

Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on China
Thursday 29 January 2015

***Draft* MINUTES**

PRESENT

Convener

Graham Pearson MSP

MSPs

Chic Brodie MSP, Scottish National Party

Mary Fee MSP, Scottish Labour

Anne McTaggart MSP, Scottish Labour

Speakers

Rt Hon The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG FRSE

Colin Mitchell, Depute Headteacher, Lasswade High School

Rosemary Mitchell, Friend of Lasswade High School

Rachel Dobbie, ZOO and SCEN Ambassador, S5, Lasswade High School

Carys Ross, ZOO and SCEN Ambassador, S5, Lasswade High School

Special Guests

**Barbara Woodward CMG OBE, soon to be Her Majesty's Ambassador to the People's
Republic of China**

**James Trapp, Primary Network Co-ordinator, Confucius Institute for Schools, Institute of
Education University of London**

Special Guests: Board of the China Britain Business Council (CBBC)

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Senior Adviser, HSBC Holdings Ltd

Paul Atherley, Managing Director, Leyshon Resources Ltd

Ian Barlow, Chairman, The Racecourse Association; Director, HMRC, Smith & Nephew plc

Martin Barrow CBE, Director, Matheson & Co

**Lance Browne CBE, Vice Chairman, Standard Chartered Bank China; China Adviser to the
City of London, Honorary Citizen of Shanghai**

Graeme Curren, Chief Executive Officer, Sondrei Ltd

Jeff Cao, Head of Asia Pacific, London & Partners

Andrew Lambert, CEO, Electronic Media Services Ltd

Finlay McRae, Electronic Media Services Ltd

Secretary

Dr Judith McClure CBE, Convener of the Scotland China Education Network

Members

Margaret Alcorn, Convener of SELMAS, Member of SCEN Board

Nigel Archdale, former International School Headteacher and Educational Consultant

Debbie Birrell, Senior Deputy Rector, The Edinburgh Academy

Dr Zhenbo Cai, Chairman, Doctorate Association
 Mridula Chakraborty, TUV NEL, assisting Claudia Beamish MSP
 Barry Cooper, Academic Registrar, Loretto School
 Lin Deng, Vice Chairman, Doctorate Association
 Professor Jane Duckett, International Dean (East Asia), Director, The Scottish Centre for
 China Research, University of Glasgow

Professor Natascha Gentz, Chair of Chinese, Dean International (China), Director of the
 Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh

Andrea Del Giudice, MSc student, University of Glasgow
 Professor Ian Gow OBE, Director of Confucius Institute, University of Glasgow
 Katy Gow, Past President, Royal Asiatic Society, China
 Jessica Guo, CEO EEB Consultancy Ltd; Trustee AACCEE
 Dr Guo Xin (Michael), Lecturer at University of West of Scotland and YCP Committee
 Dr Alistair Hamilton, Programme Director, MSc Environmental Protection and
 Management Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Henry He, Managing Director, ZED Education and Business
 Matthew Heap, International Office, University of Glasgow
 Ruth Higginson, Lasswade High School, Zoo and SCEN Ambassador
 Hendrik Hillebrecht, MSc student, University of Glasgow
 Na Hu, University of Glasgow
 Dr Jin Ri (Richard Jin), Co-Director, Confucius Institute for Scotland, Univ of Edinburgh
 Marcus Kneen, CEO IndigoVision plc
 Emily Komi, MSc student, University of Glasgow
 Peter Kwok, Co-Director, Young Chinese Professionals
 Wei Lin, International Officer and Language Tutor, University of St Andrews
 Liu Lei, President of Glasgow Chinese Students Community; YCP Committee
 Catriona Llanwarne, Senior Solicitor, Burness Paull LLP
 Russell Lovelett, MSc student, University of Glasgow
 Lindesay Low, Legal Advisor, Scotch Whisky Association
 Simon Macaulay, SCEN Field Worker and SCEN Executive Committee
 Judith McKerrecher, Professional Development Officer, CISS, University of Strathclyde
 Kam Leung Ng (Tommy), Life Time Honourable President of the Wu Clan's Association UK
 Wing-Sie Ng, Individual Interpreter
 Wing-Yan Ng, Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (Edinburgh Central)
 Margie Ogilvie-Stuart, Director at Crown and Stone
 Neil Phillips, Positive Solutions (Glasgow)
 Shilong Qu, Deputy Chairperson of AACCEE; General Manager, Loon Fung Restaurant,
 Glasgow

Lindsay Rinning, Postgraduate student, University of Edinburgh
 Dr Jim Scott, University of Dundee and SCEN Executive Committee
 Ciara Sweeney, senior student, Loretto School
 Ruth Taylor, First State Investments
 Ed Thomson, Programme Director, Asia Scotland Institute
 Angus Tulloch, Manager of First State Investments Asia Pacific Fund
 Iain Valentine, Director of Strategic Innovations and Giant Panda Project, Edinburgh Zoo
 Lucy Young, Head of Education, British Council Scotland
 Oliver Wessely, Postgraduate at the University of Glasgow, studying for a Masters in
 International Business, after an internship at CBBC in Shanghai
 The Lady Wilson, Teacher

Yu Yanwan, MSc student, University of Glasgow
Mengqi Zhang MSc student, University of Glasgow

1 Welcome and introduction from the Convener, Graeme Pearson MSP

The Convener welcomed Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, the special guests and members. He was pleased to see so many black ties, worn by those who would be attending the China Scotland Business Council's Chinese Burns Supper later that evening.

The Convener said that two events since the last meeting had been most successful. There had been the China Scotland Business Forum Icebreakers' Reception in the Members' Room of the Scottish Parliament. He reminded members that the Group attracted business interests from across Scotland and encouraged them to spread this information.

Then there had been the Reception at the Consulate General of the PR of China. He said that the Group was very grateful to Mr Pan Xin Chun for this positive and lively event, which had included delicious food, networking, and a most interesting film about the progress of the PRC and the challenges it faced. Unfortunately the Convener had been unable to attend himself; he said he thanked Professor Tariq Durrani OBE FRSE FREng FIEEE, Vice President International of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and Dame Professor Joan Stringer DBE FRSE FRSA, who had spoken on behalf of the Group.

2 Apologies

Colin Keir MSP, Vice Convener

Claudia Beamish MSP

Jamie McGrigor MSP

Dr Richard Simpson MSP

James Brodie, General Manager and Business Adviser, CBBC Scotland

Richard Clason, Operations Manager, G7 Consultants

Carole Couper, Representative, Arahelio Biotechnology Ltd

Yuwen Fortune, Teacher of Mandarin, The Edinburgh Academy

Linda Fu, International Client Relations Director, HBJ Gateley

Dr Meryl James, Senior Professional Development Officer, SCILT and CISS

Janet Kelso, SCILT and CISS, University of Strathclyde

Ye Liu (Orchid), Contributing Correspondent, Scottish affairs, UK Chinese Times

Professor Dame Joan Stringer DBE FRSE FRSA

Jamie Kerr, Partner at Thorntons Law LLP

James Trolland, Ridrum International

Councillor Eoghann MacColl, East Ayrshire Council

Professor Tariq Durrani, Vice President, The Royal Society of Edinburgh

Rory Swinson Reid, Project Coordinator at Collaborate

John Fulton, Partner at Anderson Strathern LLP

Professor Barbara Fennell-Clark, Director, Confucius Institute for the University of Aberdeen

Robert Dalzell, North Lanarkshire Council

Adam Rhys Doidge MSYP, East Lothian and International Relations

Graham Thompson, Blackford Trust and Scotland China Association

Helen Ford, former teacher in China

3 **Minutes of the Meeting of 4 November 2014**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4 November 2014, which had been circulated in draft for comments, were approved without amendments.

4 **Matters Arising**

- **Chinese New Year Stamps**

The Convener said that he had pursued the question of Chinese New Year stamps, as suggested by Helen Ford. He had been informed that these had been issued every January since 2012; they can be ordered online at www.royalmail.co/stamps or in Post Office.

5 **Presentation by Rt Hon The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG FRSE, former Governor of Hong Kong**

The Convener welcomed The Rt Hon The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, whom he described as a very good friend of the Cross Party Group, with a great deal of experience and knowledge of China, and of the UK's relationship with China. His advice was always most useful.

Lord Wilson thanked the Convener and said how good it was to see Barbara Woodward, the next UK Ambassador to China, and the special guests from the China Britain Business Council.

He said that the Secretary had asked him for a title for his contribution, but had given him the chance to omit one; in the end, he had decided to offer ***Some Thoughts about China (including Hong Kong)***. He had first gone to Beijing in 1963, having studied Chinese at Hong Kong University, at a time when there was no UK Ambassador, but simply a UK Mission. He remembered well his arrival in Beijing in late January, around 7.00 – 8.00 pm. He borrowed a bicycle to travel from outside the walls to the centre of the City; there was hardly anyone on the roads, and every third or fourth light was switched off, to save electricity.

Lord Wilson contrasted his memories of Beijing in 1963 with China today, after rapid changes to its economy and to the livelihoods of its people. Now China had the second largest economy in the world; by some calculations, the first. There was still a long way to go: 100 million people lived in poverty, the economy was overheating, there were problems with indebtedness and with corruption. *Guanxi* existed when he first went to China; now President Xi Jinping was combatting it and using it to reinforce his own position. The rising middle class could prove a problem, because of their political aspirations. But the main trend was certainly upward, as a result of the economic improvement, the impact on people's livelihoods and the increasing importance of China's place in the world. Madam Fu Ying, Chinese Ambassador to the UK 2007-9 and currently Vice Foreign Minister of China, used to say: *People think we are like an*

elephant; actually we are like a mouse. China's leaders do have to cope with huge problems, including the provision of employment and the age profile of the population, especially acute as a result of the one-child policy.

Moving on to consider China and the World, Lord Wilson emphasised that China must not be seen just as a newly emerging power: it was re-emerging. Any senior leader or educated person in China would see that it was re-asserting its position. China should be considered as an ancient civilisation of huge global importance, its power diminished in the 19th and 20th centuries, but now re-emerging. The question was how the rest of the world should relate to this new position: China clearly believed that it should have a more influential role. For instance, Taiwan had occupied China's seat in the United Nations for many years. International institutions must now be adjusted to incorporate China. China was shy about taking up positions in international affairs, for instance, abstaining from voting in the Security Council. But it was becoming very active and its armed forces were involved in peace-keeping operations. We must encourage China to take up its position in the world.

Lord Wilson went on to consider the position of Hong Kong, where he had been the penultimate Governor, 1987-1992. He said that the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong, which had come into being in 1997, when Hong Kong reverted to China's sovereignty, has worked well and continues to do so. Hong Kong is very prosperous; trade is good and the rule of law effective. But clearly there are strong feelings about the selection of the Chief Executive, and the demonstrations have gone on for a very long time. Lord Wilson said that credit should be given to the students involved for their determination and overall to the Hong Kong Police for their patience. He had to acknowledge, though, that the objectives of the protesters were unrealistic. The demand that the Chief Executive should resign and that the next election should be conducted differently simply would not happen. The demonstrators did not have the leadership to withdraw. This was a serious error. There was a more serious one. There was a chance to move forward to having a Chief Executive elected by universal suffrage. But that required a two-thirds majority approval by the Legislative Council. If that could not be achieved because some legislators said that they must have an even more liberal system of election, then there would be no forward movement. That would be a tragedy. The context must be remembered: until 1997, the Governors of Hong Kong were simply sent. Efforts to insist on more than was on offer from the ruling by China's National People's Congress would get nowhere. Many people had an unrealistic vision. Lord Wilson hoped earnestly that Hong Kong would be able to face up to the difficulties and the divisions in its society.

Lord Wilson concluded by suggesting lessons for us in Scotland:

- China matters! We must learn about it. That is why, as President of the Scotland China Education Network, he supported Judith McClure's role in encouraging the learning of Chinese. Some students, he hoped, would become Sinologists.
- We must take the initiative, because we are so small. He cited the relationship between the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We must see China in perspective; the population of one City, Shanghai, was 24 million; that of the whole of Scotland 5.3 million. Despite what Madam Fu Ying said, actually we are the mouse and China is the elephant! Some member would be attending the CBBC's Chinese Burns Supper; there was a good Chinese translation of Burns's *To A Mouse*. We must not be *cow'rin*, let alone *tim'rous*! Let us go full frontal in developing our relationship with China.

The Convener thanked Lord Wilson warmly for his words and invited Barbara Woodward, the next UK Ambassador to China, to respond.

Barbara Woodward said that clearly she needed to go full frontal! She said it was a great privilege to address the Cross Party Group on China and its special guests. Her first feeling was of nostalgia: in 1986, she had gone to Wuhan, in the middle of China, straddling the Yangtse. North of the Yangtse it was cold, and she wore a woolly hat in the classroom; South was tropical. She was made very welcome and she travelled widely and freely, for instance in Tibet and Inner Mongolia.

Wuhan was the province where Mao Tse-tung swam across the Yangtse. Barbara Woodward said that China is very proud of its history, especially with the many centuries of its great civilisation and influence as a global power. The new China, led by President Xi Jinping, was reflecting on the legacy of World War II and the foundation of the Communist Party.

Barbara Woodward said that, as Ambassador, she needed a three-legged stool: she must be confident to engage in:

- good inter-governmental relations. The UK does have high-level relations with the government of China, demonstrated by the visit of Prince William to Beijing;
- developing business-to-business relations. Trade and investment must continue to grow both ways. She was committed to working with Scotland too, and improving the business environment for companies in China;
- strong people-to-people relations, especially in the vital areas of education, tourism and culture. She hoped that she could help in building deeper mutual understanding, recognising the passion and intentions that existed. Next

year, for instance, would be the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Overall, Barbara Woodward said, she was looking forward to the challenges ahead and to working with everyone across the UK.

The Convener thanked Barbara Woodward whole-heartedly for her response. He said that he would re-order the three legs of her stool: before building of government-to-government and business-to-business relations, we need stronger person-to-person relationships. These must not be perfunctory but based on integrity and mutual understanding, not merely financial advancement. The Cross Party Group had long thought this.

For instance, there had been a frosty time in relationships because of unfortunate comments in the UK; this was disappointing, as we should all think hard about our messages. The disappointing atmosphere had led to the cancellation of an important initiative in which he had been involved.

The Convener's second point was that new trade needs investment. There had been some falling away for instance in Whisky sales. Finally, the population profile in China would reflect the size of the segment of older citizens in the UK. There was an opportunity here to see what we could offer to share in terms of practical solutions to the resulting problems. Overall, he believed that there was still a huge amount of work to be done, despite what the national and devolved governments in the UK were saying.

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Senior Adviser, HSBC Holdings Ltd, spoke of the work of CBBC in Beijing, where it worked with Chambers of Commerce and Scottish Development International. He invited those interested in building market share to join CBBC.

Professor Ian Gow, Director of the Confucius Institute of the University of Glasgow, spoke of the need to develop Chinese learning at all levels in Scottish education. It was now being introduced in a number of primary and secondary schools, but it should be offered in Colleges of Further Education; moreover, only one University in Scotland offers a degree course in Chinese. He hoped that the Scottish Funding Council would encourage the introduction of Chinese in Scotland's Universities and Colleges.

Martin Barrow CBE, Director, Matheson & Co, said that he had been an unofficial member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council, appointed by Lord Wilson. He spoke of the importance of travel and tourism in both directions between China and Scotland, for the purposes of studying and of visits. He argued that there was a great need to simplify visa arrangements. The Convener responded that this issue was raised regularly at meetings of the Cross Party Group on China. The Group also

recommended the inauguration of direct flights between Scotland and China. He believed that the visa process made business and educational links difficult to undertake and asked how we could expect China to be friendly to Scotland when we treated its people as we did. He hoped that our new British Ambassador would bear this in mind.

Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles paid tribute to Lord Wilson of Tillyorn. He said that he was himself a former diplomat (he was successively Ambassador to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan), who had served as Head of the Hong Kong Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1994-1997. Lord Wilson's views were always moderate, sensible and balanced. As a distinguished Sinologist, he could see the world from China's modern and also historical perspective. Lord Wilson's wisdom would always be remembered.

Chic Brodie MSP spoke of developments in Ayrshire, where the visa process was a nightmare when business people were invited to visit from China. Lord Wilson said that in addition to improving the visa process, it would be important to allow students from China to stay on for two years after completion of their courses. There were examples of those who promoted Scotland in business after their study here.

Neil Phillips, Positive Solutions Glasgow, asked why Prince William was visiting Shanghai and Beijing and not regional cities, especially in Western China. The Convener said that the neglect of regional cities was another regular issue raised in the Group: more attention to regional cities in the West should be productive in terms of investment opportunities. Barbara Woodward said that in fact Prince William would also visit Yunnan, because of its wildlife. But she assured the Group that efforts were being made to encourage visits to other cities in China: to Ningbo, for instance. There was a dedicated team in Beijing supporting engagement with second and third tier cities.

6 ***Beyond the Panda***

Presentation by Carys Ross and Rachel Dobbie, Zoo and SCEN Ambassadors, S5, Lasswade High School, Midlothian, with Colin Mitchell, Depute Headteacher

Colin Mitchell introduced Carys Ross and Rachel Dobbie. He apologised that their presentation would be oral; the Group had moved rooms because of the size of attendance and no screens were available. He said that Carys and Rachel would speak of their visit to China in October 2014, as a result of the ten-year partnership of Lasswade Community High School with Tianlin No 3 Middle School in Shanghai. A film could be seen on the Lasswade Community High School website:

<http://lasswadehsc.mgfl.net/2015/02/09/lasswade-rzss-yaan-visit/#more-8581>

Carys and Rachel said that they had undertaken the trip as Ambassadors for Edinburgh Zoo, and that their trip had been sponsored by Jaguar Land Rover. They had arrived in Chengdu and had a sense of being in proper China! They had enjoyed the food more than they had anticipated. On Day 2 they had visited their new partner school in Yaan, where they had paired up with the students and shared their lives. They had exchanged presents and been really touched by the hand-made gifts which they had received. They had visited the Panda Reserve and had the incredible experience of feeding a panda. It had been very said to say good-bye to their fellow students; they felt a real bond had been created and they wanted the friendships to last. On their last night in Yaan they had also bid farewell to Sandie Robb, Senior Education Officer at Edinburgh Zoo who had created the *Beyond the Panda* project, and to the Jaguar Land Rover representatives.

Carys and Rachel continued with the next phase of their trip: to Shanghai, to visit their long-established partners in Tianlin Middle School. They had been welcomed by host families, often extended families. Their first impression of the students was that they worked all the time! In school, though, there had been interesting practical events, including making dumplings, knot-tying and a ceilidh. There had been outside visits to see an acrobatic show, a very scary one to Shanghai's tallest building, and time spent with their host families. They had loved old Shanghai, with its characteristic old buildings and culture, and also the very busy shops. They had been said to leave the students and their loving and caring families and looked forward to entertaining them in Scotland. Carys and Rachel concluded by saying how fortunate they felt; they wanted others to have this experience.

Colin Mitchell said that he and his wife Rosemary, until recently also a Depute Headteacher at Lasswade High School, had visited China on six or seven occasions. The teaching of English which they had observed had been chanting exercises, often with an American accent. Maths in Tianlin Middle School was taught traditionally, with an approach known in Scotland in the 1950s. The students were keen and altogether lovely young people; the staff very committed.

Judith McClure commented on the 1950s Maths teaching which had produced the highest scores in the international PISA testing for Shanghai. Professor Ian Gow said that UK universities would be emptied if Advanced Level Maths were to be a requirement; yet Maths was extremely important. He mentioned his work on Alexander Wyle, the 19th century Scottish missionary who had introduced Calculus to China.

Colin Mitchell commented on the celebration of breadth in the curriculum in Scotland, which underpinned *Curriculum for Excellence*. But he agreed that a focus on key disciplines could be of benefit. Neil Phillips commented on the lack of Arts studies in the preparation for University entrance in China.

The Convener thanked Carys Ross, Rachel Dobbie and Colin Mitchell of Lasswade High School for their fascinating contribution.

7 Corporate Responsibility: Next Steps

This item was taken earlier in the agenda, after Matters Arising. Mary Fee MSP spoke on behalf of herself and Claudia Beamish MSP, concerning the responses by members of the Group to the questionnaire on Corporate Responsibility in China that had been circulated after their presentation to the Group on 27 March 2014.

Mary Fee MSP said that she was disappointed that only five responses to the questionnaire had been received: three being completed questionnaires, and two emails questioning the nature of the questions. She said that the questionnaire could be circulated once more, if requested and provided printed copies of a summary.

Three concerns had been raised, in relation to migrant workers and the education of their children, water and air pollution (especially in Beijing), and one about workers' rights. Two people had been concerned about the tone of the questions. Mary Fee said that there had been no intention of being disrespectful: the aim had been to open up dialogue, to enable lessons to be learned from each other. She also brought printed copies of a short paper for those interested; she said she would be glad to send out further copies of the questionnaire, or respond to any suggestions.

The Convener thanked Mary Fee MSP for her contribution and that of Claudia Beamish MSP.

8 Updates from Members

The Convener thanked the members of the Board of CBBC for their attendance. He assured them that they would always be very welcome to attend meetings of the Cross Party Group on China.

- **James Trapp, Confucius Institute for Schools, Institute of Education, University of London**

James Trapp said that it was a privilege to attend the Group. He explained that his work was that of Primary Network Co-ordinator. He said that he believe that Key Stage 2, for 5-7 year-olds, was vital for the learning of Modern Languages. He was keen to give Mandarin its place. Actually this was a very good age at which to start Mandarin, when its tones and characters could just be absorbed.

He also believed that it was crucial that young people were given the chance to engage with China. The eloquent and enthusiastic Lasswade High School students demonstrate the advantages of seeing China afresh; we could still be coloured by a view of the people of China dating from the

nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So we must facilitate relationships with China. We must also recognise that language learning develops cognitive skills and helps pupils to thrive.

James Trapp said he was delighted to be in Scotland. He would be attending the Languages Think Tank, chaired by Judith McClure, which would be examining progress with the SCEN Learning of Chinese Project, led by Simon Macaulay and involving Chinese students at the University of Edinburgh and now Heriot-Watt, the Edinburgh University Students' Association, the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS) and Education Scotland. He would also meet Fan Lin, Deputy Director of CISS. He wanted to develop relationships and share resources. Already in 2015 there would be the Fourth SCEN China Youth Summit; there was also going to be a China Youth Summit in London. James Trapp said he was very impressed by Scotland, and judged it ahead in educational links with China; Scotland had the size and ability to collaborate and make connections. He concluded by reminding members of the long relationship between China and the West: the Romans developed such a voracious appetite for silk that the Emperor Tiberius introduced a ban, to try to stem the outflow of gold; in Dunhuang, a Buddhist cave temple was adorned with Corinthian columns.

- **Nigel Archdale, Anthony Millard Consulting, spoke about the intention of Erskine Stewart Melville Schools to establish an international school in China.** He said that he had just returned from an exploratory visit to Shenzhen with the Chairman of the Board and the Principal. The ESMS International School should open in 2017 in the development area of Shenzhen. He hoped it would be possible to work closely with relevant partners represented here and he promised to keep the Cross Party Group informed.
- **Peter Kwok, Co-Director of Young Chinese Professionals (YCP) spoke of his association's developments.** Last summer YCP was invited to represent Scotland's Chinese professional community at the Conference of Chairpersons of the World's Overseas Chinese Professional Associations organised by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of People's Republic of China. The world conference was held in Guangzhou and was chaired by Ms Qiu Yuanping, Head of the Office, who addressed the key priorities of China's strategy on working with overseas Chinese professionals. The YCP delegation also attended events chaired by mayors and senior government officials during its visit to Foshan, Guangdong Province, Huzhou and Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province and witnessed those cities' latest developments. The YCP delegation was able to talk about some of the key strengths of Scotland in education, finance, innovation and tourism, areas in which where many of our Chinese professionals are particularly active. Amongst the 90 professional associations from 16 countries to date, YCP is one of the few and largest organisations that have a specific focus on young Chinese professionals. Peter Kwok said he would like to thank and congratulate our Scottish

Chinese professional community for this and also thank the Consulate General for the PR of China in Edinburgh, the Cross Party Group on China and all friends in partner organisations for their unfailing support.

- **Andrew Lambert, CEO Electronic Media Services Ltd and Member of the Board of CBBC**, said that an announcement had been made in early December about an expedited visa for business people, he thought in response to the pressure of CBBC and the Chamber of Commerce in Beijing. He reminded the Group that the Chinese do not have a perfect visa system either.

9 Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

The Convener concluded the meeting by offering his warm thanks to Lord Wilson and Barbara Woodward, to the presenting team from Lasswade High School, and to all members and guests.

- The next Meeting of the Cross Party Group on China will take place at the Scottish Parliament on **Tuesday 24 March 2015, 6.00 – 7.30 pm**. There will be a presentation on ***China: Accelerating Scotland's Advantage***, by **Alistair Michie**, Advisor, FEAC, State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, Group Business and Government Advisor NICG.