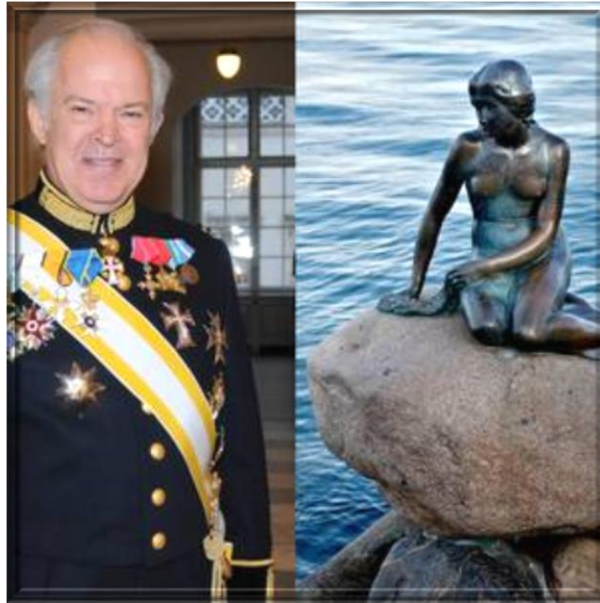


《扶輪在中國》華文譯本在第 8-12 頁

Rotary in China

by Christopher Bo Bramsen

Tuesday, 20 February 2001



(Note by Editor: Christopher Bo Bramsen was a member of the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, Denmark, and is the Royal Danish Ambassador to China, concurrently to Mongolia and North Korea. This article is the key-note speech delivered at the 70th Anniversary Luncheon Meeting of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong. It gives the congregation a concise picture on how the Beijing Fellowship Group of Rotarians make their best efforts to bring Rotary back into China, and to pave the road for Rotary International's consideration in opening The People's Republic of China as a Rotary country in the new century.)

It is indeed a great pleasure and also an honour for me to speak here today on the 70th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. On behalf of all the Rotarians in Beijing I would like to add our congratulations to you, and wish you all a very "Happy Birthday".

The topic of my talk today is 《Rotary in China》, and let me begin by saying that the history of Rotary in China goes even further back in time than the history of Rotary in Hong Kong. The first Rotary Club in China was established in Shanghai in 1919 and another club was established in Tientsin shortly afterwards. Both clubs were started by expats living in the international concessions.

It took a bit longer before a club was established in Peking. In 1923, a group of people began to meet on a regular basis. Before they were not formally chartered, they called themselves the Thursday Tiffin Club. They held their first meeting on 27 July 1923 on the

initiative of Julean Arnold, who was the Commercial Attaché at the American Legation in Peking. Arnold became the first temporary President of the Tiffin Club and Admiral Tsai Ting-Kan became temporary Vice President. Dr. C. T. Wang, who later became Foreign Minister of China, was also amongst the first members of the club. They communicated with the Rotary International Extension Committee in Chicago, and one year later, in July 1924, Admiral Tsai Ting-Kan, the temporary president, was able to send a formal charter application to R. I. in Chicago.

On 30 August 1924 Rotary International recognized the first Rotary Club of Peking. It had 22 charter members, and met on the 1st and the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Masonic Temple. Over the next 15 years the number of Rotary Clubs in China and Hong Kong, reached 11, including the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, established in 1931.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 put a stop to the Rotary Club of Peiping, as it had been called since 1928. The meeting place of the Rotarians, the Wagon Lits Hotel, was taken over by the Japanese. Many Rotary members were interned, and the remaining members decided not to meet for some time.

When the War was over in 1945, the Rotarians began meeting again. The Rotary Club of Peiping was formally re-admitted by Rotary International in August 1946. Of the 58 members, half were Chinese. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the club changed its name back to the Rotary Club of Peking. As you know, China began to close off to outside world, and in 1950 the Rotary Club of Peking was practically the only organization of international character still remaining in Peking. One by one the Rotary clubs in the PRC closed down. As the last one the Rotary Club of Peking closed in June 1951. Outside the mainland, however – in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan – the number of Rotary clubs continued to grow.

When China began to open again to the outside world in 1978, a number of Rotary Clubs from abroad, especially from Hong Kong, Japan and the United States, began to carry out Rotary projects in China and to provide scholarships to Chinese students. Rotary was slowly on its way back into China.

It wasn't until 1996 that Rotarians began to meet again in China on a regular basis. In June 1996, Hermann Heid, who at that time was a member of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, met with some friends in Beijing to see if it would be possible for expat Rotarians in Beijing to meet on a regular basis. Hermann Heid secured the approval of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong to meet as the "Beijing Extension" of the Club.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, I joined the newly formed Rotary Group in Beijing in September 1996. The Group met regularly every Tuesday, at 12.30, the same time as the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. This is still the case. In fact, they are meeting right now in Hotel Kempinski in Beijing, the 237th meeting, and are probably toasting the Rotary Club of Hong Kong right now!

In 1996, we knew that we were not a proper club, but Hermann Heid insisted that we should try to follow all the rules of Rotary. New members of the group were proposed and inducted, primarily as members of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, but also of other clubs in Hong Kong and Macao. Rotarians from abroad moved to Beijing and joined our group. We invented our own banner, admittedly somewhat provocative: It said "The Rotary Club

of Beijing” with the small words in front: “Striving to be”. We were now active in a number of projects in China, and managed to collect substantial funds for these projects. We had – and continue to have – many guests and speakers, including many Chinese citizens. We exchanged banners with visiting Rotarians and were happy to adhere to all the rules and traditions, followed by Rotary clubs all over the world.

In June 1998 we celebrated our 2nd anniversary and our 100th meeting. We were presented with the original bell from the Rotary Club of Peking from 1925, which had for many years functioned as a door stop here in Hong Kong. It would belong to us, once we became a proper club.

In September 1998 a large group of Rotarians from my home club, the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, visited China. This club, established in 1921 is the oldest Rotary Club in Scandinavia. Together we signed an agreement, stipulating that once the Rotary Club of Beijing was formalized, the two clubs would formally enter a friendship club agreement.

At this time we had acquired many supporters around the world. There were, however, also some Rotarians, who objected to the fact that Rotarians met in Beijing with banners and speakers, without having formally been established as a club.

From some quarters we were even called “renegades”. In October 1998, the Board of Rotary International in Evanston decided to take a firm stand and reiterated their general policy, that “there shall be no formal extension of Rotary into non-Rotary countries without the prior explicit approval by the RI Board.” Then came the explicit warning: “Any Rotary Club that encourages or assists in the establishment of a new Rotary Club in the People’s Republic of China without the consent of the R. I. Board will be considered to be in violation of R. I. policy. Violations of Rotary policy regarding extension into The People’s Republic of China may subject the offender to disciplinary action, up to and including the revocation of a club’s charter.” It was then added: “R. I. policy does not prohibit groups of former Rotarians in the People’s Republic of China from meeting on an informal, non-recognized basis”.

In Beijing we did not know anything about this decision. But the message was passed to the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. You now found yourself in a precarious and even risky position. In February 1999 the Rotary Club of Hong Kong decided to tighten the rules of how we should conduct our meetings in Beijing, no longer as a Beijing extension, but as “fellowship meetings”.

On 12 April 1999, our Group in Beijing finalized a document, a kind of “white paper”, on how Rotary could get back into China. In the paper we suggested that the group in Beijing should be granted a provisional club status, thereby paving the way for the proper entry of Rotary into China.

Three days later, we received a new set of guidelines from our friends here in the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, spelling out that we could not do anything without the explicit approval of this club. Our white paper, advocating how to introduce Rotary into China, literally became a non-paper over-night.

In August 1999, the R. I. President Carlo Ravizza wrote an article in the Rotarian magazine about Rotary and China. He emphasized that the Chinese Government had not

yet approved the establishment of Rotary clubs in China. On this background he cautioned all clubs, that “violation of R. I. policy on extension into China could result in disciplinary action, up to and including the revocation of the club’s charter.” This renewed pressure from Evanston made the Rotary Club of Hong Kong tighten the rules governing our existence even further. A new set of guidelines were communicated to us on 15 August 1999. These new rules were summarized as follows: “Your meetings must in no way resemble Rotary meetings”!

This was too much for the group of Rotarians in Beijing, many of whom, like myself, were not members of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, but of other clubs. We understood the pressure that the Rotary Club of Hong Kong was facing, from R. I. and from District 3450, but we found that the new restrictions were too drastic.

Finally, it was decided to have a meeting here in Hong Kong to work things out. On 6 October 1999, 4 Rotarians from Beijing, Peter Finamore, Tan Loong-Keat, Russ Miller and myself, came to Hong Kong to meet with the board and advisors of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, as well as representatives from Rotary District 3450.

Some of the Hong Kong participants called us renegades, and we were in fact almost ready to cut our ties with Hong Kong, if that was the only way out, and establish a separate Tiffin Club. We also knew, however, that the Rotary Club of Hong Kong was in a precarious situation. On one hand trying to support its fellowship group in Beijing, and on the other hand having to respect R. I.’s China policy, carefully guarded by representatives of District 3450.

In the end we did come to an agreement, which all parties concerned could live with. We were to call ourselves “The Beijing Fellowship Group of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong”. No president or vice-presidents, but chairmen and vice-chairmen. No banners, except the banner of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, no proper attendance cards, no independent funds, no decision without the approval of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, etc., etc. ... We did not get everything we wanted, but we realized that if we wanted to keep our links to the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, this was the best result. And we have in fact followed these agreed rules during the last year and a half, patiently using our long name, “The Beijing Fellowship Group of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong”.

We have one chairman and two vice-chairmen. Hermann Heid was our first chairman, and other experienced Rotarians have led our Group over the last years, including Peter Finamore, Tan Loong-Keat and Russ Miller, our present chairman. From July 1st Jens Dreier, one of the founding members, will take over the Group.

The first vice-chairman, a post which I have held since July 1999, has always been elected from the Rotarians who are not members of our “mother club”, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. From the 1st of July, the next first vice-chairman will be the Ambassador of Switzerland, and I will be leaving China, to become Ambassador of Denmark to Spain.

After our reconciliatory meeting in October 1999, here in Hong Kong, the messages from R. I. continued to be clear enough. At the President’s Conference 2000 in February, one year ago, also here in Hong Kong, Russ Miller asked the following question from the floor to R. I. President Carlos Ravizza: “What can the Beijing Fellowship Group do to provide support to R. I. with respect to China?” President Carlos’ answer was short: “The

Beijing Fellowship Group can do nothing to help R. I.” The answer brought silence to the entire room. Later during the Conference Russ Miller had the opportunity to give a short presentation on the work carried out by the Rotarians in Beijing. He closed his representation by extending his hand to the R. I. President in friendship and on behalf of the Beijing Fellowship Group and of the many Chinese friends of the Beijing Fellowship Group membership, emphasizing that “China will not extend the hand of friendship to Rotary, until Rotary is ready to extend the hand of friendship to China”. Russ Miller was able to change the mood and many Rotarians congratulated him on his clear and visionary statement. President Carlos came over to him and said: “Sometimes we all need to listen more, and I thank you”.

With new leaders in Evanston, signals from the R. I. headquarters now began to change – from utter irritation over the mere existence of the Beijing Fellowship Group to a sincere interest in using our experience and expertise on the issue of re-establishing Rotary in China. Our “white paper” and our views found their way into the top circles of Rotary. In the spring of last year, through advisors to the then R. I. President-nominee, Rick King, we were asked if we could pave the way for a high-level R. I. visit to China in November 2000. We were ready to do so, and we agreed that I should head a small team to put forward some recommendations to this end. I gave the team the nickname “Rotary in China by King,” in short “the RICK team”. Russ Miller, our Chinese advisor Wu Jiahuang, and I met with top officials from the Ministry of Civil Affairs. We then worked out a strategy, which was approved by Rick King. We were then able to secure an invitation for an R. I. delegation to visit China in November 2000, issued – not by some charity institution or organization, but by the Chinese Government itself. The invitation, approved by the State Council and issued in October 2000, was extended to President-elect Rick King as head of the delegation and to seven other high-ranking R. I. leaders, including the President-nominee, Bhichai Rattakul, former Vice-Premier of Thailand, and your own Past District Governor Dom Vessigault. It took time to produce the invitation, but when it was finally there, it was a real break-through.

Having heard the news that the next two R. I. Presidents were going to China, R. I. President Frank Devlyn asked us, if he could be added to the list of the R. I. delegation. Through some complicated diplomatic manoeuvres we managed also to have President Frank included in the R. I. visit to China.

As you may know, the R. I. visit turned out to be a great success. It differed from earlier Rotary visits in three ways:

For the first time, the R. I. leadership was invited to pay an official visit to China by the Chinese Government, approved by the State Council.

R. I. was represented by a very powerful delegation, led by three consecutive leaders, the President of R. I., the President-elect and the President-nominee.

The purpose of the visit was not to go into details about concrete Rotary projects, but to discuss the possibilities of re-introducing Rotary as an organization in China, and to make contacts with the most important Chinese authorities and organizations in this regard.

At different occasions the members of the delegations met with a number of high level Chinese leaders, including Vice-Premier Li Lanqing, State Councillor Ismail Amat, Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs, Li Baoku, Chairman of China Disabled Persons' Federation, Deng Pufang (*son of Deng Xiaoping*), and Yan Mingfu, Chairman of China Charity Federation and former Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs. (I deliberately do a bit of name-dropping here, as some sceptics in Hong Kong at that time were questioning, whether we had been able to secure the right level of Chinese leaders).

State Councillor Amat summarized the importance of the visit when he said: "Your visit will lead to an increased mutual understanding and will build the base for the future cooperation between Rotary and China".

During the preparations and during the visit itself, the members of the Beijing Fellowship Group were happy to serve as a bridge between Evanston and Beijing. On both sides there were misconceptions and some distrust. It did take a good amount of diplomacy, based on our experience in China, to clear a number of misconceptions and to explain to both sides how Rotary could gradually be integrated in China. On the agenda was the pending legislation on foreign NGO's in China, and how Rotary could get back into China on step-by-step basis.

The R. I. leaders also met with the Beijing Fellowship Group and listened to our views, why we should be granted provisional club status. As President Vernon will recall from our get-togethers in Beijing, the visiting R. I. leaders were very supportive to our views.

Today the Beijing Fellowship Group consists of 52 members, of which 37 are members of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. New groups, having been established by former Beijing Fellowship Group members, are now also meeting regularly in Shanghai and Dalian.

So here we are today. Steps have been taken to bring Rotary back into China.

On behalf of the many Rotarians in Beijing, I would like to use this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given us over the last five years. We know, that this was not always an easy task.

All the members of the Fellowship Group in Beijing hope, that the establishment of a Provisional Rotary Club of Beijing will take place in the near future. This would mean that the formal links between our Beijing Fellowship Group and the Rotary Club of Hong Kong would disappear. However, in order to keep a special relationship to your club, I have been asked by the Fellowship Group in Beijing to propose to you today that our two clubs sign a formal friendship agreement, once we are granted provisional club status. This proposal is an expression of gratitude towards our friends here in Hong Kong – from your friends up north, who are still "striving to be" the Rotary Club of Beijing.

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November 2000 – Immediately after the Rotary International Supreme Delegation’s visit to Beijing, Herbert K. Lau (L1) and Ambassador Christopher Bo Bramsen (L2) escort Rotary International President-Elect Richard D. King (centre) and Mrs. Cherie King to visit Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia. Accompanying are Ulaanbaatar Rotary Club President L. Gombo (R2) and Rotary International General Secretary Edwin Futa (R1). (Mrs. Cherie King is not in the photo.)

2000年11月 - 國際扶輪最高層代表團訪問北京後，劉敬恆（左1）和白慕申大使（左2）隨即陪同國際扶輪社長當選人金恩（中）伉儷訪問蒙古國首都烏蘭巴托。同行的還有烏蘭巴托扶輪社社長甘博（右2）和國際扶輪秘書長布田（右1）（金恩夫人不在照片內）。



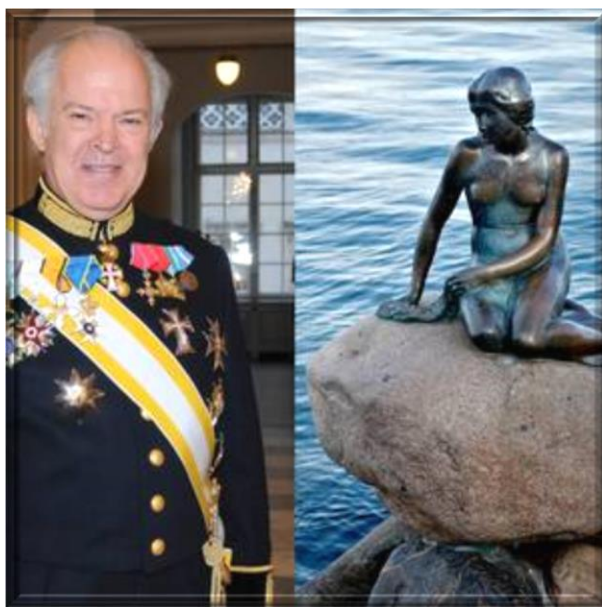
The Rotary Club of Beijing was granted provisional status in November 2005, and was admitted to Rotary International in February 2006, under the supervision of Christopher Bo Bramsen, Rotary International Special Representative to China 2005-2008.

今天的北京扶輪社是在2005年11月組織臨時社，並於2006年2月獲得國際扶輪授證，由國際扶輪駐華特派代表(2005-2008)白慕申負責督導。

扶輪在中國

白慕申 2001年2月20日星期二

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（譯者註：白慕申（Christopher Bo Bramsen），丹麥王國哥本哈根扶輪社社員，是丹麥王國駐中國兼駐蒙古國、朝鮮民主主義人民共和國大使。本文是他在香港扶輪社 70 週年紀念午餐會上發表的主題演講，向會眾簡要地講解了香港扶輪社北京聯誼會如何盡最大努力將扶輪帶回中國，並鋪路為國際扶輪考慮在新世紀請中華人民共和國開放組織扶輪社。）

今天是香港扶輪社慶祝 70 週年紀念，能夠到貴社演講，深感榮幸。我謹代表北京所有的扶輪社員向貴社敬致賀忱，恭祝「生日快樂」。

今天的題目是《扶輪在中國》，我首先要說的是，追溯起來，扶輪在中國的歷史比香港更久。中國的第一個扶輪社於 1919 年在上海成立，不久之後天津也成立了扶輪社。兩個扶輪社都是由居住在公共租界的外國僑民創始的。

不過，北京扶輪社的成立比預期稍晚。1923 年有一群人開始定期聚會，在國際扶輪正式授證之前，他們自稱為「週四午餐會」。在北京美國大使館商務參贊朱立安（Julean Arnold）倡議之下，他們在 1923 年 7 月 27 日舉行第一次會議。朱立安成為午餐會的首任臨時會長，海軍中將蔡廷幹為臨時副會長，後來成為中國外交部長的王正廷博士也是會員之一。他們與在芝加哥的國際扶輪擴展委員會保持聯繫，一年之後的 1924 年 7 月，當時的臨時扶輪社社長蔡廷幹海軍中將終於向國際扶輪提出正式申請加盟。

1924 年 8 月 30 日，國際扶輪認可北京第一個扶輪社的成立。該社創社社員有 22 人，於每月的第一、第三個週四日在共濟會會所（Masonic Temple）開會。此後 15 年，中國及香港的扶輪社數目增加到 11 個，其中香港扶輪社於 1931 年成立。

在北京的扶輪社，自 1928 年以來即更改名稱為「北平扶輪社」。日本於 1941 年 12 月偷襲珍珠港，爆發戰爭。扶輪社開會的地點——六國飯店（Grand Hôtel des Wagons-Lits）被日本軍隊佔據了，許多扶輪社員被拘禁。倖存的社員決定暫時停止例會，於是，「北平扶輪社」解散了。

1945 年戰爭結束之後，扶輪社員又開始聚會。北平扶輪社於 1946 年 8 月獲得國際扶輪核准重新加盟，58 位社員中半數是中國人。中華人民共和國於 1949 年成立之後，該社將社名改回「北京扶輪社」。如各位所知，中國開始與外面的世界隔絕。到了 1950 年，北京扶輪社實際上是北京僅存的外國分支組織，中國的扶輪社一個接一個地結束了。最後，北京扶輪社也在 1951 年結束。可是在大陸以外地區，在香港、澳門及臺灣，扶輪社的數目繼續增加。

當 1978 年中國開始再度對外面的世界開放時，海外一些扶輪社，特別是香港、日本及美國的扶輪社，開始在中國辦理扶輪計劃，並提供獎學金給中國學生。慢慢地，扶輪重返中國。

直到 1996 年，扶輪社員才開始再度定期在中國聚會。1996 年 6 月，當時的香港扶輪社社員赫爾曼·海德（Hermann Heid）與北京的一些友人見面，洽商是否可能讓北京的外僑扶輪社員定期聚會。海德獲得香港扶輪社同意以 Beijing Extension（北京分社）的名義聚會。

身為哥本哈根扶輪社的社員，我是在 1996 年 9 月加入剛在北京成立不久的「香港扶輪社北京分社」。該社定期於每週二中午 12 點 30 分開會，與香港扶輪社同步，目前還是如此。事實上，他們目前正在北京燕莎中心凱賓斯基飯店（Kempinski Hotel Beijing）開第 237 次例會，或許正在舉杯祝賀香港扶輪社生日快樂。

在 1996 年，我們知道自己還不是一個正式的扶輪社，但是海德堅持我們應該儘量遵守扶輪所有的規則。

該社也有人推薦新員並舉行入社儀式，主要是香港扶輪社的社員，但也有以香港及澳門其他扶輪社社員身分加入。海外的扶輪社員定居北京之後，就會加入這個社。我們設計了自己的「社旗」，旗上寫著「北京扶輪社」，前面加上「努力爭取成立」幾個小字。無可否認，有一點挑釁的味道。我們目前在中國積極進行一些服務，並設法為這些計劃籌募充足的經費。我們邀請過許多貴賓及演講人，包括許多中國公民，目前也繼續在做。我們與來訪的扶輪社員交換社旗，並且很高興能遵守全世界扶輪社共同遵守的所有扶輪規則及傳統。

1998 年，我們慶祝了兩週年紀念以及第 100 次例會。我們得到一份禮物——原 1925 年北京扶輪社例會使用的鈴鐺。多年來，這個鈴鐺流落在香港，被誤用作門擋。一旦我們成為正式扶輪社，就可以名正言順用這個鈴鐺了。

1998 年 9 月，我的母社——哥本哈根扶輪社——有一大群社員訪問中國。哥本哈根扶輪社於 1921 年成立，是北歐最古老的扶輪社。我們共同簽署了一項意向書，聲明一旦北京扶輪社正式成立，兩社將締結友好協定。

此刻，我們已經獲得世界各地許多朋友的支持。可是，也有一些扶輪社員持反對意見。他們不贊同北京的扶輪社員還沒有成立正式的扶輪社，就在開會時使用社旗，並邀請演講人。有些地方的人，甚至稱我們為「叛徒」。

1998 年 10 月，在伊文斯敦的國際扶輪理事會決定採取堅定的立場，重申他們的一般政策，「如果事先未獲得國際扶輪理事會明確核准，不得在非扶輪國家正式擴展。」接著

是一項明確的警告：「任何扶輪社如無國際扶輪理事會的同意，就鼓勵或協助在中國成立新扶輪社，將被視為違反國際扶輪政策。違反關於在中華人民共和國擴展扶輪的政策，將遭受紀律處分，最嚴重者包括取消扶輪社證書。」後來又說：「國際扶輪政策不禁止在中華人民共和國的前扶輪社員以非正式、不予承認的方式聚會。」

我們在北京，對這一決定毫不知情，但是訊息傳到了香港扶輪社。現在，各位可會發現，自己廁身於進退維谷甚至自身難保的境地。1999年2月香港扶輪社決定，對於我們在北京該以何種形式舉行例會，加以嚴格規定。我們的例會不再是北京分社的例會，而是「聯誼會」。

1999年4月12日，我們這個北京的社團撰寫了一份類似「白皮書」的文件，主張扶輪如何才可重返中國。在文件裏，我們建議這個北京社團應該獲得臨時扶輪社的地位，藉此為扶輪正式進入中國而鋪路。

三天後，我們收到香港扶輪社的朋友傳來的一套新準則。明確指出如果沒有香港扶輪社的明確核准，我們不能採取任何行動。我們的白皮書，原本主旨在於鼓吹如何將扶輪引進中國，一夕之間完全變成廢紙。

1999年8月國際扶輪社長賴唯捨 (Carlos Ravizza)，在英文扶輪月刊寫了一篇關於扶輪和中國的文章。他強調，中國政府尚未核准在中國成立扶輪社。根據此一背景，他請所有扶輪社注意，「違反國際扶輪關於在中華人民共和國擴展扶輪的政策，將遭受紀律處分，最嚴重者包括取消扶輪社證書。」來自伊文斯敦的新壓力，使得香港扶輪社嚴格限制了我們進一步發展的管理規則。1999年8月15日，一套新準則傳到我們手上。一言以蔽之，這些新規則就是：「你們的例會絕對不能再仿照扶輪例會。」

這對北京的扶輪社員團體來講實在太過分了，許多人都像我一樣不是香港扶輪社的社員，而是屬於其他扶輪社的。我們都知道，香港扶輪社所面臨來自國際扶輪及 3450 地區的壓力，但是我們發現新的限制太大了。

最後，決定在香港開會來解決這個問題。1999年10月6日，4位北京的扶輪社員，范禮文 (Peter Finamore)、Tan Loong Keat、魯斯·米勒 (Russ Miller) 以及我本人來到香港，與香港扶輪社理事會及顧問、以及 3450 地區的代表開會。

有些與會的香港社友，稱我們為叛徒。事實上，如果沒有別的方法的話，我們也幾乎準備與香港斷絕關係，另外成立一個獨立的午餐社團。可是，我們也知道香港扶輪社的處境也岌岌可危。一方面想要支持它在北京的聯誼團體，另一方面又必須尊重國際扶輪的中國政策，而 3450 地區的代表也非常謹慎地維護這個政策。

最後，我們達成一項各方都能忍受的協議：我們將稱自己為「香港扶輪社北京聯誼會」。不設社長或副社長，但有主席以及副主席。除了香港扶輪社的社旗之外，沒有別的社旗，沒有正式的出席卡，沒有獨立的經費；沒有香港扶輪社的同意，不得做出任何決議……等等。我們並沒有獲得想要的所有東西，但是我們曉得，如果我們想要與香港扶輪社保持關係，這已是最佳結果。而且事實上，在過去一年半我們也遵守約定的種種規則，忍受使用冗長的名稱「香港扶輪社北京聯誼會」。

我們有一位主席及兩位副主席。我們的第一任主席海德以及其他幾位經驗豐富的扶輪社員，在過去幾年領導了我們這個聯誼會，包括范禮文、Tan Loong Keat，以及現任主席米勒。從7月1日起，我們的創會會員之一戴岩 (Jens Dreier) 將接棒領導我們。

我從1999年7月起開始擔任第一副主席至今，這項職位通常都是從非母社——香港扶輪社——的社員中選出。從7月1日起，下屆第一副主席將由瑞士大使擔任。我將離開中國，到西班牙擔任丹麥駐西班牙大使。

我們於1999年10月在香港舉行修好會議之後，來自國際扶輪的訊息仍然跟以往一樣明確。前一年2000年2月，也就是在香港舉行的國際扶輪社長會議，米勒在會議中向國際扶輪社長賴唯捨提出了這個問題：「北京聯誼會如何可以支持國際扶輪擴展到中國？」社長的回答很簡短：「北京聯誼會無法幫助國際扶輪。」這個答案令到全場鴉雀無聲。後來在會議中，米勒有機會簡報北京的扶輪社員的服務。他在報告結束時伸手向國際扶輪社長表示友誼，並代表北京聯誼會以及許多中國的友人強調「中國不會向扶輪伸出友誼的手，除非扶輪已經準備向中國伸出友誼的手」。米勒說出這麼清楚且有遠見的話，改變了氣氛，許多社員都向他表示熱烈讚賞。賴唯捨社長走過來跟他說：「有時候，我們都需要多聽聽各方意見，我非常感謝你。」

隨著伊文斯敦的一些新領導人上任，來自國際扶輪總部的信號開始改變。原本他們一聽到北京聯誼會就厭煩，現在已經對於如何運用我們的經驗以及專業知識，來處理扶輪重返中國的問題，有了真誠的興趣。我們的「白皮書」以及觀點，引起了扶輪高層的注意。去年春天，透過當時國際扶輪社長提名人金恩（Richard D. King）的顧問，我們被問及是否能為國際扶輪高層於2000年11月訪問中國鋪路。我們已做好充分準備，可以做這件事。而且我們也同意應該由我主持一個小組，提出一些相關目標的建議。我把這個小組取了一個綽號，叫「國王（金恩）帶領扶輪重返中國（Rotary in China by King）」簡稱「理克（RICK）小組」。我們的中國顧問吳家煌、米勒、以及我本人，與民政部高層官員會商。接著我們擬出了一個策略，金恩也核准。於是，我們取得了國際扶輪代表團於2000年11月訪問中國的邀請函。該函並非由慈善團體或機構發出，而是由中國政府本身正式具名邀請。國務院於2000年10月核准並發出邀請函，邀請社長當選人金恩為訪問團團長率團訪問，以及其他7位國際扶輪高層領導人，包括社長提名人/泰國前副總理陳裕財（Bhichai Rattakul），以及我們的前地區總監偉思高（Dom Vessigault）。為了取得邀請函，我們花了不少時間。但是終於達成了，這是一項真正的突破。

聽到國際扶輪未來兩屆社長將會訪問中國這項消息之後，現任社長戴甫靈（Frank Devlyn）問，可否把他加入訪問團。為了設法讓戴甫靈社長得償所願，我們花費了一輪複雜的外交唇舌。

各位或許已經知道，國際扶輪此行非常成功。它與過去的扶輪高層訪問有三點不同：這是國際扶輪領導階層第一次得到中國政府邀請正式訪問中國，並經國務院核准。

國際扶輪方面係由一個非常有權力的代表團來代表，由國際扶輪社長、社長當選人及社長提名人前後連續三任領導人率團。

此行訪問之目的，不在於扶輪服務計劃具體細節。而是討論扶輪組織重返中國的可能性，以及與最重要的中國有關當局及組織就此問題溝通。

代表團團員在不同場合與幾位中國高層領導人會面，包括副總理李嵐清、國務委員司馬義·艾買提、民政部副部長李寶庫、中國殘疾人聯合會主席團主席鄧樸方（鄧小平之子）、前民政部副部長/中華慈善總會會長閻明復。我特意在此舉出這些名字，是因為那時候，香港有些人懷疑我們是否能夠見到應該見的中國領導人。

國務委員艾買提總結了此行的重要性，他說：「你們的來訪將有助於促進雙方了解，以及為扶輪與中國將來的合作奠定基礎。」

在籌備以及訪問過程當中，北京聯誼會很高興能夠擔任伊文斯敦與北京之間的橋樑。過去，雙方有些誤解以及不信任存在。根據我們的經驗，釐清這些誤解，以及向雙方解釋扶輪如何逐漸在中國成立起來，需要在外交上下很大的工夫。此外，中國還有「海外非政府組織法」尚待立法，以及扶輪如何一步一步逐漸重返中國等問題。

國際扶輪領導人也與北京聯誼會會商，並就應否允許我們成立臨時扶輪社這件事，聽取我們的意見。莫偉龍社長（Vernon Moore），您或許還記得我們在北京聚會的情形，訪華的國際扶輪領導人都非常支持我們的看法。

今天北京聯誼會有 52 個會員，其中 37 人為香港扶輪社社員。由北京聯誼會以前的會員所成立的兩個新團體，目前也定期在上海及大連舉行例會。

這就是我們目前的情況。我們已經採取了各項步驟，來促使扶輪重返中國。

我想利用今天這個機會，代表北京的許多扶輪社員，感謝你們全體在過去五年給予的支持。我們都知道，通常這並不是一件容易的事。

北京聯誼會的所有會員都希望，北京臨時扶輪社能夠在短期內成立。這表示，我們北京聯誼會和香港扶輪社的特殊關係將要中斷。可是，為了與貴社保持關係，北京聯誼會要求我在今天向你們提議：一旦我們獲准成立臨時扶輪社，兩社即簽署一項正式的友誼協定。此一提議，是為了表達一群在遙遠的北方，還在「盡全力成立北京扶輪社」的朋友們，對於香港社友的感激。



*One of the earliest Peking Rotary Club group photos in 1924.
1924 年北京扶輪社最早的集體照片之一。*



*Striving to be Rotary Club of Beijing
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