

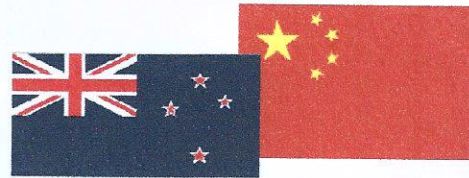
新中友好協會

NZ China Friendship Soc.
Hibiscus Coast Branch
Friends News

朋友們消息

péng yǒu men xiǎo xī

April 2008



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Please note in your diary: on May 8th, the Hon. Shane Jones, the Associate Minister of Trade, will give a talk on:

The recently signed *New Zealand: China Free Trade Agreement,
and what benefits are expected from it**

7.30pm, *St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Hall*, 180 Centreway, Orewa

* See below for more details on the Agreement

Shane Jones:



Shane Jones received his BA degree in politics and Maori studies from Auckland and Victoria Universities in New Zealand, and MA (Prelim) in political philosophy from the University of Western Australia. Subsequently he completed an MPA at the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, as a recipient of the Harkness Fellowship.

From 1988 to 1990, Shane Jones set up the Maori Policy Unit at the new Ministry for the Environment. On his return from the US in 1992, he resumed work there as a key advisor for the Maori Fisheries settlement (Sealord Deal). In 1993 he was appointed to the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission (Te Ohu Kaimoana). He became Chair of the Maori business development organisation the Poutama Trust in 1997.

In 2000, Mr. Jones took over from Sir Tipene O'Regan as chair of the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission and Sealord Products. His task as Chair was to get approximately 70 tribes to agree on how to divide up the fisheries assets, value \$1 billion. This was completed in 2004 when the distribution legislation was passed. He resigned from the chairmanship in February 2007.

Mr. Jones entered Parliament in 2005 as a member of the Labour government. He chaired the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee and was a member of the Commerce Select Committee until his promotion to Cabinet in November 2007. His portfolios are Minister of Building and Construction, and Associate Minister of Immigration, Trade, and Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Mr. Jones comes from the Far North of New Zealand. His tribal links are to Te Aupouri, Ngai Takoto, and he also has Welsh and Dalmatian heritage. He is married to Ngareta and they have seven children, ranging in age from ten to 28.

Free-Trade Agreement between China and New Zealand

On April 8th (an auspicious date for the Chinese), the FTA between China and New Zealand was signed in Beijing, with great fanfare. Helen Clarke signed on behalf of New Zealand.

This was a ground-breaking event as it was the first time China has entered into a comprehensive free trade agreement with a developed country. It is New Zealand's largest since the Closer Economic Relations agreement with Australia was signed in 1983. It is expected to take force on 1 October 2008, after ratification by the New Zealand Parliament.

Under the agreement, 37 per cent of Chinese exports to New Zealand and 35 per cent of New Zealand exports to China will be tariff free by October 2008. All tariffs for Chinese exports to New Zealand will be eliminated by 2016, and 96 per cent of New Zealand exports to China will be tariff free by 2019. Mutual investment and trade in services will also be facilitated.

The deal also allows 1,800 specialised workers to go from China to New Zealand for a period of up to three years. This however will be limited to approved occupations and to a maximum of 100 such workers in any sector, except for traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese chefs, and Mandarin teaching aides, which have maximums of 150 or 200. New Zealand will also establish a working holiday scheme enabling up to 1,000 young Chinese nationals annually to travel and work in New Zealand for up to 12 months. Both countries have agreed to enhance business visa conditions and processing.

Reactions in New Zealand

The deal was welcomed by a number of New Zealand exporters including the dairy cooperative Fonterra and the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council, while

others such as the appliance manufacturer Fisher & Paykel stated that the deal would lead to tougher competition with cheaper-priced Chinese products. The New Zealand Council of Trade Unions opposed the inclusion of workforce in the trade agreement stating that there is potential for skilled Chinese workers to be exploited and underpaid.

While the FTA enjoys the support of Labour and National, the Green Party and the Maori Party opposed the agreement even before it was signed. Members of the Green Party protested against the signing of the deal, Keith Locke saying that easier access to cheap Chinese workforce could undermine New Zealand workers. Following the signing, 'New Zealand First' announced that it opposed the deal. Public opinion has been divided; a poll published a week before the signing showed 45% supported the deal, while 32% opposed it.

For a full summary (with references), please refer to the Wikipedia article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand_China_Free_Trade_Agreement

Recent Society Events

February 28th, Rewi Alley showed 2 DVDs covering many aspects of the Chinese admiral Zheng He's expeditions to India, the east coast of Africa and the suggested 'discovery' of eastern North America in the 1420s, as proposed by Menzies in his well-known book '1421'. This resulted in a stimulating discussion. Most people were relieved to learn the Rewi does not believe in all aspects of Menzies' hypotheses, especially the suggestion that the Chinese fleet sailed round the north of Greenland, on the long-way home (as demonstrated on a globe by Bjørn Simonsen Weis).

Membership News

Regrettably, Bjørn has resigned from his position as Branch Secretary. He has accepted an offer to teach English at the Women's College in Fuzhou (in PRC, west of the north tip of Taiwan). He and his wife, Lene, will be

going to China in August, after a long visit to Denmark.

Allen Crosby has agreed to be Acting Secretary until a new secretary is elected.

After the recent round of new subscription 'chase-up', unfortunately our membership is down to 20! Hopefully this year we will have a programme that will attract many new members.

The next committee meeting will be in the Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library, at 2pm, May 22.

Programme

May 8th. Talk by the Hon. Shane Jones, the Associate Minister of Trade, on the New Zealand: China Free Trade Agreement. 7.30pm. Orewa Catholic Church Hall, Centreway, Orewa

May 16 to May 18. National Conference, in Masterton. Eric and Clarice Dittmer will attend.

The programme for the rest of the year will be announced after the next committee meeting.

Forthcoming Events 最新動態

2008 Jiang Hongguang Art Exhibition

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge

7 April – 26 April 2008

Art Gallery, Aotea Centre

Admission: Free

Statues: Ongoing

2008 (4th) New Zealand film Festival in China

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and China Film Bureau

June – July 2008

Time: To be determined

Ningbo of Zhejiang Province, Xian of Shan Xi Province and Beijing.

Statues: Coming Up

2008 (7th) New Zealand Chinese Arts Exhibition

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre and The-Edge

2 August – 24 August

Opening Date & Time: 5:00-7:00pm on 2 August

Open to Public: 3 August – 24 August

Art Gallery, Aotea Centre

Admission: Free

Statues: Coming Up

2008 Young Chinese Artists Art Exhibition

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre The-Edge

Date: 1 November – 21 November

Opening Date & Time: @ 5:00-7:00pm on 1 November

Open to Public: 2 November – 21 November

Art Gallery, Aotea Centre.

Admission: Free

Statues: Coming Up

Event Name: 2008 (2nd) "Songs from Home Town" Concert

Presented by: Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre & The-Edge

29 November 2008

Time: 7:00pm

ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre

Admission: Tickets for Sale

Statues: Coming Up

2008 (3rd) Korean film Festival in New Zealand

Presented by: New Zealand Korean Cinema Trust

1 December – 4 December (Tentative)

Time: To be determined

SKYCITY Rialto Cinemas (Tentative)

Admission: Tickets for Sale

Statues: Coming Up

2009 First Night Auckland Celebration

Presented by: The-Edge

31 December 2008

Time: 6:00pm on 31 December 2009 – 2:00am on 1 January 2010

Aotea Centre, Auckland City

Admission: Free

Statues: Coming Up