

MICHAEL C H JONES MEDIA INTERVIEW/STATEMENT FOR

Global Link Multimedia Limited *In Cooperation with The Economic Observer of China*

Concepts

The ACCCI was established in the years 1974/76 - the foundation AGM was on 16th September 1976. We were the first and therefore the oldest Australia-China bilateral from which many of the others broke away such as the ACBC in the 1980s. The important thing to remember is that change in China and therefore China's relations with the world including Australia has been not only constant but dynamic to say the least. Hence ACCCI strategies, policies and projects have had to keep up or as we like to think play a leading role in this constant change. The nature and role of Chamber today is different to what it was a decade ago let alone in the 1990s, 1980s or 1970s. This is the essential difference between ACCCI and other Australian China organisations.

The Principles, Policies, Processes and Procedures of Chamber have evolved over 40 years to meet the challenges of China. In 2012 Chamber is a China Relations Think Tank resulting from a process begun with the launch of the ACCCI Website in September 2001 and accelerated with the work/participation around the Australian Parliament's Australia-China Relations Reports in late 2005 and early 2006. Nevertheless Chamber has maintained its traditional Activism commitments to the economic development of China, the strong and deep Australia China trade and investment cooperation, and the participation/acceptance by China of global norms through international institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Always remember that Chamber was active for years in China prior to the launch of the 'Opening Up' policies of Deng Xiaoping in 1979 following the official recognition by the USA.

Another constant, or at least an evolving constant, have been the Chamber's structure and methods.

The full name of the Chamber has remained 'The Australia China Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New South Wales' or better known as ACCCI. Its Head Office and policy/management focus has been in Sydney the financial and commercial capital of Australasia which includes the long time CER with New Zealand - not Canberra which is merely a political/bureaucratic capital. The Founders led by Darcy Carter recognised from the beginning, and this still hold weight in 2012, that voluntary non-profit organisations face profound dangers if they try to take on national personalities in this country. Dangers from state rivalries, financial influences and political controls amongst others. Certainly freedom of action is constrained.

From the early 1980s and led by Reg Torrington the Chamber developed its broader international perspectives through regular and highly organised visits to China concentrating on Sister-State Relations with Australia, and involvement with the trade and investment strategies of the Special Economic Zones such as Shenzhen. From this evolved the initial ACCCI Key Cities Strategy of the late 1980s led by Laurie Smith and subsequently developed by John Zerby during the post-Tiananmen period of the early 1990s. Greg Burns, former Senior Trade Commission for Australia in Beijing and ACCCI Chief Representative - ACT played a significant role in these policies, as did Arthur Chang, Roy Dissmeyer, Bo Liu and King Fong in the development of numerous cultural projects with China including the Chinese Gardens in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

From the mid 1990s with new Vice Presidents John Zerby and Marilyn Walker the Chamber launched an extraordinary, for a voluntary non-profit organisation, range of Policy Committees covering trade and investment, commerce and industry, public affairs and cultural and focused on Economic Relations between the two countries wherein senior executive members began to systematically visit the 3rd, 4th and 5th level cities of China and host thousands of Chinese delegates throughout Australia. Personally I handed out over 50,000 of my business cards between 1990 and 1997 when I lost count. One highlight was the visit to Beijing in 1998 as the guests of the Peoples Daily, the CPC paper, when both I and Marilyn Walker gave papers on Australia China Economic Relations and

Australia China Cultural Relations respectively.

The ACCCI Website was established in September 2001 as a vehicle for communication not only in Australia and China but also into the UK/EU and USA where many connections had been built up over the previous 25 years. From this was launched the famous trade missions in the years 2002-2005 where almost 200 cities of China were visited - personally I gave speeches with official translators in over 50 during 5 visits. The leadership was from a combination of Helen Qiao as ACCCI General Secretary, John Wang as Chair of the ACCCI China Liaison Committee and Lin Kun as ACCCI Chief Representative - Beijing. From these visits evolved the ACCCI Special Projects and subsequently the ACCCI Workshops/Forums which in turn generated the discussion for an ACCCI Think Tank in mid 2006. It was realised that the failure to open up the political processes of China was beginning to seriously hamper relations with the Developed Democracies, the foundation stone for China's exports and Economy - the protracted negotiations over an Australia-China FTA and the new Trans-Pacific Partnership grouping in APEC are just two examples.

The Concepts of Global Economic Relations or the politics/diplomacy and impacts of rival national trade, investment and financial policies; the Peoples Diplomacy or the 'Right to Know', 'Obligation to Protect' and from these the 'Right to Interfere' in the internal affairs of the PRC and USA; and democratic and libertarian resistance to Transnational Governance or the extension of Great Power domestic laws and party systems beyond borders, became well known. Chamber in recent years has begun to concentrate on the structures and processes of the new global institutions/norms and participate in the struggle of ideas. John Zerby and Marilyn Walker have continued to play a leading role with the addition of Tony Pun, specifically through his connections in Australasia, ASEAN and PRC, and assisted by new Vice Presidents since January 2007 Barrie Unsworth and John Dowd.

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I draw your attention to Facts and Details - Democracy in China and the alleged comments of PRC President Hu Jintao on 'Socialist Democracy'

<http://factsanddetails.com/china.php?itemid=308&catid=8&subcatid=49>

Socialist Democracy

■ Chinese leaders sometimes use the term "socialist democracy" which roughly means allowing public debate on certain topics and under strict limitation, without challenging the mandate of the Communist Party to rule over all institutions of government.

■ In September 2010, President Hu Jintao gave a speech in Hong Kong in which he called for new thinking, saying, "There is a need to expand socialist democracy ... hold democratic elections according to the law; have democratic decision-making, democratic management as well as democratic supervision; safeguard people's right to know, to participate, to express and to supervise."

■ In February 2011, Hu told the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal, "We will define the institutions, standards and procedures for socialist democracy, expand people's ordinary participation in political affairs at each level and in every field, mobilize and organize the people as extensively as possible...and strive for continued progress in building socialist political civilization."

■ The five-year plan issued in March 2011 contained a section on "developing socialist democratic politics," where it indicated that Chinese citizens had "the right to know, the right to participate [in politics], the right to express themselves, and the right to supervise [the government]." It also pledged that Beijing would push forward "democratic elections, democratic decision-making, democratic management and democratic supervision" according to law." [Source: Willy Lam, Jamestown Foundation, China Brief, March 25, 2011]

I also draw your attention to the transcript of USA President Barack Obama in his State of the Union 2012 address and several of his comments:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/state-of-the-union-2012-obama-speech-excerpts/2012/01/24/gIQA9D3QOQ_story_2.html

"Tonight, I want to speak about how we move forward and lay out a blueprint for an economy that's built to last, an economy built on American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers, and a renewal of American values".

"My message is simple. It is time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America".

"Two years ago, I set a goal of doubling U.S. exports over five years. With the bipartisan trade agreements we signed into law, we're on track to meet that goal ahead of schedule".

"Tonight, I'm announcing the creation of a Trade Enforcement Unit that will be charged with investigating unfair trading practices in countries like China".

"Yes, the world is changing. No, we can't control every event. But America remains the one indispensable nation in world affairs. And as long as I'm president, I intend to keep it that way".

Activism

A) The struggle of ideas

Many learned men and women have said that there are no new ideas, just ideas that are continuously refashioned to meet existential realities. Some succeed for a time, others fail only to be resurrected at a later date and in new circumstances. For example the campaign from October 1949 to have the PRC recognised as the legitimate government of China. In the early 1960s there appeared to be a new opportunity with many countries supporting the PRC's UN admission but that was quickly closed firstly by the US intervention/invasion of South Vietnam re up to 600,000 troops and secondly by the launch of Mao's Cultural Revolution in China. It took until the December 1972 for Australia and subsequently 1st January 1979 in the USA.

Likewise the Chamber policy originating in the late 1980s for the mutual recognition of the Communist Party and the Nationalist Party - the crushing of the democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in June 1989 and the development of the Taiwanese Independence Movement in the mid/late 1990s put a stop to that for two decades even though there was some progress through Kuomintang initiatives from the early years of this century. The concept and reality of the One-Party State on the Mainland has proved unchallengeable. But if democracy is ever to emerge in China it can come from only two directions; either the evolution of different and structurally recognised philosophical views within the Communist Party perhaps based on Jiang Zemin's 1997 'Three Represents Theory', or the emergence of the old rivalry in a new democratic form, that is the Communist Party and Nationalist Party completing in elections at one or all levels of Village, Prefecture, Municipal, Provincial and Central Government. Now that China has become officially more urbanised than rural that would be an interesting contest.

Those of us participating one way or another in Chinese history since the early 1950s have always faced the China 'couldn't', 'wouldn't', 'mustn't' brigade of commentators from all ideological perspectives. But China always surprises. In October 2012 there will be a new breed of Party leader and a Chinese Gorbachev would not be so frightening for the new CPC Politburo and their supporters amongst the newly enriched business and middle classes whether rural peasant, urban worker or global entrepreneur.

But the most important understanding must be the context and the contests that the world now confronts with emerging global institutions. The Chamber is currently working on 10 with a special emphasis on the G20

1) UN Security Council - China is a permanent member and Australia aspires to membership.

11th November 2011 - <http://www.accci.com.au/JonesCommentonSecurityCouncilBid.pdf>

2) G20 - the BRICS 5 including China have a substantial say.

1st November 2011 - <http://www.accci.com.au/JonesCommentonG20.pdf>

3) East Asia Summit - the issues of China re Taiwan, South China Sea and North Korea are crucial in regional relations and with the USA

16th November 2011 - <http://www.accci.com.au/JonesCommentonEAS.pdf>

4) APEC re TPP - China has been excluded from the new group on the basis that its Economy does not meet the criteria for membership

28th October 2011 - <http://www.accci.com.au/JonesCommentonAPEC.pdf>

5) CHOQM - the emphasis on democracy monitoring and new membership rules are a challenge to China

28th October 2011 - <http://www.accci.com.au/JonesCommentonKenya.pdf>

6) WTO

7) World Bank

8) IMF

9) ILO

10) Subject to discussion

B) ACCCI activities

1) ACCCI Website

Information distribution re;

'Three Represents Theory' for CPC Membership and WCEC

2) ACCCI Policy Committees

Government Inquiries such as Productivity Commission and Australia Asia

3) ACCCI Special Projects

Greater Sydney amalgamations as part of the Key Cities Strategy or the internationalisation of municipal governments

Australia Innovation and Technology Commercialisation - AITCP Programme

Australia Inwards Investment - AIIP Programme

Australia Tourist Sites and Services - ATSSP Programme

Australia Education and Business Training Centres - AEBTC Programme

China SOE, Global Corporations and Corruption - Study and Research

China Freedom of Information, Privacy and Rule of Law - Study and Research
China Workers Associations, Three Represents Theory/CPC Membership and Democratisation -
Study and Research
China Global Diaspora, Multiculturalism and Business - WCEC - Study and Research

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6th February 2012

Questions for interview

We would like to discuss the following topics with you:

- ACCCI's current activities relating to the furthering trade and cooperation between Australia and
- How ACCCI facilitates business relationships between Australian and Chinese businesses
- How ACCCI attracts members and the scope of services the organization offers for its members
- ACCCI's goals and visions in the short term as well as the long term with regards to Chinese-Australian relations
- Upcoming events or announcements