Delegation from Loudi, Hunan, China visits Minnesota to announce organization

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

A six-member delegation from Loudi, Hunan, China recently visited Minnesota and met with guests at a dinner hosted by China Insight at David Fong’s Restaurant in Bloomington, Minn.

Prior to arriving in Minnesota, the delegation made stops in Toronto, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Boston and New York City. While they were able to squeeze in a little bit of sightseeing, their main purpose was to meet with overseas Chinese from Loudi and share with them the news of the formation and election of officers for the Loudi Chinese American Association and the U.S.-Loudi Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation eventually arrived in Minnesota early on a Saturday morning but since they were only going to be here one day, they quickly checked into their hotel and were given a tour of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Mall of America. The delegation, lead by Mr. Yao Bing, Vice Mayor of Loudi included: Mrs. Xiang GuoRong, President, Federation of Returned Overseas, City of Loudi; Mrs. Li ChunRui, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, City of Loudi; Mrs. Li WenLian, Commissioner, Committee of Government Assets, City of Loudi; Mr. Peng YuLing, Director, Administration of Grains, City of Loudi; Mr. Yang JianXiang, President, Association of Overseas Connections; and Lengshuijiang, City of Loudi. After their tour, the delegation arrived at the restaurant where they were greeted by over 70 guests.

The program for the evening began with a greeting by Richard He, President and founder of China Insight and native of Loudi, China. He welcomed the delegation and announced that although some local government officials were unable to attend, greetings were sent from the offices of Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, Senator Amy Klobuchar, the Consul General of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, St. Cloud State University (SCSU) along with representatives of other educational organizations that have had contact with Loudi through the years.

It should be noted that 14 of the 40

Delegation from Loudi with a few Loudi ex-pats now in Minnesota

Loudi continues on Page 8

China’s trade surplus not due to global economic imbalance

By Zhao Zhongxiu & Sun Jingying

China’s sustained trade surplus has produced concern in many quarters and has triggered calls from some countries, notably the [United States], pressing China to revalue its currency and to reign in policies supportive of its domestic industries. However, analysis shows that China’s trade surplus, which has kept increasing for about 20 years, is the result of China’s reform and opening-up drive and of introducing preferential policies to attract investment: It has little to do with the RMB exchange rate.

Evolving TowardsBasically Balanced Trade

China’s trade surplus started getting noticeable in the late 1990s and accelerated rapidly in the 21st century, reaching a peak before the international financial crisis began to impact […] trade in 2008. After 2008 the trade surplus fell somewhat, and the gap narrowed further in 2010.

China’s trade surplus in 2010 was US$183.1 billion, a year-on-year drop of 6.61 percent, and the second successive annual fall. The narrowing of the margin was mainly caused by China’s dynamic domestic economy as the effects of China’s import expansion strategy have become more apparent. With the lifting of processing trade restrictions, which had been imposed to curb exports, imports of processing trade-related bulk raw materials increased correspondingly.

In 2010, China’s trade surplus accounted for 3.1 percent of its GDP. Some experts have predicted that the proportion will drop to 1 percent in 2011. We remember vividly that in his letter to the G20 summit last year, US$183.1 billion, a year-on-year drop of 6.61 percent, and the second successive annual fall. The narrowing of the margin was mainly caused by China’s dynamic domestic economy as the effects of China’s import expansion strategy have become more apparent. With the lifting of processing trade restrictions, which had been imposed to curb exports, imports of processing trade-related bulk raw materials increased correspondingly.

In 2010, China’s trade surplus accounted for 3.1 percent of its GDP. Some experts have predicted that the proportion will drop to 1 percent in 2011. We remember vividly that in his letter to the G20 summit last year, Timothy Geithner, U.S. Treasury Secretary, called upon member countries to formulate quantitative targets to improve the current account imbalance and to bring down the proportion of the current account surplus/deficit to GDP to under 4 percent by 2015. Whether China supports this idea or otherwise, judging from the present situation, the drastic decrease in the percentage share of China’s trade surplus in its overall GDP will become a trend, indicating a basically balanced development trend in China’s foreign trade.

China’s import and export trade data for 2010 indicate that the growth mode of China’s foreign trade is being transformed and upgraded. In 2010, while processing trade maintained steady growth in imports and exports, there was a rapid increase in general trade imports and exports, replacing processing to account for half of the total trade volume. In terms of export structure, in 2010 China’s traditional bulk commodity exports maintained good growth momentum and exports of electromechanical products with high added-value increased by 30.9 percent, accounting for about 60 percent of the gross export value.

In the first six months of 2010, the total value of China’s general trade was US$679.49 billion, a leap of 46.5 percent, an increase of 3.4 percentage points over that for overall trade for the same period; the deficit in general trade was US$37.09 billion, in contrast to a surplus in general trade of US$86.35 billion in the first six months of 2009, which indicated that China’s foreign trade strategy of adjusting the structure, and improving the balance had achieved a positive result.

Since July 15, 2010, China has cancelled tax rebates on 406 tariff items including partial types of steel and non-ferrous metal.

Trade Surplus continues on Page 14
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

As the last leaves fall to the ground and we rake up the final bags, we must now prepare for our most challenging season of the year…winter. As hearty Minnesotans, we try to convince ourselves that we enjoy the change of seasons but at least we can ease into it unlike the early winter that has already arrived on the east coast. Soon we will celebrate Thanksgiving and despite the gloomy economic plight of the world, we hope that you will nevertheless have cause to give thanks for all that you are able to enjoy.

In addition to Thanksgiving occurring in November in the United States, we also celebrate Veterans Day which will occur on November 11, 2011. In other parts of the world it may be celebrated as Armistice or Remembrance Day. This is the day we honor our military veterans.

At its 7th Annual Open House, the Chinese Heritage Foundation recently honored Chinese American Veterans of World War II as its Chinese Minnesotans of Note along with an accompanying article that provides a short history about Chinese American military veterans. You can read both of these articles on page 9. We owe a great deal of gratitude to all that have served honorably in the military and again salute the local Chinese American Vets of WWII as Chinese Minnesotans of Note.

On a personal note, I congratulate St. Therese Chinese Catholic School, from which I, along with 10 of my 12 siblings, graduated when we lived in Chicago’s Chinatown, on its being awarded a 2011 Blue Ribbon School Award. See page 6 for article.

Also, please note that this edition of China Insight is a combined issue for November/December and that there will not be a separate edition published for December, 2011. Thus, in addition to our best wishes for a great Thanksgiving holiday, all of us at China Insight wish you a joyous, prosperous and healthy holiday season.

We’d also like to take this opportunity to inform you that Chinese New Year, The Year of the Dragon will occur on January 23, 2012 and encourage you to submit announcements of any Chinese New Year celebrations you are planning to us by December 15, 2011, if you would like them considered for our January, 2012 edition.

As always, thank you for your continued support of China Insight. Please feel free to let us know if there are any other topics you would like us to cover or if there are any other ways we can serve the community.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
Publisher
China 2012 Budgets – The Uncertainty Factor Creeps Back

Op-Ed Commentary by Chris Devonshire-Ellis

Posted on October 24, 2011 by China Briefing

Oct. 24 – One of the main problems facing businesses in China today remains the uncertainty factor. Getting that out of China’s commercial creed is proving a tough nut to crack, and before too long sticks from Beijing to become a U.S. Presidential candidate, Jon Huntsman reiterating the same to me a year ago at the Economist China Conference.

With the then-Ambassador Huntsman stating that “China needs to provide security, stability and predictability, and that much remains to be done,” he pretty much nailed the importance of conducting business in China – that of uncertainty. The issue of course is a huge one – it impacts upon a consistently applied rule of law, an independent judiciary, transparency in audit, and the relative certainty over predicting and planning ahead. It’s obviously never an exact science (and when it is, fraud or corruption is usually involved), however China still has a journey to undertake in order to make it easier for commercial activities in the country. It also seems obvious that the Ministry of Commerce has been losing some political clout in the decision-making process as concerns China plc.

Take, for example, the necessary business skill of business planning. 2012 is just around the corner, and all companies in China, foreign-invested and domestic, need to start planning for the financial year ahead – not least because China operates its annual audit system on a calendar fiscal year. January 1st each year means quite literally, turning over not just a page, but beginning a new set of books. The ministry, however, has neither been seen to be in control of, or even understanding of, business interests in China and seems to have lost its way at the forefront of investment policy-making. Planning for 2012 budgets is consequently going to be difficult. The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Commerce, and a number of different Central Government Ministries are all involved in providing clarity of laws and implementing rules that would make it easier for companies to determine their future cost structures, but are failing in this duty. An important cost component, the administration of China’s pension scheme – which now includes expatriate employees in the equation – is seriously lacking in clarity. To date, China still lacks adequate detail within its social security laws to provide a clear legal framework for administration of the public pension throughout the nation. The social insurance law recently implemented in July, with the full amounts to be paid latest by this December. This means a full six months’ worth of expatriate social welfare would need to be paid in one go. Yet to date, there remains no clarification at a Central Government level. It therefore remains hugely unsettling for companies’ finance departments to know what to allocate and how to budget for 2012, and it creates uncertainty for many expatriates relying on jobs in China that may no longer be viable for their employers to continue after the extra costs are added in. Expats coming into 2012 will have, in many cases, no idea if their company will agree to fund the extra costs, whether their work visas will be allowed to run down, and whether their contracts will be renewed. The reason – flatly because their employers don’t know the situation either. Until this is clarified, it makes China 2012 budgets and planning problematic for many – both companies and expatriates. This is clearly undesirable.

For social welfare cap removal

This could be an even bigger financial blow to employers in China, with huge cost implications. At present in most cities in China, a cap on the amount of social welfare contributions exists to limit these payments beyond a certain amount. The maximum contribution for an employer on behalf of any single employee in each city varies, but it is generally around the RMB 4,000 per month mark. This means that regardless of how much salary the employee earns, the social welfare contributions will not impose a large burden on the employer.

However, Dalian announced last month it has abandoned the cap, and the social welfare payments would now be a standard 31.3 percent of the employee’s salary, each month. The increased financial cost is substantial. If this were to be rolled out by other cities across China, the effect would be dramatic, and in many cases would lead to a huge increase in bankruptcies, not to mention the wiping out of profits at countless companies. To date, this remains hypothetical, yet it is another move that could be rolled out next year. It represents risk, and uncertainty. No Chinese Minister has shot down the possibility of it occurring, and no statement has been issued that caters for any answers about the potential of this being enacted nationally. The social insurance law certainly leaves plenty of room for local governments to remove the cap if they want to.

These two factors alone make it highly awkward when planning for business in China next year. It is only 10 weeks away, yet the uncertainty factor has crept back in and this is demonstrative of a China that is far less capitalist in thought than many commentators have had people believe. The government’s stated main aim at present is specifically not commercial; it is the “maintaining of social security.” The fact that it is the financial elements of social security platforms in China that are now causing commercial insecurities should come as no surprise, but with some considerable concern.

Chris Devonshire-Ellis is the founding partner and principal of Dezan Shira & Associates. The firm was established in 1992, maintains 12 China offices and provides China legal establishment, tax and business advisory advice across China. For further assistance please contact china@dezshira.com or visit the practice’s Web site www.dezshira.com.

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These two factors alone make it highly awkward when planning for business in China next year. It is only 10 weeks away, yet the uncertainty factor has crept back in and this is demonstrative of a China that is far less capitalist in thought than many commentators have had people believe. The government’s stated main aim at present is specifically not commercial; it is the “maintaining of social security.” The fact that it is the financial elements of social security platforms in China that are now causing commercial insecurities should come as no surprise, but with some considerable concern.

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WORTHINGTON: U.S. President Barack Obama shakes hands with Chinese artist Lei Yizun, designer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, after Obama's speech at a dedication ceremony for the sculpture in West Potomac Park in Washington on Oct 16. The 57-year-old sculptor has created more than 100 public monuments in China, including large sculptures of Chairman Mao Zedong, Shi Ke / For China Daily
Minnesota History Center forum

“We The People: Americans and the Constitution”

The topic of this year’s History Forum, a series of lectures held at the Minnesota History Center, is “We The People: Americans and the Constitution.” The lectures present an opportunity to examine our ongoing national struggle to understand, live with and live up to our greatest founding document: the U.S. Constitution.

The History Forum has been expanded this year. Each lecture will now be held twice on each date, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Silk Road Luxuries glitter at the Freer

Highways and byways crossing the vast Central Asian desert did more than facilitate the spread of Buddhism in the early Common Era; they also paved the way for the exchange of luxury goods between China and the West. “Silk Road Luxuries from China,” opening Nov. 5 in a newly renovated Gallery 16 at the Smithsonian’s Freer Galleries of Art, reveals the cross-cultural impact of Silk Road trade on Chinese luxury goods.

The small but exquisite array of 21 objects, including intricately decorated mirrors, cups and other forms of tableware, display the highest levels of craftsmanship practiced by Tang dynasty artisans working in precious materials.

“A revolutionary change began to happen in China’s decorative arts, fueled by an open and cosmopolitan, multicultural society centered in the vibrant Tang capital, Chang’an,” said J. Keith Wilson, curator of ancient Chinese art. “The intermingling of Chinese traditions and foreign influences led to a remarkable change in luxury goods produced for Chinese urban elites in the sixth through the eighth century.”

Sogdian traders—ethnic Iranians originally from Sogdiana, now Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in Central Asia—introduced the Chinese to new ideas in the decorative arts in the form of western and central Asian luxuries they offered in exchange for silk and other sought-after Chinese products. Objects such as tableware made of precious metals and glass helped transform Chinese secular artistic traditions and promoted explorations of new materials, techniques, forms and decorative patterns.

Ideas and goods traveled both into and out of China along the Silk Road. Among the objects that will be on view is a lobed Sogdian dish of hammered silver, decorated with the image of a lion, that may have immigrated out of China along the Silk Road. Among other objects is a lidded Sogdian dish of hammered silver, decorated with the image of a lion, that may have influenced Chinese metal artisans. An eighth-century silk brocade with floral medallions that was once among the treasures held by the Shōsōin repository in Nara, Japan, reveals how Chinese exports inspired craftsmen further east.

Groupings of exquisite mirrors and silver vessels presented in the exhibition illustrate new fabrication methods and decorative motifs inspired by foreign models. Chinese smiths and founders set aside old practices and began creating objects from precious metals, adopting western hammering and gilding techniques to forge a new Chinese luxury aesthetic.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a massive piece of burial furniture made in China for the repose of a Sogdian who died far from home. This and a small number of other Chinese burial couches feature layered decorative styles and Buddhist and non-Buddhist iconography, including depictions of foreign musicians and dancers.

Although made for Sogdians, the objects belonged to a Chinese tradition and reflect a multicultural vision.

“Silk Road Luxuries from China” in Gallery 16 and “Chinese Ceramics: 10th-13th Century” in Gallery 15 are the most recent installations in the Freer’s plan to reimagine the entire suite of six Chinese galleries, showcasing major collections in redesigned spaces that reflect the founder’s original focus on aesthetics and comparative study. Both galleries will reopen to the public Nov. 5.

The Silk Road Gallery project was made possible with the support of the Thaw Charitable Trust.

For more information about the Freer and Sackler galleries and their exhibitions, programs and other events, the public may visit asia.si.edu. The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the adjacent Freer Gallery of Art, are on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25, and admission is free. For general Smithsonian information, the public may call (202) 633-1000 or TTY (202) 633-5285.

US-China Peoples Friendship Association/Minnesota invites you to a free public forum

Harbin’s Death Factory & Germ Warfare in the Asian-Pacific

Sunday, November 6, 2011 — 5:30 (Refreshments) 6:00-7:30 (Program)

Macalester College, Board Room in Weyerhauser Hall, St. Paul

Guest Speakers from Harbin Academy of Social Sciences

"Unit 731" or the "Death Factory" of the Imperial Japanese Army, located in Harbin during WWII, is little known to the general public today. In what was the world’s largest research lab on germ and/or bio-chemical warfare, the Japanese carried out experiments on live human subjects, including Chinese civilians and American and Chinese POWs. In addition, some of the "germ bombs" were flown into the U.S. by hot air balloons toward the end of the war. After the war, the U.S. government took the majority of the “Unit 731 scientists” to the U.S. without prosecution for war crimes. This bio-chemical warfare has been kept secret for many years, but American scholars are becoming interested in this "forbidden" topic.

For more information: Yue-him Tam at tam@macalester.edu 651-696-6262

Sponsored by USCPFA-MN, Chinese Heritage Foundation, Macalester Departments of English and History, Macalester Program of Human Rights & Humanitarianism, University of Minnesota Institute for Global Studies
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St. Therese Chinese Catholic School earns a Blue Ribbon School Award

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

The significance of St. Therese Chinese Catholic School (STCCS) earning a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School Award is that less than 10 years ago, it faced the possibility that it might not survive. As the only Chinese Catholic school in the Midwest, it has encountered many challenges and changes since its founding in 1941.

By way of disclosure, it should be noted that this writer is an alumnus of STCCS and was part of its 4 student graduating class during which year we prefer not to divulge. When I attended, it was just a two room school housed in the On Leung Merchants Association building and staffed by Maryk-nell sisters. About 20 years after its founding, a separate building was built several blocks away at its current location on 23rd Street in the heart of Chicago’s Chinatown. It is now part of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Recently I spoke with Ms. Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek, Principal of STCCS, who has been with the school for 8 years. Cavallone-Jurek revealed that she was totally surprised when she learned that STCCS was even a finalist for a Blue Ribbon Award and even though Callone-Jurek feels STCCS would have qualified in both categories.

So what makes STCCS so special? To present it in their own words, I have reprinted their “mission statement” as it appears on their Web site at www.stthere-sechicago.org.

Serving the Archdiocese of Chicago and located in the heart of Chicago’s Chinatown community, St. Therese Chinese Catholic School develops lifelong learners through spiritual, intellectual, mental, physical, and social guidance in a loving, caring environment. We cherish each child as a unique gift of God with different needs and interests. We seek to meet those needs and interests so that each child's sense of self-worth is enhanced and that their uniqueness is preserved.

With the continued support and cooperation of our families, friends, sponsors, and the Chicago Catholic community, St. Therese School is committed to developing students who will be academically competent, morally upright, and who will serve God, family and the community.

Our curriculum exceeds Illinois State Standards, which includes 8th-grade algebra and geometry. Many of our graduates attend top-ranked college preparatory and magnet schools due to our highly competitive test scores.

Our comprehensive curriculum includes Catholic values, cultural experiences, technology- and science-enhanced education, computer classes, music appreciation, foreign language instruction in Mandarin and Spanish, physical education classes, and Chinese dance. In addition, we offer many extracurricular activities, after-school care programs, and parent groups.

Unfortunately success creates its own set of problems. At its current enrollment of 287 students, St. Therese is at capacity and has a waiting list of about 350 students, primarily for the lower grades. Although the 50-year-old school building is being maximized and includes the most recent technology, it is still cramped. One of the items on Cavallone-Jurek’s wish list is an addition to the building or perhaps a separate brand new building so as to serve more of the community. She thinks a new building would be feasible. The school already covers 94 percent of operating expenses each year before grants, just by taking in tuition and other fees. Although STCCS has one of the most reasonable tuitions for a private school, she would be reluctant to raise tuitions to make this happen. She adamantly wants it to remain affordable.

Of more immediate concern, Cavallone-Jurek commented that the school does not have a good place to put the new flag that they’ll get from the Department of Education.

“I was joking with the teachers that we don’t even have a flag pole to hang it on,” Cavallone-Jurek said. “So I was going to make them go out front and take turns waving it.” Joking aside, she said she hopes that the award can help the school gain momentum to add a new flag pole and much more as noted above.

While STCCS focuses on challenging student test scores along with an accurate and meticulously completed application form. There was also a risk in applying for the high performance category instead or closing the achievement gap category even though Callone-Jurek feels STCCS would have qualified in both categories.

Prior to winning this Blue Ribbon School Award, STCCS was named one of the TOP 25 PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN CHICAGOLAND by the Chicagomagazine in 2006 so it has not gone completely unnoticed.

So we extend our congratulations to St. Therese Chinese Catholic School on being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of the 304 National Blue Ribbon Schools of 2011 based on their overall academic excellence or for their success in closing achievement gaps. The Department will honor the entire 255 public and 49 private schools with their National Blue Ribbon School awards at a conference and awards ceremony Nov. 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

In conclusion, it should be noted that Principal Cavallone-Jurek has stated “I celebrate this honor with our dedicated faculty, staff, parents, our church, the Office of Catholic Schools, Big Shoulders, proud alumni, and our community in this amazing achievement.”
Mr. Yang teaches stroke order at the Smartboard.

Derek Yang (杨德诚 yáng dé chéng, surname, kind, sincere) has been a Chinese language teacher in both China and the United States for many years. He has been a Middle School Chinese language teacher at Breck School in Golden Valley for the last 18 years. Yang also experienced student feedback as they moved on to upper school. As they moved on, the students showed great appreciation for what he had taught them. Yang felt his job was important and he was making a significant difference in his students' lives. “They stop and chat. They show respect. They make you feel good about what you do,” says Yang. “Each student is different, yet the goal is the same: help them learn Chinese.”

When the Chinese classes had smaller groups of students, Yang said it was easier to manage the coursework. As the program has grown, there is more pressure for the teacher to effectively distribute class time, adjust the lesson plans for a larger diverse class, and reach each individual student’s needs. “However,” Yang adds, “as I see students gradually begin to speak very good Chinese, it makes me feel good to see them use the language naturally during the course of the day. As the students progress in middle school, we use Chinese for daily conversation in my classes. They use what they learn.”

Chinese students embrace the challenge with courage. So, I help them as much as I can. I remind myself that I am here not for my own pleasure but to serve all of my students. My efforts are greatly rewarded as my students respond and improve. By grade 7 when I send them on to the next teacher, students are cheerfully speaking Chinese. “Most important, class must always be fun, and never boring. Students having fun in the learning process is the key. Around these bright young students, I stay young at heart with a fresh, sharp mindset. I am not yet ready to retire – I love the challenge in my work.”

Yang uses a lot of art and culture in teaching Chinese, which is encouraged by Breck School. “We explore Chinese art, using the 毛笔 mào-bǐ or painting brush, and we do paper cuts and drawing. Lots of students are visual learners so artwork helps them learn both Chinese culture and characters.”

“My favorite lesson to teach is the one about what students like to do, "你喜欢什么?" [nǐ xiǎng xǐ huan shénme?] ‘You like to do what?’”, Yang shares. “They interview each other about their favorite sports, activities, and hobbies. They find out about their common interests and involvements, while they are learning Chinese. It is fun networking for everyone.”

“A second lesson that is fun is when we study colors and clothing [颜色 yán sè colors, 衣服 yī fu clothes],” shares Yang. “We collect pictures of outfits to create a fashion magazine. Students write original sentences to go with the pictures. I try to always have fun activities to go with the teaching.”

As a seasoned teacher Yang has advice for those new to teaching Chinese: Be patient. Know your students, on an individual level. Make class work fun. Use technology. Investigate what they enjoy in learning. After a few years, they will know you care and recognize what you have done for them. You will know the significance of your work. Even if I am strict, they know I care, which is most important.

“Once I started teaching middle school Chinese,” reflects Yang, “I never looked back.”
The 26th Anniversary Banquet of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society (CSCS) was held recently at the Peking Garden Restaurant in St. Paul and was attended by a sellout crowd of over 240 people which caused some minor problems with registration and getting everyone seated. Unfortunately poor acoustics also made it difficult for those in attendance to hear very much but eventually Suniti Paul who attempted to serve as the MC for the evening eventually was able to get the gathering to settle down and the program under way.

The purpose of this visit is to establish an organization for developing business, education and culture connections between Loudi and Minnesota as well as serving as a social group for natives of Loudi now residing in Minnesota.

Delegation from Loudi, Hunan, China visits Minnesota to announce organization continues from Page 1

The group was encouraged to help themselves to the great variety of appetizers which was followed by a multi-course family-style dinner during the presentation. Continuing with his welcoming remarks, he commented that Loudi has developed a great relationship with Minnesota in the last few years and noted some of the accomplishments achieved including: Sister City relationship between Loudi and Ramsey City; Sister School relationship between Loudi #1 MS and Eden Prairie High School; Partnership between Hunan University of Humanities, Science and Technology (HUHST) with Bethel University and SCSU.

Next to speak was Ron Case, Vice Mayor of Eden Prairie. Case welcomed the delegation and presented them with some token gifts. Following the Vice Mayor to the podium was Janet Pladson representing the Eden Prairie School District who has visited Loudi several times. Also welcoming the delegation was Patty Billings representing Shattuck-St. Mary’s a boarding school which is being attended by a student from Loudi.

The vice mayors of Loudi and Eden Prairie partaking of the 9-course dinner

Mr. Yao Bing, the Vice Mayor of Loudi (l) and Richard He a gift for everyone in attendance and then went to each table to propose a toast to celebrate the Loudi-Minnesota relationship.

Although the dinner and presentation concluded, the delegation agreed to stay and meet with anyone that wished to have a meeting with them to discuss any kind of business or cultural exchange.

Later, the delegation reluctantly returned to their hotel since they had an early morning flight to Las Vegas for a day of sightseeing before visiting Los Angeles prior to their return home.

For further information about the Loudi Organization contact Richard He, 612-297-6540 or e-mail to rhe@chinainsight.info.

Delegation of Loudi, Hunan, China visits Minnesota to announce organization

PAGE 8 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011
www.chinainsight.info
Engaging the young while remembering the old at the Chinese Heritage Foundation open house

On a brilliant Sunday afternoon close to 100 people came to the Chinese Heritage Foundation’s 7th annual open house at Gramercy Park to celebrate another eventful year in the Foundation’s young history. Under the watchful eye of gourmand Yin Simpson a festive table of hors d’oeuvres (hot crab dip, tea leaf eggs, peanut puffs, almond cookies, pea pod chips and fresh fruit, etc.) greeted attendees upon their arrival. A warm hum of conviviality abounded as old, as well as newly found, friends sat next to each other and got caught up on community news.

The theme of the program centered on engaging the young while remembering the old. Ida Lano began the program by introducing the Foundation’s grant recipients from the past year, many of whom were young students. Thirteen-year-old Sarah Becker attended the National History Day competition in Washington, D.C., while second and third graders at Yinghua Academy were treated to an engaging lecture/recital by cellist Evan Drachman and pianist Mary Au. Two recent graduates of Patrick Henry High School were able to attend a week-long training and performing arts program, in Chinese, at the International Meeting of the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing, China. Following along a student’s path, Dr. Gary Cohen, chair of the History Department at the University of Minnesota, gave an update on the CHF endowed graduate fellowship in his department. To date, three CHF fellows have completed their PhD programs and returned to Mainland China and Taiwan to begin their teaching careers. A concert by the China National Broadcasting Chorus, organized by the Minnesota Chinese Dance Theater, rounded out the Foundation’s grant activities.

Margaret Wong then introduced the Foundation’s Chinese Minnesotans of Note Foundation’s grant activities. The recipients were 19 Chinese American men who served in the U.S. military forces during WWII. Families of several of the deceased veterans were on hand to receive posthumous award certificates on their behalf. Among them were families of William, Thomas and Robert Bing Hum, Henry Lee, Lim H. Wo, Harlan Wong, and Walter T. Wong.

For many of these veterans, this was the first time their valor was publicly recognized. While it was unfortunate that it did not come during many of their lifetime, their surviving families were visibly moved by this belated recognition. They were appreciative of CHF’s goal to keep this little-known history of our community alive and expressed their quiet pride in their husbands and fathers in different ways. Some wanted their men made aware that that moment of public recognition alone, while others chose to stand with them. Ron Wong spoke eloquently of his father’s (Fred) abiding dedication to his adopted country and recalled many family vacations centered on visiting military bases. All survivors expressed their heartfelt appreciation for this spotlight on their loved ones.

CHF Friends chair Greg Hugh concluded the program with a brief report on the Foundation’s acclaimed annual outreach event, A Passage to China, at Mall of America last April. The dates for 2012 will be April 21 and 22. As attendees bid each other good bye, the Foundation looked forward to another year of meaningful pursuits in our community. For more information on the Foundation, please visit www.chinaiheritagefoundation.org.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day 2011 is an annual United States holiday honoring military veterans. A federal holiday, it is observed on November 11. It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, falling on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

The holiday is commonly printed as Veteran’s Day or Veterans’ Day in calendars and advertisements. While these spellings are grammatically acceptable, the United States government has declared that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling.

Veterans Day 2011 is on November 11, 2011.
Hangzhou Foreign Language School officials visit Minnesota Department of Education

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

Over the years, the Minnetonka School District and Minnesota have had a relationship and teacher agreement with Hangzhou Foreign language school, located about 108.5 miles southwest of Shanghai, China. On October 27th, a delegation of six education officials from China visited the Minnesota Department of Education to renew the Minnesota-China Teacher Exchange Program Agreement. The success of the Teacher Exchange Program over the last 25+ years provided the foundation for Minnetonka to become the state’s leader in Mandarin Chinese Education at the K-12 level.

The dignitaries from China were:
- Mr. Liu Xiping, Commissioner of Zhejiang Education Department
- Mr. Xu Zhiping, Director of Zhejiang Institute of Science and Technology
- Mr. Cai Yuanjiang, Director of Zhejiang Wenzhou University
- Ms. Ge Weiming, Director of Zhejiang Testing Institution
- Mr. Bian Xincan, Director of planning section in the Testing Institution
- Mr. Du Jian, Contact person and interpreter, Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs Office in Zhejiang Provincial Education Department

Twenty five years ago, the Minnesota School District of Minnetonka started teaching Chinese in High School. Today, many schools in Minnesota teach Chinese including a handful of Chinese immersion schools; Minnetonka’s two immersion schools, Scenic Heights and Excelsior as well as the Yinghua Academy in Minneapolis and XiNingXing Academy in Hopkins.

Unfortunately due to their tight schedule, the delegation from China had to cancel a planned visit to Scenic Heights Elementary School, one of Minnetonka’s immersion schools.

The Minnetonka School District now has 20 teachers in its Chinese programs with 397 children enrolled in the immersion schools now running from Kindergarten through fifth grade. Chinese as a class for traditional learners is also available in middle school and high school as well. This year, Jenny Zhong is an exchange teacher at Scenic Heights Elementary School, one of Minnetonka’s immersion schools.

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Yinghua Academy offers free conversational Chinese classes for students in grades 6-8

Yinghua Academy is offering two sessions of FREE beginning conversational Chinese language classes for students from any Minnesota school currently enrolled in grades 6-8. Funding for this program is through the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant of the US Department of Education.

This semester, classes will run from October 17 through December 8. Classes are taught by Yinghua instructors who are both native Chinese speakers and master immersion classroom instructors. No prior Chinese language experience is necessary. Classes are appropriate for students with no Chinese language background and for students who are currently studying Chinese as a foreign language at their middle school.

Classes are held Mondays and Thursdays, 4-5 pm at Yinghua Academy, 1616 Buchanan Street NE, Minneapolis. Interested students can join the sessions at any time.

Session 1: October 17 – December 8, 2011
Session 2: January 9 – May 24, 2012

For more information or to register, contact the Grant Administrator, Karen Calcaterra at 612-788-9095 x 222 or Karen.Calcaterra@yinghuaacademy.org.

CHARACTER STUDY: 你好 nǐ hǎo

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

你好 nǐ hǎo is the popular Chinese way of greeting “Hello”. The literal meaning of nǐ hǎo is “you good” in Chinese. The “you” character or 你 “ni” has a standing person 人 on the left. This standing person 人 is called rén and may look like this 人 sometimes.

The character or 好 “hǎo” has a standing person 人 on the left. This standing person 人 is called rén and may look like this 人 sometimes.

The second character of the greeting 你好 nǐ hǎo is the character 好 hǎo. This character 好 hǎo has two parts, one on the left and a second on the right. Together these two parts illustrate the meaning of “good” or goodness in Chinese culture.

On the left is a picture of a woman in a dress called dài. This radical or element is in many characters, representing woman. On the right is a picture of a child or baby wrapped in a blanket called 娃. Goodness in the Chinese culture is a mother with child. Over millennia, this cultural value resulted in over-population and then the public policy response of the one-child rule. In any case, children are highly valued in Chinese society.

The greeting 你好 nǐ hǎo works as “Hello”, throughout the day. However, greetings can be specific to the time of day. Here are seven, with notes about each greeting, following:

1. Notice the 早 zǎo character which looks like a sun 旦 or coming up in a straight line over the horizon 升. This 早 zǎo character means early or morning. The 上 shàng character means upper, and looks like upper.
2. 午 wǔ means noon so 午后 wǔ hòu means upper or above noon.
3. 中 zhōng means middle so 中午 zhōng wǔ means midday or noon.
4. 下午 xià wǔ means afternoon. No prior Chinese language experience is necessary. Classes are taught by Yinghua in-room instructors. No prior Chinese language experience is necessary. Classes are appropriate for students with no Chinese language background and for students who are currently studying Chinese as a foreign language at their middle school.

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CHINA’S CULINARY HERITAGE

Chinese cuisine is world-renowned, yet international gourmets are only now discovering the full spectrum of the country’s varied and colorful food heritage. In celebration of our National Day, China Daily brings readers on a nationwide tour of culinary delights.

NOODLES WITH LEGENDS

Few in China are as passionate about their noodles as the natives from Xi’an. The noodles are steeped in folklore, family traditions and legends. Yu Yilei and Ma Lie share a few stories with us.

In China, novices unfamiliar with the food are often intimidated by strange names and even stranger customs. Take saliva noodles for example, a dish from Shaanxi in northwest China. Unlike “saliva chicken”, the Sichuan cold dish of steamed chicken bathed in chili oil and sauce, this does not mean drool inducing. It quite literally means that you are dipping into the same bowls, using recycled sauce, sharing saliva.

This is actually a kind of Qishan noodles that is famous, or notorious, depending on how you see it — in which soup from the bowls of individual diners is returned to the pot and shared out in repeated servings. Odd? No matter how offputting it sounds, this is an accepted tradition to those of us born and bred in Xi’an, just a two- and-half-hour bus ride away from the place where the noodle dish originated.

And, although Shaanxi has numerous restaurants specializing in Qishan noodles everywhere, you will not find “saliva noodles” on the menu. The only way you can sample this is to be invited into the home on special occasions. It was not until my parents and I were invited to such a noodle feast a couple of years ago that I fully appreciated the true meaning of such a meal — a communion of community and harmony.

“You should be happy if you are invited to have saliva noodles because the guests are limited to family members, close friends and special guests,” my mom told me later.

The preparation itself involves the whole family, with helping hands from close neighbors and friends. After mixing wheat flour with water, the dough has to be kneaded for hours until it becomes glossy and shiny. It is then rolled out thin as paper and then cut into slivers of noodles.

When it comes to making the soup, it is just pure art. First, five basic ingredients — carrots (red), beans (green), woow dear fungus (black), day lilies (yellow), and tofu (white) — are diced and then fried. Seasonings such as ginger, allspice, vinegar and red pepper are added. Another pot with tasty hot stock is prepared and after the fried diced ingredients are added, more salt, more vinegar and more red pepper goes in.

That’s not all. Well-made saliva noodle must have “floating ingredients” such as strips of thin omelet, and a scattering or chopped spring onions.

How the noodles are served is what makes them so special. A small amount of boiled noodles is put into each diner’s bowl, to be eaten in one mouthful.

Qishan noodles from Shaanxi are rightly famous, as much for their taste and texture as the communion of community and harmony that they represent.

Saucy noodles

By Ye Jun, China Daily

When U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden visited Beijing, he took his granddaughter to lunch at Yao Ji Chao Gan and ordered five bowls of zhajiang noodles.

Biden had just happened to order one of Beijing’s favorite snack, a colorful bowl of boiled noodles that is eaten tossed with a dollop of deep brown bean paste and meat sauce and shredded radishes, cucumbers and sprouts. The dish is to Beijingers what the hamburgers are to Americans.

Literally, zhajiang mian means noodles with fried sauce. The secret is definitely in the sauce and the quality of the dish hinges on how well-made it is. The pork must also be properly fatty as the rendered lard is what makes the sauce tasty. For those who avoid meat, there are versions that use scrambled eggs or diced aubergines.

One other element contributes to the success of a delicious bowl of zhajiang mian. And that is the collection of mianma, the little saucers of shredded vegetables that are to be tossed into the noodles.

At some Beijing noodle restaurants, there may be as many as eight little plates of cucumber slices, watermelon radish, celery hearts, green bean, sliced aubergine, sliced garlic, green garlic and bean sprouts.

The noodles must be hand-made, and stretched to maximum elasticity. Custom- ers may also ask for a bowl of the water the noodles are cooked in, as they believe this “noodle soup” aids digestion. The first people to eat zhajiang mian were the people from Shandong and Beijing, but now, the dish is popular all over China, with varia- tions on the sauce.

A typical zhajiang mian restaurant is a good place to get to know the locals. At the door, customers are welcomed enthusiastically by waiters dressed in dark blue gowns from the days of old Beijing. They shout loudly to announce your arrival, alerting the rest of the serving staff.

And once you are settled on the long wooden benches that frame each table, you can relax and start ordering. And it is more than a bowl of noodles you will be sampling, it is a way of life from the past.

You can contact the writer at yejun@ chinadaily.com.cn.

Long strands stretching through history

By Deng Zhangyu, China Daily

Noodles are the most ubiquitous food on Chinese bowls, and they are staples for the northern Chinese. Based on region, the variety in production, ingredients, shape and cooking method number up to the hundreds. The Chinese, Italians and Arabs have all claimed to have invented noodles, but the argument was ended when an archaeologi- cal discovery in 2005 proved that the oldest noodles were found in Qinghai province in China.

The 4,000-year-old noodles appeared to be thin and long, made from millet and broccorn — rare ingredients these days. The first written account of noodles dates back to the East Han Dynasty (AD 25-220). At that time, noodles were called “soup bread”. People in the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) ate noodles which were soaked in water after being boiled. It’s said that Wu Zetian, the only female ruler in Chinese history, invented this dish to honor the memory of a childhood sweetheart.

Dried noodles appeared during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), about the time that Marco Polo was said to have brought Chinese noodles back to Italy, where they became pasta.

The Italians may dispute that, and they may be right. Pasta is made from durum wheat, which is springy and much harder. Chinese noodles are made from wheat, softer and easier to chew.

There are countless ways in which the Chinese make, serve and eat noodles. Apart from being a daily staple, noodles are often served during birthdays. For a people very fond of symbolic auspiciousness, the strands represent longevity with “longer noodles, longer life.”

No matter where your travels bring you in China, you can be sure that you will be able to enjoy a bowl of delicious noodles.

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By Ye Jun, China Daily

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You can contact the writer at yejun@chinadaily.com.cn.
Southern Cities of the Grand Canal

By Jiao Feng, China Today Staff Writer

The prosperity of Shanghai and her surrounding cities used to depend heavily on a single waterway – the Grand Canal. With Beijing and Hangzhou at its ends, the canal was the main route between the South and North of China till the introduction of the railway. Productions of the fertile southeast, like tea, silk and porcelain, were shipped to the North non-stop through this canal.

Hangzhou

Hangzhou is located about [124 miles] southwest of Shanghai – an hour and a half by bullet train that can be booked six days ahead through the ticket vendor in the Shanghai Railway Station. The southernmost city of the canal, Hangzhou sits at the end of the thriving waterway.

Scenic spots:
1. West Lake. The lake is a household name for Chinese, not only because of its natural scenery, but also the numerous legends and love stories set there. In people’s minds, the lake is synonymous with romance. Large-scale performances and entrance is free. You can take a water bus to Gongchen Bridge and proceed from there on foot.
2. Xixi Wetland National Park. About [3.1 miles] away from the West Lake, guests can enjoy plentiful ecological resources and a pristine landscape maintained for the delight of guests and citizens alike. You can take bus K194 at the West Lake and then transfer to K193.
3. Chinese Grand Canal Museum. The museum provides ample information on how the canal was dug, utilized and protected, as well as the traditions and culture that rose around it. It is situated next to Gongcheng Bridge which marks the canal’s starting point in north Hangzhou. Built in 1631, the [304-foot-long] bridge is the longest stone bridge in the city. The museum is open from 9:00 to 16:30, Wednesday to Sunday (closed on Monday and Tuesday), and entrance is free. You can take a water bus to Gongcheng Bridge and proceed from there on foot.
4. Longjing Village. Besides the West Lake and the Grand Canal, the other specialty of Hangzhou is tea – Longjing Tea, or literally Dragon Well Tea. The namesake village is the green tea’s place of origin. You can take bus Y3 at the Sudi Causeway of the West Lake Scenic Area to the village.

5. Hangzhou Leisure Expo Park. Located in Xiaoshan District, it was the main venue for the 2006 World Leisure Expo Hangzhou. The venue consists of three lakes, connected by a [6.2-mile-long] river. Travellers can take a boat tour of over 100 pavilions representing the world’s major cities, and attend a range of themed events to experience the traditional and exotic arts of different countries. In the evening, a water-sprinkling festival is worth taking in. You can take K515 or a sightseeing bus to the Expo. In Hangzhou, dozens of public buses can carry you anywhere in the urban area you want to go. The special lines, sightseeing routes and night buses make getting around very convenient. Touring the canal in a water bus is highly recommended, especially in the evening.

Water bus route:
- Genshuhumen Dock - Shijia Bridge Dock - Wuliimen Dock - Maryu Bridge Dock - Beixingguan Dock - Gongcheng Bridge Dock

Water bus ticket prices:
- Depart Wuliimen Dock at 19:30, return at 21:00
- Tickets can be bought anytime at Wuliimen Dock

You can also take a boat at Wuliimen Dock to Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. This section of the canal will allow you to take in many beautiful scenes.

Huzhou

Huzhou is an ancient city with over 2,000 years’ history, and is [102.3 miles] away from Shanghai. There is no railway between the two cities, but it takes only two hours by bus. It is booked six half-hour from 6:50 to 19:20 at Shanghai General Coach Station.

Scenic spots:
1. Nanxun Town. This birthplace of Chinese capitalists is also dubbed the most beautiful town in southeast China. The town is characterized by a blend of Chinese and Western cultures. It is here that the three gardens meet typical Greek architecture and Western-style ball rooms with mosaic floors. Buaijumlou, or literally A Hundred Houses, is a group of ancient constructions built about 400 years ago. The typical house is separated into a front store and a living area behind it. In many ways they make the best accommodation for travelers. The buses from Huzhou to the town depart every 15 minutes from 6:30 to 17:30.
2. Mogan Mountain. It was named after two famous swordsmith Mo Ye and Gan Jiang as they cast the sharpest known swords in their forges here. With bamboos planted all over the mountain, the slopes and peaks are pleasantly cool and it is becoming a popular summer resort. You can take the bus to Wukang of Deqing County first, and transfer to Mogan Mountain (Moganshan). The park administrator operates tour vehicles for visitors.
3. Anji Bamboo Expo. In this museum, you can see about 400 species of bamboo from all over the world, and also see the production process and use of bamboo in China. Travelers can take buses to Anji County first, and transfer to the museum.

The urban area of Huzhou is very compact, so public transportation is very convenient. The flag-down fare is only six yuan. The city is famous for four dishes – whitebait, white shrimp, cicada and crab, all of which come from Taihu Lake. If you are shopping for cultural mementos, Huzhou is famous for its brush pens, the most important writing tool in Chinese history.

Jiaxing

It takes about 40 minutes by bullet train or an hour and a half by intercity coach to reach Jiaxing with its dense network of waterways and several lakes. The canal crosses the small city and makes a 90-degree turn. Sitting silently beside the canal are three pagodas featured in National Geographic February 1926 issue as symbols of China.

Scenic spots:
1. South Lake. Located in the southeast of Jiaxing, the lake is famous for the YanYu Scenic spots continues on Page 13
Southern Cities of the Grand Canal

Continues from Page 12

Tower rising from its center. Emperor Qianlong (1711-1799) climbed the tower several times in his visits to southern China, and even ordered a replica built in his summer resort in Chengde, which took the same name. The tower is open from 8:00 to 18:00.

2. Jiaxing Catholic Church Site. Located on Ziyang Street, the church was established in 1917 by Han Rihu (as his Chinese name), an Italian priest and famous architect. The church took 13 years to build, being the third largest of its kind in the Far East. It was destroyed in the 1960s and no restoration has been done. The fine architecture is still apparent in the ruins of the dome and relief work.

3. Wuzhen Town. Located [21.7 miles] west of Jiaxing, this town has a history of 6,000 years. It remains typical of the early 20th century in its appearance. A river runs through it, and houses are built along its banks. The river is the street, for locals use boats for transport, and the banks are their markets. The upper tier of a house extends out over the river, supported by wooden or stone pillars sunk in the river bed. This is what they call a “water pavilion.” You can take coaches at Jiaxing West Bus Station from 7:20 to 16:45, with six round-trip a day.

4. Xitang. Located [23.6 miles] north of Jiaxing, it is also famous for its rivers and lakes. The town keeps well preserved buildings that date back hundreds of years to the Ming Dynasty. The feature that stands out is a [3,300-foot-long] corridor, with one side open to the river. You can take coaches in Jiaxing North Bus Station every hour from 6:40 to 16:30.

The public buses in Jiaxing are mostly air-conditioned vehicles, charging RMB 2 a ride. You should prepare exact fare as they do not accept any change.

There are a range of hotels in the urban area. While visiting small towns, it’s better to arrange a homestay inn, and the prices are very reasonable.

Disappointments is impossible: a water view obtained from the “Tortoise Head,” Wuxi. China Foto Press

Wuxi

About [88.6 miles] away from Shanghai, it takes about an hour by bullet train and you can hop on just about any time in the station. Compared with other cities, the canal in Wuxi boasts the oldest and best preserved section. The part from the Nanchang Bridge to the Qingming Bridge is [0.95 miles] long and [66 feet] wide, with old residences arranged in an orderly manner along both sides, as well as old ancient pagodas, temples and kivas. It is called the “corridor of historical and cultural scenes.”

Tourism has become a pillar industry of Wuxi. Treasures include Taihu Lake, bamboo forestlands, the Lingshan Giant Buddha, and a CCTV film studio. The Huishan Spring is also a popular spot, and is reputed as the “Second Spring under Heaven.” It gave inspiration to blind musician Hua Yanjun (1893-1950), who created his epic masterpiece for the erhu, The Moon Reflected on the Second Spring.

Scenic spots:
1. Yuantouzhu Scenic Zone. Yuantouzhu is a peninsula jutting into Taihu Lake. The giant stone extending into the waters resembles the head of a tortoise. You can take bus No. 87 at Wuxi Railway Station to the zone.

2. CCTV film studio. It is China’s first theme park that combines location shooting and tourism. About [5.6 miles] from the Yuantouzhu Scenic Zone, you can take bus No. 1 at Yuantouzhu and transfer to No. 82, or take No. 82 directly from the railway station.

3. Rongxiang Street. Located in the western part of the city, this street is home to the Kong family, one of the biggest financial groups in modern China. This [924-foot-long] ancient street is well preserved and 157 modern architectural works stand in contrast to strong local characteristics. Bus No. 2, 26, 87, and 88 will take you there.

4. Huishan Town. It is called the open-air museum of Wuxi. Besides Huishan Temple and Huishan Spring, the town recently developed a water street that allows visitors to experience local customs and tradition. The town is located in western Wuxi, next to the canal. Bus No. 57, 58, 202, 206 will take you there.

Famous food markets of Wuxi can be found at the Chong’an and Nanchan temples and on Qingshi Road.

Bus fare in Wuxi is one yuan, or two yuan for air-conditioned vehicles. The Shanghai transportation card can be used here.

Southern Cities of the Grand Canal

U.S. currency bill would see ‘retaliation’

By Ding Qingfen, China Daily

Passage will hurt the interests of both countries, Chinese officials say

BEIJING - China's government will not sit by and retaliate in kind against the United States if a measure targeting the yuan becomes law, said the Ministry of Commerce on [Oct. 31].

"The currency legislation proposed by the U.S. would hurt the interests of both China and the U.S. We are strongly against it," said He Ning, director-general of the Department of American & Oceanian Affairs with the Ministry of Commerce.

“If it eventually passes and becomes law, we cannot ignore it and will definitely reciprocate in kind," said He, who refused to elaborate.

“We have readied ourselves with measures to deal with the possible outcome from the U.S.,” He said.

He's remarks came as Chinese President Hu Jintao is expected to attend the G20 summit on Nov. 3 and 4 in Cannes, France. At that meeting, leaders from the 20 nations are scheduled to discuss how to address issues including the global economic recession and the spreading European debt crisis.

"I am not sure whether the Chinese currency thing will be talked about or not during the G20 meeting, He said. But officials from the European Union said [...] that they will pressure China on yuan appreciation during the Cannes discussions.

Earlier October, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that would allow the U.S. government to impose tariffs on Chinese goods to compensate for an allegedly undervalued currency.

The proposal will have to be approved by the House of Representatives and then signed by U.S. President Barack Obama before it can become law.

"Nations worldwide always like to target China and its policies, including its currency, when they have their own problems," said He.

The U.S. unemployment rate has remained above 9 percent since April, although the country’s economic growth returned to 2.5 percent in the third quarter, easing fears that the U.S. economy was falling into another recession. Economists have warned that the U.S. recovery is still precarious.

Experts said the United States is transferring its own economic problems to China by pointing to the nation’s currency policies, especially as the 2012 U.S. presidential election draws near.

China’s yuan has so far appreciated 3.7 percent this year, and the nation continues to require efforts aimed at reducing inflation, Vice-Minister of Finance Zhu Guangyao said at a conference on Friday.

Zhou Xiaoyan, director of the Bureau of Trade Fair of Trade and Exports of the Ministry of Commerce, said recently that a new round of trade protectionism targeting Chinese exports is rising, citing the U.S. economic slowdown and Europe’s debt woes.

On [Oct. 28], the U.S. Commerce Department said it had found in a preliminary investigation that Chinese companies are dumping steel wheels, setting duties ranging from 110.58 to 193.54 percent.

Also in recent days, a group of U.S. solar cell and solar panel makers filed a trade complaint against China, accusing the country of illegally dumping silicon solar cells and panels through massive subsidies.

Last [Oct 26], Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrius Marantis said the United States has recently investigated more than 200 Chinese domestic subsidy programs and is “going to keep pushing (China) and use all the tools”.

China Daily

www.chinainsight.info
processing materials, demonstrating the central government's determination to adjust the trade structure.

In addition, the proportion of China's trade surplus to the total trade sum decreased from 11.6 percent in 2008 to 8.9 percent in 2009, and it dropped even further to 6.2 percent in 2010. It is predicted that the proportion will continue to decline in 2011, with China's foreign trade becoming more balanced.

As regards the type of commodities, primary products are in deficit on the whole, and manufactured goods are in surplus in general. Of the primary products, food products, live animals for food use, beverages, and tobacco products have a trade surplus, and the rest have a trade deficit. Of the manufactured goods, miscellaneous manufactures, machinery and transport equipment, not elsewhere specified, and electrical products and mining products have a trade surplus. In terms of industrial classification, the vast majority of the trade surplus has been created by communications equipment, computer and other electronic equipment manufacturing, textile and garment, footwear manufacturing, textiles, leather and fur products sectors.

In 2010, clothing, shoes, and luggage products accounted, as they have tradition- ally done, for an important proportion of all export products. Aside from this, the export values of the main products reached US$492.4 billion, representing 31 percent of total exports and displaying the clear ef- fect of favorable policies introduced by the Chinese government in recent years.

The huge impact of FDI on Export Growth and Trade Surplus
China's trade surplus stems from eco- nomic globalization and transferred indus- trial links, not global economic imbalance. China's surplus owes its existence to spec- ific structural conditions. Processing trade is the principal form of foreign investment in China. In the late 1990s the surplus in processing trade began to rapidly overtake that of the general trade surplus, and processing trade bases supported mainly by foreign-funded enterprises were gradually formed across the country. Nowadays, the international division of labor has developed from product specialization to a chain operation that limits the various distributed modes of production for a single product across different countries and regions. This will inevitably generate trade between the coun- tries involved in the product's intermediate stages. The principal beneficiaries of China's trade surplus are transnational corporations engaged in global or Asian trade. In China, for example in electronic goods. Fully 80 per- cent of China's 2010 trade surplus with the [United States] in 2010 was generated by such transnational corporations. These en- terprises form an Asian production network, and not only profit hugely from labor and environmental cost advantages, but also export immense numbers of finished products back to their home countries and regions. However, there are still many uncer- tainties in China's trade environment, with favorable and unfavorable factors coexist- ing. Favorable factors for export include improvement of Chinese enterprises' inter- national competitiveness, the gradual recov- ery of the global economy, and the possible growth of market demand after long being suppressed because of the financial crisis. Unfavorable factors for export include weak growth in household consumption caused by high unemployment rates in the developed countries, aggravated protectionism and uncertainty of appreciation of the RMB on the structural adjustment of trade. For the foreseeable future, China will maintain the stability of its support policies for the processing trade, and will put emphasis on encouraging foreign-funded enterprises to establish headquarters and R&D centers in China, so as to accelerate the formation of domestic industrial chains.

The import expansion concept, gestating since China's accession to the WTO strategy. This year, China will adopt eight measures to encourage imports and promote balanced trade. One, in accordance with the requirements of its industrial policies, China will actively import resources, advanced technologies and key equipment. Two, China will properly cope with trade fric- tions and disputes and encourage imports from the countries with trade deficits in trade surplus with China. Three, China will further opti- mize the import tariff structure, and guide enterprises to expand imports. Four, China will continue to promote convenience in trade and reduce import fees and costs. Five, China will constantly improve the public information service system for import, and improve transparency of policies. Six, China will properly cope with the newly increased import duties on goods exhibitions, fairs, presentations, etc., to enhance international economic and trade cooperation and exchanges. Seven, China will actively employ a variety of financial, taxation and other measures to support expan- sion of imports. Eight, China will continue to organize missions abroad to promote trade and investment activities.

In terms of implementation of policies, three aspects are involved: import tariffs on luxury consumer goods will be reduced, regulations will be relaxed on subsidized loans for import, and the import quota system. Of these three aspects, re- duction of import tariffs on luxury consumer goods would meet little resistance, as a most effective measure to meet domestic com- merial service. The subsidized loans policy will mainly target large-sized mechanical and electrical products and high-tech goods, aiming to reduce the import cost. It is possible that the import of foreign target bulk commodities such as cotton for those enterprises engaged in the processing trade. Professor Zhao Zhongxiu is the Dean of the School of International Trade and Econom- ics, University of International Business and Economics. He serves as Assistant Chairman of China Association of International Trade. Dr. Sun Jingying is a research fellow in the School of International Trade and Econom- ics, University of International Business and Economics. She earned her doctorate at Peking University. ■

During the Korean War, there were several Chinese American Army Colonels and the Marines commissioned their first Chinese American as a regular officer in 1947. He is retired Major Kurt Lee, the winner of a Navy Cross (the highest medal that the US Navy can award), and the second highest medal below the Medal of Honor), a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. Then 1st Lieutenant Lee helped save the lives of 8,000 fellow Marines with a forced company march through unmapped mountains at night through a blizzard to relieve a decimated company holding a crucial pass through which the Marines had to retreat at the famous Battle of Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Lt. General Ray Davis, former Deputy Commandant of the US Marine Corps, called Lee the bravest Marine he had ever known. Now 85 years young, retired Major Lee is still teaching military tactics and strategy to Marine officers in Quantico, Va. Lee was also a veteran of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

In that same war, Army Colonel (then 1st Lieutenant) Chew Mon Lee, the brother of Major Kurt Lee, also received the Distinguished Service Cross (the highest medal the US Army can award), and second highest medal below the Medal of Honor) and two Purple Hearts. Colonel Lee died in the line of duty. The Lee brothers were the only Chinese American brothers honored by these distinguished awards.

In the past two decades, there have been at least 3 one star generals/admirals and 2 three star generals of Chinese American descent in our military serving the United States loyally and effectively. This year former Army Warrant Officer and Vietnam veteran Mr. Fang A. Wong was elected the first Asian/Chinese American National Commander of the American Legion. Wong now leads 2.4 million veterans in the largest military veterans organization in the United States.

Fang A. Wong is the Adjutant and long time member of the American Legion Lt B. R. Kimlau #1291 post in New York City, chartered in 1945. This post was named after World War II Army Air Corps bomber pilot Lt. Bok Pon, a Chinese American who died in the line of duty in the Pacific Theater. The Kimlau post is a very distinguished American Legion post that has provided extraordinary service to our Country at their New York City location. Their post has had leadership positions at all levels of American Legion hierarchy including Area, District, and State level command.

In San Francisco, American Legion Cathay Post #384, which was chartered in 1931, is one of the most active veterans organizations in the Bay Area. Led by the late dynamic Bok Pon, who served in the famous 82nd Airborne unit of the US Army, the post was revived at the end of the 20th Century and today, led by Commander Ron Lee and several very dedicated and capable Vice Commanders have served as a model Post for the past decade. This past year the Post conducted 60 major activities including the hosting of two US Navy warships, supporting Hepatitis A awareness programs year round, awarded scholarships to ROTC cadets, honored local firefighters and police officers, supported three local high school Boys State delegates, visited Ft. Miley Veterans Hospital, and hosted activities and events that served the San Francisco community.

In this short history of the contributions of Chinese American military veterans we have highlighted a select number of stories about our loyal and brave American citizens of Chinese heritage. Their bravery and dedication to our Country and the mortal sacrifice many of them made for America is not well known but should serve to counter the negative stereotypes that are still heard today against Chinese Americans.

For more information about Chinese American heroes, please visit the Chinese American Heroes Web site at www.chineseamericanheroes.org.
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