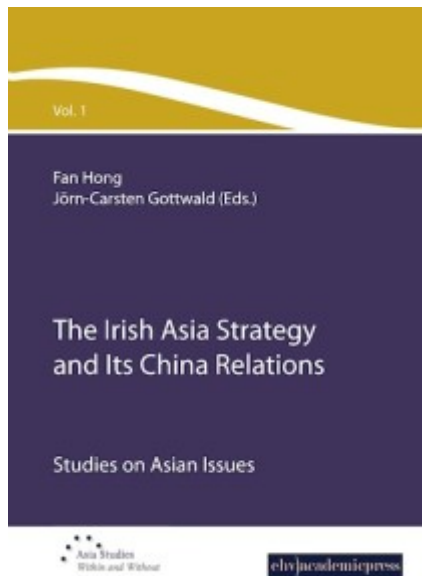


# The Irish Asia Strategy And Its China Relations: Appendix III ~ Chronology Of Sino-Irish Relations



1979

- Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ireland and the PRC 22nd June.

1980

- Exchange of Ambassadors between Ireland and China.

1982

- Minister for Foreign Affairs Gerald Collins to China in October.

1983

- Minister of Health Cui Yu to Ireland in May.

- Minister of Trade, Commerce & Tourism Frank Cluskey to China in May.

- Minister for Health & Social Welfare Barry Desmond to China in September.

1985

*Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland signed by China's Minister of Culture, Mr. Zhu Muzhi and Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Barry during Mr. Zhu's visit to Ireland in May.*

- Ministry for Agriculture He Kang to Ireland in July.

1986

*Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation* officially signed by the two countries during the visit to Ireland by China's Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, Mr. Zheng Tuobin in May.

- State Councilor & Minister for Foreign Affairs Wu Xueqian to Ireland in May.

1988

- President Patrick J. Hillery to China in April.

1993

- Minister for Tourism & Trade Charlie McCreevy to China in April.

1994

- Attorney General Harry Whelan to China in May.

- Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs Dick Spring to China in September.

- Minister of Civil Affairs Doji Cering to Ireland in October.

1995

- Minister of Foreign Affairs & Economic Cooperation Wu Yi to Ireland in April.

- Vice Premier & Minister for Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen to Ireland in October.

1996

- Vice Chairman of the National Peoples' Congress Standing Committee Tian Jiyun to Ireland in March.

- First meeting of heads of State when Premier Li Peng meets Taoiseach John Bruton at World Summit in Rome in November.

1997

- Minister for Marine & Natural Resources Michael Woods to China in November.

1998

*Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland Relating to Civil Air Transport* signed by China's Vice Minister of General Administration of Civil Aviation, Mr. Shen Yuankang and Ireland's Minister of State at the Dep. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Tom Kitt during the visit to China by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in September  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs David Andrews to China in May.

- Premier Zhu Rongji meets Taoiseach Bertie Ahern at Asia-Europe Summit

meeting in London in April.

- Minister for Social Community & Family Affairs Dermot Ahern to China in June.
- Irish Speaker Dail Ceann Comhairle Séamus Pattison to China in July.
- Taoiseach Bertie Ahern meets President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji in September.

2000

*Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income* officially signed by China's Ambassador to Ireland, Zhang Xiaokang and Ireland's Minister of State for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Tom Kitt during the visit to Ireland by Vice Premier Li Lanqing in April.

*Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland* signed by China's Minister for Science and Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment Mary Harney during Harney's visit to China in September.

*Agreement on Education Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland* initiated by China's Ambassador to Ireland and Ireland's Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science in Dublin in October 2000.

2001

- Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands Síle de Valera to China in January.

- Premier Zhu Rongji to Ireland in September.

*Agreement on Education Cooperation Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ireland* signed in February.

2002

- *Ireland-China Research Collaboration Fund Agreement* in December.

- Inaugural Shanghai Intern Programme in Ireland - June -September.

2003

- Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform Michael McDowell to China in March.

- Shanghai Intern Programme - June - September - visit to Cork in August.

- President Mary McAleese to China in October.

2004

- Lord Mayor, Cork City Council, Cork Chamber and UCC visit to Shanghai in February.
- Irish Tánaiste to China in March.
- Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to Ireland in March.
- Premier Wen Jiabao to Ireland in May.

*Memorandum of Understanding on Visa and Related Issues Concerning Tourist Groups from the People's Republic of China* signed in May.

- Cork City officials visit Shanghai in June to explore Sister City relationship.
- Shanghai Intern Programme - First Cork-based Interns; first Interns from Suzhou and Wuxi.
- Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee Ye Xuanping to Ireland in October.
- Visit by Shanghai Municipal Cultural Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and TV - meeting with Cork cultural and arts organizations October.
- Performance by Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre as part of Cork 2005 European Capital of Culture Programme in October.
- Performance by Shanghai Percussion Orchestra as part of Cork 2005 European Capital of Culture Programme in November.
- Vice Premier Huang Ju to Ireland in November.

2005

- Irish Trade Mission to China led by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in January. Largest trade delegation have ever left Ireland.

Cork City Council and UCC participate *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Software Sector between the Ministry of Commerce of China and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment of Ireland* signed in January.

*Protocol on Quarantine and Veterinary Health Requirements for Pork to be exported from Ireland to the People's Republic of China* signed in January.

*Agreement on Cooperation between CCPIT, China International Chamber of Commerce and Ireland Chamber of Commerce* signed in January.

*Agreement on Cooperation between China National Committee of Natural Sciences Foundation and Science Foundation of Ireland* signed in January.

- Cork City twins with Shanghai in May signed by Cllr. Sean Martin, Lord Mayor of Cork, and Mr. Gong Xue Ping, representative of the city of Shanghai, Chairman

of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress.

- Shanghai Intern Programme - two Cork-based Interns.

2006

- Establishment of Irish Institute of Chinese Studies at University College Cork and University College Dublin under auspices of the Irish Asia Strategy in January.

- Visit from Changning Huju Opera Troupe to Cork - first time performed outside China.

- Shanghai Intern Programme - two Cork based Interns: programme extended to Hangzhou.

- Mr Zeng Peiyan, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, to Ireland in September.

*Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Ireland* signed in September.

Visit of Cork Chamber delegation to Shanghai and Hangzhou; MOU signed with Shanghai Chamber of International Commerce.

- BA in Chinese Studies programme (four years) began at UCC.

2007

- Establishment of Irish Studies Centre at Beijing Foreign Studies University in partnership with NUIM in March.

- Establishment of Confucius Institute at University College Cork in conjunction with Hanban and Shanghai University in November.

- First Annual China Conference: *China in the 21st Century* took place at University College Cork in June.

- Shanghai Intern Programme - two Cork based Interns.

- Visit of eight Cork schools to Shanghai in October.

- Establishment of Confucius Institute at University College Dublin in conjunction with Hanban and Renmin University of China.

- A lecture on 'The EU Through the Eyes of Asia- the Case of China and Hong Kong' took place in UCC.

- *Focus on Asia* lecture series took place in UCC.

- BCom in Chinese Studies programme (four years) began at UCC and UCD.

- Higher Diploma and MA in Contemporary Chinese Culture and Business programmes (one year) began at UCC.

2008

- Shanghai Intern Programme - two Cork based Interns.
- Visit of Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan in Sept. 2008.
- Visit of nine Shanghai schools to Cork; 9 Memoranda of Understanding signed; October 2008.
- The 2nd Chinese Language Contest in Ireland (Chinese Bridge) took place in UCC.
- Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission led by Taoiseach Brian Cowen to China in October, the second largest trade mission to China.
- The 10th Session of China-Ireland Economic, Trade and Technological Joint Commission Meeting was held in Dublin, which was co-chaired by Mr. Sun Yongfu, Director General of European Affairs Department of Ministry of Commerce in China and Ms. Clare Dunne, Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment of Ireland in December.
- The 1st Conference of the Association of Chinese Studies in Ireland took place in Dublin. Signing of *Memorandums of Understanding between the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority and the China Bank Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission* during October Trade mission.
- The first group of students of Higher Diploma and MA in Contemporary Chinese Culture and Business programmes graduated at UCC.
- The prestigious European Award for Languages has been awarded to the Irish Institute of Chinese Studies (IICS) at UCC.
- IICS's second annual international conference, *The Rise of Asia and its Challenge for Europe*, was held in Cork by UCC.
- The First Asian Ambassadors Round Table Discussion took place in Cork.
- The Asian Studies Ireland Association (ASIA) was established.

2009

- Visit of delegations from Cork to Shanghai led by Deputy Lord Mayor Patricia Gosch; *Memorandum of Understanding* signed with Vice Mayor Tang Dengjie of Shanghai Municipal People's Government to cover the period to 2014.
- Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan, T.D., met with a delegation from Changchun City led by Party Chief Mr. Gao Guangbin in Ireland in May.
- First annual Irish Studies Conference at Beijing Foreign Studies University in December with announcement that Irish language will be taught at the Irish Studies Centre in BFSU.

- Shanghai Intern Programme - two Cork based Interns; Dujiangyan City (Sichuan) joins the programme.
- Visit by Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce; Memorandum of Understanding signed with Cork City Council.
- *Study in China Summer Camp for Irish University Students* took place at Shanghai University organized by UCC Confucius Institute and IICS (UCC).
- *You Ai Cairde China Cultural Tour 2009* co-organised by UCC Confucius Institute and the Irish Chinese Contact Group took place in China.
- The 2nd Chinese Language Contest in Ireland (Chinese Bridge) took place in UCC.
- Chinese Assistant Minister for Commerce Mme. Qiu Hong led a trade and investment promotion mission to visit Ireland in December.
- University College Cork launches School of Asian Studies in October.
- Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission led By Ministry Billy Kelleher TD to China in October (Financial Services Trade Mission).
- Visit of China National People's Congress Delegation to UCC Confucius Institute and UCC.
- *Post Beijing 2008: Geopolitics, Sport, Pacific Rim International Conference/Workshop* took place in UCC.
- The 2nd Conference of the Association of Chinese Studies in Ireland took place in Dublin.
- The 2nd Annual Conference of the Asian Studies Ireland Association took place in UCC.
- The Irish Association of Chinese Teaching and Learning was established at UCC with its Inaugural Conference.
- The 2nd Asian Ambassadors Round Table Discussion took place in Dublin.
- The Irish Institute of Korean Studies was established at UCC.

## 2010

- Enterprise Ireland Trade Mission in March to China (Education Trade Mission).
- Three new Asian Studies programmes at postgraduate level began at UCC including: MA in Asian Studies, Higher Diploma in Entrepreneurship and East Asian Affairs and Higher Diploma in East Asian Affairs and Economics.
- Online training programme - Doing Business in China initiated.
- The Confucius Class Room Programmes established in Cork and Ireland.
- *You Ai Cairde China Cultural Tour 2010* co-organised by UCC Confucius Institute and the Irish Chinese Contact Group took place in China.

- The 1st Chinese Language Contest for Schools in Ireland (Chinese Bridge) took place in UCC.
- The 3rd Chinese Language Contest for Universities in Ireland (Chinese Bridge) took place in Dublin.
- The 1st Conference for Korean Studies took place at UCC.
- The inaugural of the Training Centre for Chinese Language Teachers and the 1st Chinese Language Teachers Training Workshop took place at UCC.
- The Cork City Delegation led by the Lord Mayor of Cork visited Cork's sister city Shanghai and the Shanghai Expo.
- The Irish President Mary McAleese visited the Irish Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo.
- The 3rd Conference of the Association of Chinese Studies in Ireland took place in Dublin.
- The 3rd Annual Conference of the Asian Studies Ireland Association will take place in November at UCC.
- The 3rd Asian Ambassadors Round Table Discussion will take place in November at UCC.