

Sino-British 'new' relations – Gordon Brown's first visit to China as PM



Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife, Sarah, were in Beijing & Shanghai in January this year – his first official visit since taking office in June 2007. Mr Brown met Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao during his short visit.

The emphasis of the visit was mainly on trade and Mr Brown

was accompanied on his trip by more than twenty British and European business figures. The two countries were keen to boost bilateral trade by 50% by 2010. This, according to Mr Brown, will create "tens of thousands" of jobs in the UK. Mr Brown was also optimistic that 100 new Chinese companies would invest in the UK by 2010. Mr Brown also officiated at the opening of the Chinese division of the London Stock Exchange in Beijing.

On environmental issues, Mr Brown said that Britain and China will work together on the development of higher level of cooperation which will lead the world in the creation of eco-cities and eco-towns.

Ping Pong diplomacy was brought into play when the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Gordon Brown watched a table tennis performance by Chinese and British athletes at Renmin University. During this visit, the Chinese Premier extended an invitation to Mr & Mrs Brown to the Beijing Olympics.

The three-day visit also took Mr Brown to Shanghai, a major economic and financial centre in east China, where he met Chinese entrepreneurs and witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the development of Dongtan eco-city, the world's first environmentally and economically sustainable city. Mr Brown's visit injected new impetus into the steadily progressing Sino-British relations.



from the Chair...

2008 heralds a step change in the activities of Chinese for Labour and we are extremely happy that Ian McCartney has agreed to be one of our Patrons and our Parliamentary Champion. His experience of the Party and of government will be invaluable as we seek to grow our organization and we look forward to working closely with him on the Shanghai Expo 2010.

Our campaigning during the London elections and our annual CNY dinner has formed the core of our work. Later this year we will be heading out into the regions – reaching out directly to build Labour support amongst Chinese voters in key and attack seats, as well as developing regional bases so that Chinese for Labour can work in partnership with local parties. Look out for forthcoming events in Manchester (during conference), in Bristol and in Brighton.

With the Beijing Olympics this year, China is firmly in the spotlight. I am in no doubt the Games will be the best ever. However, with the world's focus on the country will come increasing scrutiny of its policies, especially with regard to its attitude to human rights domestically and abroad. This will be a pivotal year for the West's relations with China. China's absolute pursuit of its national interest is exerting itself across the world in areas of strife such as Zimbabwe, Darfur and Burma. Whether the aspiring superpower learns the lessons of other superpowers past and present remains to be seen.

Whilst awareness of China continues to grow, Labour politicians must continue to bear in mind the social and economic needs of the UK Chinese population. I welcome the practical work of our Chinese for Labour Executive members along with others to develop proposals for an extra care home for Chinese pensioners. We are fully supportive of Labour's drive to ensure that health and social care is personalized, effective and culturally appropriate. It draws a sharp contrast to former Shadow Home Secretary, David Davis's view that such facilities "feed extremism".

Despite census figures which suggest a population of around 250,000 (and other estimates upwards of that) and a high level of integration, there continues to be a low level of visibility in certain areas of Britain's public sphere including politics. In November, I was pleased to attend the Pearl Awards to celebrate the achievement of individuals and organisations of Chinese origin, for their work towards raising the profile and creating a positive image of Chinese people in multi-cultural Britain.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at some of our many events. I hope you will consider joining Chinese for Labour – you can find a membership application form on page 4 of this newsletter. Your support helps us to work with a traditionally 'hard to reach' (but sizeable) population and to get them voting Labour.

Celebrating the Year of the Rat



One of the highlights of Chinese for Labour's 2008 calendar came on 13 February, with our Chinese New Year Dinner celebration at the Phoenix Palace Restaurant.

Organised jointly with the Labour Party, more than 150 guests joined us to welcome the Year of the Rat in style, with a champagne reception, a magnificent banquet and even better company. Guests included Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Acting General Secretary, Chris Lennie and the Deputy Mayor of London, Nicky Gavron AM.

Opening the evening was Chinese for Labour's new patron, the Rt Hon Ian McCartney MP. He spoke of his time as a seaman and of his new role as the UK Commissioner General for the Shanghai Expo 2010.

As with other communities, Chinese families place an extremely high value on a good education for their children so we were pleased to welcome the Rt Hon Jim Knight MP (Minister of State for Schools and Learners) as our main speaker. Jim spoke of the need to build knowledge and cultural understanding between the United Kingdom and China, on the teaching of Mandarin in schools and on the Government's investment in state education. He praised the achievements of Chinese children, and suggested that there might be lessons to be learned from them in order to improve educational attainment across the board.

In the year of the Beijing Olympics, our after dinner speaker was six-time Olympian, Tessa Sanderson CBE. Tessa described her journey to her Olympic Gold in 1984 and proved to be a passionate advocate of the Games. She spoke of the

● Continued on Page 2



London calling

In the run-up to the London elections held on 1 May 2008, Chinese for Labour was able to gain a considerable amount of coverage for Labour's campaign in the Chinese press and ran an active online campaign.

Members distributed a bilingual leaflet showcasing Labour candidates, Labour's policies and a 'how to vote' guide. We ran an active and lively street stall (despite torrential rain!) in Chinatown's Gerrard Street, with the support of Deputy Mayor, Nicky Gavron and Assembly Member Murad Qureshi. We also campaigned in Oriental City in Brent for candidate, Navin Shah and were pleased that he won back the Brent and Harrow seat from the Tories.

Before the election, Ken Livingstone said that: "China is the most dynamic economy in the world and London is the world's most international city. Our city can only benefit from the strongest possible business, economic, tourism and cultural links with China" and has

celebrated the "Chinese community's contribution to the cultural and economic life of our capital".

Ken Livingstone was steadfast in his support of Chinese cultural activities in London including Chinese New Year celebrations in Trafalgar Square and China in London and China Now. He opened offices in Shanghai and Beijing and ensured that business support is provided to Chinese companies wishing to list / set up in London.

Contrast this with Boris Johnson's view that: "Chinese cultural influence is virtually nil, and unlikely to increase". During the campaign, the Tory candidate was considering whether financial support for cultural festivals would be provided under his Mayoralty, and was looking at the closure of the offices in China – putting London's economy at risk.

Unfortunately, whilst Ken was able to increase his vote across the Capital the Tories took the Mayoralty. We will continue to keep a close watch on the activities of the Tory Mayor.

Migration and the Chinese community

The British Government recognises the economic and social value of migration. In its response to the recent House of Lords Committee report on the economic impacts of migration, the Government presented evidence showing that immigration has made a positive contribution to the GDP per capita of people born in the UK. Between mid-2001 and mid-2006, new migration has been estimated to contribute 0.5 per cent per annum growth to the UK economy. Evidence submitted suggests that migrants on average make a stronger net fiscal contribution than those born in the UK. Although there has not been a systematic study highlighting the Chinese community, it can be assumed that, as one of the relatively younger migrant communities, the Chinese community has made a significant contribution towards the British economy as well as enriching the social fabric of our multi-cultural society.

Immigration helps to contribute to the economic success of this country by helping to meet labour and skills shortages in the public and private sectors. Migration has helped to address the mismatch between vacancies and available labour supply. All western governments and industrialised countries realise that their wealth creation depends on generations of migrant labour. The economic success of the USA, Germany, France, Britain etc were built on this, especially after the post war years. However, there is a need to ensure that this migration is managed well and is based on a strong

policy framework which will deter the exploitation of potential migrant workers by unscrupulous employers, recruitment agencies, gangmasters and the criminal fraternity. We have witnessed the tragic consequences of this in our own Chinese community from the Dover 58 and Morecambe Bay events.

Earlier in 2008, as part of a wider policy framework, the Government introduced a points-based system, rather than simple capping, to support a managed migration system. The Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne MP cited that a points-based system will cover twice as many people as a cap, is more flexible to change to meet labour needs and will better benefit employers, the economy and wider society by being



fairer and more transparent to potential migrants as well as those who face labour shortages. He goes on to say: "On average migrants are more likely to be in work, earn more and are therefore more likely to pay more tax, and are a lighter burden on public finances than those born in the UK".

Since the Dover 58 tragedy, Chinese for Labour has raised with successive

ministers and the Labour Government the need for fair, transparent and managed migration policies and programmes. CfL has also called for better inter-governmental working to tackle human trafficking and exploitation, better regulation of recruitment agencies, licensing of gangmasters and measures to tackle exploitation by unscrupulous employers of migrant employees in the UK. CfL also suggested that the Chinese voluntary sector be better resourced to support and advocate for exploited workers and migrants.

Although a points-based system along the lines of those operated in Australia and other countries have worked, its introduction here has revealed a number of difficulties faced by the Chinese community, in particular the Chinese catering industry. The current system sets out a wide range of highly skilled occupations which are needed by the various industrial sectors eg engineers, scientists and doctors/consultants and other professions. Points are accumulated based on qualification, previous earnings, age, skills, English language proficiency and levels of funds being brought in by the potential migrant. This does not address the very real dilemmas of Chinese restaurateurs and owners who require skilled and semi-skilled Chinese speaking workers to ensure that they are able to run their businesses and provide a valued service to their customers. This also does not address the issue of Chinese illegal workers already working in the informal

economy. We have evidence of many Chinese restaurant owners who are in danger of losing chefs and other staff and therefore putting themselves out of business.

Chinese for Labour welcomes the points-based system but is urging the Government to recognise the labour shortages of the Chinese catering industry (alongside other ethnic catering industries) and further to ensure that this system is sufficiently flexible in order that issues highlighted by our sector industry are addressed. This will ensure that we continue to be able to meet this specific labour demand, contribute to the wider economy as well as provide a much enjoyed cuisine to a multi-cultural society. As for the issue of illegal workers already working here, there are convincing arguments and evidence to introduce an earned regularisation/amnesty policy. Several countries such as the USA, Germany, France etc have implemented this successfully for many years. President Bush, presidential candidates Barak Obama and John McCain have all openly supported the continuation of this policy and approach for the United States. In the House of Commons recently, 93 MPs (including 72 Labour MPs) signed an Early Day Motion calling for earned regularisation. Chinese for Labour urge the wider Chinese community and the Chinese media to enter into this debate in order that illegal workers from our community can be brought 'out of the shadows', encouraged to integrate, are accorded better employment rights and protection, continue to contribute to the economy and are free from fear and exploitation.

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華人工黨要求政府正視華人餐飲業勞工短缺實況；對於身在英國的非法勞工，提供就業正規化和特赦等非常措施，讓他們也可以安居樂業，為多元文化社會作出貢獻。

Our New Patron - The Rt Hon Ian McCartney



Ian McCartney was elected to represent the Makerfield Constituency in 1987. In 2007 he celebrates 20 years as a Member of Parliament. In September 2007, Ian was appointed Commissioner General for the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and is the Prime Minister's personal representative on the Socialist International.

Born in 1951, Ian had a number of jobs after leaving school, including working as a seaman and a local government manual worker. He was a councillor for Wigan Borough from 1982-87.

In his previous role at the Cabinet Office, Mr McCartney was responsible for modernising government and E-government. He was also responsible for the co-ordination of the 2002 Commonwealth Games drugs policy and the Better Government for Older People initiative. This was launched in June 1998 to improve public services for older people by listening to their needs on wide ranging issues including, access to benefits, health, housing and transport.

Ian has held several senior ministerial posts, was Labour Party Chair and Chair of the National Policy Forum. We are very pleased that he has agreed to be our Patron.

Ian is married with one son (Hugh, who died tragically in 1999), two daughters and nine grandchildren. He is a keen supporter of Wigan Warriors Rugby League Football Club.

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opportunities that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games bring to the country and the young people in East London specifically.

We would like to express our thanks to the Labour Party, trade union, community (especially Michael Leahy OBE and Joe Mann), local MP, Karen Buck, Raymond Siu (proprietor of Phoenix Palace) the retailers, Wing Yip (W Wing Yip) and Stanley KT Tse (See Woo Foods) and One Charter for their support of this event.

Look out for details of our Chinese New Year Dinner (February 2009) to welcome the Year of the Ox. Please get in touch if you are interested in attending – it will be an event not to be missed!

Labour Party Annual Conference



Its Annual Conference is the main event in Labour's political calendar and a crucial part of our policy making process. This is an opportunity for delegates to find out and debate the big policy challenges facing Britain in depth, today and in the future.

Held every autumn, Labour's Annual Conference is one of the largest political events in Europe. The 2007 conference was held in Bournemouth from 23-27th September.

After ten years delivering the Monday speech, Gordon Brown finally gets his opportunity to lead the Labour party through the conference season.

Expectations are high for his debut performance as prime minister, with Mr Brown still fleshing out his policy agenda for the upcoming parliamentary term.

Commentators have even been speculating that Mr Brown may use his conference speech to call an early general election and announce a polling date in October. Of course that proved to be unfounded. Instead, the prime minister's main commitments cover issues on education, family, health and social care, employment, housing, crime, environment and foreign policy.

The Labour Party Annual Conference 2008 will take place in Manchester from Saturday 20th September, concluding on Wednesday 24th September. Chinese for Labour will be holding a reception at Conference on Sunday 21st September. Please contact us for further details.



All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

All-party groups are regarded as relatively informal compared with other cross-party bodies such as select committees of the House. The membership of all-party groups mainly comprises backbench Members of the House of Commons and Lords but may also include ministers and non-parliamentarians. There are two main APPGs with Chinese links:

All-Party Parliamentary China Group – To conduct a dialogue with the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong) and to assist in the development of all aspects of the UK-China bilateral relationship including trade and investment and cultural exchange. In particular to facilitate exchanges with the People's Congress in China on the basis of the MoU signed between the China-UK Friendship Group and the All-Party Group. To develop dialogue with the ambassador and embassy staff in London and to engage with the Chinese community in the UK.

Contact details: Mr Ben Chapman MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 6917

Chinese in Britain All-Party Parliamentary Group – To promote the interests of the Chinese community in Britain within parliament.

Contact details: Mr Andrew Dismore MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 4408.

Shanghai Expo 2010 – 'Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand'

Confucius – Chinese philosopher

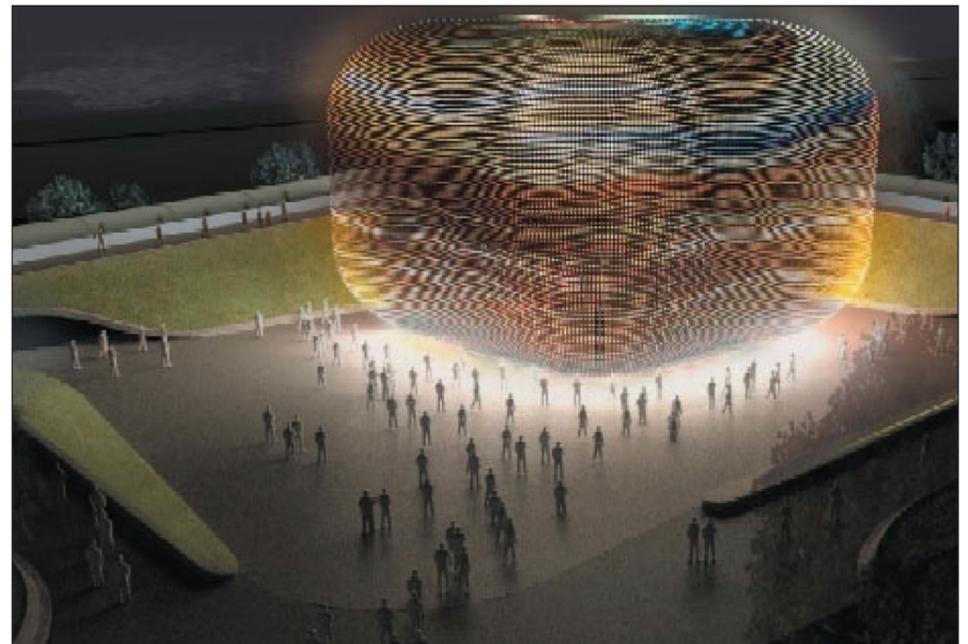


“Shanghai Expo 2010 will be an important and exciting event, which will capture the imagination of the international community. The UK presence will highlight British creativity, diversity and innovation, underpinned by the values of a dynamic, knowledge-based economy based on the principles of sustainable development.” Prime Minister Tony Blair, writing to Premier Wen Jiabao, 4 August 2006.

Every World Expo is unique. But the Shanghai Expo will be the most spectacular the world has seen – the first time an Expo has been held in a developing country. Shanghai 2010 will be the commercial, technological and cultural Olympics of 2010. It will be four times the size of the 2005 World Expo in Aichi Japan. 2010 will be a critical time for many decision makers and organisations as the demands and challenges of the present are viewed and explored alongside the technologies and opportunities of the future. The full scope of that innovation, creativity and enterprise will be on show over the 184 days of the World Expo in Shanghai, from May 1st to October 31st 2010.

Heatherwick Studio, leading a team that includes designer Casson Mann, structural engineer Adams Kara Taylor and technology engineer Atelier Ten won the competition to design the UK pavilion for Shanghai Expo in 2010.

A jury chaired by Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham, Trade and Investment Minister, and featuring CABI Chair John Sorrell and architects Nicholas Grimshaw



and David Adjaye selected the Heatherwick concept from a strong field of six shortlisted designs.

The British contribution to the Expo theme: Better City, Better Life. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is overseeing the United Kingdom's presence for the Expo in Shanghai.

According to the United Nations, the pace of urbanisation across the world will remain very rapid over the next 20 years. Meeting the challenges of urbanisation will require a holistic approach, encompassing issues of quality of life, competitiveness, governance and environmental and

financial sustainability.

Britain has extraordinary cultural and creative strengths, which infuse our industries and our national identity. The design industry will be central to British economic development in the 21st century.

Expo 2010 provides a platform on which to engage hundreds of thousands of visitors in a conversation about contemporary British identity, the UK's relationship with China, the common global challenges that face us, and the opportunities they present for mutual growth and advancement.

2010上海博覽會

上任英國首相貝理雅2006年8月4日致中國總理溫家寶提到2010上海博覽會將會是全球觸目，迸發國際社會無限想像力的博覽會。英國的參與更會突出其基於持續發展、著重動力和知識型經濟基礎發揮出來的創意、發明、與及多元化。

每一個博覽會都有其獨特風格。但上海博覽會將會獨樹一幟，成為在發展中國家主辦的先河。除了被譽為商業、科技、文化的2010奧林匹克外；上博更比2005日本愛知世博規模大四倍。上海世博勢將成為全球決策者和機構瞻前顧後的分水嶺，由5月1日至10月31日內

Executive Committee Members 2007/2008

Ashton McGregor

Ashton McGregor, 31, is a public sector consultant. He is currently overseeing several projects to reduce health inequalities, but in the past his work has included Olympic security planning, bringing back neighbourhood policing to London, reducing police bureaucracy and improving services for victims of crime. A former Labour councillor in Tower Hamlets, Ashton has sat on a number of local and national housing and regeneration bodies. He hails from the north of England.

Sonny Leong

Sonny Leong is a Vice Chair of Chinese for Labour and a member of the Labour Party 1000 Club. He was Executive Chairman of a publishing company, and grew it to be the largest independent academic law publisher in the UK before selling the business in 2006 to pursue his private aviation business. He is currently Chairman of a public listed private aviation business and a non executive Director of several companies. He is the Ambassador for Help the Aged, and assists in promoting their policies to ministers, MPs and peers. Sonny is a very resourceful and energetic member. He has initiated a number of issues, such as the CfL Membership Strategy, and has begun setting out the process of establishing a closer link with the Parliamentary Labour Party. He has also

taken on the responsibility for publishing the CfL Newsletter and managing its website.

Mee Ling Ng, OBE

Mee Ling is the other Vice Chair of CfL. Mee Ling was the Founder Chair of CfL, leading us with distinction and success until pressure of work forced her to relinquish her Chairmanship. Under her leadership as Chair, CfL has gained recognition in the Chinese Community and in the Labour Party.

Mee Ling was a Councillor in the London Borough of Lewisham for 16 years and was Deputy Leader of the Council for a number of years. Currently, she is the Chair of Southwark Primary Care Trust, a position she has held for a number of years.

In recognition of her services to the Chinese Community and to the wider community, Mee Ling was awarded an OBE in last year's Queen's Honours List.

Stephen Lui Nam Ng

Stephen is also founder of CfL and long serving member of Islington Chinese Association, and has given a lot of his time and effort to these organisations. He is one of the key members of CfL and is currently its Media Officer. He is a dedicated Trustee of Islington Chinese Association and the Great Wall Society Home for Elderly

Chinese People. He works tirelessly for the Chinese community in various capacities. Stephen was joint winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Community Volunteering Award in 2005.

Peter Ton-That

Peter joined CfL at the AGM in 2007. He is the Secretary of CfL and has already contributed much of his time to CfL since he joined. Peter works as a project manager at JP Morgan and has experience in financial services. He is also an active member in the Labour Party in Tower Hamlets and Vice Chair of LienViet, a housing association which provides housing mainly for Chinese and Vietnamese. Peter ran the London Marathon in 2004 and is keen on sport, including tennis. He stood for the Council election in Tower Hamlets in 2006.

Soon Hoe Teh

Teh is the Treasurer and Membership Secretary of CfL. Teh was a Councillor in Barnet from 2002 to 2006 and has also been a Non-Executive Director of Barnet Primary Care Trust. Teh has now retired from these activities.

Lady Katy Tse Blair

Katy is one of the Founders of Chinese for Labour and Islington Chinese Association. Katy is a member of the Executive Committee of CfL and

her contribution to the Committee is much appreciated. She is very committed to helping and improving the life of Chinese people in the community. She works tirelessly to ensure that Islington Chinese Association serves the local people well. ICA is one of the most successful Chinese associations, providing advice, care and a pleasant environment for the local Chinese community, enabling them to get together every day. Katy's experience of working with the community is of particular value to Chinese for Labour. Other than being a trustee on various community and voluntary organisations, Katy was a Non-Executive Director with the Islington Primary Care Trust.

Tai Lau

Tai re-joined Chinese for Labour at the AGM in 2007 and is a member of the Executive Committee. He is committed to raising the Chinese profile in UK politics. Tai is an architect and currently involved in urban regeneration and social housing projects. Tai has many interests in the wider community. He is an assessor of the London Art Lottery and a member of Islington Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the London Equal Opportunity Federation and an advisor to Islington Chinese Association. Tai brings with him a vast experience of community affairs and has much to contribute to CfL.

Come on, join us

Chinese for Labour membership supports and promotes the values and principles of the Labour Party in order to improve the quality of life of the Chinese community in Britain.

The Labour Party is a democratic socialist party. It believes that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone, so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunities are in the hands of the many not the few, where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe, and where we live together, freely, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect.

工党的理想

工党是个民主社会主义政党。它致力于为全体人民创造一个新社会。在这个新社会里，权力、财富和机遇是掌握在大众手里而不是被一小撮人所操纵；人们在享有权利的同时也承担与其所享权利相符的义务；人们以团结、忍让和互相尊重的精神自由地共同生活。与此同时它亦致力于为社会的一份子创造条件以便发挥其真正潜能。为了实现理想，它坚信若以团体力量共同奋斗所取得的成就将远胜于由个人去单独争取。



Membership Application Form

Yes. I wish to join Chinese for Labour

Personal details

Title	Surname
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Forenames	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
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Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Date of birth: _____

Home Tel No: _____ Mobile No: _____

Trade Union (optional): _____ Occupation: _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership & Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisation
Individual Membership £10.00	Name of organisation (if applicable) _____
Unemployed/student/ over 60 years £5.00	Organisation £30.00

Methods of Payment

By Cheque: Please make cheque payable to **Chinese for Labour**.

By Standing Order: Please complete the Form on the next page.

Declaration: I/My Organisation am/is (delete as appropriate) not a member of any other Political Party or Political Organisation.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please send the completed Application Form to:

Chinese for Labour, PO Box 49080, London N11 9AA.

www.chineseforlabour.org.uk

info@chineseforlabour.org.uk

New Standing Order Mandate/Authority

To: _____ Bank Plc

Branch: _____

Account Name: _____

Account No: _____

Sort Code: _____

Please accept this as my/our instruction to pay to the following account:

Payee: **Chinese for Labour**

Bank: The Co-Operative Bank, Plc

Customer Services

PO Box 250

Skelmersdale

WN8 6WT

Account: 65049637

Sort Code: 08-92-99

The sum of (Please tick one only)

<input type="checkbox"/> £5	<input type="checkbox"/> £10	<input type="checkbox"/> £30
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ANNUALLY commencing on the _____ 2008

and please continue such payments annually until further notice.

Customer(s) Signature(s): _____

Date: _____ 2008

Contact Telephone No: _____