



My wife and I were part of the Canadian delegation for this conference.
Take a couple of minutes to give you an overview of the event.

Two Conferences: Changchun (Friendship) and Chengdu (Sister Cities)



In fact we attended 2 conferences both hosted by the same organisation. The first on Changchun in the north was the Friendship forum for Oceania and America – basically a collection of English speaking countries. The second larger conference was in Chengdu, for Sister Cities. Also for English speaking countries. We were guests at this conference and not delegates

Madame Li President of CPAFFC & CIFCA



Madame Li Xiaolin, Michael Copeland, RA

12 Canadian Delegates from across Canada



Canadian seen here with our local guides and hosts outside Changchun's International Sculpture Garden

Conference Delegates from 10 Countries



86 delegates from 12 English speaking countries in Oceania and the Americas
Including: New Zealand 18 included 3 delegations NZ federation, Maori, Sister Cities
USA, Canada 12, Australia 13,



87 Delegates from 6 English Speaking Regions

- 18 New Zealand (Federation, Maori, Sister Cities)
- 13 Australia (Federation, Mosman, Sister Cities)
- 12 Canada (Federation)
- 11 USA (Federation)
- 28 Pacific Island States (Tongo 11, Fiji 6, Samoa 5, Micronesia 4, Vanuatu 2)
- 3 Trinidad and Tobago

September 7: The Friendship Conference

- Opening Ceremony
- Three Themes Addressed in Plenary
 - Education and Culture
 - Tourism and Environmental Protection
 - Technology, Economy and Trade
- Signing Ceremony: Collaboration Agreements
- Closing Ceremony
- Reception
- Banquet

The Friendship conference was a one day affair. Everything was conducted in plenary. Opening ceremony involved several speaker talking about the importance of friendship, harmony and win-win

The main part of the Forum was divided into three themes, and were for the most part honoured in the breach.

The Chinese speakers from Jilin State, municipal and city governments all spoke about why their area was a good place to invest and do business

The Foreign Speakers, from each from the various Friendship societies spoke about their activities which covered a range of social, cultural and educational topics

Two collaboration agreements were signed

And the day ended with a wonderful banquet.

September 8 – Opening Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo



The following day we were given a selective tour of the city starting with a visit to the opening of Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo.

This is a vast trade show housed in many modern building on a single site.

We were there in time for the opening

Displays from China and Across Asia



With Time for Fun



And relaxation



Sept 8 - Haoyue Halal Meat Packers



Our Maori colleagues suited up for the tour of the plant

Sept 9 - Eurasia Shopping Mall “World’s Largest”



The climate is cold in Changchun so indoor malls make lots of sense.
It is so big that we were divided into small groups and given guides to take us around.
Our group looked into buying an erhu, practised golf in the indoor facility

Sept 9 –International Sculpture Garden



The last event was a change of pace from the promotion of commercial investments. We had a bus tour through a magnificent Sculpture Garden, where the sculpture come from many different countries and different parts of China. This one really caught my attention.

The next day we flew to Chengdu for the Sister Cities Conference



Sept 12 & 13 Chengdu: Sister Cities Conference

- 2012 China International Friendship Cities Conference
- Much larger
- All presentations in plenary
- keynote speeches + 54 six minute presentations by Chinese and Foreign Speakers
- Equal number of Chinese and foreign speakers
- Common message: invest & trade with my city
- Awards Ceremony
 - Ottawa, BC and PEI & 200 others received awards



Closing Thoughts

- Cold War Origins – people to people
- Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
 - In transition?
- Generous Co-host Government of Jilin Province
 - Appear to be looking economic payback
 - Some tales of China's Foreign Affairs Department pressing for more payback
- Sister Cities Conference: all about trade and investment
- Format provides opportunities for informal exchange among the delegates, less so with our Chinese hosts
- Programmes of other friendship associations a rich source of ideas for social, cultural, educational programming and a support network