The U.S.-China Policy Foundation

2017 Annual Report

Established 1995, Washington, DC
Greetings from Chi Wang

This has been an incredibly transformative year for U.S.-China relations, in part because it has been a significant year for their respective domestic politics. 2017 saw President Trump’s first steps to balance U.S.-China trade and to address the issues on the Korean Peninsula. In October, the Chinese Communist Party held its 19th Party Congress, cementing President Xi’s power and reinforcing a focus on their One Belt, One Road (OBOR) trade initiative.

In April, President Trump hosted President Xi for a successful first meeting at Mar-a-Lago. The two leaders were able to establish dialogues to further their understanding of the other’s positions on important issues. In November, following the successful conclusion of the 19th Party Congress, President Xi hosted President Trump in Beijing for another round of dialogue and exchange. While many differences remain, it is heartening to see these two leaders striving to improve understanding between our two countries.

This year also marked the 45th anniversary of President Nixon’s trip to China to foster rapprochement. As a Chinese-American, I was proud to represent the U.S. in 1972 during an 18-day trip organizing cultural, educational, and academic exchanges between the Library of Congress and China. The Library has a long history of promoting cultural exchanges with China. In 2018 the Chinese Section of the Library will celebrate its 90th anniversary. It is my hope that Chinese and American leaders can come together to celebrate this important method of cross-cultural exchange.

The USCPF has been facilitating understanding between the U.S. and China for over 22 years. Each year we lead two delegations of senior staff from Congressional offices to China. While in China, the delegation meets with different branches of the Chinese government, as well as American officials working in China. This type of exchange is vital to promoting understanding between the U.S. and China. Now more than ever the U.S. and China need to work together to resolve our differences.

Our efforts to improve U.S.-China relations would be impossible without the support of our dedicated Board Members, staff, and our sponsors. The USCPF does not accept foreign or U.S. government money in order to maintain independence and neutrality so our programs’ successes are all due to our generous sponsors and supporters.

Looking forward, there are still many challenges to overcome in order to improve U.S.-China relations. Here at USCPF we are excited to continue to do our part to foster understanding and make meaningful contributions to the growth of U.S.-China relations into the New Year, and for many years to come.

Best wishes,

Chi Wang, Ph.D.
President and Co-Chair
United States-China Policy Foundation

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Introduction & Mission

Founded in 1995, the United States-China Policy Foundation (USCPF) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting greater understanding between American and Chinese policymakers, researchers, and government officials. USCPF seeks to provide opportunities for students, researchers, and practitioners of foreign policy to interact in more diverse and substantial ways. USCPF also conducts research on U.S.-China policies and relations in the Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation does not attempt to influence policy decisions, but instead provides information in order to increase awareness on issues in the field of U.S.-China relations.

The Foundation’s operational funds come exclusively from private donations. The organization is governed by a board of prominent officials, distinguished scholars and leading citizens. The Foundation’s central headquarters are located on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

As a research-oriented organization, the Foundation undertakes the following activities to fulfill its educational mission:

- **COORDINATING** research efforts on topics and issues related to U.S.-China policy.
- **ORGANIZING** exchanges and visits between specialists on U.S.-China relations, policymakers, and officials from both nations.
- **FACILITATING** opportunities for discussion between U.S. policymakers and senior Chinese leaders in an unofficial capacity.
- **EDUCATING** bright, young college graduates on U.S.-China policy and helping them pursue their professional aspirations.
- **ACTING** as a focal point for an informal network of American China specialists and Chinese America specialists.
- **PROVIDING** free consultative services to American scholars and policymakers on various U.S.-China policy issues.
- **SUGGESTING** or furnishing experts with information on issues related to U.S.-China policy.
- **PROMOTING** the development of China studies in U.S. institutions of higher education.
- **MAINTAINING** a collection of scholarly work and articles for research purposes.
- **HOSTING** seminars and conferences on issues related to U.S.-China relations.

For more information, please visit the U.S.-China Policy Foundation’s website: [www.uscpf.org](http://www.uscpf.org)

22nd Annual Gala Dinner

This year USCPF celebrated our 22nd anniversary with a gala dinner held on Wednesday, November 15 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Our gala was a particularly timely event as President Trump had just returned from his first official state visit to China.

Gala guests hailed from government, diplomatic, commercial, and academic spheres. They included envoys from the Australian, British, Burmese, Filipino, German, Italian, Nepalese, Malaysian, and Singaporean embassies, in addition to a delegation from the Chinese Embassy; former and current Members of Congress and congressional staff; American and Chinese business leaders; as well as scholars of U.S.-China relations.

The attendees arrived at Washington, DC’s Mayflower Hotel for a cocktail reception in the Chinese room. The dinner program then began in the Grand Ballroom with a welcome address to the nearly 200 guests from the Gala Co-chair, Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy, who previously served as U.S. Ambassador to China (1991-1995). Ms. Laura Stone, the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for China and Mongolia at the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, gave brief remarks on the importance of the U.S.-China relationship and the success of President Trump’s state visit to China.

Ambassador Roy returned to the podium again after dinner to present the U.S.-China Business Leadership Awards to Mr. Hongyi (Charlie) Jiang, Chairman and CEO of China-U.S. SkyClub and Ms. Stella Li, President of BYD Motors Inc. After receiving their awards, each gave brief remarks expressing their gratitude and reaffirming the importance of the U.S.-China relationship to the business community.

Ambassador Max Sieben Baucus, was then presented with an award for his Outstanding Achievement in Public Service. Ambassador Baucus served as a U.S. Senator from Montana (1978-2014) and was the previous U.S. Ambassador to China (2014-2017), marking an impressive 39 years of public service. During his remarks Ambassador Baucus focused on the importance of U.S. officials striving to turn talking points into dialogue by posing constructive questions to further discourse. The Ambassador concluded his remarks by reminding everyone that it is our moral obligation to leave our world as good as, or even better, than we found it.

Ambassador Roy presented the final award, in recognition of Outstanding Achievement in U.S.-China Relations to Ambassador Cui Tiankai, the current Chinese Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Cui began his remarks by recognizing that this year marks the 45th anniversary of President Nixon’s monumental visit to China. He observed that the U.S.-China relationship has been on a stable track over the years and continues to maintain its momentum with President Trump’s first successful state visit to China. Ambassador Cui remarked on the successful dialogue and expressed his country’s wish to build a relationship based on “mutual respect and mutual benefit.” Like Ambassador Baucus, Ambassador Cui ended his remarks advocating those listening to remain conscientious of the legacy that actions today will leave.

The 22nd Annual Gala was a celebration of USCPF’s programs following a year of important developments in the U.S.-China relationship. We would like to thank the gala speakers, guests, and our sponsors for making this event a success. More information about this year’s gala dinner, including photo, media, and video links, can be found at [www.uscpf.org](http://www.uscpf.org).
In 2017, the U.S.-China Policy Foundation led two successful Policymakers Trips to China. These delegations included senior congressional staff from offices of both parties in the House and Senate. For most participants, these trips were their first experiences visiting China. The delegations allowed participants to receive an introduction to China, engage in meetings with Chinese officials, and experience the diversity of China. This provided participants with a better understanding of China and U.S.-China relations that can then be used when they return to their offices in Washington.

Spring Policymakers Trip

From April 8-18, the U.S.-China Policy Foundation led a congressional staff delegation to Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen.

As China’s political center, Beijing served as an important first stop for the delegation. They met with officials from both the U.S. Embassy and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offering varying perspectives on the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. The participants also met with the American Chamber of Commerce and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies, a security and policy think tank.

In Chengdu, the participants had the opportunity to see an important historical, cultural, and economic center of western China. Chengdu is known for its rich cultural heritage, religious and historic sites, tea houses, Sichuan opera, pandas, and spicy food. It is also a transportation hub and “Gateway to the West.” The group met with local officials, visited a rural community, learned about the city’s past and future development plans at the Chengdu City Planning Exhibition Center, and visited Dujiangyan, the oldest and only surviving no-dam irrigation system in the world. The delegation also visited The Research Base for Giant Panda Breeding, which was founded in Chengdu to protect this “Chinese national treasure” from extinction.

The delegation then traveled to Guangzhou. This international city, formerly known as Canton, was at one point the only access point to China for international travelers and trade. Its location and trade history has turned Guangzhou into a global city. Participants had the opportunity to meet with students at the Guangzhou University of Foreign Studies, speak with local officials, experience various sites representing Guangzhou’s history and international influence, and visit an American company, Amway. The group also had the opportunity to attend the Canton Fair, a twice yearly global trade fair started in 1957.

Next, the delegation went to the nearby city of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong. Deng Xiaoping established Shenzhen as the first Special Economic Zone during his liberalizing economic reforms. In the near 40 years since, its farmland has been all but replaced by skyscrapers. The group spoke about these changes with the Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government’s Development Research Center and learned about its financial systems at the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

The focus of this trip was on transportation, infrastructure, and foreign policy. This trip included conversations on important and timely topics such as China’s One Belt One Road Initiative and ongoing concerns related to North Korea.

As always, our delegation began their trip in Beijing, the seat of China’s government. Their first meeting was at the U.S. Embassy, where they not only had the opportunity to speak with officials from the various embassy departments about the state of U.S.-China relations, but were also able to meet the new U.S. Ambassador to China, Ambassador Terry Branstad. While in Beijing, the delegation had meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), the China New Perspectives Foundation. They also visited historical sites such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

The final city this delegation visited was Shanghai. Shanghai is China’s biggest city and is its financial and economic center. Shanghai’s Pudong New Area is an example of the rapid development the city underwent when China was opening up. After being designated a Special Economic Zone by the Chinese government, Pudong quickly developed into a thriving modern urban center. Participants had the opportunity to witness Shanghai’s impressive skyline, learn about its history and urban development, experience its high-speed Maglev train, and visit the SAIC General Motors factory.
China’s 19th Party Congress

On October 26th, USCPF hosted a panel discussion on China’s 19th Party Congress. The panel addressed a wide audience including students, scholars, and media outlets. Our panel of experts presented their analyses of the foreign policy implications present in the events of the 19th Party Congress, including the impact on U.S.-China relations, the challenges of Chinese economic reform, and President Xi Jinping’s foreign policy vision.

Former U.S. Ambassador to China, J. Stapleton Roy, presented his thoughts on the significance China’s new leadership may have on U.S.-China relations. Dr. Yukon Huang, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment, discussed economic reform contradictions in China. Dr. Robert Sutter, professor at George Washington University, continued from Ambassador Roy’s analysis to discuss the implications for Xi’s vision of foreign policy on a broader, global scale.

Dr. David Lampton, the Director of China Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS, moderated the panel. In his summary at the end of the three panelists’ discussions, he pointed out Xi’s striking emphasis on Party control, the anchoring of his speech on sovereignty, and the lack of clarity or institutionalization of succession within the Party. After prompting the panelists to discuss their expectations for President Trump’s upcoming visit to Asia, he opened the floor for questions from the audience and further thought-provoking analysis.

On August 23, USCPF president, Professor Chi Peng, joined American University’s Advanced Shanghai Media Talent & International Training program to welcome a delegation of Chinese media professionals. Professor Wang spoke about Chinese media preconce and its reception in the United States. He also highlighted the bipartisan Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act, which demonstrates the common American view of Chinese media as Chinese government propaganda. Professor Wang also explained how Chinese media sources are generally not competitive in the highly varied American media market.

Shanghai Media Delegation

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CESC Visiting Delegation

On May 10, 2017, USCPF hosted a reception celebrating selected paintings and calligraphy by the esteemed Chinese artist, Pu Ru. The exhibit, “The Hermit of West Mountain: a selection of paintings and calligraphy by Pu Ru,” was on display at the Confucius Institute U.S. Center from April 10 until May 20.

The luncheon was held on September 11 at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC and was attended by Chinese scholars from the China Economic and Social Council (CESC) for a lucheon and discussion. CESC is a Chinese, non-profit research organization focusing on economic and social issues and was established in 2001 with the support of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

The luncheon was held on September 11 at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC and was attended by American scholars and former ambassadors. The discussion focused on the role of thinktanks in policymaking and how China and the United States can better share their experiences in governance.

Commemorating China’s Role in WWII

From July 24 to July 28, USCPF’s photo exhibit showing China’s role in WWII and cooperation with the U.S. was on display at the Russell Senate Office Building to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident.

The photos in the exhibit highlighted the Sino-Japanese War as well as key events in the greater WWII. The United States was an important wartime ally of China and some Americans even bravely volunteered to fight with the Chinese before the U.S. officially entered the war. When Americans discuss WWII, the emphasis is often on the European Theater. Even when discussing the Pacific Theater, the focus tends to stay on conflict directly between the U.S. and Japan, like Pearl Harbor and the dropping of the atomic bombs.

Chinese and American soldiers celebrating together.

American and Chinese soldiers celebrating together.

Exhibit at the Russell Senate Office Building

Dr. Peng giving a lecture on the importance of Chinese art and the significance of Pu Ru’s work

The Hermit of West Mountain

During the reception, Dr. Ying-Chen Peng, a professor of Chinese art history from American University, gave a short lecture on the importance of Chinese art and the significance of Pu Ru’s work. Dr. Peng highlighted all three of Pu Ru’s identities: aristocrat, artist, and mentor. Pu Ru was a master of many styles of calligraphy and carried on both the northern and southern traditions of Chinese ink painting. Dr. Peng showed a short video clip of Pu Ru demonstrating the traditional way to paint a classical Chinese scene of a scholar sitting under a pine tree. Dr. Peng also discussed some of the paintings featured in the exhibit. One in particular was the circular palindrome poem which shows Pu Ru’s extensive knowledge of classical Chinese literature.
22nd Annual Gala Dinner

Outstanding Achievement in Public Service
Ambassador Max Sieben Baucus
U.S. Senator from Montana (1978-2014)

Outstanding Achievement in U.S.-China Relations
His Excellency Cui Tiankai
Chinese Ambassador to the United States (2013-Present)

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Gala Co-Chair
The Honorable J. Stapleton Roy
USCPF Board Member

Welcoming Remarks
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Laura Stone
ADAS for China and Mongolia, The Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

U.S. China Business Leadership Award
Mr. Hongyi (Charlie) Jiang
Chairman and CEO of China-U.S. SkyClub

U.S. China Business Leadership Award
Ms. Stella Li
President of BYD Motors Inc.

Gala Dinner Photos: Sardari Group, Inc.

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This year’s honorees with USCPF Board Member, Amb. Roy
(left to right) Mr. Charlie Jiang, Amb. Cui Tiankai, Amb. Max Sieben Baucus, Ms. Stella Li, and Amb. J. Stapleton Roy

Amb. Cui Tiankai (L) visits with USCPF’s President, Dr. Chi Wang
Amb. Arjun Kumar Karki (Nepal) with Amb. Cui Tiankai (R)
Amb. Cui Tiankai (L) with Amb. Max Sieben Baucus
View of the Head Table as ADAS Laura Stone gives welcoming remarks
(L to R) Amb. J. Stapleton Roy, Mrs. Patricia Nixon Cox, and Amb. Cui Tiankai

Gala Dinner Photos: Sardari Group, Inc.
Obama’s Challenge to China: The Pivot to Asia
This book explores U.S.-China relations under the leadership of President Barack Obama and discusses how his decisions set the stage for a new era in U.S.-China relations. The book outlines Barack Obama’s own personal worldview and the backgrounds of the advisors that made up his China team; it details the major events in U.S.-China relations from 2009 to 2014; and addresses Sino-U.S. relations and interactions with regards to various issues: economics, military relations, climate change, human rights, and multilateral cooperation in regional and international organizations. Finally, the book ends with timely suggestions for how to improve the U.S.-China relationship and ensure a peaceful future. Published by Ashgate in July 2015.

The Washington Journal of Modern China
The U.S.-China Policy Foundation released its most recent edition of The Washington Journal of Modern China (WJMC) in spring 2016. WJMC is a policy-oriented publication founded in 1992 that includes scholarly articles on modern Chinese culture, economics, history, politics, and U.S.-China relations. Featured articles from the Autumn 2017 issue include:

“Thinking About Strategic First Principles in U.S.-China Relations”
By: David M. Lampton, PhD

“Donald Trump, the Taiwan Issue and Hardening U.S. Policy Toward China”
By: Robert Sutter, PhD

“U.S.-China Tensions: Interplay Between Economics and Politics”
By: Yukon Huang, PhD

“The Political Economy of U.S.-China Relations and the Trump Administration”
Ming Wan, PhD

“The CCP and Pursuing Its Goals: Proliferating Non-traditional Aspects of Power”
Cynthia Watson, PhD

“Decoding Modern Chinese Foreign Policy Through the Lenses of Ancient Philosophy and Applied Game Theory”
Alicia Fawcett

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