

NEWSLETTER

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Happy Chinese New Year - Year of the Rabbit



CHINESE NEW YEAR PICNIC

Come and join us to celebrate the Chinese New Year on 13 February 2011.

Where: Fitzroy Gardens, Clarendon Street, East Melbourne. (Look for Gold and Red Ballons)

Time: 12:00 noon onwards.

What: BYO food to share, drinks glasses, chair & rug.
(If the weather is inclement, the picnic will be called off)

We are always looking for interesting stories and articles to share with our members. Any members who have great stories to tell please contact ACFS office or e-mail to: acfs.vic@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not always reflect those of the ACFS and its policies. Reliance upon information in this Newsletter requires independent verification of its accuracy or completeness





ACFS (Vic) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Executive and Committee of the ACFS (Vic) I wish our members and supporters a happy new year in this the year of the rabbit.

2011 is a significant year for our Society as it is the 60th Anniversary of our founding. In June or July 2011 a function will be arranged to celebrate this milestone. Stay tuned for further details.

Please don't forget our picnic at the Fitzroy Gardens on 13 February 2011 to celebrate Chinese New Year (which falls on 3 February 2011). I look forward to catching up with everyone on that day.

Another activity planned for this year is a proposal to send a junior AFL football team to China in about November. Planning has already started and further reports will follow.

We look forward to an interesting and productive year.

John D. Breheny
President ACFS (Vic)

Farewell Reception for Consul General Mr Shen Weilian

On January 14th this year ACFS Victorian Branch Vice President Mr Tower Liu attended the farewell reception for the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Melbourne Mr Shen Weilian's. Mr Liu attended at the invitation of the Consulate General.

Mr Shen has served two and half years in this diplomatic post in Melbourne. It is the second time he has served at the Melbourne office.

In his farewell speech he noted that in his time as Consulate General a great number of important events have occurred, including the Beijing Olympics, the 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the Shanghai World Expo, and the visit of China's vice president Xi Jinping to Australia. He said he will remember how beautiful Melbourne and Australia are.

The Farewell reception was attended by more than 500 people, including the Victorian Premier, Ted

Baillieu, the State Lower House Speaker and ACFS Victoria member Ken Smith and a number of Victorian Parliamentarians. The function was also attended by a number of Consul Generals from other Countries, together with members of the Victorian Chinese community.

The Victorian Branch of the ACFS wishes to thank Mr Shen for his great work in Victoria, his support of the ASCF and to wish him all the best for the future.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

ACFS members and supporters would not have failed to be aware of the constant and repeated criticism of China in the mass media over the last month or two, relating to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. The citation for this award reads "for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China".

On rare occasions there have been published other articles which criticize the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for bestowing this prestigious award on Liu Xiaobo.

Let's look at the facts behind this controversy:

1) Alfred Nobel directed in his Will that the Peace Prize should be awarded to a person who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promoting of peace congresses".

An examination of the recipients of the Peace Prize at least over the last 10 years indicates that only 3, perhaps 4 laureates appear to satisfy the specified criteria:

-the former secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan (2001)

-the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Director General Mohamed El Baradei (2005)

-the former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari (2008) and, perhaps,

-former U.S. President Jimmy Carter (2002).

Other recipients in this period were awarded the Peace Prize not for any of the 3 categories specified by Nobel, but for promoting Western-



style democracy and “human rights”, for advancing economic and social opportunities for the poor and for contributions to protecting the environment.

Added to this and looking further back, other recipients of the Peace prize include persons whose actions are in complete contradiction to Nobel's criteria and the sentiments they engender:

Henry Kissinger (1973)

Menachem Begin (1978)

F.W. de Klerk (1993)

Last year's recipient was Barak Obama (2010) who appears to have been honoured for his aspirations and enthusiasm.

We ask the question: Which of Nobel's originally stated criteria exactly did Liu meet to merit the prize?

2) Complicit with the mass media's criticism of China in this matter, is the criticism of the fact that Liu is presently serving a lengthy prison sentence, having been sentenced for crimes against the Chinese people. We ask what right does the developed West have to criticise the internal judicial system of China or, for that matter, any other country? If there is such a “right”, where was the criticism of Sweden over the laying of dubious charges against the Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, which were remarkably convenient in their timing?

3) When a Danish cartoonist insulted the Prophet Mohammad, the Muslim world was sanctimoniously told that freedom of the press was paramount to all other considerations. It is apparent that some press freedoms are more equal than others. Instead of accountability on the part of those who carry out and sanction illegal and criminal acts, by their actions Western governments are more interested in persecuting the person and the organisation (such as Wikileaks) that publicly reveals the lies and deceptions they seek to conceal.

4) If the Peace prize is to be awarded to those who advance economic and social opportunities to the poor (especially women) and eradicate human misery, then the government of the PRC is perhaps the most worthy recipient of all. It is an unarguable fact that since 1949, the Chinese government has overseen the biggest eradication of poverty in human history and is responsible for hundreds of millions of Chinese being lifted out of extreme and abject poverty into a semblance of life with dignity. For the vast majority, life today is infinitely better than before 1949 when Chairman Mao Ze Dong announced that the Chinese people had “stood up”.

5) It is apparent that the West does not appreciate the importance in China of stability of government for the peace and safety of the Chinese people. The past 4 to 5 centuries (and as recently as the first half of the 20th Century) have proved that periods of political volatility and disorder in China translate into instability, lawlessness and violence for ordinary people in the cities and villages of that country. Stability of government does not guarantee good government but history has shown time and time again that instability in government guarantees violence, upheaval and threats to personal safety.

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee is made up entirely and solely of Norwegians, whose country is advanced, developed and industrialised and does not have the experience of the grinding poverty and oppression that existed prior to 1949 for the vast majority of the Chinese people nor do the Committee members come from a country even remotely approaching the massive population of China.

6) The issue of course focuses on “human rights”. What in fact does this mean? The right of 1/5 of the world's population to live in a divided, under developed country without the capacity for defence against foreign invasion and occupation? The right to have 20% or more of the population functionally illiterate and oppressed by an institutionalised semi-feudal class system (like India or Indonesia etc) with no hope of improvement? The right to sleep under bridges....

7) If the Nobel Peace Prize is to be awarded for promoting peace, demilitarization and disarmament, Liu Xiaobo was not a worthy recipient. He in fact meets none of these criteria. If the criteria are to be “stretched”, then on the scale of human misery and its alleviation, instead of being the object of criticism and censure, the government of the PRC is a much more worthy recipient than any individual Chinese.

Many of the above points have recently been expressed by Ramash Thakur, former UN assistant Secretary General (c/f The Ottawa Citizen 23/12/2010) and others.

The ACFS brings these matters to your attention in an attempt to present what we consider to be a balanced view of this issue and to combat misrepresentations made about China.

John D. Breheny
ACFS (Vic) President
20/1/2011



Two Enormous!

A personal reflection on the world's two most populous nations

Bernadette O'Connor and Neil Barker

In 2010 we had the good fortune to visit the two most populous nations on our planet, China and India. The contrast was interesting.

In both countries we were made to feel welcome, were helped where needed and were fortunate to be able to engage in a number of interesting discussions.

The great part about human beings is their capacity to engage with each other, no matter the cultural, economic or language barriers. It has always been our experience when travelling in Australia or around

With a population of 1,155,347,678 (2009) in China and 1,331,460,000 (2009) in India both countries face significant infrastructure, environmental and social challenges.

The World Bank (<http://data.worldbank.org/country>) provides the following headline data about India and China:

	India	China
Life Expectancy	64 years (2008)	73 years (2008)
Literacy rate	63% (2006)	94% (2008)
Gross National Income per capita (<i>a reflection of the average income of a country's citizens</i>).	US \$1,180 (2009)	US\$3,650 (2009)

There are significant differences therefore between the two countries and in being a traveller in both, the differences are apparent. The significant difference between the obvious wealth and dire poverty was



the world that at a person-to-person level people are almost always friendly, considerate and kind, especially with others from outside their community. This was certainly our experience in both China and India.

China and India both have long and rich histories and a great diversity of cultural practices that reflect the many political states that have existed within and across their current national boundaries over many thousands of years.

This long and rich history provides for an impressive array of both human-made and natural environments. The majesty of the Taj Mahal, the splendour of Tiananmen Square, the peace and tranquillity of Mount Lushan and the beauty of the backwaters in Kerala are examples of what can be built and what can be preserved.

almost ever present in India and also apparent was difference in infrastructure, urban management, education and opportunity. It is almost impossible to presume the difficulties in providing for and planning for populations of the magnitudes of India and China, but if seeing is believing, it looks as if one country has the advantage over the other.

In our visit to China there was a clear dialogue about how to meet the many environmental and social challenges of today and of the future. There appeared to be a strong commitment to a more sustainable future, with efficient and effective public transport, consideration of renewable energies and careful city planning. The commitment was to a community approach to community problems and challenges.

It is interesting to note that the Southern Indian State of Kerala has since 1957 elected communist



governments for various periods of time. The life expectancy in Kerala is 71.3 years and the literacy rate is 90.9% (www.prokerala.com).

We did, of course, have the huge advantage in China of the hospitality and generosity of our hosts who shared information and friendship with us freely. We were not as privileged in India, and it is certainly true that greater opportunity may have afforded us a different view. Indians almost uniformly were very proud of their country and quick to assure us of their recent huge progress and increased benefit to many, none of which we doubted.

It is clear to us after these visits that the future of world is intimately tied to how these two nations meet many of the challenges ahead. We would like to think that it is within our ambit to make a difference. As John F Kennedy once suggested:

'Our problems are man-made, therefore they may be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings.'

Organisations such as the ACFS can attribute their success in part to a capacity for people-to-people cooperation. Formal structures such as the ACFS provide opportunities to broker particular relationships and partnerships that would be difficult to achieve at a formal business or governmental level.

It is important that the ACFS continue to endeavour to support effective people-to-people cooperation if we are, as John Kennedy suggests, to encourage humankind to be as big as it wants in solving our many human-made challenges.

TASMANIAN AND FUJIAN PROVINCE FRIENDSHIP 30TH ANNIVERSARY

ACFS TOUR HOSTED BY THE TASMANIAN BRANCH - 9 JUNE TO 20 JUNE 2011 XIAMEN, YONGDING, MT WUYI, QUANZHOU, FUZHOU

9 June 2011 Fly Melbourne – Xiamen

Board your overnight China Southern Airline international flight CZ322 departing Melbourne at 23:30

10 June 2011 Arrive Xiamen

Arrive Guangzhou at 06:00; transit China Southern Airline flight departing Guangzhou for Xiamen; this afternoon visit includes Huanda Road, Hulishan Fortress; overnight Metro Park Hotel for 2 nights. (-/L/D)

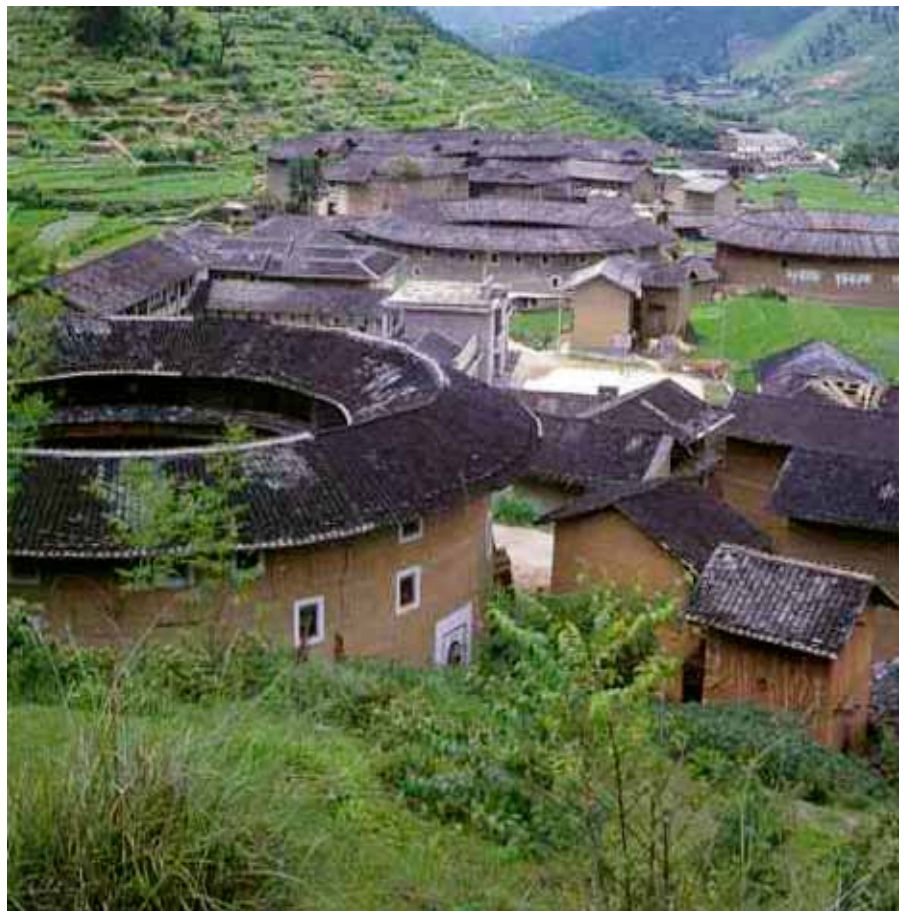
11 Jun 2011 Xiamen - Quanzhou

Day trip (1.5 hour by coach) to explore the Quanzhou Maritime Museum, Kaiyuan Temple, Tianhou Palace. (B/L/D)

12 June 2011 Xiamen – Yongding

Morning excursion by coach to Yongding, upon arrival in the early afternoon, we start to explore the famous Tianluokeng Hakka House, inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage, which was built in 1912 by the descendents of a rich tobacco merchant.

Stay at Overseas Guest House for 1 night. (B/L/D)



13 June 2011 Yongding – Xiamen

After visit the Tulou Folk Village, then we drive back to Xiamen for 2 nights.(B/L/D)



14 June 2011 Xiamen

Full day explore Gulanyu Island including Shuzhuang Garden, Piano Museum, Nanputuo Temple and enjoy Puppet Show (B/L/D)

15 June 2011 Xiamen – Wuyishan

Fly to Wuyishan, check in Baodao Intl Hotel for 2 nights; rest of the day visit Dahongpao Scenic areas and Suiliandong Scenic areas. (B/L/D)

16 June 2011 Wuyishan

Ride on the bamboo raft along the Nine Twist Stream to explore Wuyi Palace, Ancient Street and Tianyou Peak. (B/L/D)

17 June 2011 Train Wuyishan – Fuzhou

Free at leisure until take the tourist train to Fuzhou; stay at Jingcheng Hotel for 3 nights. (B/L/D)

18/19 June 2011 Fuzhou

Join in local sister city celebrations or attend trade fair, or city sightseeing. (B)

20 June 2011 Depart Fuzhou – Melbourne

Via Guangzhou Transfer to the airport for flight home.

21 June 2011

Arrive Melbourne

Optional tour 1

20 June 2011 Fly Fuzhou – Xian

Transfer to the airport for flight to Xian; upon arrival met & transfer to Xian Grand New World Hotel for 3 nights. (B)

21 June 2011 Xian

Full day excursion to explore the Terracotta Warriors, the picturesque Hot Spring and the historical Banpo Museum. (B/L/D)

22 June 2011 Xian

Full day free at leisure to explore. (B)

23 June 2011 Fly Xian – Guangzhou – Melbourne

Transfer to the airport for flight to Melbourne via Guangzhou

24 June 2011 Arrive Melbourne

Optional tour 2

20 June 2011 Fly Xiamen – Nanjing

Transfer to the airport for flight to Nanjing; arrival transfer to 4 star hotel for 2 nights. (B/-/D)

21 June 2011 Nanjing

Full day sightseeing tour includes Dr Sun Yatsen's Memorial Hall, Nanjing Provincial Museum, the Confucius Temple and the Nanking Bridge. (B/L/D)

22 June 2011 Nanjing – Suzhou

Take the train to Suzhou, upon arrival transfer to 4 star hotel for 2 nights (B/L/D)

23 June 2011 Suzhou

Full day sightseeing includes Humble Administrator Garden, Tiger Hill; cruise on the Grand Canal. (B/L/D)

24 June 2011 Train Suzhou – Hangzhou

Take the train to Hangzhou; upon arrival transfer to 4 star hotel for 2 nights. (B/L/D)

25 June 2011 Hangzhou

Cruise on the West Lake; visit Lingying Temple & Six Pagoda Temple as well as Dragon Well Tea Farm. (B/L/D)

26 June 2011 Hangzhou – Guangzhou – Melbourne

Free at leisure until transfer to the airport for flight to Melbourne via Guangzhou. (B)

27 June 2011 Arrive Melbourne

Price and inclusions

Fujian Province only, for passengers depart 09 June, return 20 June 2011

Price: \$2,350.00 per person (Twin share); single room supplement: \$450.

Minimum number required: 10 adults

Inclusions: Return airfares Melbourne-Xiamen//Fuzhou-Melbourne and taxes; Domestic flight Xiamen – Wuyishan; soft seat train Wuyishan-Fuzhou; 10 nights 4 Star hotel accommodation; chartered coach; sightseeing tours; entrance fees; meals as Specified; B-breakfast L-lunch D-dinner; local English speaking guide; Chinese visa application.

Fujian Province+ Optional Tour 1 Xian for passengers depart 09 June, return 23 June 2011

Price: \$2,925.00 per person (Twin share); single room supplement: \$625.



Minimum number required: 6 adults

Inclusions: Return airfares Melbourne-Xiamen// Xian-Melbourne and taxes; Domestic flight Xiamen – Wuyishan// Fuzhou-Xian soft seat train Wuyishan-Fuzhou; 12 nights 4 star hotel accommodation; chartered coach; sightseeing tours; entrance fees; meals as specified; B-breakfast L-lunch D-dinner; local English speaking guide; Chinese visa application.

Fujian Province & Optional tour 2, for passengers depart 09 June, return 26 June 2011

Price: \$3,348.00 per person (Twin share); single room supplement: \$800.

Minimum number required: 4 adults

Inclusions: Return airfares Melbourne-Xiamen// Hangzhou-Melbourne and taxes; Domestic flight Xiamen – Wuyishan // Fuzhou/Nanjing; soft seat train Wuyishan-Fuzhou//Nanjing-Suzhou-Hangzhou; 16 nights 4 Star hotel accommodation; chartered coach; sightseeing tours; entrance fees; meals as specified; B-breakfast L-lunch D-dinner; local English speaking guide; Chinese visa application.

Above costs exclude: Return airfares Tasmania – Melbourne; tipping to the local guide approx \$6 per person per day; meals not specified; compulsory travel insurance; exchange rate fluctuation.

Minimum traveler number has to be met to run the tour at the advertised price.

How to book the tour?

Non-refundable deposit

To book the tour, a non-refundable deposit \$330 per person with signed booking form is required before 15 March 2011; the final balance is due on 15 April 2011. (Our account details: CITS Australia Pty Ltd, BSB 063 020 A/C 1012 5484)

Contact

Please contact Robert Wang at CITS Travman Tours for any inquiries: Tel 1800 338 007 Fax 03 9600 3987 E-mail: wang@travman.com.au

Chinese visa application

Chinese visa is required for all travelers to China; your valid passports (at least 6-month validity), one passport photo and a completed Chinese visa application form will be required to

send to us when the final balance is due.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance to protect your deposit, overseas medical expenses, flight cancellation etc is compulsory. For more details please contact us.

Terms & conditions

Please read the full terms/conditions and cancellation clauses published on our website www.travman.com.au

Invitation Inquiry Letter of "SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH INTERACTIVE FRIENDSHIP CAMP 2011"

With a view to further promoting the exchange and friendship among the teenagers from different countries, the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Shanghai Youth Federation will jointly sponsor the Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp 2010 from July 18 - 28, 2011 in Shanghai, China.

The camp aims to set up a bridge of friendship and exchange platform beyond language and cultural barriers, to foster and develop a spirit of mutual help and cooperation among teenagers from different countries, and to advocate the building of a harmonious world.

Youth aged from 12 to 18 are invited to attend this event. The camp will also provide full-time teachers to ensure the safety of campers and offer personal accident insurance for them as well.

ACFS will send a 5-member delegation (include 1 teacher or adult leader). Participants shall be responsible for their own international travel expenses, while the cost of the event, board & lodging, and local transportation in and around Shanghai will be covered by hosts.

If you are interested attending the event, please e-mail: acfs.vic@gmail.com no later than Feb. 28, 2011.

A tentative program for "Shanghai International Youth Inactive Friendship Camp 2011" is available on request.

THE AUSTRALIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY'S AIMS

Cultivate friendly relations with the people of China by fostering the study of China's history, language, culture, social and political structure.

Promote mutual understanding through friendly exchanges between the people of China and Australia. Strengthening ties with travel, the exchange of ideas, information and trade between the two countries.

To seek to clarify misunderstandings between the peoples of China and Australia, which may arise from the misrepresentation of information.

PRESIDENT: Mr John Breheny

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Anthony Leong
Mr. Tower Liu

SECRETARY: Mr. Neil Barker

TREASURER: Mr. Dong Chen

COMMITTEE: Ms. Louise Clayton
Richard Lightfoot
Ms Robin Matthews
Matthew Missen
Sean Murtagh
Robert Wang

ACFS (VICTORIA) Inc. A0038007M ABN NO. 39 746 574 225

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Family Name (Mr /Mrs/Ms/Other).....

Address.....

Phone

Fax

Given Names

P/code.....

Email.....

VICTORIAN MEMBERSHIP RATES

Family \$40.00

Single \$30.00

Concession \$15.00

Corporate on Application

I/We support the Society's aims:Signature/s

I/We enclose the sum of \$ for my/our membership subscription.

YOUR DONATION WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Please forward cheques to the Treasurer at the address in the left corner below

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