

An Unforgettable Visit to Libya

难忘利比亚之行

A four-woman delegation, led by Zhao Shaohua, Member of the Secretariat of the ACWF and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, participated in a ground-breaking visit to Libya March 29—April 2, 2003. The women, comprising the first such Chinese delegation to visit Libya, were warmly received and the unique political, economic, social and cultural environment left them with a deep impression.

以全国妇联书记处书记、全国政协委员赵少华为团长的中国妇女代表团一行4人于2003年3月29日至4月2日对利比亚进行了友好访问。作为首个访问利比亚的中国妇女代表团，她们受到利比亚人民的热情接待。利比亚独特的政体、经济、社会和文化也给代表团的每位成员留下了难忘的印象。

Unique Political, Economic and Social Systems

独特的政治、经济和社会体制

Libya, located in North Africa, is 90 percent desert or semi-desert. It covers 1.76 million square kilometers and has a population of 6.22 million—most of whom are Arabian. The country's unique geographic location has endowed it with vast stores of petroleum and, since the 1950s, petroleum production and processing have been key to the country's economy.

Libya's leader, Colonel Moammar Khadafy, advanced "The



A group photo taken after Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy (fourth from left, back row) met the delegation. Also in photo are: third from left, Zhao Shaohua, head of the delegation; fourth from the right, Luo Xingwu, China's Ambassador to Libya; and second from the right, Dr Salma Abdel Jabar, Secretary of Social Affairs of Libyan General People's Congress

卡扎菲（左四）会见中国妇女代表团。左三为代表团团长赵少华女士；右四为中国驻利比亚大使罗兴武先生；右二为利比亚总人大社会事务秘书萨利曼博士

World's Third Theory," comparable to the theories of communism and capitalism, in 1973.

The core of his doctrine is "the people's politics," and he makes the case that parliaments and parties are tools for autocratic rule. He has advocated the system of people's congresses and people's committees, and his economic doctrine keys on "eliminating the system of employment and setting up companionship."

A key element of his social doctrine is "returning to nature," and from 1976 to 1979, he published three "Green Books" to elaborate on his concept, taken from aspects of democracy, economy and society.

Under his concept, Libya has no party and no head of state. He calls himself leader of the Great Alfathen Revolution, and he says “Libyan people take charge of the power,” and “all rights, wealth and weapons belong to the people.”

Libyan Women Unveiled

揭开面纱的利比亚妇女

Libyan women once strictly abided by the Koran, veiling their faces and hair when outside their homes, but Col. Khadafy has said he attaches great importance on improving the status of women.

He wrote in one of his “Green Books” that “men are human beings, and women are human beings too. Women and men are equal.”

Using the leader’s writings as a guide, more and more Libyan women have removed their veils in public and have, in fact, taken roles of leadership in many facets of Libyan life.

Women have progressed in the fields of politics, law, education, economy, health care and social welfare, and women currently occupy most of the positions of secretary of Basic People’s Congresses throughout Libya.

The Great Green Charter of Human Rights, Law of Freedom and Law of Marriage and Divorce and some other laws of Libya protect the rights and interests of women.

Outside the country, women have also progressed.

In January, Najat Alhajaji, ambassador of the Libyan delegation in Geneva, was selected head of the 59th UN International Human Rights Commission.

A Full Visiting Agenda

丰富的访问行程

The Chinese women arrived in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, to begin the five-day visit on a bright spring day in March.

Tripoli is the country’s political and economic center, and it boasts the country’s largest harbor. It is a famous tourist site and features beautiful scenery and climate. The beauty of the area is reflected in the fact the city is also referred to as “The Bride of the Mediterranean.”

Touring in Libya is akin to entering a world of green.

In the cities, green trees, green banners and slogans written in green can be seen everywhere and even resident’s windows and balconies are painted in green.

The delegation, while visiting the “Green Books” Study Center of Libya, were amazed to see even the bookshelves, desks, chairs and floor in the center were green.

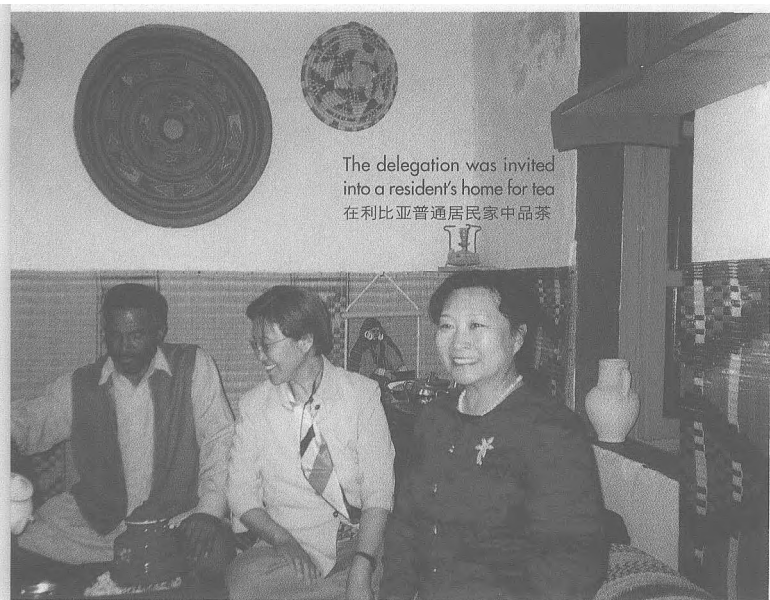
The “Green Books,” written by Col. Khadafy, have been published in more than 30 languages. Libyan people say they love green because it is the color of nature, it represents vigor and life and it also is the color of the nation’s flag—a color of revolution.

Delegations visiting Libya are taken to see the country’s “artificial river” project, and the Chinese women’s group was no exception.

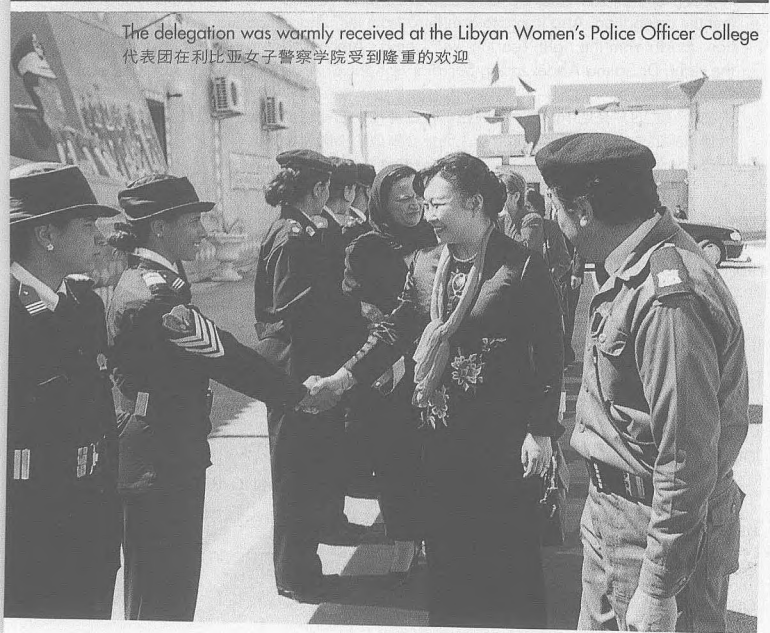
Libya does not have a useful river or lake, so, in 1983, Col. Khadafy decided to divert underground water in the southern desert to the northern areas to be used in agriculture, industry and people’s daily lives.

To accomplish that ambitious goal, Col. Khadafy decided to build artificial rivers. He ordered wells to be dug in the desert and giant pipes placed underground to transport the water to areas where it was greatly needed.

Numerous reservoirs were built to store the precious water and



The delegation was invited into a resident's home for tea in Libya's ordinary people's home.



The delegation was warmly received at the Libyan Women's Police Officer College.

the country continues to work on the project, and plans to build 4,000 kilometers of man-made rivers.

The delegation also visited the Libyan Women's Police Officer College, a local rehabilitation center for disabled persons, the Security Bureau of Andalus District, a local kindergarten and an archeological site 123 kilometers east of the capital, where remains of buildings dating back to c. 1000 B.C. in ancient Roman times are found.

Delegation Warmly Received

受到热情的欢迎

Informal discussions and public speeches by members of the delegation introduced China and Chinese women to the Libyans, and conveyed the spirit of friendship to the North African country.

Members of the delegation said they were "moved by the profound friendship of the Libyan people toward Chinese people wherever we went." Major local newspapers, broadcasting stations and television stations reported on the delegation's visit.

Col. Khadafy met the delegation in a big tent, extended a warm welcome to the delegation and praised Chinese women for their active involvement in various fields.

When the delegation visited the Province of Shaabiat Almirob, the secretary of the local Basic People's Congress, Omar said proudly, that he had studied at Qinghua University, so he thought he was half Chinese. He invited the delegation to attend one of the local Basic People's Congress' meetings and invited delegation leader Zhao Shaohua to speak to congress.

Nulia, secretary of Social Affairs of the Basic People's Congress of the Province of Shaabiat, Benghazi, compared the reception given the Chinese to that accorded a head of state. "Only in this way, could we express our love for China," she said.

Dr Salma Abdel Jabar, secretary of Social Affairs of General People's Congress, told the delegation, "Our Prophet Mohamed had said that we should pursue knowledge even if it is far away in China. China is a country I had dreamed of visiting since I was a child. In 2002, I realized my dream by having a chance to visit her. I hope (the) Chinese Women's Delegation can feel the same as I did when you visit our country," the secretary said.

The delegation is now back home in China, but memories of the warm reception by the Libyan people remain fresh in members' minds. **W**

Building Bridges Ties for Mutual Understanding

XIE LIN 楸林

架起沟通的桥梁与纽带



China's Association of Young Volunteers for the first time sent members overseas and the successful carrying out of a project in Laos marked a new phase of development for the group.

2002年5月, 5名中国青年志愿者奔赴老挝开展为期6个月的志愿服务。老挝项目的顺利实施, 标志着中国青年志愿者行动进入了新的发展阶段。

Liu Nan and Shen Xiaohong were two of the first five young Chinese volunteers in Laos
首批赴老志愿者中的两位女性: 刘楠与沈晓红