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A Message from the President

It is a banner year for the National Committee, and not just because we led it off by hosting President Hu Jintao during his historic visit to Washington, D.C., this past January (an event that followed closely on the heels of a dinner in New York with Premier Wen Jiabao). In 2011 we celebrate our 45th anniversary. In 1966, a forward-thinking group of businessmen, academics, civic activists and Quakers formed the National Committee on United States-China Relations. Their original purpose was to provide Americans with balanced information about China, so that our leaders would adopt policies that were in the best long-term interest of the United States. The Committee's work over the last 45 years has realized the vision of our founders. No organization has done more to educate Americans about China and Chinese about America than the Committee.

However, even our visionary founders could not have imagined that four-and-a-half short decades later, the United States would enjoy diplomatic, cultural, economic, educational, military and every other conceivable type of relation with the People's Republic of China. From modest beginnings, the U.S.-China relationship has blossomed into an exceedingly robust, infinitely complex one, of paramount importance to both countries and indeed to the world. It is hard to think of an international, transnational, or even domestic issue where Sino-American relations does not fit into the calculus. And the National Committee, the oldest organization in the nation dedicated to promoting understanding between the United States and Greater China, has been not only a witness to it all, but we have been and continue to be an active player helping forge the relationship.

On the occasion of our 45th

anniversary, we cannot sit back and rest on our laurels. We will continue to focus on building long-term understanding and work even harder on reducing the mutual mistrust that too often permeates the relationship.

I owe a particular debt of gratitude to my predecessors. Six years ago when I assumed the helm of the Committee, I inherited an organization with a rich history, a stellar reputation as an honest broker, excellent programs, and a staff and board that any organization would envy. Those sorts of things do not develop overnight, but take years to mature. In 2011, they are certainly bearing rich fruit.

While the entire staff deserves great kudos, I owe special thanks to my two top lieutenants at the Committee, vice president of programs Jan Berris and vice president for administration Ros Daly. Combined, the two have now devoted 70-plus years to the Committee: Jan celebrates 40 years at the Committee this year; Ros celebrated 30 years last year. So, as we celebrate our 45th and the great distances the organization has traveled, we should recognize the enormous contribution these two have made to the Committee and, by extension, U.S.-China relations, and celebrate them as well. Their integrity and work ethic, energy and spirit, and familiarity and knowledge of the Committee make them truly invaluable colleagues.

I hope you will enjoy exploring this edition of *Notes*. In it, you have ample evidence of all the great programs and projects that have been keeping us busy. I encourage you to read the monthly e-newsletter, which will keep you up to date on the exciting activities we have planned for the remainder of this anniversary year. ■



National Committee President Stephen Orlins meets with China's President Hu Jintao at a luncheon in his honor on January 20, 2011, in Washington, D.C. (story page 5) Photo: Kaveh Sardari

Cover: National Committee Chair Carla Hills (with National Committee Director Muhtar Kent) greets China's President Hu Jintao at a luncheon in his honor on January 20, 2011, in Washington, D.C. (article on page 5)

Photo: Kaveh Sardari

Forum on China's Economy in 2011 at NYSE



Zhu Yunlai (Levin), CEO of the China International Capital Corp., with National Committee President Stephen Orlins during Q & A

In a reprise of last year's successful program that brought the perspectives of leading Chinese economists to the U.S. financial community, the National Committee again collaborated with the China Center for Economic Research (CCER) to present a half-day forum on China's economy. It was held at the New York Stock Exchange on January 10, 2011.

Attended by more than 300 guests and three dozen journalists, the forum provided an in-depth forecast and analysis of China's economy for the coming year. It featured Qin Xiao, the recently-retired chairman of the China Merchants Group, and now chairman of the Boyuan Foundation, an advocate of continuing economic and political reform; Fan Gang, the director of China's National Economics Research Institute and one of China's leading authorities on economic policy; and Zhu Yunlai (Levin Zhu), the president and CEO of China International Capital Corporation (CICC), a leading advisor on mergers and acquisitions in China.

Economists from CCER, including Huang Yiping, Lu Feng, Wang Jian-Ye, Wu Ho-Mou, Xiao Geng, Yao

Yang and Zhang Daojiong presented their latest forecasts and perspectives on issues including yuan revaluation, the effectiveness of the central bank's inflation control measures, the progress of economic rebalancing, China's energy security strategy, the country's outward investment and long-term risks of investment in China.

Several panelists, as well as National Committee President Stephen Orlins, were interviewed by journalists covering the program; CCER economist Huang Yiping was also interviewed on BBC TV in New York the morning of the event. Journalists covering the program were drawn from more than two dozen U.S., Chinese and international media outlets and financial publications.

Video of the lectures and panels, as well as power point presentations and other materials, are available on the National Committee's web site. We are grateful to NYSE Euronext for providing the venue and to the Starr Foundation and the Ford Foundation for the financial support that made the program possible. ■



China Center for Economic Research (CCER) professor Huang Yiping



Qin Xiao, chairman of the Boyuan Foundation; chairman (ret.), China Merchants Group, Ltd.



Lu Feng, professor, CCER; Wang Jian-Ye, chief economist, China Export-Import Bank; Yao Yang, CCER deputy director (l to r)

U.S.-China Track II Economic Dialogue

The ongoing U.S.-China Track II Economic Dialogue that began in 2010 has developed into an influential forum for frank and productive exchanges between leading American and Chinese economic thinkers. Dialogue participants met for a third time January 10-11 in New York, following the Chinese members' participation in the second annual forum on China's economy at the NYSE. The National Committee's partner in this project is the China Center for Economic Research; funding comes from the Starr Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

The January dialogue focused on pressing short-term monetary policy issues; medium-term structural issues (China's next five-year plan, its leadership succession, and debt levels in the United States and China); and broader economic issues, ranging from currency valuation to the global monetary system, international financial regulation and

energy policies in both countries. Participants drafted a consensus document detailing their observations and recommendations, which was shared with the U.S. and Chinese governments.

Two days of meetings in Washington, D.C. for the Chinese dialogue participants followed. The National Committee arranged meetings with Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Federal Reserve Board Governor Kevin Warsh, Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Michael Froman, Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Lael Brainard, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economics David Lipton, and U.S.-China Working Group co-chairs Charles Boustany (R-LA) and Rick Larsen (D-WA). CCER arranged

dinner meetings with World Bank Chief Economist Justin Lin and DHL, as well as discussions at the Brookings Institute and the Peterson Institute of International Economics.

The first session of this Track II economic dialogue was held in January 2010; the ensuing consensus document, outlining priorities for managing bilateral economic ties, was delivered to both governments as they prepared for the 2010 Strategic & Economic Dialogue (S&ED), and Secretary Locke invited the American dialogue participants to Washington, D.C. to brief him on the discussions. The second dialogue session, held in Beijing in June 2010, also produced a set of recommendations that were given to both governments. American participants met with China Investment Corporation Chairman Lou Jiwei; Yi Gang, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China and director of the State Administration for Foreign Exchange; U.S. Ambassador to China Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.; and members of the China Entrepreneurs Forum, an organization of some of China's leading entrepreneurs.

The next meeting will be held this summer in Beijing. ■



Dialogue participants seated (left to right): Zhu Yunlai (Levin), Maurice Greenberg, Carla Hills, Qin Xiao, Robert Rubin, Wu Ho-Mou. Standing: Yao Yang, Kim Schoenholtz, Barry Naughton, Lu Feng, David Malpass, Xiao Geng, Stephen Orlins, Dino Kos, Wang Jian-Ye, Nicholas Lardy, Zha Daojiong, Huang Yiping, Jeffrey Schafer (Not Pictured: Ding Anhua; Fan Gang; Wang Rongjun; Mark Zandi)

China's President, Premier Honored at NCUSCR Events

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President Hu Jintao being introduced by National Committee Director and former Secretary of State Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

Photo: Kaveh Sardari

The National Committee has recently organized major events for senior Chinese leaders visiting the United States: a luncheon for President Hu Jintao in Washington, D.C., on January 20, 2011, and a dinner for Premier Wen Jiabao in New York City, on September 22, 2010. Both events, co-hosted with The U.S.-China Business Council and several cooperating organizations, provided a valuable opportunity for American policy and business leaders to interact with China's senior leadership and for President Hu and Premier Wen to communicate directly with attendees and the American public through their remarks at the events.

More than 550 guests attended the luncheon honoring President Hu at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. President Hu's remarks on the U.S.-China relationship were the centerpiece of the event and his only public speech on the bilateral relationship during his visit. His remarks were covered by the more than 150 journalists at the event from the United States, China and numerous other countries, and

were broadcast live by several U.S. television networks.

Prior to President Hu's speech, Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke offered remarks on the U.S.-China relationship. Welcoming remarks and introductions were also given by National Committee Chair Carla A. Hills, former Secretary of State and National Committee Director Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and National Committee Director and US-China Business Council Chair Muhtar Kent.

The president stressed the importance of deep engagement on a wide range of issues, highlighting the need to respect differences and not allow small disagreements to interrupt constructive relations. Video of President Hu's address, photos and a transcript are available on the National Committee's web site.

President Hu's state visit to the United States was an important milestone that provided opportunities for positive trade developments and productive talks with President Obama. His traveling party of senior officials included Vice Premier Wang

Qishan and State Councilor Dai Bingguo, who also attended the luncheon.

The dinner for Premier Wen Jiabao, who visited New York for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in September, was held at the Waldorf-Astoria and attended by 430 guests and more than 70 journalists. The program included remarks by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and introductory remarks by Carla A. Hills and Muhtar Kent.

Premier Wen delivered the only speech on U.S.-China relations of his visit at the event (a transcript is available on the National Committee's web site), which took place the evening before a scheduled meeting between Premier Wen and President Obama. His speech began with ten minutes of unscripted remarks during which he spoke "from the heart," followed by a comprehensive overview of the U.S.-China relationship and its potentials. He noted that "The common interest between our two countries far outweighs our differences." He added, "Our bilateral relationship not only involves the interests of our two people but has gone far beyond the bilateral scope to have an impact on the whole world. Thus, we don't have any reason to let our relationship backpedal. We have thousands and tens of thousands of reasons to move this relationship forward." ■



Premier Wen Jiabao speaking at a dinner in his honor in New York

Photo: Elsa Ruiz

Rule of Law and Human Rights Dialogue



Rule of Law and Human Rights Dialogue participants in Xiamen

In cooperation with the China Foundation for Human Rights Development (CHFRD), the National Committee inaugurated the ground-breaking Sino-American Dialogue on the Rule of Law and Human Rights in December 2009. Building on the success of that program, designed to foster high-level exchanges and discussions of rule of law and human rights issues among jurists and legal experts from the United States and China, the National Committee again collaborated with CHFRD to conduct a second high-level dialogue, held in the seaside city of Xiamen, December 6-7, 2011.

During two days of dialogue, participants described relevant legal practices in the two countries, shared their experience in legal reform, and exchanged ideas and views on how the rule of law can be used to protect human rights and address social problems. The assembled experts represented a wide array of legal institutions (China's National People's Congress, State Council, Supreme People's Court, Supreme People's Procuratorate,

Ministry of Justice as well as provincial and local bureaus; U.S. federal judiciary, Departments of Commerce and Justice; and defense bars and academia of both countries). They brought multiple institutional perspectives to each of the issue areas, which added focus and depth to the proceedings.

The discussions were lively, candid and wide-ranging; topics

included open government and state secrets, disclosure of officials' assets, the role of lawyers in the legal systems of China and the United States, and rules of evidence, including the exclusionary rule. Also discussed were China's recent open government regulations, the Obama Administration's open government directive, reeducation through labor in China, immigration detentions in the United States, legal ethics and habeas corpus.

The delegation also made various site visits, including a mediation center, and attended several informative Beijing meetings, particularly with the director of the State Council Information Office.

The next session of the dialogue will be held in the fall of this year. In the meantime, joint research groups will be established to study questions of law that affect human rights; these groups will report back to the entire dialogue group at the annual meeting.

The National Committee is grateful to the Starr Foundation for the funding to make the dialogue possible. ■



Dialogue participants Bian Jianlin, professor and director, Procedural Law Institute, China University of Political Science Law and Margaret K. Lewis, associate professor, Seton Hall University Law School

NCUSCR 2010 Gala Honors Business Leaders



Gala honorees James W. Owens, chairman of Caterpillar Inc. (l) and Jeffrey R. Immelt, chairman and CEO of GE with National Committee Chair Carla Hills and President Stephen Orlins Photo: Elsa Ruiz

More than 350 guests attended the National Committee's Gala Dinner celebration honoring Caterpillar Inc. and GE, held at the Plaza in New York on November 11, 2010. Honorees James W. Owens, chairman of Caterpillar Inc., and Jeffrey R. Immelt, chairman and CEO of GE, both delivered remarks that blended personal impressions with discussions of important bilateral issues and their companies' work with China. The honorees were each presented with a large original scroll painting created for them by renowned Chinese painter Zheng Baizhong.

The evening's cultural highlight was graciously provided by Huang Ruo, an award-winning composer, conductor, pianist and folk singer (as well as an alum of the Young Leaders Forum), who performed with members of his Future In REverse (FIRE) Ensemble. They presented portions of Huang's Cinema Music Suite, which he selected to echo the

YLF theme of fostering bilateral dialogue and friendship.

The 2010 honorees were chosen for the outstanding contributions each of their companies has made to the Sino-American relationship. For more than thirty-five years, Caterpillar has worked to make sustainable development possible in

China, through its clean-energy solutions and innovative engine and turbine technology. Caterpillar machines have been used to help build China's infrastructure for decades, and the company's donations have assisted in rescue and rebuilding efforts following natural disasters such as the 2010 Qinghai earthquake.

GE has more than 100 years of history in China, and was honored for its outstanding corporate citizenship, including efforts in localization, global business partnerships and a focus on sustainability and health-care. These practices have served as a catalyst for stronger bilateral relations, while supporting the larger global economy.

The Gala Dinner is an important source of support for the National Committee's many programs and exchanges throughout the year. The Committee is grateful for the generous financial assistance from companies and individuals which ensures the continuation of its mission to foster productive and cooperative U.S.-China relations. ■



Musician, composer and Young Leaders Forum alum Huang Ruo (center) performs with his Future In REverse (FIRE) ensemble

Photo: Elsa Ruiz

U.S. Ambassador Addresses 53-Venue CHINA Town Hall



Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., and National Committee President Stephen Orlins in the Beijing studio during the CHINA Town Hall live webcast to 53 venues

For the past four years, the National Committee has run CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections, a single day of programming that combines a national webcast on the broad issues affecting U.S.-China relations with local programs at each participating venue. The Committee uses its extensive network of China specialists to send speakers to each venue who can address issues of particular interest at each locality. For some of these communities, the opportunity to host an expert on China serves as a unique part of their program calendar; for others, it represents a continuing commitment to education on U.S.-China relations.

In 2010, the Committee invited then U.S. ambassador to China Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., to be our national speaker. Fifty-three venues in the United States and Greater China tuned in to hear Ambassador Huntsman's comments live from the

U.S. Embassy in Beijing, emailing in questions on a wide range of issues. Local speakers addressed U.S.-China trade policies, RMB revaluation, environmental issues, security concerns, Internet/media censorship, the role of Christianity in contemporary China and cultural/ arts exchange between the United States and China, to name a few.

Many of the venues invited their visiting speakers to participate in supplementary events for the local community in the days before or after CHINA Town Hall.

Comments from some CHINA Town Hall speakers and hosts follow:

Jennifer Hefti
*Utah Council for
Citizen Diplomacy (Venue)
Salt Lake City, Utah*

The 2011 CHINA Town Hall program was of particular interest to the Utah Council for Citizen

Diplomacy (UCCD) because the national webcast featured Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., former governor of Utah. The live webcast was followed by a presentation, and question and answer period, with visiting guest speaker Joseph Borich, president of the Washington State China Relations Council, moderated by Brett Heimburger, regional director for Asia at the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Because China is one of Utah's fastest growing trading partners – China is Utah's fifth largest export market – we believed that our guests would enjoy hearing about U.S.-China trade and economic relations in light of the Ambassador's remarks.

CHINA Town Hall (CTH) benefitted UCCD in many tangible ways. First, CTH gave UCCD an opportunity to highlight our former governor and bring in an expert on U.S.-China trade and economic relations to the community. Second, CTH increased visibility of the organization and generated significant media coverage. Due to large local interest in the program, the program was broadcast live and recorded for future airing on KCPW 88.3 and 105.3 FM. CTH gave UCCD an opportunity to be seen as a leader in the exchange of ideas through public outreach, particularly with regards to China. CTH also gave UCCD an opportunity to highlight and engage local individuals/associations/organizations/agencies involved with China, as well as exchange students from China studying at Westminster College. Finally, UCCD facilitated a meeting between Joseph Borich and members of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, World Trade Center Utah, and the Salt Lake Chamber, and helped foster a potential partnership between Washington State and the State of Utah with respect to China. As Joseph Borich wrote following the event, "I left the Tuesday morning meeting with the business and trade associations convinced that there is much our two states could do

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Voices from the Teachers Exchange Program

For fifteen years, the U.S.-China Teachers Exchange Program (TEP), generously supported by the Freeman Foundation, has sent American K-12 teachers to China and brought Chinese secondary school teachers to the United States for an academic year. Since the program began, about 300 Chinese and 100 American teachers have each taught hundreds of students in their host country and returned home with innovative ideas and a wealth of knowledge about life in their host country. The 2010-2011 academic year program includes twelve Chinese and six American teachers. The following essays offer the perspectives of a current American teacher, Robyn Crispe, at the No. 42 Senior Middle School in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, and Chinese teacher Fan Hongya, who spent the 2000-2001 academic year at Snowden International School in Boston.



2010 - 2011 Teachers Exchange Program participant Robyn Crispe at the No. 42 Senior Middle School in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province

It's Not About the Lesson Robyn Crispe

Shortly after a visit by Margot Landman, National Committee senior director for education programs (and as result of her suggestion), I was given a desk in an office shared with three Chinese teachers. This allowed me to set up office hours and be available to students who wanted to have English conversations with me outside of class. I told my classes that I'd be in the office from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. every weekday and they could come by whenever they wanted. Eight students showed up on the first day and more came during the rest of the week. Last week 20 students came on one day, and the average has been around 8-12 per day. This has made a huge difference in my relationships with the students who show up. So far there has been a core group of girls who come every day. Other students come when they can and there are a few boys who have stopped by. I let them guide the hour. Usually someone has something for me to read so they can all hear the pronunciation. Or they read an essay from their English book for speaking practice. Then they just want to talk. They ask me questions about my life in America, my family, high school students, daily life and what people do during Christmas and on vacation. They are so curious.

During the first week, one student said, "I want to sing a song for you" (after telling me how shy she is). Then in a lovely voice with near-perfect pronunciation, she sang parts of two songs from *High School Musical*. It was a moment. I took it

in: I'm sitting in a third floor office, furnished with three old-fashioned, wooden desks and matching wooden chairs; a broken mirror rests on some boxes next to a landline phone and a radiator is installed against the wall below a window that looks out over the misty (smoggy) city. The students are dressed alike in the mandatory school uniform (purple track suits), standing and sitting, watching their classmate, with admiring attention, sing an American song.

I do not take these seemingly "normal" occurrences for granted. Sometime before I had the office space, a couple of students stopped me after class and asked if they could meet with me the next Sunday to practice English. We decided to meet by the school gate and go for a walk in the nearby Water Park. When I showed up they were waiting for me along with two more students. We spent the next hour walking through the park asking each other questions about our lives and trading translations. We passed an older man just as I was reciting for my students the correct way to order dumplings [in Chinese]. The man said something that made all the girls laugh.

"What did he say?"

"He said you should eat noodles, not dumplings!"

I'll always remember this whenever I eat either noodles or dumplings.

On another occasion two students came up to me after class and invited me to see the new Harry Potter movie with them. It was another simple, normal, everyday activity. I lost interest in Harry Potter after I finished the last book a few years ago and this was not a movie I would have seen on my own. But that wasn't the point. The point was that two students wanted to spend some time with me outside of class and were being thoughtful by inviting me to a movie. Sitting in that Chinese theater in between my students watching a movie (in English, with Chinese sub-titles)

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Sichuan - Gulf Coast Redevelopment Exchange

Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the Sichuan Earthquake in China were devastating disasters that had profound impacts on disaster preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction efforts in both countries. Believing that the lessons learned in the wake of these catastrophes would be valuable in shaping future developments in both societies, the National Committee collaborated with the Institute for Sustainable Communities to create a two-part exchange focusing on post-disaster reconstruction and sustainable development for American and Chinese specialists from local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan Province have been a fertile place for the development of domestic Chinese NGOs; as local governments were overwhelmed with the scope of the disaster, there

was an unprecedented openness to assistance from non-governmental organizations, whose presence has been sustained into the period of reconstruction that followed. The first portion of the exchange brought a group from Sichuan for meetings in Washington, D.C., New Orleans, the Mississippi coast, and San Francisco from April 24 to May 7, 2010; the Committee selected two local government officials and six NGO leaders as members of the delegation, with expertise in areas such as green building, the development of rural economies and water quality.

The group met with a diverse range of people, including NGO leaders, academics, federal government officials, mayors and other municipal officials. In Washington, D.C., the focus was on the federal government's role in disaster recovery and the work of larger NGOs, through meetings at the Federal Emergency Management Agency,

the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the World Wildlife Fund, the Red Cross and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Delegation members also had the opportunity to share their perspective on the rebuilding process in Sichuan when two members gave presentations at a public program arranged by the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, with the entire group participating in the discussion session that followed.

The Gulf Coast portion of the visit left an indelible impression on the Chinese participants. In addition to New Orleans, they spent time in affected communities on the Mississippi coast, including Biloxi, Gulfport and Moss Point, where they met with mayors, local government officials and community leaders. Meetings with individuals and at organizations that played a variety of roles in the post-disaster recovery process gave the visitors a more complete and nuanced understanding of the interactions between government and civil society in the United States. During the group's stay in the region, the situation with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill intensified, providing an important



Chinese participants from the Sustainability in Post-Disaster Reconstruction Program visit HOPE Community Development Agency and the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio in Biloxi, Mississippi

topic of discussion in meetings and an opportunity for the Chinese to see the successes and challenges of local governments and NGOs responding to an unfolding crisis. The group's visit was covered by media outlets in Biloxi and Gulfport, including a spot on the evening television news.

The Chinese participants were very engaged in the study visit and took home a wealth of new information about volunteer management, fundraising, NGO-government collaboration, organizational management and other useful topics. As many of them are leaders of their organizations, they are in positions to implement best practices and share them with other organizations. The inclusion of two thoughtful and engaged government officials who not only learned from the trip but also could articulate the financial, political and practical pressures faced by the government provided very useful new perspectives to the NGO participants.

The China portion of the exchange took place from October 22 to November 5, 2010, in Beijing and various earthquake affected areas in Sichuan. The delegation included, among others, executive directors of NGOs and a foundation, a community planner, and a government official from the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority. The group was fortunate to be joined by scholar-escort Helen McCabe, a professor at Hobart and William Smiths Colleges, and fellow in the National Committee's Public Intellectuals Program. Helen, an expert on civil society in China, was conducting research in China as a Fulbright scholar.

The Beijing portion of the program provided an introduction to the work of civil society groups in China, particularly in relation to the Sichuan earthquake. Participants met with some of the most qualified people in Beijing on these topics, including Dr. Wang Zhenyao, a former official with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and director of the



Stephen Crim of Gulf Coast Community Design Studio speaks with the Yujiang Village party secretary (with interpreter Shan Tsen) about post-disaster reconstruction, which was aided by the Green Hometown Project

Office of National Disaster Reduction during the Wenchuan earthquake; Ms. Zhang Ye, former country director for the Asia Foundation and an expert on the work of civil society groups in China; Dr. Zhu Jiangang, director of the Institute for Civil Society, a leading organization that conducts research on and trainings for civil society groups in southern China; and Dr. Deng Guosheng, head of the NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University. The group also had an excellent introduction to philanthropy in China during a meeting with Xu Yongguang, secretary general of the Narada Foundation, a groundbreaking philanthropic organization in China that actively responded to the Sichuan earthquake.

The delegation spent most of its time visiting project sites in rural Sichuan, including a micro-credit project, a green planning program, an "incubator" for small NGOs, and organizations that played important coordinating roles after the earthquake. The group spent several days in earthquake-affected areas, where they attended meetings with repre-

sentatives from a range of organizations. Of particular interest was the New Hometown Project (NHP), a collaboration of four NGOs that provided a range of relevant services to affected communities and produced and distributed a best-practices manual to other civil society groups in the area; in light of its work, NHP also serves as a research site for the Institute for Civil Society. The visit culminated with a two-day conference in Chengdu that was attended by the American group and nearly all of the Chinese who had been members of the delegation that visited the States.

The National Committee is grateful to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which funded the program. ■

Young Leaders Forum 2010 in Sonoma, California

One of the National Committee's flagship programs since its launch in 2002, the Young Leaders Forum (YLF) annually brings together under-40-year-old Chinese and American stars from various fields and professions to increase their understanding of the other country and build stronger networks and friendships. The Forum alternates between the United States and China, and is supplemented by ad hoc activities in the intervening months. The 2010 Forum, attended by over thirty fellows, was held at a seaside inn in Sonoma County, California, October 13-17, 2010.

The achievements and diversity of the fellows – who this year included, among others, the managing director of China's leading cellphone payment services company, an economist at the Boston Federal Reserve, a Chinese musician/music entrepreneur, and the American director of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing, laid the groundwork for the

dynamic nature of the forum and ensured the depth of the personal relationships forged there.

This year's theme was Artifacts of Life. Ahead of the forum, participants were asked to develop a brief presentation about two different objects that each have significance and provide insights into who they are. Fellows gave great advanced thought to their presentation, and arrived ready to show and discuss objects that sparked interesting discussions. A description of a selection of the presentations follows:

- A Chinese YLFer showed a replica of a "Three Good" student certificate that, to his dismay and humiliation, his father had returned to the school after he caught his son taking money from his own piggy bank, even though it had been to treat other kids to ice cream. The ensuing conversation focused on ethics.
- An American presented her birth certificate. Adopted as a 4½-month-old baby, she pointed out that the name listed on the form is different

from the name she uses today, that her biological mother's name was far too common to ever be tracked down, and that there's a blank where her biological father's name should be listed. The discussion quickly moved to one about identity, and the DNA testing she has undergone to learn more about herself, since her adoptive family can only provide the most cursory of answers to her questions.

- A Chinese showed a picture of himself and his wife in the Antarctic and mentioned how being there had brought home to them the tremendous threat of global warming, which led to a discussion of how the two countries are addressing climate change issues.
- An American brought a stuffed animal, the only personal item he retained from his childhood. It has moved with him from home to home, now over a dozen times. If he had to pick between it and his girlfriend, he reported, his girlfriend might lose out.
- A Chinese also brought a stuffed animal – the same sort as the ones he and his wife took to Sichuan to give (along with other needed things) to children orphaned by the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. His presentation led to a discussion of the aftermath of the earthquake and changes in the Chinese government's attitude toward the non-governmental sector.
- An American passed around a handful of sunflower seeds made of porcelain...and explained that he had grabbed them days earlier while attending Chinese conceptual artist Ai Weiwei's opening at the Tate Modern in London – for

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Current and Alumni YLF fellows during a team-building activity at the 2010 Forum in Sonoma, California

Public Intellectuals Program Round Two

The Public Intellectuals Program is designed to nurture a new generation of China specialists who have the interest and potential to play roles as public intellectuals. Through a varied set of activities, the program helps twenty young American China scholars and specialists deepen and broaden their knowledge about China's politics, economics, and society, and encourages them to use this knowledge to inform policy and public opinion. The aim is to upgrade the quality of the American public's understanding of China by strengthening links among U.S. academics, policymakers, and opinion leaders. The two-year program includes two meetings in Washington focusing on the D.C.-based China policy community; a meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area; trips to China as a cohort; participation in National Committee programs as scholar-escorts; and a requirement that the Fellows organize local public education programs. The first two rounds (2005-07 and 2008-10) were generously funded by The Henry Luce Foundation and The Starr Foundation. The National Committee recently received funding from the same foundations for a third round of the program (2011-2013).

The last plenary meeting of the second round of the Public Intellectuals Program (PIP) came to a close in November 2010 with a visit by the fellows to Washington, D.C. Sessions were held with senior officials, policy makers and other public intellectuals, including a discussion on Sino-Japanese relations with PIP advisory committee member Alan

Romberg, director of the East Asia program at the Henry L. Stimson Center; a talk with Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Derek Mitchell; a roundtable with Congressional staffers on Congressional views of China; and a State Department briefing with Assistant Secretary for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mongolia David Shear, among other meetings. Fellows built on the broadcast media training they received during the first D.C. program via a meeting at the Washington Post with former Beijing-based reporter John Pomfret and Executive Editor Marcus Brauchli. These program components are essential for preparing the fellows to act as resources for the media and to write and speak to general audiences about China.

The group also had the opportunity for a dinner with the head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, Ambassador Jason Yuan, followed the next

evening by dinner with the PRC Ambassador to the United States Zhang Yesui.

Eight fellows also gave presentations to the group on topics ranging from China's criminal law system to the Chinese leadership's response to demographic challenges. The fellows also had many opportunities for informal discussions throughout the weekend, helping to further the useful connections among this network of accomplished specialists.

Earlier in the year, from June 19 to 29, 2010, the second cohort of fellows visited Beijing, Chongqing, Guang'an (Deng Xiaoping's birthplace), Chengdu and environs (including areas affected by the 2008 earthquake), and Hong Kong. The first cohort went to the PRC and Taiwan in June 2009.

On their first night in Beijing, the PIP fellows met with participants in the National Committee's Track II economic dialogue, including National Committee Chair Carla Hills, President Stephen Orlins, Director Nicholas Lardy and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin. The group also met with Madame He Liliang, a diplomat and the wife of former ambassador, foreign minister and vice premier Huang Hua, at her courtyard home. (Sadly, Huang Hua, an old friend of the

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Public Intellectuals Program fellows at the November 2010 conference in Washington, D.C.

Educational Exchanges

Since 1981, the National Committee has administered the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program to China and education delegation visits to the United States on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (and its predecessors) and China's Ministry of Education, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries. Each year, the National Committee sends one or two groups of American educators to China for one-month study tours and invites two delegations of Chinese educators to the United States. The programs provide an abundance of insights, information and innovative ideas that benefit the individual educators and enhance the schools, districts and communities in which they live and work.

Fulbright-Hays Seminar to China

Sixteen college and university educators visited Beijing, Xi'an, Chongqing and Shanghai from June 30 to July 26, with an optional extension trip to Hong Kong until July 30. The theme was China's history and culture, suitably broad for the wide range of expertise represented by the participants – we had specialists from across the United States (from New England to the West Coast, from the southeast to the southwest, from the Midwest to the mid-Atlantic) in art history, economics, English, English as a Second Language, Spanish, Japanese, education, anthropology, linguistics, business administration, and communication. Briefings and site visits offered the participants insights into most of these areas, as well as others, both in historical

context and in contemporary China.

Building on feedback from prior years, some lecturers from the past were invited to speak again; we also added new topics and speakers. Highly acclaimed repeat speakers included representatives of the Beijing Legal Aid Office for Migrant Workers and the Beijing Legal Aid and Research Center for Teenagers and professors from Northwest University in Xi'an, Chongqing University, and Fudan University in Shanghai. Once again, the visit to the Dandelion School in Beijing, a middle school for the children of migrant workers, was a great success.

New in 2010 were factory visits, on the itinerary of early delegation trips to China, but dropped in recent years. Coincidentally, both factories were devoted to automobiles and auto parts, the first outside of Chongqing and the second in Shanghai. Some participants also elected to visit the World Expo in

Shanghai; others chose to join a tour of Jewish sites in Shanghai.

Upon their return to the United States, program participants are required to develop curriculum projects based on their trip to China and subsequent research. We post the projects on our web site. Some educators find other ways to incorporate China into their work. In late January a 2010 participant told us about some of his activities:

"I have really been able to add information from my China experience, not only into my classes, but also into some talks. I addressed a leadership group last November and spent some of the time talking about my experience and observations. In December, I combined some of the PowerPoint that is part of my project with some other data and observations about China to a group of business leaders; they really loved it. In January, I was able to weave in some of the China experience for a program for high school students in the local area."

The same professor would like to return to China during his spring 2012 sabbatical, both to teach and to continue his own learning about China. ■



Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad in China participant Laura Amrhein visits with the children of migrant laborers at the Dandelion School in Beijing

Education Delegation on Career Counseling

In 1999, one million students graduated from Chinese universities; ten years later that number increased to more than six million. Until 1994, graduates were assigned jobs by the state, since then, however, new graduates have had to find employment on their own. To help these students, career counseling has been introduced on some college campuses, but the field is still new in China. Following two successful delegations on the theme of university career counseling in 2009, and with the topic gaining importance due to high unemployment rates among recent college graduates in both the United States and China, the National Committee conducted a study tour for Chinese specialists that included Washington, D.C., Milwaukee, Little Rock and Los Angeles from November 6 to 19, 2010. The eleven-member delegation included administrators and heads of student centers at Chinese universities and colleges well suited to implement new ideas and share them with colleagues.

The intensive study tour examined career counseling, workforce development issues and employment initiatives in the United States through briefings at federal, state and local government agencies, visits to public and private colleges and universities, and meetings with independent career centers, non-profit organizations and employers. Site visits and meetings were also designed to show the variety and diversity of American educational institutions. The itinerary offered lessons on U.S. history and culture through visits to historical sites and landmarks, time at museums and excellent home hospitality dinners in Milwaukee and Little Rock. The leader of the eleven-person delegation was the deputy secretary-general of the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission



Members of the Education Delegation on Career Counseling were briefed on the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles

and director of the Shanghai Center for Student Affairs.

In Washington, D.C., the group attended informative meetings at government agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor; and at organizations that included a session with the executive director of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), which provides information and helps connect employers and universities. Delegation members found this meeting so productive that a follow-up meeting on the same topic was arranged with the director of the University of California, Los Angeles Career Center, a past president of NACE, during the Los Angeles portion of the study tour.

The stay in Milwaukee included visits to the Milwaukee School of Engineering; the Milwaukee Area Technical College; Mount Mary College; SCORE, a non-profit organization staffed largely by volunteers who provide free business mentoring services to new entrepreneurs; and Rockwell Automation, a major multinational corporation based in the city. A highlight was an evening at the home of an elementary school principal who has worked with the National Committee's Teachers

Exchange Program. She prepared a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the delegation members. While they enjoyed the turkey and trimmings, the highlight of the evening was meeting her two children, both of whom were adopted from China.

To complement earlier meetings at the federal Department of Labor, the group met with officials at local government offices involved in workforce development in Little Rock, including the Office of Apprenticeship and Construction Training, Arkansas Department of Career Education. A visit to the Little Rock Workforce Investment Board and One Stop Center helped define the role of one stop centers and the relationship between federal and local programs. The delegation members also attended a valuable roundtable with representatives from several leading local businesses at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, where they learned about recruiting from the perspective of employers and the role of internship programs.

The second home hospitality experience was provided by a participant in the 2010 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad program who lives in Little Rock. She invited a number

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CHINA Town Hall continued from page 8

together with respect to China and I hope that we can start a dialogue to help flesh out that idea.”

Robert Daly

*Maryland China Initiative (Speaker)
Fort Smith, Arkansas*

The value that the Fort Smith community placed on the National Committee’s CHINA Town Hall program was reflected in the warm reception I received there. I met with the president and provost of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, both of whom attended the evening’s events, and dined with administrators and students. Their concerns were no different than those in any other region of the country: How can we improve our Chinese language and area studies offerings? What are the best study abroad programs in China? How can we tell which Chinese undergraduates to admit when they all look equally worthy on paper? How can we attract Chinese investment to western Arkansas? And, most importantly, what will a rising China desire and demand?

At my hosts’ suggestion, I first spoke on historical and cultural factors shaping China’s rise and U.S. China policy. We then listened to Ambassador Huntsman’s comments, which were followed by an hour’s Q&A. Despite the nearly three-hour long program, many participants lingered afterward for further discussion. The urgency of Fort Smith’s interest in understanding China and in developing institutional responses—both academic and economic—to the opportunities posed by China’s development underscored the need for more public programming of this sort.

Cedric Suzman

*World Affairs Council of Atlanta (Venue)
Atlanta, Georgia*

The 2010 CHINA Town Hall

program held in partnership with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations was once again a great success.

The evening program was preceded by an invitation-only roundtable discussion with the local speakers and about 15 senior business executives. The conversation explored the problems faced by U.S. companies in China and was thoughtful and extremely candid. Dr. Ira Kasoff, the National Committee speaker, proved to be an excellent choice to lead the discussion and Professor Fei-ling Wang, Georgia Institute of Technology, added a very valuable perspective on the present and future political leadership in China. Professor Penelope Prime, Mercer University, was invited to contribute her economic and business perspective. Having this special meeting was a very important contribution to the overall value of the program to our senior corporate members and helps to position the Council as a source of information and expertise.

The Town Hall meeting was attended by close to 100 people from a broad cross section of the Council membership, Georgia State University Executive MBA students and alumni, and academics. Given the time of the video cast with Ambassador Huntsman, the program opened with comments by Dr. Kasoff and Professor Wang, with Professor Prime as moderator. The webcast presentation by Ambassador Huntsman and his discussion with Stephen Orlins generated a great deal of interest given his high profile, and we were delighted that a question from Atlanta was included in his responses.

The Town Hall programs offered by the NCUSCR have proved to be a highlight of our program year and a valuable way to hear from senior China experts. Given the interest in China on the part of business and the community as a whole, there are many programs on China presented in Atlanta. Nevertheless, the Town Halls continue to attract a good audi-

ence and we receive a consistently positive response from those who attend.

Henry Levine

*Albright Stonebridge Group (Speaker)
New Orleans, Louisiana*

In New Orleans this past year, as expected, I fielded a number of questions on U.S.-China economic relations, the value of the RMB, the outlook for increased Louisiana exports to China, and “doing business in China” topics. But I was also asked about the issue of tainted drywall from China, which had affected some people in the New Orleans area. One person in the audience was an expert on Tibet and held passionate views regarding human rights issues there. Another was very concerned over the potential for a nuclear-armed North Korea and wanted to explore the nature of China’s role in solving that problem.

Each Town Hall session has underscored for me that there is no foreign policy issue more important for us, our children, and our grandchildren than the nature of U.S.-China relations and China’s interaction with the world.

But unlike Europe or Latin America, China is very far away and its culture, language, and political and economic systems are unfamiliar, even strange, to most Americans. There is a strong and growing group of China experts in government, academic, and other institutions in the United States. However, developments in China and in U.S.-China relations affect all Americans and Americans across the country need a better understanding of China and of the dynamics of U.S.-China relations.

The CHINA Town Hall program is unique in its broad and sustained effort to increase the understanding of China by people across the US. For this reason I have been pleased, and proud, to participate every year.

David Pietz

Washington State University
(Venue)
Pullman, Washington

At Washington State University, the CHINA Town Hall represented an important opportunity to engage our community in a unique and critically important manner. We do not have the resources to sustain these sorts of events, and we are in a geographic region whereby we cannot easily take advantage of resources available in a large metropolitan area with multiple institutions. Having a noted China expert come to our campus to discuss political developments in China coupled with the webcast with Ambassador Huntsman allowed our constituents a valuable opportunity to focus on the critical issues shaping Sino-U.S. relations. Our students are increasingly attracted to China studies, and having these sorts of opportunities to sustain that interest is vitally important to our academic programs. Our community and region, likewise, is increasingly cognizant of its cultural, social, and economic ties to China and East Asia (e.g., agricultural exports), so these events serve to reinforce the importance of working to maintain a healthy relationship between the U.S. and China. We certainly hope that this event can be a recurring and regular part of our China programming. ■

Members' Bookshelf

*A listing of recent books and special reports by National Committee members is available on the National Committee web site:
www.ncuscr.org/ourresources/members-bookshelf*

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an exhibit of a hundred million hand-formed and hand-painted seeds, laid out on the floor. He then described his part in the creative process – how he was sitting with his friend Ai Weiwei three years earlier, eating sunflower seeds, when the notion of a massive work of art involving sunflower seeds began to take shape.

- A Chinese brought a copy of his childhood *hukou* (household registration booklet), and explained that the document – which established his residency in the countryside, not the city – prevented him from attending kindergarten when his family moved into the city, and how that affected his life. It led to an interesting discussion about the *hukou* system, with some of the alumni invoking YLF alumnus Xu Zhiyong, a lawyer who in 2003 successfully petitioned the Chinese government to end an abuse connected with the system.

- An American brought an illustrated family tree, going back several generations, that she and her husband created to show their multicultural families where they had come from, as well as the book that her husband and daughters are writing for her, with a new chapter (complete with illustrations) completed on each of her birthdays. Family life was the focus of the discussion that followed her presentation.

The forum balanced lively

exchanges and discussions with activities outside the conference room, including a hands-on lesson in wine blending with local experts; a visit to Fort Ross, the southernmost settlement of Russian colonization in North America; a race and scavenger hunt on the Russian River in two-person kayaks; and a lecture by two Ansel Adams experts, who discussed the photographer's local connections.

Forum guest speaker Dr. Thomas Fingar, a National Committee director and the Oksenberg/Rohlen Distinguished Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, led an engaging discussion about overcoming mutual suspicion and increasing cooperation between the United States and China. Dr. Fingar's comments and answers to fellows' questions, all moderated by National Committee president Stephen Orlins, encouraged the fellows to address issues in the U.S.-China relationship more directly in their subsequent conversations, both public and private.

The 2010 Young Leaders Forum was made possible through the very generous support of the ACE Charitable Foundation, with additional funding from Aetos Capital. A 10th anniversary celebration, scheduled for October 2011 in China, will invite back all the Forum fellows who have participated in YLF since its inception. ■



Young Leaders Forum fellows at the 2010 Forum in Sonoma, California

Teachers Exchange Program
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was another beautiful highlight of my time here so far.

I often wonder how much is actually happening in the classroom. I see 14 classes of 68 students once a week for 40 minutes. Many of these students know very little English. Some have no desire to be there. Often I'll quiz them on main points of lessons and only a few can (or will) venture to answer.

But the real work and connections seem to be happening in the small group, non-classroom activities – the walk in the park, the movie, the casual chats after class, the office hour sessions. These are the times when the shy students start talking. They let their curiosity show and they are vulnerable with their English.

I am (hopefully) creating a space in which they feel safe to ask questions. If they don't have questions they seem happy to observe whatever conversation is happening. They are taking it in and processing. And they are beyond considerate of me. I had so many good wishes for Christmas (a holiday that is not widely celebrated here); they are concerned (and shocked) if they find out I'm going to travel alone; they ask about my health and tell me to drink hot water (the ubiquitous home remedy).

My compassion for these students continues to grow. I feel heartbroken for the lives their grandparents endured (if they endured) and hope for what is possible for this generation. However locked down China remains, there seems to be more opportunity for those who pursue it.

Every day I wonder how I can make my lessons more effective, what will hold their attention and inspire them to increase their English language proficiency. I will always be learning and striving to improve, but whatever deficiencies I carry with me seem to diminish when I see those shy, smiling faces waiting for me at the office door at

1:00 p.m.

What We Should Do is Hold Our Ground

Fan Hongya

It is indeed hard to believe that ten years have passed since we came back to China. The scene is still vivid in my mind when my wife and daughter and Principal Li and Mr. Fu were expecting me anxiously and eagerly at Shanghai Pudong International Airport. I AM FINALLY BACK. This was what I wanted to say to them when I saw them.

What I decided to do was to get accustomed to the NEW environment, have some rest, meet friends once in a while and then try my best to get back to work. I was eager to work and meet my new students because I personally thought I mastered some advanced teaching methods or skills or strategies that I had learned from my American colleagues and I was definitely sure that my new Chinese students would be amazed by me as well as my new way of teaching. "Why do we have to put too much extra pressure on kids since they are still kids and they are humans?" That's what (TEP alum) Bill Bronski always said: "If kids get enough rest and have enough fun, they will probably

achieve more and love study throughout their life." That's what another teacher, Jack Regan (also a TEP alum), always said: "I would like to be a teacher who assigns the least homework and encourages students to achieve the most." That's what I always say and do.

Principals as well as my colleagues were more than happy to see me and they gave me a big welcome by arranging a huge banquet. We had lots of toasts and had the greatest fun that I had ever had. I am still grateful to my principals and colleagues because the welcome-back party was like welcoming a king. They really gave me more than I expected. The only thing I could do to repay them was to work hard and whole-heartedly for the school and, to be more exact, for my kids. Several colleagues attended my first lesson. Kids were wild with joy. No doubt they were charmed by my teaching. Some kids wrote articles on the Internet singing high praise for my teaching. When we had our selected course of English Culture, I got the most fans among all my English colleagues. Kids were happy to be at school, happy to learn, happy to harvest in their studies and they enjoyed their lives every day. During the mid-term and final tests, my kids got the best scores and some



Teachers Exchange Program participant Fan Hongya with students at Snowden International School in Boston during the 2000-2001 academic year

even made tremendous progress, much more than they had expected.

Study is always a serious matter and it is never a joke. As time went on and as the education situation developed, more and more pressure was added and students began to suffer. "Competition is fierce. If you don't study hard, how can you survive in the future competitive world?" "If you play with time, time will sooner or later play with you." "If you don't study hard to get knowledge today, you will try hard to get a job tomorrow." That is what teachers and parents always said to kids. Time is as precious as gold. Time is as precious as life. Evening classes began in several schools, and then in all schools. Weekends were almost fully occupied as precious time to study. More and more work was assigned; more and more test papers given out; and less and less leisure time given to kids. As national tests approached, the situation became even more serious. Kids, parents, teachers, administrators, and directors of Education Bureaus were driven crazy by the competitive tests. "We have to be responsible for all the kids, for all the parents, for the society and for the development of our nation. The only way for us to survive in the future is to get as much knowledge as possible while we are young," teachers often say to their kids.

So what is the use of what we learned in the U.S.? Shall we follow others and put just as much pressure on those poor kids? Some say yes while some say no. Or sometimes we say yes while sometimes we say no.

Several years ago, I did a bold experiment: when winter or summer holidays came, I said to my kids, "I will assign no homework to you during the holidays. When you are free and feel really bored by your idleness, do some English reading." When the holidays were over, the test results proved no different from those of kids in other classes. I always believe all gold glitters so long as it is gold, but if you polish gold too much and too often, it will perish or

disappear.

During the last summer holidays, I, as an expert teacher, attended a so-called advanced class for teacher development. When a question was raised about which we should choose between quality education or examination-oriented education, Mr. Chen, former director of our provincial teaching research organization, said, "We always stand for, push and promote quality education and try to abolish examination-oriented education, but obstacles are so strong that we sometimes find it hard to walk ahead. When there is a contradiction, what we should do is hold our ground." I couldn't agree more. ■

Public Intellectuals Program continued from page 13

Committee's from his time as China's representative to the U.N., died a few months after the visit). Her lively discussions—ranging from her life as a young revolutionary to views on Chinese history and present-day politics—are a perennial highlight of PIP visits to Beijing.

Contemporary developments in China were the focus of the discussions during a dinner hosted by Sebastian Wood, Great Britain's ambassador to China. Other Beijing meetings included Tong Lihua, a public interest lawyer working with migrant workers and children (and a former National Committee program participant); a discussion on the Internet in China with pop culture guru Kaiser Kuo; and a conversation with Wang Shuo, managing editor of Caixin Media, and his colleagues.

The visit to Guang'an, Deng Xiaoping's birthplace, was arranged through his daughter, Deng Rong, a longtime National Committee friend, and enhanced by esteemed senior scholar-escort and Harvard professor emeritus Ezra Vogel, who was finishing a long biography of Deng and is well known to the family. Deng Rong's personal assistant joined the party secretary of

Guang'an (along with photographers and a camera crew from the local television station) for the group's tour of the city and the Deng Xiaoping Library. National Committee Vice President Jan Berris presented the hosts with materials from the National Committee archives, featuring Deng's 1979 visit to the United States and various occasions when he met National Committee delegations.

Highlights of Chengdu were a dinner in the homes of families displaced by the 2008 earthquake who were living in temporary housing; a lunch and meeting with Ren Xuping—also known as the Rabbit King—an entrepreneur who, with a few rabbits and some assistance from Heifer International, has built a lucrative business and continues to work with Heifer and others to spread knowledge of rabbit husbandry to poor families in Sichuan; and several hours with Fan Jianchuan, a Chengdu real estate mogul who has created a large multi-building museum complex with extensive Cultural Revolution artifacts, in addition to vast collections on many other subjects and periods.

During the Hong Kong portion of the trip, the group discussed regional politics with Christine Loh, a former Hong Kong legislator who now runs the NGO Civic Exchange; had a meeting with U.S. Consul General Steve Young; talked with upcoming Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma about rule of law and legal interaction between the mainland and Hong Kong; and had dinner with a group of Hong Kong journalists including the publisher of Zhao Ziyang's memoir.

As a very successful second round of PIP closes and fellows complete their public outreach projects and make use of the contacts they have made, preparations for a third round are underway, with a new pool expected to be announced in June 2011. ■

In Memoriam



Long-time National director Henry Sailer in Texas with a 1978 mayors delegation to the United States

The National Committee is diminished by the loss in 2010 of two former board members, Henry Sailer and Richard Holbrooke, and long time supporter Houghton (Buck) Freeman.

Henry Sailer

Henry Sailer was one of our most devoted directors, as well as one of the longest serving (1972-93, 1994-2000, and 2001-05); for 22 of those 31 years he was a vice chairman. His generous financial contributions and his sage advice in general and at board and executive committee meetings in particular (and provision of space at his Covington & Burling D.C. office for some of those meetings) were always welcome. However, his greatest and most valued service to the Committee was the extraordinary generosity of his time and energy.

Henry was born in Beijing, where his father was a professor at Yenching University. He grew up on the campus (now Peking University), moving to the States at the age of 12

to attend Deerfield Academy. But those 12 years had such an impact on him that he remained devoted to China and the Chinese people throughout his life. The Chinese in return loved Henry, and never ceased to be amazed by his extraordinary ability to speak Chinese with a perfect Beijing accent, a skill most Chinese do not have.

He went back to China for a year when he was at Princeton University, and what a tumultuous year it was: 1949, the year the People's Republic was founded. His next visit was not until 1973 when he and his parents returned at the invitation of then Ambassador to the United Nations, Huang Hua, who had been his father's student. (During the civil war in China, Randolph Sailer had been very helpful to some of the revolutionary students on campus and his support was not forgotten.)

Henry made several other trips to China over the years, some with his family or friends, some with the National Committee: he went on all of our board of directors' trips in the 1980s and 90s and accompanied the

Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1980, on the trip the Committee helped organize to celebrate normalization of relations between the two countries.

It was, however, his assistance to the Committee in the 1970s through the 1990s that endeared him to the staff. When he joined the board, Henry volunteered to host any Chinese delegations visiting Washington and also to take time off from work to accompany delegations around the United States. We took him up on both offers. His assistance on delegations was tremendously helpful, as he would devote himself to the delegation leader, making sure that he (there were no female leaders in those days) was happy and attended to, thereby leaving the Committee staff free to worry about the myriad details of running the trip. And his home hospitality was legendary.

Mostly this consisted of meals (he delighted in grilling meat outdoors, no matter the weather), but on one occasion he put up an entire delegation, plus the National Committee escort, for four days! (It was a group of six people – he had a very large home to accommodate his family of five children.)

Henry's home was also always open to Committee staff members in need of an overnight (or more) stay in D.C. And he put up Mike Lampton for several months when he was transitioning from the Committee presidency to his new job at SAIS. His home was also open to wayward Chinese who needed a place to stay; his kids are convinced that somewhere in China there was a bulletin board with a notice saying that if you need housing in Washington, D.C., go to 2700 Upton Street, knock on the door and then



Henry Sailer and close friend Yao Jingrong

compliment the man who answers on his wonderful Chinese!

One of the people he put up for a while was Alice Yang, daughter of the former Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi. When her parents had to return to China, Alice was still in school and so Henry immediately opened his home to her. Even before that gracious gesture, the Embassy always had a private dinner party for him on his birthday.

Henry was always willing to represent the Committee at various functions in D.C. and endured endless rounds of dinners and lunches on our behalf. True to his personality, he hated the protocol parts but kept attending for us because he so loved the interaction with the delegation members – a sentiment that was totally reciprocated.

Henry was always impatient with protocol and formality and, despite his friendship with Chinese ambassadors and foreign ministers, much preferred being with the “workers. And he never forgot the hard work of the National Committee staff. In fact, for several years in the last decade, he very generously insisted on paying for a wonderful annual dinner celebration at the home of then-Committee President John Holden.

Henry was a curious mix: part imp, part curmudgeon; sometimes

gregarious, sometimes solitary; but to his friends there was no one more charming or generous.

Richard Holbrooke

Richard Holbrooke has been eulogized and praised by friends and even foes since his sudden death in December. The country lost an extraordinary public servant; *The Washington Post* put it so eloquently: “a one-of-a-kind presence who helped define American national security strategy over 40 years and three wars by connecting Washington politicians with New

York elites and influential figures in capitals worldwide. He seemed to live on airplanes and move with equal confidence through Upper East Side cocktail parties, the halls of the White House and the slums of Pakistan.”

The National Committee was fortunate to work with him closely when he was assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1976 to 1980, and then as a board member from 1986 to 1992. When Richard was at State he was always willing to attend and even speak at our functions and welcome our Chinese delegations. When he went into the private sector, he could also always be counted on to do those things, as well, even before he joined our board.

National Committee President Steve Orlins was particularly close to Richard, having met him 34 years ago when Steve was assigned as an attorney-advisor to the office of the Assistant Legal Advisor for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the State Department. As the newly minted assistant secretary, Richard was that office’s chief client. When Steve met him for the first time, Richard’s rapid-fire questions about Steve’s legal background and Chinese language skills led Steve to wonder whether he would be able to deal with this brash, youngest-in-U.S.-history assistant secretary. At that



Steve Orlins and Richard Holbrooke outside the Beijing Hotel in 1985



Richard Holbrooke with Ambassador Zhang Wenpu

moment, he could not have imagined that they would become life-long friends.

To quote Steve: “He was not easy to work for. He demanded absolute loyalty and perfection in our work, yet gave us only some of the facts. He pushed us to the breaking point in pursuit of the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. I can’t remember taking a vacation for months immediately before or after the historic event. When we became partners at Lehman Brothers and shared an office, he would never let me forget that only a few years earlier we had been civil servants working for civil service pay—and he never let me forget that we would serve again. We completed some historic deals for Lehman, such as the first financing in Hong Kong whose maturity extended beyond the handover in 1997, but his heart was never truly in the world of finance. He yearned to return to government service.”

He did so in 1993 with a series of senior positions: Ambassador to Germany; Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, during which time he was the chief architect of the Dayton Peace Agreement; Ambassador to the United Nations, and at his death, the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Even as a private citizen he couldn’t stay away from public policy, serving as special envoy to Bosnia and Kosovo and special envoy to Cyprus on a pro-bono basis.

Richard had a deep moral sense and pushed hard on subjects such as HIV/AIDS, recognizing much earlier than other public leaders that if left

unchecked, it could have global security consequences. He was also deeply concerned about Tibet and his trip there under National Committee auspices in 1991 made him even more committed to helping resolve the tensions between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government.

He never forgot his old friends. Among Chinese officials, he was particularly fond of Zhang Wenpu, who was his counterpart in the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the 1970s. The National Committee was also very close to Ambassador Zhang and any time we knew he was going to be in the States, we let Richard know so he could make time to see the ambassador. On one occasion Richard bought him, a traveling companion and a Committee staff member orchestra tickets to Broadway’s *Les Misérables* because he knew it was one of Ambassador Zhang’s favorite books.



Houghton “Buck” Freeman with Minister Counsellor Cong Jun at the 2003 NCUSCR Gala Dinner at which he was honored

Whenever we called upon him we knew that he would always do his best to help. At the swearing-in of a mutual friend, Karl Eikenberry, as U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Steve wanted to talk with Secretary Hillary Clinton, so Richard grabbed Steve’s arm and marched him over to her. Before Richard finished making his case, Secretary Clinton cut him off and said to Steve, “I will do this because I think it’s right and because if I didn’t, he wouldn’t let me sleep until he changed my mind.” That was vintage Holbrooke.

Houghton “Buck” Freeman

As chair of the Freeman Foundation, Houghton Freeman was a vigorous advocate of constructive relations and better understanding between the United States and China; he had a profound impact on the lives of many. The National Committee is very grateful for his generous underwriting of several of our programs.

Houghton Freeman had a lifelong relationship with China. His father, Mansfield Freeman, taught at Beijing’s Tsinghua University in the early 1920s before moving to Shanghai to help C.V. Starr to build the first American company to sell insurance in China, which later became the American International

Group (AIG). Buck (as he was known to his friends) was born in Shanghai in 1921, was educated there and served in U.S. Naval Intelligence in the South Pacific and China during World War II. He attended Wesleyan University (graduating as that school's first Japanese major) before joining AIG in Shanghai. In the wake of the 1949 revolution, which forced the closure of AIG offices in China, he operated from Tokyo. By 1991, Freeman was CEO of AIG companies in Asia and, until his retirement in 1994, served as an AIG director and AIG Vice Chairman for Foreign General Insurance.

In 1993, a year after his father died, Buck took over the administration of the Foundation, one of the largest in the country, along with his wife, Doreen and son, Graeme. Reflecting his father's stated vision, Mr. Freeman steered the Foundation's objectives to include, among other things, "strengthening the bonds of friendship between this country and the countries of the Far East, to develop a greater appreciation of oriental cultures in this country and a better understanding of American institutions and purposes on the part of the peoples of East Asia." Under Mr. Freeman's leadership, the Foundation devoted approximately two-thirds of its support to Asia-related projects.

In 1995, the National Committee received a multi-year grant to carry out a series of activities designed to educate American leaders about China, including members of Congress, military and security leaders, and opinion makers in the print and broadcast media. Also in 1995, the Foundation funded the newly-formed U.S.-China Teachers Exchange Program (TEP), then housed at the American Council of Learned Societies; support for that project continued when TEP moved to the National Committee in 2002 and we are most grateful for the ongoing funding. In 2003 we honored Mr. Freeman and the Foundation at our Gala dinner in

recognition of the tremendous contribution both had made to educating Americans about China and Chinese about the United States.

Houghton Freeman's vision and practicality encouraged more sophisticated understanding between the United States and China and made a difference in the lives and futures of thousands in Asia and America and facilitated their working together toward common goals. He believed that the most effective way to overcome obstacles in the Sino-American relationship is through sustained face-to-face contact and discussion. Through his unswerving support of the National Committee and many other organizations, Houghton Freeman and the Freeman Foundation have enabled genuine exchange and true learning to take place. ■

Education Delegation
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of friends and colleagues, including several faculty members at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, for a dinner among young professionals and academics that provided an interesting perspective on American society.

The final stop, in Los Angeles, included an informative meeting with a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) representative at the University of Southern California, a program that the group found fascinating. The director of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Career Center gave an outstanding overview of career counseling and career centers at American universities and colleges, emphasizing that the centers do not just act as employment agencies, but also teach "life skills" and provide access to experiential learning and employment opportunities to help students explore realistic career options and goals. ■

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