A WELCOME CONCERT FOR HIS EXCELLENCY, MR LI LANQING

The former Chinese Vice Premier, Mr Li Lanqing, came to Singapore on July 2 at the invitation of Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and the National University of Singapore. During his six-day visit, His Excellency attended a special concert at the Esplanade Concert Hall which was jointly presented by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Singa Sino Friendship Association (SSFA) and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) have each contributed $3,000 for the concert (SSFA’s contributions were sponsored by World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte Ltd). His Excellency Mr Li Lanqing is well-versed in music. One of his books, “Li Lanqing’s Writing Conversation on Music”, has been very well received.

Mr CHAN SOO SEN TO BE THE ADVISOR OF SINGA SINO

He will also be the advisor to the new Sub-Committee for the Aged.

Mr Chan Soo Sen (Joo Chiat MP) has agreed to be an advisor of Singa Sino. And tapping further into his ministerial expertise and experience in dealing with Suzhou Industrial Park developments, the Association has also invited him to be the advisor to the Sub-Committee for the Aged.

In view of aging population has become a major concern both in Singapore and in China, Singa Sino has decided to set up the Sub-Committee for the Aged. Its objectives are as follows:

1. To promote sharing of information and experience between Singapore and China with regards to aging population issues.
2. To promote collaborative programs between Singapore and China in providing medical and/or professional counselling courses which cater to an aging population.
3. To encourage senior citizens of Singapore and China to actively participate in more cultural and social exchange programs organized by the two countries.

Mr Chan Soo Sen has expressed interest in playing the “go-between” for the senior citizens of both countries and to help push forward more mutual collaborations.

DELEGATION TO GUANGZHOU LED BY MR SIA YONG AND PROFESSOR K K PHUA

At the invitation of Guangdong Friendship Association (GDFAO), a Singa Sino delegaton led by Mr Sia Yong (Honorary President) and Professor K K Phua (President) visited Guangzhou in late July this year.

The delegation attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of GDFAO and a grand concert to mark the happy occasion. They also visited a few cities, including Fuoshan and Zhaoqing. It was a fruitful trip that brought the two associations closer and laid the ground for future cooperations.
The China-ASEAN Association and the Friendship Associations of 10 ASEAN countries signed the People-to-People Declaration in May 2006. It was to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of China-ASEAN dialogue relations and the Year of Friendship and Cooperation between China and ASEAN countries. The Declaration has helped to establish the “10+1” people-to-people cooperation mechanism. The Conference of China-ASEAN Friendship Organizations would be held biennially while participating countries would take turns to host the event.

**To Tie-in with NTU Executive Education Programs**

Professor K K Phua was happy to announce that Singa Sino has been entrusted by China to provide trainings for its People’s Friendship Associations for a period of 10 years. There are more than 360 of such friendship associations in China. The program will specifically cater to the Secretary-Generals, Presidents and Vice Presidents of these associations. The main objective is to ensure that these senior management committee members have a better understanding of the politics, religions, culture and society of ASEAN countries. Singa Sino and NTU would jointly organize the “Secretary-General” training program. NTU President, Professor Su Guaning, has promised to give full support to the Association in running the program.

Speaking to the Press, former President of Singa Sino, Mr Sia Yong, said that “for the past 13 years, the Association focused mainly on cultural exchange programs between Singapore and China”. The 80-year-old senior believed that for the next 10 years, Singa Sino would embark on a more challenging and rewarding mission, i.e. to organize a 10-year Secretary-General Training Program. Professor Phua added that Singa Sino would set up a sub-committee to focus on the program. The Association is also planning to recruit more Chinese professionals who have immigrated to Singapore so as to jointly organize more enrichment activities.

**In the Pipeline: Distinguished Speaker Series**

Professor Larry Hsien Ping Lang, the Chair Professor of Finance at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, may be in town later this year to chair a financial seminar.

Voted as one of the “top 10 most influential Chinese economists in China”, the Taiwan-born, Hong Kong-based controversial figure received his Ph.D in Finance from Wharton School. Professor Lang has previously taught at Wharton School, New York University and University of Chicago. He has also been a consultant for World Bank.

In 2001, Professor Lang began to focus his research on reforms of state-owned enterprises in China. Last August, he presented a paper at Fudan University, citing Greencool Technology as an example of embezzlement of state funds during the course of privatization of state-owned enterprises. The man at the centre of allegations of corruption was Gu Chujun, the then Chairman of Greencool. It eventually led to Gu’s arrest by Foshan authorities in Guangzhou.

Professor Phua promised that Singa Sino Association would promote more activities in relation to the Chinese financial market, technology, politics, community, education as well as cultural events. Besides Professor Lang, the Association would also invite Mr Zhou Xiaochuan, the Governor of People’s Bank of China, to give a talk in Singapore.

“Mr Lang Lang, the world renowned Chinese pianist who performed at the opening ceremony of the World Cup in Germany, could well be on our invited list too!”, said Professor Phua.

(Poon Sing Wah)
A GET-TOGETHER DINNER FOR SINGA SINO NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Singa Sino Friendship Association hosted a get-together dinner with the embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Singapore at The Pines Club on 23 June 2006. It was also to celebrate the inauguration of the newly elected Management Committee of the Association.

Invited guests included the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, His Excellency Mr Zhang Yun and Mrs Zhang, more than 20 attaches from the Chinese embassy, Professor Wang Cungwu and Mrs Wang, as well as many friends of Singa Sino.

Delivering his speech at the dinner, the newly elected President of the Association, Professor K K Phua, paid tribute to the former President, Mr Sia Yong, for his contributions in fostering a strong relationship between Singapore and China over the years. Looking ahead, Professor Phua reaffirmed that the Association would continue to uphold the goals set by his predecessor. In addition, it would strive to recruit more young people as well as non-Chinese members, and to build greater understanding between China and ASEAN countries.

His Excellency Mr Zhang Yun also recognised the significance of Singa Sino. He even called the Association “the second home” of the Chinese embassy. That was because the Association has always been there to lend its support for the good times or bad times.

Mr Sia Yong was very candid and witty when he spoke of the importance of passing the torch, and noted that Professor Phua was the unanimous choice.

The guests at the dinner were treated to a mini concert, including Sichuan Bian Lian (变脸), Peking opera, Chinese dance and Jinghu (京胡) performances. His Excellency Mr Zhang Yun also took to the stage with Miss Tian Ping, drawing thunderous applause from the guests.

SINGA SINO FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION - Management Committee

Honorary President 名誉会长
Sia Yong (谢镛)

President 会长
Phua Kok Khoo (潘国驹)

Vice President 副会长
Rohan Bin Karim

Vice President 副会长
Jumabkhoi Ameer Ali Rajabal

Vice President 副会长
Kartar Singh Thakral

Vice President 副会长
Oh Bin Cheng (胡名正)

Vice President 副会长
Chan Hong Joo, Alan (曾繁如)

Honorary Secretary 秘书长
Chung Ting Fai (钟庭辉)

Assistant Honorary Secretary 副秘书长
Goh Boon Kok (吴文国)

Honorary Treasurer 财政
Ong Chu Meng (王如明)

Assistant Honorary Treasurer 副财政
Koh Sok Kheng (许雪琴)

Committee Members 董事
Tan Jing Quee (陈仁贵)

Teong Eng Siong (张永祥)

William Cheng (郑维廉)

Fong Yin Leong, Leslie (冯元宝)

Chwee Meng Chong (水铭璋)

Chua Teck Ming (蔡德明)

Ronald Chang (张瑞良)

Soon Dit Woo (孙泽宇)

Koh Thong Dzeh (许统泽)

Ung Gim Sei (黄锦贤)

Lim Jin Joo (林清明)

Loh Wee Kee (罗英基)

Chio Hock Lai, Paul (邹福来)

Ang Teck Sin (翁镇生)

THE CONVENTION OF WORLD MONGOLIANS

To commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Mongolian Empire, the Mongolian Union for Peace and Friendship hosted the “The Convention of World Mongolians” from 2 to 6 August 2006. Members of Singa Sino included Mr Sia Yong, Mr Oh Bin Cheng, Mr Chwee Meng Chong, Mr Chong Ting Fai and Mr Liu Chun Ji attended the convention in Mongolia.
A delegation from the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) led by Vice President, Madam Li Xiaolin, and Director, Madam Zhu Dan, visited Singapore from 20 – 23 May 2006.

Singa Sino Association and the CPAFFC have always enjoyed a close relationship. Both associations are firmly committed to promote cooperation and exchange of experiences between the two countries in business, culture, education, etc.

The delegation was warmly received by Mr Sia Yong (the then President) as well as other committee members, including Mr Oh Bin Cheng, Mr Alan Chan Hong Joo, Mr Chung Ting Fai and Miss Koh Sok Kheng. A welcome party was held at The Tanglin Club on 21 May. Followed by a dinner banquet at the Crystal Jade Golden Palace hosted by Mr Alan Chan. The gatherings provided fantastic opportunities for networking and bond-building.

Miss Koh was the chaperon for the delegation during their stay. They visited some local attractions and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and were briefed on its system, teaching methods and courses. It was also agreed that Singa Sino Association and NTU would jointly provide the 10-year Secretary-General training program for CPAFFC.

Before the Chinese delegation left for home, it concluded that the visit was a success and looked forward to more exchange and cooperation between the two associations.

A Henan delegation led by Mr Cao Weixin (Henan Provincial Committee member cum Minister of the United Front Department) visited Singapore in June 2006. During their visit, the delegation enjoyed fruitful exchanges with the local business community and gained a greater understanding of Singa Sino.

8/10/05 First stop, Xian. A round table talk was held followed by a meeting with Madam Liu Xianlian (Vice President of Xian Friendship Association). The discussion was focused on collaboration in education and cultural exchange programs. Madam Liu also appealed to Singa Sino to encourage more investors to invest in Xian.

11/10/05 Second stop, Yinchuan. The delegation was treated to lunch by Mr Jing Zhanguo (Vice President) of Ningxia Friendship Association. Both parties agreed to have more mutual exchanges and visits.

13/10/05 Third stop, Qinghai. The delegation was warmly received by Mr Xie Xiaoping (Director) and Mr Guo Yingneng (Secretary-General) from the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Provincial People’s Government. Both parties promised to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

14/10/05 Fourth stop, Lanzhou, Gansu. At the meeting with Mr Fei Yafu (Secretary-General) and other members of Gansu Friendship Association, discussion focused on ways to promote cultural and education exchange. The Chinese representatives also expressed their wish for more Singa Sino members to visit Lanzhou.

15/10/05 Fifth stop, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang. The delegation was received by Madam Kong Duozi (Vice President) and other members of Xinjiang Friendship Association. They discussed about future collaboration and plans for Xinjiang representatives to visit Singapore.

17/10/05 Last stop, Beijing. The delegation attended the 15th anniversary celebration of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Singapore and China.