

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on China
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
27 October 2011
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
13 August 2014
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]
25 September 2013
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
18 August 2014
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures. Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
28 November 2013 Attendance: 2 MSP members; 4 speakers; 4 guests; 42 members <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mark Boyce, Head of the China and Americas Team at the Scottish Government, gave a presentation about the work of his team and their

interactions. He also presented the results of an internal review of the four priority areas of Scotland's high-level strategy, published in December 2012: *Working with China: A Five-Year Strategy for Engagement between Scotland and the People's Republic of China*, and responded to questions and comments from members.

- John Somers, First Secretary, Scottish Affairs, UK Embassy in Beijing, spoke of the work of the Scottish Affairs Office at the end of his first year in post. He highlighted the question of the issuing of Visas, especially Tier 5, as a matter of great concern to the group. In the subsequent discussion there was an emphasis on the Visa question and also on another group priority, the securing of direct flights from Scotland to China.
- Professor Tariq Durrani of the University of Strathclyde, Convener of the China-Scotland Research Academy on Signal and Image Processing (SIPRA), spoke of the work of SIPRA, which involved five Scottish Universities and nine Universities across China. He described also the key outcomes of The Royal Society of Edinburgh's trip to China in 2013, meetings with members of the China Academy of Sciences and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the China Academy of Social Sciences. He responded to questions from the group and gave advice on the development of relations.
- Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, former Governor of Hong Kong and former President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, commented on the three presentations and on changes in recent decades and the need to seize the opportunities for further developments.
- Mr Li Ruiyou, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Edinburgh, gave a presentation to the group. He was accompanied by Mr Zhang Huazhong, Deputy Consul General, Mr Wan Degang, Consul and Mr Zhu Ge, Consular Attaché. Mr Li said that he believed that the group was one of the most broad-based platforms in Scotland for promoting the relationship between Scotland and China, engaging so many different sectors. He spoke of the new round of reforms in China, officially entitled *The Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reforms*, which had been approved by the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee two weeks previously, and in particular on the focus of upgrading the relationship between government and the market. The meeting concluded with a Reception, hosted by Mr Li Ruiyou.

29 January 2014

Attendance: 2 MSP members; 2 speakers; 4 guests; 45 members

- Eric Balish, Director, Barclays Trade and Working Capital, spoke of the new China Scotland Business Forum, of which he is Convener, and its launch, which would take place in the Scottish Parliament on 3 February 2014. The CSBF was founded upon the strongly held belief that more synergies would appear among the different groups involved in China links (figures released

that day, for Scotland's exports to China in 2012, said Ed Payne of SDI, were up by 30%, to £0.5bn) with more communication and more collaboration. He reminded members of the presentations at a previous meeting by James Anderson of Baillie Gifford and Angus Tulloch of First State Investments: in the longer term, with direct flights a necessity, he believed that Scotland could become the European Hub for China-related business. He emphasised the importance of education and the inclusion of Scotland's Universities and Colleges within the wider business environment. He then responded to questions about the key focus of CSBF and its goals. Gil Paterson MSP, a pioneer of entering the China market, referred members to his entry in the Register of Interests of MSPs for the work of his company. He had found that China was willing to engage, over time; he emphasised the need for proper interpretation, the building of relationships and learning the language of business in China. His remarks were supported by Sharon Cheng of Clyde Blowers Capital.

- Farai Magodo, undergraduate at the University of Aberdeen, gave a short presentation of his team's China research project: *A study of the perception of national versus international education as a means to achieve aspirational values for Chinese students in Beijing and Shanghai*. They had found that more Chinese students were seeking foreign education as a means of differentiation, given the great competition for jobs in China and that they were interested in acquiring western language and culture, in particular English, and learning methods, especially the encouragement of critical thinking. They wanted a real return on investment, especially through post-study employment programmes currently available in Germany, France and Spain. Areas of concern about higher education in Scotland included the removal of the post-study visa and the increased difficulty in the process of acquiring a UK visa for study.
- Frances Christensen, General Manager of the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh, said that after efforts by Lord Wilson of Tillyorn in the House of Lords and the First Minister, a new Tier 5 visa category would allow Confucius Institute staff to remain for two years, demonstrating the importance and strength of a unified approach.
- Members congratulated St Ninian's High School in East Renfrewshire, which had received a Confucius Classroom of the Year Award at the annual World Conference for Confucius Institutes.

27 March 2014

Attendance: 4 MSP members; 1 Minister MSP speaker, 2 guests; 32 members; 2 officials in attendance

- Mr Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development, addressed the group. He said that he received regular updates on the issues that it raised. He reported on the two Ministerial visits to China last year, one by the First Minister and his own, emphasising the key importance of government contact and its impact, which was measured

against the Scottish Government's China Strategy. He reminded members of the increase in exports to China and welcomed the formation of the China Scotland Business Forum (CSBF). In responding to questions from members, Mr Yousaf agreed on the importance of developing direct air links and said that work was being carried out with partners to find the best financial package for airlines in a competitive market and that discussion was also continuing on summer charter flights; He promised to keep the group updated. He commended the growth of educational links and the studying of Mandarin through the five Confucius Institutes and thirteen Confucius Classroom Hubs. Mr Yousaf said that he understood the group's concerns about the visa issue, where flexibility ran counter to UK policy. He was pleased to note the extra second year now allowed to Confucius Institute staff. He applauded too the importance of Culture and Tourism, including not only the high-profile events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup, but links created by, for instance, Scottish Ballet, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Scottish Opera. He recognised the need, highlighted by Neil Phillips, for Scottish Government to continue to spread its contacts beyond Beijing and Shanghai, though noted the limitations imposed by human and financial resources. He promised to find out more about the hosting of the World Artistic Gymnastics Competition in Nanning in 2014 and in Glasgow in 2015, and said that his officials would inform the group. He accepted the comments by Carol Borthwick, Dean of Elmwood Campus, SRUC, on the need to develop key objectives for developing educational links with China at College level and recommended a sector-wide strategy. He recognised too the need to encourage local authorities to support the teaching of Mandarin, especially by employing GTCS registered teachers, and for an overall educational strategy that included Schools, Colleges and Universities.

- Claudia Beamish MSP and Mary Fee MSP led a discussion on the rights of workers, including migrant workers, in China and on the importance of corporate social responsibility. The group had received questionnaires relating to the experience of Scottish companies: the two MSPs were eager to hear examples of good practice in China engagement. Ken Robinson, Global Sales Director, the Howden Group, spoke of the long experience of Howden Hua Engineering Limited, which employed in the region of 1,000 workers in six factories, and its high standards. Claudia Beamish MSP and Mary Fee MSP said they were keen to know about the guidance given to companies operating in Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR relating to workers' rights and health and safety, with a view to sharing ideas. Members were encouraged to respond and also to read the Report *Corporate Social Responsibility for EU SMEs in China 2014* and other useful links that were circulated in the Minutes.

14 May 2014

Attendance: 3 MSP members; 4 speakers; 28 members; 3 officials in attendance

- Dr Martin Mills, School of Social Science; Director, Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research, University of Aberdeen and Dr Samantha May, School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen gave a presentation on *Protest and*

Communal Action in China: the impact of social and economic change. In a detailed and fascinating statistical analysis, they emphasised the vagueness of the term *protest*, which covered a multitude of events. They pointed to the massive rise of communal protest across China, the significance of the two-level constitutional structure and the concept of righteous resistance. Government and police responses had moved to increasing state intervention, with a view to containment and management of protest, by means of arbitration (always in the case of foreign owners of companies) and arrest of the protesters, except where the protest were viewed as separatist or *splittist*. The law was evolving quickly and resulting in a movement from arbitration to Court judgement. There was a discussion of Chinese judicial visits to Edinburgh, the nature of the statistics of protest, the educational level of protesters and the spread of information, and the conflation in the data of economic and separatist protests.

- Eric Balish, Director of Barclays Trade and Working Capital, described the launch and progress of the China Scotland Business Forum (CSBF), of which he is Convener. He invited feedback from members on the important Calendar of Events produced by the China and Americas Team, and spoke of the work in progress on a China Business Hub, and on the need to engage with young people to give them networking and outreach opportunities concerning China.
- Chika Inatimi, The Big Social Movement, Dundee, spoke of his project *Beyond the Clouds: working with the Naxi in Yunnan*. He emphasised the richness of Naxi culture and described his work to spread knowledge and connections through a visit to Scotland of a delegation in 2015.

13 August 2014 Annual General Meeting

Attendance: 5 MSP members, 2 Guests, 38 members

- Claudia Beamish MSP took the chair for the election of the Convener. Graeme Pearson MSP was nominated by Gil Paterson MSP, seconded by Colin Keir MSP. There were no other nominations. Graeme Pearson MSP was re-elected to applause and was thanked by Claudia Beamish MSP for his enlightened and valuable leadership and guidance of the Cross Party Group.
- Graeme Pearson MSP took the chair and thanked the Group. He nominated Colin Keir MSP as Vice Convener. The nomination was seconded by Gil Paterson MSP. There were no other nominations and Colin Keir MSP was elected as Vice Convener unanimously.
- Graeme Pearson MSP nominated Judith McClure as Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Neil Phillips. There were no other nominations and Judith McClure was re-elected as Secretary unanimously.
- The Secretary informed the Cross Party Group that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee of the Scottish Parliament had issued revised guidance for the Code of Conduct that governed the Cross

Party Groups of the Scottish Parliament, numbering over eighty. She had had an individual meeting with Roz Thomson, Senior Assistant Clerk. The Secretary assured the Group that she had scrutinised the revised guidance and that the Group complied with best practice in every respect. She said that the Senior Assistant Clerk had advised that the Group could consider: (a) using Skype for presentations; (b) posting appropriate website links relating to its activities; (c) considering relevant travel of a delegation representing the Group; (d) holding events in the Scottish Parliament.

- Mr Pan Xinchun, the new Consul General of the PR of China, addressed the Group. He was accompanied by Mr Ge Zhu, Consular Attaché. Mr Pan raised the questions of who China is, how China sees the world and what China is going to do on the world stage. He emphasised the importance of China's history and philosophy in the minds of its people and pointed to its contemporary fast economic growth, while it remained a developing country. He said that by 2020, China hoped to double its GDP *per capita* and that by 2049 it intended to become a modern, democratic, wealthy and harmonious country. China intended to be an anchor of world peace, stressing the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means, through consultation and dialogue and to making a contribution to the world. He regarded China's development as an opportunity for the world and summarised China's foreign policy as peace, development, co-operation and common prosperity.
- Jim Scott, former Headteacher of Perth High School and now affiliated to the University of Dundee, BOCSSH, CISS, SCEN and SCSSA, gave a presentation on *Re-introducing the Chinese Language to Scottish Secondary Schools*. He explained the context, the topic of his doctoral thesis: *How have the nature and effectiveness of the politico-educational governance of Modern Foreign Languages in Scottish school-based education developed during the period 1962-2014?* After a detailed and most interesting capture of the data, he concluded that there have been an inconsistent vision and frequent discontinuities of direction and also governance issues in all governance layers: teachers and principal teachers, headteachers, councils, national agencies and the national government. In terms of the introduction of Chinese, he concluded that initial growth has slowed over the last four years, exploring a range of issues inhibiting progress and suggesting that the concept of the Hub needs to be examined.
- Updates from Members:
 - James Brodie spoke of future CBBC events;
 - Betty Gao spoke of the Early Learning of Chinese Project;
 - Professor Natascha Gentz and Dr Meryl James described the celebrations planned by the Confucius Institute for Scotland and by CISS in honour of the world-wide Confucius Institute Day on 27 September;
 - Li Zihan spoke of her enthusiasm for China/Scotland links;
 - Caroline Watson described the Hua Dan event at Summerhall for the Festival;
 - Professor Tariq Durrani spoke of the planned delegations from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The meeting concluded with sparkling wine, sponsored by SCEN.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Graeme Pearson MSP, Scottish Labour
Gil Paterson MSP, Scottish National Party
Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Labour
Claudia Beamish MSP, Scottish Labour
Chic Brodie MSP, Scottish National Party
Hugh Henry MSP, Scottish Labour
Colin Keir MSP, Scottish National Party
Jamie McGrigor MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
John Scott MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Richard Simpson MSP, Scottish Labour

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Margaret Alcorn James Anderson Lloyd Anderson Wang Anjing Alex Avramenko Eric Balish Martin Bell Leanne Bell David Blain Robert Brennan James Brodie Helena Brown Susan Brown Peter Budd Paolo Buoni
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	Jie Chen
	Sharon Cheng
	Brian Cherry
	Guo Chunju
	Frances Christensen
	Richard Clason
	Roger Collins
	Barry Cooper
	Carole Couper
	James Craigon
	Matt Cross
	Robert Dalzell
	Jane Davidson
	Jim Dixon
	Feyrouz Djabali
	Jane Duckett
	Carolyn Dunion
	Gary Dunion
	Tariq Durrani
	Barbara Fennell
	Sheila Forbes
	Helen Ford
	Yuwen Fortune
	Natascha Gentz
	Catherine Goulden
	Adam Graudus
	Cathy Gu
	Megan Hammell
	Henry He
	Matthew Heap
	Nigel Hedley
	Caroline Henderson
	Jocelyn Heron
	Ruth Higginson
	Edmund Hoffie

	Loki Holbourn
	Zhang Hong
	Isabel Hui Lui
	Isabella Jackson
	Meryl James
	Richard Jin (Jin Ri)
	Owen Kelly
	Janette Kelso
	Jamie Kerr
	Alick Kitchin
	Peter Kwok
	Douglas Ledingham
	Xiang Li
	Fan Lin
	Orchid Liu
	Catriona Llanwarne
	Lindesay Low
	Martin Low
	Aofei Lu
	Lihe Liu
	Mike Lynch
	Simon Macaulay
	Julia Macbeth
	Jim McColm
	Miles McCormick
	Susie McCosh
	Catriona MacDonald
	Donald MacDonald
	Andrew Mackie
	Helen Mackie
	Fiona Maclean
	Eoghann MacColl
	Susie McCosh
	Brian McLeish
	Archie McGlynn

	John McKenzie
	Judith McKerrecher
	David McMurtry
	Farai Magodo
	Donna Malone
	Samantha May
	Martin Mills
	Christine Moinard
	Kam Leung Ng (Tommy)
	Wing-Sie Ng
	Wing-Yan Ng
	Ruairidh Nicolson
	Jack Nissan
	Gordon Ogilvie
	Fiona Pate
	Siobhan Paterson
	Ed Payne
	John Peebles
	Neil Phillips
	Adam Purvis
	Douglas Rae
	Douglas Reid
	Bob Rees
	Lindsay Rinning
	Andrew Ritchie
	Ken Robinson
	Ellie Sandercock
	Douglas Scott
	Jim Scott
	Rachael Scott
	John Somers
	Rory Swinson Reid
	Alicia Tawil
	Dorothy Thomas
	Ed Thomson

	<p>Graham Thompson Kevin Timlin Anna Tomlinson James Trolland Angus Tulloch Carol Turnbull James Trolland Iain Valentine Kate Walker Alan Wallace William Wilson Bella Wang Ya Ping Wang Andrew Welsh Alan Wright Jean J. Ye Deborah Yeo Jennifer Young Angus Gonghua Yu Hong Zhang Nancy Zhang Juan Zou</p>
Organisations	<p>Angus Council Apple Green Homes Armadale Academy Asia Scotland Institute Baillie Gifford Barclays Corporate Blackford Trust British Council Scotland Burness Paull LLP China Britain Business Council Scotland Clyde Blowers Capital Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh</p>

	<p>Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow</p> <p>Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools at the University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Confucius Institute at the University of Aberdeen</p> <p>Confucius Institute at Heriot-Watt University</p> <p>Department of Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway College</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council</p> <p>Edinburgh Academy</p> <p>Edinburgh College</p> <p>Education Scotland</p> <p>G7 Consultants Ltd</p> <p>Glasgow Caledonian University</p> <p>Great Wall Consultancy</p> <p>Heriot-Watt University</p> <p>Howden Group</p> <p>Liberton High School</p> <p>Loretto School</p> <p>Lothian and Borders Police</p> <p>MacLean Commercial Consultancy</p> <p>North Lanarkshire Council</p> <p>Positive Solutions (Glasgow)</p> <p>Repsol Neovas Energias UK Limited</p> <p>Ricefields Arts Centre</p> <p>Ridrum International</p> <p>Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh</p> <p>Royal Zoological Society of Scotland</p> <p>Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council</p> <p>Scottish Centre for Chinese Social Science Research at the University of Glasgow</p> <p>Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)</p> <p>Scottish Development International</p> <p>Scottish Financial Enterprise</p> <p>St George's School Edinburgh</p>
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	Scotch Whisky Association Strathclyde University The Inveralmond Brewery Limited The University of Abertay Dundee The University of Edinburgh The University of Glasgow The University of the West of Scotland Thorntons Law LLP Young Chinese Professionals The Power of Youth
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Graeme Pearson MSP
Deputy Convener	Gill Paterson MSP
Secretary	Dr Judith McClure CBE, Convener of SCEN
Treasurer	None

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

The Group enjoyed a Reception in the Scottish Parliament hosted by the previous Consul General for the PR of China, Mr Li Ruiyou, on 28 November 2013.

The total cost of the buffet was £984.00, including VAT. Present were: 2 MSP members; 4 speakers; 4 guests; 42 members

Tea and sparkling wine sponsored by SCEN on 13 August 2014: £156.06

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

None

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name

Graeme Pearson MSP

Parliamentary address

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The Scottish Parliament
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Telephone number

Telephone: 0131 348 6887 Fax: 0131 348 5976