

# Anti-corruption course fosters closer ties with China

By Nick Pedley.

Relations with Chinese authorities continue to build with Federal Agent David Wildman, senior liaison officer at the AFP's Hong Kong office, being invited to participate in the four-week Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Chief Investigators Command Course that began in mid October.

The course, held in mid October, included 30 representatives from a number of Asian nations and Australia, and included a one-week study tour in the north-eastern Chinese Province of Jilin.

"There were anti-corruption investigators from NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia and the Australian Customs Service, but there was also a strong international presence with representatives from a range of



Federal Agent David Wildman visited Heavenly Lake in China's border with North Korea as part of a month long anti-corruption course.

anti-corruption agencies across the region including Brunei, Macau and Singapore," Federal Agent Wildman said.

"This was an excellent opportunity for the AFP to forge closer links with corruption investigators across the East Asia region, while also taking part in meetings and discussions with senior Chinese authorities relating to corruption investigations."

The anti-corruption course began in Hong Kong on 16 October. The first two weeks were devoted to leadership and management lectures and discussions, including three days

with the Australian Institute of Police Management's Director of Academic Programs, Tom Rogers. There were also outdoor exercises, canoeing and study tours of the Anti-Corruption Commission and security at the Sands Casino in Macau.

On 29 October, the course members travelled to the north-east China, Jilin, via Beijing to the city of Changchun. The delegation was hosted by the Jilin Provincial People's Procuratorate which performs high-level investigations. Meetings were also hosted by Supreme Court prosecutors and the Public Security Bureau in Jilin. The trip to Jilin gave



Federal Agent David Wildman with other course participants from Macau Anti-Corruption Commission, Hong Kong Police, Hong Kong ICAC and an officer from the Jilin Peoples' Procuratorate.



international investigators an insight into the different police, investigation and judicial systems which operate across China. The delegation also had a study focus on the areas of tourism, foreign investment and environmental protection.

"China is working to bring consistency to the judiciary and to implement more uniformity to the rulings and decisions handed down throughout the country. Like many places, Jilin province has different tiers of court systems at the primary or local levels, the provincial level and at the Supreme Court level," Federal Agent Wildman said.



Jilin is a diverse province which includes heavy industry such as major car manufacturers "FAW-Volkswagon" where the latest model Audi A6s are being manufactured while only a few hours away there are villages which still depend on the horse-and-cart for transportation and farming. The trip included an opportunity to buy frogs in a roadside market and sample eggs boiled in a natural spring with a temperature of 85 degrees on the side of a mountain where the outside temperature was well below zero.

The delegation was also granted the privilege of visiting Heavenly Lake near the border with North Korea reaching the remote area using a fleet of four-wheel drive vehicles.

"We went at a time when it's notoriously difficult to get through to the lake due to the snow and wintry conditions. But we not only got through, we were treated to a great day and could see everything. The locals told me it's good luck to see the lake on a clear day."

Federal Agent Wildman said this type of treatment was normally only provided by Chinese authorities to very senior officials. He said the AFP's

Eggs cooked in thermal springs in a remote area of Jilin Province provide a welcome snack and a chance to warm up.

inclusion in this delegation was a small, but significant, milestone in the AFP's ongoing relationship with Chinese authorities. On returning to Hong Kong, the course members were again treated to a range of presentations from well respected and senior leaders from a diverse cross section of the law enforcement community. These included, the Chief Operating Officer of Cathay Pacific, a former member of the Deputy National Peoples' Congress of China, a Hong Kong Executive Council member, a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council and a former Brigadier who commanded an armoured brigade in the First Gulf War. Federal Agent Wildman said it wasn't all touring and lectures, at the end of the course, his team focused on the effects of corruption on foreign investment decisions in a thesis and presentation. The study drew conclusions based on a comparative study of corruption laws in China, other Asian nations, Australia, as well as international conventions including the recent impact of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. The study of foreign investment infrastructure and the Chinese police, investigation and judicial systems in Jilin, formed a significant part of the syndicate's work.