

**George Bush China-U.S. Relations Conference:  
Development, Energy, and Security  
October 22-25, 2007  
Washington, D.C**

**FINAL FORUM REPORT**

**Forum Title: *China-U.S. People to People Exchange Forum: Promoting All Aspects of People to People Exchanges***

Session Summary: People to people exchange has played a significant part in past and present China-U.S. relations. It helps to enhance friendship and mutual understanding and to build constructive cooperation between the two countries. It involves efforts from non-governmental sectors, including educational and cultural societies, women and youth organizations, academic and professional institutions, business groups, etc. Entering a new era of increasing globalization, the world today is undergoing profound and complex changes. The two largest countries in the world, China and the United States, share more common interests and responsibilities, and fields of cooperation are expanding. People to people exchanges face new challenges and opportunities.

Mr. Yao Mingyu, Director General of the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), talked about the significance of people to people exchanges and briefed the audience on the work that CPAFFC has done to improve China-U.S. relations. Mr. Jim Doumas, Deputy Executive Director of Sister City International, spoke on how sister city ties can improve economic and cultural exchanges. Mr. Yang Chengtang from Gansu Province talked in detail about how his province carried out fruitful sister-city relations. Mr. Troy Nash, from People to People International (PTPI), talked about the importance of "Peace through Understanding" humanitarian programs and youth exchanges. Mr. Froeber, a Minister to Internationals from North Carolina China Center, shared his personal view on the cultural differences between China and the U.S. from the perspective of cross-cultural communication, and provided suggestions on how to effectively carry out people to people exchanges. Ms. Kathy Harper of United Parcel Service talked about the importance of mutual understanding and respect in our bilateral relations, and UPS's commitment in this regard. Mr. Zhang Xueyuan, an American Chinese businessman, talked from his personal perspective on how to improve the trade and economic relationship of our two countries.

Findings/Recommendations: For the past 30 years, communications between our two countries have never stopped, and the friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between our two peoples have much improved. However, 30 years is still too short a time for our two peoples, with their different cultural backgrounds, to get to know each other well. Therefore, it is important for our peoples to make continuous efforts to further strengthen mutual understanding, respect and trust, to contribute to the healthy development of our bilateral relations and the building of harmonious societies and the world.

All speakers suggested that more extensive and substantive exchanges should be carried out to enrich our non-governmental relations. More sister-city activities and humanitarian cooperation are encouraged. Mutual understanding and respect is the key to a better relationship.

Future Collaborations: The CPAFFC will continue its cooperation with Sister City International on building sister-city relations. It will work with UPS to send a group of Chinese farmers to the U.S. to share their views on China-U.S. relations. CPAFFC will also continue to work with PTPI to help improve understanding of our two peoples. CPAFFC and PTPI will also carry out exchanges between high school and university students. Next year the CPAFFC is going to host government and business delegations from North Carolina China Center, which will also receive art groups from China.

Point of Contact: Ms. Duan Jun  
Director, Division of American Affairs  
Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries  
1 Taijichang Street  
Beijing, China 100740  
Phone: (86) (10) 65594106  
Fax: (86) (10) 65131016  
Email: duanjun71@yahoo.com.cn