

# MALTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

马耳他·中国友好协会

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E-mail: [info@maltachina.org](mailto:info@maltachina.org)



**Reno Calleja**

**MCFS President**

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As President of the Malta China Friendship Society I was delighted when Ryan Mercieca, a young University student from Gozo accepted to join our organisation. He was then elected on the executive committee of the M.C.F.S.

I am thrilled by this fact and also that another young man, Nigel Camilleri has also joined the executive committee. I gave birth to the M.C.F.S. I have been running it for almost 40 years. I have tried hard to find someone who is as devoted and committed to the cause of promoting the relations between the people of Malta and China. It is not easy. Volunteers are hard to come by. It is therefore with delight that these two youths have joined the executive committee. I want others to continue on the legacy that I and the other aging committee members will leave when we retire.

One of the tasks I have delegated to Ryan is to issue this newsletter. We have been trying for years to find someone to issue a newsletter which in my view is the best way to maintain contact with our members.

I am sure he will do a good job. Ryan has visited China 4 times. Like most of us who have visited China, he fell in love with this country.

Please give us your feedback by writing to Ryan and send your input with articles, comments and letters.

Reno Calleja

President Malta China Friendship Society

## Join Us

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### **Cai Jinbiao**

### **China's Ambassador To Malta**

Dear members and friends,

Congratulations to the Malta China Friendship Society (MCFS) for deciding to publish once again its own newsletter. I recognize that in this day and age, running a voluntary non-funded organization is not easy. That this organization has survived for almost 40 years, without any funding is indeed a remarkable achievement.

I started my tenure as the Chinese Ambassador to Malta about six months ago. In this short time, I was immediately struck by the warmth and friendliness of the Maltese people and the genuine affection the Maltese People have for the Chinese. Great credit to this fact should be given to the Malta China Friendship Society, an organization set up 38 years ago by former Minister and M.P. Mr Reno Calleja who to this day, is still the driving force behind this organization which impresses everyone with his dedication and commitment to this cause despite the fact that no one from the committee is paid one single cent. I have known Mr. Calleja from the very first day I arrived in Malta. His dedication and devotion to the cause of promoting the friendship between the peoples of China and Malta, is indeed inspiring to us all who work in the Embassy.

China and Malta signed the agreement to establish diplomatic relations in January 1972, followed by the historic visit of the late Prime Minister Mr. Dom Mintoff to China in April the same year. Ever since, under different administrations, the friendly relations and cooperation between my country and Malta have gone from strength to strength. Governments change but the people remain the same. That is why an organization like the Malta China Friendship Society is of vital importance. Once again I commend the MCFS for this new venture. The Chinese Embassy has always encouraged and supported the MCFS. It will continue to do so.



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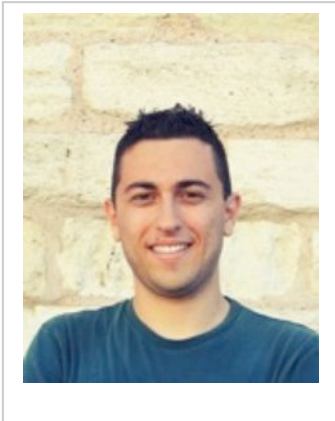
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**Ryan Mercieca**

**Committee  
Member**

## **Ambassador Cai Jinbiao Held Meeting with Malta-China Friendship Society**

The Chinese Ambassador to Malta H.E. Mr. Cai Jinbiao held a meeting with the Malta-China Friendship Society to discuss ways of further strengthening relations between the two countries in all fields on 10th August 2012.

The Ambassador commended the Society for its positive role in bringing the two countries and peoples closer ever since its founding in the 1970s. Introducing the recent developments and the immediate agenda on the bilateral relationship, the Ambassador expressed his confidence in seeing more and more exchanges on all levels between China and Malta with the Society continuing to expand its influence.

On behalf of the Society, Mr. Reno Calleja the President thanked the Ambassador for convening the meeting. Along with other members of the Executive Committee and some new faces who had recently joined the association, Mr. Calleja raised a number of specific proposals on how to promote bilateral cooperation in a wide variety of fields which were positively received by the Ambassador.





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**Reno Calleja**

**MCFS President**

## Young table tennis players back from China training

Three young Maltese table tennis players will arrive in Malta tomorrow Wednesday after an intensive four-week training course at the Sports University of Shanghai. This University is famous for giving China a number of gold medalists in the Olympics in many Sports disciplines. They are Miguel Balzan, 18 Captain The Dream Team, who is playing in the first division section of the local table tennis league, Adawi Zouari 17, from Gudja and Ryan Tabone 18 of Birkirkara.

Two persons made this possible for these young tennis players, Former Minister Reno Calleja and the new Chinese Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Mr Cai Jinbaio six months ago, Mr Oswald Balzan, father of Miguel Balzan spoke to Mr. Calleja and asked him to help his son and another two other young table tennis players to go to China for table tennis training.

When the new Chinese Ambassador to Malta arrived in Malta, Mr. Calleja drafted a letter to the Ambassador and amazingly in just one week the Ambassador spoke to his colleagues at the Shanghai Sports University and the dream of these young table tennis players came true. Before leaving for China the young players, their parents in the presence of Mr. Calleja presented a gift to H.E. in appreciation for what he did for them.





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**Doreen Sammut**  
**Secretary General**

A Delegation from China's Zhejiang Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries ( ZPPAFFC) visited the headquarters of the Malta China Friendship Society on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012. During the visit the Delegation and the Malta China Friendship Society signed an MOU, an Agreement on Friendly Exchange Relations. The Chinese Ambassador Mr Cai Jinbiao honoured us with his presence.



Summer Oriental Buffet organised by the Malta China Friendship Society on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Seabank Hotel by the pool. The occasion was a big success, with the Chinese Ambassador and other high officials from the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese Cultural Centre in Malta attending the event. During the evening there was a Taiji performance by Michael Micallef and his group and a table tennis game played by Ryan Tabone, Miguel Balzan and Adam Zouri who, with the help of the Chinese Embassy in Malta and the Malta China Friendship Society, have just been to China to practice the sport. Ms Zhang Yuan Yuan entertained the guests during the evening with her music and singing.

