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ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP

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T. KAUFMAN
The President of ICFS

18 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Israel and China

March was the 18th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between Israel and the People's Republic of China. After 40 years with no reciprocal relations at all between Israel and China, during the period that China was under the influence of the USSR, which took a pro-Arab, anti-Israel position, a new period began – a period in which mutual relations between the two countries are becoming stronger each year.

First of all, Chinese goods have poured into Israel, and Israeli exports to China have grown. Israel plays a significant role in the development of Chinese agricultural technology. The number of Israeli companies doing business in China increases each year, in Shanghai in particular, but not only there. Exchanges of information at the academic level, exchange students, delegations – all these reinforce common information, bolster interest between the two countries, and cause the expansion of contracts in commerce, manufacturing, science, and culture. The common interest shown by young people in Israel in learning the Chinese language and Chinese medicine should be mentioned.

Jewish life in China has sprung back to life. There are Chabad centers in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou: synagogues, kindergartens, and stores stocking kosher products. There are thousands of Jewish residents in Shanghai and Beijing. Centers for the study of Jewish history have been founded in a number of Chinese cities: Shanghai, Harbin, Nanjing in the Shandong Province. A museum has been opened in Harbin. A group in the Hongkou district of Shanghai, located in a building that was formerly the Ohel Moshe Synagogue, is constantly researching the history of Jewish refugees who found shelter in Shanghai during WWII.

Standing behind the initiative in matters pertaining to the Jewish past in China is the activity of the Israel-China Friendship Society, founded in 1992 by former residents of China in Israel. They were the pioneers in promoting closer relations between Israel and China (“from people to people”).

Over the years of the Society's existence, and with its help,

three seminars have taken place in Harbin and three in Shanghai, of which two were devoted to refugees from Germany who found a haven in Shanghai during WWII. Worthy of note is the preservation of the Jewish cemetery in Harbin – the only one left in China after the Cultural Revolution, which has been carefully preserved by the Harbin municipality. There is no doubt that the Chinese authorities have done much to preserve our unique past in this enormous country, which provided a refuge to Jewish victims of pogroms in Czarist Russia and Jews from Europe fleeing the Nazi regime.

Many things, however, remain to be done to preserve the Jewish past in China. First of all, a center should be established for research about the Jews of Tientsin (on the model of what has been done in Harbin and Shanghai) in the building that formerly housed the synagogue. A permanent exhibit should be maintained on the site illustrating the history of the small and unusual community in this city. Secondly, the Ohel Rachel Synagogue in Shanghai should be open for prayers regularly. An exhibit should be set up devoted to the history of the Sephardic and Russian (Ashkenazi) Jewish communities in Shanghai. Thirdly, the Chinese government should grant the Jewish religion official recognition, as it has done with other religions (Buddhism, Christianity and Islam).

China today is a superpower making giant strides forward, ensuring prosperity, progress, and success to this giant people.

On the 18th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between Israel and China, the Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel can look back with pride on the road traveled, and can appreciate our small and humble, but important contribution to promoting closer relations between the two peoples. Welcoming many delegations from China, accompanying Israeli and tourism delegations to China, granting scholarships to Chinese students

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Beijing Embassy Launches the Heart for Life Project

On 18 March the Embassy of Israel together with the United Foundation for Children's Health launched the Heart for Life project in Beijing.

Heart of Life was initiated and sponsored by the Embassy of Israel as a meaningful way to commemorate the 18th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Israel and China. As part of the project, the Embassy of Israel will provide 18 life-saving surgeries to 18 Chinese orphans with different medical problems. Heart for Life symbolizes the positive, long-standing ties between Israel and China, 18 live-saving surgeries for every year of Israeli-China diplomatic relations.

"Life is the most important value in the Jewish tradition" says Israeli Ambassador Amos Nadai. "According to the Talmud, saving one life is equal to saving the entire universe, as every person is seen as a complete universe in himself. The idea of the Heart for Life project is to lend the opportunity for new life to these 18 orphans. We all hope and believe that after receiving the surgeries, these

18 children will be adopted and thus have the opportunity to live a new and happy life."

"We are so blessed to be involved in such an amazing project. These life-changing surgeries offer the children a chance at a real future," says Maggie Fu, United Foundation for Children's Health Operations Manager.

Under the umbrella of the Heart for Life project, the Embassy of Israel and the United Foundation for Children's Health has arranged the Israel-China Pediatric Cardiology Conference. During the conference, leading Israeli experts from the field of pediatric cardiology met with 70 Chinese doctors from over 15 hospitals to discuss advancements and innovations in the field. Israel, a leader among the nations in the field of medicine, is happy to share its medical know-how with China for the benefit of both peoples. We see the conference as a fruitful opportunity to further enhance Israel-China relations in the field of medicine.

(From Jewish Times Asia, May 2010)

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studying at institutions of higher education in Israel, publishing the "Israel-China Voice of Friendship" bulletin in English, participating in important events mentioned above pertaining to the preservation of the Jewish past in China, and the regular connections between us and the Chinese Embassy in Israel and the participation of Embassy staff in all our cultural events – all of these give us great confidence in the way that we have chosen – the road we have followed for the 18 years of our existence. We derive the strength to continue our activity, which constitutes a modest contribution to the development of friendly relations between Israel and China, from the belief that our voluntary work is needed in order to strengthen friendship with the Chinese people.

Israel to set up business support centres in China

Minister of Finance Yuval Steinitz, at the inauguration ceremony of the Israeli pavilion at the 2010 Expo

Shanghai, revealed that Israel would soon have four support centres in China.

They are being called "Einstein Centres," and they will provide a physical infrastructure for Israeli companies seeking to launch operations in China. The centres will also support companies already doing business in the country. The Einstein Centers will probably be set up in four cities, among them Beijing and Shanghai, and possibly in Hong Kong as well.

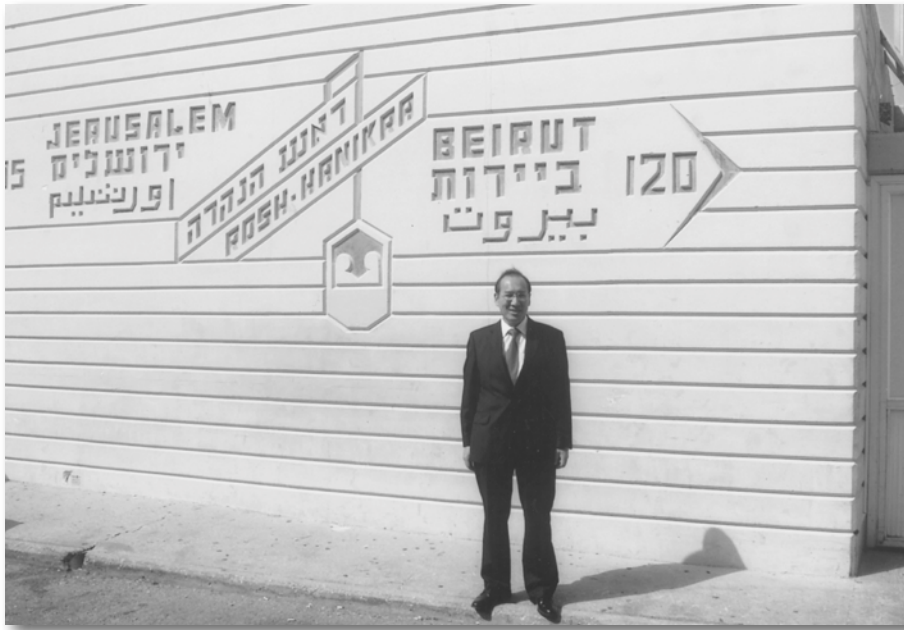
They will provide legal services with experts in Chinese law, as well as accountants and tax advisors, assistance in obtaining visas, and in setting up links between Israeli and Chinese companies. At the request of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Ministry of Finance is seeking to boost Israeli exports to China. The ministry will set up an inter-ministerial team with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor and the Ministry of Agriculture, which will prepare an action plan.

At the 2010 Expo Shanghai, Ministry of Finance Director General, Haim Shani asked the businesspeople present to call on him to set up meetings on these matters.

(“Jewish Times Asia”, June 2010)

The Passover Trip with the Embassy of China

During the Hol Hamoed week of Passover in April 2010 a trip to the North of Israel was organized by the leaders of the Israel-China Friendship Society for the Embassy of China. This time, they visited Acre and Rosh Hanikra.



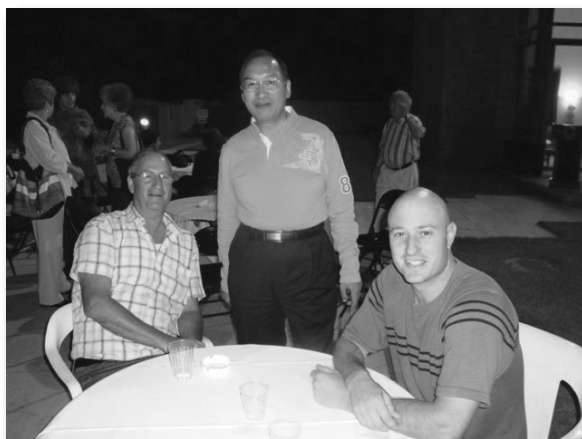
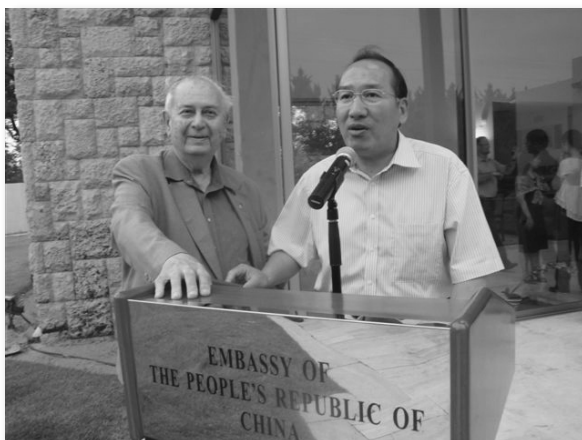
Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jun at the Israeli border with Lebanon



Officials of the Embassy in line for the funicular

At the Reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of China Mr. Zhao Jun

Members of the Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin (Leaders and their families) at the reception at the Ambassador's Residence



At the Reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of China



Infinity I-China establishes 6 funds with Chinese cities

Infinity I-China is launching six new joint venture RMB private equity funds throughout China as part of a 10 year plan. Infinity said that the goal of the funds is to support the growth of local Chinese businesses through the influx of proven technology and know-how.

The funds will range from RMB 200 million up to a planned RMB 500 million. The funds will be created together with Chinese cities of Beijing, Suzhou, Harbin, Shijiazhuang, Changzhou, Ningbo and Tianjin. Infinity I-China managing partner Amir Gal-Or said, "Infinity chose to partner with Beijing, Suzhou, Harbin, Shijiazhuang, Changzhou, Ningbo and Tianjin, mainly because of the progressiveness, openminded thinking and quality of leadership in these metropolises. It is the people that are compelling and on which we place the greatest value. Our ongoing relationship with Suzhou is a good example. The joint venture fund in Suzhou

marks the third cooperation between Infinity and the fine leadership of this beautiful city. We look forward to long-term and exciting relations with our new friends across the country."

Infinity I-China was founded by Clal Industries and Investments Ltd., China Development Bank and CSVC. Infinity Group currently manages more than US\$700 million through nine funds, seven in China. Infinity has offices in Tel Aviv, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Harbin, Shijiazhuang, Changzhou, Ningbo, Tianjin and New York.

The new funds are the third step in Infinity's ten-year plan for the region, following its 2004 establishment of the first RMB fund in China and its 2008 cross-board fund. Infinity I-China, is the largest China-Israel fund and the second China-Israel fund of Infinity Group.

(Jewish Times Asia, April 2010)

At the reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of China



Singer Ms. Hao from Beijing sings Chinese and Israeli songs



Preparing the barbecue

Agro income grows as farms go 'green'

By Peng Yuefei

Even with one of the world's largest expanses of fertile black soil, Heilongjiang was long known as "the vast wild land in the north", sparse in population and limited in agriculture. It is a sharp contrast to today's booming farmlands. The wildness for which Heilongjiang was famed has been tamed a bit, but the province retains its excellent ecology, giving it a distinctive agricultural status in 'green industry' for its production of pollution-free or even purely organic products. Heilongjiang is now the largest green agriculture region in China, with the cultivation area, output and value all leading the nation. Development of green agriculture began 10 years ago and is now the mainstay of the agricultural economy and the most important contributor to growth in farmers' income. Organic produce grown in the province totaled 29.2 million tons with a value of 71.7 billion yuan in 2009, growing 10.3 percent and 10.2 percent from a year ago.

With support from the government, the green agriculture industry has now developed a consolidated production chain with close ties between farmers, processors, wholesalers and retail outlets.

Last year more than 3.8 million hectares of farmland was

used in green agriculture, an 11.4 percent increase from 2008. The expanded scale resulted in per capita additional income of 1,050 yuan to farmers, a rise of 9.3 percent from the previous year. The increasing number of green food processing companies means farmers can quickly and reliably sell their products due to steady demand.

Heilongjiang had 500 green food processing enterprises by the end of last year, including 63 large companies with a production value of more than 100 million yuan each. They have fostered a number of nationally recognized brands of organic and pollution free agricultural products, including Weidahuang, Wandashan, Wuchang and Longdan. There is an even bigger network of wholesalers for green farm products. Heilongjiang has 1,040 businesses that wholesale the products with outlets throughout the country and reaching 38 countries and regions in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

It is projected that cultivated land in green farming will surpass 4 million hectares this year, a rise of 5.9 percent from 2009. Produce and value are expected to reach 34.4 million tons and 75 billion yuan respectively, up 17.8 percent and 4.6 percent from last year.

(China Daily 06/07/2010 page18)

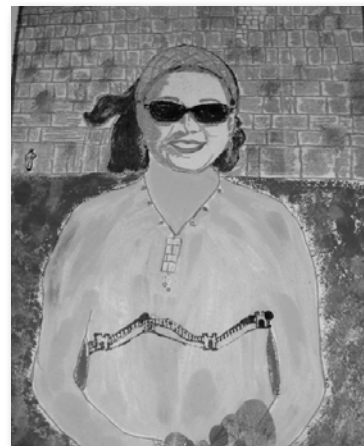
From The Great Wall in Beijing To The Western Wall in Jerusalem

Rivka Sue was born and raised in China. She moved to Israel, studied Judaism and worked at the Diamond Exchange Center in Ramat Gan. She is an Israeli citizen. Currently, she is studying at University Hartford of Art School. The collection of "Offset Monotype Printmaking" was inspired by Rivka Sue's own stories.



From the Great Wall in Beijing to the Western Wall in Jerusalem

A Chinese Israeli Jew's Wedding in Jerusalem



From the Diary of the Friendship Society

A Passover Trip for the Chinese Embassy Staff

The eighth annual Passover trip for the staff of the People's Republic of China Embassy in Israel took place on April 1, during the intermediate days of the Passover festival. The Israel-China Friendship Society organized the trip. Participants included Chinese Ambassador to Israel Zhao Jun and Embassy advisors, attaches, consuls, and employees: a total of 20 people.

Spectacular locations in northern Israel were chosen for the trip: Rosh Hanikra, the Lebanese border, and the city of Acre. In Acre, the Embassy staff met with representatives of the municipality, including the advisor to the Mayor, Israel Ben Ezra. In honor of the guests, Israeli and Arab musicians stage a concert of Eastern music for the guests. The Chinese Ambassador was awarded a gift – a map of ancient Acre. Not to be outdone, the Ambassador gave the Mayor of Acre an artistic Chinese drawing.

The guests and the hosts (20 members of the Board of Directors of the Israel-China Friendship Society, together with their spouses) visited archeological excavations in Acre. Lunch was served to all at the Palm Beach Hotel. T. Kaufman greeted the Ambassador and the Embassy staff, and also thanked tour organizer and Friendship Society vice chairman Ronnie Veinerman. Ambassador Zhao expressed his deepest thanks for the hospitality.

The trip began at 9 a.m. at Rosh Hanikra, and ended in the evening, leaving the participants in an excellent mood, despite their fatigue.

Reception by the Chinese Ambassador

On March 17, Chinese Ambassador to Israel Zhao Jun held a reception for the Israel-China Friendship Society in his home in Kfar Shmaryahu. Over 100 active members of the Society and the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel attended the reception. In his speech, the Ambassador cited the valuable work done by the Israel-China Friendship Society. T. Kaufman warmly thanked the Ambassador for the reception and his appreciation for the activities of our Society.

The wives, children, and grandchildren of the Society members also attended the reception. The atmosphere at the three-hour meeting was friendly and pleasant.

The Israel-China Friendship Society

Hosts a Delegation from Beijing

A delegation from the association of Chinese cities twinned with cities in foreign countries was hosted for three days in March.

The delegation visited Ponve House on March 23, and met

with the Board of Directors of the Israel-China Friendship Society: T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman. The Chinese delegation included First Secretary Mr. Li Shichao and his deputy, Ms. Zhaya Lin. Mr. Avi Rabinovitch, a representative of the twinned cities department in Israel, escorted the guests.

An Evening in Memory of Poet Batsheva Sheriff

An evening devoted to the memory of the late poet, Batsheva Sheriff, was held in the Beit Ariella Tel Aviv municipal library.

Mr. Gong Jinpei, the cultural attaché at the Chinese Embassy in Israel, spoke in English and Hebrew. He read aloud from a Chinese translation of poems written by Sheriff.

T. Kaufman Lectures at the Chinese Embassy

T. Kaufman gave a lecture entitled "Jews in China" at the Chinese Embassy in Tel Aviv on March 10.

20 Embassy staff, including advisors, attaches, and the Consul, attended the lecture. They listened attentively to the lecture which took over an hour. Embassy advisor Mrs. Zhang Xiao'an opened the meeting by greeting Kaufman and his wife, Rasha. At the end of the lecture, Mrs. Zhang thanked T. Kaufman for his interesting lecture, and took a particular note of the work being carried on at the Israel-China Friendship Society for the sake of improving relations between the two countries and the two peoples.

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