

CHINA 2012

QUESNEL EXPLORES PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL



In June 2012, representatives from the City of Quesnel, School District 28 and the Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce travelled to China. The main reasons were two-fold - To explore potential economic development opportunities in Quesnel, backed by Chinese investment; and to

help the school district further develop their international student exchange program. Much of the trip was spent in formal meetings and meals (which play an important relationship building role in China). There were a few

opportunities for sightseeing, but they were very brief.



Shanghai!

After an 11-hour flight out of Vancouver, the delegation arrived in its first stop - Shanghai! 24 million people, booming development, a busy city, and a reverence for trees - one can't cut them down anymore. Clockwise from top left: A wooden lion in the lobby of the Shanghai Tower; the national art museum; the court buildings, a juxtaposition of residential building next to an office tower; a traffic circle (those are petunias in the middle) with a massive pedestrian ring perched above it; and the Shanghai Tower!

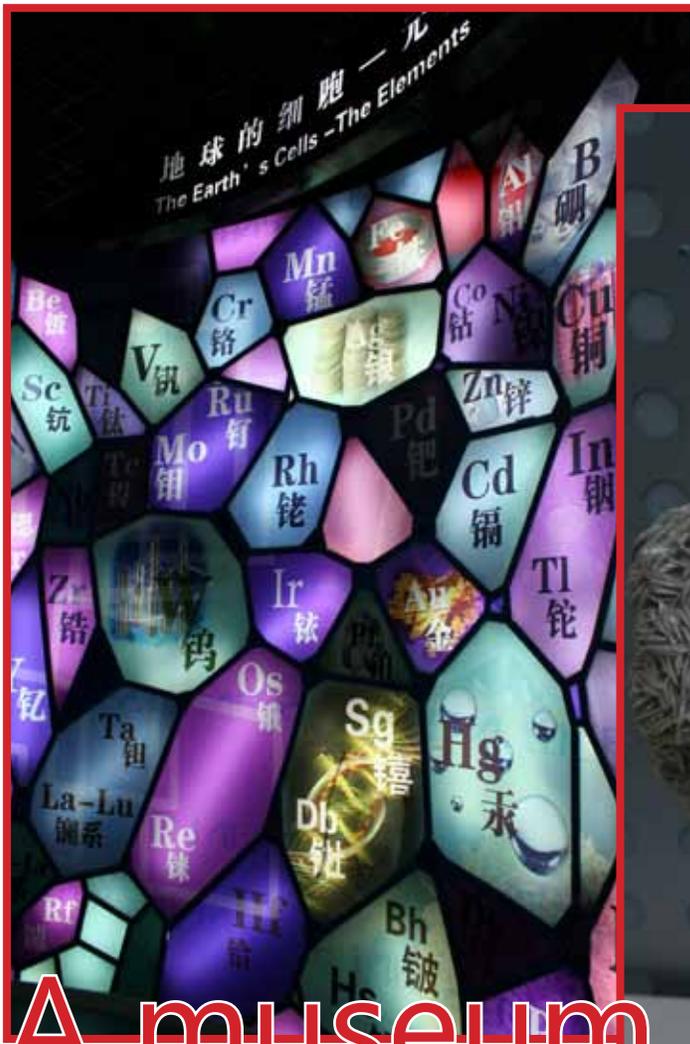


Mining for Ore



A trip to one of China's largest gold and copper mines, owned by Zijin Mining in China's Fujian province, near Longyan City. Clockwise from top left: a depiction of mining practices stamped on the outside of a massive pyramid outside the mine's office building; a huge bronze display in the office's lobby; a sample of what is produced every day; a piece of Aragonite in the company's interpretive museum, right next to the mine site.





A museum at a mine?

Yes, and a good one at that. From top left, a colourful depiction of metals and minerals in the periodic table; a sample of Gypsum; a sailing ship carved from Jade; and a reproduction of early Chinese miners using rocker boxes, similar to gold pans.

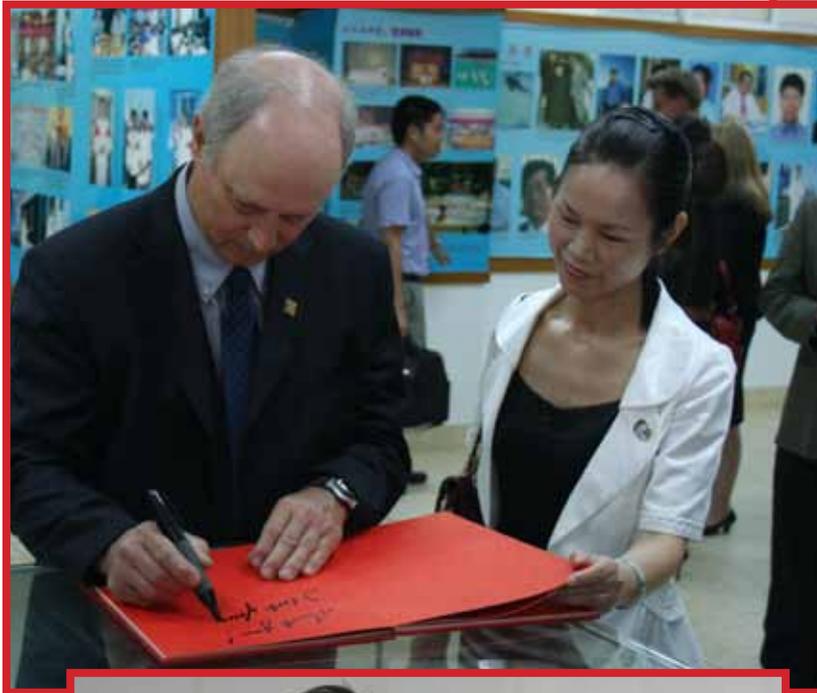




Clockwise from top: the delegation tours some of the original mine area that has been reclaimed and turned into a park and interpretive centre; Mayor Mary Sjostrom and SD 28 Superintendent Sue-Ellen Miller flank Zijin's Director of the Board/CEO and Senior Engineer, Yingnan Luo; The Mayor is presented with a reproduction of the interpretive centre; the delegation tours part of the on-site museum.



Exploring educational partnerships



The delegation visited a number of schools across China. The first was Xiamen Middle School No. 6. The group spoke with students, signed a guest book, toured the facility, and presented gifts for the principal and students.





The next day, the delegation visited Longyan No. 2 Middle School, where they were greeted by more than 1,200 students who performed a choreographed dance number. Sue-Ellen Miller also signed a Memorandum of Understanding between SD 28 and the school to further explore student exchange opportunities.





A formal affair



At each location, the delegation was welcomed formally, with meeting rooms set up that looked as though two heads of state were to meet. Clockwise from top: the delegation meets with the Longyan City government; Mayor Mary Sjostrom discusses investment opportunities with Lai Jian Hui, Chairman of the Zhengxing Wheel Group; Mayor Sjostrom and Sue-Ellen Miller are presented with a gift from the Zhangzhou City government; Sjostrom listens to Zhangzhou Deputy Mayor Zhao Jing.



The delegation toured the Zhengxing Wheel Group showroom and met company officials. Later that afternoon, the group visited Zhanzhou Middle School, where they were greeted by hundreds of excited students. SD 28 Superintendant Sue-Ellen Miller signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lai Jian Hui, Chairman of the Zhengxing Wheel Group and principal of the school to explore future educational exchange initiatives.





Food, glorious food . . .



Meals play an integral role in relationship-building in China. It is impolite to decline the offer of food, but it is also impolite to empty one's plate, as this is a signal that the host wasn't adequately prepared for one's visit. A fine line! To say the delegation was well-received is an understatement. As visiting dignitaries, they were treated to the specialties of each region visited. From traditional dishes such as duck soup or dumplings, to the more exotic jellyfish and lamb brains, the delegation sampled everything.

And the presentation was exquisite, as evidenced by the centerpiece at left - those birds are carved from carrots, sitting on a ginger root branch.





Clockwise from top left: Mayor Mary Sjostrom shares a laugh with Longyan City Mayor Zhang Zhaomin; a root vegetable with the consistency of potato, but the look and taste of beets; jellyfish and succulent asparagus; a mantis crab; a tray of lemon desserts; and duck soup. It wasn't uncommon to have a 15-course meal at lunch.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES



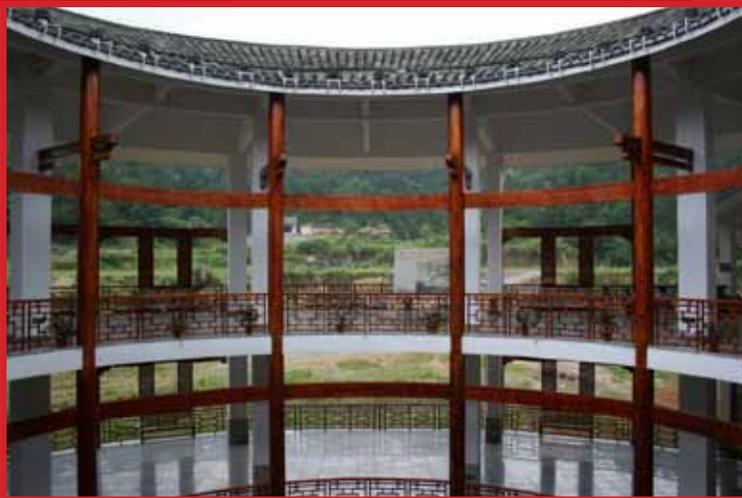
The delegation had a busy schedule to keep. Many meetings with business leaders, education representatives and government officials kept the group hopping!





The Tolou Buildings A World Heritage Site

The Tolous are ancient large round houses where hundreds of people would (and still) live today. They are like apartment complexes. Locals say that in the 1980s, President Reagan called over to inquire about the missile silos after satellite photos identified them.



The Tolou people



The Tolou we visited was full of vendors and artists. From top left: A unique wooden flute; a cobbler working on a girl's shoe; picking tea leaves; hammering out some very tasty nut brittle candy.



Counterclockwise from top:
A carpenter uses a table
saw; harvesting tea from the
terraced farms; a labourer
sweeps the cobbled floor of a
shrine; a woman perched in
the entrance to her hut.





No potential delivery method is overlooked in China. The pop machine was in Shanghai - the man was quite pleased to have had his photo taken, offering a thumbs up on his way by.

Delivering the goods





Flower power

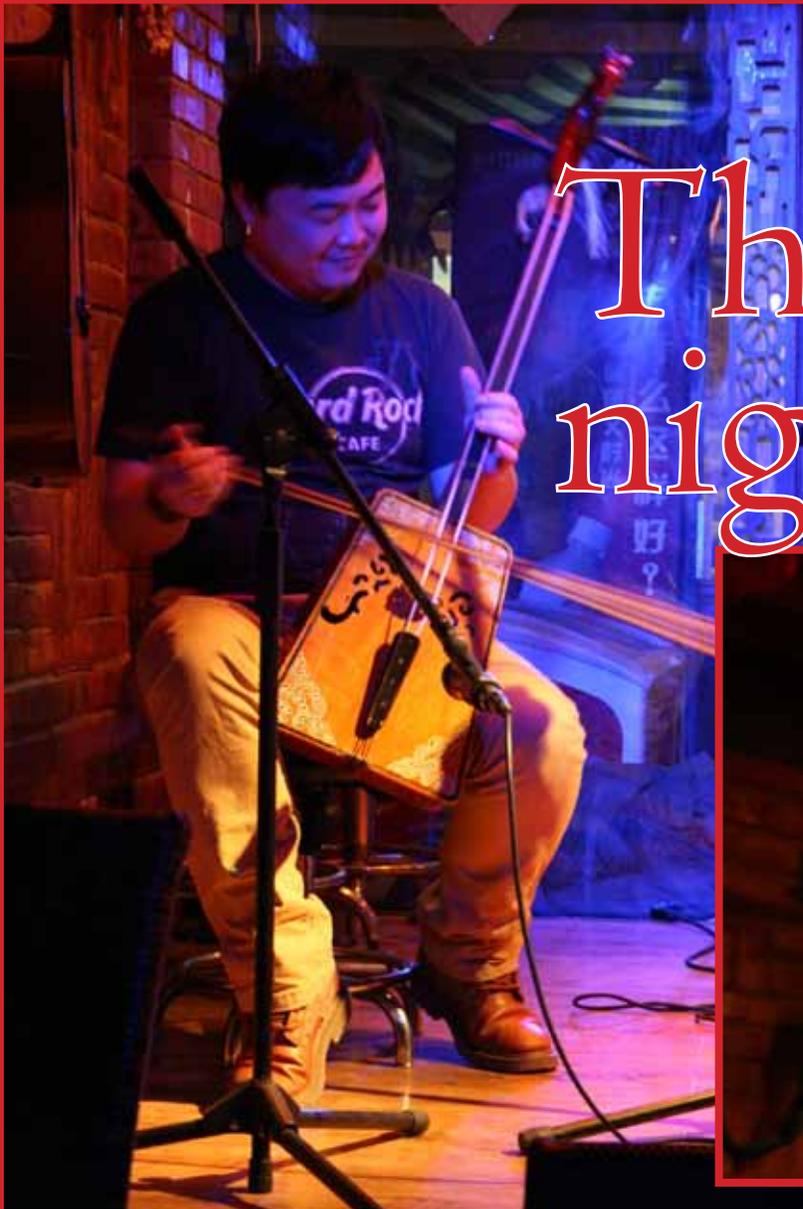


Everywhere the delegation visited, it was clear that flower arrangements are taken very seriously.

On the delegation's last night in Beijing, they were treated to a superb dinner and outstanding live music. This band was very talented, and featured a lot of throat singing, reminiscent of what can be a big part of First Nations music. The host, Mr. Wang Fan, has extensive mining interests in China, and his son attends Correlieu Secondary School as part of SD 28's outstanding foreign exchange program.



The Beijing night life





Beijing sights



Sightseeing time in Beijing was limited. But the delegation did get to see the Water Cube, Birds Nest Stadium, and Tiananmen Square. An interesting note about the Birds Nest - locals said they are going to tear it down as the land is worth more than it cost to build the stadium.