

MALTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

马耳他·中国友好协会

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Malta China Friendship Society promotes cultural ties and friendship between Malta and China

Building Bridges—Farewell & Welcome

Outgoing and Incoming Ambassadors of the Peoples Republic of China to Malta

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(Special Edition incorporating the AGM Annual Report 2006)

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*Well wishing
to the
Outgoing Ambassador of the
Peoples Republic of China
To Malta*



*Welcome Dinner
To the
Incoming Ambassador of the
Peoples Republic of China
To Malta*



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Malta & China—People-to-people friendship



On 18th May 2007, Ambassador Mr. Chai Xi met with Mr. Reno Calleja, President of the Malta China Friendship Society (MCFS), at the Embassy. Mr. Calleja reviewed with joy the history of the diplomatic relations between Malta and China and showed his deep feeling toward China and its people. Mr. Calleja said, MCFS would continue to promote the people-to-people friendship between Malta and China. Ambassador Chai Xi spoke highly of Mr. Calleja for his constant endeavour in promoting Sino-Maltese friendship over the past decades and believes that MCFS, as a non-governmental organization, would be even more active in strengthening the traditional friendship between our two peoples in the days to come.

(In the photo H.E. the Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chai Xi is seen here with Mr. Reno Calleja, President of the MCFS)



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H.E. Mr. Chai Xi activity - May 2007



During the month of May 2007 the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Malta, H.E. Mr. Chai Xi paid a number of courtesy visits aimed at promoting cooperation and friendship between the peoples of Malta and China.

On 18th May 2007, H.E. called on the Honourable Mr. Ninu Zammit, Minister for Resources and Infrastructure at the Ministry, Floriana

On 17th May 2007, H.E. called on Ms. Cecilia Attard Pirotta, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Palazzo Parisio, Valletta. Mr. Chai also visited Mr. Tonio Fenech, the Parliamentary Secretary for Finance of Malta. Mr. Fenech expressed his thanks to the Chinese government for its economic assistance and also made reference to the forthcoming setup of Chinese Medicine Department in the new hospital.

On 16th May 2007, Chinese Ambassador Chai paid a visit to Mr. Censu Galea, the Minister for Competitiveness and Communication of Malta. On the same day the Ambassador also called on the Honourable Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs at the Auberge D'Aragon, Valletta.

On 15th May 2007, H.E. Chai Xi called on the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, Brigadier Carmel Vassallo. The two sides discussed possibilities and ways of future cooperation. Later on, Mr. Chai called on the Honourable Dr. Francis Agius, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for Rural Affairs and Environment at the Ministry, Valletta. The two sides exchanged views on promoting the bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and fishing.

On 14th May 2007, a courtesy call was made on the Honourable Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta at the Auberge de Castille, Valletta. Ambassador Chai and the Honourable Dr. Gonzi held a cordial and friendly meeting and reviewed the longstanding and close friendship between China and Malta. Later on Mr. Chai Xi called on Dr. Godwin Grima, Principal Permanent Secretary and secretary to the Cabinet at the Auberge de Castille, Valletta.

Silent Warriors -- The Chinese Terracotta Soldiers

On the 11th May 2007, Ambassador Chai Xi accompanied the Honourable Speaker, Mr. & Mrs. Anton Tabone to the exhibition of the Chinese terracotta warriors at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. Dr Mario Tabone, Chairman of Heritage Malta, gave a lucid and vivid explanation of the artefacts from the Chinese terracotta army.

The exhibition '**Silent Warriors -- The Chinese Terracotta Soldiers**', held from 1 March to 31 July 2007, is organised by Heritage Malta and Shanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau in collaboration with the Malta Ministry of Tourism and Culture, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Cultural Centre in Malta.



The Vivid Chinese Terracotta Warriors

The exhibition consists of 81 original artefacts, including 10 terracotta soldiers, 2 horses and a number of bronze and pottery cooking utensils, personal ornaments, weapons, coins, terracotta animals and other artefacts excavated in the last 30 years.

The army of 7,000 Chinese terracotta soldiers are one of most sensational archaeological finds of all times and one of the great wonders of the world. Like the Megalithic Temples of Malta, Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and Valletta, the Mausoleum of the First Chinese Emperor is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The collection of life-size terracotta figures of warriors and horses located near the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor were meant to accompany their emperor after death. The life-size soldiers stand ready for battle, complete with armour and chariots. After having guarded their emperor for 2,200 years, the terracotta army was discovered accidentally by some farmers in 1974 while digging for a new well. Completely unaware as to the magnitude of their discovery, the find immediately caught the attention of archaeologists, who have been working on the site ever since. Today nearly two million people visit the site annually.

The Chinese Terracotta Soldiers have created enormous interest. While they are attracting many Maltese visitors, most tourists passing through are also grasping the golden opportunity to see something they may never be able to visit unless they travel to the other side of the earth. Excitement is also understandable since the museum's opening over 100 years ago, it never enjoyed an exhibition of such high calibre. Now the exhibition is attracting an average 500 visitors per day.

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At the
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We strive to
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Members of the newly elected M C F S Executive Committee:

President:

Reno Calleja

Vice President:

Joe Vella

Secretary:

Doreen Sammut

Treasurer:

Maria Stella Valvo

PRO: Joyce Guillaumier

Members:

Marianne Gauci

(Assistant Sec.)

Joseph Barbara

(Assistant Treasurer)

Alan Saliba Gauci

Joseph Pirotta

Mike Micallef

Jason Vella

Paul Abela

AGM - Administrative Report (18 May 2007)

Following is an abridged version of the Annual report presented by the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Doreen Sammut, to the General Conference held on the 18th May 2007.

The report noted the composition of the Executive Committee of the Society during 2006 as follows:

President – Reno Calleja, Vice-President – Joseph Vella, Administrative Secretary – Doreen Sammut, Assistant Secretary – Alan Gauci, Financial Secretary - Joseph Debono (Mr Debono resigned in June, 2006, and his post was taken by Joseph Barbara who, in his turn, was substituted by Maria Valvo) Assistant Financial Secretary -Joe Barbara whilst the PRO was Joyce Guillaumier

The elected members for 2006 were Paul Abela, Claudette Bonnici, Michael Micallef, and Joseph Pirotta whilst Jason Vella was co-opted.

Dr Jose` Herrera acted as the society's Legal Advisor and the Auditors were Victor Bezzina and Victor Decelis.

The Executive Committee met 18 times during 2006

The report highlighted various **social and cultural events** organised by the MCFS as follows:



In June, a film about the Tianjin Festival 2002 was shown at the MCFS's premises in Valletta;

In July a group of dancers and other Maltese visited China. Following a publicity campaign by the MCFS, young Maltese artists participated in the Visual Arts section of the Tianjin Festival. Young Diandra Mifsud and Andy Grech, were awarded the Bronze decoration. All other local participants were awarded a certificate of participation;

Also In July, a Buffet dinner was organised at the Macedonia Restaurant. Some 187 attended the event;

A group of 42 persons and dancers visited China and then Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Jiangmen, Tianjin and Beijing. Following invitations by local committees and Schools, the dancers performed in all these cities.

For the first time ever, an exhibition of rare Maltese stamps and coins was organised in Guangzhou;

Another event saw Maltese Chefs from the Westin Dragonara Hotel and a Baker from Maypole Bakery participating in the Festival of Maltese Food organised by the MCFS in Guangdong;

Of interest was the visit by a Maltese group to W.E.T. Automated Systems Ltd in Beijing. The company is run by a Maltese namely Mr Colin Tabone;

In January 2007, the MCFS organized its Annual Dinner at the Macedonia Restaurant, Bugibba to celebrate the New Year;

The Chinese New Year celebration was held in February 2007, through a joint event by the



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MCFS and the Marsascala Local Council. The event took place at the Fanal Restaurant in Marsascala. The Chinese Ambassador attended the event;

The MCFS organized a farewell dinner to the outgoing Ambassador H.E. Liu Zhengxiu and Mrs Liu. The MCFS acknowledges the help extended to it during his Excellency time in office. We wish them both a happy retirement.

A well-attended successful event was the Concert of Chinese Music played by young Maltese musicians held at the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel in St Julian's through the help of the Pembroke Local Council. Under the able direction of Mro Manuel Pirota, the Chinese music performance by eight young Maltese musicians playing western instruments accompanied by two Chinese female musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments was great and a first for Malta.



Another Friendship gathering included a Media delegation visit from Guangdong to members of the MCFS at the Society's building in Valletta;

Other important activities included a much-needed facelift to the Committee's Room and the kitchen at the MCFS premises and several Tuina Massage courses organized by the Taiji Society and the MCFS. Taiji courses, run by Mr Michael Micallef, take place regularly every Tuesday.

The report noted the fact that Mr Joseph Barbara, Assistant Financial Secretary of the MCFS, is being considered to commission a metal sculpture to be placed in one of the main parks in China. Mr Barbara has also participated in a competition for Shanghai EXPO 2010 with a work entitled HARMONIOUS CITIES. His work was one of 90 chosen out of 2,200 entries from 33 countries;

The MCFS encouraged the local participation in a Photographic Competition held in Shanghai. Thirteen prints and 21 digital photos will be on exhibition. The MCFS is in the forefront encouraging young Maltese talent in similar events;

The website has been re-activated, thanks to the financial help of the Honorary President of the Society Mr Clifford Borg Marks; the website is being revised and updated through Vice-President Mr Joe Vella; a Newsletter was launched in print format and now on-line through the intervention of Mr. Jason Vella. Moreover, steps are being taken to include an updated list of members to help encourage better communication.

Members of the Executive Committee met Dr Alfred Sant, Leader of the Opposition and Mr Leo Brincat, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs at the MLP HQ in Hamrun. The meeting discussed the Policy Paper published by the Labour Party vis-à-vis its Foreign Policy.

Finally yet importantly, the report referred to our appreciation to H.E. the Ambassador for China to Malta, the Embassy staff, the Director of the China Cultural Centre and their staff, diverse Ministers and Heads of Departments who continuously assist the MCFS in various ways.

The report concluded by extending its gratitude to the various sponsors, the President Mr. Reno Calleja and the Committee members who give so much of their time to ensure that the MCFS will remain an active organisation.

The MCFS extends the Society's welcome to the new Ambassador of China to Malta. Mr Chai Xi and his consort. We look forward towards our mutual cooperation for the benefit of the great friendship between the peoples of China and Malta. In extending our greetings to H.E. the new Ambassador, we trust that the excellent cooperation the MCFS had for 30 years with the Chinese Embassy will be enhanced and strengthened during his H.E. tenure in office.