USCPF Celebrates 2012 Gala Dinner

The U.S.-China Policy Foundation hosted its 17th annual Gala Dinner, *China in Washington*, on December 11th, 2012. The black-tie affair was held at the historic Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in downtown, Washington, DC.

The dinner recognized the ongoing efforts of USCPF and others to improve U.S.-China relations. The USCPF, which was founded in 1995, has spent the last 17 years seeking to increase mutual understanding between the United States and China through educational programs and publications as well as exchange programs for scholars and policymakers.

This year, the USCPF was honored to welcome Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Counselor and Trustee at the Center for Strategic & International Studies and former National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, to give keynote remarks on the future of U.S.-China Relations.

However, Dr. Brzezinski also highlighted growing nationalism and territorial conflicts in Asia as potential sources of antagonism in the region. In this context, he argued, America could actually play a stabilizing role, provided America’s engagement with its allies does not come at the expense of U.S.-China cooperation.

In his remarks, Dr. Brzezinski noted that, while both American and Chinese media outlets like to concentrate on tensions in the relationship, there are actually many factors making conflict between America and China unlikely. For example, Dr. Brzezinski pointed to the numerous connections between both societies: people-to-people exchanges, the intertwined nature of American and Chinese businesses, and numerous student exchange programs between Chinese and American universities. Such an inter-connected world, Dr. Brzezinski argued, has entered a “post-hegemonic age.”

Following Dr. Brzezinski’s speech, Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr. shared his first-hand experiences of the writing of the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Shanghai Communiqué, an event of paramount significance in the opening up of relations between the United States and China. Ambassador Freeman also conducted a Q&A session with Dr. Brzezinski, using questions submitted by the gala attendees. A full video of Dr. Brzezinski’s speech, Ambassador Freeman’s remarks, and the Q&A is available on www.youtube.com/user/uscpf.
As the U.S.-China Policy Foundation moves into its 18th year, our mission of improving mutual trust and understanding between America and China seems to grow only more important. U.S.-China relations played a larger role in the recent U.S. presidential election than in any prior election—and Chinese media outlets covering it reflected the intense interest Chinese people have in American affairs and American perceptions of China. Meanwhile, as China underwent its own leadership transition, I could not help but notice the extreme amount of interest given to this once-in-a-decade event in American media. Clearly, there are a growing number of people in both China and the United States interested in learning more about each other’s countries.

At the USCPF, we have been helping to nurture understanding between the United States and China since 1995, and we are pleased to see that as U.S.-China relations have grown in importance politically and economically, there is increasing demand for information about China in America, and vice versa. Our programs help to fill this need.

We continue to provide publicly accessible information and analysis of current events and topics in U.S.-China relations. We assemble educational publications like our biannual Washington Journal of Modern China and books on the history and future of U.S.-China relations, such as the forthcoming title The United States and China Since World War II. We also continue to produce monthly episodes of our television show, China Forum, which airs locally and is also available on YouTube.

The USCPF also continues its important work of fostering people-to-people exchanges between policymakers, students, and scholars from America and China. In 2012 USCPF hosted yet another successful Policymakers Trip to China, in which chiefs of staff and legislative directors from both houses of Congress experience modern China first-hand. This year, our group of senior congressional staff visited Beijing, Guilin, and, for the first time, Hong Kong. We already are hard at work planning for our next Policymakers Trip, which will help introduce the staff of new members of Congress to China and the complex U.S.-China relationship. USCPF also met with student groups, including the China Studies Society at Yale University, to answer their questions, helping to foster the next generation’s understanding of U.S.-China relations.

In the realm of business, the USCPF arranged for a group of representatives from major American companies to attend a luncheon hosted by Ambassador Zhang Yesui at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China. We would like to thank Ambassador Zhang for graciously agreeing to host this event, and for helping us reach out to corporate leaders. We hope to continue to expand our relations with the business community and host more events like the business luncheon. Our foundation’s continued existence underscores the deep interest many corporations hold in U.S.-China relations. Without the dedicated support of our donors, we would not be able to carry out our programs.

I would like to thank all of our supporters for their commitment to improving U.S.-China relations. We have many exciting initiatives planned for 2013, including arranging delegations and exchanges in the fields of medicine, security issues, and U.S.-China business relations. Stay tuned for further updates from the USCPF. Happy New Year, or xin nián kuài le. I hope 2013, the Year of the Snake, will be a happy one for all of our friends and supporters.

Chi Wang, Ph.D.
President and Chair
U.S.-China Policy Foundation
Each year at the Gala Dinner, the U.S.-China Policy Foundation is proud to honor noteworthy individuals who have made distinguished contributions to U.S.-China relations. This year, the USCPF presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong and Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy to honor their lifelong commitments to improving U.S.-China relations. Ambassador Zhou, who currently serves as Secretary-General of the Boao Forum for Asia, was the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. from 2005-2010, and was instrumental in shaping U.S.-China relations during that period. Ambassador Roy served as the U.S. Ambassador to China from 1991-1995, and has remained an active and respected authority on U.S.-China relations ever since, as shown by his current position as the Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the U.S.

The Foundation was also proud to present Mr. Larry Lee, the President of China Daily USA, with the China Media Leadership award for his contribution to furthering mutual understanding through media. *China Daily* provides English-language news reporting on current events in China, America, and around the world. Under Mr. Lee’s leadership, *China Daily* has become an indispensable tool for Americans seeking to understand the Chinese perspective.

The Foundation would like to express our gratitude to all the guests and sponsors who made this year’s gala dinner such a success. We appreciate the commitment our many friends have towards a positive, healthy U.S.-China relationship, and we look forward to working with our supporters in the future to continue to improve U.S.-China relations.

This Year’s Gala Dinner sponsors include:

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Gala Dinner Photo Spread

From Left to Right: Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr.; Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy; Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski; Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong; Mr. Larry Lee; Dr. Chi Wang

USCPF Board Member Ambassador Richard Solomon (left) speaks with Michael Wege (right), Senior Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer for Hershey

USCPF President Dr. Chi Wang (left) greets Dr. Chi Zhihang (right), Vice President and General Manager of North America for Air China
Kate Irvin (left), Group Director of Diplomatic Relations for Coca-Cola, shakes hands with Dr. Ernestine Wang (right), Director of Programs at USCPF

Donald Tong (left), Commissioner of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office; Henry Tang (center), Managing Partner of Carnegie Towers Group; and Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA) (right)

Kay Ikawa (left), Managing Director of Asia-Pacific Sales for United Airlines, meets Chi Wang (right)

Congressman Cliff Steans (R-FL) (left); Chi Wang (center); and Larry Lee (right), President of China Daily USA
USCPF 2012 Policymakers Trip to China

During the August Congressional recess, the USCPF completed another successful Policymakers Trip to China, sending a bipartisan delegation of senior staff from Congress on a ten-day educational tour of China. Hosted by the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and the Hong Kong Information Services Department, the trip brought the delegation to Beijing, Guilin, and Hong Kong. The delegation first arrived in Hong Kong, where they learned about the city’s important role as a financial hub for the Asian region and greater China, facilitated by China’s “one country, two systems” for this special administrative region. The delegation departed Hong Kong for Beijing, where they received briefings on bilateral relations at the U.S. Embassy, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. During their time in Beijing, the senior Congressional staff members also met with Mr. Ma Wenpu, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC). Outside of official meetings, the delegation visited Beijing’s historic sites, including the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Park.

Following their time in Beijing, the participants departed for Guilin, a city in southern Guangxi Province famous for its natural landscapes and soaring limestone rock formations. Guilin officials hosted a welcoming banquet for the delegation. During their stay in Guilin, the delegation saw a Chinese folk performance, took a cruise down the Li River and visited the renowned rice terrace paddies atop Longsheng.

Since its establishment, the Policymakers Trip to China program has operated with the mission of providing Congressional staff with first-hand insight into the issues affecting modern-day China and U.S.-China relations. The U.S.-China Policy Foundation enjoyed organizing this unique opportunity for Congressional staff members to learn about China’s diverse people, cultures, and landscapes.

On July 24, the USCPF hosted a send-off dinner for this year’s senior Congressional staff delegation. We were pleased to have Mr. Donald Tong, Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs in the United States, as our guest of honor.

The staffers heard from Tong that Hong Kong is currently the single largest source of investment in mainland China, even exceeding investment from the United States. Tong also offered many interesting facts and statistics on Hong Kong and on existing interactions between the United States and Hong Kong. In recent years, Hong Kong has become a primary clearing house for offshore renminbi, in step with China’s efforts to eventually develop the yuan into a fully convertible international currency. Mainland China’s economic development has also been a tremendous boon for the Hong Kong tourism industry, as the number of mainland Chinese tourists crossing into Hong Kong each day can sometimes reach upwards of half a million people.

Tong was accompanied by Mr. Bill Wong, Assistant Director-General of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO), in Washington, D.C. The USCPF wishes to thank HKETO for their gracious support of the Hong Kong segment of this year’s policymakers trip. First established in 1987 and with offices also in New York and San Francisco, HKETO continues to maintain an active voice on issues being addressed by Congress that are likely to affect the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Policymakers Trip Send-Off Dinner

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On November 1, 2012, the U.S.-China Policy Foundation held a luncheon for representatives of major U.S. companies. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China graciously agreed to host the luncheon in celebration of the role American businesses have played in supporting both the U.S.-China Policy Foundation and the U.S.-China relationship overall. His Excellency Zhang Yesui, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States, hosted the luncheon and gave opening remarks.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Zhang gave a brief overview of the current state of U.S.-China relations. Ambassador Zhang pointed out how intertwined the U.S. and China have become, especially in the economic and business spheres. Ambassador Zhang also noted the benefits of this cooperation, noting that American jobs are created not only by American exports to China but also by American imports from China.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Zhang expressed his belief that U.S.-China relations are progressing smoothly. While he noted that there are disagreements between the two countries, Ambassador Zhang said that this is only natural in any bilateral relationship, and he expressed his full confidence that America and China will avoid the historical trap of conflict between an established power and a rising power. Ambassador Zhang then invited USCPF President Dr. Chi Wang to say some words about the important role the U.S.-China Policy Foundation plays in helping improve U.S.-China relations.

Dr. Wang gave a brief overview of the history of the U.S.-China Policy Foundation, starting from its founding in 1995. Dr. Wang highlighted the USCPF’s role in advancing U.S.-China business relations before inviting USCPF Board Member Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy to expand on the function of the USCPF.

Ambassador Roy mentioned two key elements that hinder the successful development of U.S.-China relations: divided public opinion and U.S. government officials and policymakers who are uninformed about China or have unrealistic expectations towards China. Ambassador Roy praised the USCPF’s role in helping to alleviate both these problems through its educational programs and its work in organizing trips to China for U.S. policymakers. Ambassador James Keith, also a USCPF board member, added that the USCPF plays a key role in fostering and maintaining personal relationships between American and Chinese decision makers. These relationships and personal experiences are crucial in expanding mutual trust, understanding, and respect between the two countries.

After the formal remarks, conversation at the luncheon touched on a wide variety of topics, with much of the discussion centering on what to expect from the incoming Chinese leadership.

Since economic and business relations are likely to continue to be at the forefront of U.S.-China relations, the USCPF was happy to host a luncheon bringing together Chinese Embassy personnel and representatives of key American companies. The USCPF plans to host similar events each year.

In October 2012, the USCPF released the 20th anniversary edition of its biannual journal, the Washington Journal of Modern China (WJMC). Founded in 1992, the WJMC is a policy-oriented publication with scholarly articles on modern Chinese culture, economics, history, politics and U.S.-China relations. Featured articles in the latest issue include:

- “China’s Rise and Transformation: Towards Pax Sincia?” by Chas W. Freeman, Jr.
- “Forty Years Later: My Reflections on a Changing China” by Chi Wang
- “China’s Ethnic Policies in the Xinjiang Region” by Rosalyn Lim

An annual subscription can be purchased at the individual rate of $30.00 and institutional rate of $40.00. Shipping and handling is an additional $5.00 per subscription. Archived issues can be obtained for $14.00/issue. Please contact wjmc@uscpf.org to subscribe. Academic institutions can subscribe through EBSCO, SWETS, or Harrassowitz.
USCPF Hosts Yale China Studies Society Students

On November 30, the U.S.-China Policy Foundation hosted a group of students from the Yale China Studies Society for a wide-ranging discussion of U.S.-China relations. USCPF President Chi Wang was able to meet with the students, and discussed his first-hand experiences of U.S.-China relations over the last 40 years.

The students were from different backgrounds and of different nationalities, but shared a keen interest in and understanding of the U.S.-China relationship. During the meeting, Dr. Wang shared his thoughts on the prospects of future reform in China. The students were especially interested in discussing what strategies new Party Secretary (and soon-to-be President) Xi Jinping might implement in China’s foreign relations.

The U.S.-China relationship is often called the most important in the world, but the students were also interested in China’s relationships with its neighbors, especially given the tense dispute with Japan over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. Dr. Wang gave his perspective on the issue, noting that the most important step towards resolving the conflict will be reigning in the intense nationalism on both sides.

The USCPF continues to value young students and scholars as a critical piece of the U.S.-China relationship. By hosting student groups and by employing bright young scholars both in paid positions and as interns, the USCPF continues to encourage the pursuit of mutual understanding between America and China.

In Memoriam

Senator Daniel Inouye

Senator Dan Inouye of Hawaii passed away on December 17, 2012. Senator Inouye was a strong presence in the U.S. Congress, serving a remarkable 50 years. At his memorial service he was honored as a war hero, a senator, and as a symbol of his generation. Senator Inouye’s life offers a strong example to the Asian American community, a life filled with courage and service to his country.

The U.S.-China Policy Foundation not only recognizes Senator Inouye’s long life of service but also remembers him as a friend. Senator Inouye showed continued support for the USCPF and acted as an honorary advisor to the Foundation. His efforts and support will not be forgotten.

Stanley Karnow

Stanley Karnow, Pulitzer-Prize winning historian and journalist, passed away on January 27, 2013. Stanley Karnow provided significant coverage of East Asia during his career as a foreign correspondent. Perhaps best known for his coverage of the Vietnam War, Karnow spent his career focused on reporting the events on the ground in Asia. He created documentaries and wrote books on Vietnam, the Philippines, and China. His tireless efforts helped Americans gain a more well-rounded understanding of East Asia.

Accompanying President Richard Nixon on his famous trip to China, Karnow witnessed and shared the changing status of U.S.-China Relations. This trip is just one example of how Stanley Karnow’s life and works remind us of the importance of increasing mutual understanding between the U.S. and Asia.
The U.S.-China Policy Foundation congratulates the 113th Congress for being the most diverse Congress in U.S. history. This includes 31 Hispanic Americans, 43 African Americans, 12 Asian Americans, 98 women, and 7 openly gay or bisexual members. Of these 12 Asian Americans, three are of Chinese descent. Two are newly elected freshman Congresswomen.

Representative Judy Chu
Judy Chu currently represents California’s 27th district. She previously served two terms representing California’s 32nd district prior to redistricting. Judy Chu was the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress. Her parents both lived in Guangdong, China before moving to Los Angeles where Chu was born. Representative Chu has worked for education, healthcare, and immigration reform. She has also sponsored legislation related to civil rights, public safety, helping small businesses, and cleaning water pollution.

Representative Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth is a freshman Congresswoman elected to represent Illinois’ 8th District. Representative Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran who previously served as Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Duckworth was awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries she sustained in the field. Tammy Duckworth was born in Thailand to an American father and a Thai mother of Chinese ancestry. Representative Duckworth is a member of the House Committees on Armed Services and on Oversight and Government Reform.

Representative Grace Meng
Grace Meng is the newly elected Congresswoman for New York’s 6th District. Improving on her father’s record as the first Asian American elected to the New York State legislature, Grace Meng became the first Asian American from the Eastern U.S. to be elected to Congress. Representative Meng serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Small Business Committee. She is striving to increase opportunity and access for her constituents as well as working to promote economic growth.

Connecting with Congress is a core part of the U.S.-China Policy Foundation’s mission to improve U.S.-China relations. Later this year, our Policymakers Trip to China program will take senior staff from the offices of freshman representatives and senators on an educational trip to China, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges in U.S.-China relations. We will also arrange for members of Congress to travel to China to meet with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National People’s Congress, and the new Chinese leadership.

In addition, we continue to provide educational materials and to arrange briefings on China and U.S.-China relations for members of Congress and their staff. For more information or to request educational materials, please email uscpf@uscpf.org. We look forward to working with the members of the 113th Congress in the coming year.
The U.S.-China Policy Foundation continues to produce new episodes of its television program, China Forum. China Forum airs Sundays at 2 pm on WNVC/MHz1. With nearly 200 episodes produced since 1991, China Forum is an educational program that seeks to advance American understanding and awareness of the increasingly nuanced relationship between the United States and China. Produced by Dr. Chi Wang, President of USCPF, each weekly program features a panel of experts discussing contemporary trends and issues.

China Forum has covered a wide variety of topics. This year, China Forum provided a timely discussion of the future of U.S.-China relations after an important leadership transition in China as well as the 2012 presidential election in America. Dr. Robert Sutter of George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs and Alan Romberg of the Stimson Center joined guest moderator Grace Carroll to talk about what U.S.-China relations might look like during President Obama’s second term, with many new faces to be selected for the Cabinet. Mr. Romberg also joined China Forum for a detailed break-down of China’s 18th National Party Congress, where the men expected to lead China for the next 10 years were formally introduced to the world. Both the changes to the Obama administration and China’s new leadership will have huge implications for U.S.-China relations. USCPF was proud to sponsor a discussion of these issues on China Forum.

Other recent episodes of China Forum included discussions on U.S.-China military relations, and the complex relationship between China and Africa. Peter Brookes, Senior Fellow for National Security Affairs at the Heritage Foundation, provided an overview of the current state of U.S.-China military relations as well as a future outlook. Ambassador David Shinn of GWU’s Elliott School of International Affairs and Dr. Deborah Brautigam of Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies appeared on China Forum for a fascinating discussion of China’s role in Africa, and what effects Sino-African relations may have on U.S.-China relations and the world.

USCPF extends its thanks to all of our featured experts, who make it possible for us to continue to discuss the most interesting and relevant issues in U.S.-China relations on China Forum. We look forward to producing new episodes on topics such as China’s environment, China’s relations with the Asia-Pacific, and China in the Middle East. We also welcome suggestions from USCPF friends on other future topics. Simply email ideas to uscpf@uscpf.org or tweet your ideas to @USCPF.

About the Book

In this collection of essays written by the former head of the Library of Congress Chinese Collection, Dr. Chi Wang chronicles the modest beginnings of the Chinese Collection at the Library of Congress and its transformation into the largest collection and Chinese cultural presence outside Asia. For anyone who has ever wondered what goes on inside the Library of Congress’s marble walls, Wang relates an insider’s enthralling account of the major milestones and changes to the administration of the Collection over the years.

Readers will be surprised not only to learn about some of the rare and priceless books that have found their way to the Library of Congress, but also by the candidness with which Wang shares his story about serving under three Librarians of Congress. The book not only has value as American library history but also serves as a useful introduction to Chinese historical archives and libraries. Select writings discuss publication and personnel exchanges with Chinese academic libraries, Chinese character encoding and library automation, and publishing activities in China.

The United States and China Since World War II. Published by ME Sharpe. Available April 2013. 216 p.

About the Book

This book surveys the complicated history of U.S.-China relations. After two brief chapters providing historical context, the focus shifts to the mid-twentieth century, the wartime alliance, the war’s bitter aftermath, and the decades since World War II, including the path from normalization to China’s hosting of the 2008 Summer Olympics. The author traces the ways in which the two countries have managed the blend of common and competitive interests in their economic and strategic relationships; the shifting political base for Sino-American relations within each country; the emergence and dissolution of rival political coalitions supporting and opposing the relationship; the evolution of each society’s perceptions of the other; and ongoing differences regarding controversial topics like Taiwan and human rights.

The author’s early years in China, American education, and career as a China expert and an advisor on U.S.-China relations and cultural affairs for over fifty years have afforded him unique opportunities to observe and participate in the development of this important relationship. Dr. Chi Wang has distilled his knowledge into a concise but comprehensive guide to Sino-American relations since 1945.
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Though U.S.-China relations are currently stable, there always remains a need to foster better understanding between the two countries. Support from friends, individuals, and corporations interested in building relations is welcome, no matter the amount. The U.S.-China Policy Foundation depends on such support to carry out its activities throughout the year.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions to the USCPF are completely tax-deductible and go directly towards supporting meaningful and cost effective programs. All contributors will be identified in the subsequent USCPF newsletter.

If you wish to give a donation, please fill out the form and mail it back to us at the address below:

The U.S.-China Policy Foundation
316 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suites 201-202
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