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**Front cover:** President Xi Jinping shaking hands with Colonel Yasnev, a member of Russian Veterans Committee, after the memorial medal awarding ceremony at the Great Hall of the People as part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (September 2, 2015)

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**Editor-in-Chief: Ji Wei**

**Address: 1 Tai Ji Chang St., Beijing, 100740, China**

**E-mail: yousheng\_ys@sina.com**

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**Fax: (010)65122782**

**<http://www.cpaaffc.org.cn>**

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# 70 Years Pass, Flying Tigers Return “Home”

Lu Jing

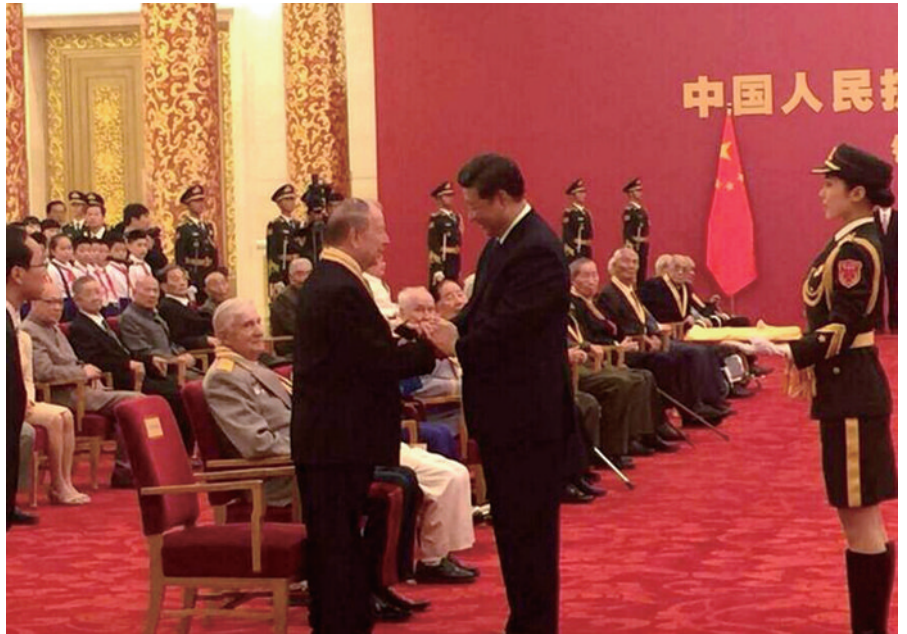
Journalist: *Why do you think we should celebrate the 70th anniversary of the victory against Japanese aggression?* ”

J Vinyard: *Why do you celebrate your birthday?*

An early autumn breeze swept across Beijing, bringing a slight chill. At dawn on September 1, the whole city was still in sleep as we drove towards the airport, where we would welcome a few veteran Flying Tigers pilots returning “home”. To us (post-80/90 young people), they are characters in history books, somewhat distant, and respectable heroes……

The plane landed on time and the first 12 veterans and their accompanying personnel arrived. When the door opened, we saw weathered faces with excitement and anticipation. They eagerly looked out of the window of the gallery bridge, wishing to see the significant change of the country for which they used to fight.

When they saw our greeting sign written with “Veterans of Flying Tigers, Welcome Home”, they were all smiles. We hurriedly stepped forward to greet them. Some of us pushed wheelchairs for them, some helped them to the VIP room. We expressed concerns about their health after such a long flight. The veterans looked hale and hearty, saying “China! I’m back! It’s great to come back home!” Their words soon eased our worries.



**President Xi Jinping awards J Vinyard, veteran of Flying Tigers, a Commemorative Medal of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War**

In the afternoon, we picked up the other veterans and their accompanying personnel. Thus, the whole delegation of Flying Tigers veterans and their retinue had arrived in Beijing safely. The 38-member party included 14 veterans, two family members of the deceased, two retired US generals and their accompanying group.

During the visit, the delegation watched the September 3 military parade, attended a reception, watched a performance gala, and met Mr. Max Sieben Baucus, US ambassador to China. On September 2 morning, Mr. J Vinyard was awarded a Commemorative Medal of the 70th Anniversary

of the Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. The Ministry of Defense specially appointed a representative to call on the veterans on behalf of Fang Fenghui, chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army.

The representative paid tribute to the Flying Tigers veterans. Some members of the delegation were interviewed by China’s Central Television, the Xinhua News Agency and other media outlets.

On the morning of September 2, Mr. J Vinyard, former USAAF Air Transport Command C-46 “Hump”

airlift pilot, now aged 92, received the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative medal from President Xi Jinping.

He said excitedly: "I really appreciate the Chinese Government and people who never forget us. It's so nice of them to invite us to Beijing at this time of commemorating the victory of WWII. The US and China helped each other in the past. Today we should be united to help the whole world to achieve peace and stability. I'll devote the rest of my life to the cause of promoting the US-China friendship".

On the afternoon of September 2, Li Xiaolin, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), met with the whole delegation, and presented the Commemorative Medals of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist Wars on behalf of the State Council.

She also helped every delegate wear a scarf depicting a Rainbow & Peace Dove hand painted by her. Veterans' eyes brimmed with tears. They said: "Over the years, China never forgets us, we'll never forget China. China is our second home. We will tell our following generations to continue the US-China friendship forever".

The China Central Academy of Fine Arts especially made a statue of General Claire Lee Chennault, who headed the Flying Tigers during WWII. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin presented the statue to General Chennault's widow Mme. Anna Chan Chennault and daughter Cynthia Chennault as a special gift. Cynthia said: "It looks exactly like my father!"

Veterans of Flying Tigers were also very excited at the sight of the statue. They all took group photo with this "General Chennault", the man who had led them to China, fought side by side with them and helped forge a tight bond with China.

On September 3, the day of the military parade, although the weather was hot, the veterans got prepared early. They watched the parade very carefully, nodded with thumbs-up and praise. In the past, when the Chinese nation's existence was in peril, these American air servicemen flew fighter aircraft painted with the logo of shark's head to help China win the war. Today, when China is developing rapidly, they are pleased to see that China has developed the world's leading weapons and equipment independently.

After the parade, the veterans said with emotion: "70 years ago, when we came to China to help fight against Japanese invaders, China was in a disastrous state. Today, when we come to Tian'anmen Square, hearing the sonorous and forceful songs of the Anti-Japanese War, seeing the majestic posture of Chinese Army, we feel so happy for China's development. Incredible, so incredible!"

Especially when President Xi Jinping solemnly declared his

plan to "cut down the armed forces by 300,000", the veterans expressed their appreciation by saying "It shows China's confidence and strength, as well as its firm belief and desire for peace and development."

On the evening of September 3, the delegation watched the national performance with the theme "Victory and Peace" in the Great Hall of the People. When "American Volunteer Group (AVG)" appeared on the screen, all delegates were moved. With eyes glistening with tears, they said: "We're pleased we assisted China when she was suffering."

The next day after the parade it rained in Beijing. Comparing the sunny weather during the parade and the heavy rain the following day, the veterans said, "The government and people of China never forget veterans. Your magnificent feat moved the Gods. Good! Very Good!"

On the same morning, Mr. Max Sieben Baucus, US ambassador to China, met with the veterans at the embassy. The delegation was shown high courtesy, with the whole embassy staff

#### CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin presents the statue of General Claire Lee Chennault to his family members





lined up to welcome the delegation. The veterans told Baucus, “Chinese people never forget us! We are very grateful of the kind invitation and warm hospitality of the Chinese Government. We are treated as distinguished guests here. We are deeply moved!”

Since most of the staff and volunteers receiving this delegation were post-80/90 generations, who were not familiar with the history of China-US jointly fighting against Japanese invaders, we specially arranged “Oral History” interviews. Through direct dialogues with the veterans, young people acquired a true knowledge of history, closely communicated with these heroes who had risked their lives to help China and listened to the distant but touching stories, which was a rare spiritual baptism.

On September 4, before the delegation departed from Beijing, we held a special reception for them and played a video especially made to record every moment of their stay in Beijing.

Watching the video, some smiled, others applauded, still others even wiped tears..... At the end of the reception, we presented a photo album of the visit to every member of the delegation. They said they would keep it carefully.

On the morning of September 5, it rained again. Mr. Jack Bond, brother of Charles Bond, AVG P-40 fighter pilot and a Fighter Ace, gave every staff member a Flying Tigers badge. He said, “This visit will become my most precious memory. I’ll never forget it!”

Over the days, we accompanied these veterans to attend various activities, took care of their daily diet, and listened to their stories in China. In our eyes, they are like our amiable and respected grandparents. At the moment of farewell, everyone was reluctant to part; all we could do was to wish them a safe journey home and keep healthy. They also embraced us, like elders with their children.

After the delegation left, we often thought of them, trying to know how

they were doing recently. Caring for them seems to have become our habit. These lovely seniors quietly walked into our life and then left, taking with them a new memory that China gave them and full appreciation and blessing of Chinese people, leaving us a precious, life-long memory and a great spirit of pursuing peace.

It is said that getting together and then parting is like a turn-around, followed by more turns, which symbolizes the dance of life. We all know that some people we will meet again, but some we may not see again. However, the great love of China-US friendship never fades! Both the Flying Tigers veterans and the family members of the deceased have deep feelings for China. As time goes by, they will gradually become older, but their love for China is rooted in their hearts, will come into bud and bear the fruit of China-US friendship.

It was the 70 years’ friendship and love that made them return to China, the place which they once fought for and today keep thinking of. Seeing a growing China still yearning for peace and still keeping old friends in memory, the veterans were deeply moved. A love that has lasted for 70 years and a friendship that proved to be worth a life-long trust have touched us, touched all Chinese and touched China.

That’s why the veterans consider it important to attend this event, which is as significant as celebrating their own birthday. This is their friendship with China, deep, profound and soul-stirring. ■

### The delegation attends the Commemorative Reception



# Oral History--Tracing Back the Old Days

**Wang Hefei**

**David Haywar**



**14th Air Force B-25 bomber pilot,  
22nd Medium Bomb Squadron, 341st  
Bomb Squadron Group**

Until now, my very first mission is still fresh in my mind. At that time, our crews were broken up, so we could gain experience flying with more experienced people. So, on that very first mission, I was flying as a co-pilot for a very experienced pilot, and our mission was to go to an airfield to try and destroy the air strip the enemy was using.

We carried out our mission, dropped the bomb in the air strip, turned for home, and as we did, I looked out the window, and I could see a large number of enemy planes were in the air, heading in the same direction. "Gosh", I thought, "this is my first mission, and if it is going to be like this, there is no way in the

world I can ever get home."

It was a difficult situation. Our plane was the slowest in the formation, and we were soon left behind. Normally, the lead pilot does not leave a friend behind, but there was too much interference on the radio, and the planes did not have very good vision toward the rear. As a result, they did not know we were left behind, and here we were all by ourselves.

There was one of the Japanese airplanes that was showing off and doing rolls alongside. By the grace of god, I am here today. I am not pretty sure why, but the fighter pilots went away maybe because they felt it might be a trap. After that experience, I think I knew what a big problem really is, and I swore I would never again worry about little problems. That was my first mission, and I continued on, and flew another 52 missions.

I certainly grew up while I was here in China. I learned responsibility. I learned that if a job needs to be done, get in and do it, don't make a lot of excuses, don't try to blame somebody else if there is something I am responsible for. Our pilots were taught that, if something goes wrong, do not blame on somebody else, but ponder and talk about it and figure out what could you have done differently to avoid it. So it was a character building experience, and that happened in China.

**Leroy Parramore**



**USAAF Troop Carrier Command,  
C-47 & C-46 Hump Airlift pilot**

I still keep many of the articles I used in China, such as maps, money, etc., because they are memorial for the war and are invaluable in my heart. There was a translation book called "Pointie Talkie" which was intended for use in the event of being downed over China. To communicate with any native Chinese encountered, the pilots would find a phrase in English and point to the Chinese language translation. For example the pilots could ask a question such as "please show me on any map you may have where I am."

My co-pilot, and also my friend Ted Stevens, after the war, became the senator of Alaska. He was a real friend of China for 40 years, and was fairly well-known here. During the many years he served in the US Senate, Ste-

vens had always actively promoted China-US relations, and hope that the future generations would not forget the bond between the two countries. Unfortunately, about five years ago, he was killed in plane crash in Alaska. He sent me a mail on Friday, and was killed on Monday.

For all of us, it was a growing-up experience in China. We did our best to complete our mission and I thought we were all satisfied with the results. I sincerely wish that both Americans and Chinese could remember that dark history we walked through together, and just like Stevens, do our parts to contribute to China-US friendship.

#### J Vinyard



**USAAF Air Transport Command C-46 “Hump” Airlift pilot and president of the Hump Pilots Association**

It was January 1945, and I had been flying the Hump for nearly three years. One flying experience in storms was unforgettable. On the night of the 6th, I was ordered to carry 24 55-gal-

lon gasoline cans and some other things to Kunming. The weather was getting worse. Through I was worried about the weather, I still obeyed orders and flew. I had no idea that what was waiting for me was the most severe weather over the Hump route in three years. It was 24 hours of strong storms from Kunming to Eastern India, and it was so strong that all the radio communication and navigation signals were lost. Some planes fell down because the rain iced over the airframe.

Before long, I saw the lights of Kunming, and that was the most beautiful scene I have ever seen in my life. In the end, I successfully landed and was out of the most dangerous flying experience in the Hump. It was that night that nine planes and 42 crew members were lost. During WWII, there were hundreds of crew members who were laid to rest in the land of China. I am a lucky person. I am 92 years old, and I still expect to be 93. I hope everyone can enjoy life and say no to war.

To commemorate the V-J Day, the Hump pilots had a reunion in Beijing. It was rare. It takes the whole village to fight the war. None of us were doing it by ourselves. We were helping each other. China and the US helped each other in history, and today, we should band together and help achieve world peace. If you feel like we were doing well as ambassadors, we plan to do it as long as we can.

#### Lydia Rossi



**Wife of John Richard Rossi, AVG fighter pilot and a Fighter Ace, and record setting CNAC Hump pilot**

My husband was a fighter pilot. In 1941, he came out with the American Volunteer Group with General Chennault. They had such success that the Chinese named them Flying Tigers. Kunming was once the headquarters for the Flying Tigers in 1941 and 1942.

When they had their first encounter with the Japanese over the skies of Kunming, the Japanese were not prepared for them, and the Flying Tigers shot down about 10 of the enemy without losing any of their P-40s. After the first raid in which they shot down so many of the Japanese, the people of Kunming came, the mayor came, and they brought gifts, flowers and fruit to thank AVG. After that, the enemy never came back to Kunming again as long as the Flying Tigers was there.

It was May in 1942, the Japanese had taken over Burma and intended to invade Kunming and Chongqing. The Japanese had to come across the Salween River, since the Chinese army was backed up. When the Chinese came across the bridge, they blew it up, so that the Japanese could not come after them.

However, the Japanese sent their en-



gineers to build another bridge, and at the same time bomb the Burma Road, which was the life line of supplies into China. It was 400 miles from Kunming and 600 from Chongqing. General Chennault sent his squadron over there, and they bombed the cliff side and shut the whole Burma Road, so the Japanese were unable to cross it. That is considered their most successful battle.

My husband was the president of the Flying Tigers Association for 60 years. We were invited to many places to air shows, and we were invited to China quite a few times. The last time I was here was 10 years ago for the last celebration of WWII. My husband sat his table with the Chinese leader and was toasted by him for what he and the Flying Tigers had done for China. It was a wonderful, wonderful celebration. I wish my husband was here, but he died in 2008. I keep doing the work he was doing all the time, and I hope people do not forget the history.

**Wesley Fronk Sr**



**Ground support staff, 4th Combat Cargo Squadron, 1st Combat Cargo Group**

One thing I do recall is a strange

thing. I was walking on the street in Hankow one time, and a family invited me into their house, so I went in. We could not confer with each other because I did not speak Chinese, and they did not speak English. However, I remember I drank three cups of hot water. They did not have tea, but they gave me hot water. At that time, I truly felt the friendship between our two peoples.

Other than that, when I was here in 2010, I went to Chongqing to speak at a memorial for the anti-Japanese war. I had noticed, before I got to speak, sitting behind me were some Chinese veterans. When I spoke, I also talked about dropping the food for the Chinese. When I was going back to my seat, there was one fellow saying: "you fed me, you fed me!"

He turned out to be one of the veterans who were there in Burma. Then we met after the ceremony and had a dinner cruise on the Yangtze. It was a wonderful, wonderful day!

I feel honored to come to China again and felt the respect from Chinese people.

**Jack Bond**



### **Brother to AVG P-40 fighter pilot and a Fighter Ace**

It was 1941, my brother Charles Bond joined American Volunteer Group (AVG) to help China fight against Japanese invaders. He departed from San Francisco to China in September. At that time, General Chennault set up a ground school, taught them flight techniques, including how to navigate P-40 fighter, how to take off, attack, land etc.

I remember Charles told me his first contact with Japanese army was on December 21. On that day, Japanese bombers attacked. Although it was the first time for Charles and his companions to engage in a real battle, their strong resistance led to a lot of Japanese fighters being downed. So, the Japanese learned and they were very worried whenever they saw Flying Tigers from that point on.

I remember Charles also told me that, once, it was March 24, when members of Flying Tigers were training when they suddenly heard the alert, which meant a Japanese attack. So, Charles went out to his plane, checked it out, and they found there were about 25-30 enemy bombers.

Some of the members were a little afraid. At this time, Charles said firmly that we can make it! After saying this, he started the engine and prepared to take off. Encouraged by him, all the other members fought bravely in the battle. They shot down a lot of Japanese bombers and fought against Japanese army to a large extent.

I'm very proud to have such a brave brother. Without soldiers like him, we cannot have a peaceful life today. ■

# A Hero against Japanese Aggression Returns to China 40 Years on: Major General T.G. Shudlo, Veteran of the Former Soviet Union Red Army

**Cai Yunzhe**

“China’s heroic fight against Japanese armed forces protected the Soviet Union from being attacked from both sides and from fighting on two battlefronts simultaneously. The Soviet Union’s participation in fighting against Japan hastened the end of World War II. Both countries’ contribution to victory of World War II must never be underestimated.”

On the morning of September 3, on the Tian’anmen Rostrum in Beijing, a Russian soldier, with wrinkled face and turbid eyes, raised his right hand to salute the Chinese soldiers passing beneath in a military parade. On his uniform soaked by sweat medals sparkled in the early autumn sunshine, which seemed to reflect the fire of war on old anti-fascist battlefields.

T.G. Shudlo, a retired major general of the former Soviet Union Red Army, once served as the leader of the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 358<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the 39<sup>th</sup> Group of the Rear Baikal Armed Forces. He is now a member of the Council of the Russia-China Friendship Association, and Vice President of the China Branch of the Russian Veterans Committee.

General Shudlo, 88, participated in all the activities in Beijing marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and world victory against fascism.



**Two veterans from Russia on the Tien An Men rostrum**

Born in 1927, Shudlo joined the Red Army in 1944. The following year, the 18-year-old boy was one of the more than 1.5 million soldiers who trekked across Siberia to China to participate in the war against the Japanese aggression. Although 70 years have passed, the memory of the war is still fresh because of, in his own words, not only the fierce battles that were fought then, but also because of the precious friendship established between the two countries in the common fight against fascism.

When marching to northeast China, the Soviet Union Red Army encountered countless difficulties in an unfamiliar environment.

“Once, when we tried to cross a river in a heavy downpour, Chinese

locals spontaneously helped us build a wooden pontoon bridge. In order to get enough wood for the bridge, they even pulled down their houses. Thanks to their help, we crossed the river.”

The Soviets were moved by the Chinese locals’ selfless support. After crossing the river, the engineer troop didn’t leave until they rebuilt the houses with their professional techniques in a very short time.

“This kind of friendship can’t be forgotten, but will become deeper in our memory with the passage of time.”

Thanks to the military and civilian cooperation between China and the Soviet Union, the Kwantung Army, known as the “Flower of the Imperial Army of Japan”, was totally defeated. Japan surrendered, but Shudlo’s story



# From “Japanese Devil” to “Chinese Hero”

**Kobayashi Kancho, an Eighth Route Army veteran from Japan attended ceremonies marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China’s victory in the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945) in Beijing**

**Fu Bo**

“Before we came to China, the Japanese government told us we were liberating the Chinese people from the enslaving hands of the Whites and they would welcome the Japanese army. However, I found that was a lie after I came to China, which was ruined by the war launched by Japan. ...What we were fighting was an aggressive war.”

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of China’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and victory over global fascism. In early September, the Chinese Government and the Chinese people held grand celebrations. Among all the foreign veterans invited



**Deputy Director of PLA General Political Department Wu Changde meets with Kobayashi Kancho**

in China didn’t come to an end. In the early post-war years, misery and suffering was seen everywhere in China, along with social instability. He settled down with his unit in Dalian to help the local people restore the urban environment and social stability. In fact, he stayed there for eight years.

“Dalian was terribly unstable at that time, with rampant looting and smuggling. Our troops helped the local people build factories and roads, and restore business activities. During that period, I was promoted from leader of a reconnaissance platoon to be the political commissar of the Red Army Garrison Headquarters in the city, so I witnessed the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949.”

In 1953, Shudlo returned home.

Afterwards, due to the dramatic change in Sino-Soviet relations, for decades he was unable to return to China, where he had devoted much of his youth. It was not until 1990 that the veteran, by now in his sixties, could visit with some comrades-in-arms. This year [2015] marked the fourth visit to China in order to attend the celebrations of the victory of the antifascist war. After being awarded the memorial model of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression by Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said excitedly: “Different from other countries, the Chinese leaders never forget the Russian veterans who fought in the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. We are very grateful. We feel warm

every time we are met by Chinese leaders.”

After the celebration, Shudlo said, “China’s heroic fight against Japanese armed forces protected the Soviet Union from being attacked in the rear and saved it from having to fight on two fronts. The Soviet Union’s participation in the war against Japan hastened the end of World War II. Both countries’ contribution to the victory of the war must never be underestimated. I am very glad to see the two countries exchange troops to participate in the military parade, which gives us the opportunity to reflect on the war and strive for peace. The deep friendship and mutual affection established in the war between the two peoples are indestructible.” ■



**Kobayashi Kancho telling his own stories**

to the ceremony, Kobayashi Kancho, a Japanese veteran of the Chinese Eighth Route Army, drew much public attention. I accompanied him during the whole event, giving me a great opportunity to know of his experiences. One remark perhaps best summarized his ideals and faith: “The Communist Party

changed me from a Japanese devil to a comrade”.

Kobayashi was born to a Buddhist abbot on September 2, 1919. Smart and eager to learn, he passed the exam to become a monk. However, monks at that militaristic era could not escape being conscripted into the army. In the summer of 1940, with an enlistment order, he was one of the soldiers sent to Shandong Province in eastern China.

During a mopping-up operation, he was captured by the East Sea Battalion of the Jiaodong Branch of the Eighth Route Army in Shandong. He attempted to commit suicide twice, but failed. Later, being moved by the policy of “good treatment to captives” and educated repeatedly by the staff of the Enemy-Study Office of the Eighth Route Army, he decided to join it.

He actively participated in the anti-war propaganda work and became the head of the Bingai branch of the Anti-War Alliance. On the recommendation of Shu Tong, a senior leader and director of the Political Department of

the Shandong Military Area, he joined the Communist Party of China as a foreign member. When the war ended, he stayed in the Jinan Foreign Affairs Office helping with the repatriation of Japanese prisoners of the war and civilians who had been in China.

In 1953, at the age of 34, he was appointed vice president of the Fengzhen People’s Hospital in Inner Mongolia. On December 18, 1955, he returned to Japan with his family. Finding it hard to get a job, he faced many difficulties. Monitored by the Japanese Government, he finally got a position in a shipping company, as a shipboard translator on a meager income. He still took every opportunity to make speeches telling the truth about Japanese aggression.

Kobayashi was as excited as a child when telling these stories. Though he is now aged 96 and his family keeps urging him to have more rest, he could not contain his excitement. He said, “If it were not for the CPC’s lenient policies, I would have committed suicide. Before we came to China, the Japanese Government told us we were liberating the Chinese people from the enslaving hands of the Whites and the Chinese welcomed us. However, I found that was a lie after I came to China, which was ruined by the war launched by Japan. In China, every Chinese hated the Japanese. I came to realize that all I had been told was false. What we were fighting was an aggressive war. When I was captured, I attempted to kill myself. However, thanks to the policies of the Party and the care of the leaders, I saw through the nature of the aggressive war and decided to use my own experiences to awaken other Japanese

**The writer with Kobayashi Kancho on the Tien An Men rostrum**



soldiers from the lies and persuade them to stay away from the evil war.” Recalling the past, he would often dissolve into tears when mentioning something that touched him and would burst into hearty laughter when talking about something pleasing. I listened to his stories with full attention. Though I had heard some of them many times, I listened as if they were told for the first time.

Kobayashi was quite happy to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in China. However, he scared us on September 1, when his blood pressure soared to 190, probably because he was extremely excited. However, he comforted us saying that he would be fine with a little rest. He slept early, with a hypertension pill in his mouth.

I was almost awake for the whole night. Every other minute or so, I would look at the emergency beeper in my hand to see whether he had called me. Fortunately, nothing happened that night.

Kobayashi got up at about 3 o'clock in the morning and put on his clothes, waiting to go to the Great Hall of the People to receive the honor medal. In the morning, his blood pressure dropped to 130, making everybody relieved. Upon arriving at the Hall, I contacted our comrades from the Ministry of Health to check his blood pressure again. This time, it was 110, back within the normal range.

I was relieved after one night's worries. Kobayashi kept asking me about the ceremony procedures and how he should behave, for fear that he might make a mistake. He even told me in advance what he would say in the

planned interview so I could tell him of anything inappropriate. Such a habit to take everything into full consideration attests to his status as a veteran soldier of the Eighth Route Army and a senior member of the CPC. When President Xi Jinping pinned the honor medal on him, I saw tears in his eyes even though I was standing quite a distance away. I believed it was caused by excitement and the feeling of happiness. After the medal award ceremony, Chairman Yu Zhengsheng of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference shook hands with him twice and told him to take care of himself.

During the media interview session after the ceremony, Kobayashi said it was the highest honor he had ever received and that he thanked the Chinese Government and the Chinese people for it.

That evening, the Japanese Office of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries held a party to celebrate his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Director Wang Xiuyun brought a cake and some gifts. Kobayashi cut the cake, blew out the candles and made a wish. He said it was the most unforgettable birthday in his life and that it was a particular happy thing to receive the medal right on his birthday and receive good wishes from everybody.

He thanked CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin for the invitation and the Chinese for their thoughtful care.

September 3 was the most important day of the celebration. Kobayashi got up quite early. Everything ready, he went to Tian'anmen Square to watch the military parade.

The Tian'anmen Gate was bright



**Kobayashi Kancho's birthday celebration by CPAFFC**

against the blue sky. The sunny day was warm with a temperature of nearly 30 degrees Celsius. The other veteran soldiers were taking their ease in the rest zone, but Kobayashi didn't want to go there. Instead, he watched the troops in the distance. I took a picture of him.

Later, he told me that he had thought a lot at the sight of the advanced weapons of the army. China was far behind Japan 80 years ago in military equipment, but now it had become so strong. He said he was very happy about that. During the whole parade, he never took his eyes off the troops and ignored the water I gave him.

It seemed that he didn't want to miss anything. He had tears in eyes throughout the parade. Afterwards, he held my hands and said, "I am so happy today. And I am so lucky to have this chance to watch the parade from the Tian'anmen Gate. I've no regrets in my life anymore".

In the media interviews afterwards, he shared the excitement he felt when being awarded the honor medal by President Xi and when watching the



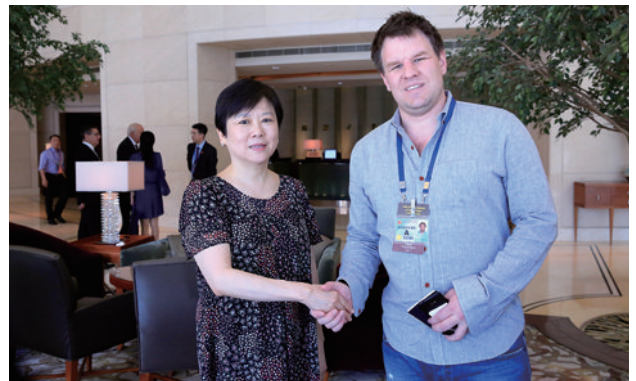
# A Friendship that Has Lasted for Decades

--- An account of activities attended by relatives of wartime international friends and the representatives from friendly foreign organizations to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of China's victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War

**Zhang Weixiao**

At the invitation of CPAFFC, on September 3, 2015, a number of noted international friends attended the 70th anniversary of China's victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Mark William Bethune, grandson of the brother of our Canadian friend Norman Bethune who gave his life for the Chinese revolution, Gabriel, great grandson of James Gareth Endicott, Nie Guangtao – Chinese adopted son of our friend from New Zealand Rewi Alley, Philip Lindsay Hall, grandnephew of Kathleen Hall, Honorary President of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society Deng Li and Vice Chairman of the Canadian Bethune Association Gu Shian were all interviewed by CCTV, Xinhua News Agency and the CPAFFC.



**CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin meets with Mark Bethune, a relative of Dr. Norman Bethune.**

parade. Asked how he thought about the announcement that China would cut its armed forces by 300,000, he said it proved that China was an important force in safeguarding world peace. He admired the disarmament move.

That night was his last in Beijing. He gave me a photo album with his autograph and the words "To Comrade Fu Bo". He said that it was the Communist Party that gave him a new lease on life and changed him from "a Japanese devil" to "a comrade". He valued the title "comrade", as the loftiest form of address within the Party. He said he would remain a faithful member of the CPC and the PLA forever. He hoped that I would continue on the same road.

He said, "We spent our youth in the fire of war. I hope that your youth will be spent far from war and China and Japan can be friends generation after generation. I will keep fighting for the friendship between the two peoples."

On September 4, we saw off the veteran back to Japan. The sunny weather of the previous days turned into heavy downpours as if the weather was unwilling to bid farewell. Before he boarded the plane, I shook hands with him. He made an appointment with me to meet again in Tokyo. Watching him walking down the embarkation bridge, I thought a lot.

In Japanese, there is a phrase "Ichi-go ichi-e", meaning that there is only

one chance for a destined relationship in a lifetime. However, I believe that there are more chances for us to meet again in this lifetime. We will meet for a second, third and more times in the future.

When the celebration activities ended, I returned home and put Kobayashi's album in a safe place. What he said greatly inspired me. I want to be a good Party member like him and make contributions to the people-to-people exchanges in my capacity by making friends with more foreigners as well as contributing to the cause of making the Sino-Japanese friendship last forever.

Wish our comrade Kobayashi Kancho good health and lasting happiness! ■

In the morning of September 2, Mark William Bethune attended the Medal Awarding Ceremony of the 70th anniversary of China's victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and received the medal conferred by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The international friends described it as an unforgettable journey to China of great significance.

**Mark William Bethune: "I'm a new friend of the Chinese people."**

Mark spoke highly of the ceremony, which, he said, showed a peace-loving China safeguarding world peace. President Xi mentioned in his speech that China would cut the size of its armed forces by 300,000, demonstrating China's resolve to safeguard world peace. During an interview, Mark told the journalists that he had read many materials about Norman Bethune and heard of him from his family members.

Norman Bethune was a man of courage who never gave up his dreams in the face of difficulties and who always shouldered his responsibilities. He went around the world to serve the people fighting against fascism. His spirit is of great significance in today's era for pursuing world peace.

Mark often said, "Norman Bethune was an old friend of the Chinese people; and I'm a new friend". He said it was his honor to represent the Bethune family to come to China to receive the medal of honor presented by President Xi. As a member of the younger generation, he would carry on the spirit of Norman Bethune and contribute to enhancement of the friend-

ship between the Canadian and Chinese people.

**Gabriel Endicott: Bring the friendship of the previous generations to China**

Gabriel's great grandfather James Gareth Endicott was born into a Canadian missionary family in Leshan, Sichuan Province. He lived and worked in China for 35 years and witnessed the May Fourth Movement, the Northern Expedition, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the Revolution War and a series of important events. He made public speeches in Canada to let his compatriots know about the Chinese people's resistance against the Japanese aggression.

After the founding of the PRC, he devoted himself to the support of China's socialist revolution and construction. Gabriel said that before he came to China, his grandfather brought him the Song of Guerilla, which James Gareth Endicott learnt to sing in Chinese. Brought up in such a family, he was deeply moved by the huge sacrifice the Chinese people had made in wartime as well as the friendship his ancestors had established with the Chinese people. He said happily, "I'll visit Yan'an and Xi'an in the next few days. This will be the first time to visit these places and I want to know more about the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Chinese revolution. These two places are

where I must visit. My job in Canada is related to construction. But my family brings me closer to China, and this makes me very excited."

**Philip Lindsay Hall: "Grandaunt Kathleen Hall is the one I admire the most."**

During China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, Kathleen Hall, a missionary nurse from New Zealand, risked her life to deliver medicine and medical equipment to the Shanxi-Chahar-Hebei border area, trekking past enemy sentries and across blockade trenches. She also helped transfer scholars and doctors to the Bethune Medicine Team and developed a deep friendship with Doctor Bethune during the wartime, making huge contributions to the final victory of the war.

During the interview, Philip said the Japanese army expelled foreigners living in China during the war and Kathleen Hall was sent back to New Zealand. In her home country, she lived a simple and low-key life until she passed away. Philip's father Bob Hall

**CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan meets with Gabriel, great grandson of James Endicott**



visited China many times and went to places where Kathleen Hall once lived and worked.

Philip said China was large and he could imagine how hard it was for his aunt to work and live in the country at that time. "My family has special ties with China. It made me very excited to learn that I would be invited to attend the ceremonial activities in China. The grand parade demonstrates the economic and military power of China as well as its international influence. After the ceremony, I will visit the place where my grandaunt once fought as an anti-fascist soldier." He also said that he was honored to become the envoy of friendship between the people of China and New Zealand.

#### **Nie Guangtao: my adoptive foreign father's anti-Japanese experiences**

Rewi Alley was an old friend of the Chinese people and one of the most famous New Zealand nationals in China. Nie Guangtao said the war launched by Japan ruined his home and made him an orphan. He had no home. It was Rewi Alley that raised him so he could survive the war and grow up. When the Chinese people's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression faced great difficulties, Alley initiated the Industrial Cooperatives movement for unemployed workers and refugees to save themselves through production, which was an important contribution to the people's guerrilla warfare led by the CPC.

Nie said with emotion, "A home created under that special environment is unique in the world. My adoptive father did a lot for the development

of China-New Zealand relations and the enhancement of understanding and friendship between the people of China and New Zealand. It is a great honor for me, for Rewi Alley and for my whole family to attend this ceremony this time."

#### **Deng Li: I feel proud, as an overseas Chinese, to be engaged in the promotion of friendship between China and New Zealand**

Since he migrated to New Zealand in 2000, Deng Li has been actively promoting cultural exchanges between China and New Zealand. He was elected honorary president of the New Zealand-China Friendship Society in 2012. His family had been closely related with the War of Resistance against the Japanese Aggression.

During an interview with a CPAFFC staff member, Deng said he was born into a military family and his father was a member of the Eighth Route Army. Since childhood, he had been told about the unforgettable war and learned that the Eight Route Army and the New Fourth Army led by the CPC were the backbone of Chinese armed forces who defeated the Japanese invaders. He said: "This is a fact that domestic and overseas Chinese, young people in particular, should know about. Seventy years have passed with great changes.

"Now, China is the world's second largest economy, but there are different voices commenting on China's rise. We need such a grand ceremony to review the history and let all the people in the world know that China is a strong force to safeguard world peace."

#### **Gu Shian: Because I'm a doctor, I can better understand the great spirit of Bethune**

Gu Shian, vice chairman of the Canadian Bethune Association, is also a family doctor in Canada. When asked how he got the idea of establishing the Canadian Bethune Association, Dr. Gu said he once watched a TV play about Norman Bethune telling some moving stories about him. For example, Dr. Bethune sucked the abscesses of the wounded soldiers and kept working under hard conditions, even when basic living necessities were unavailable. Gu said he was deeply moved by the heroic deeds. He decided to carry forward the Bethune spirit and promote friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Canadian people, especially charity clinic activities in China's remote and border areas.

#### **Unforgettable visit to China builds the bridge of friendship**

The foreign guests and representatives to China this time all expressed appreciation of the orderly and efficient organization of the ceremony, the luncheons and the wonderful evening galas. They said it was beyond their imagination to attend three big events in just one day.

They described their visit to China as rich in content and of great significance, hence a valuable experience. The young foreign friends also pledged that they would enhance exchanges and cooperation within their generation and add fresh energy to the people-to-people friendship between China and other countries. ■



# Surviving Flying Tigers and Their Enduring Spirit: an Unforgettable Meeting with Survivors

**Li Jiandang**

On the evening of September 4, on behalf of General Fang Fenghui, chief of the PLA General Staff, I met some members of the legendary Flying Tigers of World War II.

## An Exciting Conversation

Decorative lanterns illuminated Chang'an Avenue, greeting a rainy evening. The grand ceremony had just concluded. At 4:00 a.m. the next morning these veterans would be traveling home.

Having learned that I would visit him on behalf of the chief of PLA General Staff, Jay Vinyard waited for me at the lobby of his hotel. The old man, wearing a blue T-shirt and white slacks, with a baseball cap on his head, looked well. I introduced myself to him, "I'm Colonel Li from the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defense. I am here to bring you the regards of General Fang Fenghui, chief of the PLA General Staff. It's my honor to meet you."

The old member of Flying Tigers looked into my eyes, "I feel honored that General Fang has sent you to visit me. Please thank him for me and extend my congratulations on the success of the military parade. And I hope everything goes well with General Fang".

"I was not a member of the Flying Tigers in its real sense", he told me in a soft voice that had attracted



**Colonel Li Jiandang (the writer) with Jay Vinyard, a member of the Flying Tigers**

my attention from the very beginning. "I was not one of those heroic pilots who fought the Japanese enemy in their fighter aircraft at the front line. I was flying a C-46 transport aircraft to carry aviation fuel and logistic supply. Of course, I agree that the Flying Tigers was a team. Every member was a hero."

"Last night, when watching the show at the Great Hall of the People, we were excited to see old photos of Flying Tigers on the background screen. We are grateful to the Chinese people because they never forget us. When I first came to China at the age of 19, I didn't know much about the country, but I was deeply impressed by the honesty and kindness of its people.

At that time, all the members shared a simple goal - to help China fight Japanese aggression till the end of the war, never considering our own safety. The Japanese soldiers had high morale and they were fierce and cruel. Many Flying Tigers members never returned after taking off for the battle. The remains of some of them haven't been found even now.

"Luckily, many others survived with the help of Chinese people. Some are still alive today, including me. I won't forget that period of history and nobody should forget it. I will continue telling stories about Chinese and American people fighting together against Japanese aggression, just as President Xi said yesterday, 'Justice will pre-

vail! Peace will prevail'. Yesterday, he awarded me a war memorial medal in person, which is indeed a supreme honor for me."

### **"China is my second homeland"**

The gift examined and approved personally by General Fang for Mr. Vinyard was a porcelain plate with the Chinese character *hun* (literally "soul") and the Great Wall painted on it. Mr. Vinyard carefully listened to my explanation of the meaning of the present and then expressed his gratitude and told me that he would keep it in the Hump Pilots Association Museum.

"When we volunteered to come to China to fight against Japanese aggression, we had no idea we were making history. I only realized the true meaning when looking back long after. China is my second homeland, and I am amazed at the changes it has undergone every time I come back. Yesterday on Tian'anmen Square, I was amazed by what I saw.

"I am not moved by what we did in the past, but by the progress China is making. Today the Chinese are hardly the same as I knew more than 70 years ago. I feel that China has really stood up! By declaring further disarmament yesterday, China is delivering a signal of call for peace, one that carries strength and confidence. I feel proud of China. I admire the Chinese leaders for their vision and feel honored to have once fought side-by-side with the Chinese people."

### **Veterans remain young**

By that time two other veterans had joined in our conversation. They pronounced Kunming, a Chinese city,

clearly and proficiently, though with an accent, telling me about the cruelty of the war and how the flames of the aerial bombs swept the dark sky. Having gone through the war and death, they remain powerful in their mind, conceivably because they always hold fast to their belief.

Lines from *Youth* by Samuel Ullman came into my mind at that moment, "Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite, for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of sixty more than a body of twenty. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals."

At the end of the meeting, I shook hands with them in turn. These elders are like Santa Claus. Peace is the best gift they have brought to us. We wouldn't have enjoyed our today without thousands of them fighting against the aggressors in the wartime. The granddaughter of one of the veterans thanked me for visiting her grandfather.

"These old people will find their life more meaningful because of your visit. They expect people to listen to their stories about fighting for China and for their ideals. And they are proud of everything about today's China. It will be hard for my grandfather to fall asleep tonight, not out of sadness, but out of excitement," she said, with tears in her eyes. Moved by her words, I was at a loss what to say for a moment.

Mr. Vinyard was the last one to leave. The veteran said only one sentence, "Thank you; thank China", but the sincerity was enough for me to perceive his emotion at that moment. Fare-

well, my respected veterans! We will remember you forever. I stood straight to solemnly salute the veteran in front of me. He stood straight as well and returned a standard American military salute with a forceful gesture. At that moment, I believed he was returning to his role 70 years ago.

At the time of departure, we learned that the US ambassador to China had met these veterans that morning at the embassy. All military attaches waited in line for the veterans to arrive. The Flying Tigers members asked the ambassador why the US refused to send someone to attend the anniversary celebration on September 3 in Beijing in disregard of the history of the US fighting together with China against the Japanese aggression. Some even criticized America for lacking the courage to face a peacefully-rising China.

On the following day, other Flying Tigers members were excited to learn about our meeting the day before. Some regretted having missed it. They said, "China is a great country. We did not contribute to the great changes that have taken place today, but we are proud of being part of China's history."

I once again saw the significance of my work and felt honored for having the opportunity to attend the unforgettable meeting when I read the historical archives of these Flying Tigers. Heroes transcend borders, their stories always exerting positive impact on us. I wish to remember this great experience. General MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away." I sincerely hope that all these veterans will remain young forever. ■

# Seventeen Moments in Golden Autumn

Zheng Chen

Both Chinese and Western people believe in the proverb that “a friend in need is a friend indeed”. More than 70 years ago, when the Chinese nation faced its most dangerous situation, a foreign friend came with timely help. It was our northern neighbor - the former Soviet Union. At the critical stage of the Chinese Resistance War against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Red Army intervened to help the Chinese army wipe out the Japanese Kwantung

Army in Northeast China, making indelible contributions at great cost to the final victory.

The Chinese people will never forget those who fought together with us in our disastrous times. When the whole world is celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory over fascism, we should cherish the memory of those who sacrificed their lives and pay our highest respect to them and all others who helped us so selflessly.

From September 1-5, the CPAFFC received 17 anti-Japanese war veterans and family members of other veterans from Russia invited to Beijing by the Chinese Government to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the world's victory over fascism. The delegation comprised Senior General Gareev, director of the Russian Academy of Military Science; Major General Shudlo, former

**Russian veterans attend the memorial medal awarding ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression**





deputy director of the Great World War II Memorial Complex; Colonel Yasnev, a member of the Russian Veterans Committee; and the grandson of the late Soviet Marshal Zhukov and some others. Among the veterans, the oldest was 93 while the youngest was 88. Aged and frail as they were, their military fortitude and determination was not overshadowed by their silver hair and wrinkled faces. They participated in every activity in high spirits, which impressed us so deeply.

**“I would like to say thanks to the Chinese people on behalf of my grandfather”**

Early in the morning of September 1, the delegation arrived in Beijing on time. They were very excited, though they looked a little tired after the long flight. Colonel Abbasov, head of the delegation and chair of the China Branch of the Russian Veterans Committee, exchanged brief greetings with us. He then introduced a middle-aged man to us, and came straight to the point, “He is the grandson of Schornikov, a Soviet pilot who lost his life here in China when fighting against Japanese aggression, and was later buried in Wuhan Martyrs Cemetery. He wants to visit his grandfather’s tomb, and this is also his family’s wish.” We immediately arranged for him to fly to Wuhan, and contacted the Hubei Provincial People’s Association for Friendship asking them to make arrangements for the visit. Then, a woman member of the delegation also raised her request: “My grandfather was also buried in Wuhan Martyrs Cemetery. This is the first time our family has got a chance

to be in China, so could you please also arrange for me to fly to Wuhan as well?” Despite the tight schedule, we managed to satisfy their request thanks to the help of the Hubei Provincial People’s Association for Friendship. The two foreign guests visited the Soviet Martyrs Cemetery in Liberation Park and laid wreaths in front of the Martyrs Monument and presented a flower to everyone there.

Upon returning to Beijing, the two held the hands of the Chinese waiting to receive them and said excitedly, “Thank you. Thank you so much. This really fulfilled our families’ dream and consoled our deceased grandfathers. To our delight, the cemetery in Wuhan is well protected and well cared for. What especially impressed us was that local people visited the cemetery spontaneously, and they warmly greeted us, and shook hands and were willing to have pictures taken with us. Although we spoke different languages, we could perceive the enthusiasm in their eyes and words. We found that the Chinese people cherished deep gratitude. The sacrifice of our grandfathers to such a nice nation is worthwhile. We would also like to thank the Chinese people on behalf of our grandfathers for remembering their contribution, which means they are not lonely here.” When saying this, their eyes were filled with tears, a proof that mutual understanding and gratitude are more precious than gold.

**The neckties connecting the hearts of two peoples**

On the morning of September 2, as the representatives of the Russian veterans, Senior General Gareev, Major

General Shudelo, and Colonel Yasnev attended the medal awarding ceremony as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration held at the Great Hall of the People, where they received their medals from President Xi Jinping.

There was an impressive episode in the ceremony. After President Xi put the medal around Colonel Yasnev’s neck, the latter asked him to wait for a moment, and then he took off his tie, gave it to President Xi and explained, “This is a memorial tie, embroidered with both your name and President Putin’s. Since we are celebrating the great victory together, I would like to give it to you as a token of friendship.” President Xi happily accepted this special gift. When saying goodbye to the veterans at the end of the ceremony, the president specifically said to Colonel Yasnev, “Thank you for your gift.”

To Colonel Yasnev’s surprise and joy, President Xi gave him four Chinese brocade ties in return. Yasnev was so fond of the gift that he stroked the brocade repeatedly, unwilling to put them down. The following day he wore one of the ties when he watched the military parade on the Tian’anmen Rostrum. He showed everybody his tie and proudly told them how President Xi had given him the gift. He said, “President Xi grew up from among the common people to be the state leader, so he cares about and understand them. Last May, when he attended the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War in Moscow, Xi also presented memorial medals to 18 representatives of the Russian veterans who helped Chinese people fight against Japanese aggression. One thing on the

occasion, though petty, was impressive for everybody present. Noticing that a veteran had difficulty moving around, President Xi said, 'I'll come over, please stay where you are.' This shows how amiable he is, especially to these veterans. What a great leader he is! How can we not respect or support him!"

The ties given by President Xi are red, yellow, blue and white, coinciding with the colors of the national flags of China and Russia, therefore very symbolic. They are not only gifts, for they not only bring closer the leader of a big country and the World War II veterans, but also help to enhance the relationship between the two nations.

#### **Once a soldier fighting for peace, always a man of honor**

Seventy years ago, when Senior General Gareev was fighting for the liberation of Mudanjiang in Heilongjiang Province as chief of the Operations Division of the Fifth Field Army Headquarters under the Far Eastern First Front Army, he was very young. Now, aged 92, he is held in high esteem by people from all walks of life in Russia as director of Russian Academy of Military Science as well as a veteran having won so many decorations. On the Victory Day, he sat by President Vladimir Putin watching the military parade in Red Square. For Russia, Gareev is a "national treasure".

The Chinese Government required that all necessary measures be taken to ensure the health and safety of the veterans during their stay in China. Therefore we prepared wheelchairs, diapers and emergency buzzers for them and arranged medical workers

and voluntary interpreters. However, Senior General Gareev made some of the preparations unnecessary. Whenever he went, he insisted on walking by himself. Only on very difficult occasions, for instance, going up and down the stairs, were we allowed to give him a hand. He always led the crowd, as determined as he was when he rushed to the front line in the war.

On the afternoon of September 2, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin visited the veterans at their hotel. Given their health conditions, Li was worried that they could not stand the heat during the following day's military parade. She suggested that the foreign guests, especially the three veterans who were to be seated on the Tian'anmen Rostrum, wear loose and comfortable clothes instead of uniforms. To our surprise, all the veterans insisted on wearing uniforms, which were heavy, especially with the medals pinned on them, which alone weighed over 10 kilograms.

Senior General Gareev expressed his gratitude for the considerateness of Ms. Li, but said, "We're soldiers, whose first duty is to obey military discipline. We shared the victory, so today we also share the celebration. We should commemorate the victory in the most ceremonious way!"

Senior General Gareev was wounded many times in the war, resulting in poor eyesight and hearing. He said to me in private several times, "I was invited by the Chinese Government to Beijing to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Now here I am again, at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Next year, I will definitely

come again for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary!" The "next year" was obviously a slip of the tongue. Looking at the medals pinned on his uniform and the contented look on his face, I knew there was no need to correct him. The Chinese people wish you good health and surely look forward to your visit in Beijing at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

During the military parade, Senior General Gareev and two other Russian veterans stood to their feet to salute the Chinese soldiers when the Guard of Honor marched past the rostrum. The silhouettes of the Russian veterans standing bolt upright against the sunlight made a beautiful scene.

A soldier once fighting for peace is always a man of honor.

"Seventeen Moments of Spring", a TV drama about the former Soviet Union in the Second World War, has had great impact on many generations of Russians, including President Putin. An interlude in this drama involves a song with the words, "seventeen moments of spring linger in your heart forever, and I believe we will be surrounded by music, to whose beat trees will dance gracefully." Joy and peace described in the song have been achieved already, and we are bathed in the peace at the cost of blood and lives of our predecessors. In the most beautiful season in Beijing this year, the senior heroes and their family members with touching sentiments and noble personality shared with us far more than seventeen warm and moving moments full of hope and faith.

We salute you. ■

# Tuyun Pass: A Period of History that Should Never Be Forgotten

**Guizhou People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries**

August, a month of laurel blossoms in China, is the time for the Chinese people to remember the heroic fighters against foreign invasion. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's victory against fascism, an event was held in Tuyun Pass Forest Park (Guiyang, Guizhou Province) to commemorate the international medical aid workers who came to China during the Chinese War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

The venue once served as wartime headquarters and training center for the Rescue Corps of the Red Cross Society of China. Those attending the commemorative event included 30 people from 10 families descended from non-Chinese medical staff such as Dr. Rolf Becker, Dr. Ianto Kaneti and Dr. Stanislaw Moishe Flato; in addition, there were 32 people from 14 families descended from Chinese medical staff of that time such as Zhou Shoukai, Yang Xishou, Xu Weilian and Zhang Shigai; descendants of Lt. Gen. Robert K. S. Lim, a well-known overseas Chinese who headed the Rescue Corps; and six historians from China and abroad. The participants paid homage to their ancestors who had worked heart and soul in the wartime medical service.

## **Foreign friends came to Tuyun Pass to “fight for common freedom”**

Historical records show that over



**Together with other descendants of the wartime medical staff, Robert Mamlok reads materials about their ancestors in the Guiyang Archives**

70 years ago, when China was facing intensive Japanese aggression, more than 30 doctors from nine countries, including Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, Romania, Austria and Poland, travelled to Tuyun Pass, one of China's wartime rear areas, to work round-the-clock with 3,000 Chinese doctors and nurses of the Rescue Corps of the Red Cross Society of China.

From March 1939 to 1945, they performed more than 120,000 operations and treated more than six million sick or wounded soldiers and civilians, greatly contributing to the ultimate victory over fascism.

Seventy years later, their names live on. “To fight for common freedom” — a simple but soul-stirring slogan that Dr. Stanislaw Moishe Flato

wrote on a banner — best explains why they came to China. Despite the hard conditions, they never stopped working for the great cause.

According to his niece, Dr. Wilhelm Mann, in his later years, would always share with his family those days when he served in China, which he described as “unforgettable”.

“For many of them, fighting against fascism was the most glorious part of their life,” said Robert, a descendant of Dr. Mamlok, in a speech given on behalf of the descendants of the international medical volunteers.

## **“A place of many moving stories”**

“The stories that happened here many years ago need to be rediscovered and made known to more people,”



said Dr. Yang Xishouhe's daughter, Yang Yongxuan, sitting before the monumental sculpture she designed for the historic site. Without her father's memoirs, she would never have known what he had done here alongside international colleagues. To discover more about her father, she has made many trips to Tuyun Pass, where she heard many moving stories.

Dr. Song Hongji, now 101, still remembers an eight-year-old girl he met in the wartime when he worked with his father at Tuyun Pass. The girl knelt down in front of him asking him to save her dying mother. In his advanced years, Dr. Song came to the site hoping that he would have the chance to meet the girl and know what had become of her.

In fact, what Dr. Song experienced was only one of the many touching stories. In response to a call for the collection of such stories, Peng Hongshu, a retiree from the provincial broadcasting and TV station, presented a script he wrote in which there was the dramatic love story between Ianto Kaneti, a Bulgarian doctor, and the Chinese nurse Zhang Sunfen, a graduate from the Department of Biology of Yanjing University (today's Peking University).

The couple got to know each other when working in the Tuyun Pass area and got married in 1942. It is also worth mentioning that their first son was named "Baozhong", a combination of the first characters of the Chinese word for "Bulgaria" and that for "China".

"I didn't know the meaning of my name until I grew up", said Baozhong, now aged 72, making his second trip to Tuyun Pass after a visit with his parents

back in 1989 that gave him a great affinity for the place.

"A lot of moving stories remain unknown, waiting to be discovered," said Yang Yongxuan. For that purpose, she hopes to build a memorial museum to house the historical materials that are now available and those still to be collected.

### **"A period of history worth being engraved in our mind"**

Participating in the commemoration, a group of students in blue-white uniforms was particularly eye-catching. They walked around, from the memorial sculpture to the art exhibition, thirsting for knowledge about the anti-fascist fighters' heroic deeds. The youngsters, from Guiyang Minority Middle School, had come at the invitation of the organizers because they had successfully launched a project entitled "Tuyun Pass--International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Monument" and won first prize in the Guizhou Adolescents Science & Technology Innovation Contest and the second prize in the 28<sup>th</sup> contest at national level.

According to one of them, Jia

Fei, their project was about those remarkable stories and great deeds of the ICRC members at Tuyun Pass. Under the instruction of their history teacher, Wang Yilan, 10 students started the project in September 2012, and successfully finished it in March 2013 to much acclaim.

Jia Fei was shocked when learning about the episode for the first time in a history class. "I had never known that such things had happened in our region," she said. To carry out the project, they consulted documents, visited the neighborhoods near the Tuyun Pass historic site, and sent out 1,000 questionnaires. Although they were met with misunderstanding and reluctance, they managed to carry it through.

"What impressed me most in the process was the fact that many still know little about this period of history," said Jia, "which proved the necessity of our research on the Tuyun Pass, and motivated us to explore more stories of what happened." Through the project, Jia acquired more knowledge about this episode in Chinese history, which, she says, is too significant to be allowed to sink into oblivion. ■

### **Dr. Yang Xishou's daughter Yang Yongxuan delivers a speech**



# The Third China-US Governors Forum Held in the US

**Ba Cuicui**

“Relatives and friends become closer with increasing visits to each other. Over the past 30 years, the development of China-US relations has won support of local authorities and the people in both countries. It will continue to draw strength from and deliver benefits to them.”-- From the speech delivered by President Xi Jinping at the Third Forum of China-US Governors (Sep. 22, 2015, Seattle)

The third China-US Governors Forum, with the theme of “Clean Energy and Economic Development”, was held in Seattle on September 22

by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the state governments of California and Washington.

President Xi Jinping, then on a state visit to the US, delivered an address. Wang Dongming, secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Wang Anshun, secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, Huang Qifan, mayor of Chongqing Municipality, Li Qiang, governor of Zhejiang Province, Guo Shuqing, governor of Shandong Province, Lou Qinqian, governor of Shaanxi Province, Li Xiaolin,

president of the CPAFFC, and Luo Linquan, China’s consul-general in San Francisco, were among those present.

American attendees included Jerry Brown, governor of California, Jay Inslee, governor of Washington, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, Terry Branstad, governor of Iowa, Kate Brown, governor of Oregon, and Max Baucus, American ambassador to China.

During the forum, the two sides signed The US-China Governors’ Accord on Clean Energy and Economic Development and held six one-to-one meetings.

**President Xi Jinping addresses the Third China-US Governors Forum**



**President Xi Jinping addresses the Forum**

In his speech, President Xi offered congratulations on the successful holding of the third China-US Governors Forum and highlighted the important role played by local-level cooperation in developing China-US relations. China and the US had bright prospects for sub-national communication and collaboration, and the two countries should strengthen their ties in various fields by tap-

ping the potential of their respective local advantages.

In fact, this was not the first time for President Xi to attend an activity of China-US local-level cooperation. Back in 2012, as China's vice president, he attended a meeting between Chinese and American governors in Los Angeles. In 2013, he also met in Beijing representatives attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-US Governors Forum.

In his speech, he talked about his unforgettable experiences in the exchanges with the US when he served as a local official in his earlier years. His vision and lively delivery struck a chord with all listeners. At the end of the Forum, the American governors felt reluctant to leave as they all wanted to shake hands with President Xi. Afterwards, Governor Inslee observed that President Xi's repeated emphasis on sub-national cooperation showed the great significance his administration attached to province/state -level and city-level cooperation.

**Chinese and US governors laud local-level cooperation and reach a consensus on addressing climate change and strengthening cooperation in energy and environmental protection**

With the theme of "Clean Energy and Economic Development", the third Forum aimed to put into practice the US-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change issued in November 2014. Participants agreed it was a shared responsibility of central and local governments across the world to address climate change and promote a low-carbon economy. They also reviewed their progress and exchanged

experiences in the field.

Both sides showed full awareness of the huge potential for cooperation in the green economy marked by clean energy and environmental protection. The two countries should enhance their collaboration in key fields by increasing technology and capital inputs, so that both peoples can benefit from a cleaner environment.

The Forum led to the signing of the US-China Governors' Accord on Clean Energy and Economic Development, providing for close cooperation at a local level to enhance the balance between economic growth and the development of renewable energy resources and clean technology.

In addition, the attending governors agreed that local-level cooperation was the cornerstone for bilateral relations, and that President Xi's attendance had great implications for closer China-US sub-national collaboration. On the basis of the current achievement, Chinese provinces and American states are willing to further their pragmatic cooperation to reap greater benefits.

**Features and functions of the China-US Governors Forum**

The two nations' presidents announced the establishment of the China-US Governors Forum in 2011. Within the framework, five forums or dialogues have been held in China or US

The Forum has the following three features:

Wide coverage. The five forums or dialogues have involved 26 senior officials of Chinese provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions) and 33 governors of American states. All

but four of China's 34 provinces (municipalities and autonomous regions) have sent delegates to the Forum, and 43 of the 50 American states have done so, covering about 86% of the administrative units of each nation. Of all the Chinese governors participating in the forums or dialogues, those from western regions account for nearly a third.

Fruitful results. At the first Forum alone, 28 cooperation agreements, letters of intent, and memorandums, with a total value of \$3.2 billion, were concluded between the countries' local authorities as well as businesses. At the third Forum, The US-China Governors' Accord on Clean Energy and Economic Development was signed.

Pragmatism and win-win cooperation. Exchanges at the local level are more feasible, flexible and autonomous than at the central/federal level. Chinese and American governors have similar motivation for exchanges to promote local economic growth and people's livelihood. This shared goal will naturally lead to mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and other fields.

As Wang Dongming observed: China-US sub-national exchanges have "numerous highlights, huge potential, and a bright future". Local-level cooperation will not only bring the two nations closer, but also lay a solid foundation for the mutual trust and friendship of the two peoples of future generations. All the governors should study the message conveyed in President Xi's speech to deepen and strengthen the sub-national collaboration and play a greater role in promoting new relations between China and the US as two major powers in the world. ■



# The 1<sup>st</sup> China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum Opens in Xiamen

Ye Zi

In order to follow up Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to New Zealand in 2014, the CPAFFC and the New Zealand Local Government Association held the first China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum with the theme of "innovation and development" in Xiamen on September 7, 2015.

Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Vice Chairman Ma Peihua attended the opening ceremony and met with the various mayors. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Vice President Xie Yuan, New Zealand Ambassador John McKinnon, New Zealand Consul General in Guangzhou Rebecca Needham, New Zealand Local Government Association Chairman Lawrence Yule, and 25 city leaders from both China and New Zealand were present.

The mayors represented such cities as Xiamen, Ningbo, Qingdao, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Yichang, Lijiang, Weinan, Zhangye, Lanzhou, Guiyang, Komsomolsk, Hastings (of which Mr. Yule is mayor), Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Timaru, Gisborne, Wanganui, Taupo and Matakopaka.

Events such as Tasting of Chinese and New Zealand Food, the Picture Exhibition of Cities in China and New Zealand, and the Seashine Group's "New Zealand Counter" opening cer-



Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Ma Peihua addresses the opening ceremony

emony were held.

## Forum held when China-New Zealand relations are developing well, attracting much attention in both countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972, China and New Zealand have seen historic progress in their relationship, with concrete cooperation and exchanges in various fields being expanded and deepened in an unprecedented way.

In November 2014, during his visit to New Zealand, President Xi and Prime Minister John Keys witnessed the official launch of the China-New Zealand Mayoral Exchange and Cooperation Mechanism. The Xi visit also raised China-New Zealand relations to a comprehensive and strategic partnership.

The 1<sup>st</sup> China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum, as a concrete form of mayoral exchange and cooperation mechanism, received much attention from both the central and local governments of both sides. Among the 13 Chinese cities attending the forum, six at vice-provincial level – Xiamen, Ningbo, Qingdao, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Shenzhen – sent their mayors to the forum.

New Zealand has 11 large regions, five single regions and 67 regional executive institutions. The country doesn't have provinces. The 12 mayors attending this Forum included those from the seven most important cities: Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Tauranga, Palmerston North and Timaru. Among them, the mayor of Christchurch, Ms. Lianne Dalziel, had

used up her travel quota for a China visit early this year, but she still attended this Forum at her own expense.

When he met with mayors from the two countries, Vice Chairman Ma said New Zealand was the first developed country in the West to join the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank as a potential founding member in January this year, indicating the importance New Zealand attaches to its relationship with China.

New Zealand is considerably developed in terms of humanism, education, tourism, animal husbandry and agricultural technologies, creating important opportunities for advancement. China is now deepening its reform comprehensively and New Zealand was focusing its efforts on sustainable development. The two countries shared strategic concerns and had broader space for cooperation.

Ms. Li, president of the CPAFFC, told the opening ceremony the successful launch of the China-New Zealand Mayoral Exchange and Cooperation Mechanism resulted from the deepening bilateral relationship. "At present," she said, "there is great potential for cooperation in various fields."

She noted that President Xi praised the launch of the China-New Zealand Mayoral Exchange and Cooperation Mechanism as a timely move. The CPAFFC would endeavor to promote the implementation of the mechanism, making it a long-term platform for exchanges and cooperation between mayors of the two countries.

Ambassador John McKinnon said the goals set by President Xi and Prime Minister John Keys in their meeting in 2014 for bilateral trade to rise to US\$30

billion by 2020 was of great significance. Equally important was the move to upgrade the free trade agreement between the two countries, he said.

**The Forum is practical in theme-setting and rich in form and results. It has built a high-level platform for exchanges and cooperation between local governments**

**(1) The themes designed for the Forum were exactly what the mayors wanted to talk about.**

By the end of March 2015, the number of Chinese tourists to New Zealand had increased by 24% compared with the previous year. The number of Chinese students studying in New Zealand also increased by 12%. China's direct trade investment in New Zealand increased remarkably to reach US\$5.38 billion by the end of 2014.

At the same time, China is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest country to receive direct investment from New Zealand, with the amount reaching 7.3 million US dollars. Considering the hot topics in China-New Zealand relationship, the first Forum chose "innovation and development" as the theme and invited mayors

from the two countries to discuss issues in tourism, education and primary-level industries.

The attending cities all prepared introductory materials with a rich collection of photos, videos and texts about their cities as well as the results of exchange and cooperation. At the same time, they put forward questions and valuable suggestions, giving ideas for future cooperation between local governments.

Chairman Yule said tourism, education and primary industries were all highly attractive for public attention. The mayors from New Zealand in attendance all expected to share successful experiences and improve cooperation through communication with their Chinese counterparts.

As the mayor of Hastings, he told the forum how his city used its clean environment to successfully develop a food processing industry and said that Hastings was cooperating with Qingdao in using the local high-quality water to produce formula milk powder. He also mentioned other projects involved.

Xiamen Mayor Pei Jinjia introduced the unique favorable conditions

**Sessions of the Forum**



Xiamen had for developing tourism, which, he said, were due to the city's export-oriented economy, close interaction with the outside world and frequent international exchanges. Guangzhou Mayor Chen Jianhua said that Guangzhou would improve cooperation with New Zealand in tourism by optimizing the exit and entry procedures, increasing direct flights and chartered tourist flights and improving the cooperation mechanism in the tourist industry.

Dunedin Mayor Dave Cull noted in his education-themed speech that more and more schools in New Zealand had opened Chinese classes. The New Zealand Government had realized the importance of Chinese and had invested in language teaching in order to help young students learn Chinese better.

The vice mayor of Lanzhou mentioned in his primary industry-themed speech his hopes to deepen cooperation with New Zealand partners in deep processing of farm and animal products. In the future, he said, Lanzhou would build a high-tech "central industrial park for processing agricultural and animal products" by importing new breeds of beef cattle and cows from New Zealand and inviting famous New Zealand enterprises with advanced technologies and standardized management systems for cooperation.

**(2) The Forum was new in form with a wide variety of activities -- from sights to tastes -- that provided a rich experience of Chinese and New Zealand cultures.**

In order to enrich the form of the Forum, Tasting of Chinese and New Zealand Food and the Photo Exhibition of Cities in China and New Zealand

were held, which enabled the participants to have a better understanding of their countries' culture.

At the food tasting platform, beer from Qingdao, lotus roots from Wuhan, ice wine, dates and apples from Zhangye, rose pies from Lijiang and wine, sherry, kiwi fruits, cheese biscuits, fruit soda and other fresh and delicious food with local features from New Zealand added much flavor to the Forum.

At the photo exhibition, every city attending the forum showed at least one picture of landscapes or people-to-people exchanges. The night scenes of brilliantly lit Chinese cities and photos reflecting China's rapid development won hearty praises from the New Zealand's participants. The wonderful natural sceneries in New Zealand and its traditional and unique Maori culture also impressed all.

**(3) Participants fully exchanged ideas and signed the Xiamen Declaration to make the Forum a complete success.**

The one-day Forum saw complete exchanges among the participants. At the closing ceremony, the mayor of Xiamen announced the Xiamen Declaration signed by all the attending cities. It stated: "We agree that local governments' exchanges are an important part of bilateral relationship. Our cooperation, based on consensus, has economic development at the core and benefits to the two peoples as the goal. Our common suggestion is that the two sides, under the framework of China-New Zealand Mayoral Exchange and Cooperation Mechanism, should further deepen mutual trust, constantly enhance the exchanges in various fields,

endeavor to promote the implementation of concrete cooperation projects and realize information sharing so as to deepen China-New Zealand exchanges.

"Our common proposal is to hold China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum in the two countries in turn to summarize the cooperation results between the local governments and give new suggestions to deepen the mutual cooperation."

At the closing ceremony, the host announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> China-New Zealand Mayoral Forum would be held in Wellington in 2017.

During intervals in the Forum, the mayors of sister cities including Ningbo & Auckland; Guangzhou & Auckland, Christchurch; Guiyang & Palmerston North and other pairs talked with each other and reached consensus on topics that interested them. In particular, Guangzhou Mayor Chen Jianhua met with Auckland Mayor Len Brown and discussed with him the establishment of Guangzhou-Auckland-Los Angeles economic alliance and the cooperation between the two cities in the fields of innovation, technology and education.

Chen also talked about the increase of direct flights with Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel. After the Forum, Mr. Grant Smith, mayor of Palmerston North, visited the sister city Guiyang. He visited many local schools and the two sides had deep-going discussions on how to promote education cooperation. After more than three decades of cooperation, Guiyang University and Massey University signed a new round of Memorandum of Friendly Cooperation during the visit. ■



# Forum on Railway Cooperation Between China and Russia Held in Beijing

Hu Yang Zhang Han

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a congratulatory letter to the second Forum on Railway Cooperation between China and Russia, hosted by the CPAFFC and undertaken by Beijing Jiaotong University on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

[CCTV News Broadcast] Premier Li Keqiang said that, with in-depth development of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, transportation cooperation highlighted the commitment of China and Russia to practical projects. The cooperation in infrastructure construction and connection establishment between the two countries was a major part of the effort to facilitate interaction between the “Silk Road Economic Belt” initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union. The forum focused on high-speed railway construction meeting the strategic demand of the two countries, which was of great significance.

Premier Li encouraged the students in Jiaotong universities of the two countries to learn from each other, work together and expand cooperation in the training of talented people, scientific research and service to society so as to make greater contributions to the friendship between the two peoples.

On September 4, the second Forum on Railway Cooperation between



China and Russia, with the theme of “Promoting Innovation for Development and Communication”, was held in Beijing. The forum was highly valued by the governments and relevant organizations of both sides. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Chairperson of the Russian Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Secretary General Dmitry Mezentshev sent letters of congratulation.

Arken Imirbaki, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, said in his opening remarks that “China and Russia share traditional friendship. Russian President Vladimir Putin attended China’s V-Day parade in commemoration

of the 70th anniversary of the victory of China’s War of Resistance against the Japanese Aggression and the victory of the Second World War over fascism. In the war, Chinese and Russians fought the same enemy and made great sacrifices.

“Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, the people of the former Soviet Union have made great contributions to China’s socialist construction. Many universities in China, including several Jiaotong universities, have received guidance from the experts of the former Soviet Union in the early years of the new China.”

Guided by the “One Belt, One Road” strategic vision, the forum created a mechanism for exchanges in

education related to transportation technologies and management between China and Russia. Under the principle of “education first”, it is exploring cooperative training of competent personnel in high-speed railway construction. This will contribute to the connection of the Silk Road Economic Belt and Russia’s Trans-Eurasia Railway, the enhancement of economic and trade exchanges between China and Russia and the development and opening of the adjacent areas.

Vice Minister of Education Liu Limin, Vice Minister of Transport Feng Zhenglin and engineers of China Railway spoke highly of the forum in their speeches and expressed thanks to the CPAFFC for what it had done to ensure its success.

Senior rail transportation experts, including He Huawu, chief engineer of China Railway and an academician of the China Academy of Engineering, and Fu Zhihuan, an academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, talked about the development of China’s high-speed railway. Experts from Russian Railways briefed the meeting about the development of their rail network and expressed their ideas on future cooperation with China.

A Beijing Declaration was issued at the conclusion, aimed at implementing China’s “One Belt, One Road” initiative and “going global” strategy and promoting the exchanges and cooperation in the field of transportation between China and Russia. It was decided that the third forum will be hosted in Moscow in 2016.

Over 200 delegates attended the meeting, including CPAFFC Secretary General Li Xikui, China Railway Chief Engineer He Huawu, Deputy Head of Russia’s Federal Agency for Railway Transport Lukovnikov Evgeniy Valentinovich, Minister-Counsellor of Russian Embassy in China Tomikhin Evgeny and principals from nearly 60 universities of China and Russia. ■

## China-Latin America and Caribbean Region People-to-People Friendship Forum

**Hua Jiaguang**

On September 16, the fifth China-Latin America and Caribbean Region People-to-People Friendship Forum was held in Hangzhou. Li Xikui, secretary general of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Liang Liming, vice governor of Zhejiang Province, Yin Hengmin, special representative of the Chinese Government for Latin American and Caribbean affairs, H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, governor-general of Antigua and Barbuda, Henry Charles Fernandez, Antigua and Barbuda minister of foreign affairs, international trade and immigration, and more than 100 guests from 21 countries attended.

### Background

The China-Latin America and Caribbean Region People-to-People Friendship Forum was previously known as the “Conference of China -Latin America and Caribbean Region Friendship Associations”. The CPAFFC and the China-Latin America and the Caribbean Friendship Association (CHILAC) have been in fruitful cooperation with more than 40 friendly organizations active in 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In order to build a platform for timely communication, a China-Latin America and the Caribbean Region Friendship Conference was held in Jamaica in 1998, followed by the second and the third conferences in Colombia 2003 and Argentina 2005. At the latter, the Friendship Federation of Latin America and the Caribbean with China (CHILAC) was founded. The organization has functioned as a permanent institution for coordinating activities of China-friendship associations in the region.

The fourth conference was held in Chongqing in 2007, which became “the first China-Latin America and the Caribbean Region People-to-People Friendship Forum”. It was decided that the Forum would be held alternately in China and a Latin America or Caribbean country every other year. Following the decision, the second, third and fourth Forums were held in Cuba, China’s Fujian Province and Costa Rica. In January 2015, the Forum became a part of the China-CELAC cooperative framework.

### Main Content

#### (I) Opening Ceremony

In his opening ceremony remark, Mr. Li Xikui, secretary gen-

eral of CPAFFC, briefed on the work of the CPAFFC in organizing large-scale activities, carrying out personnel exchanges, launching “friendly cities” programs with foreign cities, and promoting communication with countries that lack diplomatic relations with China.

He also put forward three suggestions for promoting communication and cooperation between friendly cities and local governments, attaching greater importance to cultural and youths exchanges, and establishing closer ties with China-friendly organizations in Latin-American and Caribbean countries so as to further strengthen their influence.

Madam Liang Liming, vice governor of Zhejiang Provincial People's Government, expressed a warm welcome to participants. She said Zhejiang as a coastal province has a promising market, ample space for investment, and great potentiality for development. “Enjoying an unprecedented historical opportunity,” she said, “we would like to establish closer ties with Latin America and the Caribbean region to enhance mutual understanding and trust and promote pragmatic cooperation.”

Rodney Williams, governor general of Antigua and Barbuda, said it was a great honor to join friends from Latin American and Caribbean countries for a review of people-to-people friendship with China. The Antigua and Barbuda China Friendship Association was recently founded. Williams is the association's honorary president and his wife holds the presidency. The organization hopes to facilitate communication, increase mutual understanding, and further develop friendship between

the two countries.

The current forum, he said, had given his association an excellent opportunity of learning and communication. His association admired the tenets the CPAFFC had set for itself and hopes for more exchanges in education, culture, science and technology within the framework of the China-Latin American and Caribbean Friendship Forum.

He also expressed gratitude for the assistance and support from China in the past 30 years, and appreciation of China's willingness to cooperate with small island nations.

Ms. Annette Vial, president of Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Friendship with China, spoke highly of the results both sides had achieved in recent years in promoting cooperation. He expressed appreciation of China's selfless contribution to Latin American countries' economic and social development. She said the Forum was an important link between China and Latin American countries for har-

monious co-existence in the political, cultural, social, and economical fields.

## **(II) Keynote Speech -- General Cooperation between China and Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mr. Yin Hengmin, special representative of the Chinese Government for Latin American and Caribbean affairs, remarked that, in recent years, with great efforts from both sides, the relationship had developed rapidly with cooperation extending into various fields.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to developing relations with Latin American countries. Since 2013, it has adopted a new policy framework and a series of measures, and set up the China-CELAC forum as a new platform of cooperation. The initiatives received positive responses from the Latin American side. In the next stage, the two countries should ensure communication at all levels, consolidate the political basis of the bilateral ties, make cooperation as practicable and possible, help





upgrade the economic and trade relations, strengthen cultural exchanges, develop a better public opinion platform, improve the overall cooperation mechanism, and build a comprehensive and balanced cooperation network. He said: people-to-people communication is an important part of the relationship. As a non-governmental mechanism within the framework of the Forum, it was an important platform for strengthening communications and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship.

Yin expressed the hope that attendees would have more exchanges to put forward positive suggestions to promote the development of bilateral relations.

### (III) Round-table conference

On the afternoon of September 16, representatives from 21 countries and more than 30 organizations exchanged briefings about activities in recent years in promoting the “new role and function of people-to-people friendly exchanges within the framework of overall cooperation between China and the Latin American and Caribbean Region.” They shared their experiences and agreed that the Forum is an important platform, “we must strengthen communication to initiate and implement more cooperative projects.”

### (IV) The election of new leadership

The Friendship Federation of Latin America and the Caribbean with China has played a positive role in coordinating all the China-friendly organizations in this region. To maintain its efforts’ continuity and vitality, each session of the Forum will hold a special plenary meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Friendship and elect the new leadership. On this Forum, Mr. Erik Becker Becker from Venezuela was elected the new president. His term of office will last until 2017. ■

## Chinese Delegation Attends High-Level Meeting on Women and Children Issues

Yang Xuehe



Chinese President Xi Jinping’s wife Peng Liyuan attends the opening ceremony of a high-level meeting of the “Every Woman Every Child” global movement in New York, the United States

The opening ceremony of a high-level meeting of the “Every Woman Every Child” global movement was hosted by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General at the UN headquarters in New York on September 26, 2015, attended by about 600 delegates. The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) attended to represent all Chinese organizations involved in the movement.

Chinese government and business representatives, including President Xi Jinping’s wife Peng Liyuan, who is the World Health Organization (WHO)’s goodwill

ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, Ms. Li Xiaolin, president of the CPAFFC, and Mr. Wang Chuanfu, chairman of the BYD Co., Ltd. They addressed the meeting, announcing that China would gather forces from government departments, enterprises and social organizations to support the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescent Health.

On September 22, 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon initiated the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, aimed at improving the health of women and children worldwide and reducing the maternal mortality rate and that of the

children under five years of age. Later in the year, based on this strategy, he launched the “Every Woman Every Child” global movement, urging governments, civil societies and the private sector to join hands with the UN to contribute to the health and well-being of women and children across the world.

Peng Liyuan addressed the opening ceremony in English. In her speech entitled “Care about the Weak, Let them Share a Healthy Life”, she passionately talked about her own working experience of assisting AIDS victims and AIDS orphans as the World Health Organization (WHO)’s goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS and said that caring for the health of women, children and adolescents was the most important investment in humankind’s future.

Peng expressed her thanks to Ban Ki-moon for launching the “Every Woman Every Child” strategy mobilizing people from all sectors of the international community, saying it was a great job for promoting the vital cause. China would work closely with the UN, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UN Women and give full support for the implementation of the Global Strategy.

On behalf of the CPAFFC, Ms. Li Xiaolin expressed appreciation of the achievements of the “Every Woman Every Child” in the past five years, conveyed her congratulations on its universal recognition, highlighted the new promises made by the Chinese Government and formally declared the establishment of the China Partnership

Network to echo Mr. Ban’s appeal for the establishment of sustainable cross-sectoral modes of cooperation with wide participation, including government, businesses and social organizations.

The China Partnership Network rallies elites from the Chinese Government, academic institutions, businesses and social organizations, including but not limited to Tsinghua University, China Taiping Insurance Group, BYD Co., Ltd, Chia Tai Group, Letv, China Development Research Foundation, China Red Ribbon Foundation, and China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products. These first China Partnership Network members will invest or donate US\$290 million to support projects on the health of women and children. Besides, the National Health and Family Planning Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is offering policy and technical guidance. The All-China Women’s Federation serves as special adviser.

On behalf of the China Partnership Network members, Mr. Wang Chuanfu, chairman of BYD, announced a donation of US\$100 million to remote areas in China and elsewhere, which would be used to provide solar energy and micro-grid solutions for health and education facilities in these areas.

The speeches made by the three Chinese delegates were interrupted repeatedly by applause. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and many other VIPs extended a warm welcome to China and acknowledged China’s

active role and contribution in the implementation of the Global Strategy. The government officials, leaders of international organizations and civil societies and business leaders said that they would take concrete action to support the China Partnership Network and hoped to cooperate with it and the CPAFFC in the future.

In the meeting, Secretary General Ban announced the decision to upgrade the Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health to the Global Strategy for Women, Children and Adolescent Health, in the hope to amass more resources from all relevant parties in partnerships so as to eliminate all the preventable maternal deaths and those of children under five.

Not long ago, some of China Partnership Network members had productive talks with the Ethiopian and Kenyan governments, agreeing on future cooperation in the health field. In the future, it will participate in the cooperation between China and the rest of the world in the field of women and child health by integrating members’ resources and advantages through sustainable and innovative commitment.

Besides, members will share the progress and experience to make substantial contribution to the development of the health of women and children throughout the world. Meanwhile, the Network will help people from all sectors of Chinese society to learn the experiences and advanced technologies from other countries so as to enhance implementation of the Global Strategy in China. ■

# President Li Xiaolin Attends the Photo Exhibition on Ho Chi Minh and China-Vietnam Relations

Xu Yan

From July 17-19, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin attended the Photo Exhibition on Ho Chi Minh and China-Vietnam Relations and other related activities in Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO). On July 18, President Li, joined by VUFO Chairman Vu Xuan Hong, accompanied Zhang Gaoli, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice premier, to meet Vietnamese friends and tour the Photo Exhibition on Ho Chi Minh and China-Vietnam Relations sponsored by CPAFFC and VUFO at Ho Chi Minh Museum in Hanoi during his official visit to Vietnam.

This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the birth of Ho Chi Minh and the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Vietnam. With more than 80 pictures, the exhibition showed Ho Chi Minh's remarkable contributions and demonstrated the traditional friendship between Chinese and Vietnamese people. The Exhibition consists of three parts. Part I, entitled "Lay the Foundation of Friendship during Revolution", recalls the initiation of "Comrade and Brother" friendship by Ho Chi Minh and Mao Zedong as well as other former state leaders of China. Part II, entitled "Inherit Friendship Tradition", emphasizes the launching of the 16-Chinese Character Principle and "Four Good" Spirit by Chinese and Vietnamese state lead-

ers in light of the changing situations in the world and the region since the 1990s, which has promoted cooperation in various fields and the development of a strategic partnership. Part III, entitled "Deepen People-to-People Friendship", reflects the positive role played by the non-governmental organizations in China and Vietnam for consolidating the friendship basis of public opinion following the trend of the development of bilateral relations.

On the same day, Chairman Vu Xuan Hong held friendly talks with President Li on people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. On behalf of VUFO, Chairman Vu awarded President Li a Medal for Peace and Friendship among Nations, the highest honor of VUFO, in appreciation of the outstanding contributions made by President Li and CPAFFC in deepening China-Vietnam friendship in recent years. President Li expressed gratitude and said the CPAFFC was willing to further cooperate with VUFO in carrying forward the China-Vietnam friendship initiated by the older generation of state leaders, promoting people-to-people exchanges in various fields, and achieving more positive results for the mutual understanding, friendship and well-being of the two peoples.

Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Hong Xiaoyong attended the various activities. ■

**CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin(L.7) with Vu Xuan Hong(R.7), Chairman of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization, and Hong Xiaoyong(L.6), Chinese ambassador to Vietnam**





# CPAFFC Delegation Attends “Climate & Territories” Summit in France

**Zuo Fengqiang**

At the Climate and Territories world summit held in Lyon in July 2015, French President François Hollande applauded China’s commitment to reducing carbon intensity in the process of its economic growth.

In his speech made after the “Mayor’s Round Table”, Hollande said more than 40 countries had made promises in their own Intended Nationally Determined Contributions so far. China’s commitment, he said, “has added greater weight to these promises”.

The Lyon event was organized by various local governments around the world and Rhone-Alpes region of France within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting, held before the Paris Climate Change Conference and mainly focusing on this topic, brought together many local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Three round tables were held in succession after the opening ceremony, including one for entrepreneurs, one for young volunteers and a third for mayors.

China has made the promise that it will reduce its carbon emissions by cutting down on thermal power stations and even stopping the use of coal in some existing plants.

From July 1 to July 2 at the invitation of Jean-Jack Queyranne, president of the Rhone-Alpes region, Mr. Song Jingwu, vice president of the Chinese



**CPAFFC Vice President Song Jingwu addresses the Mayor’s Round Table at the Climate and Territories World Summit**

People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) who led the Chinese delegation, addressed the Mayor’s Round Table.

Many important figures attended the summit, including French President François Hollande, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Christiana Figueres and Vice President of the European Commission in Charge of Energy Union Maros Sefcovic.

President Hollande made a speech on policies and measures taken by France to cope with climate change and reach the targeted goals to be set at the Paris Climate Change Conference.

In his concluding speech, Minister

Fabius said that the present situation, six months before the Paris event, was promising in that relevant countries had reached consensus and were determined to sign an agreement with the highest goals to meet global expectations. He also noted that both China and

the US, two major sources of emissions, had made promises of drastic cuts. The promise made by China, he said, was of great significance.

CPAFFC Vice President Song’s presentation about China’s relevant policies received a warm response at the Mayor’s Round Table. French media reported his remarks in detail.

More than 800 guests attended the conference, including leaders from over 80 countries and regions, such as the mayors of Istanbul, Geneva and Dakar, the governor of Baden-Württemberg, the minister for environment and climate change of Scotland and the vice governor of China’s Hubei province, NGO members and business representatives. ■

# Special Talents Show Demeanor; Colorful Experience Helps Growth

Four Elementary Students from Anyang attend the event “Children of the World Are One Family” in France

**Wu Yuna**

Invited by the Secours Populaire Français (SPF), and recommended and supported by the CPAFFC, four outstanding elementary school students were selected by the Anyang Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and Anyang Education Bureau to represent China at the “Children of the World Are One Family” activity, a large-scale international exchange program held in France from August 9 to 22, 2015.

During the stay at the “World Children’s Village” in Le Pirlou, Échandelys, Puy-de-Dôme in the Auvergne region, the Chinese students had a wonderful time with counterparts from France, Morocco, Iraq and Syria. The carefree children went canoeing on the

Issoire River, hiking and rope-climbing in the forest and playing in the European Volcanic Theme Park, as well as participating in a games night and astronomy night. It enabled them to broaden their minds through intimate exchanges with counterparts from other cultures.

At the celebration of the Children Village on August 16, the Chinese students performed kungfu, a piano solo Maiden’s Prayer and a dance blending Chinese and Western styles. The performance won applause from SPF staffs, members of the Children Village and citizens of Échandelys.

On August 19, one thousand children from 70 countries gathered under the Eiffel Tower in Paris to at-

tend “Unity of Paris” themed celebration to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SPF. They also participated in a large treasure hunting game named “Explore Paris” and a music concert in the Champs de Mars Park. The rich and colorful activities left an indelible memory.

The healthy, positive, lively and friendly spirit shown by the Chinese children as well as their unity and modesty received high praises from the president of the SPF. French media at all levels reported the activity. Radio France International broadcast a live interview with the Chinese students. After returning to China, three of them wrote articles about the activities. ■

A see-off ceremony for four Chinese primary school students to France



# CIFCA Delegation Visits Germany, Romania and Macedonia

**Wang Bo**

At the invitation of INTERKULTUR, Association of Communes of Romania (ACOR) and Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS), a China International Friendship Cities Association (CIFCA) delegation led by CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan visited Germany, Romania and Macedonia from July 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and reached important agreements on cooperation in BCIM and Silk Road Initiatives with relevant organizations.

## **Attending Second European Choir Games and Reaching Agreement on Hosting the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Choir Week and the Second Walter Scheel Forum in China**

The Second European Choir Games was held in Magdeburg, a small town in eastern Germany which was severely damaged during WWII, second only to Dresden. Now, the shadow of war has faded and Magdeburg has become an important traffic hub in Germany. There were two noted people named "Otto" who came from Magdeburg: Emperor Otto I of the Holy Roman Empire who chose to be buried here after his death; and Otto

von Guericke, a physicist who demonstrated the force of vacuum with a well-known experiment known as the "Magdeburg hemispheres". Magdeburg has built several sculptures and memorials in honor of the two great ancestors.

The CIFCA delegation arrived in Magdeburg on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Since the city has no direct flight to China, the delegation had to fly 10 hours to Frankfurt, and then drove another six hours to Magdeburg. However, the fatigue of travel was instantly removed by the enthusiastic welcome offered by the city.

Mayor Lutz Trumper, as host of the Second European Choir Games, expressed his warm welcome to the delegation. He recalled his two visits to China and marveled at the country's rapid development. Magdeburg had a strong interest in carrying out exchanges and cooperation with China, he said.

In 2008, it established a friendship-city relationship with Harbin, capital city of Heilongjiang Province, specially paved its roads with scenes of Harbin's iconic landmarks and exhibited the results of friendly exchanges at the Friendship-City Gallery set up by the City Hall. Mayor Trumper hoped

the CIFCA could introduce Magdeburg to more Chinese cities and promote bilateral cooperation.

The Second European Choir Games hosted by the INTERKULTUR attracted more than 100 choirs from 35 countries and regions. Posters, banners and contestants in various kinds of costumes heading for the game were visible everywhere on the streets. The game also drew the attention of Magdeburg citizens. Tickets were sold out early in the morning. Many people lined up outside the venue in advance. Although different choirs had different singing styles: church music was pious and lofty; soul music was ethereal and tempting; pop music was hot and warm, they all stirred waves and resonations from the bottom of people's heart and received great applause. Music united people of different races, cultures and languages and ignited their passion and yearning.

INTERKULTUR, as CIFCA's important cooperative partner in Europe, aims to promote international cultural exchanges by holding international choral festivals and choir games. INTERKULTUR and CIFCA established relations in 2013 and have already conducted fruitful cooperation. The China-Germany Local Government Cultural



Forum and the First Walter Scheel Forum was successfully held by the two sides in Germany in 2014.

In order to develop a brand program of cultural exchange and extend the forum's influence, the CIFCA delegation discussed with their hosts about holding the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Choir Week and the Second Walter Scheel Forum in China, and the two sides reached a preliminary consensus.

The forum will include local government cultural dialogue, choral concerts, music workshops, etc. CIFCA and INTERKULTUR agreed upon holding Musical Exchange Activities during the BCIM Local Government Conference this December. Professional faculties would be dispatched by the INTERKULTUR to help cultivate music teachers in BCIM and especially those in remote areas to improve quality of local music education and further deepen cultural and educational exchanges.

During the visit, CPAFFC Vice President Xie Yuan met with Vice Chairman Torsten Schafer Gumbel of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and Director Christoph Hoppel of the Office of Former President Walter Scheel, and worked vigorously to give wide publicity to the importance of cooperation at local government level and invited them to attend the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Conference.

**Extensive contacts with Romanian local governments to push strategic development of the "Belt and Road" Initiative and set up new platforms**

### **of China-Romania local government cooperation**

Invited by the ACOR, the delegation visited Bucharest, capital of Romania.

ACOR is an influential organization, and over 1,700 out of 2,856 counties of Romania are its members. President Emil Draghici of ACOR and NALAS is a warm and talkative senior local politician who has been serving continuously as mayor for more than 20 years and has gained massive support of citizens. A delegation led by President Draghici was invited by CIFCA to attend the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference and signed a cooperative agreement. At present, ACOR is focusing on promoting international exchanges and carrying out extensive cooperation with the EU and other international organizations.

The total amount of the cooperation programs has reached ten million euros. Bilateral or multilateral international forums and conferences such as the Romania-Moldova Mayors Forum have been organized with positive results. President Draghici hoped CIFCA could participate in the international conferences held by ACOR and expand the fields of cooperation between China and Romania at local government level.

CPAFFC Vice President Xie said that Romania, as a portal of the Eurasian Silk Road, is an indispensable part of China-EU interconnectivity. Chinese local governments and enterprises are very passionate about participation in the "Belt and Road" Initiative. CIFCA is willing to create op-

portunities for them and carry forward cooperative programs in energy, trade, tourism and agriculture between China and Romania.

It plans to send a Chinese local government delegation to the Romania-Moldova Mayors Forum in February 2016 and welcomes President Draghici to attend the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Conference.

The delegation visited Cumpana commune of Constanta Province the following day and had talks with Mayor Mariana Gaju of Cumpana commune, Mayor Daniela Ancuta Belu of Kogalniceanu and Mayor Murat Gheorghe of Topalu. Mayor Mariana Gaju held a grand welcome ceremony for the delegation.

In front of the City Hall, children wearing traditional Romanian costumes presented the delegation with flowers and local snacks and danced a local dance with members of the delegation. Vice President Xie was invited to work temporarily as a band leader and the atmosphere was quite relaxed and joyful. After the welcome ceremony, Mayor Gaju showed the delegation around the Exhibition Hall where precious pictures and materials of Chinese leaders visiting Constanta since 1980s were displayed.

Constanta port is the EU's nearest port to China with good facilities and container transport conditions. Cumpana, Kogalniceanu and Topalu all expressed their strong willingness to strengthen cooperation with China in port trade, infrastructure construction, animal husbandry and IT industry.

Vice President Xie looked forward

to future cooperation between the two sides and said the “Belt and Road Initiative” offers a perfect opportunity for China-Romania exchanges and CIFCA would spare no effort to promote local government cooperation in various fields. He welcomed representatives of Cumpana, Kogalniceanu and Topalu to attend the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Conference. Chinese Consul General in Constanta Su Yanwen was also present at the welcome ceremony.

### **Deepened cooperation with NALAS to boost cooperation between China and Southeast Europe**

At the invitation of NALAS, the delegation visited Skopje, capital of Macedonia. It was the first time anyone from CIFCA had visited the secretariat of the NALAS since the establishment of contact between the two organizations. Located in the Balkan Peninsula, Macedonia was a member of the former Yugoslavia Republic. Its capital Skopje is the political, cultural, economic and academic center.

Although the distance from Bucharest to Skopje is less than 600 kilometers, it took the delegation seven hours to fly to Skopje at midnight due to lack of direct flight. NALAS Executive Director Kelmend Zajazi went to the airport personally to welcome the delegation. On the way to hotel, he recalled the scene of his participation in the Friendship Cities Conference and thanked CIFCA for its thoughtful arrangement and meticulous work.

After a brief rest in the hotel, the delegation had a working meeting with

NALAS at the secretariat. Director Zajazi fully recognized CIFCA's contribution in people-to-people friendship and local government development. The cooperative agreement signed by the two organizations at the 2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference had very important significance and laid the foundation for cooperation between the two sides.

He provided detailed information on present situations of NALAS and plans of cooperation with CIFCA. At present, NALAS is focusing on providing its members with professional training and consultation service in urban planning and water treatment through online consultation, publication and organization of training, which has been well received.

Vice President Xie said urban planning, sewage and waste utilization and sustainable development were also major challenges China faced in the process of urbanization. CIFCA has been carrying out exchanges and cooperation in urbanization development with Chinese and foreign local governments through hosting of local government forums, organization of training and establishment of websites and magazines. The two organizations have a huge potential for cooperation.

From now on, CIFCA is willing to cooperate with NALAS to carry out relevant trainings on special topics and invite mayors or experts from China and Southeast Europe to communicate and discuss on future urban development strategy. Meanwhile, the two sides will also be more involved in international activities held by each other

to facilitate cooperation between China and Southeast Europe. CIFCA would like to send local government delegations to attend the General Assembly of NALAS, host China-Southeast Europe Local Government Forum as appropriate, involve more local governments and organizations of Southeast Europe and form a local cooperation network between the two sides.

During the stay in Macedonia, the delegation also met with Mayor Koce Trajanovski of Skopje who is also the president of the Macedonian Association of Local Self-Government Units (ZELS) and issued an invitation to the 2016 China International Friendship Cities Conference.

The delegation's visit to Germany, Romania and Macedonia has not only deepened cooperative relations with old friends, but also made acquaintance with more new cooperative partners. Nearly 10 cooperative initiatives were reached and followed up step by step. These achievements benefit from the principle of pragmatic and innovative cooperation upheld by CIFCA and its search for more cooperation opportunities to realize mutual benefit and win-win results.

Unremitting exploration and endeavor have won support, recognition, respect and trust from the related organizations that are also our cooperative partners. Through cooperation with regional associations like INTERKULTUR, ACOR and NALAS, CIFCA has formed a cooperation network that can cover all countries in Southeast Europe in the future. The visit provides strong motivation to make continuous progress. ■

# Sichuan Dance Debuts in Romania

**Chuan You**

Under a proposal from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Romania, the Sichuan Dance Exchange Troupe attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Folk Dance Festival from August 9 to 17. The 14-member troupe was organized by Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The festival was hosted by Arges Province. The event is committed to preserving and developing folk art involving dance, encouraging cultural exchanges and promoting friendship between peoples all over the world. It has become one of the most well-known international art festivals in Romania.

This time, dance troupes of more than 10 countries and regions, including Romania, France, Serbia, Georgia, South Korea, Turkey, Argentina, Latvia, China and Guam, gave performances.

The Sichuan Dance Exchange Troupe mainly comprises dance teachers and outstanding performers from the Sichuan Art Vocational College. They performed Tea House, Red Dress, Qiao Hua Dan (Pretty Actress), Zha Xi De Le (Blessings and Good Luck), and Bai Hua Zheng Yan (All Flowers Contend in Beauty), all characterized by Sichuan traditional styles that had won first prizes in provincial and national contests many times.

Deeply impressed, the audiences responded with warm applause and even a standing ovation. Dancers from other countries and members of the organizing committee and judge panel repeatedly gave the performers thumbs-up approval.

Thanks to the arrangement by the organizing committee, troupes of all participating countries had the opportunity to visit cities in Arges Province to give more performances, including Pitesti, Campulung Muscel, Topoloveni, Mioveni and Curtea de Arges. They traveled to one city each day, practiced in the morning, paraded in the afternoon and performed in the evening.

The various activities provided an opportunity for the dancers to exchange ideas on their performance skills.

The Sichuan Troupe finished fifth in the final ranking. The Governor of Arges Province especially went to the Chinese dancers' dressing room to express his thanks and congratulations. He said: "The Sichuan delegation has given marvelous performances and we all enjoy them. Thank you all. Your performances were all a huge success with great results. Congratulations."

Mr. Katalin Auxerre, General Manager of the Organizing Committee, also congratulated the Sichuan delegation on their successful debut. He commented: "Your dancing is quite profes-

sional, with perfect stage effects, high degree of difficulty and high artistic values. Numerous factors were taken into consideration in scoring, such as national characteristics, performance scale, audience participation, and interaction. And each delegation has a member on the judging panel. Considering all these factors, it is not easy to achieve such a good result with such a small troupe, given that the committee allowed for up to 35 performers".

He added: "Hope to see you in the next Dance Festival and may you achieve even greater results!"

Chinese Ambassador to Romania Xu Feihong and his wife and another two people drove more than a hundred kilometers from the Romanian capital of Bucharest to Pitesti specially to attend the closing ceremony. The ambassador accompanied the Arges governor to meet all the members of the Sichuan delegation and expressed congratulations to them.

He said: "Your performances have been marvelous and of high artistic standard. You have won much applause, presented an excellent image of China, and promoted mutual friendship. You have not only gained great honor but also now have unforgettable memories. I know you have already been invited back to the next Dance Festival". ■



# Delegation of the Federation of French-Chinese Friendship Associations Visits China

**Zuo Fengqiang**

At the invitation of the CPAFFC, Alain Labat, president of the Federation of French-Chinese Friendship Associations, led a seven-member delegation on a friendly visit to China from August 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2015. The delegation visited many cities, including Beijing, Harbin, Changchun, Yanji, Tumen, Changbaishan, Ji'an and Dandong.

During the delegation's stay in Beijing, CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin and Vice President Song Jingwu met the members and hosted a banquet in their honor. The delegation also called on Ms. Yu Shaohua, director of the Department for Asia-Pacific Security and Cooperation of the China Institute of International Studies and an expert on Korean Peninsula issues, who gave a systematic introduction about the past and current state of the relations between China and the DPRK.

In Northeast China, the delegation received warm welcome from local government officials. In Heilongjiang Province, the provincial government's Foreign Affairs Office organized a meeting attended by its own officials and the local development and reform commission to brief the delegation about the situation in Northeast Asia and relations and exchanges between Heilongjiang and other countries, such as the DPRK, ROK and Russia.

In Jilin Province, the delegation visited the Yanji Museum, Tumen port,

Ji'an Museum and the remains of the Gao Gouli Dynasty and Yalu River Bridge and Dandong Port.

The purpose of the delegation's visit to China was to observe and understand the situation in northeast Asia, especially the relationship between China and the DPRK. After having discussions with the Chinese side and undertaking field trips, M. Labat said that some of the reports by the European media on the situation in Northeast Asia and China-DPRK relations appeared far too superficial.

Through this visit, delegation members had gained an all-round understanding of the situation in the Northeast and China-DPRK relations

that would help the people back in their country know the truth.

The delegation's visit to China coincided with the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. On this occasion, the delegation's tour was planned to coincide with those celebrations.

For instance, they visited the Museum of the Imperial Palace of Manchukuo in Changchun and the site of the notorious Japanese Unit 731 troop in Harbin. The delegation members systematically learned how the Japanese militarists occupied the Korean Peninsula and nibbled away China's

**CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin meets with Delegation of the Federation of French-Chinese Friendship Association**



# Red Journey Following the Footsteps of Uncle Ho Chi Minh and China-Vietnam Border Gala Held in Guangxi

**Xu Yan**

Organized by CPAFFC, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization (VUFO), the Red Journey Following the Footsteps of Uncle Ho Chi Minh and China-Vietnam Border Gala was held on May 17-22. A 21-member delegation led by VUFO Chairman Vu Xuan Hong, together with around 4,000 delegates from the Ho

Chi Minh Museum in Hanoi and China-Vietnam border areas, participated in the event. Mr. Qi Jianguo, vice president of China-Vietnam Friendship Association and former Chinese ambassador to Vietnam, accompanied Mr. Vu during the visit. Guangxi Vice Governor Lan Tianli and leaders of relevant cities and counties in the region in China met with the Vietnamese delegation.

By visiting places where Chair-

man Ho Chi Minh once worked and lived, and attending friendship activities in the cities of Fangchenggang, Guilin, Nanning, Baise and Chongzuo, the Journey and Gala helped people recall the remarkable contribution made by the late Chinese and Vietnamese state leaders and promote bilateral friendship. Both sides spoke highly of the event and agreed to launch a number of cooperative projects. ■



**Visiting the former site of the Eighth Route Army Office in Guilin where Ho Chi Minh once worked**

sovereignty in the 1894-1895 Sino-Japanese War, how they gradually occupied Northeast China after orchestrating the Mukden Incident and how they tried to seize the whole of China after initiating the Marco Polo Bridge Incident near Beijing.

Visiting the site of the Japanese Unit 731, the delegation members learned how numerous Chinese, Koreans and Russians were used as live victims in bacterial experiments and vivisection. Mme Denise DUBOIS-POT, Ppresident of the French-Chinese Friendship As-

sociation of Nancy Lorraine, tearfully remarked that both France and China had suffered the ravages of war and that people in the world should remember history and pass on the lessons to future generations so as to prevent similar tragedies from happening again. ■

# The First Flower Arrangement Art Exchange among China, Japan and Korea

Yu Xiaodong



Flower arranging

The First Flower Arrangement Art Exchange was held successfully at the CPAFFC auditorium on July 2nd, 2015.

CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, speaking at the opening ceremony, said flower arrangement was an art of beauty originating from people's love of flowers. By arranging the flowers in certain patterns, people could create an artistic ambience to express their appreciation of the vigor and brilliance of life.

In ancient China, the literati often used concrete objects, flowers for instance, as metaphor to laud the har-

mony between Heaven, Mother Earth and life and express their yearning for a better and more noble life.

Flower arrangement has been practiced in China for thousands of years. As one of the important classical arts of the nation, it has developed a unique art system through integration with calligraphy, painting, gardening and ceramics. Chinese flower arrangement started in the Southern and Northern Dynasties and experienced ups and downs to reach a golden era in the Sui, Tang and Five Dynasties, an era in which the literati admired elegance and ladies loved flowers. At that time, Bud-

**CPAFFC, Japan NPO, RBA International and the Korea-China Association for Friendship in Cultural and Economic Fields sign a memorandum of cooperation**







**Flower arranging**

dhism was very popular in China and people liked to offer flowers before the Buddha statue. Envoys from Japan and Korea who came to study Buddhism were deeply impressed by the omnipresent flowers on the Buddhist altar. That's why the art of flower arrangement was introduced into Japan and Korea.

With the development of times, this traditional form of folk art gradually absorbed nourishment from other nations' culture while keeping pace with the time to get rid of the stale and bring forth the fresh. It maintained its traditional characteristics and acquired fresh vigor.

The CPAFFC, Japan NPO, RBA International and the Korea-China Association for Friendship in Cultural and Economic Fields jointly planned and hosted the First Flower Arrangement Art

Exchange, using the unique art form as a culture link to foster friendly feelings among the youth of China, Japan and South Korea. The activity promoted non-governmental exchanges in culture and education and enhanced people's mutual understanding among the three countries.

Feng Luo, a famous Chinese artist of flower arrangement and professor of Beijing Forestry University, together with Kume Fumiyo, a master of Japanese ikebana, Park Kumja, guest professor of the Graduate School of Lifestyle Design at Sookmyung Women's University and Han Myeong Soon, chairperson of the Korea Federation of Flower Arts Organizations, demonstrated the skills of flower arrangement in front of hundreds of youths and VIP guests. Some of the students also tried their hand with the help of the artists.

"Flower arrangement is closely linked with philosophy, literature and painting. Traditional Chinese flower arrangement stresses a natural demonstration of the flower's charm and the creation of a beautiful scene in a poetic



**Interviewed by CCTV**

atmosphere. The flowers are used to convey emotions. The Chinese art of flower arrangement derives its artistic conceptions from landscapes, pastoral scenery, ancient gardens and folk customs," said Professor Feng Luo during an interview with the China Central Television (CCTV).

The event was presided over by Secretary General Wang Heshan of the China Friendship Art Exchange Association. CPAFFC President Li Xiaolin, Vice President Hu Sishe, Minister Kyoji Yamamoto of the Embassy of Japan in China, Cultural Counsellor Kim Jin Gon of the South Korean Embassy and other guests attended the opening ceremony.

CCTV, Sina.com and Youth.cn all reported the event. ■



# Lectures on “One Belt, One Road” and People-to-People Diplomacy Launched in Beijing

**Ai Lin**

The ancient Silk Road over 2,000 years ago was a key channel for commercial and trade cooperation between China and other countries, as well as an important bonding link for people-to-people and cultural exchanges between East and the West. In order to better understand the strategic thinking behind President Xi Jinping’s plan to build a “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, the CPAFFC started a series of lectures in June 2015 on development of “One Belt, One Road” and people-to-people diplomacy.

The idea is to explore ways to develop popular diplomacy for promotion

of the “One Belt, One Road” initiative, strengthen international think tank cooperation and provide information and policy advice in a better way.

Government officials and experts from academic institutions in China are being invited to give lectures for the staff of CPAFFC and other friendship associations, including the Chinese-Arab Friendship Association and the Chinese-Iran Friendship Association.

As the most important financial institution serving the initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has attracted great international attention. To create better understanding of China’s major policies and

business opportunities, Cao Honghui, deputy director-general of China Development Bank’s financial research and development center, was invited to give the first lecture on the AIIB in the Peace Palace of the CPAFFC on June 23. About 120 people attended the lecture, including the CPAFFC staff and members from the aforementioned associations.

CPAFFC Vice President Lin Yi said the organization always upholds the concept of peace, win-win cooperation and development and makes people-to-people diplomacy part of the overall efforts to develop President Xi’s plan. It had cooperated with local governments

**A scene of the first lecture**







CPAFFC Vice President Lin Yi addresses the lecture

to hold the China-Arab City Forum and the dialogues of local government leaders about the “One Belt, One Road” initiative.

In the future, Lin said, the CPAFFC would ensure a continuing series of lectures to serve the construction cause.

Mr. Cao Honghui gave a detailed account of the AIIB’s essential information, background of its founding, the challenges it faces and future develop-

ment. After the lecture, the audience discussed with the speaker topics in which they were interested, such as the AIIB and public diplomacy.

In July 2015, Western nations and Iran reached a comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. The agreement will have important and far-reaching influences on Iran and relevant areas. Iran is a critical point on the “One Belt, One Road” linking Europe and Asia.

Therefore, the CPAFFC held the second lecture in the Peace Palace on September 11 specifically devoted to the Iranian nuclear issue. Mr. Dong Zhihua, counselor of the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was invited to speak, focusing on the origin of the Iran nuclear issue, major phases of the negotiations and main content of the comprehensive agreement, as well as China’s role in the settlement of the issue.

Around 120 people attended the lecture.

Two lectures have been held successfully so far on building the “One Belt, One Road” and the people-to-people diplomacy. Both the China-Arab and China-Iran friendship associations expressed their appreciation.

Considering the situation at home and abroad and suggestions from the audience, the CPAFFC will continue to invite experts from various sectors to give lectures. ■

A scene of the second lecture

