

**Cross-Party Group on China
Minutes of Meeting
Date: 28th November 2018**

Attendance

MSP Members

Mary Fee MSP

Dean Lockhart MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Members

Daniel Cairns – Secretary

Attending

Robert Dalzell – North Lanarkshire Council

Amy Koo – United Nations Scotland

Binger Lin – University of Edinburgh

Simon MaCauly – SCEN

Nigel Archdale – Anthony Millard Consulting

Victoria Paterson – Edinburgh College

Sandie Robb - THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

Orchid Liu

Song Tang

Ying

Cllr Gavin Barrie

John Macmillan

Colin Mitchell

Rosemary Mitchell

Siyi Chen

Jim McColm

Liu Feng

Liu Mohan

Zhang Ping

Janice Dickson

Alan Simpson

Consul Lyu Yanxia

Consul Xiao Wenbin

Nathan Woolley

Ian Baxter – Heriot Watt College

Tom Nisbet

Apologies

Edmund Hoffie

James Trolland

Karin Wilson SQA

Carole Couper

Ross Haston

James Brodie

Margie Ogilivy Stewart

Peter Kwok

Cathy Gu

Edward Siu Ming Tsang

Eric Balish

1 Welcome and Apologies

Mary Fee MSP opened the meeting and passed onto Colin Smyth MSP to conduct the AGM

2 AGM

Colin Smyth asked for nominations for Convener and Deputy Convener.

After a discussion between members it was agreed that there would be two co-conveners replacing the Convener and Deputy Convener.

Mary Fee MSP and Dean Lockhart MSP were nominated for the roles and elected by the group to the role of Co-Convener.

Daniel Cairns, Colin Mitchell and Siyi Chen were nominated as Secretaries for the group. This was agreed to by the group.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed to.

4 Councillor Gavin Barrie

I was invited to visit the Shanghai international Expo in October 2018 by the Asian Association for Culture and Commerce Europe. The conference was held over five days with displays from all over the world. In preparation all of Shanghai was given two days of holiday for the Conference. I thought we must try this in Edinburgh.

The opening address was conducted by President Xi and out of 172 States in the world only 23 were not represented. The scale of conference was phenomenal and at times overwhelming.

There was something for everyone and everything to do. In the Trade talks area all represented States had a stand in which to showcase their Country. I deliberately wandered to the United Kingdom stall and was somewhat disappointed. Scotland was hardly represented. There was a small part on Scotch Whisky and Scottish Shortbread however our produce and culture was lacking.

I was uncomfortable with a Crusader as an image representing the United Kingdom. I felt that this was showing a lack of awareness of history and the connotations that this brought with it.

It is my opinion that we should do better have better presentation. Even our own stand. I would be keen to ask SDI why?

I was disappointed we didn't have representation.

While I was attending the Expo I took part in Chinese marketing culture. AACCEE were there giving a presentation and signed two memorandums about promoting Chinese culture in Scotland

I was also fortunate to give an introductory speaking slot. I spoke after a South African trade delegate and three Shanghai city officials. Jessica Guo of AACCEE gave a speech promoting Scotland to the international audience. It was very well received.

We were both proud of representing Scotland and our society. My question about the whole thing is getting our international culture and brand at these type of events.

At the last CPG meeting the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs spoke about the Scottish China Engagement strategy. I have to ask where was the engagement with the Shanghai Expo? The whole world was there and we were not.

I would leave that question to the MSP's. We could have done better. We should be there. Thank you.

5 John MacMillan – The Eric Liddell Centre

Thank you for the opportunity to join and present to the CPG on China. I have been working for the Eric Liddell Charity for a number of years and I want to speak to you tonight about the flavour of some of the work we do and touch on a brief overview of the key milestones and success in the life of Eric Liddell.

As a charity, we are a care charity based in Morningside in Edinburgh. We are providing services through the whole of Edinburgh. We are so fortunate to be named after a Scottish iconic hero who won an Olympic gold medal in Paris in 1924 and had the film Chariots of Fire recorded about him.

We were established in a church. The church congregation was dwindling and together with three other local churches they made sure the building we are based in had a future. We are incredibly thankful the local religious community saved the building in its present form.

Our very first Chair approached Liddell family after his time living in Morningside. His Daughters are living in Canada and were thankfully happy for the charity to be named in honour of their father. We have a strong connection with his family, indeed the eldest daughter Patricia, who is 82, does visit us from time to time.

We mainly focus on care but we are always keen to do something positive and proactive to celebrate Eric Liddell's legacy. I am fortune that I get to speak to schools and young people about Eric but I must admit they look at me blankly. However when I describe him as the Scottish Usain Bolt they get it.

The charity works to bring Edinburgh communities together prompting the enhancement pf health and wellbeing. Our main focus is on helping Edinburgh residents who have dementia, as you will know that number is growing and will continue to grow. The signs are that dementia will replace cancer as one of society's major challenges

Therefore, we provide specialist services for people who are still living at home, continuing their presence in local community while enjoying a vibrant curriculum of education, music, arts and drama. We have a group who are enjoying conversational German. We also have 103 year old lady who is downloading her first app. The notion that dementia is the end is not the case and we support people and their families to enjoy life as much of possible.

We also provide a wider support service for carers throughout Edinburgh. Most people in this room will know someone who is a carer. That commitment and approach can take over their life. We make sure they get an opportunity to get a break. Even just to get a coffee or pursue their interests. The feedback we receive says that just 2 hours of respite can make a big difference.

NHS Lothian podiatry team has also approached us. They needed support to provide basic foot care as there time was based with patients with more severe medical conditions. We trained staff and volunteers to help with foot massages. This has had a huge impact on loneliness and isolation.

One example is a woman who was 83 years old and effectively a prisoner in her own home. She came to the centre, had a foot massage and she enjoyed the social contact. A cup of tea and a chat later and now she is getting out the house, attending seated dance class and improving dramatically.

Like all charities, we have current challenges and future plans.

I really want to try to raise awareness of our work. The charity is providing life changing and life supporting services. We are a small charity in a tough world. We had little time to market ourselves however now doing good work on that. We also have a dedicated team who are working hard to maintain the excellent levels of care. All of our care inspectorate reports are rated as Very good and excellent reports.

We are delighted that we are able to host eight other charities as a hub at our centre. We have also established strong links with the Chinese community in Edinburgh. Most recent was Edinburgh Elderly Chinese Association. Last month we held our first Chinese Scottish cultural event and this is an avenue I hope to develop further.

In the future, we are looking to develop a fitting tribute to Eric Liddell himself. We are working with Scottish Rugby Union and Scottish Athletics and we have very exciting and emerging plans going into the centenary of Eric's gold winning performance in Paris in 2024.

Eric was born in China in 1902. His Parents were missionaries and spent the majority of their life in Tianjin. When Eric was school age, he studied at college outside London and at Heriot Watt College before going a science degree at Edinburgh University. He graduated just after the Paris Olympics. Out of a blossoming rugby and athletics career he chose athletics. Four hundred metres was not his preferred distance, the 100m was his preferred race. However Eric was a committed Christian and the heats for the 100m were on a Sunday. He came under pressure from the Olympic committee but stood his ground.

The in Paris in 1924 he won the 400m Gold medal in 47.67 seconds winning the race by 6 meters. He also won a Bronze medal in the 200m.

After graduating University in 1925 he returned to China in 1925 initially as a teacher then as a missionary. He was Ordained in 1932 and spent more time in China from 1937 onwards. He was present in China over WWII and after the Japanese invaded, he sent his wife and children to his wife's family in Canada. Eric never met his youngest daughter as he was eventually put in an internment camp by Japanese forces until his death in 1945.

Because he was well known Winston Churchill had arranged prisoner swap. Eric refused to go and swapped his place for young pregnant mother, which I think, says a tremendous amount about his character. Initially his grave was only marked by a simple wooden cross. However the local Chinese community and Edinburgh University have erected a full granite memorial at his grave.

When I look back on Eric Liddell this man gave his life in service to others. Scotland as a nation and the UK could do better to celebrate this.

Thank you

6 Song Tang and Ying Liu

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are very honoured to attend this meeting CPG on China tonight. I am Song Tang and this is my partner Ying. Currently, I am a PhD student in the School of Engineering at University of Glasgow.

One topic I'd like to put forward is Chinese students' living here. We are passionate to take part in local activities here. However, the main activities that Chinese students involve are in a relatively narrow range, tourism, going to

bars or clubs. And because of entering a new environment, Chinese students prefer to work and play by themselves. How Chinese students could join more local activities and know more about native life is a topic for us to consider to promote the culture communication between Scotland and China.

Another topic I'd like to talk about is the technical exchange. For my PhD research, the work is mainly carried out in the James Watt Nanofabrication Centre at UoG. This research centre has advanced facilities for nanofabrication and state of the art research output. Not only the technologies developed in Scottish universities, but also that in the high-tech small and medium entrepreneurs in Scotland are worthy to be promoted. Everyone knows that China has a huge market. The Chinese entrepreneurs are facing the challenges of industrial upgrading. Some of the high profile Chinese entrepreneurs are also urging to look for good investment opportunities. Scottish universities and entrepreneurs could show more about the developments in technical areas to the Chinese. There are many potential collaborations could be carried out in the technical area.

My name is Ying Liu, currently I am a Lecturer in Systems Engineering at University of Glasgow. It is my honour to attend the CPG meeting on China and to share some of my thoughts. I am also very glad to visit Edinburgh again since in my eyes, it is most beautiful city in the UK. Today, mainly, I would like to talk about three points: Image, pathway and barriers, based on my experience with the higher education system and the life in Scotland.

I moved to Glasgow in last year June to start my job at University of Glasgow. I find it is one of the best career decisions for me. As a lecturer, I find the atmosphere of Scottish universities are more open and free. Also, from the student's perspective, I find they received more support and more opportunities to be integrated in industry and research projects. And the nature environment of Scotland is fabulous. Scottish higher education system and environment has many advantages compare to the English system. However, the good image of Scottish Universities in China is not strong enough. Base on my knowledge, many English Universities have strong connections or even campuses in the first-tier cities in China. This really promoted their reputation in China and attracted many students and funding resources. University of Glasgow also has a joint programme with one of the very good university in Chengdu China. But Chengdu is not the first-tier city. Edinburgh has a joint campus with Zhejiang University, which is one of the top universities in China. The location of the campus is also in very developed area. I think this is a very good example. I hope in the future, the Scottish universities can be more active in show off and promote themselves in China. Since, like I mentioned, the quality of the education, the nature environment and also the life in Scottish cities are brilliant. This excellence needs to be shown and promoted.

For the pathway, one important thing I would like to mentioned is the direct flight from Scotland to China. I was more than happy that we got Beijing to Edinburgh now. However, I do not think this is enough. I hope in the future, more direct flight could be operated from Scotland to China. This will encourage Chinese people to see the beauty and opportunities in Scotland. Just like Song has mentioned that, good transportation can promote investment and technology exchanges.

The final point I would like to mention is barriers. I would like to give an example for this point. Currently, in Glasgow University, visiting PhD students over half a year needs to pay the international tuition fees, which is around £20,000 a year. I am not very clear about the situation in other Scottish universities. Many staff find is cost is somehow too high. It becomes a barrier for international communications. I hope in the future, this kind of barrier could be removed. Or the government can provide more scholarships and funding support to promote international communication and student exchange activities. I find this will benefit the promotion of the Scottish higher education system.

7 AOCB

Jim McColm asked for all speakers in the future to make sure that they use the microphones provided for any discussion.

Wang Ziyang - The registration of the 3rd China (Shenzhen) Innovation & Entrepreneurship International Competition is open from **December 1st 2018 to February 28th 2019** (<http://www.itcsz.cn/>). The total prize pool of the competition is **11.2 million RMB**, and a venture capital fund pool of 25 billion RMB will be formed by renowned capital organizations in China to carry out portfolio investment on outstanding competition

projects. Contestants may register projects under both **Professional Competitions** (Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Financial Technology) **and Industrial Competitions**(Information and Communications Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Electronic Science and Technology, Biology and Life Science and Technology, Materials & Energy), provided that they meet the required conditions. More detailed information could be found on the registration website.

Date of Next Meeting: 30th January 2018 6pm