

Comment by Michael C H Jones
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The work on an updated ACCCI Narrative to be released by September 2016 to mark Chamber's 40th Anniversary progresses within the context of structural reorganisations post GFC 2008 summarised as "Australia-China Relations in a Global Era" on our masthead. Ironically it mirrors the media formulations of new Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in his salute to Founding PRC leader Mao Zedong when calling for all Australians to "Stand-up" as he progresses the Tony Abbott "cultural revolution" but in a gentler form. Exactly how this Manifesto of Fairness will be presented for the Federal Election in September/October 2016 is awaited.

Chamber, which has a unique and unblemished distain for most if not all governments, will continue its Peoples Diplomacy traditions to economically link non-government organisations within the Australia-China orbit. Moreover ACCCI will further its globalisation governance perspectives by strategic Submissions on major issues to all levels of country governmental inquiries to confront outdated and harmful concepts of State Sovereignty. The themes/challenges of 1) Multinational Corporations including State-Owned Enterprises and Human Rights, 2) Political Parties and Democratic Forms, 3) International Commons and Property Relations, and 4) Fundamentalism and Multiculturalism, will be expanded and deepened as a continuation of the philosophical aspects of the Australia - China Relationship/Monitors re Foreign, Political, Legal, Urban, Autonomous and Rule of law.

The ACCCI timelines as previously enunciated are threefold namely A) short term 2022 re the 500th anniversary of the first navigation of the globe B) medium term 2049 re the 100th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and C) long term 2101 re the 200th anniversary of the Commonwealth o Australia.

For four decades senior ACCCI Board and Executive Committee members have made official and private visitations throughout China and worldwide with strategic level briefings in recent years in Japan, ASEAN, South West Pacific, India and West Asia, East Africa and South America as well as Europe including Russia. The views expressed are not those of the Australian, Chinese and US Governments of any level.

Therefore it is in this context that I will make a private visit to Cambodia and Vietnam in mid November, at the same time as PM Turnbull attends the G20, East Asia Summit. and APEC meetings, perhaps as with former Foreign Minister Bob Carr "nodding" at airports? It follows Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Hanoi to meet Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in early November.

However mutual respect and understanding between the peoples of countries are not the monopolies of politicians, no matter how illustrious, and I await the response to my Open Letter call for the new Australian Prime Minister to apologise for the carnage condoned by his country during our participation in the Vietnam War 1962-72. It is fortuitous that Turnbull has listened to advice to visit Indonesia, yet the political and economic challenges of Asia - Israel to the Russian Far East - would warrant an early visit to Vietnam as well.

Over the last 12/18 months I have deliberately refrained from commenting on China's internal economic policies and developments. Apart from the problems of reliable information and language issues, as well as the diversity and rapidity of change, there are hundreds of international Think Tanks monitoring China far better resourced than Chamber. Yet the ramifications of these policies and changes are not sufficiently understood or anticipated, and that is why the ACCCI concentration has been on new international institutions like the G20, Regional economic associations such as the SCO, or essentially political manifestations like the controversial TPP. Indauspac Strategy and Indauspac Watch were specifically established on the ACCCI website to comment on relevant issues wherein an americanised world since 1945 is penetrated by a China going global.

The principle domestic issue confronting China mid term until 2049 is the Province of Taiwan. The meeting of PRC President Xi Jinping and ROC President Ma Ying-jeou is another step in that journey of a thousand miles, an epoch Long March of diplomacy to a democratic China, with its own characteristics. The steps began with the late 1911 Revolution led by Sun Yat Sen, although modern research has revealed that the Dowager Empress Cixi of the Qing Dynasty had been contemplating ideas of democratic forms for nearly 30 years, and certainly post the beginning of the 50 years war with Japan 1895/45.

Post 1949 was the era of decolonisation and the rise of communist oriented movements throughout Asia. This period culminated in the defeat of the US expeditionary and puppet forces and reunification of Vietnam in 1975. Subsequently China and Vietnam had a "dust-up" in 1978 to find their levels of cooperation. However the Korean Peninsular remained divided following the PLA "volunteers" repulsion of US/UN forces from the Yalu River on the China border in late 1950. But Japan was successfully integrated into the western/US economic system, and the parameters of ASEAN established. The 1970s also saw the quickening of the recognition of the PRC and the down-grading of Taiwan to "provincial" or at least the lose of "country" status.

When Chamber, following the 1992 "Chinese Taipei" Consensus post Tiananmen, called for the mutual recognition of the CPC and KMT, we were pilloried - I was even personally admonished by the then Sydney based Chinese Consul General, Rank of Ambassador. ACCCI held its ground, as with so many issues during the 1990s but without publicity. APEC was the main game and the admission of Taiwan with Hong Kong as participating economic "entities". In 1998, courtesy of the Peoples Daily in Beijing I first enunciated the Chamber perspective of the new Great Game of Global Economic Relations, under which umbrella among other things the international status of Taiwan could be accommodated, and it has been. Mutual recognition of the PRC and ROC has been a step too far, and may always be, yet such a formal declaration is now unnecessary with the meeting of the two Presidents.

State Sovereignty and the nationalistic desire of the Chinese people for re-unification of the province with the mainland is unquenchable probably this century and certainly while the CPC is in power. But similarly the desire of the Taiwanese people for economic autonomy and political democracy is unyielding. Chamber has for nearly a decade postulated the Party democratisation of China - sometime approaching the long term 2101 two fundamentally changed political parties will contest elections throughout China.

Yet the likely advent of Tsai Ing-wen as Taiwan's new DPP President will bring immediate tensions re short term 2022. Economic envelopment, diplomatic recognitions, travel requirements are just several of the issues of contention. This will be in the context of the US "rebalance" to Asia and the Chinese "counter-balance" in the China Seas, including the Taiwan Straits.

And so it is written.