

T. KAUFMAN
The President of ICFS

On the friendship path with China

TIANJIN DELEGATION IN ISRAEL

On the 7th of November, at the Mamilla Hotel in Jerusalem, a reception was held in honour of the Tianjin delegation and the opening of the "Jews of Tianjin" exhibition organised by Anna Sung.

Amongst the delegates were the party secretary Mr. Chezhan Gaoli, Mr. Li Sizinsizuan acting for the minister and deputy mayor Li Wenyi. The guests gave an address as did Mrs. Ruth Kahanov, standing in for Israel's foreign ministry's director, Israeli government minister Yitzhak Herzog and the ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Zhao Jun.

Amongst those present were Mr. Teddy Kaufman, chairman of Igud Yotzei Sin, Y. Klein, R. Veinerman and a group of Tianjin expats, some 30 guests in all.

Prior to the reception, the Tianjin expats met with Mrs. Anna Sung who presented each one of them with a book about the Jews of Tianjin, written in English.

HARBIN DELEGATION IN ISRAEL

A delegation from Harbin visited Israel between the 1st and the 5th of November. The delegation was led by the party secretary Mr. Gai Zhuan. The delegation participants numbered some 30 people and included representatives from the city of Harbin and more than 25 Harbin business men and some old friends too: Deputy Director of the Foreign affairs department, Mr. Yue Molü, deputy director Peter Chao, professor Fu Minjin [Svetlana] and Si Cunlin. On November the 3rd, at the Giv'atayim theatre, a reception was held for the Harbin delegation. Addresses were given by the party secretary Mr. Gai Zhuan, Reuben Ben Shachar, the mayor of Giv'atayim and the ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Israel, Mr. Zhao Jun. Igud Yotzei Sin was represented by R. and T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and R. Veinerman.

"The Jews of Harbin" exhibition was staged in the theatre's foyer. On display were copies of exhibits from the permanent collection housed at the New Synagogue which form The Jews of Harbin's History Museum.

Chinese writers' delegation on a visit to Israel

In November 2010, a delegation representing the Chinese National Writers' Association arrived in Israel. On the 24th of November members of the delegation were guests of the Israel - China Friendship Association as well as of IGUD YOTZEI SIN. Leading the delegation was author Zhang Jian. Amongst the delegation's members were the chairman of the Writers' Association Mr. Yan Shaoheng - a literary critic; Xie Youshun - professor at the Sun Yat-sen University; the author Liang Biwen, deputy chairman of the Writers' Association of Hubei province and Ms. Li Lanni, deputy chairperson of the Writers' Association of Shen Zhen. The delegation was accompanied by Mrs. Anita Mazor on behalf of the Israel Foreign Relations Office.

Our Chinese guests met with T. Kaufman, Y. Klein, R. Veinerman and G. Katz.

T. Kaufman recounted the history of the Jews in China and expanded about the activities of IGUD YOTZEI SIN and that of the Israel - China Friendship Association. The guests made a visit to the 'China's Jews' Memorial synagogue.

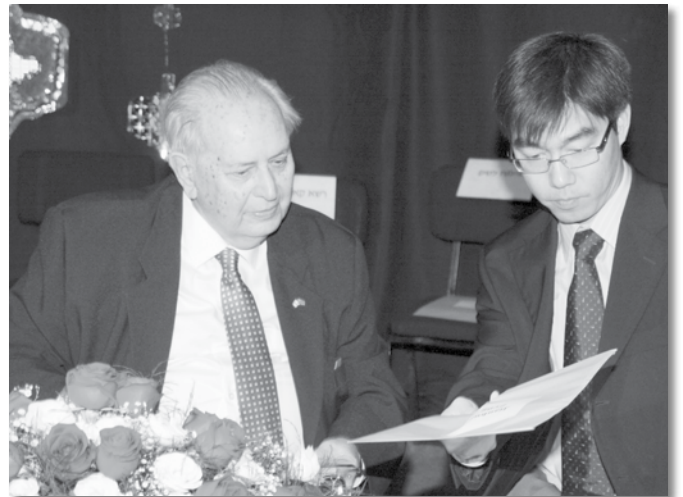
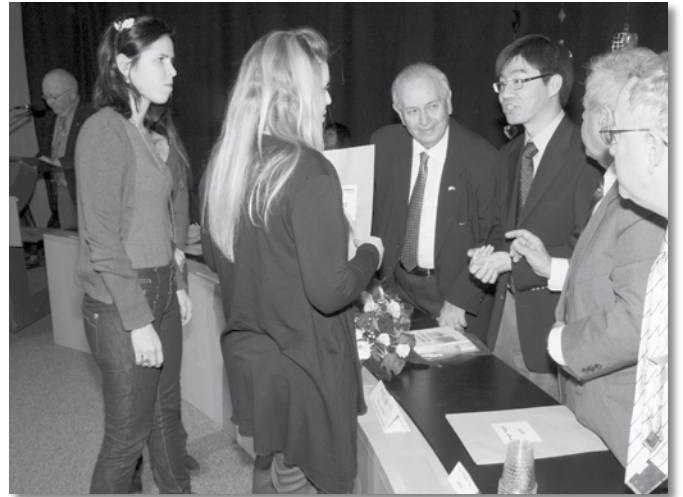
A reception at the Chinese ambassador's residence in Israel

On the 22nd of December a reception was held in honour of the arrival in Israel of Mr. Shai Yan, new chief adviser at China's embassy in Israel, at the official residence of the ambassador to Israel of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Yan has been appointed as head of the diplomatic corps and as deputy ambassador.

Over two hundred people attended the reception; amongst them were representatives of foreign embassies, diplomats, members of the press and a variety of other guests from all walks of life in Israel.

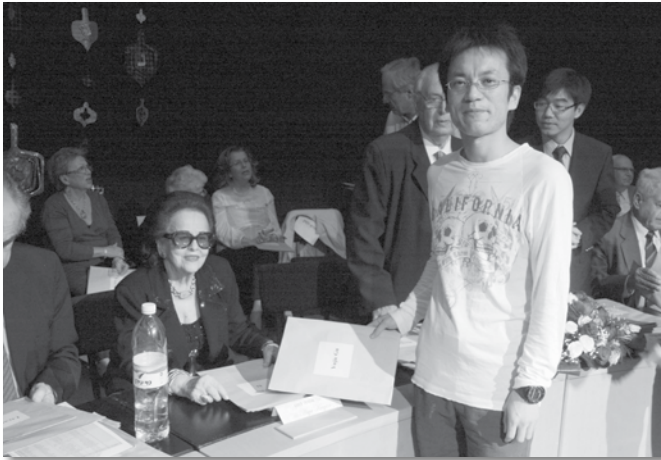
IGUD YOTZEI SIN and the Israel - China Friendship Association were represented by R. and T. Kaufman, Y. Klein and A. and R. Veinerman.

Scholarship awards by the Deputy Ambassador of China, Mr. Shi Yung



Chinese students receiving scholarship awards from the Israel-China Friendship Society

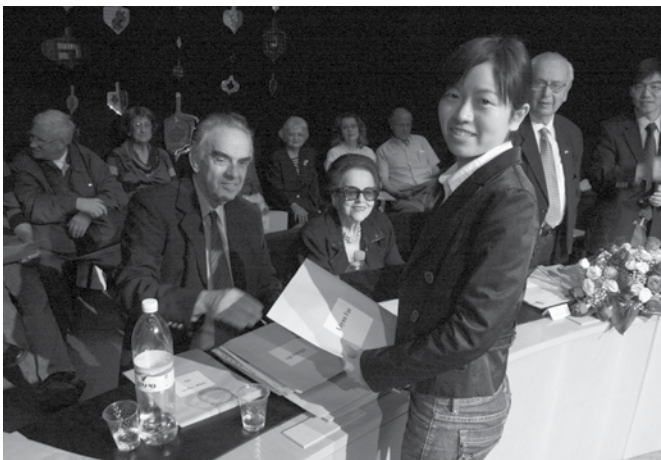
Scholarship Awards



Asya Kogan



Teddy Kaufman



Yossi Klein



Deputy Ambassador of China, Mr. Shi Yung



Chinese student



Chinese students

Chinese Students Studying at Universities in Israel - Recipients of the Scholarships from the Israel-China Friendship Society

	Name	University		Degree
1.	Luming Tao	Hebrew University	English Linguistics	
2.	Huang Wei	Hebrew University	Biblical Studies	PhD
3.	Qing Hu Ma Ms	Hebrew University	Jewish	MA
4.	Yujie Gu	Bar Ilan University	Engineering	postdoc
5.	Liyang Fan	Tel Aviv University	Jewish Studies	MA
5.	Bo Zhang	Hebrew University	Archaeology	PhD
6.	Qiao Yang	Hebrew University	Islam & Middle East	MA
7.	Jianhua Zeng	Tel Aviv University	Physics	postdoc
8.	Zheng Chuanlin	Fac of Agricul H.U.	Plant Science	PhD
9.	Qiuling Wang	Fac of Agricul H.U.	Soil & Water Science	PhD
10.	Yunwu Xiong	Fac of Agricul H.U.	Soil & Water Science	PhD
11.	Qijin Li	Hebrew University	Bible	M.A
12.	Meng Qinglin	Hebrew University	Hebrew	
13.	Sun Yan	Tel Aviv University	Jewish History	
14.	Mei Hualong	Hebrew University	Hebrew Language & Literature	BA
15.	Guang Yang	Hebrew University	Jewish History	BA
16.	Huowang He	Tel Aviv University	Jewish Studies	
17.	Zhenchun Shi	BenGurion Univer.	Jewish-Russian Literature	PhD
18.	Yanyan Chen	Tel Aviv University	Judaism & Confucianism	PhD

Regulations for the Jewish Research Centre to Receive Foreign Guests

October 1st, 2010

Nowadays, quite a number of the former Jewish residents of Harbin and their descendants would often come to Harbin to find their family roots, or sweep the graves of and pay respects to their ancestors, and/or go sightseeing. Many of them would come to our center, either through Israel-China Friendship Association or by our center's reputation, to seek for our help, hoping that we could assist them to visit the Jewish historical sites and remains. With a view to maintaining our friendly relations with former Jewish residents of Harbin and their descendants, and passing on and inheriting the historical friendship between the Chinese and Jewish peoples, we will try our best to offer help to the Jewish guests to a visit to

Harbin to the best of our ability. However, as a scientific research unit, our center has got no reception expenses, so our guests have to be charged reasonable amounts of costs according to actual needs. The specific charging standards are stipulated as follows:

1. Traffic charge:

- ☐ To and/or from the airport: 200 Yuan per vehicle one way, or 400 Yuan round way;
- ☐ To and from the Jewish cemetery: 300 Yuan per vehicle and
- ☐ Downtown traffic 300-500 Yuan per vehicle (the actual amount depending on the type of the vehicle.)

2. Receptionists' charge:

200 Yuan per receptionist per day

Harbin Jewish Research Center

Visit of the Delegation of Chinese Writers at Bet Ponve

At Bet Ponve



At the Synagogue of the Jewish Communities in China



At the Chinese Restaurant



Role and Status of Jews in the Economic Development of Harbin in Modern Times

Zhang Tiejian

Research Fellow of the Jewish Study Center Academy of Social Sciences in Heilongjiang

Harbin was once one of the primary Jewish economic centers in East Asia in modern times. Jews established many commercial enterprises in Harbin, and were involved in affairs of finance, forestry, mining and trade. They kept close ties with the international trade sector, the financial centers of London and New York, and exported Chinese soybeans to Europe for the first time. They also produced a lot of famous brand products. All these activities played a significant role in the economic prosperity of Harbin, which gave the city its nickname as the “Oriental Chicago”, and Harbin’s reputation was world famous. At present, all that remains of the former Jewish community exists in the form of historical documents, architectural relics, and a Jewish cemetery – the largest in East Asia. It will be worth strengthening economic cooperation between China and Israel and for Chinese and Jews around the world to cooperate in preserving and utilizing the cultural relics and researching the activities of the Harbin Jews.

Immigration of the Jews

Northeastern China was occupied by Japan and Russia at the end of the 19th century. Nevertheless, Harbin was poised to become one of the most open cities under special circumstances. Within less than 20 years, Harbin evolved from a fishing village to a major center of international trade in East Asia and a large market for western countries. Jews played a valuable role in the economic and civic development of Harbin. They established many enterprises, which promoted the economic development of Harbin and even of northeastern China as a whole.

On June 3, 1896, Witte, the financial minister of Russia, and Hongzhang Li of the Qing government, signed a “treaty of mutual aid and defense”, which earned a series of privileges in northeastern China for the government of Russia. To take advantage of these privileges, the government of Russia imposed a series of “favorable policies” which created the objective conditions for Russian Jews to immigrate to Harbin. The use of the East China Railroad meant that the self-sufficient natural economy could no longer support the supply of the daily increasing demand for consumer goods. Under these special circumstances, industry and commerce in the

city began to develop, facilitating the modernization and market economy of Harbin. Although the number of Jews in Harbin was relatively small, they were a major catalyst in the economic and civic development of the city.

The number of Jews in Harbin reached 500 in 1903 after the introduction of China’s Eastern Railroad and especially after the establishment of the Jewish Association. Jewish economic activities became more active. A Jewish entrepreneur gained a forest concession in five forests including Weisha-He from the government of the Qing Dynasty. A group of Jewish businessmen including Soskin and Kabalkin in the export business came to Harbin at that time. After war broke out between Japan and Russia, there was another large influx of Jews into Harbin. The Jewish population soared dramatically, and industry and commerce underwent profound development. During this period, dozens of flour mills were opened by Jews, and the “Soskin Shipping Agency” began operation. In December 1905 “the official treaty concerning the three provinces in Eastern China for China-Japan Conference” was signed in Tokyo between the Qing government and the empire of Japan. Under the terms of this treaty, 16 cities including Harbin were opened to international business to 20 countries including Russia. Subsequently, Japan and Britain opened consulates in Harbin. In May 1907, the Harbin Chamber of Commerce was established and there were 12 members of the First Commission, four of whom were Jewish, which indicates the influence of Jews in Harbin. In that year alone, Harbin’s Jews exported Manchu soybeans to Europe for the first time. Ashhe Sugar Factory – the first beet sugar enterprise – was founded in Ah Cheng near Harbin. According to statistics, in 1908 there were about 6,000 Jews in Northern China, and their assets surpassed 30 million rubles, an overwhelming majority of which belonged to Harbin. Before the First World War broke out, there were 116 Jewish enterprises in Harbin and the Jewish population reached 5,500.

In 1914, after the outbreak of the First World War, Jewish prosperity in Harbin increased significantly again. Thanks to the expansion of economic trade, Harbin became a trade center for powerful capitalist countries including Japan. Britain and America initiated trade with

Russia. Companies run by the Jews of Harbin played a considerably important role. Kabalkin invested a large sum of money to open an oil pressing mill. Weingort, a German Jew, opened the "Germany Import and Export Corporation". Standard Vacuum Oil Company run by a famous American Jewish entrepreneur opened a branch in Harbin. After the Bolshevik Revolution, many Russian Jews fled to Harbin and brought with them large amounts of capital.

In 1919, in the wake of the First World War, food shortage in European markets was depleted, and there emerged a drastic demand for agricultural products and the exportation of these goods overseas. Famous Jewish entrepreneurs included Cagan and Soskin who purchased the Songhua River Flour joint-venture corporation, the Ashhe sugar mill, the Kasatkin powder making factory, the Kabalkin oil pressing mill. They created the Far East Jewish Commercial Bank, the Harbin Jewish Civilian Bank, and the Muleng Coal Mining Corporation with the cooperation of the Jilin Province government. Vitalization of export trade stimulated the development of industry and import, which connected the regional market of Harbin with the world economy. Jews invested in factories, created banks and security firms, took part in exchange activities, played an active role in forestry, mining and shipping. There emerged a large group of successful bankers, contractors, exporters and importers, lumbermen and fur traders among the Jewish entrepreneurs. Jewish commerce accounted for 31.6% and industry for 46.5% in the foreign capital of Manchu. According to the statistics, in 1926 the number of Jewish commercial and industrial enterprises reached 489, roughly four times that of 1913. The amount of exported rice reached more than 100 million porters, skyrocketing 1,000 fold in twenty years. During this time, the population of Jews in Harbin reached 25,000, which made Harbin the largest Jewish community in China. At that time industry and commerce in Harbin was totally under the control of Jews, marking the golden age of Jews in Harbin.

In 1929, due to the combined effects of a territorial dispute between China and Russia over control of China's Eastern Railroad, global economic depression, the September 18 incident, and a weakening of Russian power over Northeastern China, the economic status of Harbin's Jews began to waver. In June 1935, the Manchu government signed a trade agreement with Germany and implemented policies to trade with Canada and Australia. This tentatively led Harbin to the path of economic revitalization. However, with the outbreak of war in the Pacific in 1941, Harbin's economy suffered a serious setback and began to falter.

Jewish Influence on Harbin's Economy in Modern Times

In retrospect of Jewish economic activities in Harbin, it can be said that at the beginning of the 20th century Jews came to their new sanctuary in Harbin and found an opportunity and venue to put their minds to good use. Regarding the transformation of Harbin from a feudal backward fishing village into a modernized cosmopolitan city in just half a century, the hard work and contribution of Jews must be acknowledged and never forgotten. Firstly, Jews played a leading role in the development of the Harbin Chamber of Commerce, promoting the city as a Jewish economic center in East Asia. Secondly, Jews attracted international financial investment to provide capital for railroad building, initiation of enterprises, city building, and the founding of import and export corporations, which enhance the reputation of Harbin in the international sphere. Thirdly, when they built China's Eastern Railroad, the Jews of Harbin took advantage of foreign capital and western technology and equipment, adopted capitalist scientific management methods, and facilitated the adoption of advanced technology from Europe and America.

At present, there still exist many Jewish relics and historical documents. It is important to protect and explore these historical and cultural sources. The New Jewish Synagogue has been rebuilt as the Museum of Harbin Jewish History and Culture, and the venues including the Old Jewish Synagogue and former Jewish Middle School have been expanded into the "Memorial Square for the Jewish Community of Harbin", which promotes the development of Heilongjiang's tourist industry.

Agriculture in Israel is first class in the world, and Heilongjiang is a large agricultural province, and therefore there is a large potential to develop cooperation with Israel in agriculture and technology. The proposal raised by the author of a "Harbin-Israel Economical Agricultural Technology Demo Park" with cooperation between Heilongjiang and Israel has been approved by the government of Heilongjiang Province, and the government of Harbin has been organizing to implement the proposal. The projects including "Harbin China-Israel Water Saving Irrigation Demo Park", and the "Harbin China-Israel Dairy Park" have been established. Water conservation rate accounted for 60%, the annual milk product of cows has improved to 6 tons per cow from a previous 4 tons per cow. This development rate is 20 times the average development rate of individual cow production in Harbin, and this will have far-reaching effects on the evolution of Heilongjiang agriculture from tradition to modernization.

Elad Weingrod writing for Israeli and Chinese kids

Elad Weingrod lives in Tel Aviv and before publishing his first children's book *Betach Yesh Yeled* he was a journalist for 10 years.

"I started writing for kids because I always used to write more than journalism, I wrote stories and songs. A few years ago I found a notebook that I wrote in when I was in the army," said Weingrod. In the notebook Weingrod found a children's song that brought him back to his childhood and reminded him of the things he used to imagine and think about as a child. "I wanted to keep writing this stuff for kids, not just children's songs but songs about childhood," he added. Weingrod brought his songs to Agam Publishing House, which specialises in children's books, and they signed him to a two-book publishing deal. His first book *Betach Yesh Yeled* is based on one of his songs, "which is about this Israeli boy who imagines his twin or his soulmate in China. It was fascinating to me to think of someone that had the same thoughts and ideas and understanding about the world and I thought they get up with me in the morning and go to school, but across the sea. I think that after I published it I understood that the message was for children and adults alike; we can look differently and speak differently but the basics are the same."

Weingrod and the publisher decided to have the story, which was originally written in Hebrew, translated into Chinese, so the book would have both the Hebrew and the Chinese. Weingrod found Professor Zhang Ping, the head of the Chinese studies department at Tel Aviv University, who agreed to translate the book. Weingrod never thought Chinese people could be interested in the book, but realised that having both languages made the impact of the book stronger.

Weingrod met Tamar Kalner Buki through the publisher, and she illustrated the book. "I think she did an excellent job," he said. The book was released last September and since then it has received many great reviews from critics. Weingrod got a call from Yaara Sharon, the Cultural and Academic Affairs Attaché for the Israeli Embassy in Beijing. "I didn't know her, but she told me someone had given her the book and she was very enthusiastic about it. She asked me to come to China, promote the book there, go to schools and show the Chinese a book that says that

we are very much alike."

During the end of June and beginning of July Weingrod visited schools and kindergardens in Beijing and Shanghai. He read the book in Hebrew and members of the Beijing Embassy read in Chinese. Weingrod brought the children drawings from a second grade class in Israel. "The kids were very excited to get them. These kids are getting an understanding (through the book) that here is a tiny country that has children just like them. The children are amazing, cute, curious and they want to know and learn. They ask brilliant questions that border on being philosophical."

For Sharon who accompanied Weingrod, the experience was amazing. "At the Embassy we are engaged in many projects that introduce Israeli culture to Chinese audiences, and this idea was one of many cultural ventures that we initiate in order to build bridges between peoples. I have to say though that this audience was special to me — clearly the youngest audience we have ever interacted with." She said. Weingrod wants to translate the book into a number of languages and he is considering making the book into a series and also animating it. "We'll wait to see what happens. I really believe there will be a continuation." He said. His second book will be published in a few months with several songs and stories for children.

Jewish Times Asia July/August 2010

ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (FOUNDATION OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN)

"BEIT PONVE", 13 Gruzenberg Str., Tel-Aviv
P.O. BOX 29786, Tel. 972-3-5171997 Fax: 972-3-5161631
E-mail: igud-sin@013.net

Members of the Committee:

President	T. Kaufman	B. Bershadsky	A. Podolsky
Deputy President		A. Fradkin	V. Priver-Zussman
and Treasurer	Y. Klein	A. Goldreich	R. Rashinsky
Vice President	R. Veinerman	M. Kamionka	Y. Sandel
Secretary	Y. Ladyjensky	G. Katz	E. Vandel
Legal Adviser	D. Friedmann	B. Darel	T. Piastunovitch
	attorney-at-law	S. Muller	

Control Committee:
M. Lihomanov, Z. Vatner, G. Brovinsky