

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is a national people's organization engaged in people-to-people diplomacy of the People's Republic of China with the purposes of enhancing people's friendship, furthering international cooperation, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development. On the international arena of the 21st century, on behalf of the Chinese people, the CPAFFC makes contacts and establishes friendly links with friendship-with-China organizations and personages of various circles in other countries. It works hard to implement China's independent policy of peace, observing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, while carrying out all-round, multi-level and wide-range work for friendship between peoples to serve the great cause of China's peaceful development and peaceful reunification, and strive for the solidarity and progress of all mankind in building a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. In launching its activities, it enjoys support from the Chinese government and assistance from all sectors of society. It has established relations of friendship and cooperation with 458 nongovernmental organizations and institutions in 148 countries.

The main tasks of the CPAFFC include:

- to establish and develop good relations of cooperation with friendship-with-China organizations and personages of various circles in other, countries, and to increase mutual understanding between peoples, build confidence, and develop friendship through exchange of visits by sending delegations, commemorative meetings, forums, public presentations and seminars, bilateral or multi-lateral meetings, and exchange of publications, etc.;
- to initiate and organize, in accordance with the overall arrangement of people-to-people diplomacy, friendly nongovernmental exchanges with friendly organizations in different countries and regions, and to confer the title of Friendship Ambassador on distinguished international friendly personages or pay respect to them in different ways;
- to work for safeguarding world peace and the common security of humanity, and to support the people of various countries in their just struggles for national development and social progress, sovereignty and security; to promote nongovernmental economic cooperation with other countries by increasing mutually beneficial cooperation with their institutions in trade, investment, education, science, technology, environment protection, urban and rural development, etc., and encourage international exchange of qualified personnel;
- to develop nongovernmental cultural exchanges with other countries by dispatching Chinese art troupes or hosting cultural groups or individuals from the five continents on their friendly visits, and sponsoring performances or exhibitions;
- to conduct exchanges with various types of civil organizations across the globe, learn from and disseminate useful experiences to give impetus to building a harmonious society, and pay attention to international exchanges among the youth in particular; entrusted by the government, to coordinate and oversee the work of establishing and developing friendship-city relations between localities in China and their counterparts in other countries, and to facilitate exchanges and cooperation between these localities or cities; as a Chinese nongovernmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations, to take an active part in exchanges sponsored by the United Nations and other international organizations; as a member of the United Cities and Local Governments, to participate in international cooperation on behalf of Chinese local governments; and to carry out other activities for friendly cooperation between the Chinese and other peoples.

The CPAFFC was established on May 3, 1954 on the initiative of ten national civil organizations. It was first called the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. It was renamed the Chinese People's Friendship Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries in 1966. And since 1969, it has been known by its present name. It is located in Beijing. Local associations for friendship with foreign countries have been set up in all the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government, and a number of cities, districts and counties.

The National Council of the CPAFFC convenes every five years, at which the president, vice presidents and the secretary-general are elected to form the Executive Committee. The Tenth National Council convened during 2012. Madame Li Xiaolin was elected President.