

## Ottawa students enjoy Shanghai Youth Camp

Three lucky Ottawa students had the time of their lives at 7<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Youth Friendship Camp this summer.

The Youth Camp, which took place from July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 27, was organized by the Shanghai Youth Federation. Foreign students from as far away as Russia, France, Thailand and the USA (and, of course, Canada) were billeted with Chinese students.

The three students, Alex DeGagne, Karoly Szalay and Josiah Grant, who were sponsored by CCFS-Ottawa, had a packed agenda. Together with Chinese students, they visited various sites in Shanghai and the surrounding area.

The youth delegates were kept busy from 9 in the morning until 9 at night. Alex's main concern - that there would be a lot of formality - was quickly dispelled. Everyone was very informal and down to earth.

"I connected with youth from many countries including San Marino, Italy, Germany, France and Australia," said Alex. While some Mandarin was acquired, so was Italian, Dutch and German. His attitude - jump in and try everything. From the food to the activities - and he did.

Alex was billeted at the home of a Chinese student who attends an international school and whose family lives about an hour outside of Shanghai. This was an opportunity to exchange life experiences. He learnt that there is little free time for the young people in China. Studying and perhaps studying music occupies the majority of their time. The Chinese family was most gra-



A student from Australia tries on the traditional hat of one of China's national minorities at a Youth Camp

cious and generous in opening up their home to the foreign students.

Then of course there was the shopping and learning to bargain at the underground markets in Shanghai and Nanjing - a new learned skill.

A special reflection was the trust that Alex saw between the Chinese people. He experienced the Chinese curiosity about foreigners - and felt like a rock star when asked to have his picture taken in various public venues.

Executive member Janice Zaharko was responsible for ensuring that everything went smoothly from the Ottawa end. Congratulations Janice.

## Women in politics (From cover)

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Over the past three decades, and particularly since the introduction of village-level elections in the late 1980s, the number of women active in leadership roles at the village level has dramatically declined. Currently only about 1% of elected village heads are women.

In Professor Manning's view, since China returned to a market economy in 1978, the priority on promoting women has faded, and today Chinese women face many of the same challenges facing women in other developing countries. However, she did point to some encouraging signs. In particular, she discussed how a small group of women activists recently forged an innovative partnership with a provincial women's federation to successfully reverse this trend in the province of Shaanxi.

## Pew Global Attitudes

The recent democratic uprisings in have led to speculation in the Western media that a wave of pro-democracy movements could spread as far as China. But a 2010 survey by James Bell, Director of International Survey Research at the respected US Pew research institute gives another perspective.

### Chinese More Satisfied With Their Country's Direction

	% Satisfied			
	2007	2008	2009	2010
China	83	86	87	87
Egypt	47	40	31	28

PEW RESEARCH CENTER.

Source:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1945/chinese-may-not-be-ready-for-revolution>