

T. KAUFMAN
The President of ICFS

TWENTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH CHINA

I remember those days well, back in January 1992. David Levy, then the Israeli Foreign Affairs minister, signed the agreement establishing diplomatic relations between China and Israel.

To all of us, China's friends in Israel and China's ex-pats, some of whom were born in China, the signing of this agreement was a historical event. All of us who remember our past in China have always felt most acutely the absence of a Chinese diplomatic representative in Israel in comparison with the diplomatic multitude of other embassies in Israel. Some 40 years have gone by since the start of the mass migration of Jews from China to Israel in 1949 until the establishment of diplomatic relations with China in 1992. During those years, we, the former residents of China and our association "Igud Yotzei Sin" were China's representatives in Israel. Wherever we found ourselves, be it at the work place, the army, the wider community, we were the "Chinese" for all the others.

We were the only ones who could deliver some truths about China to Israel, about the Chinese people and our lives in that wondrous country. We were the only ones, us, the former residents, China's ex-pats who initiated and organized the Israel-China Friendship Society - an organization which pioneered the cultural exchange and other relations between Israel and China.

Twenty year have gone by, during which time the relations with China have become ever closer and ever expanding. In commerce, export and import, science, culture and education, we have made our modest contribution via the Israel-China Friendship Society and via Igud Yotzei Sin in Israel and we are most proud of these achievements.

The history of our activities, always aimed at tightening the friendship between the two peoples is reflected in the pages of the "Bulletin", our periodical as well as the journal published by the Israel-China Friendship Society; both have been regularly published throughout the twenty years since the establishment of diplomatic relations with China.

Dozens of Chinese students attending higher education establishments in Israel, delegations arriving from China and Israeli delegations leaving for China, various conservation programmes regarding past Jewish life in

China such as the museum and the Jewish cemetery in Harbin, Cultural centers in Nanjing, Shandong, Kaifeng and Shanghai, as well as frequent trips to China, seminars held regarding Jewish history in China, maintaining the close relations between our organization and the Chinese embassy in Israel - these are the various activities bearing witness to our modest yet much cherished work we have been carrying out.

That is the destiny of the pioneer - the Israel-China Friendship Society - not only have we traveled that route, we have paved the way for those who are certain to follow. We continue with our humble work and strongly believe in the tightening and expanding the relations between China and Israel.

On this, the twentieth anniversary, we send our congratulations to all our dear friends, both in China and in Israel!

BOOK PRIZE WINNER - "THE HISTORY OF JEWISH FAMILIES IN HARBIN"

We have been informed by our sources in Harbin that the book "The History of Jewish Families In Harbin" has won a prize at the 17th book competition for historical nonfiction books.

The book's editors are the team at The Harbin Jewish Research Centre part of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences - Mrs. Hen Tian Yan, Mr. Chen Ho Ze and Mr. Xiao Hun.

ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (FOUNDATION OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN)

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WELCOME TO THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

A NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN ISRAEL

Mme Gao Yanping, the new ambassador of the People's Republic Of China has arrived in Israel.

Mme Gao Yanping was born in Nanjing, China. In 1982 she graduated with a BA in Arts. She continued with law studies and gained an MA in 1985 and a PhD in 1997.

She joined the People's Republic of China' Foreign Ministry in 1985 and served hereafter as Attaché, Third Secretary, Deputy Director, Director and Counsellor. She was assigned as political Counsellor in the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the United States from early 2000 to late 2003. Having returned to China from her post in the USA she worked in the Central Office of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Director General and as Director General from 2004 to 2009. She was then posted as the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Houston in 2009 and in April 2011 she was appointed Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Israel.

Mme Gao Yanping is married and has a daughter who is currently attending university.



Ambassador Gao Yanping with PM Netanyahu

The People's Republic of China 62nd Anniversary

Greer Fay Cashman

WHILE STILL in the capacity of ambassador-designate, Gao last month hosted a reception for 700 people in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Guests who congregated in the garden of the Chinese residence in Kfar Shmaryahu included Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Minister-without-Portfolio Yossi Peled, Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, former foreign minister Moshe Arens, who is now the honorary president of the Council for the Promotion of Israel-China Relations, Police Commissioner Yohanan Danino, Deputy Director-General for Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ruth Kahanoff, Kfar Saba Mayor Yehuda Ben-Hamo and the president of the Israel and China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Jewish Residents in China, Teddy Kaufman, along with former Israeli ambassadors to China, members of the diplomatic corps, Chinese students currently studying in Israel and representatives of Chinese enterprises and of the local Chinese community. Gao noted the great changes that have taken place in China with her country's total economic output and volume of trade ranking second in the world. China's foreign exchange reserves and exports are the highest in the world, she said, and prosperity levels for Chinese workers have reached unprecedented levels and constitute an historic breakthrough. China has made important positive contributions to



**Chinese Ambassador Yanping Gao with President Shimon Peres
(Marc Neiman/GPO)**

the stable development of the world economy, and has played an active and important role in safeguarding world peace and coping with global challenges, declared Gao, who said she was honored to be her country's sixth ambassador to Israel and that she was fully aware of the responsibilities. She also noted that next year both countries will mark the 20th anniversary of their diplomatic ties. Peled and Kaufman each noted the centuries old connection between the Jewish and Chinese peoples, and the fact that Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust found a haven in China. They also referred to the highly developed partnership between China and Israel that exists today and were confident it will continue to be enhanced.

Tientsin Photo Exhibition Donation to The Diaspora Museum in Tel Aviv

November 2011



Dignitaries at Tientsin Photo Exhibition Ceremony



Ambassador Gao Yanping delivering a speech



Mr. Xiao Huaiyuan



Sam Muller (Tientsiner)



*Mr. Daniel Seaman Deputy Director-General
Diaspora Ministry*



*Photo Donation Presentation Mr. Gad Ben-Ari - Senior
Adviser Board of Directors - Diaspora Museum*

Donation Ceremony of the Tientsin Photo Exhibition to the Diaspora Museum

Tel Aviv November 2011



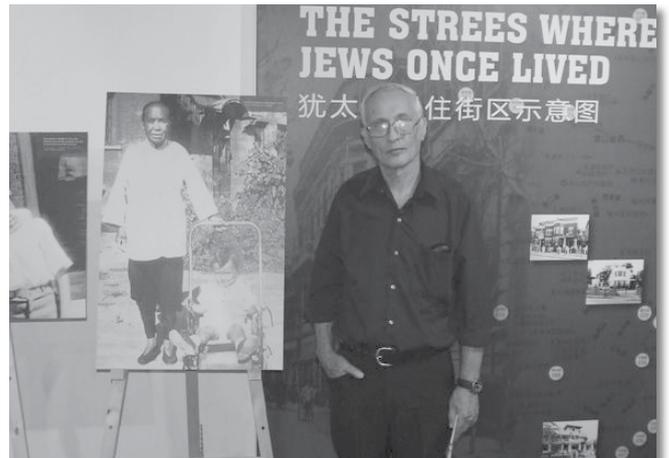
L-R: Varda Priver; T. Kaufman; Daniel Friedman (Tientsin)



Ambassador Gao Yanping



L-R: Former residents of Tientsin with Miss Anna Song



Yossi Jacobsen (Tientsin)



L-R: Daniel Ben Simon; T. Kaufman; Mr. Xiao Huaiyuan & Amb. Gao Yanping



Gad Ben-Ari Senior Adviser - Board of Directors Diaspora Museum

AT THE ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

84 YEARS TO THE FOUNDING OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

The Chinese military attaché, Colonel Mo Shen Lin and his wife held a reception on the 26th of July, in Herzliyah Pituach at the Sharon Hotel, celebrating the establishment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Some 300 guests took part in the event, amongst them were representatives of the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Israel Defence Force and military attachés from various countries, the Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin in Israel were represented at the event by R. and T. Kaufman, P. and Y. Klein and A. Fradkin.

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A RECEPTION AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY

A reception was held at the Chinese ambassador's residence in honour of the new ambassador Mme Gao Yanping and to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the people's republic of China.

More than three hundred guests were in attendance; amongst them were representatives of the Israeli

government, ministers, members of the Knesset and delegates from the wider Israeli society.

Ambassador Gao Yanping addressed the guests relating the latest developments in China and the tightening of the relationship between China and Israel.

Yossi Peled, a government minister greeted the ambassador on behalf of the Israeli government and Teddy Kaufman gave an address on behalf of Igud Yotzei Sin and the China-Israel Friendship Society.

Both organizations were represented at the reception by R. and T. Kaufman, A. and R Veinerman, D. Friedman, A. Fradkin and S. Podolsky.

DELEGATION AT PONVE HOUSE

A delegation of Chinese scientists has arrived in Israel in September taking part in a Sino Israeli symposium on the subjects of defence and strategies.

On the 12th of September they visited Ponve House.

The delegation included - Professor Wan San Sui, Director of Aeronautics and Strategic Research Centre at the Beijing University, Professor Chezou Minsuren from the foreign relations department at the Fudan University, Shanghai and professor Xian Senyun, director of the Institute for Jewish Research at Henan University in Kaifeng and another professor from the department of diplomatic relation at Fudan university in Shanghai.

The delegation was greeted by members of the management team at Igud Yotzei Sin and of the China-Israel Friendship Society T. Kaufman, Y. Klein, R Veinerman and R. Rashinsky. At the meeting, which lasted about an hour and a half, T. Kaufman talked about the history of the Jews in China and the activities of Igud Yotzei Sin and the China-Israel Friendship Society as well as the cultural ties between Israel and China.

Members of the delegation received copies of the books "The Harbin Jews Live on in My Heart" by T. Kaufman, published in Chinese and "18 Jewish families from Harbin" edited by the research team at the Harbin Jewish Research Centre as well as a copies of our "Bulletin" periodical in English.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR'S VISIT

Mme Gao Yanping, the new Chinese ambassador to Israel made a visit to T. Kaufman's residence in Ramat Gan. Also present were Y. Klein and R. Veinerman.

Israeli ambassador made honorary citizen of Chengdu

Israel's Ambassador to China, Amos Nadai, has a soft spot for Chengdu, and is a regular visitor; it was no surprise that he was officially awarded the title of "honorary citizen of Chengdu city" in July. Nadai is the only foreign ambassador to China among the 29 honorary citizens of Chengdu city.

An official ceremony was held to award the Israeli Ambassador. Mayor Ge Honglin conferred the certificate and the badge to Amos Nadai.

"I am honored to be an 'honorary citizen of Chengdu city'. I represent more than myself. I stand for the Israeli embassy in China.

We see Chengdu as a representative Chinese city focused on sustainable development. We have deeply felt the significance of our bilateral relations. We have much work to do. I will do my best to continue deepening our mutual relations for sustainable development," he said.

"China is so big. In the four years as ambassador to China, I've been to other provinces and cities, two times at most. Chengdu is an exception; I've been there scores of times. Therefore, I am very 'partial' to Chengdu" he said.

"Chengdu and Israel started exchanges a long time ago. In

the beginning, we focused only on the agricultural sector. However, the devastating Wenchuan earthquake was the turning point in terms of expanding cooperation," said Nadai. Chengdu spared no effort in rescuing two trapped



Amos Nadai

Israeli students in the Wenchuan earthquake. Israeli media followed up the story, enabling Israelis to build on their own relationship with Chengdu. Nadai has exerted all efforts to promote friendly exchanges between Israel and Chengdu. In September 2009, he led an Israeli enterprise delegation to attend the China (Chengdu) New Energy International Forum. In January 2010, he gathered a group of renowned Israeli enterprises to hold an Chengdu- Israel Enterprise Exchange in Chengdu. In November 2010, he made round trips to secure the success of Chengdu - Israel Week. The event was the largest ever activity organized by the Israeli embassy in China and the first large-scale exchange activity between Chengdu's municipal government and a foreign embassy in China.

Israel is also looking to set up a consulate in Chengdu, which will enable closer relations.

Jewish Times Asia - September 2011

INVITATION



The Board of Directors of Igud Yotzei Sin,
The Association of Former Residents of China in Israel
And the Israel-China Friendship Society

Are honored to invite you to the traditional Chanukah Reunion of Former Residents of China and the ceremony for the presentation of scholarships to students.

On Tuesday, 27 December 2011

At Mercaz Einav (Gan Ha'ir rooftop) 71 Ibn Gvirol Street, Tel Aviv. Doors will open at 5 PM for start of the reunion. Light refreshments will be served. Doors will close at 6 PM to begin the ceremony.

FIRST ISRAEL STUDIES PROGRAMME TO BE LAUNCHED IN CHINA

The first ever Israel Studies Programme to be instituted in a Chinese university will begin in Spring, 2012, at the Sichuan International Studies University (SISU) in Chongqing, China.

The university will be offering undergraduate and graduate coursework, extra-curricular activities, and Israel study abroad opportunities. The first Israel studies professors will be trained at Bar Ilan University beginning in October, 2011.

Israel-based Sino-Israel Global Network and Academic Leadership (SIGNAL), a non profit organisation, has partnered with the university.

SIGNAL, was formed for the purpose of enhancing China's and Israel's strategic, diplomatic, cultural and economic relationship through academia.

The first semester will have a projected enrollment of 60 students. Through joint SIGNAL- SISU efforts, a master's degree programme in Israel studies is expected to open in 2015.

Thanks to a grant that SIGNAL has arranged from the Diane & Guilford Glazer Foundation, two SISU lecturers will study for a full semester at Bar Ilan University, to prepare them for teaching Israeli history, culture and politics upon their return to China.

"As China emerges as an increasingly important player in Middle East politics, an academic course of study such as an Israeli Studies Programme, where Chinese academics can learn about Israeli history, culture and life, will help strengthen Israeli's image and position throughout the broader international arena," commented Carice Witte,

founder of SIGNAL.

In April, Israel's ambassador to China, Amos Nadai, travelled to Chongqing to officiate SISU's launch of the Israel Studies Programme with the first student essay competition on Israel. The final submissions will be made in September and awards will be presented at a ceremony to take place in October.

In its aim to expose the student body to Israel, SISU has invited lecturers from Israel, the US and Australia to give introductory seminars, lectures and workshops on Israeli history, culture and literature. SISU will also organise a series of forums to discuss Israel-related topics, including an overview of the Israeli governance system and analysis of different societal sectors within Israel today. Professors from Israel will lecture at SISU as part of a SIGNAL sponsored academic speaking tour.

American Jewish Committee's Asia Pacific Institute has recently pledged to donate over 100 new and used books on Israel and the Middle East to SISU's fledgling Israel Studies library.

Witte expects that more SISU lecturers will study in Israel to prepare as teachers, professors from Israel will come to lecture at SISU and that the programme will grow and expand creating new jobs.

Witte, is a graduate of Yale University in East Asian Studies with a focus on China. After a 20 year entrepreneurial career in Israeli high tech and international real estate, she decided to merge her commitment to Israel and her respect for China.

Jewish Times Asia - September 2011

NIR BARAM ATTENDS THE LITERARY FESTIVAL IN SHANGHAI

Israel author, Nir Baram, will take part in the Literary Festival of Shanghai as a guest of the Israeli Consulate. The Festival, which is organized yearly by M on the Bund, attracts many international writers from all over the world. Nir's session will be held on 6 March at the Glamour Bar.

Baram was born in 1977 in Jerusalem, to a family of well-known politicians. In 1988, shortly after his three-year mandatory service in the army, Nir's first novel, PURPLE LOVE STORY, was published in Israel. It was very well received, especially by the nation's young people, and was subsequently translated into German with similar success. Nir's second novel, THE MASK-BALL CHILDREN, was published in 2000.

In 2002, Nir became the editor of non-fiction book series presenting political, cultural and philosophical writing by young people. Nir has been editor of THE CLASSICS since 2008, a series of both Hebrew and translated classics, by writers ranging from Dostoevsky, to Edgar Allen Poe, to Mendele Mocher Sforim.

Nir's third novel, THE REMAKER OF DREAMS, was published by Keter publishing house in 2006. The book appeared on the best-seller lists of newspapers in Israel, and was also shortlisted for Israel's prestigious Sapir Prize. In 2010 Nir won the Prime Minister Award for Hebrew literature.

(Jewish Times Asia)