

**1950-2025**

**75 Years of Finland-China Diplomatic Relations**

**Beijing Reception**

**October 15, 2025**

**Opening words by Ambassador Mikko Kinnunen**



Permanent State Secretary, Mr. Jukka Salovaara,

Your Excellency, Honourable Assistant Minister, Mr. Hong Lei,

Excellencies, Dear Guests, Friends,

Welcome – thank you all for joining us tonight to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Finland and the People's Republic of China. The exact date was 28 October 1950.

For Finland, after the heavy period of the World War II, 1950's was the decade of new beginning. 1952 Summer Olympics held in Helsinki were a particular highlight, including historic participation of Chinese athletes. The period of shortage was finally over in Finland in 1954, when government ended rationing of coffee. Confidence and self-esteem increased.

During the 1950's Finland and China reached several milestones. It was a special decade in our relations. However, development of societies or development of relations between two countries is not linear nor predetermined. There are ups and downs, relations are influenced by the two countries concerned as well as by several external factors. (In 1963 the activities and the state of bilateral relations was assessed positively – whereas the next year the frustrated Finnish ambassador in Beijing concluded in his report that “nothing happened”, “relations were non-existent in 1964”.)

As the 18<sup>th</sup> Finland's ambassador residing in this building, I am particularly happy to welcome you to the beautiful Garden and the Residence of Finland. In the beginning of our diplomatic relations, Prime Minister Zhou Enlai allocated this land and this building to Finland. These premises have witnessed Finland's relations with China, hosted many important discussions and events. All the last five Finnish presidents have visited here, including President Alexander Stubb during the state visit one year ago.

I am happy to see here tonight Chinese colleagues who have frequented Finland's residence for over 50 years, since 1970s and 1980s – and actively continue to do so! I

am similarly delighted to acknowledge presence of young Finnish people studying at Chinese universities – they represent future!

Dear Guests,

Strong commercial and economic cooperation has been the key element in Finnish Chinese relations from the very beginning. It creates ties between our countries and benefits people both in Finland and in China. I am most grateful for FinnChamBeijing and our corporate partners for enabling tonight's celebration. Finnish companies, their employees and their partners are well presented here. I thank all my colleagues at the Embassy and at the Residence responsible for preparations of this remarkable celebration.

Thank you.