

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the New Zealand China Council Chairman's Report for the 2016/17 financial year and to update the Council on developments.

The New Zealand China Relationship

The highlight of the last year was undoubtedly the visit of Premier Li Keqiang to New Zealand in March 2017. The Council was pleased to be able to be involved in the visit and the Premier made some gracious remarks about the Council's work. The visit was notable for the large number of bilateral agreements which were signed, including the Memorandum of Arrangement on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as well as announcements about the upgrade of our FTA and the commencement of pilot chilled meat shipments. Beyond this the Premier's visit reflected both the range and depth of the relationship and served to highlight the important and growing links between our two countries in the areas of trade, tourism, investment, culture, language and people-to-people links.

The 2016-17 China Council Programme

The Council spent time this last year on developing a new Strategic Plan to guide our activities over the next three years. Details of the Plan are available on the Council's website. The Strategic Plan drives the Council's annual business plan and budget and enables effective governance and accountability. We will be taking steps to develop longer term thinking about the relationship, to expand our communications and advocacy programme and to develop a new model for engagement in China, building on the success of the Partnership Forum. We did not hold a Forum in 2017 but are exploring the possibility of a Council visit to China in 2018. Both I and the Executive Director made successful visits to China this year, widening our contact base with officials, think tanks and business people across the country.

Key to the success of our Strategic Plan is the engagement of our Council members, both in the Executive and Advisory Boards. To enhance the engagement of the Advisory Board we initiated the Kaihui process which is showing some positive results.

The Council has also developed a Strategic Pathway to guide its work on furthering New Zealand's involvement in BRI. The Council has been widely quoted in the press on BRI, a major report has been commissioned and further communications and outreach with business are planned. BRI offers a major new opportunity to re-articulate the value of the relationship with China at a time when competition for China's attention is rising dramatically.

Other achievements over the past year include

- maintaining an active media and communications strategy achieving mention in

- more than 70 articles and regular postings on social media (LinkedIn and Twitter).
- arranging a fourth round of media awards in 2017 with a record 23 entries (up from 11 the year before) followed by the supreme award winner, Corin Dann's trip to China in March 2017 to learn about and report on the Chinese economy
 - holding a number of events and activities in New Zealand including in April 2017 the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the arrival of Rewi Alley in China and the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations
 - welcoming a number of senior Chinese delegations to New Zealand
 - supporting a number of cultural events and awards including the Chinese Language Conference & Chinese Speech Competition, as well as Chinese Language Week
 - maintaining regular engagement with the Prime Minister, other Ministers and senior officials as well as the Embassy and Consulates-General in China: in June the Executive Director visited all five New Zealand offices in China
 - co-operating actively with a wide range of supporting organizations, including MFAT, NZTE, NZIBF, NZCTA, Asia NZ Foundation, NZCA, and Confucius Institute, as well as the Chinese Embassy and Consulates-General.

Membership

Membership of the Council now stands at 19 on the Executive Board and 20 on the Advisory Board. Changes to the Council membership in the last year included:

- From the Executive Board: the departure of Bruce Hassall (PwC), Peter Clark (P F Olsen) and the appointments of Mark Averill (PwC), Brian Stanley (Wood Council), James Parsons (Beef & Lamb New Zealand) and Pania Tyson-Nathan (NZ Maori Tourism)
- From the Advisory Board: the departure of Rick Ellis and appointments of Geraint Martin (Te Papa), Andrew Sayers (Hong Kong NZ Business Association), Sam Rickets (First NZ Capital), Karen Qian Hou (ICBC), Sam Brosnahan and Naisi Chen (as next generation leaders).

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the departing members for their contribution to the Council's work and to congratulate and thank the new members for their service.

I am delighted that the consulting contract of Executive Director Stephen Jacobi was extended to January 2019 and I thank Stephen for his commitment and energy. We have also been fortunate to expand our staff resources with the full-time appointment of Jane Yang as Assistant Director, joining our hard-working Executive Assistant Tania Tang in the office. Jane's deep experience of the relationship is a major asset for us going forward.

The Year Ahead

A number of activities and events are already in planning for 2017/18, including:

- embedding our Strategic Plan and enhancing the involvement of the Advisory Board through our “Kaihui” process
- continuing to use our media platform to inform New Zealanders about the importance of the relationship including through new social media channels
- arranging the visit of our 2017 Media Award winner to China and organising the 2018 China Council Media Awards
- sponsoring and supporting events which enhance the trade and investment relationship and people to people links
- supporting Chinese Language week, as well as working to improve the Chinese language study landscape
- continuing our regular engagement with the Government and its agencies, including in China
- continuing to welcome and brief high level Chinese visitors to New Zealand and to build the constituency for the relationship in China
- organising the inaugural Next Generation Leadership event: the purpose of the event is to reflect on collective vision for the future of the relationship and to make some recommendations to the Council.

Appreciation

I would like to thank all Council members for your support, participation and contribution to meetings, events and activities. In particular, I would like to thank to Cathy Quinn and MinterEllisonRudd Watts for their contribution of legal services and Michael Tan and his team at PwC for financial management services.

I express my appreciation to the team from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade for their on-going financial support to the Council and in conjunction with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise for providing on-going additional funding for our new Assistant Director and Executive Administrator.

In its fifth year the New Zealand China Council is going from strength to strength and a firm foundation has been established for continuing to advocate for the relationship in years to come.



Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon
Chairman
New Zealand China Council

NEW ZEALAND CHINA COUNCIL (AS AT JUNE 2016)

Executive Board

Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon, Chairman, NZ China Council
Rt Hon. Dame Jenny Shipley, Company Director
Mark Averill, CEO and Senior Partner, PwC
Brook Barrington, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Tony Browne, Chairman, NZ Contemporary China Research Centre
Danny Chan, Deputy Chair, ACG Colleges
Peter Chrisp, Chief Executive, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise
Paul Goodwin, Managing Director, Institutional, ANZ Bank (IBF)
Grant Guilford, Vice-Chancellor Victoria University of Wellington
Arthur Loo, Partner, Loo & Koo
Peter McBride, Chairman, Zespri (IBF)
James Parsons, Chair Beef and Lamb New Zealand (IBF)
Kerry Prendergast, Chair Tourism NZ
Cathy Quinn, Partner, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
Brian Stanley, Chair Wood Council of New Zealand
Martin Thomson, Chair NZCTA, Partner DLA Piper
Ngahiwi Tomoana, Chair Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Inc
John Wilson, Chairman, Fonterra Co-operative Group (IBF)

Advisory Board

Dave Bromwich, President, NZ China Friendship Society
Sam Brosnahan, Future Leaders representative, Former President of the Global China Connection Canterbury
Mai Chen, Chair Palmer/NZ Asian Leaders
Naisi Chen, Future Leaders representative, Vice President of the Auckland Chinese Students and Scholars Association
Simon Draper, Executive Director, Asia New Zealand Foundation
Rick Ellis, Chief Executive, Museum of New Zealand
Charles Finny, Chair, Education NZ
Meng Foon, National President, New Zealand Chinese Association
Jennie Hu, Founder International Artists' Residency
Raymond Huo, Labour Party MP
Peter Landon-Lane, CEO Plant & Food, Chair Science NZ
David Lei Wang, Chair, China Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand
Fran O'Sullivan, Columnist, NZ Inc
John Penno, Chief Executive, Synlait
Andrew Sayers, Chair Hong Kong New Zealand Business Council (HKNZBC)
Steven Wong, Chairman, United Chinese Association
Helene Wong, Writer
Dr Jian Yang, MP, National

NZIBF Contributors

Malcolm Bailey, Chair New Zealand International Business Forum (NZIBF)
Sir Graeme Harrison, Chair ANZCO
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