

MALTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

马耳他·中国友好协会

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

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The Founding of the People's Republic of China 59th Anniversary

by John Agius

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On the 1st of October, China marks the 59th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. The resolution marking this day was passed on the 2nd day of the month of December 1949.

China, a great cultural country and ancient civilization in East Asia, is one of the world's oldest leading civilizations. It consists of regions and cultures dating back more than six millennia. Chinese is the world's longest constantly used written language, and also the source of many of the world's greatest inventions, including the Four Great Inventions of ancient China- Paper, the Compass, Gunpowder, and Printing. Today, China is a leading World Economy.

In his speech celebrating the 59th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, H. E. the Chinese Ambassador to Malta Mr. Chai Xi claimed that the year 2008 is a very special one to China.



Addressing his guests at a reception held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior on Wednesday 24th September 2008, Mr. Chai Xi claimed that 2008 is a special year because it marks the 30th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. The last thirty years saw this great country through a historic journey that transformed China from a highly centralized planned economy to a robust socialist market economy. From a closed country China now fully embraces the world and the world embraces China.

Thirty years on, China's GDP saw an average annual growth rate of 9.88 percent. From the tenth, 30 years ago, China rose to being the fourth strongest World economy. Its per capita GDP increased from \$226 to \$2,500. As an integral part of the global economy, China's development now contributes to over 10 percent of World economic growth and 12 percent of global trade expansion, which generates some

ten million jobs for its trade partners.

H. E. Mr. Chai Xi recalled that during 2008 China experienced both profound grief and great joy. Further to a severe snow storm in the beginning of the year in the southern parts of the country, which left millions of people stranded during May China was hit by the most destructive earthquake over the last six decades leaving some 70,000 people dead and millions homeless. All these misfortunes, however, have on the other hand transformed 2008 into a defining year where the Chinese people demonstrated their cohesiveness and resilience as a nation. Under the guidance of people-oriented concept, the swift, efficient and coordinated emergency response by the Chinese government has effectively brought the whole nation together and the support of the people around the globe.

This 59th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China marked the successful transformation of China's seven year's preparation into an unforgettable Olympics. This was followed by the Green Olympics, Scientific Olympics and People's Olympics. These splendour events have brought about new changes to China. Just as Jacques ROGGE, President of IOC pointed out, "through these Games, the world learned more about China, and China learned more about the world".

Malta has been a friend of China for many years, H.E. Mr. Chai Xi, the charismatic Ambassador said. H.E. affirmed that as a traditional friendly country and an EU member, Malta has been regarded as one of China's best friends in Europe. He acknowledged that the "long term friendship, mutual respect, mutual beneficial cooperation and common development" are the principal factors that translate the strong ties that exist between China and Malta.



On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China, Chinese Ambassador Chai Xi and his wife Zhang Rufen held a reception at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana. From left: Mary Fenech Adami, Ms Zhang Rufen, President Eddie Fenech Adami and Ambassador Chai Xi.



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One World One Dream

Editorial Comment by Reno Calleja



This was the slogan chosen by China when it won its bid to hold the Olympic Games eight years ago. The Chinese prepared for these Olympics for seven whole years. If the opening was a spectacular event, emphasizing China's rich and ancient history, the closing ceremony was no less spectacular.

With their ingeniousness and inventiveness, their fantastic use of man power and technology, the Beijing Olympic games were hailed as the best Olympics ever. China also triumphed in most of the competitions and ended up winning the largest number of medals among all competing nations.

China wanted to show the world that the enormous economic progress it is making is not accidental. Napoleon once said that China is a sleeping giant. He added, When it wakes up the world will tremble.



And the World did tremble and marvelled at the spectacle when China organized the Olympics.

The success came at a cost though. China spent 40 billion U.S. dollars to make these games the most memorable ever.



But as a friend of China for more than 30 years, I think that the tremendous success enjoyed by China and the enormous good will and admiration China attracted through the Olympics, must now be followed by deeds.

China has already done wonders to help the earthquake victims of Sichuan. The serious and determined way it tackled the problems left after that terrible quake of May this year, showed that although the country was fully occupied with organizing the Olympics, when disaster struck the Chinese leaders were there for the people.



Now that the Olympics have ended and the World's eyes are perhaps not so much focused on China as during the Olympics, the Chinese government and its people must not abandon the people of Sichuan. All efforts must continue to house the 5 million homeless and to rebuild schools and lend a helping hand to the people of Sichuan.

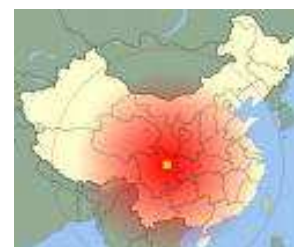
The Western media is not very sympathetic towards China. It will attack China if the Chinese people will now fail in their social obligations.



First batch of Soldiers leave China's quake zone

China must also address the gap that is widening between rich and poor. This gap is the seed for social discontent. The Chinese leadership is aware of this and they are addressing the problem with a serious approach.

One World One Dream was the logo for the Olympics. Let this logo guide China in the years to come.





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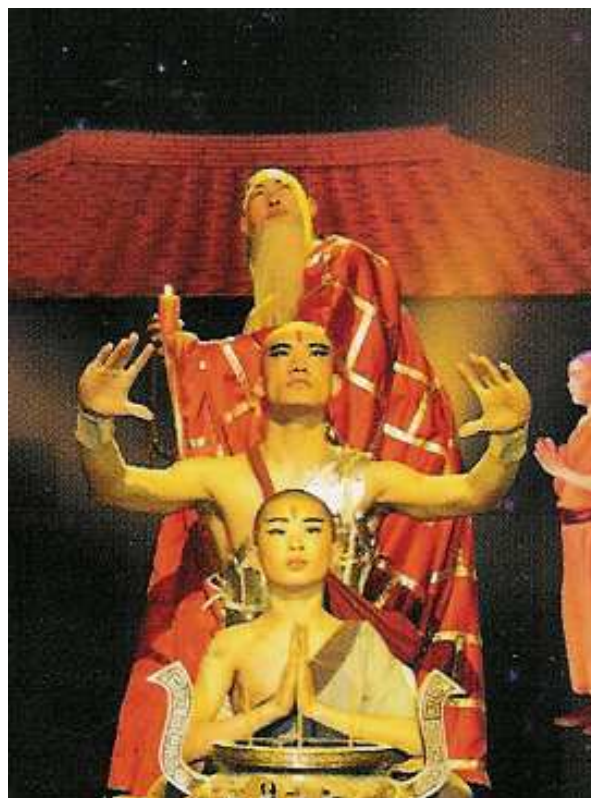
At the
M.C.F.S.
We strive to
Build Bridges
Of Friendship
Between
Malta & China

The Shaolin Monks—Helping China’s Earthquake Victims

An initiative by former Member of Parliament and the current President of the Malta China Friendship society, Mr. Reno Calleja, was taken to help the Chinese Earthquake victims

When on the 12th of May, a devastating earthquake hit the Province of Sichuan, Mr. Calleja learned that the famous Shaolin Monks, who have mesmerized hundreds of thousands of people through out the world with their Kung Fu feats, were again coming to Malta.

On learning that the Monks would give two more shows on the 11th and 12th of the month at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, he contacted Dr. Edrich Bonello, the Maltese representative of the Austrian based company Fecther Management Ltd suggesting that a small part of the profit from these two shows would be given to the victims of the earthquake of Sichuan.



Dr. Bonello also agreed to give a 10 per cent discount to the members and friends of the Malta China Friendship Society who purchased tickets for the unique show.

Mr. Calleja, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the M.C.F.S. thanked Dr. Bonello for his generosity and his philanthropic deed and stated that despite the admirable efforts of the Chinese authorities to deal with the devastation left by the earthquake, there are still millions of people who remained homeless.

Twenty thousand children have died, more than 80, 000 thousand adults perished and hundreds of thousands of people were wounded. To make matters worse, China was later also hit by deadly floods that left hundreds dead.

Mr Calleja expressed his appreciation to the Maltese public who attended the spectacular show of the Shaolin Monks and in the process helping the people of China, who, in the 70’s and 80’s helped Malta when they themselves had little to give.





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Donation by the People of Malta to the China Earthquake Victims

On the 25th August 2008, during an evening at the ministry which included a violin and piano concert, the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs Tonio Borg presented a cheque to H.E. Mr. Chai Xi, Ambassador of China in Malta, as a donation to the victims of the Sichuan Province Earthquake .

Deputy Prime Minister Tonio Borg stated: "Today – as promised some weeks ago – the Maltese Government is making a small monetary contribution to the People's Republic of China. The relationship between our two countries, Mr. Ambassador, is more than one of mere mutual respect; it is one of mutual understanding and assistance. The People's Republic of China has always been of assistance in Malta's development. It is only appropriate that today even Malta plays its small part towards the reconstruction of the area hit by the Earthquake on May 12."

"What we are offering today from our people to your people is, Your Excellency, a drop in the ocean; but it is a drop which comes from a warm heart of a country which will always strive to keep our relationship dynamic and fruit-bearing."

In his speech Minister Tonio Borg conclude by saying that, "...apart from this government contribution, the Management Committee of the Tsunami Fund will also be making a substantial contribution for the needs of victims of the 12th May earthquake" in China."

"Love Lights up Life" - China earthquake relief show in Valletta

On May 25th, visitors to Valletta were greeted with Chinese music. Chinese students studying in Malta presented a show entitled *Love Lights up Life* in front of the city gate to raise funds for those who suffered from the recent earthquake in the Chinese Province of Sichuan. A large number of Chinese living in Malta, locals and visitors were attracted to contribute to the earthquake relief fund.



The students expressed deep sympathy and condolences for their earthquake-affected compatriots through the presentation of songs, dance, traditional Chinese music and Taiji. A group of women headed by Mme. Zhang Rufen, wife of the Chinese Ambassador in Malta, demonstrated Taiji fan, which features elegant movements and great flexibility.

Donators were given a sticker in the form of a red heart symbolizing the theme of the event. A lot of donators expressed their sympathy and condolence over the victims of the tragedy and their confidence in the Chinese government and people. They commented highly on the solidarity and courage of the Chinese people in time of such tragic times.

A total of 1710 Euros relief fund collected will be transferred back to China by the Chinese Embassy in a timely manner.



Collaboration between the Malta Table Tennis Association and the Guangzhou No.1 High School Tennis Section.

Local Tennis Players will be going on a training camp in China in July 2009



Malta's participation at the 49th Worlds' Table Tennis Championships held in Guangzhou China between the 23 February & 3rd March 2008 was undoubtedly very positive.

On the occasion of this 49th World Table Tennis Championships , the President of the Malta Table Tennis Association, Mr. Joe Borg Cardona, visited Guangzhou No.1 High School. This meeting was held through the collaboration of The Malta China Friendship Society, who through their hard working President Mr. Reno Calleja were instrumental in providing the required contacts to the local association.

Mr. Borg Cardona was taken round the High School accompanied by high officials from the Guangdong People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries, namely Mr. Cheng Ke and Mr. Yu Yongzheng . The school has excellent sports facilities and students from various sports have won many Chinese honours.

Through this exchange and a follow up 2nd visit during the Beijing Olympic Games, the local table tennis association and the Guangzhou No. 1 High School, signed an agreement whereby a group of local table tennis players will be going on a training camp in Guangzhou during July 2009. This was made possible through the assistance of, and the strong friendly relationship between the *Malta China Friendship Society* and the *Guangdong People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries*.

Eventually a close relationship was established between the local Tennis Association and the staff at the Chinese Embassy in Malta. A number of activities were held at the embassy and players from both sides exchanged their sporting abilities in an atmosphere of friendship.

