

Cross-Party Group on China

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 13th November 2019

Attendance

MSP Members

Dean Lockhart MSP – Convener

Colin Smyth MSP – Deputy Convener

Mary Fee MSP

Jackie Baillie MSP

Bill Bowman MSP

Tom Mason MSP

Special Guests

Consul General Ma Qiang

Consul Zeng Wei

Members

Individuals

Siyi Chen

Lesley-Anne Campbell

Daniel Cairns

Colin Mitchell

Simon Macaulay

Rosemary Mitchell

Jessica Guo

Edward Tsang

Scott Johnstone

Guests

Dongpu Zhang

Ma Mingkang

Zhan Yawei

Lu Jianqiao

Sun Wenqiang

Li Junjie

Tang Haiqiong

Zheng Lu

Yao Yuliang

Ma Hongjie

Chen Bailiang

Song Jian

Gan Jianguo

Shao Zhenfa

Zheng Xudong

Xu Gaoyong

Su Rongrong

Chen Weijun

Ji Lida

Zhou Yunhai

Weng Huabia

1 Welcome and Apologies

Dean Lockhart MSP opened the meeting welcoming members and guests to the latest meeting of the Cross Party Group on China. He continued by welcoming the special guests who were addressing the group this evening, his Excellency Consul General Ma Qiang.

2 AGM

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

Colin Smyth MSP were nominated for the roles and elected by the group to the role of Deputy Convener.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed to.

4 Consul General Ma Qiang

I am very delighted to have this opportunity to get involved the important China – Scotland affairs. I have been for three weeks and I just feel of affect myself of the Scottish local successes. I am look forward to talking together of you to further enhance the bilateral relations. Because my colleagues have told me, also I have met some Scottish people. All of them told me that we have very strong bilateral relations. China and Scottish cities or companies in all areas such as culture, education, economy and trade and so on. I look forward to further this cooperation and we can exchange views frequently and we can do our best to further promote our corporation. Once again I am very thankful to have this opportunity to give some updated information of what we've done and what we could to do. As I said I look forward for this cooperation.

5 Roundtable welcome and introdction

Dean Lockhart MSP began by thank you Consul general. Then Dean said there are ties between Scotland and China across a number of different areas, including business and trade. Investment China is one of the largest investors in the Scottish economy. There are ties across education as well. I think Edinburgh University is one of the most popular universities for Chinese students to come to the UK and study, and that's a helps enormously in promoting ties between Scotland and China.

Dean Lockhart MSP continued by saying that before we move on to our speakers tonight, who will be able to provide us with some idea of what the work we've been doing. Does anyone have any questions at this stage for the consul general? Any general questions or any introductory remarks about what the group has been doing?

Scott Johnstone -- Scottish Lifesciences Association

Thank you. Welcome to Scotland. On our part of Scotland has life sciences and industry. It's very much the front end of technology and developing technologies. I spent this afternoon at the center for gender medicine, just outside Edinburgh. And for what we need is to access to big markets and cooperations help us to get in the used market. So that's what we've been doing. We have a specialised group in China and how base to make that relationship for school. Welcome to you for the next group, and I'll be in touch with details on that. But it's really about how we can work together and what where the best places we would benefit from in doing that collaboration work because Scotland is a quite small country, and our companies are quite small, so we need to fit that doesn't overwhelm our side and disappointed on your side in terms of ensuring that you get what you want from our partnership.

Simon Macaulay – SCEN

Welcome Consul General. I am Simon Macaulay. I am chair of the Scotland China Education Network and other colleagues here tonight form SCEN. We exist to promote the teaching of mandarin in school. Teaching about China is our links are very strong

with the Consulate here and I am looking forward very much to working with MR. Ma in the future years' future cooperation.

Bill Bowman MSP

I am supposed for some interest directly. I represent the northeast. I know we have a China engineering company which has set up his first UK base here. I am interested in the bigger picture as well, but very much like to have a discussion and perhaps pursue anything we can do to help make a successful new venture here and northeast.

Tom Mason MSP

Welcome Consul General. I just remind the Scotland does exist beyond earth. And in the northeast of Scotland has a very distillery. Obviously, the centre of the oil industry in Scotland, tourist business, also excessive amount of golf courses.

Jackie Baillie MSP

Very warm welcome to the Consul General, and we do appreciate you being here. And certainly, in terms of Scotland and indeed, the UK and China, there is a long and positive history there. I was born and brought up in Hong Kong and I have the highest esteem for China. When I turn on the television. The signs I see in Hong Kong, it really made me quite upset as I am sure they will do you as well. I am to cross the Chinese community contribute enormously to Scotland, both in terms of economy and society. I have noticed a huge number of Chinese people coming across from China to holiday in Scotland, that is positive for our economy. I like that continues but I wonder whether you could address some of the concerns we are experiencing about what's going on in Hong Kong now.

Colin Smyth MSP

As MSPs who represent a large number of the Chinese community in each of our regions and each of our constituency, so it's not always just about the links we have with China. It's the fact that we have many people here from China live in Scotland. I am very conscious about making sure they have best possible experience when they are living here as well.

Mary Fee MSP

I think the education links as being built up with Scotland and China and I want to be done in this cross party group to help improve and build and also for feedback. So people are visited schools in China, this is the development so need and very stronger meaningful and really important. I would like to see us continue doing. The other thing I think is really important that CPG help to build the cultural links with Chinese

communities live here. There are very strong communities of strong cultural links and I think you could learn a lot from Chinese communities.

Consul General Ma Qiang

I am very appreciating that existing cooperation we have had and in terms of education and economy cooperation and cultural links, and so on. So, I think we have very positive bilateral relations. Thank you very much for the MSPs words about what you have done, also thank you for your concern about Hong Kong. You may have read some post in the media. It's ok if they express their opinions peacefully and legally, but what we have seen now is that violence has been used more and more. I think that we should handle the matters very carefully and under the framework of all the rule of the law. And we have full confidence of the local authorities of Hone Kong. Thank you.

6 Jessica Guo -- AACCEE

Jessica Guo began by introduce AACCEE. AACCEE was founded in 2004. It's aiming to build a bridge of corporation between China, Scotland and Europe. Since 2016, we starting to seven Chinese New Year celebration from city chamber to usher hall. In last few years, it becomes name card in that rang new year celebration. I am introducing the Chinese traditional culture and promote the happiness development between Chinese and Scottish communities. I would like to give you some of information about 2020 the Chinese New Year official Chinese gala. Chinese minister of culture department will be sending very professional, happy Chinese New Year Guizhou art group to join us on the 21sr Jan 2020 in the Usher Hall. Another culture we promote, we thinking culture is a bridge. In 2016 we established Chinese art and Culture festival in August. The one belt one road, 21 century silk road as has been called connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. And for the education, myself as education consulting since 1986. I am working with very closely with colleges, universities and boarding schools. Jessica Guo introduce 20 head teachers from Zhejiang province join as guest attendees of the meeting tonight. Jessica Guo continued to say that on behalf of AACCEE, she welcomed the Consul General to Scotland.

7 Dongpu Zhang -- Luokuang Technology Ltd.

Dongpu Zhang began with Luokuang Technology's introduction. Over the past decade, my team have been working hard to build a “open data Geographic Information System”. Based on Big Data tech, AI tech, Cloud tech and GIS tech, the open data GIS is expanding in the following five dimensions: space, time, element, service and information. Luokuang Technology is a Nasdaq listed company, Geely is a shareholder. Luokuang Technology is the only service provider for the Chinese railway WiFi systems, high speed train.

Date of Next Meeting: 05th February 2020