

Canada-China Friendship Society®

La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

2011 – No. 2
ISSN 1496-6816

May 2011 Newsletter

www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa

In this Issue:

⇒ Chinese Embassy Celebrates International Women's Day

⇒ CCFS Ottawa Events

- Moses Kiggundu on China-Africa relations
- Joseph Wong on inequality and economic development in China
- New Year's Banquet

⇒ Changes in the Executive of CCFS-Ottawa

CCFS-Ottawa celebrates "The Year of the Rabbit"



Nearly 200 guests were treated to an evening of prizes, great food, great company and great singing. Here guests are treated to a beautiful duet by Lu Shan (l) and Yong-Zhi Wang. (photo credit: Ulle Baum)

Acknowledgements:

Editor: Peter Larson
editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com
Layout: Jordan Birenbaum

"Canadians have a lot of catching up to do about China", CCFS-Ottawa President Lorraine Farkas, told a sold out crowd of 200 members and friends, as she officially kicked off the society's Annual New Year's Banquet.

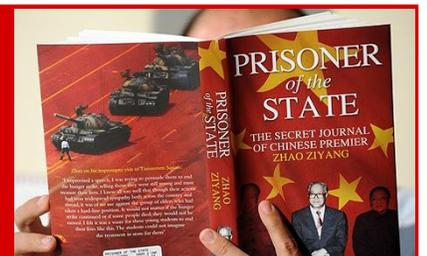
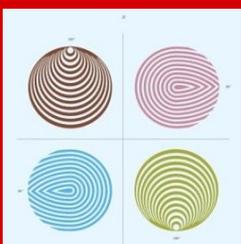
"But while the CCFS has an important educational purpose", she continued, "the aim of the New Year's Banquet is to have an evening filled with friendship, fun and great food."

See more photos and text on pp. 5-6.

Book Reviews

Zhao Ziyang's *Prisoner of the State* and Richard E. Nisbett's *The Geography of Thought*

Reviews by Lorraine Farkas
Page 7



● *Beneath the Miracle*

Inequality and Economic Development in China

In the past twenty years, millions have been lifted out of poverty, and prosperity has spread throughout many parts of China. "But", argued Dr. Joseph Wong at a January CCFS meeting, "there is a downside to this prosperity."

China has raced to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) at all costs, and output is privileged over all other factors. This leads to money wasted and increasing levels of inequality, especially between urban and rural Chinese and between different regions. Moreover, it has encouraged corruption which deprives the state of trillions of yuan in evaded tax. Experts estimate that so-called "grey" income accounts for an astounding 30 percent of GDP in China.

The Central government is concerned about the situation, recognizing that the income of the top 10 percent of the richest Chinese is already 23

times that of the bottom 10 percent, as opposed to 7 times a decade earlier. Peasants are losing faith in the possibility of improving their standard of living; protests over unjust

Korea and Japan have made successfully. These are difficult for China given its huge population and the fact that, 70 percent of China's economy is dedicated to exports which is tied to low salaries for workers and to cheaply priced goods.

Despite the undeniable difficulty of re-distributing wealth, thus increasing the purchasing power of all Chinese, Dr. Wong is convinced that it is a political imperative for the current Chinese leaders to make these new choices now.

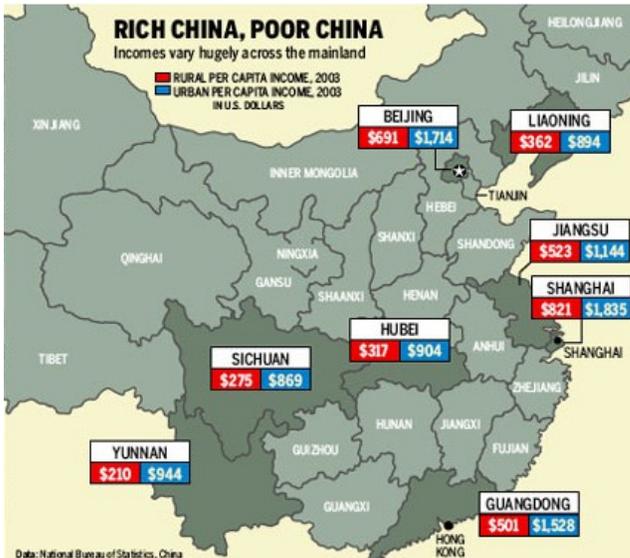
In his view conditions are ripe as China's wealth enables it to maintain economic growth while ensuring greater equality. It is a choice only China can make. Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao want their legacy to be political reform and that reform depends on how China deals with the problem of inequality.♦



Upscale Chinese women stroll past a beggar in Shanghai. The Communist Party has said it wants to reduce the growing inequalities in income which have arisen as China develops.

treatment increase every year thus threatening the social stability which constitutes the basis of the government's legitimacy.

Narrowing such a gap requires new choices of the kind Taiwan, South



Rising inequality: The gap between rich and poor has risen in China, although more in urban areas than rural areas

Gini index; percent (The Gini Index is a measure of income inequality within a population.)
 Source: Ravallion and Chen, 2004
 From *The Economist*



YEAR OF THE RABBIT BANQUET



A veritable warren of Rabbits!! Former Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps awarded prizes to 11 CCFS members born in the year of the Rabbit. Chinese legend says they should all be “thoughtful and calm”, though there was little evidence of that.... (Photo credit: Ulle Baum)

Continued from the front page

Former Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps handed out prizes to about a dozen lucky “rabbits” (those born under the Sign of the Rabbit).

Mayor Jim Watson, one of the evening’s special guests, reminded the

audience that when he was mayor 10 years ago, he had signed a “twinning” arrangement between the City of Ottawa and the City of Beijing. He commented favourably on the tremendous changes that have taken place in China in the last 10 years. Watson also told guests how as



Robert Wright, Canada’s former Ambassador to China, told the crowd about his experiences in China during the Olympics and also the Shanghai World Exposition.



Old and new friends gather to have fun. (Photo credit: Ulle Baum)



Mrs. Yin Guomei, wife of the Chinese ambassador (I), talks with Lolan Merklinger, Vice-President of the Federation of Canada China Friendship Societies

YEAR OF THE RABBIT BANQUET



Former Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, Ambassador Zhang Junsai, Mayor Jim Watson, and society President Lorraine Farkas. (Credit: Ulle Baum)

Mayor, he had been received like royalty on an official visit to Beijing (stretch limousine, police escort, etc.). But when the Mayor of Beijing came here for a return visit, Watson had to beg for City of Ottawa resources to receive him with appropriate ceremony (He even had to borrow

a limousine from a funeral home).

Another enthusiastic speaker was Canada's former Ambassador to China, Robert Wright, who echoed the idea that Canadians should get to know China better. "I had the tremendous fortune to be in China both dur-



Young and old had a good time. But somehow the food disappeared faster at some tables than at others. (Photo credit: Ulle Baum)



There were no empty seats in the whole restaurant. (Photo credit: Ulle Baum)

THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT 2011

Like the signs of the zodiac in Western astrology, the animals of Chinese astrology are thought by many to dictate personality traits or, in the wider scope of things, even impact world events in any year they rule.

Rabbits (those born in 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999 or 2011) will likely benefit from luck or good fortune during a Rabbit year.

Quietly charismatic, thoughtful and calm, rabbits are admired for their tactful and considerate dealings with all who know them. As such, they are most often depended upon for their wise counsel, or as someone in which to put valued trust in a personal friendship or a business dealing.

ing the Olympics and the Shanghai World's Fair", said Mr. Wright. "China is springing onto the world stage."

Newly arrived Chinese ambassador Zhang Junsai, who was accompanied by his wife Yin Guomei, expressed his warm gratitude to the members and friends of the CCFS-Ottawa for their interest in China.

Dozens of door prizes were also given out.♦



And the winner is... John Hilliker. CCFS Ottawa executive members Hailin Wang (l.) and Cat Situ awarded many door prizes to happy guests. (Photo credit: Ulle Baum)

Chinese Embassy Celebrates International Women's Day

“One fifth of women in the world live in China”, noted Yin Guomei in her welcoming address to over 120 guests at a special reception in the Chinese Embassy to mark the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Several members of the Canada-China Friendship Society—Ottawa attended the event.

Mme Yin, wife of Ambassador Zhang Junsai organized a wonderful fashion show featuring embassy staff modeling women's silk jackets and dresses and also traditional dress from various minority groups.

In her talk, Mme Yin traced the history of women's progress in China from 1949 to today, She noted that the literacy rate for women has increased from 10% in 1949 to 88% in 2000. China has also introduced many laws and practices to promote gender equality. For

example, 56 of Chinese ambassadors and consul generals are women. Women have moved far beyond the submissive role with bound



When International Women's Day was first celebrated in the West in 1911, the practice of binding women's feet was still widespread in China. Although the practice was outlawed in 1949 after the revolution, a few older Chinese women who suffered from this barbaric practice are still alive today.

feet they held not long ago, she said, but they still have a ways to go.

She also tackled the “one child pol-

icy” which is not very well understood in Canada. According to Mme Yin, the one child policy was essential given China's huge population and the limited resources of China and the world. Without the one child policy, China's population today could be as high as 1.6 billion people.

However, she explained that the one-child policy is flexible; for example, it does not apply to the 55 ethnic minority groups, to families who have a disabled child nor in many other circumstances. She said that there is recognition in China that the policy has led to a disproportion of males and females in the rural areas. She noted that China's new five year plan will deal with this problem.

After the fashion show and the presentation, guests enjoyed a lovely buffet luncheon.♦

Where are Chinese Canadians?

In 2006, according to Statistics Canada there were 1.4 million Chinese Canadians. They make up 3.9% of the Canadian population. But more than 90% live in 10 key cities.

Source: *Statistics Canada, 2006*



City	Province	Population of Chinese origin
Toronto	Ontario	537,060
Vancouver	British Columbia	402,000
Montréal	Quebec	82,665
Calgary	Alberta	75,410
Edmonton	Alberta	53,670
Ottawa	Ontario	36,305
Winnipeg	Manitoba	16,995
Hamilton	Ontario	13,600
Abbotsford	British Columbia	13,550
Kitchener	Ontario	10,970

ABOUT THE CANADA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF OTTAWA

The Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa was founded in February 1976.

According to the constitution the objectives of the Society are:

- to build active and lasting friendship and develop mutual understanding between the Canadian and the Chinese people;
- to promote an understanding in Canada of society in the People's Republic of China; and
- to promote cultural, scientific, educational, athletic and other exchanges between the Canadian and Chinese people.

CCFS-Ottawa is a member of the Federation of Canada China Friendship Associations.

Join the CCFS-Ottawa

The CCFS-Ottawa currently has about 160 members from all walks of life. We welcome new members who are interested in and want to learn more about China. Membership is open to anyone who supports the aims and objectives of the society and pays an annual membership fee.

The fee for regular members is \$20 for individuals, and \$30 for a family.

Student membership (for full-time registered students) is \$12 for individuals, and \$17 for a family.

To join the CCFS-Ottawa, go to our website at:

<http://www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of these events will be mailed to members and posted on our website, www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa. Our monthly events are free to CCFS-Ottawa members and \$5 admission to non-members.

- **Thursday May 12, 7:30 pm:** *Urban, Regional, and Rural Planning in China*, Dr. Derek Ireland, Carleton University, ROOM A, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, 395 WELLINGTON STREET, Ottawa.
- **Thursday June 9, 7:30 pm:** *Women, Gender, and Politics in China*, Professor Kimberley Manning, Concordia University, ROOM A, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, 395 WELLINGTON STREET, Ottawa.

COMMENTS? FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send your ideas to editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com