

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

9 June 2015

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]

13 August 2014

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

21 June 2015

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.

4 November 2014

Attendance: 3 MSP members; 2 speakers; 27 members

- The Convener congratulated Dr Jim Scott on the presentation he had given to the Group at its August meeting on *The Re-introduction of Mandarin into*

Scotland's Schools. He referred to the letter he had written on behalf of the Group to the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Mr Michael Russell MSP, and to Mr Russell's response. The Convener said that for the Group, languages were vital to education and to business. While acknowledging the support of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), he said that the Group was concerned about the decline in numbers studying Mandarin for SQA courses. The Group welcomed the new Confucius Classroom Hubs and the Scottish Government's commitment, together with the time that was taken to review the information sent by the Group. The Convener said that he remained convinced that the Group should continue to press the Scottish Government about its actions in support of the learning of Mandarin.

- Chic Brodie MSP informed the Group about East Ayrshire's burgeoning links with China. A major investment, supported by the investment consortium UPIC, would see Glaisnock House in Cumnock transformed into a language and cultural centre for Chinese students and business people to learn English and become immersed in European culture; opportunities would also be offered for UK students and business people to learn Chinese. Glaisnock House had been vacant for several years; it was hoped that the first phase of the project would see the arrival of Chinese music students in the summer of 2015. Councillor McColl reminded the Group that East Ayrshire had a Confucius Classroom Hub at Grange Academy and already carried out a great deal of work in this area. He said that the cultural and business potential of the Glaisnock House project was very much welcomed by East Ayrshire Council.
- The Group undertook its annual review of progress with Scotland's Strategy for Stronger Engagement with China 2013-2017, the last having taken place in November 2013. The China and Americas Team at the Scottish Government had provided a factual update on the 4 key priority areas: (1), Trade and Investment (2) Education (3) Research and (4) Culture, Tourism and Sport. After discussion, the Convener pointed to a paucity of information and a lack of vision for the future. He said that he would consider, with the advice of the Group, whether he should invite a Minister to speak at a future meeting.
- Nigel Fong of Swiss-Sure HK, accompanied by Patrick O'Kane from Morrison's Academy, spoke about The Wilson Trail and his new project linking schools in Hong Kong and Scotland. The Convener congratulated Mr Fong on the award he had just received from the Hong Kong Government Home Affairs Bureau as a *Person with Distinguished Service for Community Building*. Mr Fong distributed his paper, *Hong Kong Scotland Education Connection: 2014 Scottish Schools HK Exchange*, and explained Swiss-Sure's backing for an exchange of pupils each year between Hong Kong and Scotland. The 2014 group participated in the *Raleigh Challenge-Wilson Trail* and engaged in educational, cultural and charitable meetings. Mr Fong said he wished to develop the exchange, engaging business leaders and developing links between schools. Patrick O'Kane, who had taught Nigel Fong at Morrison's Academy 23 years ago, said he was a true philanthropist. Judith

McClure has supported his project and plans and had suggested the formation of the Hong Kong Schools Education Connection (HKSEC) of which he was Convener. The Convener congratulated HKSEC on its work and hoped they would keep the Group updated.

- Judith McClure, as Convener of the Scotland China Education Network, said that the Third SCEN China Youth Summit, *China and Scotland At Home*, would be held at The Gleneagles Hotel on 10 November 2014. A Homecoming Event, it would enable a capacity audience of 300 delegates of all ages to celebrate the relationship of friendship, collaboration and mutual understanding between Scotland's schools, colleges, universities, professions and businesses and their *alumni* and colleagues from China.

14 January 2015

Consul General Mr Pan Xinchun and Mme Yu Zhili gave a Reception for members of the Group at the Consulate General of the PR of China in Edinburgh. 2 MSPs and 61 members had attended a positive and lively event, which included delicious food, networking and a most interesting film about the progress of the PR of China and the challenges it faced. Professor Tariq Durrani OBE FRSE FREng FIEEE, Vice President International of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Dame Professor Joan Stringer DBE FRSE FRSA spoke on behalf of the Group.

29 January 2015

Attendance: 4 MSPs, 5 speakers, 11 special guests, including the new British Ambassador to the PR of China and representatives of the Board of the China Britain Business Council, 50 members

- The Rt Hon The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn KT GCMG FRSE, former Governor of Hong Kong (1987-1992), addressed the Group on the topic of *Some Thoughts About China (including Hong Kong)*. He recalled his memories of Beijing in 1963, when he worked for the UK Mission, with China today, after rapid changes to its economy and to the livelihoods of its people. He described the huge problems with which China's leaders have to deal, including the provision of employment and the age profile of the population. He emphasised that China must be seen as a re-emerging power: it was an ancient civilisation of huge global importance and now it was clear it should have a more influential role in the world. He said that the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong has worked well: it is very prosperous with good trade and an effective rule of law. He spoke of the demonstrations over the selection of the Chief Executive, and though he commended the students for their determination he said he had to acknowledge that their objectives were unrealistic. He recalled that until 1997, British Governors of Hong Kong were simply sent. He hoped earnestly that Hong Kong would be able to face up to the difficulties and the divisions in its society. He concluded by suggesting lessons for Scotland. First, China matters: that is why, as President of SCEN, he supported Judith McClure's work in encouraging the learning of Chinese. He also advised that Scotland must take the initiative, as such a small country; he cited the relationship between the Royal Society of Edinburgh and

the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

- Barbara Woodward, the new British Ambassador to China, said that she must be confident to engage in good inter-governmental relations, developing business-to-business relations, both ways, and strong people-to-people relations, especially in the vital areas of education, tourism and culture. The Convener and members supported her aims whole-heartedly, arguing that a great deal still needed to be done in terms of education, investment and the difficulties of visa arrangements.
- There was a presentation by Carys Ross and Rachel Dobbie, Zoo and SCEN Ambassadors from Lasswade High School, Midlothian, and their Depute Headteacher, Colin Mitchell. They spoke of their visit to China in October 2014, the result of the ten-year partnership between Lasswade and Tianlin No 3 Middle School in Shanghai. Their trip had been undertaken as Ambassadors for Edinburgh Zoo and sponsored by Jaguar Land Rover. They had visited Chengdu and their new partner school in Yaan as part of the Zoo's *Beyond the Panda* initiative, created by Senior Education Officer Sandie Robb.
- Mary Fee MSP spoke of the responses by members of the Group to the questionnaire on Corporate Responsibility in China that had been circulated after the presentation by herself and Claudia Beamish MSP in March 2014.
- James Trapp, Primary Network Co-ordinator at the Confucius Institute for Schools at the Institute of Education, University of London, spoke of his own work in encouraging the early learning of Mandarin and of his interest in the SCEN Learning of Chinese programme, led by Simon Macaulay and involving Chinese students at the University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University, the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA), the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), East Lothian Council and Education Scotland. He said he wanted to develop relationships and share resources: there was to be a Fourth SCEN China Youth Summit in Scotland in 2015; he hoped that London would hold one too. James Trapp said that he judged Scotland ahead in educational links with China; it had the size and ability to collaborate and make connections.
- Nigel Archdale, Anthony Millard Consulting, spoke of the intention of Erskine Stewart Melville Schools to establish an international school in China in the development area of Shenzhen in 2017. Peter Kwok, Co-Director of Young Chinese Professionals (YCP) spoke of his association's delegation to the Conference of Chairpersons of the World's Overseas Chinese Professional Associations in Guangzhou in the summer of 2014.

24 March 2015

Attendance: MSPs 3, Speaker 1, Members 46

- Alistair Michie (Advisor FEAC, State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs; Group Business and Government Advisor of the strategic consultancy NICG)

addressed the group on the topic of *China: Accelerating Scotland's Advantage*. Mr Michie referred to President Xi Jinping's distillation of his political theory into the Four Comprehensives: build a moderately prosperous society; deepen reform; govern the nation according to law; strictly govern the Party. He said his own view, as one born and educated in Scotland who had spent 22 years in China and worked in 28 of its 32 provinces, was that the developing relationship between China and Scotland was very exciting, because of Scotland's potential, which could even be accelerated. He proposed *Michie's Four Comprehensives for Scotland*: Culture, Commitment, Challenges and Certainty. Mr Michie referred to a long list of advantages for Scotland, in terms of its culture, creativity, its castles, golf courses and its whisky, its education, clean climate and history, its view of capitalism and the theories of Adam Smith, and the Scottish Renaissance and Enlightenment. He described the importance of Scotland's commitment to China in recent times, going back to Donald Dewar and followed through by all subsequent First Ministers, together with many collaborative educational networks, such as SCEN. He said that the great challenges to the development of relations with China were a weak understanding and a mind-set that our way is best, hence the crucial importance of education. Finally, he reminded the Group of the need for predictability and sustainability and advised that it was vital to communicate commitment after the General Election in May. The Convener thanked Mr Michie and congratulated him on the Chinese Government's award: the *Friendship Award Medal*, the supreme honour that the Chinese Government confers upon foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to China.

- There were updates from Directors of Confucius Institutes. Professor Natascha Gentz described the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Pioneer Award and the agreement about its expansion, which would make it a Model Institute. Professor Ian Gow, the new Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow, spoke of the growth of his Institute and his strong belief, after his long China experience, that Scotland needed a route for Chinese and Chinese Studies in Further and Higher Education. Fan Lin, Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools spoke of her Institute's 2014 Award and of the opening of new Confucius Classroom Hubs and the offering of scholarships to Scottish students to study in China. Professor Barbara Fennell-Clark spoke of the development of her new Institute at the University of Aberdeen, the work of volunteers, and the success of the Scottish Opera project in primary schools. The Secretary reported, on behalf of Professor Gill Hogg, that Scotland's latest Confucius Institute for Business and Communication at Heriot-Watt University would be appointing its Director soon. The Convener referred to recent articles in the press, which suggested that Confucius Institutes acted as a mouthpiece for the Chinese Government. He was assured by Directors that academic freedom was in no way jeopardised. After discussion, the Convener said that the Minutes of the Group would be placed on the Scottish Parliament's website: it had heard presentations from the leaders of Scotland's five Confucius Institutes. It could be that the media had simply picked up on controversies in the USA; he had been comforted by the Group's open discussion.

- There were updates from members. Lindsay Low, Legal Advisor, Scotch Whisky Association, reported on the recent visit he had made with his Chief Executive to China and their view of the future of Scotch Whisky in China, where the market was now more egalitarian and open. Shaun McPhee spoke of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs and its increasing work in Scotland. Wang Yuchen, a doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh, described her experiences as a Chinese student in Scotland. Dr Jim Scott of the University of Dundee distributed a paper, *An Analysis of Enrolment and Attainment in Chinese (and Other Languages)*, analysing the Chinese Language statistics for Scottish Qualifications Authority examinations after appeals for the session 2013-2014. The Convener said that as an apolitical Group, there were inevitable concerns over the fall in the number of students taking Chinese and proposed that he should write to the Scottish Government to express the Group's concern.
- The Convener concluded the meeting by informing the Group that Chinese business interests in the West of Scotland wished to feature in the Celebrations of the Chinese New Year in Glasgow in 2016. He invited members to support this initiative if they could.

9 June 2015 Annual General Meeting

Attendance: 5 MSPs, 2 Speakers, 3 Guests, Non-MSP Members 30

- Mary Fee MSP took the chair for the election of the Convener. Colin Keir MSP nominated Graeme Pearson MSP. Jamie McGrigor MSP seconded this nomination and there were no others. Graeme Pearson MSP was elected unanimously.
- Graeme Pearson MSP took the chair. He nominated Colin Keir MSP as Vice Convener and this nomination was seconded by Mary Fee MSP. There were no other nominations and Colin Keir MSP was elected unanimously.
- Graeme Pearson MSP nominated Judith McClure CBE as Secretary. This nomination was seconded by Dr Jim Scott. There were no other nominations and Judith McClure CBE was elected unanimously.
- The Secretary presented the Annual Return 2015, describing the Group's Membership and Activities since the last Annual General Meeting. The Group agreed the accuracy of the Return, the Statement of Activities and the Financial Declaration.

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 Nigel Archdale Alex Avramenko Eric Balish Martin Bell Leanne Bell Debbie Birrell David Blain Robert Brennan James Brodie Helena Brown Susan Brown Peter Budd Paolo Buoni Zhenbo Cai 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
	Adam Rhys Doidge
	Jane Duckett
	Carolyn Dunion
	Gary Dunion
	Tariq Durrani
	Barbara Fennell-Clark
	Sheila Forbes
	Helen Ford
	Yuwen Fortune
	Linda Fu
	Natascha Gentz
	Catherine Goulden
	Ian Gow
	Katy Gow
	Adam Graudus
	Cathy Gu
	Jessica Guo
	Michael Xin Guo
	Alistair Hamilton
	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
	Marcus Kneen
	Peter Kwok
	Douglas Ledingham
	Xiang Li
	Fan Lin
	Wei Lin
	Orchid Liu
	Catriona Llanwarne
	Lindesay Low
	Martin Low
	Aofei Lu
	Lihe Liu
	Mike Lynch
	Ping Ma
	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
	Shaun McPhee
	Farai Magodo
	Donna Malone
	Samantha May
	Martin Mills
	Colin Mitchell
	Rosemary Mitchell
	Christine Moinard
	Leigh Morris
	Tim Musson
	Kam Leung Ng (Tommy)
	Wing-Sie Ng
	Wing-Yan Ng
	Ruairidh Nicolson
	Jack Nissan
	Gordon Ogilvie
	Margie Ogilvie-Stuart
	Patrick O’Kane
	Fiona Pate
	Siobhan Paterson
	Ed Payne
	John Peebles
	Neil Phillips

	Douglas Prentice
	Adam Purvis
	Shilong Quo
	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
	Graham Thompson
	Kevin Timlin
	Anna Tomlinson
	James Trolland
	Angus Tulloch
	Carol Turnbull
	James Trolland
	Edward Tsang
	Iain Valentine
	Kate Walker
	Alan Wallace
	Oliver Wessely
	William Wilson
	Bella Wang
	Ya Ping Wang
	Yuchen Wang
	Andrew Welsh

	<p>Alan Wright Jean J. Ye Deborah Yeo Jennifer Young Lucy 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 Paul LLP China Britain Business Council Scotland Clyde Blowers Capital Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools at the University of Strathclyde Confucius Institute at the University of Aberdeen Confucius Institute at Heriot-Watt University Department of Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh Dumfries and Galloway College East Ayrshire Council Edinburgh Academy Edinburgh College Education Scotland G7 Consultants Ltd Glasgow Caledonian University 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> <p>Scotch Whisky Association</p> <p>Strathclyde University</p> <p>The Inveralmond Brewery Limited</p> <p>The University of Abertay Dundee</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh</p> <p>The University of Glasgow</p> <p>The University of the West of Scotland</p> <p>Thorntons Law LLP</p> <p>Young Chinese Professionals</p> <p>The Power of Youth</p>
--	---

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

Colin Keir 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 considered the hospitality it received (see below) and the support it receives and concluded that it is below the threshold for disclosure.**

The Group accepted the kind hospitality of the Consul General for the PR of China at the Consulate General on 29 January 2015.

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	MG.07 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6887