustainable development of the cause of people-to-people friendship.

The 30-year development brought significant achievements, and the new situation and task urge us to advance vigorously. At present, the goal of “Building up Beijing into a world city with Chinese characteristics” set forth newer and higher requirements for the cause of people-to-people friendship with foreign countries. We will continuously try new approach, take new methods and vigorously explore and carry out the public diplomacy. With large-scale exchange activities as major platforms, and based on the exchange among citizens and young people, we will promote the exchanges between world civilizations and continuously improve the scientific nature, effectiveness and endurance of Beijing's cause of people-to-people friendship with foreign countries. We will make further efforts to upgrade the standard of internationalization and foreign influence of Beijing and create a harmonious world.

1. It is the fundamental content of the public diplomacy to promote the dialogue and exchanges between Chinese and the world civilization. Civilization is featured by diversity. Different civilizations pursue harmony in variation and development in exchange. Strengthening cultural exchange is the bond that enhances mutual understanding and promotes communication in heart. We will hold such activities as “Lectures of World Culture”, “Lectures of Chinese Classics and Beijing Culture”. We will continuously organize professional art groups of Peking opera, calligraphy and kite making to visit foreign countries and receive foreign visits. Through these activities, we will further promote the dialogue and exchange between Chinese and the world civilization to make people in Beijing know more about the world and vice versa to promote influence of Chinese culture to the other part of the world.

2. It is the key to the public diplomacy to promote the dialogue and exchange between Beijing people and people from other cities and countries. The people to people friendly exchanges with foreign countries, in term



of transmission content and medium, are easier to be accepted by the public and easier to achieve the effect of “moistening all things softly, without sound” . At present, more and more foreign people come to visit China. At the same time, more and more Chinese people are going abroad. To meet the demands of people's exchange with foreign countries, we will encourage Beijing citizens to carry out more exchange activities, with those traditional events in particular, such as Ome Marathon in Japan, Taijiquan, Taichi Fan, youth soccer tournament and animation. Besides, we will continue to receive the exchange groups of Tokyo citizens. Through these activities, the ordinary people can tell “Chinese stories” and “Beijing stories” originating from their own experiences of people's daily life. The further exchange in different forms between Beijing citizens and people from other countries and regions will be promoted.

3. It is the basic media and major means of the public diplomacy to carefully plan and design the publicity and exchange activities and exert great effort to create high-quality events to improve influence and soft power quickly. We will continuously enrich the contents and forms and make efforts to successfully hold the exchange events like “Walking around Kunming Lake for International Friends” , “Beijing in the Eyes of Foreign Friends” and “Literary Attainment and Moral Cultivation—the Friendly tour to the countryside by the foreign diplomats in Beijing” . We will improve the overall level and subtleness of the events, strive to create high-quality activities of friendly exchanges and attract more foreign friends to take part, which will upgrade the soft power and influence of Beijing towards other part of the world, as well as its level of internationalization.

In summary, we would like to join hand with friendly organizations and friends from other cities and countries in the world, learn and share experience from each other. With these organizations, we will do a better job of people-to-people friendship with foreign countries and make great efforts to create a happy and harmonious world.

Thank you!

**2. “People to People Friendship in a Dangerous World”
—— Keynote Address by Timothy M Chambless,
Professor of University of Utah, Member of
Utah Council for Citizens Diplomacy,
Member of the Salt Lake Sister-Cities Friendship Association**

People to People Friendship in a Dangerous World

Timothy M Chambless, Ph.D., University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah; USA Member,
Utah Council for Citizens Diplomacy;
Member, the Salt Lake Sister-Cities Friendship Association
September 6th 2011

Thank you. It is an honor to speak to you. Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation to everyone who has worked hard to plan and coordinate this event – to make this international forum happen. I want to thank the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries – its President and Vice President, its hard-working staff members, for making this event possible.

I bring the good wishes of the people of the United States, and the people of the State of Utah. I bring words of friendship and cooperation from Utah Governor Gary Herbert (who visited Beijing last April), former Utah Senator Bob Bennett (who was here last month), and former Utah Governor and U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman who served here in Beijing until four months ago.

We have come together, here in Beijing, because we know that the year 2011 has been a year of historic changes and dangers. Our common problem: our world is dangerous. Each day we face many dangers. But we also have opportunities, for people of good will, to work for a better world.

Forty-five years ago, I was inspired by the life and words of Senator Robert Kennedy. After the tragic death of his brother John, Robert Kennedy repeated the words of the English poet Tennyson: “Come, my friends. ‘Tis not too late to seek a newer world.” Robert Kennedy saw the dangers of the Vietnam War and the Cold War when he declared: “There are those that look at things the way they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask any not?” That positive vision inspired me, as a young college student, to not give up – to try to make my world a better place.

As a college student, I chose to live with international students. This was my introduction to international diplomacy – on a personal level. I concluded quickly that daily interaction with others from foreign countries – one person at a time -- improved understanding and achieved mutual respect.

As a result, I promised myself that I would continue this arrangement by hosting international students in my home.

In Utah, for the last 31 years, my wife and I have hosted students from 19 different countries.

Some have stayed only a few weeks or a few months. Others have stayed for four years – and more. Today, we have three students (from China, Japan and Saudi Arabia) staying in our home while they study at the University of Utah.

The State of Utah has maintained an international awareness and desire for international friendship for



decades. Although Utah is a state that does not share a border with Mexico or Canada, and is not situated alongside the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans, the people of Utah have tried to connect with foreign nations.

In 1958, the Salt Lake Sister-Cities Friendship Association was formed to advance international understanding and mutual respect between citizens with common interests. Matsumoto, Japan, and Salt Lake City, recognized that they shared a common geography with beautiful mountains and four-season climate – with great snow for skiers. Three years ago, Salt Lake City and Matsumoto celebrated their 50th anniversary as sister-cities.

In 1965, the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy was founded. At the Council's dedication ceremony on May 5, 1965, Governor Rampton gave his support by stating: "I feel it is extremely important that Utah have a warm welcome for our international visitors and that this organization of interested citizens ... will best serve this purpose." The UCCD is a private sector partner with the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, an international exchange program that provides opportunities for professional exchanges between people in Utah and visiting mid-career international professionals. The majority of International Visitors are invited as guests for dinner in the home of a UCCD member.

The UCCD is the Utah affiliate of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA). The World Affairs lectures raise awareness of critical national and global issues and give Utahns the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of world affairs through lectures by the nation's foremost authorities.

In the past 46 years, several thousand international visitors have been welcomed in Utah – seeing its businesses and government, recreational areas and universities. And those international visitors from throughout the world have left knowing that they have friends in Utah.

In that same year of 1965, the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics was created. Over 100 student interns have served internships throughout the world – including several here in Beijing. They are fluent or have strong conversational language skills when they arrive ready to perform their internships. Our University of Utah students have returned to Salt Lake City forever changed. They see the world with new eyes. They have been the international visitors who will someday become America's future leaders, and they will lead with an international perspective and global awareness.

In 1993, two residents in the nearby ski resort community of Park City began an international student exchange between the Utah chapter of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The leaders who have been instrumental in creating and maintain this important friendship connection are with us today: Shirley Smith and Val Chinn, Co-chair of USCPFA, Utah Chapter, and their Chinese counterpart BPAFFC.

Every other year, 10 Park City High School students go to China for a direct one-to-one partnership with 10 Chinese students from Beijing #4 High School. They visit Beijing, Xian, Hangzhou and Shanghai. Subsequently, many former Park City students have returned to Beijing to continue their friendships. For example, Val's son, Josh Chin, is now a Beijing resident and works for the prominent newspaper -- Wall Street Journal.

The following winter, 10 Beijing #4 High School students come to Park City and stay in the homes of the American students – being members of their families. The Beijing students meet the Mayor and the local chapter of the Rotary Club, are interviewed on radio and television, ski at the same sites of the 2002 Winter Olympics, and see a Utah Jazz basketball game. In the process, lasting friendships are made. In these 18 years,

the lives of 180 American and 180 Chinese students and their families have been affected by this exchange. Another important result has been to promote the teaching of Mandarin

Chinese – four years at Park City High School, as well as classes offered in the middle school. These high school students have been making friendships, and they have been learning the importance of cooperation and partnerships, as well as respect and appreciation for different languages and cultures. Here is another example of the importance of making friendships, and in turn, working as partners. Next Sunday will mark the 10th anniversary of an event that changed our lives.

On September 11, 2001 – now almost exactly 10 years ago – Americans, and people throughout the world, witnessed the violent acts of global terrorists. Terrorists attacked. Nearly 3,000 died. Many suffered injuries. The American public was shocked. A shock wave was sent throughout the world.

Billions of dollars were lost. Most Americans felt their worldview had changed beyond measure. American leaders began a national dialogue.

The events of September 11, 2001, changed our world. On that infamous day, I was working with other staff members at the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics, and we were making final preparations to welcome China's Ambassador to the United States. That day, he was visiting Salt Lake City – Utah's capital city.

A few months earlier, China had been awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. China's Ambassador Yang Jiechi had come to Utah to see the special places that were now ready for Utah and America to welcome 2002 Winter Olympic athletes and world visitors in less than half a year. Now, on September 11, 2001, Ambassador Jiechi Yang was scheduled to speak on that Tuesday afternoon on the campus of the University of Utah. The title of Ambassador Yang's speech was: “America and China and World Politics in the 21st Century.” When the terrorist attacks occurred early that morning, fear and uncertainty suddenly dominated the news. China's Ambassador to the U.S. could have cancelled his address. However, Ambassador Yang decided to deliver his speech as scheduled.

The Ambassador delivered a fine speech – focused upon America and China, world politics as the new 21st Century was beginning. However, it is his opening remarks – prior to his prepared speech – that I remember well. Ambassador Yang began speaking to the audience with no notes – and with great sincerity.

Ambassador Yang said (and I will paraphrase him here): “America and China have had their differences. However, today, the terrorist attacks upon New York City and Washington, D.C. are a tragedy. These attacks are tragic. These attacks are reminders that both our nations are targets of the terrorists.

We are targets. We are targets because of our successes. China's Ambassador explained further that, “China and the United States have economies and domestic policies and foreign policies which are opposed by small groups which are willing to use terror to terrify in an effort to change what the majority of Chinese and Americans want for their nations.”

Ambassador Yang concluded – declaring that, “Yes, the U.S. and China have had our differences. In past decades, leaders of our nations have disagreed on some important matters. But we have reconciled. We have put our disagreements behind us. We must do so. For America and China share so much in common. Today, we are not adversaries. We are targets. Today, we are friends. We must cooperate and work together.”

I agree totally. And I agree with President Obama who has said repeatedly that problem-solving requires teamwork. We work together in problem-solving partnerships. We organize with a shared purpose. We cooperate, rather than confront and threaten.



When I use the word “we,” I mean partnerships between governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with private sector business – large and small. Governments (city, county, state, national) need the partnerships and assistance of NGOs who can provide needed manpower and insight that many governments lack and need in order to provide essential services the public expects.

Successful national partnerships require a professional military – well trained and well-educated, trained to act as public servants. The military confronts dangers: disasters, uprisings, attacks -- and always respects and obeys civilian leaders.

Such partnerships need dynamic colleges and universities that educate the nation's young people who someday will become the nation's leaders. University education – in all academic areas -- produces the research and development needed for an inventive and growing economy using new technologies.

A free and independent news media is needed in order to reassure everyone that these partnerships are acting honestly and free of corruption. A free press may not be a perfect press, however, a free news media gives a nation's people the needed information governments often fail to publicize, or choose not to publicize. Journalists must act as “watchdogs” – not as lap dogs or attack dogs – focused on helping.

I think of President Abraham Lincoln's words: “He has a right to criticize who has the heart to help.”

Today, America's largest state, California, has terrible financial problems. But Redondo Beach, a small city near Los Angeles has a balanced budget, has not raised taxes, provides services taxpayers want, and has not reduced its government employees. On weekends, this resort city of 70,000 doubles in population. What is this city's secret to being successful? The answer to this question is provided by its Mayor:

“Trust.

Friendship.

Communication.

Coordination.

Planning.”

Mayor Michael Gin, whose family ancestors came to America from China, called together his city's management and labor leaders, expressed his concern over the economy and potential budget cuts, and asked them to problem-solve in their respective areas. Solutions ranged from reducing over-time spending to limiting vacations to shortening employee hours, and not to replacing employees who retire. As a result of listening to employees, and also to the taxpaying public, his city has no financial deficits. Mayor Gin Has said that, “People may not always agree with you...but as long as they feel a sense of ownership or partnership in the process, there will always be that respect...”

A businessman in this southern California city, Mike Morales, a man who traces his ancestry to Mexico, has said that, “it's going to be hard for you to find somebody to say something bad about our mayor...because he actually listens to the community, and he cares.” We must care.

California is very diverse. Diversity is a strength. 30% of California's residents were born outside the U.S. My state of Utah has been welcoming refugees from everywhere. Today, 117 languages are spoken in Utah. In Utah, we teach our children American English – and Mandarin Chinese – and teach them to use computers in order that they can be fully prepared for the future. The fact is: a student who can speak Mandarin and English fluently can communicate with more than half the world's population today.

America's recent Ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman, the former Governor of Utah, is now a candidate for

President of the United States. Ambassador Huntsman has observed that the United States and China should act together because they (indeed, all nations) have “shared interests” in creating a better and safer world. China and the United States have the responsibility and the power -- economic and military, industrial and inventive -- and the potential, to work together to be problem-solving nations.

Former Ambassador Huntsman observes China is achieving greatly in area of economic growth and educational advancements, energy development and environmental safeguards. However, to achieve balance, there is a need to expand political pluralism, human rights, press freedom and Internet openness.

Imagine what we can accomplish if we could stop fighting wars and spend our money and energy, our vision and our inventive creativity to converting the ocean's salt water to drinkable clean water. The technology exists to make the deserts bloom, expand agricultural lands, and feed the world's populations.

Imagine if we could use our money and technology to keep the air clear, the water pure, to produce clean energy and maintain a clean natural environment.

America's first President, George Washington, said that the United States was “an experiment in democracy.” Human experiments always have mistakes in the process of discovery. Americans have made many mistakes as we have acted to achieve a better life for all those who live in the United States. Hopefully, we have learned from our mistakes.

We must help the future generations to understand that friendship can achieve what confrontation cannot. Cooperation can produce results that conflict cannot. Friendship leads to trust and teamwork -- which can combine to produce successful problem-solving. Cooperation between nations is essential if we are to achieve long-term peaceful results.

I said the word “We...” However, I must stress that before “We” come together as partners in problem-solving, we find ourselves standing alone as individuals. Ideas and ideals begin with individuals, but the courage to implement the ideas and ideals occurs when individuals come together as partners.

Senator Robert Kennedy recognized this when he said: “Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

In conclusion, we can succeed -- if we work together as friends, if we cooperate together with a common purpose. We can survive in a dangerous world if we work together to achieve a better world. We must be relentless in this goal. We can use our friendship and cooperation to make our world a more peaceful place, a “newer world” -- despite the problems, despite the dangers. We must stay optimistic and positive. We must stay hopeful. We do not give up. We must stay visionary.

Thank you.



3. Speech by Mikhail Titarenko, President of Russia-China Friendship Association, Director of RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies

Speech at the Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship

Mikhail Titarenko, President of Russia-China Friendship Association, Director of
RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies

September 6th, 2011

Respected Madam. He Luli, President of Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship,
Respected Mr. Zhao Jiaqi, President of BPAFFC
Dear friends,

First of all, I would like, on behalf of Russia-China Friendship Association and its 20 local branches to extend our warmest greetings to the forum and sincere appreciation for the invitation. I wish the forum a big success.

To Russian people, Beijing is not only a city, where 62 years ago on October 1, 1949, People Republic of China, a country which is shocking the world today with its gargantuan achievements, was founded, but also a place which witnessed 62 years of friendship between the two countries and their people. China-Russia People's Friendship Association was established right after the founding of P. R. China with such distinguished political leaders as Liu Shaoqi and Song Qingling presiding over its work in its history.

Soviet Union is the very first country which recognized P. R. China. The second day after founding of China, it offered the recognition and established diplomatic tie with this newly-founded nation.

The theme of the forum, Development, Friendship, Cooperation and Building a Harmonious World, shares a great similarity with the aim of Russia-China Friendship Association. Its predecessor, the Soviet-China Friendship Association, was founded on October 29, 1957, being the very first international friendship organization in our country. During its 55 years of history, the association has been committed to strengthening and advancing the good-neighborly relationship and friendly cooperation between our two nations. Despite the 1960's and 1970's when our relationship suffered great setbacks, the association has been trying hard to maintain a friendship to the Chinese people and a respect to its time-honored history and glorious culture. We have every reason to believe that we can overcome all kinds of challenges to our good ties.

During the difficult times, the association organized more than 300 activities of various kinds to mark the significant historical events, the history of relationship between the two countries and to celebrate the well known Chinese revolutionaries and great men of letters.

With the normalization of diplomatic relations, the friendship organizations in both countries resumed their contact to actively push cooperation.

On April 25, 1996, Russia and China declared the strategic partnership based on equality and mutual trust. As a result, the work ties between friendship organizations in both nations enjoyed great boost. On July 16, 2001, the two countries signed China-Russia Good-Neighborly Friendship and Cooperation Treaty in Moscow.

The treaty, in its lawful capacity, strengthens the peaceful wish shared by the people of both nations: friendship in all generations and never becoming enemies. It calls on the two peoples to be good neighbors, good friends and good partners and asks young people in the two countries to carry on the traditional friendship and partnership in the many years to come.

This year we sponsored a big celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty. A grand meeting was held in Moscow in its honor, which is the first time that such a meeting was co-sponsored by both Russia-China Friendship Association and China-Russia Friendship Association. The Chinese delegation was headed by Mr. Li Shu, our old friend.

The celebration and the meeting coincide with the state visit of President Hu Jintao to Russia. In Moscow, President Hu and President Medvedev as well as Premier Putin held multiple meetings and discussions. President Hu also attended the 15th World Economic Forum in St. Petersburg. During the visit, the two nations signed joint declarations on the celebration of 10th anniversary of China-Russia Good-Neighborly Friendship Cooperation Treaty and the Current International Affairs and Major International Issues.

These important bilateral documents not only embody the all time high in the relationship between our two nations but also elevate the strategic partnership of our two counties in the 21 century to a new high, which is equality, mutual trust, mutual support, common prosperity and friendship in all generations. State leaders of the two nations mapped out the directions of relationship which summarize as follows: both countries give priority to this relationship in the broader foreign policy, both countries enhance cooperation in the international issues to ensure peace, security, stability and harmonious development in their region and the world at large. It is the strategic partnership and strong mutual trust between Russia and China that provide for the most reliable assurance for the world peace and common development of the two countries under such complex international circumstances.

Owing to the above-mentioned historical obligations, Russia-China Friendship Association, as a social organization with the greatest support from the general public in Russia, will be consistent in its obligation to garner more support and understanding from the general public to the Russia-China Strategic Partnership. We will continue to join hands with CPAFFC and BPAFFC to work towards a better understanding and friendship between our two counties and their people.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Chen Haosu, the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries as well as China-Russia Friendship Association. We are working together with Mr. Chen to boost the mutual understanding between our two peoples, without which the friendship, cooperation and common prosperity would not be possible.

Respected leaders of Beijing Municipal government and local organizations,

Today, people around the world remember the city of Beijing not only by its rich and splendid cultural heritage, but also the most beautiful and extraordinary Olympic Games ever, which I had the honor to attend at the invitation of the city.

I believe that all the participants in the Games left Beijing as new friends of the city as well as the country.

May this forum result in more friends for this beautiful country!

May this forum achieve its due contribution to the strengthening of friendship among the people of the world and creation of a harmonious world.

Thanks.



**4. Enhance People-to-people Exchange,
Promote Common Development——keynote speech at Beijing
International Forum on People-to-People Friendship by Zhang Lixin,
Deputy District Mayor of Chaoyang District, Beijing**

**Enhance People-to-people Exchange,
Promote Common Development**

Zhang Lixin, Deputy District Mayor of Chaoyang District

September 6th, 2011

Honorable leaders,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Good Morning! I am the deputy head of Beijing Chaoyang District. It is such a pleasure to be here at Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship and have this valuable chance to share opinions about people-to-people exchange with all of you. As a window of Beijing foreign communication, Chaoyang District pays great attention to people-to-people exchange with foreign countries. Since the Reform and Opening-up, Chaoyang District has made numerous progresses and probed its own way of developing people-to-people exchange with Chaoyang characteristics.

First of all, let me give you a basic introduction of Chaoyang District.

Located in the eastern of Beijing, Chaoyang District is the biggest district with the largest number of citizens in Beijing. According to the latest planning of Beijing, Chaoyang District is entitled with many functions, such as “important window for international exchanges”, “economic ties between China and the world”, “developed international service area”, “modern sports and cultural center”, and “high-tech industry base”. After years of rapid development, Chaoyang District, honored as “China's first district of foreign affairs”, harvests growing international influence. To our pride, all the foreign embassies gathered in Chaoyang region except Russia and Luxembourg. Besides, 60% of star hotels, 65% of foreign financial institutes, 80% of international organizations and Chamber of Commerce, and 90% of Beijing-based foreign news institutions are located here. Frequent international exchanges and multi-culture blend result in the formation of many featured international brands, such as CBD, San Li Tun Village, 798 Art Zone, Pan Jia Yuan, Gao Bei Dian and the Silk Market.

Benefitting from its unique geographical advantages, Chaoyang District is standing on a broad stage for international exchange. Beijing Municipal Government established the role of Chaoyang District and appointed it as the test area for building the world's city. Those strategic goals provide a new opportunity and stage for Chaoyang District to carry out extensive exchanges with foreign countries.

In Order to Better Promote People-to-People Exchanges, Chaoyang District Gives Priority to the Following Three Aspects:

First, making friends with more overseas cities to make our people-to-people exchanges more extensive and intensive. From 1993, Chaoyang District officially started its efforts to develop international friendship

cities. To date, it has established friendship with 31 cities (or districts of cities) from 20 different countries. With the network of friendship cities, Chaoyang District has carried out people-to-people exchanges of various forms, which serves as an effective supplement to official exchanges, coordinates the development of society and economy in our district, and forms an all-dimensional and multi-faceted foreign relations pattern.

Second, training our citizens to improve their involvement and performance in people-to-people exchanges. In order to make our district more international, continuously satisfy the need of various organizations and citizens in our district to exchange with foreign countries, Chaoyang District has, for many years, carried out “Citizens Speaking Foreign Language” activity, which leads to a climax of learning and speaking foreign languages among our citizens. As a result, 13 communities (and streets) in our district has been awarded as Beijing Advanced Community for Citizens Speaking Foreign Languages, which makes us top the other districts and counties of Beijing. In addition, we attach great importance to sight-seeing spots with foreign involvement such as CBD, 798, Gaobeidian and Silk Street. By carrying out training on foreign affairs etiquette, the ability of foreign reception of people in those areas are improved, which ensures high-level receptions in international events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and daily affairs such as the sight-seeing and shopping of important guests of the Communist Party of China and the Country. It has not only supplemented the national diplomacy, but also shaped international brand names with considerable influence.

Third, forging the brand to improve the level and global influence of our people-to-people exchanges. We encourage and support social communities in our district to go international and carry out exchanges. For 18 years in a row, we co-hold with Minato, Tokyo art exhibition of seniors and teenagers, with more than 2000 calligraphy and painting works of citizens in Chaoyang District exhibited in Tokyo. We organized acrobats to perform in Australian country music festival to carry forward Chinese traditional culture. We organized the District Gaobeidian tilts team to participate in the “Dancing in Los Angeles”, “Dancing in Sydney”, “Dancing in London”, and other activities, which aroused strong reaction in the local. We created the “Chaoyang International Customs Festival”, “Chaoyang Pop Music Week”, “CBD International Business Festival”, and promoted people-to-people cultural and economic exchanges by the form of “the government builds the stage, and people sing the song”.

To better promote people-to-people communication, Chaoyang District mainly do the work in three aspects:

1. Establishing friendly relationship with some cities to improve broader and deeper people-to-people exchange. Since 1993, Chaoyang District had begun to formally establish friendly relationship with cities in other countries and up to now it has communications with 31 cities of 20 countries. With the help of this relationship, Chaoyang District has carried out various people-to-people exchange, which coordinates the official communication, serves the regional socioeconomic development and constructs the comprehensive, multi-fields pattern of foreign communication.

2. Cultivating strength to improve the participation and engagement of people-to-people exchange. To improve the regional internationalization and meet the demands of carrying out people-to-people communication for all the organizations and citizens in the District, we have encouraged the citizens to speak foreign languages for several years in succession, which sparks a high tide for learning and speaking foreign languages in whole District. There are 13 communities that were marked as “Beijing Advanced Community for Speaking Foreign Languages”, which made Chaoyang District the first among all the districts and areas in Beijing. Besides, we mainly build some places for foreign visit such as CBD, 798, Gaobeidian, and the Silk Street. We help them



improve the foreign reception ability and level by way of organizing foreign affairs etiquette training and so on. By doing this, they are sure to finish the reception work with high quality during some important international activities like 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the visit or shopping for the important guests, which not only coordinates the state diplomacy, but also forms some influential international brands.

3. Making brands to improve the levels and global influence of people-to-people exchange. We encourage and support social groups in the District to go abroad and carry out foreign exchange. For successive 18 years, we have held the joint “Senior Citizens and Teenagers Painting Exhibition” with Japan's Tokyo metropolitan harbor and exhibited in Tokyo more than 2,000 calligraphy and paintings by Chaoyang citizens. We organized the acrobats to perform at “The National Rural Music Festival” in Australia, which spread the traditional culture of Chinese nation. We also organized the Gaobeidian stilts team of the District to take part in the activities in Beijing like “Dancing Los Angeles”, “Dancing Sydney” and “Dancing London”, which caused a strong reaction in the local area. We have held a series of international activities such as “Chaoyang International Carnival”, “Chaoyang Popular Music Week” and “CBD International Business Festival”, which promotes people-to-people cultural, economic and trade communication through the form of “people-to-people performance with the help of the government”.

Currently, Beijing Municipality has proposed to build world city with Chinese characteristics. As the most internationalized area of the capital, Chaoyang District will accelerate the pace of building the trial plot of world city with Chinese characteristics. We will continue to take “serve for the diplomacy of the central government and the overall situation of Beijing Municipality's work related to foreign affairs, serve for the economic construction and social development of the whole district, serve for international communication which increases day by day” as the guiding principle to launch people to people diplomacy. And we will improve exchanges with foreign countries in all respects, particularly people to people exchange with greater determination, more practical attitude, innovative theory and working method, so as to promote the development of all undertakings of the whole district.

First, play a role in the construction of the trial pilot of world city. Continue to consolidate the sister-city or sister-district relationships with other world cities including New York of America, Tokyo of Japan, and London of Britain, take use of the advantages of people to people exchange to pursue breakthrough and bring into play its function of attracting international organizations to settle in Beijing and promoting multi-cultural development, to make it an important channel to promote the construction of the trial pilot of world city and attract international elements.

Second, play the role of promoting economic development of headquarters. Actively promote and widely publicize to attract the world Top 500 enterprises to Chaoyang District to invest and establish regional headquarters, so as to speed up building regional economic management and resource deployment center; meanwhile, actively play the role of intermediary to help key district enterprises build relationships build relationships with well-known enterprises to promote rapid and sound economic development.

Third, play the role of creating international cultural atmosphere. Develop big branding cultural and sports events. Actively attract excellent cultural and art performances from foreign countries to forge a series of international cultural brands such as “Chaoyang International Cultural Festival” to promote multi-cultural development; widely launch custom and cultural activities to promote and develop the marrow of traditional culture; organize strong cultural and art teams and troupes to go abroad for performance to show the image and

characteristic of Chaoyang District.

Fourth, play the role of improving regional environment for international exchange. Keep improving the software and hardware facilities of international development of the region through promoting international exchange and cooperation in education, health and medicine and sports. Improve people's ability to communicate with foreigners, forge a social atmosphere in which Chinese and foreign residents live in harmony by people to people exchange and improve residents' quality and the level civilization.

Dear friends and guests! Chaoyang District is an open, inclusive place with cultural diversity. We sincerely hope we can make friends, discuss cooperation and pursue common development with people all over the world. And I hope we can gain more beneficial experience through our exchange today.

Finally, I wish this forum a great success! Thank you!



5. Delivering Love & Care, Cementing Friendship——Remarks by Qin Lin, President of Sichuan Provincial Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Delivering Love & Care, Cementing Friendship

Qin Lin, President of Sichuan Provincial Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

September 6th, 2011

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a great honour for me to attend this Beijing International Forum on People-to-people Friendship. I am from Sichuan Province in western China and I am the president of Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. It is known to all that Sichuan is the home to giant pandas and enjoys the fame of land of abundance. The devastating Wenchuan Earthquake struck Sichuan in 2008 and over 80,000 people lost their lives. The disaster struck the heart string of people all over our country as well as people all over the world. Precious assistance was offered from all sides.

First I'd like to pay high tribute to the CPAFFC. With the solicitude and support of President Chen Haosu, Vice President Li Xiaolin, the CPAFFC helped us to win relief fund and goods worth 700,000,000 Yuan, which was a great impetus to SIFA's diplomatic work on earthquake relief. In particular, Beijing is the partnership city assisting Shifang. Beijing assistance has turned the devastating Shifang into a place full of beauty and vitality. On this occasion, on behalf of the Sichuan people, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude to the CPAFFC leaders, all the participating foreign friends, Beijing Municipal Friendship Association, and friendship associations all over the nation. The people of Sichuan will remember and be grateful for ever your valuable help and support.

Joining in the earthquake relief, restoration and reconstruction is the central task of SIFA in the recent 3 years. In this regard, we put forward that we must correctly handle 3 relations and make 3 connections. First, correctly handle the relation between respecting the will of foreign friends and the urgent need of the quake-zone; making sure that our work respects the will of foreign friends while meeting with the urgent need of the quake-zone. Second, correctly handle the relation between the current quake-relief work and future friendly exchange; making sure that our work helps the current quake-relief work while is conducive to future friendly exchange. Third, correctly handle the relation between giving scope to SIFA's subjective initiative and linking with the other social and civil organizational sources; making sure that SIFA's striving for international aid is linked with the other social and civil organizational sources. Practice has proved that those 3 relations and connections are effective in aiding the quake relief, restoration and reconstruction. SIFA made due contribution to accomplish the tasks of post-quake reconstruction in 3 years and in the meantime we deepened the friendship between the Chinese people and the people in the rest of the world.

SIFA immediately threw itself into the quake-relief work. 1. Saving lives. Under the direction of Sichuan Provincial Government, we coordinated medical groups and searching parties to save lives in the earthquake zone. We helped and coordinated Korean searching party and MSI medical group to work in the quake-zone.

2. Striving for international relief goods in time. Through our effort, the tents, cloths, quilts, desks, medicines, foods donated by international friends and friendship associations were given out to the quake-hit

people, schools and villages immediately. Secours Populaire Francais requested to give out the relief goods to the quake-hit people themselves, so we helped to choose the location. The village Party Committee gathered the villagers together and the French friends went to hand out rice cookers, toilet tissues, thermoses to them. In this way both the local people and French friends were satisfied.

3. International publicity. Within the first month after the earthquake, SIFA recommended 2 girls from Beichuan Middle school to visit the United States with Vice President Li Xiaolin. The 2 girls briefed wenchuan Earthquake to over 20 senators and representatives at the Capitol Hill. The Americans were moved that Beichuan Middle School had nearly 1,000 students dead and many disabled in the earthquake. The 2 girls also called upon Jimmy Carter. Vice President Li Xiaolin commended that this was a successful people's diplomacy. Later the 2 girls enrolled in universities. This May, Premier Wen Jiabao visited the family of one of the girls when he was in Beichuan.

Within the first month after the earthquake, SIFA organized the Deyang Youth Art Delegation to visit Korea. Disaster tore down the children's housing and their household register books were buried down under. However SIFA managed to get their passports visaed even when the Korean Consulate was off-work at the time. On June 4, 2008 the delegation arrived in Korea and briefed the devastating earthquake there, which was a huge surprise to the Koreans. They were moved at the perseverance and unyieldingness of the Chinese children.

4. Mental comfort. The earthquake was a huge mental trauma to the affected people. SIFA immediately invited and coordinated international experts and volunteers to deliver mental comfort in the quake-zone. 10 days after the earthquake, we invited the 33-person chorus from the Vanguard University of Southern California to stage performances in Beichuan, Mianzhu and Dujiangyan. For the first time, the quake-hit children smiled. CCTV Dialogue reported the event. In 2010 SIFA once again invited the chorus to visit Sichuan and exchanged performances at Aba Teachers' College, East Turbine Middle School in Deyang, and Southwest University of Science and Technology in Mianyang. Their performances were warmly received by the locals.

On the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the earthquake, SIFA arranged the Washington Wizards to visit Youai Primary School in heavily-hit Dujiangyan City. They played basketball with the wheelchair children and gave the children their signed basketballs. By playing basketball together, Washington Wizards delivered mental comfort to the quake-hit Aba Teachers' School students.

After the two phases of saving lives and relocation people, rebuilding homeland became our central task.

1. We match up the overall diplomacy by conducting diplomatic work on earthquake relief.

In 2009, SIFA organized 20 earthquake orphans to visit Korea headed by Vice President Li Xiaolin. President Lee Myung-bak met with the children at Chong Wa Dae, and scooped up Wei Yuehao, whom he picked up when visiting Dujiangyan in 2008. In 2010 Premier Wen Jiabao met with the children organized by SIFA at Zhongnanhai. The Premier presented them his signed Chinese Grand Dictionaries.

2. We help to rebuild housing for the quake-hit people.

Guangyuan, a heavily-hit city, needed timber in its post-quake reconstruction. SIFA contacted the friendship association in Russia and Irkutsk government offered 160,000 m3 of fine timber, capable of building 10,000 countryside houses, to assist Guangyuan.

Montpellier of Herault Province of France is a sister city of Chengdu. The Herault parliament and people donated 1,000,000 Yuan for Sichuan. We decided to use this donation for the supporting work of a village



housing reconstruction in Anxian County. Hence the reconstructed village housing was called China-France Friendship Home, and has become a site of friendly exchange for French delegations.

3. We help the quake-hit schools.

The German-China Friendship Association in Hamburg expressed to Shanghai Friendship Association its intention to help a quake-hit school. Upon hearing the news from Shanghai Friendship Association, we promoted the job and finally chose Guangping Primary School in Jiange County of Guangyuan City as the recipient. It was an 8-hour bus ride from Chengdu when I went there for the first time after the earthquake. There was no clean public toilet, and the restaurants around were out of business. However the school leaders, teachers and students were in good spirit, positive and optimistic. Later the visiting German friends were touched by them. Germans donated a dining hall for the school and the job completed quickly. In the next a couple of years, German friends visited the school several times, sending its students teaching apparatus and small gifts. Now Guangping Primary School is a token of Sichuan-German people-to-people Friendship.

4. We promote sister-city exchange and establishment by our diplomatic work on earthquake relief.

Fryslan Province of the Netherlands is the sister-province of Sichuan. With our assistance, Fryslan donated 100,000 Euros to Aba Teachers' College to build an electronic library. This donation deepened our two provinces' friendship.

Washington State of the US is the sister-state of Sichuan Province. In 2010 we invited the 15-person delegation from Lakeside School in Seattle to take part in the China-US Youth Tree Planting activity - "Planting a Tree for the Quake Zone". The American participants said that it was an unforgettable time in their life. This July teachers and students from Lakeside School visited Xiaoba Town of Anxian County once again for a summer camp. Their friendship with the quake-hit children is growing riper.

SIFA helped the mayor of Napier, a quake-hit city in New Zealand to visit Mianyang City. Both cities are developing sister-city ties. Napier introduced its reconstruction experience to Mianyang and received overseas students from Mianyang.

Under the promotion of SIFA, Deyang City started its ties of friendly cooperation with Gangneung City of Korea.

5. We enhance the international publicity of the achievements in post-quake reconstruction.

This May, SIFA arranged the ambassadors from Mauritius, Malawi, Botswana and officials from embassies of Namibia, Zambia, Congo (Kinshasa), Tanzania and Lesotho to witness the post-quake reconstruction achievements in Wenchuan County. They also visited the location shooting of Nine Mile Fragrance, a movie reflecting the new life of the quake-hit people. The foreign officials unanimously agreed to be the overseas distribution consultants of the movie.

6. We express the sincere gratitude of Sichuan people.

Immediately after the massive earthquake broke out in Japan, SIFA sent over 100 email and letters of comfort to the various Japanese organizations and friends and made donations via Sichuan Red Cross. We organized pupils from Dujiangyan North Street Foreign Languages Experimental Primary School to donate their pocket money, paintings, works of calligraphy and paper cutting to the quake-hit Japanese students in Chiba Prefecture. Those donations were forwarded to the Chiba students by Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua, and the Japanese public was deeply touched by the care and gratefulness from Chinese students.

A provincial people's organization and a window for Sichuan's international people-to-people friendly

exchange, SIFA has long served “cementing friendship, promoting cooperation, safeguarding peace and boosting development” as our purpose. SIFA is willing to cooperate with all the friendship-with-China organizations and individuals to open up a beautiful future to pass on our love and care and keep our friendship forever and ever.

Thanks.



6. The 30th Anniversary of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries: Activities launched by Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association——Utsunomiya Tokuichiro, President of NPO, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association

**The 30th Anniversary of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
Activities launched by Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association**

Utsunomiya Tokuichiro, President of NPO, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association

September 6th, 2011

Distinguished President Zhao Jiaqi,
Honorable seniors,
Dear friends,
Good morning!

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, I'd like to extend my sincere congratulations. I'm much honored to be invited to this forum on people-to-people friendship and exchange our views.

On behalf of NPO, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association, I'd like to extend my sincere congratulations to the opening of this conference. Moreover, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to Chinese friends for your warm assistance to Japan after the massive earthquake on March 11th.

I was elected President at the plenary meeting held by NPO, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association on June 25th this year. As successor to former President Kando Tetsuo, who led our association for a long time, I was afraid that I couldn't shoulder this responsibility. However, in a time of profound changes, it's my mission to carry on the career of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and China, which Utsunomiya Tokuma, my grandfather and other predecessors had been engaged in. Therefore, I decide to accept this appointment and make contribution to the further development of friendship between Japan and China.

Now I'd like to take this opportunity to brief you on the people-to-people activities launched by Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association. Details are as follows:

1. Establishing Sister-city Relationship between Tokyo and Beijing(PowerPoint 1)

Firstly, I want to make a brief introduction about the establishment of sister-city relationship between Tokyo and Beijing. Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of Japan-China Friendship Association. Exchange activities in purpose of enhancing the friendship between Japanese people and Chinese people have been held frequently. In March of 1979, we built sister-city relationship between Tokyo and Beijing, capital of Japan and China respectively. And this year marked the 32nd anniversary.

Just as the PowerPoint 1 shows, in May 2009, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries co-held "Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the building of sister-city relationship between Tokyo and Beijing". 170 people, including delegates from BPAFFC

and Tokyo's Counterpart District in Beijing attended the celebrations together with friends from Japan, making the total number 370, and the meeting concluded as a huge success.

2. Exchanges with BPAFFC (PowerPoint 2-1)

Over 30 years since the founding of BPAFFC, various exchange activities have been held in different areas by these two associations. I will talk about the exchanges between teenagers.

Picture2-1 shows us the “Beijing Teenage Summer Camp Delegation to Japan” organized in 2008 and 2010.

First held in 1988, the campers of “Summer Camp for Friendship between Teenagers from Japan and China” were dispatched by regions and cities of Tokyo. The first ten camps were all held in Beijing. Since 1999, “Beijing Teenage Summer Camp Delegation to Japan” started to visit Tokyo and has made nine visits to Tokyo.

Powerpoint 2-2 manifests the activities held by “Beijing Teenage Anime Exchange Delegation to Japan”. This exchange was held every winter since 2009. With the help of Hokkaido Japan-China Friendship Association, exchange in Animation School of Sapporo Gakuin University yielded substantial results.

3. Delegations to China(PowerPoint 3)

This photo was taken when Exchange Delegation of Citizens visited China.

“Exchange Delegation of citizens to China”, mainly consisting of members of Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association, comes to Beijing for exchange every autumn, with the assistance of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

4. Cultural and sports exchange(PowerPoint 4-1)

In addition, exchanges can be seen in culture and sports.

These photos reflect the activities such as Beijing marathon enthusiasts to take part in Ome Marathon, delegations for exchange in the game of GO, and commemorative activities for the Beijing Olympic Games.

Nights of Japanese and Chinese Music (PowerPoint 4-2)

We also held concerts under the theme of “Nights of Japanese and Chinese Music”.

Aiming at help Japanese who came back from China, the “Nights of Japanese and Chinese Music”, which started from 1985, has been successfully held for 26 times up to 2010. The picture shows the concert held for “The 30th Anniversary of Establishment of Sister-city Relationship between Tokyo and Beijing”.

5. Activities to Popularize Chinese(PowerPoint 5)

Various activities to popularize Chinese were frequently held, including opening Chinese classrooms, holding Chinese speech contests, and awarding contest winners prizes presented by the President of BPAFFC.

In addition, as the photos showed, seminar on Chinese poems are held to enable everybody get to know Chinese.

6. Other activities (Powerpoint 6)

Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association made the following donations to help China, which can be



known from the PowerPoint.

My PowerPoint shows all things I want to talk about today.

In order to promote exchanges between small and medium-sized enterprises in Japan and China, Tokyo Japan-China Friendship Association will take an active role in holding economic exchanges.

Economic exchanges between Japanese and Chinese large enterprises are under way, however, the exchanges between small and medium-sized enterprises with technology and capacity is far from enough.

The Special Committee for Economic Exchanges was founded at the annual meeting this year, and investigation group of small and medium-sized enterprises will be sent to China and it also welcomes delegations with different missions to Japan and carry out the specific exchange activities between small and medium-sized enterprises.

Thank you very much!

7. **China NGO-the New Driving Force in Building World City—— Li Ruohong, Vice President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries**

China NGO-the New Driving Force in Building World City

Speech on Beijing International Friendship Week

Li Ruohong, Vice President of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

September 7th, 2011

Respected Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Beijing is an open world cities and is the political, cultural and sports center of China. As an international volunteer, I have noticed opportunities and challenges in the international exchanges in China and I think Chinese NGOs are the driving forces in building world city. The changing international political situation and the integration of global economic promote the rapid development of the civil society. Along with the era characteristics and the present situation of social imbalance, NGOs grow and expand gradually. The relationship between countries is just like the Olympic logo, I have you and you have me. We cooperate and we are independent. No country can maintain sustainable development under the isolated or hostile environment. The traditional sovereign state-led unitary political structure is changing to diversified network and multi-level political structure. NGOs have surpassed the single foreign model like political parties to political parties, government to government, parliament to parliament etc. and have broken the bondage of all kinds of interests like country, region, race, religion, cultural and ideology, etc. They become the "interim net" to promote peace and the international cooperation and development. If government and enterprises are the asymmetric bolt and outlet, NGO is the "adapter" to connect them.

Politicians need votes and entrepreneurs need money. As a non-state powerful actor and an important participant of the international society, NGO is promoting, advocating and monitoring effects with its own adaptability, organizing ability, credibility and lifting power.

Some friends once asked me: "What is the difference between NGO and the government?" I said to them: "the government is 'ask you to do' while NGO is 'I want to do'. This reflects the initiative spirit on those caring volunteers. Then they asked me: What is the difference between NGO and enterprises? I answered: still two words, "for oneself" or "for others".

The public expectation of NGO is higher than the government and enterprises. When a NGO is considered irresponsible or has moral problems, the response of the public will be very quick. They will feel immediately that they are cheated. If volunteers are lack of volunteer spirit, then organizational performance and service quality will be inevitably affected. If the attractive public welfare projects or appropriate return can't be provided, then it is difficult to attract professional talents to join in the volunteer team. NGOs need to use clear mission, cohesion and solidarity and continuous skill training to educate volunteers for their goal, their interest and their sense of achievement. NGOs need to fulfill their social responsibilities and obligations through the completely transparency and high sense of responsibility to win the extensive public trust.



When we traveled in many countries recently we found out that the characteristics of NGO appear like uneven distribution in region, limited activities in range, small monomer scale, etc. Their influences in the international society and political life of all countries are not the same. Because of the limitation of capital, technology, information and team building ability, and because of the restriction of regulations and system, many NGOs are “deficient congenitally and disordered postnatally” in their process of development.

The activities of NGOs are influenced by three resources: the voluntary spirit, time and money.

If short of volunteer spirit, public responsibility, social credibility and the shortcomings of the system, NGOs will contain the phenomenon of corruption, alienation and privatization in public welfare causes.

Government, enterprises and NGOs are combined into a ternary structure of the society. Market failure and government failure will bring social turmoil and blunder. The defects in binary is increasingly clear for the people. So NGOs as meteoric rise play a significant role in developing public welfare causes, creating national wealth, increasing social employment, alleviating social contradictions, helping least developed countries and supporting the vulnerable groups, overcoming natural disasters and representing the leading value, thus achieve the ternary social structure. Without NGOs the society is incomplete. The development level of NGO is the important symbol to measure the level of social governance.

The harmonious International social order, harmonious international economic relations harmony between human being and the nature are depend on harmonious international interests. And without the universal prosperity of the world, there will be no everlasting world peace.

With the deepening of China's reform and opening up and with the gradual improvement of market economic system, there are 450000 registered social organizations in China now. But according to the statistics by the concerned authorities there are more than 3 million social organizations in China with an annual increase of 15%. These social organizations play a positive and unique role in promoting social economic development, in improving the livelihood of the people, in protecting women and children, in environment management and in realizing the UN millennium development goals. At the same time, they cooperate with the government and the international organizations to carry out the effective interest expression, self-discipline, intermediary services, social relief, civil adjustment, social supervision, poverty relief, development activities, contracting government public affairs, etc. "The relation between countries relies on the closeness of peoples". The communication and exchange between peoples are the important basis of promoting the world sustainable peace and the common enduring prosperity. NGO is the new shining spot in promoting cooperation and exchange between countries in the new period and is the new driving force in maintaining the sustainable development of the harmonious relationship.

Some leaders from government of different countries, enterprises and international organizations call me "peace ambassador". I really like this title and I also know my arduous responsibility. Here I would also like to give a brief report on the nearly 10 years work of China World Peace Foundation:

Our work – the book “NGOs in China” has become the textbook of many famous universities in China and has been widely concerned by international society. More than one hundred leaders and dignitaries of different countries and international organizations have read and collected it. And Our “Peace Garden” in the Chinese capital has become the international platform for the exchange and cooperation between governments and people. It is also the scenery spot for the visiting foreign head of states and international friends. This significant peace work has been supported by the governments of 178 countries and international organizations.

It is being called "Mini United Nations" by international society and media.

The aim of China World Peace Foundation is: "international, neutrality, cooperation and public welfare." As a large international NGO, only have ideal and love is not enough. In order to adhere the road of peace and development, and to achieve the social consensus to meet the need of international partners and to maintain the sustainable development, China World Peace Foundation has created the "peace plus one" public welfare projects like: Peace and Culture, Peace and Sport, Peace and Education, Peace and Health.

1. Peace and Culture

Peace and culture is the most practical way to solve difficult political and economic disputes which can not be solved by different government diplomacy, and is the most practical way to break the ice. With the support of governments, civil cultural organizations and entrepreneurs of different countries, we have hosted the Arab concert; Nepal national concert; DPR Korea's state painting exhibition; China, South Korea and Japan music large charitable reception; the Maldives national tourism day; Sri Lanka baby elephant's birthday celebration; China Africa art forum and photo contest; we have organized ambassadors of different countries to China visit CCTV, visit the international ceramic culture fair, and go sightseeing investigation in some Chinese provinces and cities with historical and cultural characteristics.

Through diversified international cultural exchange activities of different fields, we played a promoting role in avoiding prejudice, reducing misunderstanding, strengthening the cultural, scientific, technological and economic cooperation between China and other countries as well as helping China to learn from the other countries. Culture is the most practical way to solve difficult political and economic disputes which cannot be solved by different government diplomacy, and is the most practical way to break the ice. We connect the people of all countries with the feelings as the link to make the contribution to world peace and human civilization.

2. Peace and Sports

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge has made inscription for China World Peace Foundation which is "Never Stop". The Chairman of International Paralympics Committee Mr. Craven Philip's inscription for China World Peace Foundation is: "7 years I spent in China before the 2008 International Paralympic Games changed my life. I love China and the Chinese people!"

Now, sport is not in balanced development in different regions of China. In many regions sport is still backward in its development. People have intense desire for sports. The gap between the rich and the poor in the development of sports will cause instability in society. And in the international environment, human being has to face war and natural disaster inevitably. With sports as practical tools in peace development, we can help the people in conflicts and after conflicts areas and social unrest areas to cheer up, unite, to overcome difficulties and rebuild their homes.

We have held "Peace Cup" international golf tournament continuously for eleven years in Beijing. Participate were ambassadors from more than fifty countries, Representatives of international organizations in China, Presidents of multinational enterprises and international famous athletes, artists and government offices. This tournament has become a brand activities in China for international exchanges because of its high specification, rich content with charity features and the longest time.

Together with Maldives Embassy in Beijing and China Table Tennis Association we have hosted the first



international table tennis tournament for diplomats. Diplomats from different countries used entertainment for table tennis diplomacy. They have experienced the charm of a small ball rolling the earth.

We have supported the Asian Football Federation for its 2011 Asian cup qualifier. Our slogan: "football without border, nation needs self-confidence" was hung right above the stadium encouraging the national team members of competition countries to be brave, wisdom, and to promote peace and friendship. Sport is not only as fierce as the international competition, but also reflects brave and wisdom. It also promotes the friendship in the race of different countries. This is the charm of peace and sports.

We have hosted a series of activities for the "diplomats peace run" before the Olympic Games. Ambassadors and friends from more than 60 countries have participated in the activities. They finished the whole journey according to the designed way around the lake of "Peace Garden" with the healthy spirit of peace love. They have visited the Painting Exhibition which reflected the peace and development idea of United Nations by laid-off Chinese women from poverty stricken areas and DPR Korean artists. They have also seen the hand-made carpets exhibition called "Past, Present, Future" which showed the carpets from Greece to London Olympics. The peace inscriptions by Ambassadors from different countries have been stored by Beijing Archives.

We have set up China Peace and Sport Foundation jointly with Monaco Peace and Sport Organization. More than 80 countries and international sports organizations are cooperating with us. We will hold international sports forum, establish world champion club and youth sports training center, organize international competitions, support sports vulnerable groups and charities.

We have also established cooperative relationship with many champions from different countries, their brokerage firms and sponsors. At the same time, we also help different countries to cooperate with China sports organizations, Medias and entrepreneurs. We promote the friendly intercourses of all sports organization on one hand, and share our successful experiences from Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games and the World Expo with other countries on the other. Our activities are supported by many head of states and the international sports organization leaders who have given us confidence and strength.

3. Peace and Education

The economic development in China and some developing countries is rapid while the development in education has significant gap in compare with the economic and social development. The global culture innovation and technological progress need all-round, multi-level cooperation in the international education field. Education is the soft power in supporting the development of economy.

China World Peace Foundation has established partnership while cooperating with some countries: We have set up an International Relations Research Center in cooperation with Canadian Alberta University; Peace and Education Center with Swiss Victoria University; China-Pakistan Science and Development Center with Pakistan National Science and Technology University; and cultural cooperation relationship with some Japanese schools. We have also helped some African government delegations to set up cooperative relationship with Chinese education institutions. We have exchanged many practical subjects with these countries through frequent visits to each other. Recently, we have cooperated with a European State Governance Foundation. We will jointly support the planned education training for high ranking officials of African countries. We have also established international cooperation mechanism and NGO research bases with some famous universities and professional colleges in China. We have volunteers from more than 30 universities of China and different countries. They all

know foreign languages and have experience in serving Olympic Games, in supporting environment protections, in helping autistic children and in taking care of old people.

Through forum, dialogue, experts' lecture, research and alumni, we have organized academic exchanges between different countries and have promoted the progress of science and technology. The participants of these educational activities are high ranking government officials, famous scholars and entrepreneurs from more than fifty countries.

In many developing countries, though there are more publishing houses, science popularization books are very few and the books for teenagers are even less. We have edited 4 volumes of popular science books for children and presented them to the Arab International School, French Culture Center, the Japanese Anime School, Mongolian Language School, the DPR Korean government, Azerbaijan Embassy in China etc. more than 20 countries. When the earthquake happened in Wenchuan of Sichuan Province and in Yushu of Qinghai Province in China, we promptly sent those popular science books as gifts to the children in the disaster area to help them erase trauma with the power of knowledge. We hope: through peace and education projects we can expand our international education alliance, to give more concern to the international order, value and benefits to realize "harmonious trio": that is create harmonious and win-win situation between all countries, develop global economy harmoniously and make progress among different civilizations harmoniously.

4. Peace and Health

Human being's health needs are infinite. No matter the poor or rich, the consciousness and accomplishment of loving life will be increased along with the development of social economy and culture.

In order to support the sustainable development of peace and health program, we have set up a hospital with our own investment combining medical treatment, prevention medicine and health club in one. In the past five years, we have used all our income for the public welfare. Firstly is to donate to the schools of blind, deaf and mute and help the migrants' children to school; secondly is to provide emergency and special treatment and VIP services free of charge for foreign ambassadors in Beijing, for the dignities and delegations visiting China and for the heads of international organization; thirdly is to provide health protection free of charge for the large international public welfare activities which we organized; and fourthly is to provide drug donation to the least developed countries.

After 10 years of our efforts, our team has now more than 200 workers. Everyone is an international volunteer. Their vision is not limited to 1.3 billion Chinese, but 6.5 billion people in the world. On their shoulders are the responsibilities both of a nation and of the international community. The partnership we have already from the government to the enterprises, from provinces and cities to different industries. Our members are from different countries, some of them are famous in politics, some of them prestigious in their art achievement, some of them have financial ability and some of them have social influence. Everybody works hard silently with love and action contributing their wisdom and energy for our Foundation. The creativity, the influence and credibility of our foundation have been improved in the allocation of resources.

A good NGO needs "shining points" and "selling points". It needs both "soft power" and "credibility". Its guideline needs to accommodate to the national reality and international environment. If your organization has no core value, no hot topics of social responsibility, how can you be concerned? If your organization can not be orally spread about its service, and can not collocate the resources effectively, it has no individuality and can



not make plan continuously by changing you efforts into the value chain, why does anyone make donation or investment for your projects? Why does the government buy your service? Not one will pay you just because of your words like I do charity and public welfare. If your platform makes no contribution to your own country, how can you get policy support, if you have low visibility and lack of credibility in the international stage, and have no volunteers and social cohesion, how far your organization can move?

A modern society needs developed NGOs. A world city under construction hopes to make new contribution for the lofty career of peace development and for the harmonious international family through the unique resource like people diplomacy.

Li Ruohong, Chairman
China World Peace Foundation
September 2011

8. DRAFT SPEECH—Claude GERMON, Honorary member of the French Assemblée Nationale, Honorary Mayor of Massy, Member of the Committee of Honour of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

DRAFT SPEECH FOR BEIJING FORUM

CLAUDE GERMON,

Honorary member of the French Assemblée Nationale, Honorary Mayor of Massy,

Member of the Committee of Honour of the Beijing People's Association for

Friendship with Foreign Countries

September 7th, 2011

The honourable President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries,
Ladies and Gentlemen attending this Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship,

It was a very great honour for our French delegation to receive the invitation to attend this forum on the theme of developing amiable cooperation and creating a world in harmony. I thank the organizers present at this gathering. I fondly remember the useful, friendly meeting I enjoyed last year with the honourable President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Please allow me to give my personal greetings to Mrs He Luli, who gave the welcoming address. Mrs Luli, seventeen years ago, I was given a mission by Mr Sampaio, President of the World Federation of United Cities and later to become President of the Republic of Portugal. My job was to clear up a misunderstanding between the City of Beijing and the World Federation. You gave me a warm welcome, we exchanged our points of view, and together we took a major step towards active collaboration among the Great Cities of the World.

If we delve far enough back into history, we will find we have the same 150,000 ancestors no matter whether we are Chinese, African, or European. We are therefore all linked by blood. And what brings families closer together is the link of brotherhood. Isn't one of our jobs therefore to get all humans to share in this truth that they are brothers and sisters?

Since 1972, when our association's founding president, Mrs Vuong, Countess Adlerberg, first visited Beijing, and since my own visit in 1978, we have had plenty of time to advance past the formal discussion stage and move on to more concrete actions.

The questions we ask ourselves today are more like

- * Have we done enough? – The answer is obviously no.
- * Have our actions benefited everybody? – Without hesitation, our answer is yes.
- * Do we want to take our cooperation further? – A resounding yes.

In 1992, for the first time, we set up a formal framework for our relations with the Haidian district of Beijing.

In 1993, a delegation led by Mr Wang Ji Pin, Mayor of Haidian, honored us with their visit.

That same year, together with your Ambassador, we organized a workshop in France with directors from a hundred or so companies (Alstom, Thomson, and Sanofi being a few names that spring to mind) and over 20 Chinese specialists. China was really a long way from being what it is today, and what we did was lay the



foundations for greater industrial and commercial relations.

Allow me to send both my respects and my friendly salutations to all the ambassadors of the People's Republic of China with whom always maintained close and trustfull relations, as we still do.

I am proud to hear from the lips of the honourable Mayor of Haidian that we were pioneers.

In 1994, we signed a new protocol in Beijing; in 1995, Mr Zhang Mao, for whom we have the utmost respect, came to confirm this agreement and expand on the details; some time ago he was kind enough to cast our minds back to our receiving the delegation he led to our domicile.

Two feats that received widespread press coverage warrant a reminder here: the 10,000 kilometer trek from Paris to Beijing by scientific researcher Benjamin Guinot in 2006, on a bicycle fitted with an air analysis instrument to measure pollution throughout the journey; every evening he posted his results on the Internet.

Then in 2008, another scientist from our sector, Philippe Fuchs, ran from Paris to Beijing in shoes fitted with sensors for recording foot movements over long distances. He received a very warm welcome from you.

These are of course just a few examples chosen from a much longer list of actions, delegations being received, ongoing meetings with your diplomats, welcomes for young Chinese visitors, Chinese language lessons for the French; and let's not forget the acrobatics displays we welcome every year at the International Circus Festival in Massy, or the Chinese artists who perform at Massy Opera House.

We could also talk about our working for the introduction of traditional Chinese medicine in France, as well as Tibetan medicine, or about the delegation of Tibetologists we entertained a few days ago.

All these activities lead to results: countless Chinese students attend our best schools and universities, collaborate in research projects.

Are these students aware that long before them, from 1912 to 1927, four thousand Chinese students came to France as part of the Work-Study Movement? Among them, to name but a few, were Deng Xiao Ping, Zhou Enlai, Chen Yi, later a Field Marshal, Li Wei-han, who was to become the first director of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's training centre, Li Lisan, the future Communist Party General Secretary.

In your invitation letter, I took good note of your legitimate aspiration to raise the image and influence of Beijing among World Cities.

I observed what I thought were two fundamentally different levels in this desire.

If we are talking of the present, nobody questions that Beijing has once again become an influential city in the world. Everything leads to believing this influence can only increase.

If we are talking of leaving an indelible trace in the history of mankind, as did Babylon, Athens, Alexandria, or Rome in previous millennia as the hinge pins for three continents, only distant future generations can answer that question.

But first, we must ask, how do we define a World City?

As a first approximation, we can remark that a World City is a crossroads for products and capital, where people from all over the planet rub shoulders. Consequently, such cities are a confluence of languages and cultures.

Several notable organizations, some of them Universities, have ventured to come up with a table of the top World Cities.

All these tables have one thing in common: the first three cities in the rankings are always New York, London, and Paris.

But another thing they also have in common is that they are slow to reflect world changes, most notably the astonishing upsurge in China. Thus facts like Beijing's place as the world's No. 2 airport or Shanghai's place as the world's biggest sea port have not yet been taken into account.

Beijing and Shanghai are nonetheless forging their way into the leading group.

Let's narrow our definition down a little:

1- Does a city have to be the capital of a big country to be in the list of World Cities?

New York is not the capital of the USA, while the capital Washington will never be in the top ten.

Singapore, which is in the top ten, covers an area of less than 700 square kilometres.

Shanghai runs neck and neck with Beijing, the Capital.

Berlin, capital of one of the most economically powerful countries in the world, is very much outdistanced by Frankfurt. The latter, with a population of only 671,000, in a total conurbation of 2,517,000 inhabitants, is the 4th financial market and 3rd business city in Europe; it houses the headquarters of the European Central Bank, and its international airport is Europe's 3rd busiest after Paris Charles de Gaulle and London Heathrow.

We can therefore deduce that being the capital of a big country is an important asset, but there are a few surprising exceptions to this.

2- Three quarters of the world's goods are transported by sea. Ports play a key economic role.

Seven of the top ten ports in the world are Chinese, the remaining three being Singapore, Rotterdam in Europe, and Pusan in Korea.

Among the larger World Cities, Beijing, far from the sea and with no river port, is a striking exception.

3- Large international airports are a major sign of belonging to the closed club of cities with global influence. Such cities always have several airports and handle tens of millions of air passengers every year. With this in mind, recent figures that show Beijing Airport is now 2nd in the world are extremely significant. The share of foreign passengers at this airport, however, leaves a lot of scope for progress.

4- One criterion we can't overlook is the importance of the financial exchanges. London, New York, Hong Kong, Sydney, Tokyo, and several others count among the world's largest finance centres. But these days, it has escaped nobody's attention that finance is now the biggest business in Beijing, while Shanghai has clearly demonstrated its ambition to become one of world's leading financial exchange places.

This is an absolute condition for access to the rank of World City.

5- Sport and culture are the biggest contributors to a City's image. Sydney's Opera House provides the city with its signature and enjoys planet-wide recognition, as much as Paris's Eiffel Tower.

Beijing's Olympic Games complex, as well as the Beijing International Opera House – with its extraordinary architecture and its programmes open to every culture – put Beijing in direct competition with the greatest in the world.

I must however beg you to allow me a few words on the three cities that appear at the head of all World City rankings, the cities of New York, London, and Paris.

These clearly fulfil all the criteria we have just described, but they are not alone in doing so. What do they have therefore that others don't?

I think the answer is they spark the imagination.

In New York, it's the American Dream, the American way of life, music, theatre, great museums. Maybe seen from here it's California that inspires dreams, with Los Angeles and San Francisco. But it's still the



American Dream.

London was the capital of an Empire for a long time and is the world's leading financial centre. It is without any doubt the most cosmopolitan city. Its image springs not only from its bustling economic activity but it's also a great cultural capital. Famous monuments, museums, and concert halls draw millions of visitors to the city.

Paris is the leading tourist destination in the world, a situation so firmly established that no one looks for reasons any more.

But the beauty of the townscape, the gentle rhythm of life, the cultural riches must not hide the fact that economically, Paris is Europe's most powerful region, in front of London. It alone represents 4% of the GNP of the European Union's 27 countries.

These 3 outstanding metropolises – New York, London, Paris – attract all the greatest artists, painters, sculptors, writers, and philosophers.

Paris is where Karl Marx first made acquaintance with Engels and where together they wrote the “Communist Manifesto”. Then Marx moved to London and stayed there until his death, writing his major work “Das Kapital”. It was also in London that he directed the First Workers' International and paid tribute to the Commune of Paris, the first socialist revolution in the world.

The call to freedom that permeated through the Paris air in the early 20th century led Lenin to pay several visits to the city and stay there for four years from 1908 to 1912. Unknowingly, he paved the way for the future Chinese leaders of whom I have already spoken several times.

China has produced a generation of progress on a scale that no one else in the history of mankind has ever achieved, hoisting 500 million Chinese above the poverty line – equivalent to the total population of the European Union. The Beijing of today bears no resemblance to the city I knew 33 years ago. The rhythm and quality of its development justify its ambition to hold a place among the most globally influential cities. The success of the Olympic Games drew the attention of people the world over; the political importance of the Chinese capital is enough to warrant housing some day soon a great world institution to concretize this image. Major international conferences will no doubt focus world interest on Beijing.

But if there's one thing History has taught us, it's that culture always remains the key. It was Babylon where all languages were spoken; it was in Sumer that writing was invented; Athens was home to mathematicians, philosophers, sculptors, architects, writers, theatre. Alexandria was the city that gathered the whole of ancient science together in a legendary library. Rome and its vast empire modelled the future of Europe for close to two thousand years.

China has marked human history by its inventions and culture. The Silk Road led the people of the West to your inventions: paper, printing, gunpowder, the compass, the rudder, the seismograph, and many others besides, which when copied by the West upset the balance of power in the world for centuries. And for those of us who don't know enough about your history, the writings of Lao Tseu and Confucius are still our main source.

Today, the pendulum has swung back in your direction; universal culture is now on display in Beijing.

You affirm your ambition of achieving fifth place in the most respected World City rankings. You have constructed all the necessary material requirements; now the last step is to make intellectuals, artists, musicians, actors, painters, philosophers, doctors, students, and researchers want to come to Beijing, to work and perform and thereby produce an alchemy of languages and cultures. When that happens, the face of the world will have truly changed.

Claude GERMON

Honorary member of the French Assemblée Nationale

Honorary Mayor of Massy

Member of the Committee of Honour of the Beijing People's

Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.



Volume 3 the Sub-Forum

1. **PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT——Syed Faseih Iqbal, President of Pak-China Association Balochistan-Pakistan**

People-to-People Diplomacy and Social Development

Syed Faseih Iqbal, President, Pak-China Friendship Association Balochistan – Pakistan

September 6th, 2011

Honourable Mr. Zhao Jiaqi, President Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries,
Distinguish guests and delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating the organizers of this forum. I strongly appreciate their efforts for giving all of us such an outstanding opportunity of positive and constructive interaction. The opportunity to deliberate upon ways and means of improving bilateral relations with supreme focus on people-to-people contacts and people-to-people diplomacy. I also thank all the participants for dedicating their time and invaluable ideas for this forum. I have every confidence you all will carry on the splendid work of this forum that serves China and its friendly countries in so many wonderful ways.

When I first came to China, It felt as if I was within my very own people and my subsequent visits to this wonderful friendly nation have just fostered that feeling into a strongly held belief that is also the ground reality. China is our second home indeed, and I have no hesitation or doubt to say that many countries enjoy friendly relations on government levels but the people-to-people friendship and warmth of true sentiments enjoyed by the people of Pakistan and China are second to none in the entire world.

My home province Balochistan, area wise largest province of Pakistan blessed with mineral, coastal and other natural resources, during last couple of decades has been the center of activities evincing the depth of Pak-China friendship. The province has seen unprecedented mega development projects such as dams, gold and copper mining and seaport construction and almost all such projects have been undertaken by our Chinese friends. As a Senator back in mid eighties to late nineties, I took very seriously my role of advocating, explaining and promoting Government of Pakistan's policies towards China with a broader vision to improve the bilateral ties. As the founding president of Pak-China Friendship Association Balochistan, however, there is a wider dimension to my responsibilities and objectives. They include representing Pakistani culture, institutions, and society. To fulfill that role, I have always been eager to encourage and promote people-to-people contacts, exchanges and diplomacy for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and assistance.

I would like to devote a few minutes to explore with you this multifaceted subject of people-to-people diplomacy. Critical to it is the role of nongovernmental players in this world -- private citizen groups, like your own Beijing People's Association, that are organized to improve, in one way or another, the lives of their fellow

human beings, whether in their own neighborhoods or in countries half way around the world. I include in my thinking academics, businesspersons, civic organizations, religious institutions, and much more.

The 20th century gave birth to a plethora of nongovernmental social and political interest groups. Their numbers and influence have exploded in recent years, thanks in large part to the communications revolution that has enabled them to recruit and organize members and to disseminate messages instantaneously around the world. These organizations have, in many ways, promoted the concept of people-to-people diplomacy by means of ever enhanced interactions, exchanges and deliberations among people hailing from different countries, different backgrounds and different walks of life. These exchanges have been the agent of change in the way we think, we behave, we embrace new people...new ideas and the list goes on. These changes have brought about the development of social unification beyond borders, the development of a unified global society we refer as Global Village.

The media too have played a pivotal role in this historic and democratic development in human affairs, though, in my opinion, they need to further emphasize the role of people-to-people diplomacy for social development. With the growing influence of private citizen groups, businesses, and academic institutions, an official ambassador is now but one of many figures and forces influencing relations between nations and peoples. Citizen groups' leaders and representatives of civil society are assuming ever important roles under these circumstances and this is a trend I welcome and embrace. Indeed, as President of an association working to promote people-to-people diplomacy between Pakistan and China, I feel empowered by this trend, for it extends and expands my reach, vastly broadens the opportunities for exchanges and personal and institutional linkages, and greatly improves the socio-political context of mutual understanding within which I must articulate and promote mutual interests of the people of Pakistan and China.

Here I would specially like to applaud the efforts of Beijing People's Association for promoting people-to-people diplomacy. This organization, that I truly feel is one of my own, has undertaken a number of exchanges of people from all walks of life, from high officials to leading businessmen, from farmers to the common workers, from media personalities to intellectuals, from students to senior researchers to writers to actors...in short people of every kind and people of everywhere. We at Pakistan are witness to a number of such initiatives that have brought people of the two countries closer beyond imagination. I would also like to take into account the fact that Chinese Government has also exhibited most favorable stance towards people-to-people diplomacy. In fact, I have always seen willingness and efforts on part of your government not to limit its ties with governments rather establish friendly relations at masses' level. It is therefore that China enjoys friendly ties with all countries of the world especially with the developing countries and that it is seen as the most peace loving, friendly and welcoming country across the globe.

Before closing, let me again underscore the need for further intensive and more frequent people-to-people contacts and exchanges among all nations of the world, for this is the only way we all can have better understanding of each others' opinions, ideas, feelings and interests, and with that understanding promote mutual respect and tolerance hence give peace a better chance. As this forum is aimed at doing the same, I once again congratulate and commend forum organizers and all participants. I also thank you all for lending your ears to me.

Thank you.



2. Further People-to-people Exchanges, and Promote the Common Development in the World——Kang Hyo Baik, Supervisor of Korea-China Goodwill Association

Further People-to-people Exchanges, and Promote the Common Development in the World

Kang Hyo Baik, Supervisor of Korea-China Goodwill Association

September 6th, 2011

To achieve the common development in the world, a peaceful international environment is required. Without it no country is able to develop smoothly. Besides, the development can't be peaceful and tranquil if different nations are not working together.

Peace and tranquility should be based on common development. Peace and development have become the dominant themes and trends in the 21st century. These are the topics of common concern among the whole mankind and definitely goals we are aspiring for.

Merely relying on governments and officials is not enough to promote common development beyond boundaries in the world. It requires people-to-people friendly exchange associations to supplement the functions of the governments. The time that diplomacy was dominated by governments has gone. Now it is an age for governments, NGOs and people to share the responsibility of diplomacy. With the rapid development of information age and globalization in the 21st century, people-to-people exchanges now plays a greater role in the international community.

As it is hard to deal with all the problems merely through the coordination between governments, especially when concerning history and territory, the participation and assistance of NGOs turn out to be necessary and important. Owing to the multi-polarization and the diversity in the international society resulting from different political systems and the ambiguous boundary between public and private sectors around the world, it is difficult to achieve common development in the world merely relying on the governments without people-to-people exchanges.

Under this circumstances, the efficiency of governments' one-sided exchanges has almost reached its limits. Therefore, people-to-people exchange association needs to play its role to help facilitate the common development in the world. In my personal opinion, People-to-people associations are especially needed to make use of its resources to help coordinate and solve a number of historical and territorial disputes in East Asia.

It is proved that the influence and scope of people-to-people exchanges are greater than that of formal diplomacy between governments. Based on peaceful development, common development in the world requires all the countries to overcome their differences when dealing with each other and work towards a common progress for all mankind.

Faced with the common development in the world in the future, people-to-people exchange as a driving force, should pay attention to the following points.

Firstly, creativity. Creativity is needed to foster a unique East Asia people-to-people relations based on mutual trust and respect. The countries in East Asia see great importance in the family values and internal harmony among communities and institutions of the same interests, and the respect to authorities. Having

acknowledged this similarity, East Asian countries should take efforts to establish a new common identity to promote the development of regional community and the world at large. People-to-people friendship activities should do more to create universal values which are accepted by all to pave the way for the formation of East Asia Communities. Creative efforts should be made to promote the common development on a national level and that is an important job for People-to-people friendship organizations.

Secondly, active practice. The great respected leader of China, Deng Xiaoping, once said, "Practice is the sole criterion for testing truth". It is better for people-to-people exchange associations to take the lead to practice rather than to wait for favorable results to be obtained by the government.

To solve the historical issues in dispute, suspicion and opposition should be laid aside temporarily. A specific and groundbreaking plan should be made and practiced with the aim of world common development. The international community in the 21st century is different from the past and it is necessary for people in various countries to increase exchanges in the principal of mutual respect and acceptance. Thus, inter-governmental problems can be discussed through candid and equal people-to-people exchange and government decisions could be influenced after viewpoints and perspectives have been shared.

Thirdly, people-to-people exchanges should be based on trust. It is very important to overcome distrust, prejudice and dispute. In today's world, no country is isolate. In order to promote the common development, we should respect each other in instead of slandering or disparaging each other.

Trust and understanding can be obtained by visiting each other or holding international conference, which are crucial strategies to boost people-to-people exchanges. It is a long process to be successful, though

Fourthly, People-to-people exchanges are not dominated by government, and it is a kind of voluntary service. To expand the role and influence of the people-to-people exchanges, we need to minimize the restrictions and impact resulted from the disparity of political systems in various countries and emphasize on the initiative of people-to-people exchange. Only the people-to-people friendly exchanges, which are voluntary, can sustain and work towards common development through exerting influence on governments or enterprises.

Fifthly, leadership. The leadership in people-to-people exchanges needs experts who have abundant knowledge in politics, economy, and culture

The leadership in people-to-people exchanges can't be illustrated by pure power or influence, but need to be perceived as overall ability.

The leadership in people-to-people exchanges, which is for the common development in the world, is to make use of all the resources, shared by all the parties of the society, to enhance the communication between different friendly associations. The leadership needs tolerance, transparency and the ability to communicate. Having taken all the advice from participants into consideration, the leadership should arrive at correct judgment and choice.

Finally, a people-to-people friendship exchange network should be constructed. Recently, borderless exchanges are gaining popularity increasingly, and the number of topics of common concern is also on the rise. In such circumstances, the network to be built will definitely serve as a platform for deep-level interaction which is so detrimental to mutual understanding and friendship.

More endeavors are needed by people-to-people exchange associations to maintain lasting exchanges and links with each other. It is necessary for people-to-people friendship organization to make full use of modern hi-tech to boost the exchange work. An information platform is to be built and information should be flown freely



through the Internet.

As an integral part of state diplomacy, people-to-people exchange associations need to play a better role as consultants to governments. They should join hands with governments in sharing information and experiences. All those organizations should team together to establish a multilateral network that is accessible to all the people-to-people exchange associations in the world and seek for the common development of all mankind.

Let's do a better job in the people-to-people friendship exchange work so as to build a harmonious society and world for the whole mankind. May our efforts do its bit towards a happy life, which is full of love and peace, for everyone on earth.

3. Further people-to-people friendly exchanges, and promote the common development of the world——Khalil Mohamed, Secretary General of Association of Friendship and Cooperation Morocco China

**Further People-to-people Exchanges,
and Promote the Common Development in the World**

Khalil Mohamed, Secretary General of Morocco- China Friendship Association

September 6th, 2011

Excellences,

Dear friends,

Ladies and gentlemen;

It is a great honor for me to be one of the participants in this special forum which deals with “People-to-People Friendship” as a key element in building cooperation between different countries as we can notice from the present audience.

I am proud to represent Morocco, my home country, and to share with you my vision and ambitions about how to promote cooperation with China, such a great country, in which I spent the most important period of my life while studying Chinese medicine and gaining experiences from Chinese doctors.

I am glad as well to be with you in this special day in which China celebrates the 30th anniversary of “Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign countries” which has been engaged in empowering the relationship of China with several countries from different continents. Having the same mission, our association “Friendship and Cooperation Moroccan-Chinese Association” played, since its creation in 1972, a major role in developing more fields of cooperation between the two countries by organizing different cultural and commercial activities, while seeking at the same time to widen its experience through sharing its objectives and worries with other international associations in China.

My experience within china and my continuous relationship with Chinese friends and institutions have taught me an important number of lessons mainly on how “People-to-People Friendship” has become a vital mean for creating, maintaining, and strengthening relations and cooperation between different countries with different cultures and socio-economical environments.

Even though the diplomatic relationship between china and Morocco started since 1958, it becomes more fruitful in the recent years.

First of all, in the political side, high level exchanges between the two countries have become frequent creating meanwhile mutual trust and deeper understanding of the importance of bilateral relations.

Second, in the economic field, being the third largest trading partner of Morocco, China-Morocco trade volume reached 26.8 Billion Dirhams in 2010. This can be explained by the participation of Chinese firms in diversified projects (fisheries, communications, highway construction...etc.)

In the cultural field, cultural exchanges continue to gain more space as can be illustrated by the big number of Moroccans who visited china last year that reached about ten thousands citizens. In addition, Morocco, as the only African country participating in the “World Expo 2010 Shanghai”, attracted more than 5 million visitors to its pavilion while presenting part of its long history and cultural traditions.



All these elements show that the economies of China and Morocco are complementary, but in order to enhance and boost cooperation, both countries need more exchanges to reach a sustainable mutual development relationship; in other words, both peoples need to know each other more and more.

Our meeting today is a great opportunity to exchange our ideas and discuss the possibilities of knowing each other and improve our cooperation so as to achieve our common objectives. So please let me give you an idea about the new conditions we are living these days in Morocco.

As you know, all Arab countries are experiencing a new political era. So, Morocco, in its side, has set up strong and consistent reforms by introducing a new constitution. The latter was prepared in collaboration with all political parties and national institutions, and gained the votes of the majority of Moroccans. This constitution makes civil rights, education, democracy, social and economic reforms, environment protection at the head of its interests. So, now the society is getting more responsibilities in making decisions. This element can be an excellent point in strengthening relationships between Moroccan people and their partners instead of having a limited focus on classical monopolizing networks.

In addition to all these political changes and orientations, there are several reasons that would certainly attract China to get in a win-win relationship with Morocco.

First, our geographical position will facilitate business making with African and European countries especially that we have an advanced partnership agreement with the European Union. Second, the same benefits can be drawn from our free trade agreement set-up with the United States. Third, Morocco is seriously concerned by protecting its ecological environment as it has been mentioned in its new constitution. Therefore, it will certainly find many ways of cooperation with China, the country that showed in the “World Expo 2010 Shanghai” great success of its initiatives while presenting important opportunities that seek to improve the environment and to have a better life.

I would not certainly miss the opportunity of being here without presenting my sincere congratulations to China for hosting such successful international expo. I should also thank the whole audience for its kind attention and let me wish all success for “People-to-People Friendship” forum, hoping it will end up with fruitful results for all participating countries.

Thank you.

5. Cultural and Women Exchange between South Korea and China with Its Social Development——Ha Young-ae, President of South Korea-China Association for Women Exchange, Professor of Kyung Hee University

Cultural and Women Exchange between South Korea and China with Its Social Development

Ha Young-ae, Professor of Kyung Hee University, President of South Korea-China Association for Women Exchange, Professor of Kyung Hee University
September 6th, 2011

1. Introduction

Since the Republic of Korea and China officially established diplomatic relations on August 24th, 1992, Korea and China has had unprecedented exchanges in politics and economy, which leads to great achievements.

This essay investigates and analyzes the current situation of social and cultural exchanges between Korea and China from the perspective of development. What have our people got through exchanges of nineteen years? What kind of change took place? This essay will describe, as accurately as possible, the change in the awareness of participation, living quality and ideology of people of the two countries in the perspective of development.

2. Current situation of exchange in social and cultural areas between Korea and China

(1) Exchange between sister cities

Nowadays, more and more Korean cities and local organizations are establishing friendship with cities and local organizations of other countries to exchange with each other. On May 30th, 1993, Taegu, a Korean city established sister-city relationship with Nanjing, a Chinese city, which started the exchange activities for sister-city relationship between Korea and China. Sister-city relationship has been established between Seoul and Beijing, Icheon and Tianjin, Pusan and Shanghai, Chungnam and Hebei Province, Chungnam and Heilongjiang Province, Gyeonggi and Liaoning Province, Kohgendo and Jilin Province.

(2) Personnel and academic exchange

Up to 2008, there have been 8 million people taking part in exchange activities between our two countries, among which, 1 million are permanent residents. It is estimated that the number will exceed 10 million, and the number of permanent residents will add up to 2 million.

The sister relationship between universities is particularly active, with exchange area expanding and cooperation program increasing. For example, the exchange of academic works, cooperative research, mutual visits and co-hosting of academic seminars are also increasing, and universities expand the number of exchange students and admit the credit hour of each other. It is estimated that there are 50 thousand Chinese overseas students studying in Korea, and 60 thousand Korean students studying in China. These two figures are the largest in terms of the number of foreign students both in China and Korea.

(3) Women organizations and women exchange

There is a great variety of academic exchanges in different forms and content. Co-held by Ewha Women's University and Sookmyung Women's University on December 1st and 2nd, 1993, the first Northeast Asian



Women's Academic Conference is a typical international academic seminar of this kind. Women of Korea and China enhanced mutual understanding through “Development of Asian Women” (Hong Kong 2004), “Women's Academic Conference” (Seoul 2006), “Exchange Conference on Women in South Korea, China and Japan” .

Korea-China Association for Women Exchange is the only Korean women organization to engage with China. Founded in 1994, the association mainly launched academic activities concerning women, cultural exchanges, offering information to businesswomen and so on. Besides, it often carries out broad cooperation and exchanges with Concertacion Nacional de Mujeres, Shanghai Women's Federation, the Women's Studies Center of Peking University, the Women's Studies Center of Yanbian University and other organizations.

(4) Cultural and art exchange

Since Korea and China established diplomatic ties in 1992, great achievements have been made in culture and art exchange. A variety of mutual visits by culture groups and art troupes, concerts, exhibits, cultural sightseeing, relic visiting, and exchange between overseas students have enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between our two countries.

a. “Korea-China Speech Conference” and communication of language and culture

With the purpose to enhance friendship between students of Korea and China, Korea-China Association for Women Exchange held in Seoul, capital of Korea, the “National University Students' Speech Conference in Korean and Chinese” . Since the first conference in August, 8th, 1998, it has been held once a year. The jury is composed by diplomats from Chinese embassies and university professors. This conference offers university students an opportunity to study foreign language, travel abroad and understand each other's culture. Korea-China Association for Women Exchange hosted “Korea-China Speech Conference for Women and Female University Students” in both Seoul and Beijing, which were warmly welcomed by women in both countries.

b. The founding of Korean Culture Center and Chinese Culture Center

The greatest achievement in cultural exchange between Korea and China over the 19 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, if there is one, should be the opening of Korean Culture Center and Chinese Culture Center. In the end of 2006, the former “Korean Culture and Newspaper Center” was renamed “Korean Culture Center” .

In 2004, Chinese government opened the first “Chinese Culture Center” in Korea, which is unprecedented in Asia. The establishment of the center has enhanced mutual understanding of each other country, provided a platform for the exchange and friendship between our countries, and further developed the friendship of the two countries.

3. The vision and plan for cultural and women exchange between Korea and China

(1) Improving living quality by the experience of other culture

Different nations have created their own special culture during the process of surviving and development. The most common way of mutual exchange starts from making visits to the culture relics of each other. Korean people learn, feel, understand and become familiar with Chinese culture through visiting Chinese historical relics and natural landscapes, such as the Great Wall, Zhangjiajie, Yuanjiajie and Guilin. Chinese people may get familiar with Korean culture by visiting Korean historical relics, such as visiting the Bulguska Templ, and the Depositories for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks, going to the Sokkuram to visit Kyongju, the ancient capital

of Silla.

(2) Mutual understanding, enhancing cooperation

Culture and art is a criterion to measure the living standard of a country. Since R.O.Korea and China established diplomatic ties in 1992, active exchanges of cultural and art sectors have been launched. Thanks to the active participation and support of people from both countries, unexpected and pleasant results have been achieved. Korean trend and Chinese wind, “Visit to feel China-Korea” and the opening of Korean and Chinese Culture Center in particular, have made the relation between people of two countries closer and enhanced the mutual understanding.

(3) Improve the sense of world citizen and NGO spiritual cultivation

Nowadays, the value of bonds is the most precious. Over 19 years, Korean and Chinese people has established friendship between women of all circles, teenagers, sister cities through social and cultural exchanges, which has tightened the bonds between the two peoples. Particularly, the exchange between sister cities and friendly cities has shortened the distance between people of the two countries. Gyeongju and Xi'an make visits to each other in turns every other year to hold friendly sports games, speech contests, show of catering culture and so on. Intimacy and friendship have been enhanced through these kinds of activities.

(4) Delay and Failure of Plan Implementation Caused by the Lack of Fund

Up to now, while great achievements have been made in the exchange of our two countries, some problems remain. Caused mainly by the uncertainty of fund supply, the implementation of our plans is often delayed, or even ends up a failure. In order to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the ROK, the Department of Tourism of the ROK has worked out a number of plans, but in the end it had to narrow down the scale of celebration due to the lack of fund. This shows that the continuation of China-ROK cultural exchanges call for the substantial support by individuals or groups.

(5) Exchange Program for Future Development

a. Expanding exchange scale by the creation of institutionalized policy

To expand people-to-people academic and educational exchange and cultural communication, the government must make appropriate policies. Furthermore, administration affairs related to the communication such as application, review, approval and aid should be dealt with quickly, expenses and grants should be given timely and more flexible policies should be made.

b. Improving language ability by developing new activity plans

The top priority of developing new activity plans is to improve language abilities of these two countries. Active and diversified exchanges are being carried out between our two governments, enterprises, schools, NGOs, and religious groups, which is ever expanding. Exchanges call for face-to-face meeting, dialogs, conferences and the signing of contracts, etc. Without dialogs, there will be no understanding and friendship.

c. Academic Studies on Female Must Be Intensified, and Exchanges among Female Groups Must Be Strengthened

Nowadays, countries around the world pay much attention to female issues. In Northeast Asia, Chinese and Korean women should enhance exchanges in all fields, continuously increasing their strength. The top administrative organization of Chinese females is China Women's Federation. The ROK should take it as a guide and push forward the cooperation and exchanges between our two countries.

d. Increasing the Fund for Our Exchanges



In order to carry out various exchanges between our two countries, a certain amount of fund must be guaranteed. Fund supply is a must in many fields. We should equip ourselves with funds of different levels, scopes, degrees and scales.

e. Work for Friendly Exchanges

Relevant agencies, academic groups, cultural associations, NGOs and educational institutions subordinated to the two governments ought to make great efforts to promote international exchanges. In the 19 years since the establishment of our diplomatic ties, exchanges have been carried out between our two countries mainly in areas such as academia, culture, sports, religion, exhibition, friendly visits, etc., and the scale and frequency of the activities are strongly increasing. I'm convinced that our efforts will be paid. People-to-people exchanges are sure to give impetus to academic and cultural exchanges, and the scale of international exchanges will be further enlarged.

5. Conclusion

August 24th, 2011 marks the 19th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and ROK. I hope that in the coming years, the relationship between sister cities of China and the ROK will be stronger with deeper mutual understanding and closer cooperation. It's certain that the exchanges of academic education, female issues and culture and art between our two countries will be raised to a higher level!

In conclusion, I warmly congratulate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries!

Thank you all!

5. Outline of Talk at Beijing International Forum——Roger Noback, President of US China Peoples Friendship Association-Chicago Chapter

Outline of Talk at Beijing International Forum

Roger Noback, President of US China Peoples Friendship Association-Chicago Chapter

September 6th, 2011

The USCPFA-Chicago Chapter's mission is to “foster friendship, fellowship and understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and China.” We have engaged in many activities to fulfill this mission, and the support of the Beijing Youxie has been instrumental in helping us fulfill our mission, since our mutual involvement began in 2006. Our Chapter's activities have included the following:

I. Monthly talks on China Topics are publicized by email notice to 500 or so members and friends throughout Greater Chicagoland. Although the number of members who actually attend a meeting typically varies between approximately 15-50, the notice is designed to provide deep background regarding the title and topic of the talk. Much research goes into the description of the program in each notice, and many members who have not been able to attend a meeting have thanked me, personally, for the information about China and the Chinese contained in the notice, because they were not able to attend.

1. The first hour is a traditional Chinese dinner (with revolving “lazy susan” tray in the middle of the table for dispensing dishes) and the second hour is the talk with a 10 or so minute Question and Answer period.

2. Graphics

(1) A Dragon's Eye monthly newsletter example

(a) Every issue carries the following quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, America's earliest philosopher, and the founder of the American philosophy of Pragmatism, “The only way to have a friend is to be one.” Emerson was chosen in part because the American philosophy of Pragmatism has much in common with the classical Chinese philosophies of Confucius and Lao-Tse.

(2) Listing of recent topics, by category.

II. Annual Events originated and organized under the auspices of the USCPFA-Chicago Chapter and hosted, in part, by Chicagoland's leading universities, museums and other organizations.

1. Months-Long Annual China Festival Events.

(1) A half-day Annual China Symposium was originated and organized in 2003 by the USCPFA-Chicago Chapter to showcase leading China authorities from Chicagoland Universities, Museums, Businesses and other organizations with China activities and give the Chicagoland public an annual event to enrich and expand their information and awareness of China, on a Saturday afternoon at the venue of one of those universities or museums. Talks are organized in three simultaneous tracks: a. Arts & Philosophy; b. Commerce; and c. Society, Science & Technology, with at least 3 or so hour long talks in each track.

a. The Symposium concludes with a 45-minute reception at which Chinese traditional instrumental music



(e.g. zheng, erhu) is played both as a short recital and as background music for the reception, and Chinese traditional appetizers are served.

(a) This provides Chinese culture and society to stimulate all of the senses, as well as the intellect.

b. At each symposium, we invite the President of the University to make introductory remarks. We do this for a variety of reasons:

(a) Impress on the university, at the highest level, the importance of having a strong China program.

(b) Increase the audience from the University (and the cooperation of University officials), by virtue of the approval of the President

(c) Lend stature to the event in the community.

c. A dignitary from China was added as a Keynote Speaker at the ACS-2008 at the University of Chicago, through the auspices of the National Youxie, at the request of the USCPFA-Chicago Chapter.

(a) Adding a Dignitary from China as Keynote Speaker materially increased the stature of the USCPFA in Chicagoland and increased attendance at the Symposium. These by-products in turn served to further the USCPFA's mission of expanding friendship and understanding regarding China.

d. Listing of slides

(a) Speakers Chart from ACS-06 at Loyola University of Chicago (a Jesuit University).

(b) Speakers Chart from ACS-08 at the University of Chicago [showing the Keynote Speaker was Sun Zhe, Professor, Institute of International Studies, Qinghu University, speaking on the topic, China-U.S. Relations].

(2) A 3 month-long Annual China Festival was inaugurated in 2006 when a 3 month long exhibit of ink paintings by a prominent Beijing ink painter was provided by the Beijing Youxie, and the Beijing Youxie also arranged a correlative several day visit of a delegation consisting of the exhibiting traditional Chinese ink painter and several prominent Beijing photographers. The centerpiece half-day Annual China Symposium 2006, hosted by Loyola University of Chicago, completed the Festival.

a. This 2006 exhibit inaugurated USCPFA's Annual China Friendship/Beijing Art Exhibit as an annual accompaniment to the Annual China Symposium and as the addition which made possible the several month-long Annual China Festival.

(a) The emphasis has been to build on the "Friendship" brand (shared by both Chinese and U.S. organizations in their respective titles) in expanding beyond the Annual China Symposium. This accentuates the purpose to foster friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

(b) An exhibit of Chinese art, and corresponding visit of exhibiting Chinese artists, was included at the 3 month long Annual China Festival 2008, at the University of Chicago (folk artists) and at the 2 month long Annual China Festival 2009, at Northwestern University [Chinese traditional painting (i.e., brush painting), folk art and ink painting]

(c) Each visiting delegation of artists is taken to demonstrate their art at various Chicagoland venues during their visit, for example:

(i) the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), one of the top 3 art schools in the U.S.;

(ii) the Art Institute of Chicago Museum (one of the leading art museums in the U.S.),

(iii) local art and artist organizations (including folk art organizations);

(iv) suburban high schools, and

(v) prominent art galleries.

- b. Listing of slides: Examples of art on exhibit in the following years:
 - (a) 2006-7 – ink paintings
 - (b) 2008 – 4 genres of folk art (miniature kites, paper cuts, snuff bottles, dough figurine sculptures)
 - (c) 2009 – Traditional Chinese Painting, 2 genres of folk art (large kites, paper cuts), ink painting
 - (3) A delegation of performing artists from Beijing was added (courtesy of the Beijing Youxie) at the Nov-Dec 2009 Annual China Festival at Northwestern U., and those performers performed at Northwestern U's 1000 seat Cahn Auditorium to a sold out crowd on 2 nights, Dec 4-5, 2009.
 - a. The delegation was taken to demonstrate their performing arts at 2 different Chicagoland suburban high schools, and with members of the Chicago Symphony, one of the world's leading symphony orchestras.
 - b. Consistent with the Friendship brand, the performing arts event was termed, the Annual China Friendship/Beijing Performing Arts Gala.
 - c. The Northwestern University website advertising the Annual China Festival 2009 was visited by more people than any other event in Northwestern's history.
 - d. [Graphics]
 - (a) photo of performer from the advertisement
 - (b) The event logo on the Northwestern U. website
- 2. Annual Shanghai Communiqué Lectures have been proposed by the Chicago Chapter to the National and Beijing Youxies for several years, which would pair a dignitary from China with a dignitary from the U.S. each year to discuss aspects of US-China Relations, particularly in light of the framework provided by the 3 communiques that govern China-U.S. Relations. To date, the Chicago Chapter has been unsuccessful in gaining support for such an annual series, but will continue to renew its request.

III. In addition to the direct accomplishment of the USCPFA's mission through the foregoing annual events, such events also served as catalysts to inspire, stimulate and instigate further China activities by the Chicagoland universities, museums and other organizations which hosted such events, through the example and other influence of the USCPFA.

- 1. For instance:
 - (1) The USCPFA's 2006 Symposium at Loyola U. stimulated Loyola, thereafter, to institute its own Annual China Symposium, concerned only with mercenary commercial matters, and presented by the Loyola Law and Business schools.
 - (2) When the President of the University of Chicago spoke at the Annual China Symposium 2008, in addition to complimenting the USCPFA, he also admonished and encouraged his faculty, in his remarks, to follow the example the USCPFA had set and begin an outreach into the community, as the USCPFA had already done and was continuing.
 - a. Prior to the USCPFA's Annual China Symposium 2008 at the University of Chicago, such University did not engage in China programs for the lay community in Chicagoland, but after that event, the UofC professors began taking a lead role in promoting Chinese art in Chicago, through various municipal venues and events.
 - (3) The SAIC only teaches contemporary art, but in our visits with artist delegations to the SAIC in 2006, 2008 and 2009, each time we encouraged the President of the SAIC to introduce SAIC students to techniques of



Chinese Traditional Painting (CTP) and also Chinese Folk Art, so its students in America have the opportunity to incorporate such technique into contemporary western art forms:

a. In 2010, SAIC advised us that they introduced 1 semester per year of CTP, by teacher imported from China.

(4) In June 2006 (before we established our mutual relationship with the Beijing Youxie), we introduced the Deans of the different schools at the China Academy of Art in Hanzhou (CAAH) to the President and Department Heads at the SAIC, and we encouraged them to collaborate (each school is recognized as one of the top 3 art schools in their respective countries).

a. Within 3 years, the SAIC President reported to me that the SAIC had exchanged Sister School applications with the CAAH.

2. The foregoing are some of many examples of how the USCPFA initiatives served as catalysts and inspirations for other institutions in Chicagoland to conduct activities regarding China, all of which served to increase public awareness about, friendship with, and understanding of, China, through mediums which would not have happened without USCPFA's continued existence and activity.

3. However, at the same time, it needs to be recognized that such organizations, by their nature, do not give public credit to the USCPFA-Chicago Chapter for serving as such a catalyst; instead they tend to take all the credit for themselves, for their own aggrandizement, both as individuals and as organizations. In addition, they use and convert to their own purposes and advantage, the resources which the USCPFA developed, cultivated and brought to fruition. Therefore, while China and the U.S. benefit immensely from such magnification of the USCPFA's selfless activities through such catalytic effects, the USCPFA's stature and influence in the community is significantly diminished, on a relative basis, by the USCPFA-inspired conduct of such other organizations.

(1) Adverse affect on Self-Funding. What is more important, because of that relative diminishment of stature in the community, the USCPFA's ability to fund itself, by means of corporate and other sponsorships of, and admission fees to, its events, and its ability to increase its membership fees, is correspondingly diminished.

(2) In my opinion the Youxie needs to work together with the USCPFA to find ways so that the USCPFA's stature and influence in the community is not diminished by its selfless acts on behalf of friendship with, and understanding of, China, and so that its fund raising opportunities are increased. I look forward to the opportunity to continue discussions with Youxie officials at this Forum to develop ways to effectively address this matter.

IV. Other Chicago Chapter Activities include the following: (N.B. This section is optional.)

1. Annual Entertainment Events: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is a western saying, and these events are designed for play, as well as celebrating Chinese culture, with an opportunity (in the first event mentioned below) for joining and commingling both Chinese and American culture in the same event.

(1) The Chapter's China Moon Park Poetry/Song/Dance Celebration has been held on a weekend night during the full moon in August for 5 consecutive years. The Chapter understands that during the Tang and Song dynasties, before the present day family type celebration involved in the Autumn Moon Festival, Chinese would read poetry in a park under the moon. Our Chapter has resurrected this ancient practice, moved it to August, to guarantee warmth and greater probability of seeing the moon, and added songs, ballroom dance (to the songs), singing the songs, and background tai chi practitioners to the event. Only Chinese and American

poems and songs with the word “moon” in the title, or featured prominently in the work, are allowed. This is a wonderful, blended cornucopia of both Chinese and American culture.

(2) A day of flying Chinese kites in April of each year is planned, courtesy of the kites which the Beijing Youxie included as part of the folk art exhibited at the USCPFA Annual China Friendship/Beijing Art Exhibit 2009 at Northwestern University.

2. Ad Hoc Events.

(1) The PRC's emancipation of Tibet's slaves and serfs in 1951 was the subject of a photo exhibit the Chicago Chapter proposed to the President of the Field Museum of Chicago, the internationally famous Natural History Museum with a prominent permanent exhibit on Tibetan artifacts and culture, installed in 1920, or so. Although such proposal was not successful, the Chicago Chapter intends to renew such request to the President, at a future date.

(2) The Chapter hosts Visiting Chinese dignitaries when the Chapter is notified about such people.

V. Fund Raising Pilot Project. The USCPFA and Youxie have had a mutually supportive relationship since the founding of the USCPFA. Originally the USCPFA had a monopoly on tours from the U.S. to China (my mother was one of the early members to take a tour in 1976). Tour members then had to commit to give public talks about their tour, and the USCPFA earned money from those tours, and that money helped the USCPFA carry out its mission.

1. Starting 10-15 years ago, competition from commercial tours ended this source of funding from the USCPFA's relationship with the Youxie. New vehicles to help the USCPFA raise money have not yet been discovered, and I ask that this task be among the highest priorities of the Beijing and National Youxie organizations.

2. The USCPFA-Chicago Chapter offers itself to participate in a pilot project to explore ways to implement such fund-raising vehicles, and start discussions toward such objective during this 30th Anniversary International Forum.

(1) If such a pilot project is successful, then it can be broadened to other Chapters of the USCPFA (through other provincial Youxie organizations and the National Youxie), for those USCPFA Chapters which have demonstrated they warrant consideration for such a program.

(2) The above mentioned activities of the USCPFA-Chicago Chapter evidence that it is suitable to be entrusted with such pilot project.

3. In the U.S., a famous Irish politician, Hon. Tip O'Neil from Boston, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives during Ronald Reagan's Presidency, is famous for his observation that “Money is the Mother's Milk of Politics.”

(1) That same statement is also true of Not-For-Profit, charitable organizations in the U.S, particularly ones that are volunteer at all levels, such as the USCPFA. We need to find ways to raise money, or our influence will wane, and we will cease growing. If the organization is not growing, it will die.

4. An older Chinese member of our Chapter once told me that, in the China of his generation, the highest compliment a Chinese could pay another person is to call him an “old” friend. The USCPFA is the oldest friend in America that China has. We trace our origin back to the 1972 Shanghai Communique. We're not a perfect friend; no one is perfect in the practical, human world. But we want to continue to be the oldest friend



China has in the U.S. and to continue to play a leading and influential role in fostering friendship, fellowship and understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and China. We can only do that effectively in close cooperations with the Youxie organization in China, where we help each other accomplish our mutual objectives.

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6. **Harmonious World and People-to-People Friendship ——Menerliin Chimedtseyee, Professor, PhD, Secretary General of Mongolia –China Friendship Association**

Harmonious World and People-to-People Friendship

Menerliin Chimedtseyee, Secretary General of Mongolia –China Friendship Association,

Professor, PhD

September 6th, 2011

Dear friends,
Good afternoon!

As the Secretary General of Mongolia-China Friendship Association, it is my great pleasure to address on the Beijing International Forum on People-to-people Friendship.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the leaders of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

At present, human beings are facing a new peak of development—globalization. Globalization is inseparable from good-neighborliness, common prosperity and building “a harmonious world”. Peace, development, and cooperation are the mainstream of the current era. As everyone knows, the traditional Chinese culture has always put emphasis on the philosophy “Peace is the most precious”, which is proposed by Chinese great thinker Confucius 2500 years ago. He once came up with the idea “In the application of the rites, harmony is to be prized.” He has other famous sayings, such as “Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you.” “Gentlemen seek harmony but not uniformity, while mean men seek uniformity but not harmony.” So, 2500 years ago, Confucius taught that do not impose what you don't want on others. He also said, “Within four seas, all men are brothers.”

Confucius is a great Chinese thinker, educator and statesman living more than 2500 years from now. Mencius also said that, “The time isn't as important as the terrain; but the terrain isn't as important as unity with the people.” which means that if one wants do anything, the most important is the interpersonal harmony and cooperation.

Peaceful emissaries gather together to discuss the theme of “friendly cooperation, harmonious world”, which originates from traditional Chinese culture—Confucianism.

In the new period, Chinese leader comprehensively elaborated the deep connotation of “harmonious world” and put forward a new concept. As is known to all, in September 2005, Chinese President Hu Jintao delivered a speech entitled “Striving to build a harmonious world with long-lasting peace and common prosperity” on the 60th anniversary of United Nations Summit Conference, and put an emphasis on “In the critical historical period of co-existence of opportunities and challenges, all the countries must unite closely to truly build a harmonious world with long-lasting peace and common prosperity.” This address got great responses from the international community, and the brand new concept has turned into international view and frequently appears on great international occasions.

The concept of “harmonious world” has greatly promotes the common prosperity of multi-cultures in the



world, and has been the new leading trend in the development of international relations.

Chinese Premier Wen once put an emphasis on “harmony without uniformity” —a great idea proposed by ancient Chinese philosopher. That is to say, harmony promotes co-existence and co-prosperity, whereas differences foster mutual complementation and mutual support. If everyone observes and resolves problems with the view of “harmony without uniformity”, it is of great benefit for us to treat neighboring countries friendly as well as resolve contradictions of international community.

As a Chinese proverb goes, make friends all over the world.

Nowadays, the whole world prizes the fresh concept of “harmonious world”, advocated by China, as oriental wisdom.

How should we build a “harmonious world”? What kind of role will people-to-people friendship association play?

All countries differ from one another in social and political systems, ideology, culture and development. Therefore, the methods and approaches to build “a harmonious world” are diverse and different from each other. Each country has its own excellent tradition.

“Harmonious world” is rich in content and covers a wide range such as politics, economy, culture, and ecology. Personally I think that the precondition for building a “harmonious world” is to enhance the friendship between people of all countries, deepen mutual understanding and promote exchanges between different cultures. The so-called people-to-people friendship includes the enhancement of friendship and mutual understanding between people of all countries, co-existence and co-prosperity of different cultures, learning from each other, effective measures and tremendous opportunities for seeking common ground while putting aside differences. People's friendship associations across the world will play a role and make great contribution to people-to-people friendship. Today the successful opening of Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship is one strong evidence.

People-to-people diplomacy is a major assistance and supplementary to official diplomacy. The significant function of people-to-people friendship lies in its fundamental role that official diplomacy could hardly play. The friendship between people-to-people friendship remains eternal and stable though the diplomatic relations experience a winding course, and the relations between different countries undergo changes. In this world, there's nothing more precious than people's friendship. Therefore, it is said that official diplomacy leads the major role while people-to-people diplomacy the basis. People-to-people friendship can lay a solid foundation for the relations between different countries.

Mongolia and China are friendly neighbors. The friendship between the two peoples goes back to ancient times. Mongolia is one of the countries establishing diplomatic relations with China shortly after the founding of China.

Nowadays the two countries have reached a common view—develop good-neighborly mutual trust partnership, the meaning of which can be generalized into four aspects: mutual respect in politics, mutual cooperation in economy, mutual learning in culture, mutual trust in security, and mutual assistance in environmental protection.

Mongolia-China Friendship Association and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has co-held friendly exchanges for more than 10 years. 10 years is just one instant moment in the long history. In a short span of 10 years, our two associations have been carrying out various friendly exchanges and

cooperation in many areas such as economy, culture, art, sports, and people-to-people exchanges, and have made positive contributions to enhancing good-neighborly mutual trust relations and two people's friendship.

I believe that Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will work hand in hand with our association and make new contribution to the friendship between Mongolian and Chinese people.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize that our world should be a world of peaceful cooperation and sustainable development, and a world of good neighborliness and making progress together. In these aspects of strengthening people's friendship, deepening mutual understanding and developing friendly exchanges, there are many things we should learn from one another. We should work hard with greater efforts.

Finally, I wish Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship a great success!



7. New Zealand China Friendship Society's experience of international cooperation——Vice President of New Zealand China Society

The Experience in the International Cooperation of New Zealand-China Friendship Association

David Andrew Bromwich, Vice President of New Zealand-China Friendship Association

September 6th, 2011

President of Beijing Youxie,
Fellow delegates,
Pengyoumen, Nushimen, Xianshengmen, Nimen hao

I bring you greetings from New Zealand China Friendship Society President Eric Livingstone, and all our members in New Zealand. I am very honoured to attend this Beijing International Forum on People to People Friendship, and thank you for the invitation extended to me and my fellow delegate, Deborah Rhodes.

Deborah and I are enjoying hearing what others are doing. Now I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the activities of our organisation in New Zealand.

Next year is the 60th birthday of New Zealand China Friendship Society (NZCFS). I want start by looking back at two people whose legacy we cherish, outline what they achieved in China, then look at some of the activities we use to express that legacy today .

The most famous New Zealander in China was Rewi Alley, who contributed perhaps more than any other foreigner to the Chinese revolution. He was the founder and inspiration for the New Zealand China Friendship Society, dedicating 60 years of his life to his adopted country, while remaining a New Zealander at heart.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s Rewi Alley established a large number of co-operatives throughout China. His commitment to establishing co-operatives and the institutions to educate co-operative leaders has inspired our Society to support his work, which continues long after he has gone. These include the Gung Ho co-operative movement (or the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives, ICCIC), which is very active today in building small-scale democratic co-ops and providing advice to government and private enterprises interested in developing co-operative structures. NZCFS is a member of ICCIC, and I represent NZCFS on the executive of Gung Ho, serving as a vice chair of that organisation.

Over the last 6 years, NZCFS has worked with ICCIC and local partners in Gansu, Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces to continue the promotion of co-operatives. Through funding support from the New Zealand government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, over 50 co-operatives have been developed as models, serving to further enhance effective management of other co-operatives downstream of each project.

In the 1940s, Rewi Alley also pioneered technical training schools using the Bailie Education philosophy of “hands and minds together” to train young people in the skills needed in the co-operatives. The most famous of these is in Shandan County in Gansu, an oasis town on the edge of the Gobi Desert. It contributes educated and skilled young people to that impoverished region. NZCFS recruits New Zealand teachers of English for the school, as well as assisting with delivery of the rural co-operative development training programme through the

school. Shandan County has now been firmly established as a model county for training of rural producer co-operative leaders and promoters.

A second New Zealander we cherish is Kathleen Hall, Chinese name He Mingqing. She was a heroic New Zealand nurse who worked in an impoverished village in the Taihang Mountains and smuggled medical supplies to Norman Bethune and the 8th Route Army until the Japanese deported her and burned down her clinic. NZCFS has supported the replacement clinic and school in the village of Songjiazhuang that bear her name. We also commemorate her legacy through a scholarship to allow poor rural students to attend university for 3-4 years and become public health nurses. We call it the He Mingqing Scholarship.

Our first two He Mingqing scholars graduated in 2010, and have returned to their home counties to work: Wei Yunjie to northeastern Guangxi, and Shen Qianqian to southern Hebei. We are currently supporting two others: Shi Hongli comes from a poor county next door to Shandan in Gansu and is beginning her third year, while Wang Shuizhen comes from Feng county in Shaanxi, and is beginning her second year.

In New Zealand the He Mingqing Scholarship has enthusiastic support from most of our branches, which organise fund-raising events such as banquets, sales and raffles. In this way we can support each annual scholarship at RMB 8,000 yuan, which covers most of the scholar's tuition and other expenses.

Following the 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, NZCFS initiated several reconstruction projects, two in Sichuan and two in Shaanxi making a total contribution of over 900,000 yuan with NZ government assistance. In Sichuan, the projects were rebuilding irrigation channels and establishing tea and vegetable co-operatives in Pengzhou. In Shaanxi, we helped rebuild a health clinic that serves 6,000 people in Feng County, and we helped farmers in Luoyang County to grow walnuts on their hill fields.

Rewi Alley established his first Bailie School in Feng County of Baoji district in Shaanxi. It is also the location for an NZCFS funded rural women's health care project. In addition, Feng County participates in the current project to establish model co-operatives, and is the home of our latest He Mingqing scholar. All this activity is implemented through partnership between NZCFS and the Shaanxi Provincial Women's Federation.

This has given a brief introduction to the activities we have today that commemorate the contribution of two great New Zealanders. We are a small organisation, and focus this work by targeting specific locations related to our heritage. The past is a foundation for our current and future work.

In New Zealand, an important objective of NZCFS is education: providing the New Zealand public with knowledge about China. Knowledge overcomes ignorance and prejudice, and the most effective knowledge, of course, comes from personal contact and experience. An important activity for NZCFS is to organise tours every year so that people can come to China to meet Chinese themselves, and gain a firsthand impression of what China is all about.

In recent years, China has become a major international tourist destination, and there are many tours available to China. Today, NZCFS tours have a new focus on visiting our projects to keep these projects alive in our minds. We meet NZCFS partners like Women's Federation, beneficiary groups like farmers and village based community groups, and we dine with our He Mingqing scholars. These project tours have proved very popular with our members, because they go to out-of-the-way places and present the worthwhile things we are doing in China. They are also important in keeping the connection with our past open to our members. Through this approach, the success rate in developing understanding and sincere friendship between our two people, I believe, is very high.



Today NZCFS has 14 branches with about 700 members across the country. Within New Zealand we are involved in various kinds of activities. Each branch organises its own programme, and they vary greatly, but most have monthly meetings. We encourage the study of Chinese language by organising prize-giving ceremonies and speech contests and by working with the three Confucius Institutes newly established in our country. We develop close relations with the local Chinese associations in our city and reciprocally attend each other's events. And we seek Chinese friends whenever and wherever.

Many NZCFS Branches participate in sister city activities, and some members are on various governance bodies for their respective sister city relationships. I myself come from Hastings, where we have just celebrated the 30th anniversary of our sister city relationship with Guilin, the first sister-city relationship between China and New Zealand.

Here I would like to make a suggestion to Chinese friends involved in sister city relationships. The foundation for this international movement was to build mutual understanding through people to people relationships. In some cases I have experienced weakening of sister city relationships when community participation in New Zealand is neglected, and they become exclusively local government to local government. Invitations sent directly to the City government are often not extended by the New Zealand side to include broad community representation in sister city delegations. In New Zealand, mayors and city councillors are elected positions which can change every three years, and many incoming local government representatives have little or no experience with China. My appeal to you, the Chinese side, is that when you invite sister city delegations from abroad, encourage a broad range of community representatives, from education and business sectors, from community and friendship groups along with the city government representatives. I believe this approach will strengthen and broaden the relationships.

The future demands that youth is encouraged to participate in developing understanding and friendship. It is a sad fact that in New Zealand, I represent a younger side of NZCFS membership! What can we do?

Our Auckland Branch president, George Andrews, who has his own television production company, has produced two DVDs for us. One is called “Kia Ora, Ni Hao”. Kia ora is Maori for ‘hello’ - Maoli hua is the language of New Zealand's indigenous people. “Kia Ora Ni Hao” presents three weeks in the lives of six 18-19 year old Maori students, during their time in Beijing, home staying and attending the school of their home stay brothers and sisters. It is a very moving account told by the New Zealand students of their experiences away from home, in the home of a new family and at school in a different culture. For next year's 60th birthday, we hope that we can produce a new DVD that will record the experiences of a group of young New Zealanders visiting the legacies of our forebears in China, and their interactions with young people participating in our projects in those areas.

A major aim of this forum is for all of us to learn from each other. If you would like more information about us, please visit our website, www.nzchinasociety.org.nz.

8. Consolidating international friendship through common goals
——Dr Neville Green Ph.D., Senior Vice President Australia China Friendship Society Ltd, and President of the Western Australian branch of the Australia China Friendship Society

Consolidating international friendship through common goals

Dr Neville Green Ph.D., Senior Vice President Australia China Friendship Society Ltd,
and President of the Western Australian branch of the Australia China Friendship Society
September 6th, 2011.

I acknowledge in the name of international friendship: Mr Zhao Jia Qi President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Ms Li Xiaoqiang Executive Vice President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; distinguished guests and delegates from many counties. I also acknowledge Roz Hanley from my home city of Perth in Western Australia and Carol Keil, President of the Australia China Friendship Society of our National Capital, Canberra, one of Beijing's many sister cities.

The Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS) was, as the Australia China Society, founded in 1951 two years after the proclamation of the People's Republic of China and today, every Australia State and its two territories, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, has a China Friendship Society. For many years the ACFS was the unofficial conduit between our two Nations. We commemorated China's National Day, co-sponsored visits and lectures by noted authors, planned China tours, promoted Mandarin language teaching, recruited qualified English language teachers for China and hosted People's Republic of China students enrolled at our universities.

In 1971, while Henry Kissinger was here in Beijing negotiating US President Nixon's secret meeting with Mao Tse Tung, our future Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, was also here and two years later Australia and China exchanged Ambassadors and much has changed since then.

Gone is the Bamboo Curtain and along with it much of the mystique and antiquated perceptions of old China. Government agencies compete to welcome important Chinese officials and wealthy business people. Chinese students, who comprise the majority of our overseas students, have their own support agencies. Most of our universities and many of our secondary schools offer Mandarin study programs. Tour agencies control the outbound tourist trade and teachers negotiate overseas contracts via the internet and we ask, what is the role of friendship societies such as ours and yours in this modern world?

Peter Willis, an Australia graduate in anthropology, studied the relationship between 'patrons' eager to offer their time and skills for whatever reasons, and 'riders' unfamiliar with strange customs, beliefs, language and bureaucracy. It is a relationship that continues while the patron feels he is needed and it ends when the riders become independent of a patron. Are we approaching this point?

Should we persist with goals and activities that were successful in the past and are now outdated maintaining what J. Abner Peddiwell termed a sabre-tooth curriculum with children continuing to learn how to confront sabre-tooth tigers long after these animals were extinct.

Times have certainly changed and we, the China friendship associations must keep pace with that change



and one response may be a five year plan advancing the theme of this Forum - true international friendship and world harmony. Lao Tze is credited with saying that a traveller without a destination will never arrive and it may well be that some in the friendship community have yet to decide upon a destination and by sharing our goals we assist all members.

During a visit to Australia in April of this year, His Excellency, Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, gave credit to the reciprocal benefits of Chinese and Australian trade agreements. A month later, Ambassador Chen Yonglong, Vice President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, in a private meeting with the Western Australian ACFS committee, saw similar benefits in international friendship relationships.

Is it time to re-assess our objectives and identify areas where our friendship role is meaningful both in our home nations and in China?

Professor Hu An Gang, of the Tsinghua University, writing for the Beijing Review of September 16 2010, outlined the seven steps in formulating China's twelfth Five Year Plan simplified here with our theme in mind as: reviewing the past, identifying the major issues, presenting new guidelines, preparing a draft plan, further consultation and discussion and working towards the final draft. The seventh step is the endorsement of the plan at an international forum such as this. Is this a model worth adopting by our friendship community? Could we have a final draft plan ready for the next friendship forum?

We are here this week to discuss friendly co-operation and harmony and it is timely that we also review what we have in common? We, each and all, represent home-based friendship societies and associations. We, each and all, set objectives that we are rarely able to share. We, each and all, are travellers in time and space and if we don't know where we are going it may well be that we are moving in different directions. However, with a well designed plan we could preserve our individuality while drawing strength from common goals and continued friendship with China. The 17th century English writer, John Donne, reminds us that no man is an island but part of a whole and we, the island societies and associations represented at this forum, can together, form a powerful whole. Thank You

9. CULTURE & FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE ——Spyros Mercouris, Director of Board of Milena Mercouris Foundation, President of Horizons-Human Culture Activities

CULTURE & FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE

Spyros Mercouris, Director of Board of Milena Mercouris Foundation,

President of Horizons-Human Culture Activities

September 6th, 2011

It is a great pleasure to be again in your capital. Each time I am here, I get to know more about your country and its people. I am proud and happy to be participating in the Beijing International Forum for the Development of friendly cooperation and creation of an harmonious world and sharing experiences on people-to-people friendship.

Friendship is of the essence, it precludes envy, strife and war. Friendship between nations is a paramount necessity in the dangerous world we live in today. For without friendship there can be no harmony, respect for the other, kindness, love, true prosperity, development and peace.

To quote Jesus, he said “Love thy neighbor as thy self” . A subline understanding of the profound meaning of friendship and its importance in times of difficulty and in times of rejoicing.

We live in an age that is dominated by cynicism, mistrust, insecurity and fear. The pursuit of money corrupts and changes the characters of people. We must understand that when there is an increase in material goods, which is not followed with a parallel development of ideas and values, then the lifestyle created flattens every cultural creation and is doomed to wither and decline.

We have to react.

Therefore, I wish to congratulate you on having taken the initiative of organizing this forum. It is not only a necessity but also a splendid opportunity to promote culture.

To develop, we must adapt ourselves to today's reality. To use the means that contemporary conditions offer to us and to function in a way that we can convince others in the importance and power of culture for the development of societies, and to convince them that culture is not an abstract idea that occupies only the intellectuals. We must never forget that culture is horizontal. Culture is at the centre of our social, economic and political life. It goes straight to the human being for the betterment of the quality of life.

When the level of culture, education and intellectual life rises, governments and citizens will understand their problems more easily. They will evaluate their problems better and face life with greater understanding.

Culture absorbs from the past, moulds the present and shapes the future.

Culture exists in all our doings, in all our activities. It is knowledge, education, behaviour, freedom of expression, constructive dialogue, responsibility, understanding and respect for the diversity and the opinion of others. It is creation, quality and a way of life.

Civilizations are formed by what man has said and done since thousands of years ago and which, up to now, have been accepted and absorbed by societies and peoples and have been added to in their traditions, habits, thoughts, creations, actions and memories.

Today, developed countries of the world form a global village. Never in the history of mankind has there



ever existed such easy contact. Each country and each continent is in constant communication. But it is doubtful if such communication promotes a straightforward and constructive dialogue between peoples and civilizations.

Unfortunately, with the political, economic and social relations of today –and especially because of the economic crisis– the transnational capital, which is invisible, controls and checks the world economy. Nominal money has become a product and an object of speculation and so creates an enormous social and economic gap between people and the policies of the centres of economic powers. Thus it is ostracizing culture from the decision making process. This is serious and dangerous. The gap must be narrowed.

The logistic way of the economy, must not be so hard. The balance sheet must not be the only thing of paramount importance. If people are squeezed dry, no development can be achieved and hope for a better life will fade. The economic decisions and programs must always consider the human factor. This is a protest and demand for culture and humanity.

Geography and climate have always played a crucial role in the development of culture and civilizations.

China is a vast country with a colossal civilization. Greece is a small country with a colossal civilization.

Greece and China are the civilizations at the opposite ends of the Eurasian Continent. Whilst there are great differences between them there are also striking parallels.

In both Greece and China written literature began at about the same time, around 800 BC, with Hesiod and the Homeric Poems amongst the Greeks and the Book of Songs and the Book of Changes amongst the Chinese. Between 600 and 300 BC both Greece and China underwent an intellectual explosion. In both this was the great age of the philosophers: in Greece of Pythagoras, Democritus, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates and many others, in China of Confucius, Mencius, Lao Tze, Chuangtze, Lord Shang, Motze and many others. The same period is also distinguished in both cases by extraordinary advances in prose, poetry, music, architecture, painting, technology and science.

Both Greece and China became United Nations around 300 to 200 BC. In Greece by Philip II and Alexander the Great and in China by the House and State of Qin (Tsin). Around 150 AD the two nations established physical contact.

In Greece the Byzantine Empire was formed and established. From this time cultural and commercial exchange between the two countries intensified and the route between China and Greece (North Silk Route) became more and more secure.

In the 13th century AD the relations between Greece and China became so close that two daughters of the Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologus were married to Chinese Emperors of the Yuan Dynasty. Repeat delegations in both directions followed these inter-marriages, one of which was used by Marco Polo to return to Venice.

Throughout their long histories the Chinese and the Greeks have also held true to certain fundamental values, which, though each had arrived at independently of the other also parallel to each other. A profound and intense humanism, patriotism, a love of nature and belief taught by our teachers and philosophers that we live for each other and not just for ourselves.

When we are dealing with culture, the profit is of a different kind. It goes directly to the human being. To communities of people. It improves and upgrades the quality of life. Productivity lies in the fact that the profits take the form of benefits to mankind, which are lasting, immense and above all, absolutely essential to life.

Cultural diversity is the basic heritage of thousands of years of history. I firmly believe that the promotion

of a dialogue between different cultures is perhaps the only way out of today's sober reality, which, I am sure, all of us around this forum are experiencing in one way or the other.

Therefore, I would like to submit the following proposal: a universal conference with open participation –from any country that so desires- which would deal with topics relating to culture, social matters, science and tourism.

I believe that the success of such a meeting would prove beneficial to us all. I wish to stress my conviction that if China and Greece were to initiate such a conference, the message that it would convey to governments and to people everywhere, would give hope to all that the humanitarian ideals which flourished thousands of years ago, should continue to be at the centre of our present world.

I believe that we must exchange ideas, suggestions and proposals and together combine cultural, social and touristic events NOW before the meeting. It is important to do this so as to gain experience and know-how in the way we approach and deal with each other, work together and also to reach a mutual and mature understanding of our abilities and strengths. We should do this before the meeting that I have proposed “For a dialogue between different cultures” . A meeting able to show results and thus proving the productivity of culture.

We have to believe in the power and productivity of culture.

We have to ask the writer, the thinker, the artist, and people from all walks of life to give answers and a new meaning and essence to the conditions and demands of our time.

Only with love & friendship can we succeed.

To illustrate my thoughts on love and friendship, I have chosen these poems:

Chen Haosu:

Both history and future have given us enlightenment
We must gain understanding and friendship among all peoples
And spread human love in great harmony
On the world we are living in
As well as on this sacred vast land

Nikiforos Vrettakos:

You'll find the perfect miracle only inside man...
The purest thing of creation isn't then the twilight,
Nor the sky reflected on the river, nor
The sun upon an apple-tree's blossoms. It's love.

& finally

Sophocles Antigone:

I was not born to hate
Only to love



10. Consolidating the friendship and cooperative relations between the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations (HAUFO) ——Hoang Vinh Giang, Executive member of the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations, Chairman of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association

Consolidating the friendship and cooperative relations between the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations (HAUFO)

Report by Mr. Hoang Vinh Giang, Executive member of the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations,
Chairman of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association
at the Beijing International Conference of people's diplomacy
September 6th, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen!
Distinguished guests!

Since the movements of globalization and international integration process are expanding so deeply, the people's diplomacy plays an indispensable role in the three main branches of a state's diplomacy, it also contributes to national industrialization and modernization. The people-to-people diplomacy has contributed significantly to peaceful and friendly activities as well as cooperation for economy development, culture and society with other nations. Many important foreign affairs issues were success thanks to the people-to-people diplomacy.

The Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations (HAUFO) has 22 members in which there are 17 bilateral and 5 multilateral organizations. The people-to-people diplomacy of HAUFO has achieved significant results through its diversified activities.

The Vietnam-China Friendship Association has a lot of advantages because it is both member of the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations and the Central Vietnam-China Friendship Association. The association has 22 branches and thousands member from municipal City's agencies such as: Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Department of Agriculture and Rural development, Departments of Culture like Temple of Literature, Hanoi Radio and Television, Traditional Medical Institute, districts: Tay Ho, Thanh Tri, Dong Da, private business, universities, high schools, individuals who studied in China and people who love China.

Recent years, under the direction of the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations, the Hanoi's Vietnam-China Friendship Association has actively and effectively held activities follow these targets:

1. To propagandize the policies of Vietnamese Communist Party on foreign affairs, especially the friendship and solidarity relations between Vietnam and China follow the spirit of the 16-golden-word, which has been confirmed by leaders of the 2 countries, as well as the consistent policy that is Vietnam wants to be friend with other countries and to maintain a wealthy and peace world. To introduce Vietnamese culture Vietnam's achievement through the process of defense and development; to raise the awareness of Hanoians about the long-lasting-traditional relations between Vietnam and China and Chinese people's achievements during the process of

building and national development.

2. Cooperate with the Embassy of China in Vietnam to held cultural exchange programs, sports; Celebrate main anniversaries to promote mutual understandings and friendship relations between two countries and peoples.

3. Organize regular visits exchange to China, take part in people's forum in order to give the voices of member to international community; Receive and exchange with international delegations to Hanoi. Coordinate with Embassies in Hanoi to celebrate international, Vietnamese anniversaries and organize programs to travel around the country.

4. Mobilize NGOs and Embassies to support and donate to social activities of Hanoi as well as places those are destroyed by natural disaster in Japan and the Central of Vietnam

5. Constantly expand branches and the number of members in local area.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Hanoi's Vietnam-China Friendship Association has such a close relation with the Embassy of China in Vietnam. Particularly, the Friendship association of Hanoi Federation of Sports plays the most important and effective role. Both two countries understand that “Better a neighbor near than a brother far off” ; therefore, since we claimed our dependent, the two sides' leaders consider our relations as brotherhood relation. President Mao and President Ho Chi Minh had a common principle: “The relations between Vietnam and China are both comrades and brothers”

Since its establishment, the HAUFU have cooperative relationships with Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC). The two organizations signed a memorandum of cooperation in which including the annually exchange of delegations. The HAUFU and the Hanoi's Vietnam-China Friendship Association often receive the delegation of BPAFFC to Vietnam as well as the delegations to China. Typically, in 2007, a delegation from the BPAFFC to attend the third Congress of the HAUFU, in 2009, we sent 2 comrades in the Executive Board of the Hanoi's Vietnam-China Friendship Association to Beijing to participate in the International photo Exhibition "Beijing through the eyes of foreigners," These visits are very useful, contribute to bring our countries closer, and bring more opportunities for cooperation on all levels. We always appreciate the close relationships with the BPAFFC and look forward for further development.

Respond to the “16 Golden Words” motto: “Friendly neighborhood, comprehensive cooperation, long-term stability and future orientations” , the two countries will strive to promote bilateral relations based on the 4 points: “good neighbours, good friends, good comrades and good partners” those are also potential policy of the two countries to strengthen the bilateral relations in 21st Century. The Hanoi Federation of Sports has become the key leader in diplomacy as China showed the world the positive effect of ping-pong diplomacy

In 1945, when President Ho Chi Minh announced to establish Democratic Republic of Vietnam, he had also signed an ordinance to establish Sports Department, which became a cornerstone for the development of Vietnamese sports. Therefore, from 1945 to 1970 when Vietnam was divided into North and South, Chinese government and people did support, protect and help staffs, students and athletes from Vietnam.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell people who work in Vietnamese sports and others a very touching story. As the one who is in charge of National Olympic Committee and an executive member of the Hanoi Union of Friendship Organizations, I had told this story for staves of Chinese Embassy then it reminded



them of memorable periods between the two countries. The story is:

“In 1962, during his visit to China, President Ho Chi Minh visited the Beijing Sports University where nearly 20 Vietnamese students were studying at. He did not announce his arrival, thus all teachers and students were very happy to welcome him. President Ho Chi Minh was arranged to meet the University's administrators Mr. Zhong Shi Tong - the Principal, and Member of the City Committee of Beijing together with Vietnamese students at Conference room No.1. Uncle Ho asked:

- How are you?

They said: We are fine

- How is your living condition?

Great, we have meat every meal

He seemed a bit confusing, so he asked: Why is that?

Group leader of Vietnamese students answered: It depends on how they feed us.

Then Lt. Gen. Zhong Shi Tong stood up and said: “Mr. President, though Vietnam and China have very close relations, Vietnamese students are still foreigners. So that, there is no difference between them and students from other countries. That is the common standard for foreign students”

President Ho Chi Minh agreed with him, and then he talked to Vietnamese students in his mother language: “You know what? The Chinese people includes students of this university still have very low living conditions, however each of you still get the best care from them, hence you have to do these things

First, never forget the goodwill from President Mao, from Communist Party of China, from your teachers; you have to study well to improve our country's Sports

Second, you should be willing to share joys and sorrows with Chinese students”

After that, everybody even Uncle Ho could not hold back their feelings.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The HAUF0 has always attached the historical, up-dated events which can be considered as motivation to prove the gratitude in people-to-people diplomacy. Recent years, we have cooperated with more than 20 bilateral and multilateral associations in order to achieve the goals of people-to-people diplomacy, contributed to propagandize Vietnam in general and Hanoi city of peace and friendship in particular to international friends.

11. Walking, A First Step To Go To a Feast of Brotherhood ——Luc Henau Founder-promoter of International Two-days walks of Flanders-Blankerberge

Walking, A First Step To Go To a Feast of Brotherhood

Luc Henau, Founder-promoter of International Two-days walks of Flanders-Blankerberge

September 6th, 2011

The beginning is IML Walking Association.

The genesis of non-competitive walking events is the Nijmegen Vierdaagse. It is clearly, at that moment, the oldest and largest event of this nature in the world, with a history dating back to 1909.

Due to the success of that event and because more and more foreign walkers were participating in the Nijmegen Vierdaagse, the Dutch organization KNBLO helped to get similar events established in other European countries, starting at the end of the 1960's and the beginning of the 1970's.

In that period the International Two days Marches of Flanders (Belgium) started, the Haervesjmarshen in Denmark, La Marche de l'Armée in Diekirch (GD Luxembourg), International Four days marches Castlebar (Ireland) and Two days Marches of Bern (Switzerland).

In 1977, the Japan Walking Association established the Japan Three Day March. This was the first multi-day walking event to be held in Japan. This also represented a major breakthrough as it meant that organized non-competitive walking events were no longer exclusive to Europe.

In 1986 several Multi-Day Walking Event Organisations with a common interest met each other in Paapendal / Holland, in order to discuss the possibility of founding some form of International Walking League.

The countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, GD Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Switzerland. There was agreement at that meeting to form such a league.

The International Marching League (IML) was therefore officially formed by the above founding member countries in 1987 in the Nippon Press Center Tokyo, Japan in the presence of His Highness Prince Narahito.

Since then, membership in the IML Walking Association has grown steadily to 25 with Kyushu (Japan) and Dalian (China) being the latest countries to be admitted. At this moment we have the candidacy of Sweden and a request from Indonesia (Yogojarcarta) and China (Beijing International Mountain Walking Festival)

What are the goals of IML Walking Association?

IML Walking Association is a non-political, non-profit organisation whose purpose is:

- to promote walking as a worthwhile and healthy recreation; (and)
- to foster international understanding and goodwill by encouraging participation at walking events in other countries through a program of incentive awards.

This is accomplished by promoting international multi-day non-competitive walking events in each of the member countries.

"Nos Iungat Ambulare" is the official motto of the IML Walking Association which, when translated into English, means "May walking bring us together".



Come join us at an IML Walking Association event, and experience the atmosphere of goodwill and friendship amongst the international and local participants. Use the IML Walking Association worldwide program of events to:

- see different countries;
- experience different cultures;
- make new friends and
- renew friendship with walkers you have previously met.

How to stimulate people to walk in other countries?

That's difficult and very important. So the founding countries develop a typical award system based on:

- the number of walking events you have participate: bronze, silver, gold, ... medal
- a typical souvenir of each walk: bar or strip with the name of the country
- special awards as International Master walker

European Walker

Pan Pacific Walker

Global Walker

The award ceremony is for many walkers a moment where they look for. Certainly when they receive the award on the stage from dignitary persons as the Mayor, a minister or a president.

Year after year other walkers coming from abroad come to Blankenberge (more than 20%), but a lot of foreign walkers come each year to Blankenberge to meet old friends en to make new ones.

Contact with other cultures

All walks are an international experience, a really pleasant melting pot of cultures and nationalities with ten or more nationalities from the different continents.

To meet foreign people in your own country is a real pleasure with the opportunity to show them different, unique, beautiful aspects, special landscapes and share the way of life...

It is also fascinating to walk in other countries talking with local people and observing the surroundings, the villages and the way of life,...

Walking is the best way to learn respect for other people their culture, religion and way of life...

So representatives of NGO Beijing International Exchanges were present at different IML walking events as in Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Blankenberge (Belgium), Wellingborough (England) and they smell the typical IML friendship atmosphere.

As they saw another principal goal of IML walking Association is to create People-to-people friendship by establishing a network of non-governmental walking organisation spread all over the world. Everyone can walk, so nobody is exclude to participate at this friendly and sportive exchanges among all countries.

And it can be more than walking ...

So we had a unique experience with our Japanese guests. For the 25th anniversary of our walk we asked them to be our special guests. It was fantastic. Everybody was convinced that this fraternization should not end with this one single opportunity. So the Mayor of Chikura asked us to work out a cultural exchange program

developed on the occasion of, respectively, the International Two-day March of Flanders in Blankenberge and the Japanese Minamiboso Flower March in Chikura.

The exchange of children's drawings and small pieces of craftsmanship and art by senior citizens started off a student exchange program.

From 19 candidates 5 girls from the Chikura Junior High School were selected by the Board of Education of Chikura. An intensive course of the English language – very important -, together with a crash course of the geography and the history of Belgium, were the basic preparation for their visit.

For the first time 5 Japanese girls spent a full week in Blankenberge by host families. They were heartily welcomed by the Mayor of Blankenberge.

A year later five Blankenberge students visited Japan, more specifically Chikura, in return, and once again five more Japanese girls and boys from the Chikura Junior High School have come to get acquainted with our town Blankenberge, even Brugge and Brussels included. Now, 7 Belgian students and two teachers visit Japan and 7 Japanese students and two teachers visit Belgium.

But there is more:

- they learn to cook Belgian / Japanese courses
- they participate at different typical sport disciplines
- they take part at typical young entertainment such as karaoke, summer party
- ...

A few reactions:

I'd like to thank everyone involved in the exchange-program for the wonderful time I had in Japan.

I enjoyed the beautiful nature and temple, but most of all I was surprised by the kindness all Japanese people showed to us, you made us feel at home.

It's hard to pick one moment that I'll never forget because all eight days in Japan were unforgettable.

But what touched me most was the fact that, on the last day, Mrs. Shimada said: " You have a Japanese family now." I really had to try hard not to cry.

So many great events took place and friendships for life were made, I hope that one day we will meet again.

As you can see all reactions are positive and very instructive and this on both sides.

During our contact with the representatives of Beijing and Blankenberge we feel that our co-operation must be more than only promotion of walking. So we discuss in July 2010 (Blankenberge), in September 2010 (Beijing) and on the occasion of the 42nd International Two days walk of Flanders (May 2011) the different possibilities to bring the people / students of Beijing closer to the people / students of Blankenberge.

After this discussion we set the first official step by signing this agreement

Agreement

We hereby declare to make sister friendship relationship between

Beijing NGO Association, China And Town municipality of Blankenberge, Belgium

For furthering international exchange, mutual understanding and warm friendship through various cultural activities.

Blankenberge, the 8th of May 2011



Beijing NGO Association, China

Town municipality Blankenberge

The following steps are to write a program, to fix the number and age of students and the number of teachers.

Following aspects have to be in the program:

- contact with the way of life, so the students have to stay in a family
- appreciate and learn to eat the local food, local tradition
- introduction in the typical sport disciplines and arts
- visit of the heritage places to understand better the history
- explore of the typical landscapes and the economic activities
- ...
-

Very important is that they can speak and understand English.

For the future we hope that this Forum is a start for new contacts to make a bigger IML walking family and to create new possibilities for exchange programs for students.

Let walking bring people-to-people.

12. People to People Relations Between Canada and China ——Dr. Gary Levy, Canada-China Association for Friendship

People to People Relations Between Canada and China

Dr. Gary Levy, Canada-China Association for Friendship

September 6th, 2011

A few months ago the Chinese Ambassador to Canada spoke at a dinner to mark the 35th anniversary of the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa. The first question, following his speech, asked him to compare Canada where he had just spent his first winter and Australia where he had served previously for several years.

Canada, he noted, was a very cold country. Australia was very warm. In terms of official links with China he observed that relations with Australia were also very warm. Official relations with Canada, he said diplomatically, were getting warmer.

He was not asked and he did not address the state of unofficial relations but if he had he would have surely remarked on some remarkable examples of person to person diplomacy between the two countries..

The most famous, by far, is Dr. Norman Bethune. A prominent doctor and surgeon in Canada he travelled to China in 1938 where he offered his services to the Eighth Army. For over a year Dr. Bethune performed battlefield surgery under the most difficult conditions. He helped to train doctors and nurses in emergency techniques he had developed. Injured while operating on a soldier in 1939 he developed blood poisoning and died. Mao Zedong published a long essay in memory of Dr. Bethune documenting the final months of his life. The story was memorized by Chinese schoolchildren for decades. Mao wrote:

"We must all learn the spirit of absolute selflessness from him. A man's ability may be great or small, but if he has this spirit he is already noble-minded and pure, a man of moral integrity, a man who is of value to the people."

Dr. Bethune is honoured in the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery Shijiazhuang in Hubei Province, along with Dr. Kotnis of India and Eric Liddel a Scottish Missionary. He is also honoured in Canada where a recent biography of his life was written by Adrienne Clarkson, a native of Hong Kong who served as Governor General, Canada's highest political office, from 1999 to 2005.

Another Canadian who believed in person to person diplomacy long before he went into public life was former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. He visited China in 1949 and again in 1960 when he chronicled his travels with a friend in a book entitled *Two Innocents in Red China*. In 2007 the book was reprinted with a new forward by his son, Alexandre Trudeau. The younger Trudeau, a journalist and documentary photographer, captured the essence of his father's philosophy when he wrote:

"Our societies will be better served if we reach out to China, happily and innocently, if we explore its depths, marvel at its opacities and yes occasionally tremble with awe at its rumblings and missteps. Instead of fearing China, we should share as much as possible in the great adventure of its people."

It was no coincidence that in 1970 Canada became only the second country in the western hemisphere (after Cuba) to recognize the People's Republic of China when Pierre Trudeau became Prime Minister.

Another example of the interplay between official diplomacy and people to people relations is the case of Mark Roswell. Known as Dashan he is perhaps the most famous foreigner in all of China. Born and raised



in Canada, he began studying Chinese in the mid 1980s, first at the University of Toronto and later at Beijing University. He became interested in traditional Chinese performing arts, particularly xiangsheng, a popular form of comic dialogue. He was given a small part on a television shown and when the program was broadcast nationally to an audience of 800 million he became a household name literally overnight. In 2010 he was named Commissioner of the Canadian Pavillon at Expo 2010 and many thousands of visitors were delighted to meet him in person.

We can all dream of pursuing a life like that of Dr. Bethune, Pierre Trudeau, or Dashan but in fact the daily work of people to people relations is less glamorous but nevertheless very important.

In 1976 a Canada China Friendship Society was established in Ottawa to promote exchange and knowledge among individuals in the two countries. The Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations, was founded a few years later and currently it has branches in six Canadian cities.

In the early years the Ottawa Branch organized meetings with expert speakers or films. After a few years it started to organize trips to China. Later it focused more on social activities—assisting visiting Chinese students to settle and organizing social events for Society members. There was also a period when the Society spent a lot of time receiving foreign delegations from China. Recently it has come full circle as the current focus is on promoting knowledge and better understanding of China through meetings with speakers on various topics about China.

Among the topics explored over the last few years include:

- Women, Gender and Politics in China
- Urban, Regional and Rural Planning in China
- Inequality and Economic Development in China
- China-African Relations
- China's Path to Economic Development
- China's Energy Policy
- Partners in Development: Canada, China and the World Bank
- The Prime Minister's Recent Visit to China
- The Reforms of Deng Xiaoping
- China's Security Policy Today

Since 1998, China has been the leading source country of newcomers to Canada. Between 1998 and 2008, an estimated 363,760 Chinese nationals immigrated to Canada, accounting for 14 percent of all new immigrants. More and more Canadians (both of Chinese and non-Chinese origin) are going to China to visit, work, study and live.

Partnerships between the two countries have grown enormously in all domains in recent years. The Canada-China Business Council is a private sector non-profit organization to facilitate and promote trade and investment. As China increasingly becomes a global economic powerhouse, Canadians are being lured by the economic opportunities in the country. There are increasing numbers of native-born and naturalized Canadian executives, engineers and other professionals and specialists working in China.

China is currently the ninth major source country of overnight travelers to Canada. Trips to Canada from the PRC each year grew at an average rate of 11 percent per year between 2000 and 2009, rising from a total of 74,000 to over 160,000. With the implementation of the Approved Destination Status (ADS) agreement, more visitors from China are expected.

The number of Chinese students in Canada has grown significantly from just a few hundred a year in the mid-1990s to close to 10,000 annually in the last eight years. Currently, Chinese students represent 15 percent of Canada's annual intake of international students, making China the second top source country of international students in Canada. The population of more than 42, 000, Chinese students has become the largest group of foreign students in Canada, representing one in four foreign students in the country. Several universities have established Centres for the study of China.

My personal interest in China is very recent. It was piqued by a 2006 seminar I attended given by Daniel Franklin of the Economist magazine on “The Emerging Economic Challenges from India and China”

He described some recent developments and suggested the only way Canadians could ever really grasp what was happening, particularly in China, was to go and see for themselves. When a person of his experience and knowledge makes such a statement one should listen so I took his advice and went to China for the first time in September 2006. I travelled independently and visited several cities. Since then I have returned four times and with much help from many strangers I managed to make my way to several provinces. Despite a language barrier I am always struck by so many similarities between the two countries.

The first, of course, is geography. Both Canada and China are huge with rugged and varied geography. Population is concentrated in a narrow band, along the coast in the case of China and hugging the US border in the case of Canada. Both have large stretches of thinly populated hinterland

Transportation is key to economic development and the accomplishments of China in this area ought to be a model for Canadians. Some attribute the marvellous inter city transportation system to the demands of a large population but it is also a reflection of political will and political leadership.

Both countries have wonderful national parks and my visits to Putoshan and Songshan and to the national forest of Zhangjiajie helped me to understand that Chinese citizens attach the same importance to the environment as does the average Canadian. A week spent in the backpackers paradise of Yangshuo reminded me, in spirit if not in climate, of my favourite place in Canada, Jasper National Park in the Rocky Mountains.

I was struck by the attachment of people to multiculturalism. So many, in both countries, are proud to tell you of their national origins. There is also a sense of regionalism that was very familiar to me as well. Chinese move around for work or family reasons and yet they continue to identify with their home province just like Canadians.

Perhaps the most striking similarity came when speaking with young Chinese, and because of language limitations, they were usually the ones with whom I could communicate. I heard of optimism and pride in country that reminded me of a similar time in Canada. People of my generation remember a decade from the mid 1960s to the mid 1970s when Canada hosted a World's Fair and an Olympic Games in Montreal. We felt the country was coming of age and everything seemed possible. How wonderful and refreshing to find this same attitude now among young Chinese.

By way of conclusion I would point out that no two countries in the world have as robust people to people relations as Canada and the United States. Yet two hundred years ago we were fighting and 150 years ago we were eyeing each other suspiciously across a fortified border. Today the two countries are close because of the breadth and depth of inter personal connections. I hope and believe in much less than 150 years Canada and China will have an equally close relationship and, if so, it will be based on every increasing instances of people to people relations.



13. Speech of Indrananda Abeysekera
——Indrananda Abeysekera, President-ASLCSCC

**Speech at Beijing International Forum on
People-to-people Friendship**

Indrananda Abeysekera, President-ASLCSCC

September 6th, 2011

First of all I would like to extend congratulations and best wishes of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation, ASLCSCC to the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, BPAFFC for its 30th anniversary. Our association strongly believes that the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, during last thirty years did a tremendous contribution to fulfill their obligations and objectives to support to the promotion of people-to-people friendship with other countries and building up a Harmonious World through friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation. Hence our association highly appreciates the efforts of BPAFFC for opening a stage to the friendly organizations of the whole world to act jointly as the friendship and peace promoters with unity and dignity. Also we believe that the BPAFFC is one of the best people-to- people friendship associations with strong, strategic, pragmatic and dynamic concepts.

Here, I would like to specially mention, the ASLCSCC has organized several events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of BPAFFC. It's including greeting banner project with signatures of Sri Lankan community, general knowledge competition on Beijing and felicitation programme and etc. All the events depict the friendship and honor of the people of Sri Lanka towards the people of Beijing as well as BPAFFC.

ASLCSCC has started friendly and cooperative relations with BPAFFC very recently and hopes to implement friendship promotional events including people-to-people exchange and cultural and social projects.

24 years ago, I came to China, under the invitation of CPAFFC as the youngest member of Sri Lanka - China Society delegation and today I am addressing this forum as the President of ASLCSCC, the most active people-to-people friendship with China association in Sri Lanka. During the past years, with the experiences of me and my friends in our association and the support of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in China and the different circles of Sri Lanka and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the CPAFFC, and other regional people-to-people friendship associations in China we have organized many creative activities and projects in Sri Lanka- China friendship history, which promoted the friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries and the two peoples. We have created and implemented many first of its kind activities in Sri Lanka – China Friendship history in both countries. We didn't stick only with traditional and ceremonial functions but we have organized remarkable amount of activities from schools to diplomatic levels to promote all kind of relations between Sri Lanka and China. . Most of the activities are fruitful and some are under initiation and negotiation. All the activities and projects, we planned and implemented according to our constitution and with the respect to people-to-people friendship objectives and aims.

The Beijing, capital city of China, the first city that I have visited in China is the most influential city in the world. It has a unique greatness as a political, cultural and financial city. It shows its exceptional capabilities

on economic and social development as well as political strategies. In the international arena, the city of Beijing has proved the uniqueness as a politically, economically, culturally, socially and environmentally powerful city. Hence, the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has a great potential of developing friendship and peace with people-to-people friendship in whole world. It has great opportunities to contribute for building up a harmonious world.

As a people-to-people friendship with China organization, the ASLCSCC is very proud of BPAFFC. Our association believes, during the past thirty years as a cooperate association with CPAFFC, the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has successfully fulfilled remarkable achievements of its major tasks. As we all know, BPAFFC achieved lot of results on establishing and developing friendly and cooperative relations with people-to-people friendship organizations. As an association, located in a capital city, BPAFFC establish all kind of relations with other capital cities of the world as well as cooperation with social circles and various persons. It contributed lot for international exchanges. With the implementation of reform and opening policy, BPAFFC has served for economic and social development of Beijing through promoting international relations, economic, trade and commercial cooperation. Also, it served for promoting exchanges of local and international talents.

As a foreign expert who lived in Beijing for 12 years, I have witnessed of the service of BPAFFC on building up the great capital towards a civilized, livable, prosperous, and harmonious city. It gave an exceptional example to the people-to-people friendship associations and circles on abilities of social development and international relations. So, ASLCSCC has to learn more from BPAFFC and we are willing to further exchange our experiences, ideas and views with BPAFFC.

This forum is a grand stage for friendship with China associations to share experiences, explore the new concepts and strategies for promoting friendship and cooperation and discuss future relations. Though we are in Beijing, this stage open by BPAFFC is belongs to the friends came from all over the world. We can join our hand with unity, dignity and amity. We can contribute for the concept of harmonious world, which presented by His Excellency Hu Jintao at the UN general assembly. We the people-to-people friendship with China organizations can accelerate the speed of building a harmonious world through friendship and cooperation.

Concluding my words I thank all the leaders and the staff of BPAFFC of their dedication on promoting people-to-people friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between China and the rest of the world. Once again I extend warm greetings to the BPAFFC as the President of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation with all the membership and as the general secretary of the Organization for South Asian Regional Friendship and Cooperation with China.

As the people-to-people friendship with China association, ASLCSCC will seek all the possibilities of cooperating with BPAFFC with the aim of promoting pragmatic and fruitful relations.

I would like to end my speech with a saying of Chairman Mao Zedong. He says,

“We can learn what we did not know. We are not only good at destroying the old world. We are also good at building a new. “

Thanks.Xie Xie.



14. From Norway to China in Search of the Dao ——Pamela Hiley – Director Norwegian Taiji Center

From Norway to China in Search of the Dao

Pamela Hiley – Director Norwegian Taiji Center

September 6th, 2011

Dear Friends,

My heartfelt thanks to the Beijing Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, for bringing us all together for these 30 years of Celebration. Giving us a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the essence of their existence, friendship and how to be together as one. Not only to become friends but to stay close friends.

What is their secret? I think it's quite simply, love.

So congratulations for managing to love all of us, all these years!!

The Association (BPAFFC) has for 30 years achieved a unity around the world which I am honored to be a part of. We were first introduced to the Association (BPAFFC) in 2007 by Mr. Yajin from the Chinese Embassy in Oslo, when my Taiji Center in Norway celebrated its 25 years Jubilee. We were taken immediately to heart by Mr. Wang Jian as our first delegation prepared to come to China in search of the Dao.

We came in search of the roots of the ancient art of Taijiquan and the nature based philosophy of Daoism. We travelled through 5000 years of Chinese History, being touched by the teachings of Daoist Masters from Wudangshan, entering the historical pages of the ancient Book of Changes, I Ching and its research Center in Anyang. We were then cradled in the Cradle of Daoism, living and learning on Hemingshan in Sichuan Province.

Our delegation was given the learned guidance of Zhi Jianjun, alias Jeremy who has since trodden this path in search of the Dao many times with us. The dialogue becomes both deeper and more fulfilling with each consecutive journey we make. Continuing to meet and greet Mr. Tian President of the Beijing Taiji Association and Taiji Master Li here in Beijing.

Norwegian Taiji Center had the good fortune to facilitate a small reception for the Norway cup delegation two years ago which was led by Mr. Wang, this we synchronized with a birthday party for Zhi which was a chance to repay at least a little of the kindness shown to us. We hope you can return with the youth football group next year.

Taijiquan is an embodiment of the ancient philosophy of Dao and has been engaging both me and students for the past 28 years in Norway. In search of our personal inner peace we have found a deep dialogue with Dao which we feel has a lot to offer a modern day society in search of peace and sustainability.

We have explored Daoism as a philosophy for inner peace from the roots of one nation to another passing through my own British Celtic Culture to find oneness and resonance. Challenging the inner Peace of Norway as a Nation of Peace Makers as it reaches out to embrace the vast complexities of this huge nation, China. We hope to bring light to the topic of inner peace and how the transformative energies and practices of Qi can help us understand some of the confusions and dilemmas of the present challenges springing forth in our present modern day society.

Norway recently experienced a very violent attack on its Government and its next generation of political leaders which challenged country's aura of peace. We were deeply moved when our dear friends Mr. Wang and

Zhi called from China the morning after the attacks. Your thoughts were very much appreciated.

The people of Oslo reacted to the harsh violent attacks with a soft peaceful walk with roses, showing the Taiji principle of “softness is stronger than hardness” on a National level. This terrible incident has actually strengthened the consciousness towards an even more open and enlightened society with love as its guide.

The silence and stillness in the movements of Taijiquan allows us not only to listen to ourselves but also to others. The breath is what unifies us all and the bridge it builds to movement is fully embodied through Taijiquan, indicating one way to achieve a sustainable future in accordance with nature and Dao.

My eldest son is now living in China and has selected to learn not only Chinese but the way of the Daoist; he is living now on the Holy Mountain of Wudangshan. He too we hope will serve as a bridge for student exchanges between our countries in the years to come.

Interest grows in Taiji as the need for a deeper dialogue across cultures increases. We will facilitate further exchanges of Cultural Heritage between China and Norway. Norway has such abundant wealth in its Natural resources and a culture which has an innate respect for nature.

The Chinese Ambassador there was once asked “do you have a China town in Norway?” The Ambassador answered “no, but we have Pamela.”

Now that we have joined hands with China through the Association (BPAFFC) we feel that Taijiquan and the Dao shows a soft natural way to cultivate abundant qi, abundant love and abundant sharing through personal practice and bodily awareness. I look forward to continuing our deep dialogue on Daoism and the art of Taijiquan in the years to come and sharing what spiritual wealth, insight and fortune it can bring to humanity at this imminent time for Mother Earth.

Finally may we thank Executive Vice President Ms. Li Xiaoqiang who has opened her organization so warmly and made us feel so welcome. May we all have many years of fruitful friendship to come.

Thank you!



15. Three Major Issues for Civil Diplomacy ——Chen Xuefei, China Foreign Affairs University.

Three Major Issues for Civil Diplomacy

Chen, Xuefei (China Foreign Affairs University)

First of all, I would like to summarize the significance of developing civil diplomacy.

1. Civil diplomacy is the trend of the times. When Marshall McLuhan predicted that the global village has come, it has indicated that the international actors are no longer only nations. Various non-governmental organizations, multinational corporations, and even ordinary people are becoming more and more representative of international actors and playing an increasingly important role in the international community.

2. Many examples have proved that when the governments sink into the case of poor diplomacy, civil diplomacy is often able to break the deadlock.

3. The Reality is that the more developed countries, its diplomatic channels are more tridimensional, and civil diplomatic channels are more open. At present, however, the channels of civil diplomacy of our country are still very simple. It is CPAFFC (Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries) that plays the most active role, which has decided the significance of exploring, developing and promoting our civil diplomacy.

But how do we develop civil diplomacy, we need to deal with three questions firstly.

1. The concept of civil diplomacy is unclear (what's civil diplomacy and what's the differentiation and relations among civil diplomacy, public diplomacy as well as governmental diplomacy)

Some scholars considered that the concept of civil diplomacy included two levels: broad one and narrow one. The broad one refers to the external contacts and communication, as long as one part is non-governmental force, which includes people to people, people to government and government to people. The narrow one only refers to the external communication between non-governmental forces.

In my opinion, the broad one is too wide and the narrow one is too limited. Let's look at the broad one. It encompasses all the diplomatic activities except traditional governmental diplomacy, and not only includes the people-to-people diplomacy, but also public diplomacy. Thus, at first, it is necessary to make a distinction between civil diplomacy and public diplomacy here. Please refer to the following table (governmental diplomacy was set as a reference.)

Table 1: Comparison among governmental diplomacy, public diplomacy and civil diplomacy.

	Government diplomacy	Public diplomacy	Civil diplomacy
Subject	The government of one country	The government of one country	The non-governmental organization or individual of one country
Object	The government of the other country	Public of the other country	Public or government of the other country
Manners	Summit diplomacy, ambassador diplomacy, providing disaster relief to other countries	Confucius college, national image publicity film, fulbright program	The activities of non-governmental organizations or transnational enterprises

In simple terms, Public diplomacy means that a government's diplomatic activities targeting to foreign citizens through dialogue, communication and other ways in order to enhance its image and defend its interests. On the other hand, civil diplomacy means that the diplomatic activities of legal entity or natural person who do not have formal diplomatic status. Its purpose includes two aspects. On one hand, some civil diplomatic activities are to defend their own country's interests and to achieve their government's targets, for example, the culture exchange and academic discussion conference run by CPAFFC and the relevant organizations of other countries. On the other hand, some other civil diplomatic activities are to maintain the world peace and defend the welfare of mankind, for example, environmental protection, anti-whaling, international assistance and other activities carried by Green Peace organization.

From this perspective, it is not proper for many scholars to trace the civil diplomacy of our country back to the people's diplomacy between China and Japanese at early time of the foundation of PRC. People's diplomacy led by Zhou Enlai was semi-governmental diplomacy and the main purpose was to break the blockade to China in the official level from other countries. Strong class consciousness and class interests affected it. The reason why we called it as semi-governmental diplomacy was that the people's diplomacy at that time could use the resource of providing trade preference, assisting Japanese immigrants to return home and releasing Japanese war criminals and so on, which was had to be imaged by pure non-governmental forces. Pure civil diplomacy should be based on mature civil society. The organizations and individuals of civil diplomacy are independent and autonomic, and the political characteristic has weakened greatly. So I tend to consider that the People's diplomacy practiced at the beginning of the foundation of PRC has the same meaning with today's Public diplomacy.

Of course, this is a kind of discussion from an academic perspective. In terms of actual situation of China, many activities of civil diplomacy are semi-official, which indeed reflected a continuation of people's diplomacy, and also resulted in the inseparable condition between public diplomacy and civil diplomacy. This issue relates to my second question to be mentioned.

2. The works of civil diplomacy are not smooth.

In China, there are a lot of institutions of civil diplomacy, such as the Women's Federation, Communist Youth League, UNESCO, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs etc., but as we all known, all these are semi-official bodies. Pure non-governmental organizations mainly include various academic associations and some civil non-enterprise institutions. Under the idea of "foreign non-trivial", foreign activities of these non-governmental organizations need to ask for instruction from a lots relevant departments. Moreover, in China, there is lack of mature system to support such non-governmental organizations. Many of these NGOs are short of stability, and change frequently. Currently, it is difficult for them to play a diplomatic role in the formation of an independent force. On the other hand, the foreign activities of many non-governmental organizations will try to invite government officials to make an opening speech or do a conference-address and so on, in order to enhance their legitimacy and visibility. It seems that only under the case, the activities of those civil institutions were perfectly justifiable. If this mode of thinking continues, it will be very difficult for civil diplomacy to develop independently.

There is another force from civil efforts. That is transnational enterprises. That the U.S. transnational enterprises affected the U.S. government to uncouple the connection of human rights and China's MFN status in 1993 is a successful case. The characteristics of transnational companies are not only to protect the interests of



their home countries, but also the interests of their host countries. Of course, they also need to maintain their own economic interests. Therefore, they would be more sensitive to the policy adjustment of both countries. However the transnational corporations are always interests-driven. It is a big limitation.

3. The function of civil diplomacy is uncertain.

The political characteristic of civil diplomacy is weak, but it is more flexible and has more forms, so we tend to consider that civil diplomacy can assist governmental diplomacy by non-political activities. The question is to what extent it can do? Let's look at the case of "Sino-French Culture Year". From 2003-2005, "Sino-French Culture Year" was held in France and China separately, which lasted two years. This event was known as "a pioneering work in the China-EU cultural history." Through hundreds of events between the two countries during "Sino-French Culture Year", the public of the two countries understand each other further.

But shortly after the end of Sino-French Culture Year, in 2008, Beijing Olympic torch was interrupted violently in France during the transfer process. Some European scholars discussed the same problem and pointed out that China (Zhong Guo) and Chinese nation (Zhong Hua) were different concepts in the minds of the people in the West. The culture of Chinese nation is profound and glamorous, but China is full of all kinds of problems. China adopts promotion model to spread the cultural influence. At present, more and more ways are used to make a voice toward the world by China. Related opinion poll has showed that other countries' people know China more and more widely. But, considering the differences of political culture between China and the Occident, China usually only emphasizes on the pure "soft" power, such as Chinese language, food, traditional Chinese medical science, tang suit, Chinese festival and so forth. Those culture is stripped the political factors, in order to reduce the misunderstanding and resistance. But from the perspective of using civil diplomacy to assist governmental diplomacy, both the strength and the effects are too limited.

On the contrary, where the governmental diplomacy does well, the civil diplomacy may be overlooked. One example is China-Africa diplomacy. China provided various assistants to African countries without any political and economic prerequisites attached, which definitely help China winning public praise in Africa. But how many Africans do really know China and Chinese? In some places of Africa, the Chinese will be called the white race, because the natives may not understand the concept of Chinese. I had asked an official of one country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Africa who received training in China, "How do you like China?" He said "China is very impressive". I wanted to know his comparison between the imaginations of China before coming China and the virtual China he experienced. As a result, he answered, "We have not any information about China before, so we cannot imagine it". China may be only an abstract word, or just C-H-I-N-A five words, or just a geographic concept for them before. The only thing they know about China is China is friendly to Africa!

The words of this African friend make me think a long time. Today, the time of only relying on governmental diplomacy has gone, we need to consider how to construct our tridimensional diplomatic pattern. We need to consider how governmental diplomacy, public diplomacy and civil diplomacy supply each other, instead of looking at what governmental diplomacy wants to do, or what civil diplomacy wants to do in isolation. It is the key of issue.

16. Enhance Friendship Ties at the Grassroots and Speed up Progress of the Whole World——Corinne GUO, Executive President ; Lisette LE TEXIER, Secretary General, AALCC (Paris, France)

**Enhance Friendship Ties at the Grassroots
and Speed up Progress of the Whole World**

Corinne GUO, Executive President;

Lisette LE TEXIER, Secretary General, AALCC (Paris, France)

July 2011

Honorable Secretary of CPC Beijing Committee,
Honorable Mayor of Beijing Municipality,
Honorable Chairperson of Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries,
Honorable Leaders at various levels,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good day. Let me extend my thanks to the organizers of this Beijing symposium on the topic of “Friendly Cooperation for Development; joint efforts for a harmonious world” , which the French Delegation is honored to attend. This symposium gives us a platform for exchange of opinions, mutual support and universal progress.

I. Bridging France and China by Way of People's Friendly Communications

In 1952, French Economists Dettelheim and Josephe Marchisio founded the first Franco-Chinese Friendship Association, which started working toward better mutual understanding between the French and Chinese peoples. They published books, ran exhibitions, organized activities, gave lectures and studied the language. The Franco-Chinese Friendship Association made great contributions toward the establishment of diplomatic ties between the French and Chinese governments in 1964. After China's introduction of the reform and opening up policy in 1978, many grassroots organizations for advancement of Franco-Chinese friendship became active in France. They served as bridges for French and Chinese exchanges. In 1993, Mr. Alain Labat mediated among grassroots organizations showing friendly inclinations toward China to found the Federation of Franco-Chinese Friendship Associations. Its scope of activities included running classes to teach Chinese, holding Spring Festival parties, organizing tourist packages to China, arranging Franco-Chinese cooperative projects, and catering to Chinese delegations, etc. The 22 associations of the Federation were structured to work both independently and jointly. And the Federation of Franco-Chinese Friendship Associations has become an appealing brand name attracting all French people who love Chinese culture.

In 1972, Ms. Ingrid Alderberg, Vice Mayor of Bures sur Yvette, France, became the first high-ranking official to visit China. In 1978, Mayor Claude Germon of Massy, France, came to China. After that, the two mayor-level officials spent much time working together with other mayors to make preparations, which eventually led to the founding of the Franco-Chinese Friendship Federation.

In 1992, founders of the Federation laid down a cooperation plan with the government of Haidian Borough of Beijing Municipality. In order to expand industrial cooperation between France and China, they also hosted



a seminar in the City Hall of Massy, Greater Paris, attended by over a hundred CEOs of French enterprises (All are giant French groups such as Alstom, Thomson and Sanofi.), professors as research specialists, and more than 20 Chinese diplomats in France. As it was a difficult time in Franco-Chinese relations, it took huge courage and foresight to organize the activity, so top leaders of the Beijing Municipality looked up to them as pioneers, which has given us enormous encouragement.

II. Gearing French Media toward Fairness in their Presentation of China

After the world entered the 21st century, people demand a wider range of information, so the media has become an important channel for French and Chinese peoples to communicate and understand each other. Under these circumstances, the Federation of Franco-Chinese Friendship Associations is given a new task. In Oct. 2003, it joined hands with Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to invite 10 French journalists for a visit to Shanghai, and AALCC did its bit in making the visit possible. The visit turned out to be a big success, as the journalists enthusiastically wrote wonderful articles, which were later anthologized and published in China.

Following this success, the AALCC moved on to give French TV media a closer look at China. In 2004, the AALCC cooperated with Beijing Overseas Exchanges Association to invite a film team of specialists in documentary making to Beijing for the shooting of a 52-minute documentary in French entitled "New Beijing and New Olympics". Part of it was shown on French TV-2 and French TV-3. The entire documentary was shown on French TV-1 and Public Sénat. Scores of French newspapers and radio stations carried stories of it. This did something to rectify the biased reports on the preparations of the Beijing Olympics presented by French mainstream media at the time. Especially worth mentioning is the fact that some Beijing Olympic themes such as the "Three Concepts" and "Thrifty Olympics" were effectively disseminated by French director and journalists through French TV-2 at prime time. The Textbook and Reference Materials Center of the French Education Department rated this documentary as an excellent teaching material for French students to learn about present-day Beijing. And DVDs were issued and distributed to schools all over the nation by the Education Department.

The 2004 film-shooting trip to Beijing will remain unforgettable for the film team for the rest of their lives. It gave them opportunities to listen to speeches delivered by top leaders of the Beijing Municipality, to witness the vibrant life of ordinary Chinese people, and to capture the unaffected, vivid moments through the film lens so as to present precise, colorful life stories. A cheerful mood and friendly atmosphere put them into the best state for work, so that they voluntarily worked daily from 5: 00 a.m. to midnight. In mid-July, the temperature reached 38° C. Scorched by the blazing summer sun while shooting on field, both the cameraman and director suffered sun strokes. But they took some Chinese herbal medicine named "Ten Drops" and continued to work, refusing to take a rest. While the work scene was being shot during the construction of Line 5 of the Beijing Metro, a bird's eye view was desirable. So the French cameraman shouldered his heavy camera and bravely scrambled to the top of a nearby crane arm without any safety aid. His career devotion deeply touched all the Chinese workers on site. The successful shooting and screen display of the documentary were spoken highly of by Secretary Liu Qi of the CPC Beijing Committee. A dinner was given at the Chinese Embassy in France in honor of the release of the documentary, and Ambassador Zhao Jinjun came to the office of the AALCC in person to express his appreciation. Through the trials and efforts put into this event, we have accumulated significant practical

experiences.

III. Giving French Statesmen a Better Understanding of China

In May 2011, as China was becoming increasingly urbanized, the nation needed to learn from Western Countries as to how to smoothly tide over this stage of historical development. The 60s to 90s of the 20th century was the golden age of French economy, and France accumulated plenty of experiences in terms of city layouts. The AALCC hosted a symposium of French and Chinese mayors with the help of Beijing Overseas Exchanges Association and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The French Mayor Delegation to the Beijing Symposium was composed of more than 20 members. Every one of them, ranging from the youngest incumbent mayor aged 32 to the oldest ex-mayor aged 70, gave a speech, sharing their precious knowledge gained over 45 years about French urbanization from 1960 to 2005, and making friends with Chinese mayors. After the symposium, French mayors toured cities like Beijing, Shaoxing, Ningbo, Hangzhou and Chengdu plus Mount Huang. Through communications, French mayors got a better understanding of China's political mechanism and government administration. After that, Chinese mayors headed delegations to visit France separately, and the AALCC gave them assistance as needed by their respective objectives.

In 2005, a delegation of Chinese Tibetan specialists visited France. The AALCC arranged with five city governments of the Greater Paris to give them a joint welcome, and exchanged views with them on a wide range of Tibetan issues. On learning about the true history and current situation of Tibet related by the specialists, the French mayors came to the unanimous conclusion that a stable development of Tibet is in the benefit of not only China but also the entire world. The French mayors proposed, "We need to hear voice of the Chinese government on Tibetan issues."

IV. Respecting Chinese People's Position against Tibetan Separatists' Vain Attempts to Dismember China

Over the years, the AALCC has always regarded it as its fundamental principle to respect and protect the interest of Chinese people. In April 2008 when the Olympic torch relay was pestered by Tibetan separatists, the AALCC immediately declared its strong position of "Standing against dismemberment of China by Tibetan separatists" to the Chinese Embassy in France. Subsequently the forum on the topic of "Commemorating the Olympic Manifesto and supporting the Beijing Olympics" to be held in Sorbonne in late April was suddenly canceled. The AALCC had already got everything ready for the forum. Nevertheless, we didn't give up our efforts. With the support and help from Senator Michel Guerry, we changed the venue to the conference hall of the French Senate, and the forum thus got successfully under way on June 26.

Owing to agitation by the Tibetan separatists, the relation between French and Chinese governments took another downturn just before the Beijing Olympic Games. But we confidently believe that the friendship between the two peoples will last forever. So on May 19, the AALCC hosted the Beijing International Forum on the Olympic Manifesto with the help from Beijing People's Foreign Friendship Association and some other organizations. A majority of the 8-member French delegation to the Beijing Forum was from French media. As their lectures became very popular, they played their part in sustaining the friendship between the French and Chinese peoples. At the forum, Delegate Marquis d'Amat, who is authorized to demonstrate the manuscript of the Olympic Manifesto, presented a bouquet to Miss Jin Jing, the Olympic torch bearer attacked by Tibetan separatists, to show French people's sympathy and admiration. The event was covered by China's national media.



So the French delegation played a positive role in activating the grassroots communication between France and China.

V. Assisting the Two Governments in Implementing Agreements in the Area of Traditional Chinese Medicine

The traditional Chinese medicinal culture is part of the conventional Chinese culture. Over the past millennia, the Chinese people have developed a medicine, which, for one thing, studies not only the human physique, but also human relations to nature, environment and the universe. For another, this medicine is based on philosophical theories, such as Confucianism and Daoism, formulated by great Chinese thinkers. This set of medicinal therapies inherited from ancestors has been proven effective through practice. Besides, traditional Chinese medicine can deal with nearly all aspects of body disorder and treatment. French people are now probing to hit upon a scientific theory which can account for the workings of traditional Chinese medicinal therapies.

On March 1, 2007, a cooperation agreement in the area of traditional Chinese medicine was signed between the French and Chinese governments. The gate is thus open, but there is still a long way to go before French people readily accept traditional Chinese medicine. In Nov. 2007, the AALCC organized a delegation headed by French Senator Michel Guerry to attend a symposium on traditional Chinese medicine held in Nanchang, China. In Nov. 2008, the AALCC organized another delegation headed by French Senator Christophe Frassa to attend an international symposium on traditional Chinese medicine held in Beijing.

Starting from Jan. 2009, the AALCC put in great efforts to work out a strategic plan for introducing traditional Chinese medicine into France. It dispatched one group of specialists after another on research tours to China. The succession of specialist groups includes chemists, legal professionals, experts in business management and social administration, those in civil construction investments, and coordinating experts. In China, the specialist research delegation sent by the AALCC received warm welcome and support in June 2011 from 19 Chinese government commissions such as Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, a number of private organizations, and societies of traditional Chinese medicine. In late July, a report saturated with wisdom and sweat of French specialists was handed to decision makers of relevant French government agencies. The AALCC never doubts that it won't be long before traditional Chinese medicine finds its way into France and helps maintain the healthy constitution of French people.

Tracing our footprints in the past, we sense the full impact of the happy time we spent working together with the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Whenever we needed guidance and help, we got all-out support. It is exactly this magnanimous international generosity that has bound us together and will propel future progress of the entire world.

On this great occasion, we heartily congratulate Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on its 30th birthday!