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FOUNDED BY IGUD YOTZEI SIN [ASSOCIATION OF FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS OF CHINA]

T. KAUFMAN
The President of ICFS

FROM THE DIARY OF THE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

The 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Israel and China

The protocol regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and China was signed in Beijing in January 1992. For more than forty years there was no connection whatsoever between the People's Republic of China and Israel, and during all those years China, under the influence of the USSR and the Arab countries, took an explicit anti-Israel position. For the past 15 years, tremendous steps were made to strengthen ties with China. Economic contacts with China become stronger with each coming day and cultural ties grow in all fields of life. For example there is a constant increase in the number of Israeli students who study in China, and of Chinese students who study in Israel.

The heads of both States exchanged official visits and Israeli professionals make valuable contributions to the development of agriculture in China. More than 250 Israeli commercial enterprises are functioning in China and the import from China to Israel has reached an enormous size. All this confirms that the ties are constantly expanding between the two ancient peoples, and we hope that China will take a more balanced position with respect to Israel on the international political arena. The road to the cooperation between China and Israel that began 15 years ago leads to further mutual success, progress, peace and mutual understanding.

The 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Israel-China Friendship Society

In March 1992, the Israel-China Friendship Society, a voluntary organization serving as an important factor in the cause of strengthening friendship with China was established at the initiative of the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel. For the past 15 years the Israel-China Friendship Society exchanged several delegations within the framework of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Our ties with

Chinese friendship societies, universities and academies in Beijing, Shanghai, Harbin, Tianjin, Kaifeng and other cities in China have brought good results. The "Beit-Ponve" center of former residents of China in Israel hosted many Chinese representatives: leaders of Chinese friendship societies, professors from universities and academies, colleagues from the centers for studies of the history of Jews in China, Chinese students and others. During almost all the years of its existence, the Israel-China Friendship Society awarded scholarships to Chinese students who study in Israel on an annual basis. 16 students from China were granted scholarships by the Israel-China Friendship Society in December 2006.

We organized and also participated in seminars on the history of Jews in China held in Harbin and Shanghai, we are publishing the "Israel-China Voice of Friendship" bulletin for 15 years – these are only a part of the work carried out to strengthen friendship with the people of the great country. The ties with the Embassy of China in Israel and the participation of its staff in all the cultural events of the Israel-China Friendship Society also confirm the importance of our work. With our belief in further development of our ties with China becoming stronger with every coming day, we will continue to contribute to the cause of the cooperation of our peoples and countries.

Israeli journalists visit Harbin

A delegation consisting of four journalists represented the Israel Radio network, the First channel of the Israeli television and three Israeli daily newspapers. At the initiative of the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and the Israel-China Friendship Society they were the guests of the municipality of Harbin, the governor of the Heilongjiang Province, the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences and the Center of the study of the history of the Jews of China. During seven days the journalists visited places of the Jewish past in Harbin, the famous international ice and snow festival and other sites of the city.

A NEW YEAR GREETING FROM PRESIDENT CHEN HAOSU OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES



Chen Haosu, Member of standing committee of 10th National committee of the Chinese people's political consultative conference
President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

The torch of progress
Leads our people to victory
The grand meeting in Beijing
Guides China's sustainable development

The all-round diplomacy has
People's cooperation as its foundation
Let friendship be carried on forever
And the song of peace sung endlessly

Chen Haosu

FROM THE DIARY OF THE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

An Event in the Jerusalem Cinematheque, Dedicated to Harbin

On one of the evenings in December a film dedicated to the Harbin Jewish Community was shown in the Jerusalem Cinematheque as part of the annual festival of Jewish documentary films. The event was organized with the assistance of the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and was held under the auspices of Mr. Chen Yonglong, the Ambassador of China in Israel.

An Exhibition of Paintings by Ruth Shany in Beijing

An exhibition of paintings by Ruth Shany will take place in Beijing in March, 2007. Ruth Shany, a well-known Israeli artist, was born in Berlin. She arrived in Shanghai with her family and found shelter there on the eve of World War II. The exhibition is organized by the Embassy of Israel in China and the Israel-China Friendship Society. This, undoubtedly, will be a valuable contribution to the process of the familiarization of Chinese society with Israeli art.

STUDENTS FROM CHINA RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

FROM THE ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AT THE CHANUKAH REUNION
on December 19, 2006

Scholarships are presented by:



Mr. Chen Yonglong, the Ambassador of China



Mr. Chen Yonglong, the Ambassador of China



Mrs. Ora Namir



Mrs. Ora Namir

**Visit the Website of Igud Yotzei Sin
and the Israel-China Friendship Society
www.jewsofchina.org**

The website contains a wealth of information on
❖ The chronology of events of the Jewish presence in China

- ❖ Publications (transcripts of conference speeches). Valuable material for researchers plus books
- ❖ Biographies ❖ Links to other sites of interest ❖ The Harbin Huang Shan Cemetery
- ❖ Family search forum ❖ Photos (some rare photos published for the first time)

Israel and China mark 15 years of diplomatic relations

The State of Israel and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations on January 24, 1992. Since then, bilateral relations have witnessed rapid development in all fields.

Diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the People's Republic of China were formally established on 24 January 1992. From that moment on, relations rapidly developed in many areas. Currently, cooperation between the two countries is flourishing on many different levels such as science, agriculture, culture and of course economics and commerce.

ECONOMICS: There has been rapid growth in economic and commercial ties between Israel and China during the past 15 years. The formal infrastructure of these ties was quickly established, with the signing of a series of agreements. The level of mutual trade grew rapidly, from \$ 54 million in 1992 to \$ 3.39 billion in 2006. At the beginning of the relationship, trade was primarily cused on the fields of agriculture, chemicals and water. Today Israel-China commerce also encompasses the fields of life sciences, hi-tech and venture capital. The recognition of China's importance for Israeli industry and economy, combined with government support for Israeli business enterprises in China have made China a primary objective of Israeli business activity.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: Another field in which there is a high level of cooperation between the two countries is in the field of international aid. MASHAV, the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, allocates considerable resources to its activities in China, and the level of aid to China is greater than that of any other country. The cornerstone-laying ceremony of the China-Israel Cooperation Center for Modern Dairy Technology took place recently in the presence of Prime Minister Olmert. The modern training center will educate new generations of Chinese dairy farmers in advanced dairy heories and methods, all based on the latest Israeli technology.

CULTURE: Israel and China operate an extensive cultural exchange program, which in fact began even before the establishment of formal relations. In order to increase the level of Chinese exposure to Israeli culture, the Israeli embassy both independently "imports" cultural programs and encourages Chinese cultural authorities to import additional Israeli cultural programs to China. Although formal relations between Israel and China have xisted only for the last 15 years, Israel is extremely pleased with the rate and scope of their development, and will strive to continue to improve this relationship.

PM Olmert visits China

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the People's Republic of China and at the invitation of Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the People's Republic of China, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert paid an official visit to China on January 9-11, 2007. This was the third visit by an Israeli prime minister since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. During the visit, Prime Minister Olmert met with China's President Hu Jintao and held talks with his counterpart Wen Jiabao. The leaders of the two countries explored avenues for promoting Israel-China bilateral relations and discussed regional and global issues of mutual concern. In particular Prime Minister Olmert raised with his Chinese hosts the importance for international peace and stability of a resolute and effective

international response to the nuclear ambitions of Iran and its radical leadership. The two prime ministers also attended a signing ceremony of bilateral agreements in various fields.

Prime Minister Olmert also conducted several meetings related to the furthering the development of economic and trade relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Olmert delivered a congratulatory address at the beginning of the Gala Concert to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The concert featured a joint performance by Israel's famed singer David D'or and the renowned Chinese vocalists Yao Hong and Wang Haitao, accompanied by the National Opera House of China, who performed together on one stage, combining Israeli and Chinese melodies and songs.



Letters

➤ **Dear Mr. T. Kaufman and Mr. I. Klein,**

I wish to express my deep gratitude to the Central Committee of Igud Yotzei Sin in Israel – the Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and the Board of Directors of the Israel-China Friendship Society for awarding me a Scholarship. The book that was presented to me, written by Teddy Kaufman, is really appreciated and I will keep it carefully. I wish you and your Society good health and all the best in the coming New Year. Best wishes, Wei Wu, Haifa

➤ **Dear Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Klein,**

I am most grateful for your kindness and generosity to grant me the scholarship of Israel-China friendship association. I feel even more so, when considering that, for whatever reason, my name is not included in the ready-made list of receivers.

As you may know, I have always been a self-supported student at the Hebrew University. Therefore, the financial and spiritual encouragements from you are of even more significance to a student like me. I got MA from the Hebrew University and I am now finishing my Ph.D program. It will always be in my mind the sweet memories about you and Igud Yotzei Sin.

For your information, here follows my data:

Cao Jian, Ph.D candidate, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

➤ **Dear Sir or Madam,**

My name is Esther Huang and I am writing a research paper on the Chinese Jews. I have a lot of questions and was hoping someone can direct me to better sources. I am aware of the Jin family that migrated to Israel from Kaifeng, China. They were the first family to receive Israeli citizenship from China, but they did not do so under the Law of Return but rather by conversion. My question is, have there been other people since them that have attempted the citizenship through the Law of Return? If someone can answer my question, it would be most appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely, Esther Huang, Camden NJ, USA

➤ **Dear Mr. Kaufman:**

I heard from my friend that there is an "Israel-China Friendship Society", of which you are the chairman. I am from Henan province, and I am studying at Ben-Gurion University. I'd like to take part in the Society's activity and do something for the friendship between Israel and China at present and in the future.

All the best!

Li Yongfang, Beer-Sheva

➤ **Shalom dear Mr. Teddy Kaufman,**

How are you?

Today is the first day of Chanukah and you lit the first candle. Last year we were in Israel when you celebrated Chanukah and I feel so lucky to have received a scholarship from you. Thank you again.

On this great holiday, I would like to sent my best wishes to you and Rasha Happy Chanukah! I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Yours, Zhang Shuqing, Chunqing, Sichuan Province, China

➤ **Dear Teddy,**

As I was reading the ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP, I saw with pleasure and great satisfaction that they named a Kaufman Study Room in your honour.

You are doing such wonderful work as the President of the Israel-China Friendship Society!.

Love, Ruthi and Isi Shany, Tel Aviv

➤ **Dear Sir,**

I received your mail a few minutes ago. It enclosed one book, a certification and one cheque. I am grateful to you and your organization very much. I will read the book later. I bought a book "My China - Jewish life in the Orient 1900-1950" which was written by Yaacov Liberman. From this book I knew some Jewish life in China.

My friend whose grandfather was in Harbin also told me some stories about that time.

It will be my great pleasure if I can do something for you and your organization. I am very interested in knowing about Jewish life in China. I will be very happy to come to your organization's events, too, if I am allowed.

My phone number is 0547382969 or 026586050. Thanks again.

Best regards, Zhou Meirong, Jerusalem

➤ **Letter of Thanks**

To Association of Former Residents of China in Israel and the Israel-China Friendship Society

We are grateful for your granting us scholarships for a third successive year. The major significance of the scholarships is to represent friendship between Israel and China. We hereby wish the two nations a peaceful and prosperous future, successful cooperation, as well as everlasting friendship between them.

Yours faithfully,

Wang Qiqi, Ma Xiaohong, Rehovot

AT THE EVENT DEDICATED TO JEWS OF HARBIN AT THE JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE

on December 21, 2006



Mr. Chen Yonglong, the Ambassador of China in Israel, speaks.



Mr. Oren Nahari interviews T. Kaufman



Mr. Oren Nahari interviews Amram Olmert



The audience in the Auditorium of the "Binyanei Haumba" (Palace of the Nation)



The audience in the Auditorium of the "Binyanei Haumba" (Palace of the Nation)



The audience in the Auditorium of the "Binyanei Haumba" (Palace of the Nation)

AT THE EVENT DEDICATED TO THE JEWS OF HARBIN AT THE JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE

on December 21, 2006



1-3. The hall was filled to capacity

4. From left to right: Rita Leonov, Misha Fleischmann and George Leonov

5. From left to right: Ella Goldreich and Pnina Bershadsky



Chinese Students Studying at Universities in Israel – Recipients of the Scholarships from the Israel-China Friendship Society

	Name	Degree	University
1	Ms. Xiaohong Ma	H. U. Fac of Agriculture	Hebrew University
2	Mr Qiqi Wang	H. U. Fac of Agriculture	Hebrew University
3	Mr.Zhaoyi Zhu	Middle East History	Tel-Aviv University
4	Ms. Ye Zi	Academy of Music	Tel-Aviv University
5	Ms. Yu Wang	History of Middle East	Haifa University
6	Ms. Yongfang Li	Institute for Applied Research	Ben Gurion University
7	Ms. Li Ningli	General Research Program	Bar Ilan University
8	Mr Ligang Zhang	Jewish History (Nanging)	Tel-Aviv University
9	Mr Zhang Can	Jewish Studies (Shandong)	Hebrew University
10	Mr.Wang Yan	Jewish Studies (Shandong)	Bar Ilan University
11	Mr.Weï Wu	Prof. Oded Gotlieb	Technion
12	Mr.Guangyu Dong	Health Sciences	Ben Gurion University
13	Mr. Li Wei		Bar Ilan University
14	Mr. Xiaodong Wu	Physics Department	Ben Gurion University
15	Ms. Mei Rong Zhou	Genetics	Hebrew University
16	Mr. Cao Jian	Religious Studies	Hebrew University

The scholarships were granted from the Fund of the Israel-China Friendship Society, the Fund of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the State of Israel, the Daniel Berkovitch Fund and the Fund in Memory of Aaron Yarho.

One Day Tour of Jewish Shanghai

CJSS is situated within the campus of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences at the heart of the city, and has a permanent display within the Center on the History of Jewish Community in Shanghai. Visitors are welcome to visit the Center upon request in advance. Staff at CJSS can also provide assistance in making reservation or arrangement for a one-day tour of "Jewish Sites in Shanghai" with Hebrew and English-speaking guides, or scheduling a meeting, a seminar or a forum with the professors and graduate students at the Center.

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