

## Foreword



HOUSE OF LORDS  
LONDON SW1A 0PW

Lord Chan



There is no argument that China is experiencing the most exciting period of change in its long history, a transformation that is at a mind boggling pace. Britain and Liverpool in particular have long enjoyed a close relationship with China, and certainly with Shanghai; both cities are major seaports of worldwide renown and also share so many other striking and similar characteristics. The construction of the Chinese Arch in Liverpool's famous China Town is a celebration of those ties and a symbol of the civic and cultural links that have forged even more permanent friendships from those that reach back into the mists of time.

It is also exciting that increasingly Chinese students are now choosing to study in the UK, and in Liverpool at the city's distinguished higher education academic institutions. In fact, Chinese students now form the largest, single group of foreign students in the UK.

The Chinese community in Liverpool – and in Britain – has shared in each other's talents and ambitions for several generations and these new student links will ensure that there are even more lasting friendships in their future professional lives. And it is an extremely positive aspect of the relationship between the two countries that so many UK students are keen to learn about China.

As chairman of the Chinese in Britain Forum, a national body, I am aware that the UK Chinese community, mainly made up of British citizens, is very pleased with the strengthening of ties between the UK and the People's Republic of China.

The twinning of Shanghai and Liverpool is one of the most significant aspects of that friendship between our two nations. However, the Sino-British relationship is much more than a political vehicle. Its power comes equally from the cultural and academic fields just as much as from trade and investment.

I am sure that Liverpool and Shanghai will continue to enjoy enormous benefits from this twinning. We are all the better for that relationship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Chan'.

Michael Chan, Lord Chan of Oxton

A decorative horizontal flourish or underline consisting of a single, elegant, curved line.