



XFBF Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Annual Report

March 2010

Welcome members to the first XFBF AGM and the very first XFBF Annual Report.

Started in 2006 by ex-pat's living and working in Xi'an the XFBF provides the social and business link for the Xi'an ex-pat community. XFBF members represent the major industries in Xi'an and around Shaanxi Province, from agriculture to aerospace to education. Our forum represents the largest foreign group in Xi'an.

XFBF is here to support families, individuals, and foreign enterprises. By bringing together a broad spectrum of the foreign community in Xi'an and also as a bridge to local government, XFBF is playing an increasingly important role within the city and province.

Acknowledgements

It's been a very busy 1 & ½ years since taking over as the President of the XFBF. I would like to start by offering my sincere thanks to the hard work of the XFBF Committee. The members of the XFBF Committee go largely unnoticed and very much unrewarded. The committee has worked hard to establish the XFBF as a body of relevance within the Xi'an foreign community as well as at a local government level. The XFBF Committee:

- Patrick Antony (Secretary) USA
- Tatjana Wright Austria
- Rene Tobler Switzerland
- Pierre Eloy Belgium
- Yasuo Kitajima Japan
- Megan Carey USA

I would like to thank those members of the XFBF that have helped with functions and activities over the past 18 months. Our thanks to Angela Jia and the finance team at GlobalHort who have provided a great deal of administrative support as well as the accounting support for the XFBF.

Finally, a very big thank you to the hotels, enterprises and venues that have supported and sponsored XFBF functions.

Achievements

A big focus over the past 18 months has been to bring some structure and process to the XFBF with a strong committee and regular committee meetings. A strong committee helps to ensure a good programme and planning for the XFBF. Some notable achievements over the past 18 months by the

committee have been:

1. A high quality programme of regular social gatherings every two months at leading international hotels in Xi'an, including:
 - a. Family Easter with the Golden Flower Hotel.
 - b. Annual Halloween function with the Sheraton Hotel.
 - c. Annual Oktoberfest with the Sofitel Hotel.
 - d. Annual Christmas event with Shangri La Hotel.
 - e. Annual Summer Evening & BBQ with the Kempinski Hotel.
2. Establishment of the *Mo Ma Da Club* – the XFBF Business Networking function. These events are purely about business networking and an opportunity to bring in local government and relationships during an informative evening/dinner function with a guest speaker.
3. Bringing XFBF online with the XFBF website.
4. The XFBF Newsletter with regular updates from the President & committee.
5. Building a channel for engagement with Xi'an & Shaanxi Government on issues important to XFBF including schooling and health.
6. Introduction of a membership fee model to help support the XFBF programme.
7. Introduction of XFBF members benefits with local enterprises.
8. Building a link between XFBF and other like foreign bodies around China such as foreign chambers of commerce.
9. Supporting local charities and non-governmental organizations.
10. Establishing a part time secretary role to help support and coordinate XFBF activities - currently filled by Patrick Antony.
11. Developing the XFBF Constitution.

Finances

XFBF is a non-profit organisation and collects funds from membership fees and functions in order to help support the XFBF programme and activities. As at Thursday 4th March 2010 the current account for XFBF is RMB44,238.55.



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Going Forward

It is important for the foreign community in Xi'an to have a strong and thriving expat body/association that is able to bring expats together in a social and family environment as well as represent expats to local government. This is critical not only for individuals but also for foreign enterprises.

The XFBF was initially established to provide social gatherings for the wider expat community involved in businesses in the city. The XFBF has naturally transformed and evolved to become a body of even more relevance to both expats and foreign enterprises in Xi'an. Importantly the XFBF has received recognition from local government as a representative body for foreign enterprises in Xi'an – meaning better opportunities for engagement with government on key issues on behalf of expats and foreign enterprises.

In order for the XFBF to continue to grow and better support the expats and foreign enterprises in the Xi'an and Shaanxi community high caliber people are needed to participate in the XFBF either through active membership or on the committee. The nature of expat communities means that there is a naturally high turnover of people and so "new talent" is constantly required to keep bodies such as XFBF relevant and active.

As this is the first XFBF AGM, this is the first real opportunity to open the committee for election from the expat community. All committee positions will be open for election, including that of the President. Nominations will be able to be received at the AGM. All persons standing for election will be required to be present at the AGM and give a 3 minute introduction of themselves at the AGM. Current XFBF members only will be entitled to cast their vote at the AGM. Members unable to attend may designate a proxy in writing to cast their vote on their behalf.

The following positions are open for election:

- XFBF President
- XFBF Committee x 6

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2010 you will be able to do so prior to the commencement of the AGM.

Final words from the President

As President of XFBF it has been my pleasure to have been able to lead the XFBF for the past 1 & ½ years and to experience and effect first-hand the changes that have

taken place within the forum.

As President of Global Horticulture (Xi'an) Limited I have always had a strong belief in the need for the leaders and members of foreign enterprises in Xi'an to play a prominent role in the XFBF in order to ensure the foreign community in Xi'an and Shaanxi has a strong sense of "community" and to build a platform for engagement with local government for expats and foreign enterprises alike.

The next 12 months will be exciting for the XFBF as we look to increase the variety of functions and activities for our members as well as continue to develop our relationships with enterprises and government.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 18 months and look forward to seeing you at future events.

If you'd like to find out more about XFBF or you would like to become involved do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members. You can find a complete list of contact details and information at our website.

www.xianfbf.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick', is located below the website URL.

Patrick Watene
President, XFBF
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