

# China's Dialogue with the World

CPC Outreach  
in Speeches and Interviews

Li Zhongjie

- ★ A CPPCC National Committee member and CPC history researcher's first-person account of lecture tours and meetings.
- ★ Elaborate and succinct interpretation of China's strategic vision and major policies.
- ★ Honest and witty answers to hardcore questions from journalists; political, business, and media organization leaders; and other social elites from various countries.
- ★ Great reference for understanding current affairs in China and what Socialism with Chinese Characteristics means.

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By Li Zhongjie

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## **Excel in Communicating with the World**

Li Zhongjie

The policy of reform and opening up opened the gate for China to link directly with the outside world. For more than 30 years, with economic globalization and varying degrees of development in other fields, China's reform and opening up became progressively deeper. China's communication and interchange with the world expanded in full dimensions. Meanwhile, historic changes have taken place in China's relations with the world. China's international status and influence have seen a dramatic rise and its future and destiny are now closely tied to those of the world.

During this era of change, I have had the honor to participate in numerous diplomatic missions and programs in my dual capacity as government official and academician, and also to communicate in different ways with foreign dignitaries, politicians, think tanks, and journalists. I have conveyed China's achievements and experiences in reform and opening up, interpreted the theory and practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and had intense discussions and exchanges with my foreign counterparts, attaining encouraging results.

Through such dialogues, I have come to realize how deeply interested in China

the outside world is becoming and why they are so shocked by China's development achievements and eager to know how the China miracle occurred. Politicians and guests from developing countries all have a strong desire to learn, study, and leverage China's practices and experiences. However, there are also many foreigners who seem puzzled about politics in China and have many doubts about China's future. All these attitudes and concerns reflect the outside world's knowledge and understanding about China to a certain extent and mirror a colorful, multi-cultural world of diversity.

These dialogues also made me more keenly aware that China's development and progress are becoming more inseparable from that of the world, and vice versa. How best to understand and deal with China's relations with the external world, from a strategic point of view, is an issue we need to pay great attention to and properly resolve. China's process of progress and development is, to a large extent, the process of bilateral interaction, cooperation, and competition between it and the world. It is also a process of collision, mutual learning, and mutual integration between Chinese civilization and other civilizations. The faster China rises and the more mature and powerful it grows, the more China will need to be confident, modest, frank, and rational in its dialogue with the world and will need to strengthen communication and relations with the world. However, not all the world's problems are solvable through dialogue. The biggest reason why the world admires China, and wishes to deepen cooperation with China, is that the country has grown more powerful, become better developed, and made more progress. So, the key to win understanding and respect from the world is, first and foremost, to do our things well.

Therefore, we must prioritize deeper reform and opening up, practice scientific development, promote social harmony, and further strengthen China's comprehensive state power. We must unwaveringly follow the path of peaceful development, implement the strategy of opening up and mutual benefit, and comprehensively develop friendly, cooperative relations with all other countries. We must consider legitimate concerns of other countries as we pursue our national interests and promote joint development with other countries in seeking our national development. We must build more equal, balanced, and newer types of global partnerships for development; partnerships in which we work together, sharing our rights, responsibilities, the good, and the bad so the common interests of all humanity will be enhanced.

These strategies and measures entail dialogue in different realms, on different facets, of different content and form, in different time periods, on different occasions, and with different people. Dialogue makes communication smooth, promotes understanding, deepens friendship, and brings about win-win results. We have to excel in having dialogues with the world and sharpen our skills in this regard to integrate into a more open world and present a more real China to the world.

To facilitate future dialogue, I have compiled in this book some minutes of my past dialogues, as well as summaries of diplomatic activities and lecture tours, etc. I hope this true record will shed light on effective communication and healthier, smoother relations between China and the world.

I want to thank my comrades and leaders in the CPC Central Committee for their guidance, care, and love for me. I want to thank those who have worked together to make the above-mentioned activities happen. I want to thank my wife and family for their patience and tolerance with me, a workaholic, at the cost of their interests. Above all, I want to thank Comrade Zhao Qizheng, former Director of the State Council Information Office, for his great support at a critical time when this book was about to be published. Not only did he spend his precious time reviewing and approving the manuscript, he also went out of his way to write commendatory words. Indeed, I can't thank him enough for that!

Finally, I want to thank the epoch we live in; an epoch of unique challenges, trials, and heavy tasks. I hope we all can live up to the greatness of our time!

February 16, 2014

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Part I

**Minutes of Presentations on the  
Spirit of the CPC National Congress  
During Official Visits to the US and  
Canada**



**Minutes of Presentations on the  
Spirit of the 17th CPC National  
Congress and Summary of  
Exchange Sessions During Official  
Visits to the US and Canada**

January 20 to February 2, 2008

As per requirement of the central government, I led a delegation of experts to visit the US and Canada for mutual exchange on the theme of “China’s development and future trends.” The mission was to brief various American and Canadian social circles on the spirit of the 17th CPC National Congress and help them better understand China. The delegation consisted of myself and three other people, including: Zhang Junkuo, Director of the Department of Development Strategy and Regional Economy of the State Council’s Development Research Center (DRC); Chen Yaoyao, a division chief of the Second Bureau of the State Council Information Office; and Cai Yue, an interpreter of the Translation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The mission to explain the spirit of the 17th CPC National Congress in foreign countries is daunting and innovative, especially when targeting countries like the US and Canada, whose relations with China are important and complicated. Hence, we were obligated to do a good job. Top-level authorities, such as the Propaganda Department, and the External Propaganda Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs carefully planned and organized this event.

Ambassador to the US Zhou Wenzhong, Ambassador to Canada Lu Shumin, Consul General to New York Peng Keyu, Consul General to Los Angeles Zhang Yun, and other comrades participated in and directed the work of the exchange delegation. At the US Embassy alone, 16 officials at consul level and above participated in liaison and exchange activities. Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong personally presided over three events. Ambassador Lu Shumin orchestrated and attended all six exchange sessions. The delegation made careful pre-trip preparations, making extensive contacts within the political, think tank, media, and business sectors of the US and Canada. While focusing on introducing the strategic decisions of the 17th CPC National Congress, we paid special attention to the concerns and interests of foreign parties, engaged in two-way interactions, dealt with complicated issues and answered hard questions. Through various forms of exchange, we helped people from all sectors of the US and Canada gain a better understanding of the spirit of the 17th CPC National Congress and our policies and achievements in various aspects of reform and development. Our messages produced very good results and added to our experience in further improving publicity efforts abroad.

## **I. Main Exchange Events and Parties of the Exchange**

The most important feature of the exchange visit to the US and Canada was the large number of exchange activities and the broad range of contacts. All participants were influential elites from various sectors.

The delegation visited Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, and Ottawa. Within a period of 12 days, we conducted 25 official exchange sessions and provided four lectures to Chinese embassies and consulates, totaling 29 meetings. During the busiest day, we had five sessions. The largest session involved over 150 people. We answered more than 160 questions in total, including 16 in one session. In addition, we conducted numerous one-on-one sessions.

Various social sectors of the US and Canada took an active and attentive role in exchange events. The delegation interacted with an extensive range of people, mostly elites from all sectors of society, including the US and Canadian governments, high-

ly-respected think tanks, mainstream media outlets, colleges, businesses and cultural enterprises, and the Chinese community. The oldest participant was the 90-year-old first Canadian ambassador to China. We conducted exchange sessions with 27 ambassadors, commissioners, charge d'affaires, and representatives of the Organization of American States (OAS). In essence, our trip was a continent-wide diplomatic outreach mission.

Highlights of our visit include:

1. A total of nine in-depth and wide-ranging exchange sessions were held in Washington D.C. The main activities were:

(1) Meeting with David F. Gordon, Director of Policy Planning at the US Department of State, former vice-chair of the National Intelligence Council, and former director of the CIA International Affairs Office.

(2) Meeting with a US-China work group consisting of three members of the US House of Representatives.

(3) Breakfast forum with OAS member country and observer country representatives. Present were OAS Assistant Secretary-General Ramdin, ambassadors, commissioners, charge d'affaires, and other representatives.

(4) Luncheon at the US Library of Congress, attended by more than ten experts and scholars, including Kerry Dumbaugh, Director of China Affairs at the Congressional Research Department; Wayne M. Morrison, a Sino-US trade expert; an expert on China's religious issues; and more than 50 legislative aides from the US House of Representatives and Senate.

(5) Lunch and speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a well-known think tank. Present at this event were James Sasser and Stapleton Roy, former US ambassadors to China; more than 150 experts, scholars, members of media organizations, and officials, including Dr. Michael Green, former Senior Director for Asian Affairs of the National Security Council; Richard Bush, former president of the US Taipei Association and Director of the Northeast Asia Research

Center of the Brookings Institute; Charles W. Freeman, former chief China trade negotiator of the US; Mead Wei and Li Cheng, senior research fellows; and John Fugh, President of the Committee of 100.

(6) Met with more than 20 experts and scholars, including Lee H. Hamilton, Director of The Wilson Center (an important think tank); Robert M. Hathaway, Director of the Asia Program; Kent Hughes, Director of Science and Technology of the American and Global Economic Program; Christine Osterman, Director of History and Public Policy Programs; Ross Terrier, researcher at John King Fairbank East Asia Research Center at Harvard University and Vice-President of Intel Corporation.

(7) Forum meeting with China experts and professors David Shambaugh, Harry Harding and Robert Sutter of George Washington University.

(8) Met with John Pomfret, former Beijing Bureau Chief and Editor-in-chief of *Outlook* of the *Washington Post*, and other journalists.

(9) Dinner forum with more than 20 guests, including Washington D.C. area Chinese community leaders, Chinese student representatives, Chinese media personnel, and representatives of Taiwanese compatriots.

2. Four smaller scale exchange events were held in New York, allotting more time and opportunity for deeper interaction than other events. The main activities were:

(1) Breakfast forum with the National Committee on US-China Relations. Interaction with more than ten high-level council members, scholars, and entrepreneurs, including President Stephan A. Orlins and Vice-President Bai Lijuan (Jan Carol Berris) of the National Committee on US-China Relations; Shi Guoli, Chinese program expert of the American Committees on Foreign Relations (ACFR); Professor Donald S. Zagoria of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy (NCAFP); Chairman Wood of the Japan Association; Professor Bradley Presley of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Peter Wolf, Senior Vice-President of Time Warner, and Helena Kolenda of the Henry Luce Foundation, etc.

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During Official Visits to the US and Canada

(2) Discussions with several experts and scholars: He Hanli, China expert and consultant of Eurasia Group, a famous think tank; Green, director of the Asian Department; and Sparks, person in charge of the Global Macroscopic Issues Program, etc.

(3) Met with five editors and columnists of the Editorial Department of *The Wall Street Journal*.

(4) Met with seven editors and journalists of *Business Week*, including Executive Deputy Editor-in-chief Ellen Pollock.

3. Six exchange events focusing on the Canadian government were conducted in Ottawa. The main activities were:

(1) Talked with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, David Mulroney.

(2) Talked with Ms. Susan Cartwright, Foreign Affairs and Defense Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister.

(3) Attended a working lunch hosted by James Fox, Assistant Deputy Minister of Bilateral Relations, Foreign Affairs Department. Also in attendance were six assistant deputy ministers, including Ms. Jane Billings, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Mr. Michael Martin, Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment; and nine medium and lower-ranking officials from the departments of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Natural Resources, Industry, and the International Development Agency.

(4) Separate meetings with well-known think tanks including the Canadian International Council (CIC) and Center of International Governing and Innovation (CIGI). Thirteen people attended the meetings, including the President of CIC National Capital Branch in Ottawa; two former presidents; four members of the Board of Directors; a former Canadian ambassador to China; Wang Ruolan, President of the Ottawa Branch of China-Canada Friendship Society; Shi Wannong, Acting Executive Director of CIGI; and three senior research fellows.

(5) Attended a dinner forum hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Canada, involv-



ing more than 20 Canadian attendees.

4. Six exchange events were held in Los Angeles. The main activities were:

(1) Visited RAND Corporation and met with its senior management.

(2) Attended a seminar co-hosted by RAND Corporation and the Southern California Chapter of Asia Society. There were more than 50 attendees, including representatives from the Southern California Chapter of Asia Society and the Pacific Council on International Policy; Jane Well, Executive Chair of the UCLA Confucius Institute; Guo Junliang, President of *World Journal Los Angeles*; Ma Youqing, Trade Representative for the mayor of Los Angeles; Earns, Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles; Xie Zhenggang, former vice-president of the Committee of 100 and its member Li Yuanxin, who is also CEO of Burger King Group, and Hollywood film producer Yang Yanzi. Representatives from more than ten well-known investment consultancy corporations in southern California, scholars, bankers, and lawyers, etc. were also present.

(3) Visited University of Southern California (USC), met with Vice-Provost Adam Clayton Powell III and Associate Dean Ducrey of USC's US-China Institute, and leaders within 12 schools or departments, including business, law, policy planning and development, international relations, public diplomacy, political science, and social work.

(4) Met with the publisher, management, and journalists of the *Los Angeles Times*.

(5) Attended a closed luncheon hosted by the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles, involving a discussion with over 30 attendees, including President Mark and Vice-President Morris of the council, representatives from well-known international trade firms, law firms, international trade corporations, investment companies, real estate companies, foundations, the Southern California Public Affairs Committee, other industrial and commercial businesses, NGOs, academia, the entertainment industry, and religious personnel, etc.

(6) Visited the Huntington Library, art gallery, the botanic gardens, and talked