

**Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on China**

**Tuesday 24 November 2015
Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament**

MINUTES

Convener

Graeme Pearson MSP

MSPs

Gil Paterson MSP

Speakers

The Reverend Patricia Johnston, Secretary of the Management Committee of the Scottish Churches' China Group

Nigel Fong, Director, Swiss-Sure HK and Founder of the Hong Kong Scotland Education Connection (HKSEC) *accompanied by two students from Hong Kong:*

Wu Hoi Ning

Lau Ka Hei

Jenny Lam, Director, Hong Kong Scotland Education Connection

Yung Wai Chung (Wiseman), Finance Manager of Hong Kong Disneyland

Luna Chao Guo, Managing Director, Fusion Cultural Development Ltd

Lisa Burns, S6 Shawlands Academy, Glasgow; Project Trust China Volunteer

Edmund HOFFIE, Eden English Language School and Eden Investments, Nanning, Guanxi

Secretary

Dr Judith McClure CBE

Members and Guests

Nigel Archdale, Anthony Millard Consulting

Martin Bell, Deputy Director Global Affairs (including Asia Pacific), Scotch Whisky Association

Louise Both, Solicitor, Thorntons Law

François Bourienne, Commercial Director, Glasgow Airport

James Brodie, General Manager and Business Adviser, China Britain Business Council Scotland

Michael Burns, Business Development Manager, Research Strategy and Innovation Office, University of Glasgow

Sharon Cheng, Investment Director, Clyde Blowers Capital

Dr Roger Collins, Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh

Carole Couper, Director, inCouperated Limited

Robert Dalzell, North Lanarkshire Council

Janice Dickson, Chairman, Scotland China Association

**Adrien von Ferscht, Honorary Research Fellow, Scottish Centre for China Research,
University of Glasgow**

Helen Ford, former teacher in China

**Gary Gillon, PhD Student, School of Business and Enterprise, University of the West of
Scotland**

Jessica Guo, Director, EEB Consultancy Ltd

Tamlyn Junner, Edinburgh College

Christopher Land, Parliamentary Researcher to Mary Scanlon MSP

Catriona Llanwarne, Burness Paull LLP

Simon Macaulay, University of Aberdeen and Deputy Chair of SCEN

Jim McColm, Vintage Estates

Judith McKerrecher, Professional Development Officer, CISS and SCILT

**Nick Mackie, Strategic Partnerships Manager, University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute
(Research Institute of Edinburgh Medical School), reporting to Professor
Andrew Morris, Vice Principal Data Science and Scottish Government Chief
Scientist Health**

Ng Kam Leung (Tommy), Lifetime Honourable President of the Wu Clan's Association UK

Ng Wing-Sie, individual interpreter; Senior SCEN Ambassador

Iain Nicol, Compensation Lawyers (Scotland) Ltd

Margie Ogilvie-Stuart, Director at Crown and Stone

Patrick O'Kane, Morrison's Academy, Director, HKSEC

Billy Prior, Teacher of Chinese, Dollar Academy

Sandie Robb, Senior Education Officer, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Alan Salonika, China Project Officer, Royal Society of Edinburgh

**Dr David Tann, Assistant Dean (International), School of Engineering & Computing,
University of the West of Scotland**

Edward Tsang, Chairman, Asian Association, Culture, Commerce and Education in Europe

James Trolland, Ridrum International

Hans Waitl, Borders Chartered Certified Accountants

Jean Jijun Ye, MBA candidate, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Convener of the Cross Party Group on China, Graeme Pearson MSP, welcomed Speakers, Members and Guests to the meeting. He emphasised the importance of a strong relationship with China, both for the Scottish Parliament and for Scotland.

2 Apologies

The Secretary had noted the following apologies:

Jackie Baillie MSP

Mark Adams, Solicitor; LLM in Chinese Law at Peking University in Beijing.

Margaret Alcorn, Convener of SELMAS

Wendy Alexander, Vice-Principal International, University of Dundee

Eric Balish, Director of Trade and Working Capital Barclays; Convener, CSBF

Richard Clason, Operations Manager, G7 Consultants

Janis Claxton, Artistic Director, Janis Claxton Dance

John Fulton, Consultant, Anderson Strathern LLP

Linda Fu, International Client Relations Director, HBJ Gateley

Sheila Forbes, SIPRA, University of Strathclyde

Professor Natascha Gentz, FRSE, Assistant Principal (China), Chair of Chinese Studies, Director of
the Confucius Institute for Scotland

Cathy Gu, Co-Director, Young Chinese Professionals

Ewan Hastings, Trusts & Corporate Fundraiser, Waverley Care

Dr Meryl James, SCILT and CISS, University of Strathclyde

Janette Kelso, SCILT, University of Strathclyde

Douglas and Deirdre Kinloch-Anderson

Peter Kwok, Co-Director, Young Chinese Professionals

Elaine Logan, Warden of Glenalmond College

Lindesay Low, Senior Legal Counsel, Scotch Whisky Association

Dr Petra McLay, Development Officer, 1+2 Language Learning, Fife Council

The Reverend Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Churches' China Group

Councillor Stephanie Primrose, East Ayrshire Council

Ng Wing-Yan, University of Aberdeen

Fiona Pate HMI, education consultant

Professor Harry Phillips, Consultant

Neil Phillips, Positive Solutions (Glasgow)

James Poots, Head of Modern Languages, Lasswade HS, Midlothian

Dr Fraser Quin, Chief Executive Officer of the Eric Liddell Centre

Lindsay Rinning, Post-Graduate Student, University of Edinburgh (day of graduation!)

Melvyn Roffe, Principal, George Watson's College

Dr Jim Scott, University of Dundee; SCSSA; education consultant

Marion Spöring, University of Dundee; Chair, University Council for Modern Languages Scotland

Amit Taneja, Retail Branch Manager, HSBC Bank plc

Ruth Taylor, Stewart Investors

Christine Vivier, committed parent with China experience

Nicol Watt, Bioengineer

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 29 September 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting of 29 September 2015, which had been circulated in draft, were approved.

4 Matters Arising

Item 6: Closing the Knowledge Gap on China (Tim Clissold): update from Lesley Joyce, Head of Service, Qualifications Development Directorate, Scottish Qualifications Authority

The Secretary reported that Lesley Joyce had said that the Scottish Qualifications Authority had undertaken some scoping work, which had indicated possibilities with regard to approaching the proposal of teaching, learning and assessing taking place in a Chinese context using generic Units already in the catalogue of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). This was similar to the approach taken in the Scottish Studies Award, to which reference had been made in the meeting at the offices of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, at which Mr Tim Clissold had been present, earlier in the year. Lesley Joyce said that she would now like to create a formal project proposal to undertake further scoping work, an element of which would be to gauge likely demand for a qualification in this area. Creating a formal project proposal would enable her formally to allocate resources and a project plan with timelines. The Secretary said that the Scotland China Education Network and the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh would collaborate in this important work as required.

5 ***The Scottish Churches' China Group (Reg Charity No: SCIO SCO33740) and its Charitable Partnerships in China***

The Convener welcomed the Reverend Patricia Johnston, Secretary of The Scottish Churches' China Group (SCCG) Management Committee. Patricia Johnston said that the SCCG had begun its charitable partnerships in China in the middle of the 1980s, working ecumenically with Christian and with secular partners. From the first the laws of the People's Republic of China, which did not allow proselytising or evangelising, were respected. SCCG's partnerships involved health, social care and education programmes in Shenyang, Nanjing and Shanghai.

(a) **Shenyang**

Shengjing Hospital had been set up on 1883 by Scottish medical missionaries; it now had very modern buildings. In general facilities were not an issue; more important were the contribution of skills and the building of staff capacity. The first main area of partnership with SCCG concerned **rehabilitation services**:

- Medical placements in the Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit in Glasgow;
- Placements with the ReACH Team (a community rehabilitation team) at Forth Valley NHS;
- Training in Shenyang in the use of Talking Mats.

The second main area concerned **palliative care and hospice care**:

- Medical and nursing placements at Strathcarron Hospital;
- Training courses at St Andrew's Hospice, Coatbridge and St Christopher's, London.

Spiritual care training also took place in Shenyang and at the Ayrshire Hospice, Forth Valley Royal Hospital. There were also links with the Caritas Centre, Liaoning Diocese:

www.csscln.org

(b) Nanjing

Patricia Johnston said that SCCG worked in Nanjing in partnership with the Amity Foundation:

www.amityfoundation.org

The first area of collaboration was **care of the elderly**:

- Expert speaker provided by Alzheimer Scotland for international conference;
- Observational visits to statutory and voluntary service providers;
- Development of community-based services for carers.

The second area was support for a **children's development centre (pre-school, for children with autism)**:

- Provision of expert speakers for international conference;
- Sending of special needs staff to give training in Nanjing;
- Provision of placements at New Struan School, Alloa;
- Observational visits to a range of statutory and voluntary service providers.

Such visits were also provided for staff from the **Amity Home of Blessings**.

(c) Shanghai

Patricia Johnston said that SCCG was collaborating with the China Christian Council in the Shanghai diocese, involving the Protestant and Catholic Churches, with a focus on the care of the elderly. This partnership had stalled because of a number of issues.

(d) SCCG Education Pack

Patricia Johnston said that SCCG had commissioned teachers in Scotland to put together an education pack for Primary 6-7 pupils, for use in Scotland. Copies were available:

patriciajohnston185@gmail.com

(e) Academic Links

SCCG had the following academic connections:

- Dr Caroline Fielder (University of Leeds)
- Dr Mark McLeister (University of Edinburgh)

- Dr Alex Chou (University of Edinburgh)

(f) Developing UK Partnerships

Patricia Johnston concluded by saying that SCCG was developing UK partnerships with:

- The Eric Liddell Centre in Edinburgh, which was re-establishing its active China links: a joint visit was being planned for April 2016;
- Glasgow Caledonian University, concerning the training of occupational therapists;
- St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds, concerning support and perhaps visits.

Members applauded the Reverend Patricia Johnston's presentation most warmly.

The Convener asked whether there was likely to be more demand for future skills development in the areas described in China. Patricia Johnston responded that modern approaches and a high level of service were now in operation, but there were not enough trained staff. This skills gap was being addressed. The Convener asked what do we in Scotland learn from our Chinese partners. Patricia Johnston said that complementary therapies were becoming more widely recognised in Scotland and there was an increasing sense of community with our Chinese collaborators.

Nick Mackie asked whether SCCG had considered the *Train the Trainers'* model. Patricia Johnston said that this was happening in Nanjing. Churches were providing it in smaller cities, and a virtual network had been set up in Nanjing. Helen Ford asked whether, in the care of the elderly, advice was given on how to fall; Patricia Johnston said that she was not sure if this were happening, and spoke about important community-based issues which were being focused on in North Lanarkshire, which addressed very basic concerns but which greatly reduced things like falls; for instance, it was emphasised that slippers should be properly fitting, with measurements taken.

Sharon Cheng said that she would be joining the Board of the Eric Liddell Centre, and hoped to bring to it her experience in the private sector. She asked what was the attitude of the Chinese Government to SCCG. Patricia Johnston said that the Amity Foundation and the Catholic Caritas Centre were recognised. From her experience with SCCG's work in China, it was important not to hide that it was Christian in inspiration. Financial support came largely from Churches. It was important to respect Chinese law and rules and to work only with registered Churches: otherwise there could be suspicions of evangelising. It was possible to include a programme of spiritual care, because of the trust that had been built up, in China, in the work of SCCG: this may involve an element of religious care, but everyone needed spiritual care. The work of SCCG in China had been built up since 1986, through mutual respect.

The Convener thanked the Reverend Patricia Johnston for her response to questions as well as her presentation on behalf of SCCG, and Members applauded warmly.

6 *The Eric Liddell Centre's new China Project*

The Convener said that Dr Fraser Quin, Chief Executive Officer, The Eric Liddell Centre, had sent apologies. His presentation on the Eric Liddell Centre's new China Project would be deferred.

7 Updates on China-Scotland Initiatives

(a) *The Hong Kong Scotland Education Connection (HKSEC)*

Nigel Fong, Director of Swiss-Sure HK, and Jenny Lam, Director of HKSEC updated the Group on the development of HKSEC since Nigel Fong's previous presentations in 2014 and 2015. He said that the goal of HKSEC was to bring people in Scotland and in Hong Kong closer together through student exchanges, based upon the Raleigh Wilson Trail in Hong Kong and home and school visits in Hong Kong and Scotland. When HKSEC began in 2011, 4 Scottish students were involved; now 24 students plus staff were involved. 24 Hong Kong students had visited Scotland, hosted in Perthshire especially by Morrison's Academy, St John's Academy and Perth Grammar School. The goal was now 100 students. Patrick O'Kane from Morrison's Academy was Director of HKSEC in Scotland and Jenny Lam Director in Hong Kong. Nigel Fong said that he aimed to ensure that HKSEC exchanges were life-changing experiences for the students involved, including the underprivileged. He was very proud of his students: he introduced Wu Hoi Ning and Lau Ka Hei to the Group.

Terry said that she had just joined the programme. It was necessary to do 100 hours of voluntary work before the selection process, to prove that you really wanted to be part of it. She exclaimed, *You can see my heart! I wanted to come to Scotland.* King said that the trip was very important for him and he would remember it throughout his life. He had found that people in Scotland were *patient*, despite his English; that they were *very polite*. He wanted to take this patience and politeness home with him to Hong Kong.

The Group applauded Nigel Fong and the students Wu Hoi Ning and Lau Ka Hei warmly.

Jenny Lam said that it would be important, as HKSEC grew, to include more schools and places to visit. Nigel Fong said that, coffee in hand, he had been on the move to five meetings already that day! He was grateful for the advice of Judith McClure and he looked forward very much to the continued expansion of HKSEC.

(b) *Project Trust China Volunteers*

Lisa Burns, S6, Shawlands Academy, Glasgow, was selected by Project Trust to teach in a rural school in China 2016-2017. Lisa explained that Project Trust was a volunteering charity that specialised in sending 17-19 year-olds to volunteer placements in Asia, Africa and the Americas, and was based on the Isle of Coll where the selection week had taken place. During her volunteer placement, she would be working in a school in rural China, teaching conversational English to large classes of varying age. There would be the mutual benefit of cultural exchange. For the pupils, they would gain English-speaking skills; it could mean more jobs in rural areas, protecting communities. For Lisa herself, she would learn to live away from home, learning Mandarin and living in another culture.

Lisa said that she was preparing for her placement by:

- Meeting people: at SCEN, CBBC, CISS, and now the Cross Party Group;
- Learning Mandarin at the University of Strathclyde;
- Raising the £6,200 she needed to fund her placement, through a fund-raising event, bag packing, bake sales, a Dress-Down Day at school

Lisa said that all Members would be very welcome at her fund-raising event on 26 February 2016! If anyone had any questions, they could find out more at:

Lisaburns124@gmail.com

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LisaBurns6>

www.projecttrust.org.uk

Patricia Johnston asked what support she would be given, when she was teaching in a rural school? Lisa said that a Project Trust officer was always on call in Scotland and in China: they were very supportive.

Members thanked Lisa with applause and the Convener reminded them that she needs financial support.

(c) *New Social Enterprise Project: Fusion Cultural Development Ltd*

Luna Chao Guo, Managing Director, spoke of the work of her social enterprise, Fusion Cultural Development Ltd. She said that it aimed to bridge Scotland and China in the field of **Education, Community and Enterprise**.

(a) Education

Luna said that she had started with an **Education** business. She helped universities from Hainan Provenance and Scottish universities to work together in joint programmes, exchange programmes, study tour and staff training. She also helped to promote the strength and potential of universities in Scotland by giving them more exposure to Chinese students. Chinese students tended to

focus a great deal on rankings; as a result they might overlook the specialities of Scottish universities. She provided them with the information that the major agents in China might not have and hoped to make the perfect match for students and universities.

(b) Community

After the Chinese students arrived at universities in Scotland, she would want to make sure they make the most use of their life abroad. She set up a **Community** interest project called **Youai Scotland**. **Youai** 有爱 means *having love* or *friendly* in Chinese, and it was a Chinese Overseas Student Volunteering Society hoping to help students integrate with their local community through volunteering work. It organised Chinese hot meal donations to local homeless centers in Glasgow, second-hand sales to raise money for school-age children living in poor communities in China, and free Happy Chinese classes for the public to promote Chinese culture and languages. She said that she hoped to change the image that Chinese students always stay together, going to Chinese restaurants, not communicating much or being closed-minded. She intended to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh Award to students to reward their contributions to the society and this unique experience they can only have from Scotland.

(c) Enterprise

Luna said that after the Chinese students had more understanding about the local culture and society, they realised there was a great potential in the economy. Using Glasgow as an example, there were more than 4,000 Chinese overseas students there, the majority of them from government or business backgrounds. They were all asked by their parents, family members or friends whether they could seek any business opportunities during their study abroad. At the same time, Scottish Enterprise clients are eager to find reliable suppliers or partners in China and they do not always have much information. Therefore, Luna said, she established a project called the **Chinovation Centre**, not only to provide Chinese business support to Scottish companies, but also to help Chinese students conducting business activities here.

Luna Chao concluded by saying that she needed support to grow and expand. She invited anyone interested in her Chinese Overseas students centralised business, to contact her:

luna@hellofusion.co.uk

<http://www.hellofusion.co.uk/>

(d) Guangxi University and Scotland; Possible Sister City for Nanning

Edmund HOFFIE, Eden English Language School and Eden Investments, Nanning, Guangxi, spoke of two opportunities for partnerships in Guangxi Province.

The first was with Guanxi University, established in 1928 and now, with its 20 Colleges and a Department, playing a very important role in the region's economy and social development. Already it had exchanges with 100 universities and research institutes in 28 different countries and regions. Edmund HOFFIE said he was looking for potential partners in Scotland and was already in touch with Heriot-Watt University. He invited anyone who wished to learn more about possible links, projects and partnerships with Guangxi University to contact him directly at:

ehoffie@gmail.com

Edmund HOFFIE said that he would also be glad to be contacted at this address concerning the desire of the City of Nanning to have a Sister link with an international city in Scotland which is keen to develop long-term cultural, social and educational partnerships with China. As a provincial capital, Nanning enjoyed growing popularity and an international reputation; it was seeking also investment and partners in the service sector. The Mayor of Nanning was planning a visit to the UK in 2016, so this was an excellent opportunity to begin a dialogue.

8 Information from the Secretary

(a) Lobbying (Scotland) Bill

The Secretary reported on the Lobbying (Scotland) Bill, which had been introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 29 October 2015. Its overriding objective was to introduce a measured and proportionate register of lobbying activity, the trigger for registration being *paid* lobbying of elected representatives and Ministers. A policy memorandum could be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/93324.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/lobbying-bill>

(b) Preliminary Meeting of Scottish Affairs Committee in Aberdeen and Post Study Work Schemes for International Students

James Brodie reported that he had attended a workshop in Aberdeen on 30 November 2015 on Post Study Work Schemes for International Students in Scotland, which was a preliminary session chaired by Mr Humza Yousaf MSP, the Minister for Europe and International Development, in advance of formal negotiations with the Scottish Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, as part of its Inquiry into this area. The Convener asked whether the Cross Party Group, for which this was a key issue, would be happy with the work that was taking place. James Brodie said that the workshop format meant that the outcomes of the event were not yet clear.

**(c) Hong Kong Scotland Self-Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP):
Visit by Hong Kong Partners 23-30 April 2016**

The Secretary reported on a new educational collaboration with Hong Kong schools, the Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership, led by Archie McGlynn, the former Chief Inspector of Schools and Director of HKSSSEN and supported by SCEN. Seven Hong Kong schools would be visiting their partners in Scotland for a study visit at the end of April 2016.

9 Updates from Members

(a) Visit by Consul General Pan Xinchun to Dundee

Edward Tsang, Chairman of the Asian Association of Culture, Commerce and Education in Europe (AACCEE), reported on the visit by Consul General Pan Xinchun to Dundee City Council on 3 November 2015.

The Consul General and his wife, Mme Yu Zhili, were warmly received by the Lord Provost, Bob Duncan, at the City Chambers, along with Sir Pete Downes, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Dundee University, Mr Mike Galloway, Director of City Development, and Jessica Guo, Founder, Steven Chow, Vice-Chairman, and Ken Dick, all of AACCEE. The Consul General was given a guided tour of RRS Discovery at Discovery Point. The new Victoria and Albert Museum was also highlighted and the visit continued in the afternoon to Dundee University.

Professor Nic Beech, Vice-Principal (Academic Planning & Performance), Dr Robert Ford, Director of the Educational Partnerships Development Unit, Jason Harris, Head of International Operations and Marion Spöring, Project Director Chinese Language and Culture, Xiang Yin, President of Dundee Chinese Students & Scholars Association and a group of Chinese students were also present at Dundee University to show a warm welcome and the strong links the University has with China. Dr Robert Ford gave a guided tour of their State of the Art Life Sciences with Dr David Gray, Head of Biology, Drug Discovery Unit, and Dr Sarah Hussain, Publicity and Communications, School of Life Sciences.

Edward Tsang said that he believed that the visit by the Consul General would forge stronger cultural, commercial and academic links between China and the enterprises of Dundee and its Council.

**(b) Edinburgh Chinese New Year Celebrations, Saturday 6
February 2016, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh**

Edward Tsang said that the Asian Association of Culture, Commerce and Education in Europe, with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Donald Wilson, would be holding a celebration of the Chinese New Year in Edinburgh on 6 February 2016 for the local Chinese community. It was proposed that there would be participation by Edinburgh Chinese Schools and Universities, as well as

community and association groups. The performers would be from Chinese Schools. Consul General Pan Xinchun had already accepted an invitation to be present.

Edward Tsang asked for any suggestions on funding assistance. It was hoped a Scotmid (Supermarket) community grant might be applied for. This grant application was available to all community groups for a multitude of purposes. Any other suggestions to Edward Tsang, Chairman of AACCEE, at:

edd8y@hotmail.com

10 Any Other Business

The Convener said that Mr Pan Xinchun, the Consul General for the PR of China, had invited MSPs to a meeting at the Consulate General. He would report back to the Group at the next meeting.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Cross Party Group on China will take place in Committee Room 3 of the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 20 January 2016, 6.00 – 7.30 pm.

- (a) There will be a discussion concerning the issues surrounding direct flights to China and possible solutions.**
- (b) Janice Dickson, Chairman of the Scotland China Association, will speak of the Scotland China Association and its activities in its 50th Anniversary Year. The refreshments provided on arrival will be sponsored by the SCA. The Meeting will be followed by a wine reception sponsored by SCEN in honour of the SCA's work and its 50th Anniversary.**