

N.Z.CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Hamilton Branch

Newsletter APRIL 2003



GENERAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 16th 2003
W.C.A.COMMUNITY CENTRE
LEWIS ST. GLENVIEW
6.30 pm**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

POT LUCK DINNER.

This night our main guests are from the School of Education, University of Waikato. They are science teachers from Hebei Province who are currently studying towards a Master's degree in Education. We hope too, to have with us, students from the Cambridge College of Education, Wintec, and the East Asian Studies Department of the University. It is a major objective of the Branch this year to make contact with the young people of China, who are here studying in Hamilton. This is to be an informal mix and mingle evening with no formal speaker. However some of our visitors may wish to tell us something of their home province and their impressions of New Zealand. We hope for a really good turn out of members and friends.

As well as some food for our visitors, please bring your own plate and utensils.

Editor's Comments.

Without any doubt the major item to be discussed is the debacle associated with the Sister Cities Convention in Masterton. Immediately we were aware of the decision to exclude the delegation from China, and the manner in which it was done, the executive held a quick meeting and discussed the matter. A decision was made to fax a letter from the Branch to Her Excellency Mme Yang Xuiping, Consul General in Auckland, and to His Excellency, The Ambassador, Mr Chen Mingming in Wellington. At the same time we notified

the Convention in Masterton, that we were withdrawing our delegate, Howard Zheng

The following is the text of the letter

Dear...

The executive of the Hamilton Branch of the N.Z.C.F.S., are appalled, shocked, and distressed, at the action of the Sister Cities' Convention in their withdrawal of the invitation to the Chinese delegation arriving in Wellington this morning. So great is our anger at this action that we have decided to withdraw our delegate to the Convention.

As a long standing member of the N.Z.C.F.S. who has lived and worked in China for long periods over the past eight years, and experienced the friendship and kindness extended to me, I am personally, deeply embarrassed.

You can be assured that we will do everything possible to sustain and strengthen the excellent relationship we have with our Chinese friends, both here, and in China

Yours sincerely

Stan Boyle

President

Later in the day, Mme Yang, very kindly rang me, and expressed her appreciation of our support, and voiced her concern about possible implications. A most unfortunate and embarrassing occurrence all round!

The singling out of the Chinese delegation is most unfortunate. Discrimination of this kind often has a flow on effect, and causes hurt and concern to all Chinese in our community, many of whom are third and fourth generation New Zealanders. Instances of this indiscriminate labelling, have been reported at times in the press. Sadly not all our Chinese students are accorded a welcome as an article in the NZ Herald pointed out recently and this behoves us in the Society to go out of our way to do what we can to make their stay in our community a secure and pleasant one.

On Sunday, March 23rd, we had the pleasure of entertaining Her Excellency Mme Yang Xiuping and members of the Consulate to a picnic luncheon at Raglan. We had many friends, from the Waikato Chinese Association, the Cambridge International College, and many other family groups, as well as members of the Branch

Altogether fifty three people came, the weather was good, there was a mountain of food and it was a most enjoyable outing. Unfortunately the notice was too late for the March newsletter, and the only announcement made was at the General meeting on the Wednesday before. At this meeting Emma Yao told us about her home province, Liaoning, and showed a video of a cultural concert celebrating Chinese New Year. Our thanks go to Emma.

Now to ther matterss

Annual subscriptions. A reminder. If you have paid, on your address label is O3
If you have not done so, it will read O2

SPECIAL MEETING THREE GORGES TOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY !
Wednesday April 30th
7.30pm
At the W.C.A. Community Centre Lewis St.

In last month's Newsletter details of this tour were published in a full page advertisement. We are holding this meeting to invite any members or friends who are considering taking this last opportunity to visit one of China's most famous scenic attractions. Speakers who have done this tour before will outline their experiences and answer any questions.
There will be some slides shown.

e mail Addresses

We are looking at the possibility of emailing our Newsletter and other Branch notices to members, who wish to avail themselves of this service.

If you would like to go on the list email your address to:

stanzb@xtra.co.nz. It may take a few weeks to set this up.

Don't forget our Society web address www.nzchinasociety.org.nz

Corrections and additions to Committee e mail and Phone number

enevere Foreman's Phone Number should read 838 1312

Harry van den Burg's e mail address is h.v.d.b.@hmpl.net.nz

**Reminder. The Chinese Ice Sculpture Exhibition at Manakau finishes
On April 15th Tickets are \$18t**

UNITED TRAVEL on BRYCE & BARTON **Formerly United Travel Hamilton**

In addition to official visits to China we can attend to all your travel arrangements

" THE WHOLE WORLD is in YOUR HANDS "

We offer members, their families and Business associates -

Holiday destinations ** Great Airfares ** CORPORATE travel **

We can assist with planning, advice on all aspects of your Travel arrangements
Call the Team at :-

UNITED TRAVEL on BRYCE & BARTON
Corner of Bryce and Barton Streets
HAMILTON

Telephone 07 838 1100 ** Fax 07 83-42052 ** E mail john@hamp.co.nz

**An interesting profile, and point of view, from the New York Times.
China's New Prime Minister Seen as Careful Conciliator
By JOSEPH KAHN**

EIJING, March 16 - Wen Jiabao, a number-crunching chief of staff who self-effacingly served China's top leaders for two decades, was formally appointed prime minister today. His election by the National People's Congress gives him day-to-day command of China's economy and its 100-million-person bureaucracy and completes the leadership transition that began last fall.

Mr. Wen, 60, who succeeds the formidable and sometimes brusque Zhu Rongji, will face the challenge of keeping the economy primed. He has vowed to do more to raise the income of peasants and to help workers displaced by wrenching economic changes.

Like his superior Hu Jintao, who became Communist Party chief last November and state president on Saturday, Mr. Wen scaled the one-party political hierarchy leaving few footprints and making no known enemies. People who have worked with him say he is conspicuous mainly for being fastidious. He lets policy documents sit on his desk for at least three days before signing off, they say, so he can slow-cook the contents in his mind and triple-check the grammar. "Like an insect in a spider web, he knows if he moves too fast he'll get caught," said Wu Jiaxiang, a political analyst and former high-ranking party official. "The main thing about Wen is that he never makes political mistakes."

Although he is now the main manager of the world's sixth-largest economy, Mr. Wen ranks third in the Communist Party hierarchy, behind Mr. Hu and Wu Bangguo, who now heads the legislature. Jiang Zemin, the recently retired president and party chief, remains chairman of the Central Military Commission and is likely to exert broad influence.

But as Mr. Wen and Mr. Hu prepared to take control of government and party affairs in recent weeks, they have signaled a subtle shift from the decade-long reign of Mr. Jiang. Mr. Jiang courted capitalists and sought to foster a middle class, while steering billions of dollars in state funds to build roads, bridges, subways and ports in prosperous east coast cities. Mr. Wen spent the Chinese New Year holiday at the bottom of a coal shaft in the less developed west. Mr. Hu visited herders in frigid Inner Mongolia. They have emphasized building a social security system to replace the withered socialist welfare state that has left tens of millions of workers without adequate pensions or health care. They have stressed the urgency of reducing the wealth gap between urban and rural residents. Their focus on the poor reflects worries that the traditional constituents of the Communist Party could threaten its hold on power. Protests by laid-off workers and overburdened farmers are a regular feature of Chinese life, alarming authorities who insist on political stability.

It is difficult to tell if the speeches and demonstrations of concern for the socially dispossessed will lead to new aid programs. But Mr. Wen does appear to want to tackle the problems energetically.

An Apology

I regret the fact that some of the articles are in smaller print. If I think they are of interest to members I include them within the constraints of the costs of publishing.

Though born in the eastern port city of Tianjin in 1942, he learned firsthand about rural backwardness during the 14 years he spent working as a geologist and party official in the arid western province of Gansu. He has said that improving the lives of the 700 million people who live in rural areas is the "central and basic goal" for the future. As deputy prime minister, the position he held before becoming prime minister, he arranged experiments in Anhui Province to reduce the taxes imposed on farmers. Those experiments have since spread nationwide, though it is too early to gauge their effectiveness.

Mr. Wen also seems committed to moving China toward a market economy. He was the top deputy and a close adviser of Mr. Zhu, widely regarded as the Chinese leader most strongly committed to integrating the country with the world economy. In style, Mr. Wen could offer a stark contrast with the fiery Mr. Zhu, who publicly belittled bureaucrats and harrumphed about the intransigence of the Chinese system. Analysts say the bespectacled Mr. Wen tends to prize consensus and avoid confrontation. They predict he may get results.

When it comes to how to deal with banks or rural development, the debate is about solutions, not ideological principles," said Kang Xiaoguang, a political scientist at the Chinese Academy of Science. Before becoming deputy prime minister in 1998, he served three successive party bosses as the director of the general office of the Communist Party Central Committee, or, effectively, the party chief of staff. The three bosses were Hu Yaobang, Zhao Ziyang and Mr. Jiang.

The feat was not unlike serving three presidents as White House chief of staff. Each of the Chinese successions was acrimonious - Mr. Zhao succeeded Mr. Hu and Mr. Jiang succeeded Mr. Zhao after political purges. But Mr. Wen transformed himself into a trusted aide to each party leader, managing paper flow and even handling his bosses' personal security. But one thing seems indisputable about Mr. Wen. He has the malleability of a survivor, not the gumption of a maverick. His mix of loyalty and cunning became the stuff of legend in 1989 during the Tiananmen Square protests. Mr. Zhao, having been effectively deposed as head of the party after intense infighting, decided to make a public visit to the square to show solidarity with protesters camped out there.

As deputy, Mr. Wen went along with Mr. Zhao. The two were pictured together visiting demonstrators in a front-page photograph in the People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper. Shortly after that rare act of political bravado, Mr. Zhao was placed under house arrest, where he remains 14 years later. Two well-connected party officials said Mr. Wen survived what could have been a career-ending move because he had telephoned Mr. Zhao's rival, the hard-liner Li Peng, to consult about what to do before joining Mr. Zhao in the square. Mr. Li agreed that Mr. Wen should remain loyal as long as Mr. Zhao remained party chief.

In Cambridge on Sunday April 13th the Branch has a stall in the **Sunday fair**, in the main shopping centre. This is mainly to promote membership in our Society, but also to assist funds. If you happen to have something saleable, Chinese or otherwise, drop it off at Meryl's or at Stan's, or bring it to the Pot Luck dinner, because this is an ongoing project. If you can help staff the stall for a couple of hours let us know. !



news... ..

Hu Jintao pledges wholehearted service to nation

(March 18, 2003)(xinhua)

The newly elected Chinese president, Hu Jintao, pledged that he would faithfully perform the powers and functions endowed by the Constitution, scrupulously discharge his duties, work hard and industriously and serve the country and the people with utmost sincerity.

"I would never let down all the deputies and people of all nationalities throughout the country," Hu said at the closing of the first session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) here Tuesday morning.

Hu praised his predecessor, Jiang Zemin, for his able leadership and his outstanding contributions to building socialism with Chinese characteristics during the 10 years of his tenure.

He said that his able leadership in correctly sizing up the domestic and international situation and his political courage and great efforts to build a strong country "have won him the heartfelt love and respect from the people of all nationalities of the whole country and the universal approval of the international community and the important thought of the 'Three Represents' he put forward by pooling the wisdom of the whole Party is of major and far-reaching significance in guiding the causes of the country forward."

Describing his mandate as having been received "in the capriciously changing international situation and at a time when the tasks of building the country are heavy," Hu pledged to do the following in order to perform the sacred duties endowed by the people: "First, to give full scope to democracy and do everything according to law, adhere to Party leadership, hold fast to the principle of bringing Party leadership into perfect harmony with the efforts to make the people the masters of the country and to rule the country by law, unswervingly safeguard the systems and principles of socialist democracy, and maintain the integrity and dignity of the socialist legal system."

"Second, to be loyal to the motherland and always have the people in heart, place the interests of the state and the people above anything else, exercise power for the people, feel as the people feel and work for their happiness, and always be their faithful servants."

"Thirdly, to carry what has been achieved into the future, advance with the times, carry forward the fine traditions of the Chinese nation, learn from the noble moral characters of the country's older generations of leaders, never indulge in complacency or develop the slightest sloth, and ceaselessly seek progress in the pioneering spirit."

Focus on

10th NPC
CPPCC
"New government
beginning"

"Fourth, to impose strict self-discipline, keep honest and clean in performing public duties, always maintain a modest, prudent and industrious style of work, and work hard and selflessly night and day for the country and the people."

On behalf of the new generation of central leadership, President Hu pledged sincerity to accept the oversight by the deputies and the people of all nationalities throughout the country.

China's development is at a new historical starting point," said President Hu. "We should emancipate our minds, seek truth from facts, advance with the times and take full advantage of the strategic opportunity period in the first two decades of the 21st century to focus on construction and development, push forward reform and opening-up in a big way, promote a coordinated development of socialist material, political and ideological civilizations, and advance firmly toward the grand goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way."

"The complete reunification of China is the common aspiration of the Chinese people both at home and abroad," said the president. "We shall continue to adhere to the principle of 'one country, two systems' to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and Macao, exert ourselves to promote economic and cultural exchanges and exchange of visits between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits and continue to work for the earliest settlement of the Taiwan issue and realize the complete reunification of the motherland."

"Chinese is a peace-loving nation. We shall continue the independent foreign policy of peace, maintain and develop friendly and cooperative relations with all other countries and, together with the people of all countries, work for a fair and rational international political and economic order and ceaselessly promote the lofty cause of peace and development of mankind," he said.

The president expressed his full conviction that China is sure to realize the national rejuvenation so long as "we hold high the great banner of Deng Xiaoping Theory, carry out the important thought of 'Three Represents', adhere to the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, work with one mind and one heart."

From Royce Barclay in Guilin

Guilin is starting to warm up. Schools are getting schedules for the new terms under control and the millions are heading for Schools. I have made another series of TV films & the program that I lead, "5 Minute English", is now used twice daily throughout Southern China, Guanxi etc. A real "buzz" but any thought that this would be a relaxing holiday went out the door and I am doing Teacher Training in English & Social Studies with a frequent "Questions & Answers" session in Politics!!! everyday and up to 3 times in some days One of my teachers/students is from Changsha and she wants me to go up there for a few days. The worst of the winter is over here and the plum blossom is a picture with vegetables under planted and flowers for market a real sight. Not yet that unbearable humidity that we get here in the SW, . I am well having thrown off a shocker of a cold and when I wear all my NZ sweaters & polar fleece I look like the abominable snowman.