

Premier seeks good S China Sea result

By QIN JIZE
CHINA DAILY

HANOI — Visiting Premier Wen Jiabao emphasized the importance of a proper resolution to the South China Sea dispute on Thursday, saying it is crucial to the healthy and stable development of Sino-Vietnamese ties.

Wen said he is looking forward to the early negotiation and signing of a principal guideline to resolve maritime disputes between the two neighbors.

Wen made his remarks while meeting with his Viet-

namese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung ahead of a series of leaders' summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He said the two countries have established negotiation mechanisms on solving the South China Sea dispute, and that Beijing is willing to keep high-level contacts with Hanoi.

Wen suggested establishing a hotline between the two capitals to maintain and promote common interests.

Healthy Sino-Vietnamese ties, Wen noted, are essential to the two countries — and

the region at large — against a background of such complicated international situations and changes in Asian power structures.

Dung echoed Wen's remarks, saying Hanoi has given relations high priority.

Territorial disputes have emerged between China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia in the South China Sea since the 1970s.

But more recently, the conflict in the region has been further complicated after Washington waded into the dispute in July, asserting it has a national interest in resolving

claims over the islands in the South China Sea.

In 2002, China and the 10-member ASEAN adopted a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties on the South China Sea, laying a political foundation for a possible future commercial cooperation between China and ASEAN nations as well as long-term peace and stability in the region.

And analysts believe the mainstream of bilateral ties remain positive and healthy, despite current rift on the South China Sea.

"The friendship between China and Vietnam is long

cherished by the majority of Vietnamese, because the two countries have historical ties and share similar values," said Chu Hao, a researcher on Vietnamese studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Likewise, Beijing highly prizes its relations with Vietnam. Indeed, China has "provided assistance to Vietnam for the past decades on infrastructure programs — notably on transportation and electricity," said Chu.

The caution of China's rise has become the crucial factor

to put the territorial dispute on the agenda, he said.

"The South China Sea issue is now addressed under a multilateral framework, as the US and Vietnam share common interests in offsetting the growing influence of China on the region," Chu said.

But it is unwise for Vietnam to do so, according to Chu, as it will not only complicate the issue, but further damage bilateral ties.

"High-level exchanges have been halted since 2009, and Chinese enterprises are currently hesitant to invest in

Vietnam for fear of the escalation of the conflict," Chu added. "This is obviously contrary to the core interest of Vietnam."

But according to Wang Yuzhu, an expert on ASEAN studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the dispute is unlikely to undermine fundamentally robust cooperation between China and Vietnam, which has already served as catalyst for a win-win situation for both sides.

He Wei contributed to this story.



MEMORIES FLYING HIGH

PHOTO BY CHANG JUN / CHINA DAILY

James T. Whitehead (center), chairman of the US-based Flying Tiger Historical Organization, explains details of a military uniform worn by the Flying Tigers to Gao Zhansheng (left), consul general of the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco, with board member K. C. Ma listening on Tuesday. The organization spent four years collecting 209 pieces of artifacts related to the American Voluntary Group, collectively known as the Flying Tiger, who had helped the Chinese fight against Japanese invaders in Southwest China during the World War II.

Birthday party brought forward to aid Sino-US ties

By ARIEL TUNG
CHINA DAILY

NEW YORK — Helping Americans understand China is so important to Virginia Kamsky that she even rescheduled her father's 92nd birthday party just so she could attend the China Institute Executive Summit's opening dinner on Thursday.

This year, the seventh summit's dinner clashed with her father's birthday on Oct 28, so Kamsky and her family decided to hold the celebration a day earlier.

It was a tough decision, but her mother was supportive, just as she was supportive of the young Kamsky learning the Chinese language.

"My mom said that this opening dinner is very important," Kamsky said.

"It would create important dialogue for both countries to understand each other. She told me I should go to the summit, just like she told me I have to learn Chinese."

Kamsky started learning Chinese when she was 10, and it was her mother's foresight that she would be thankful for later in life. She was the first American child to learn Chinese at the China Institute in New York City in the 1960s, and is now its chairman. The institute is the oldest not-for-profit US organization focused on US-China relationship.

In 1980, she established Kamsky Associates, one of the earliest American investment organizations to be set up in China. She was selected by Crain's New York Business in 1990 as one of their "Forty under Forty to Succeed" and by Newsweek as one of "America's 25 Top Asia Hands".

When Kamsky became



ARIEL TUNG / CHINA DAILY

Virginia Kamsky (right), China Institute chairman, speaking to Li Zhou, assistant dean at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business at the opening dinner of the China Institute Executive Summit on Thursday.

chairman of the board of trustees of China Institute in 2003, she saw the need for an annual business dialogue focused on understanding the economic relationship between the two countries.

She wanted to "broaden the scope of cultural understanding to include economic dialogue". Thus, the first China Institute Executive Summit was held in New York City in 2004.

She accredited this to the management and directors of China Institute, as well as people and corporations that have been supportive. But it was her mother who has been the most influential toward her cause.

"My mom said that if the US and China can't communicate, there will be seriously implications for world peace," Kamsky said.

"She said a dialogue is important for the two countries to understand each other and that world peace is most important."

The summit's opening dinner this year, held at Four Times Square, featured a discussion between Chen Zhiwei, professor of finance at Yale University School of Management, and Stephen S. Roach, non-executive chairman at Morgan Stanley Asia and senior fellow at Yale University.

On Friday, there are three panel discussions at the Princeton Club of New York on currency, trade and capital markets.

Corporate leaders, government officials and economists will share views on subjects relevant to US-China business activities and on the global influence of China.

Kamsky said she is looking forward to hearing what some of the best economic minds have to say about the US and China, especially during such "uncertain financial environment".

"In the past, the US would be a teacher to China. The situation is now quite dramatically changed," she said.

"I actually saw the change before the financial crisis. It's interesting China has about \$3 trillion in foreign exchange reserves. This is a very dramatic change from what many economists ever imagined."

Kamsky's interest in economics has been fueled by her father, Leonard Kamsky, an accomplished economist.

A highlight of the summit is that Beijing's Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business, in collaboration with China Institute, will bring senior executives from some Chinese small- and medium-sized corporations. In the past, this has posed a challenge for China Institute. Kamsky said she wants to set up more Chinese-language classes for children and business executives.

Kamsky, who raised her 12-year-old son to speak Chinese, said: "It starts from the language. If you don't understand the language, you won't understand the culture."

"Part of the problem between the US and China is the language barrier. If our children learn to speak Chinese, it will help avoid problems in future."

"American children need to be bilingual. They need to have Chinese friends. Chinese children need to be friends with American children."

"I think that will be the greatest way to solve conflicts in future between the US and China."

Although the summit's main aim is for experts of both countries to exchange ideas and information, Kamsky said "nothing will be more important to come of this summit than individual friendships".

"We want to do all that we can to solve conflicts between the two countries," she said.

Quake photos on display at UN

By ZHANG YUWEI
CHINA DAILY

UNITED NATIONS — More than 100 compelling photographs featuring the reconstruction work after the Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan province two years ago are being displayed at the United Nations headquarters in New York as of Thursday.

Ambassador Wang Min of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN expressed the nation's gratitude to the international organization for providing its support to the Sichuan people after the quake.

"We'd like to take this opportunity to call upon the international community to strengthen cooperation in countering natural disasters and enhance the UN's lead-

ing role in coordinating and guiding international rescue efforts," said Wang at the exhibit's opening.

The 8.0-magnitude quake rocked Sichuan province on May 12, 2008. It killed 68,000 people with nearly 18,000 people listed as missing. The initial tremor and aftershocks were felt in 417 cities and counties in 10 provinces across China. The disaster was the nation's most devastating quake in terms of affected areas and level of difficulty in rescue efforts in China.

Photos displayed at the exhibit include scenes immediately after the earthquake struck the province. Debris of collapsed buildings, injured school children, medical teams helping the injured are shown.

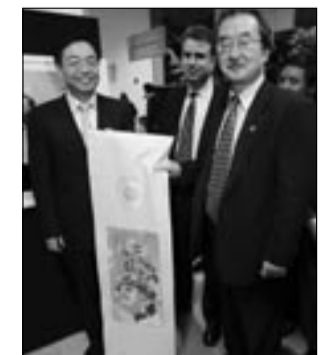
"The exhibit is to thank the international commu-

nity and the United Nations' tremendous moral support and humanitarian assistance throughout the difficult times," Huang Xiaoxiang, vice-governor of Sichuan province, said.

The photos also display how 29,700 reconstruction projects were brought into motion, of which 85 percent is now complete, Huang said.

"Since the disaster, many countries have been paying close attention to people in Sichuan. We are very grateful and will never forget their support when we were in a dire situation," Huang said.

Browsing the photos with the delegates from Sichuan, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyotaka Akasaka, said: "Those photos are the most direct way to tell



ZHANG YUWEI / CHINA DAILY

Huang Xiaoxiang, vice-governor of Sichuan province, presents a Chinese painting to UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyotaka Akasaka at an exhibition at the UN headquarters on Thursday.

people what happened and what is happening now. Very impressive."

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