



NZ China Friendship Soc.  
Hibiscus Coast Branch

## Friends News

朋友們消息

péng yǒu men xiǎo xī

Dec 2008



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### Reception at the Auckland PRC Consulate, on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

All members of the Auckland, Hamilton and Hibiscus Coast branches having been invited by Mme Liao Juhua to a reception for, your branch was represented by Your Editor and his wife Teri, Eric and Clarice Dittmer, Dicky and Trish Hutchings, and Graeme and Rosemary Platt.

The reception was opened by Mme Jia Xiuling, the Cultural Consul, who welcomed the special guest, Vic Percival, and the Society members. She then asked the new Consul-General, Mme. Liao Juhua to speak,  
Mme Liao's speech is printed below.

#### Address by Consul General Mme. Liao Juhua

*"Mr. George Andrews, Mr. Ian Howart, Members of the Auckland, Hamilton and Orewa Branches of New Zealand China Friendship Society,  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Good afternoon! Thank you for coming to the reception and I would like to extend my warm welcome and kind greetings to you.*



*It marks the 30th anniversary this year of China's adoption of reform and opening-up policy which has made it possible for China to achieve a historic transformation from a highly centralized planning economy to a vibrant socialist market economy, from a door closed or semi-closed society to the one that is fully open to the outside world. The policy has enabled China to maintain a fast economic growth for 30 years running. China's GDP kept growing at an annual rate of 9.8% for three decades, more than three times the world average. It had*

soared from more than 260 billion yuan in 1978 to 24,950 billion yuan in 2007<sup>1</sup>, making China become the world's fourth largest economy. Chinese people have received more tangible benefits than ever before. By 2007, China's GDP accounted for over 5% of the world, whereas it was only 1% in 1978. The trade volume jumped from less than 1% to about 8% of the world during this period. China has carried out extensive international exchanges and cooperation, through which China's economy was boosted, China has also made important contribution to the world's economic development.

China's economic development faces challenges. The global financial turmoil will make it harder for China to maintain the pace of its economic development in the near future. China is under growing tension from its large population, limited resources and environment problems, and needs faster reform of its economic growth pattern to achieve sustainable development. The nation should maintain a stable and relatively fast economic growth, accelerate structural readjustment for sustainable development, and stick to reform and opening up.

2008 is the year of significance for the development of China, for the relations between China and New Zealand, and the Auckland region in particular.

At the time when China suffered from icy snow calamity and earthquake disaster, the New Zealand government and people, including friends from the NZ-China Friendship Society, were voluntarily making donations in support of China's fight against the catastrophes. 3 million NZ dollars of donations were transmitted to China by the Consulate General alone. Here, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of NZ.

The successful Beijing Olympic Games has brought China's dream to hold Olympic Games into reality. The successful launch of space-ship Shenzhou 7, and the Chinese astronauts' first walk ever in space indicated a new leap forward of China's space technology. The above mentioned achievement further enhanced the friendship and mutual understandings between the people of China and the people of the world, including the people of New Zealand. During the Beijing Olympic Games, China got the strong support from New Zealand friends and I would like to thank you for that valuable support.

Over the 36 years since China and New Zealand established diplomatic relations, exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various fields have been constantly strengthened. With the existing China-New Zealand good relations and the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries, bilateral exchanges and cooperations, inclusive of exchanges between China and the Auckland region will surely be further promoted.

As the bridge of China-New Zealand relations, NZ-China Friendship Society has done a great deal in the interest of the two countries and the two peoples. We recall that we held a function together with your association Auckland Branch to celebrate the launch of Maori TV series named **Kia Ora Ni Hao** and to welcome the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games, in which we saw the six young Maori friends having a wonderful time in Beijing. They like Beijing and the people there so much and were well received by the Chinese people. This TV series told us the story of friendship between the Chinese people and the people of New Zealand. The TV series about the Maori people was produced by Mr. George Andrews, Chairman of the NZ-

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<sup>1</sup> See illustration of China's soaring economy after this report

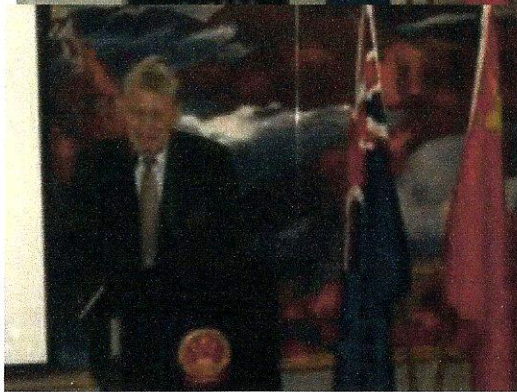


*China Friendship Society Auckland Branch and will be rebroadcasted on the Maori Television this Sunday. We appreciate the constant efforts made by Mr. Andrews and all the friends from the NZ-China Friendship Society to promote understandings and friendship between the two countries and the two peoples. We look forward to working with you for the promotion of friendship between the Chinese People and people of the Auckland region.*

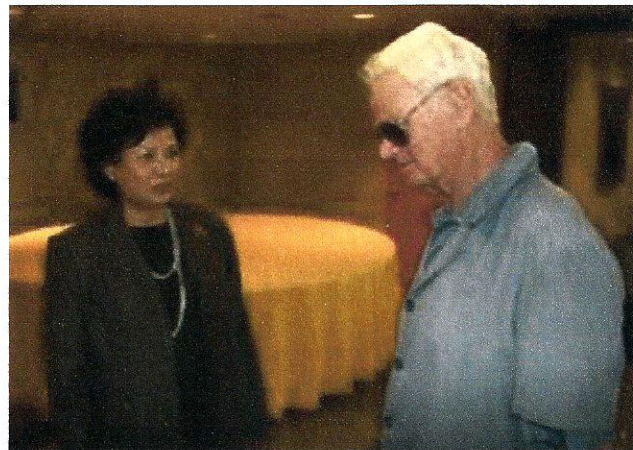
*Christmas is coming near. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you!"*



The other speakers were George Andrews (President Auckland Branch),



Ian Howart (President Hamilton Branch)



and Vic Percival ('a good old friend of China'<sup>2</sup>), who thanked Consul-General Mme. Liao in their turn. The general emphasis of their speeches was the success of the New Zealand/China Free

Trade Agreement which was signed this year in Beijing. They said that New Zealand in particular should be very proud of our on-going relationship with China, being the first Western country to recognise the PRC and latterly, the first to sign such an agreement.

Whilst expressing concern over the present economic crisis, they felt that the relationship between both countries was sufficiently strong to weather any economic downturn.

All the speakers congratulated China on the tremendously successful 2008 Olympic Games

<sup>2</sup> **Vic Percival** (or Pan Xi Fo-西仏 Western Bhudda, as Chinese named him) is a long-standing (indeed since 1956) trader with China. He is perhaps better known in China than in New Zealand. However, he became the confidante of Prime Ministers and ambassadors, and it was Helen Clark who, at the signing of the Free-Trade Agreement, termed him: "The man who started it all".



in Beijing. George Andrews specifically thanked the Consulate for their help in organising the production of the television programme “Kia Ora Ni hao” made for Maori TV by his company.

The speeches were followed by an excellent buffet meal which everyone enjoyed and gave the members an opportunity to catch up on news from fellow branch members. During the meal, a DVD of the Olympic Games opening ceremony was shown.



After the meal, everyone was entertained by Ms Chen Lixin, who played some wonderfully ethereal Chinese music on the zither<sup>3</sup>.



Then Ms Maggie Ding sang ‘O Mio Babbino Caro’ and several other Western operatic arias in a beautiful clear soprano voice.



She was followed by Ms Wang Yue, a young flutist of great charm, who played several Western tunes most proficiently.

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<sup>3</sup> Editor's note: A [Guqin](#) ([Chinese](#): 古琴; *gǔqín*) - 7-stringed zither





After this entertaining episode, the two older performers joined together to sing a selection of Chinese melodies.

The audience was then invited to add to the entertainment and several members rose to the challenge, providing some varied performances for the rest of their colleagues! In brief, a great time was had by all.

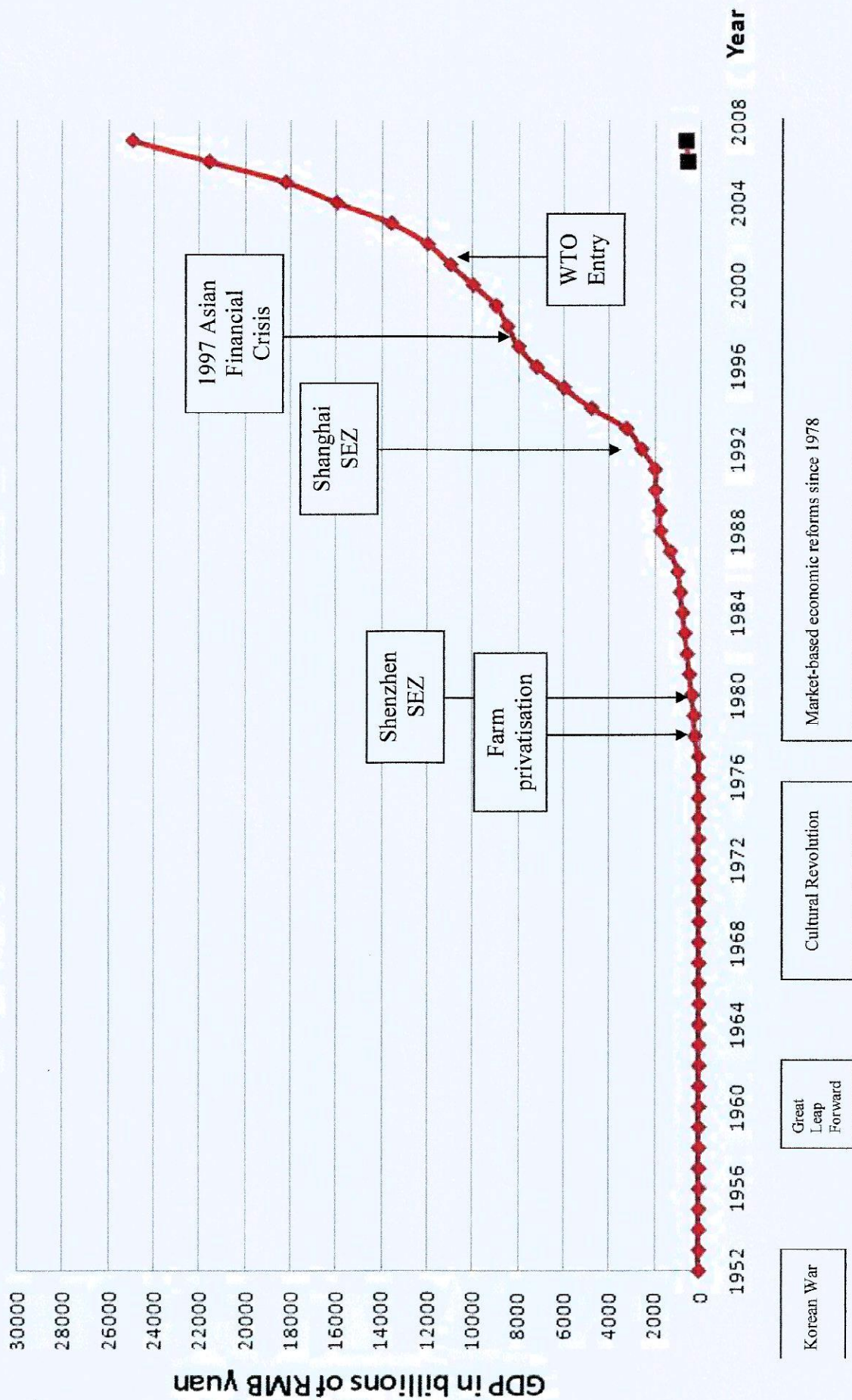
Mme Jia Xiuling gave each of the branches a number of DVDs (including one on Traditional Chinese Medicine in Chinese Culture, with book), as well as a number of booklets about various aspects of Chinese culture, and a large number of key rings. If you wish to refer to them, they are archived with our Librarian, Clarice Dittmer.

Each guest, on leaving, was given a wall calendar and desk calendar.

Your editor takes this opportunity to once again thank, on your behalf, the staff of the Consulate for an excellent evening.



# PRC Nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 1952 to 2007



## Membership News

Our present membership stands at 24, comprising (14 families; 2 Corporate/Instl.; and 8 individual).

At the last committee meeting planning for the National Conference next year continues. This will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May, Fri 8<sup>th</sup>–Sun 10<sup>th</sup>. The venue will be Orewa Community Hall, Orewa Sq. Various preparatory tasks were distributed between the committee members.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The next meeting will be at the Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library, on January 22, at 2.00pm.

## Programme

**January 22:** Talk by Michael Goudie on his **Impressions of China** following his participation on the Prominent Persons and Leaders Tour, at 6.30pm, Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library.

**January 26: Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration** BBQ on Orewa beach

**February 19:** Talk by a Kiwi Seismic Engineer on his visit to the **Sechuan earthquake area** (*to be confirmed*)

**April 23 or 30:** Talk by Prof. Chan of the Confucius Institute on **Chinese Calligraphy and Chinese Brush Painting**

**Further possibilities are not in date order as the details have yet to be established:**

- Visit to Hamilton Museum to view reputed “Ancient Chinese junk” relic, discovered at Kawhia
- Talk by Dr Richard Grant:  
An introduction to the **Asia:New Zealand Foundation**, and comment on some of the recent changes taking place in the Asian regional environment.

## Forthcoming Events 最新動態

### 2009 Chinese Lunar New Year Market Day

*Presented by: Stage program coordinated by Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre*

Date: 17 January 2009

Opening Date & Time: @ 10:00-5:00pm

ASB Showground

Admission: Free

### 2009 (11th) Multicultural Festival and Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration.

[To be performed by overseas & Local Chinese and other ethnic Performers]

*Presented by: United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.*

Date: 25 January (Sunday)

Opening Date & Time: 3:00pm

Venue: ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre, Auckland city

Admission: Free

### 2009 (10th) Lantern Festival

*Presented by: Auckland City Council and Asia Foundation of New Zealand*

Date: 6, 7 & 8 February

Time: 5:00pm – Midnight everyday.

Venue: Albert Park, Auckland City

Admission: Free

### 2009 (2nd) New Zealand Chinese Photography Exhibition

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

Date: 19 April – 10 May

Opening Date & Time: @ 5:00-7:00pm on 19 April

Opening to Public: 20 April – 10 May

Venue: Level 5, Air NZ Foyer, Aotea Centre

Admission: Free

### 2009 Shanghai International Film Festival

*Presented by: Chinese net and Pacific Culture and Arts Exchange Centre*

Date: 16 – 23 June (Tentative)

Venue: Film City, Shanghai, visit Beijing and Xian

Admission: Participation

### 2009 (7th) Table Tennis Tournament

*Presented by: United Chinese Associations of New Zealand Inc.*

Date: 19 July (Sunday)

Venue: North Harbour Table Tennis Stadium

Note: Pre-selection process for players starts on June 2009

### 2009 (8th) New Zealand Chinese Arts Exhibition

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

Date: 2 August – 24 August

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