



Last Week in the Pacific: 44 Years of Relations with Vanuatu, Subnational Diplomacy, and Education Engagement

Summary of PRC Activity

Last week, Chinese diplomatic activity spanned development outreach, subnational engagement, and education diplomacy. In Vanuatu, the embassy celebrated the 44th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Across the region, Chinese diplomats pursued subnational ties through development projects and donations. Education diplomacy maintained its elevated tempo across the Pacific.

This Week's Big Themes:

44 Years: China as a Model Partner in Vanuatu

China used the 44th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Vanuatu to concentrate several diplomatic events in a single week. On 26 March, the embassy and Vanuatu's Parliament co-hosted an anniversary reception. The President, Prime Minister, and Speaker of the Parliament attended, along with roughly 100 guests. Ambassador Li Minggang published an article marking the anniversary in the *Daily Post*.

Earlier in the week, Li handed over equipment and supplies to the Vanuatu Police Force, framing the delivery as a "new starting point" for law enforcement and security cooperation. On 20 March, Li and Health Minister Qetu signed an agreement adding two members to China's medical team in Vanuatu

Supporting Events

- **Vanuatu:** [Reception for 44th Anniversary](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Ambassador's Article in the Daily Post](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Handover of Police Supplies](#)
- **Vanuatu:** [Agreement on Medical Team Expansion](#)

Development and Subnational Outreach

**The PRC Pacific Embassies Monitor provides systematic, open-source tracking of Beijing's public diplomatic activities across the nine Pacific Island Countries hosting Chinese missions. The monitor captures official embassy social media and website posts, supplemented by local sources, to offer a weekly structured intelligence report that bridges critical information gaps on regional engagement*

Ambassador's Corner:

China's Special Envoy for Pacific Island Countries Affairs, Qian Bo, met with Fiji's Prime Minister Rabuka last week.

Qian served as China's Ambassador to Fiji before Beijing appointed him as the first Special Envoy.

The role itself signals how seriously Beijing treats Pacific Island relations--China reserves special envoys for strategically important areas or issues, such as the Korean Peninsula.

Qian's meeting with Rabuka comes as Fiji tries to balance its ties between China and traditional partners.

Chinese diplomats advanced development projects and subnational ties across several countries last week. In the Solomon Islands, Chargé d'Affaires Yang Jie attended a ceremony where Fujian Province donated 40 outboard motors to Western Province under their sister-province relationship. A delegation from Liaocheng University—home of the China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Action Cooperation Center—also visited Western Province, led by the center’s Executive Deputy, Chen Dezheng. In Kiribati, Chargé d'Affaires Zhao Jian and representatives from China Civil Engineering Construction Company visited Buota village, donating school and sports supplies to a local elementary school and rice and cooking oil to households. In Tonga, Ambassador Liu Weimin marked the completion of an embassy-funded renovation of a community hall.

Supporting Events

- **Solomon Islands:** [Handover of 40 Outboard Motors](#)
- **Solomon Islands:** [Liaocheng University Delegation Visits Western Province](#)
- **Kiribati:** [Zhao Jian Visits Buota Village with CCECC](#)
- **Tonga:** [Handover of Renovated Community Hall](#)



PRC Ambassador to Vanuatu speaks at 44th anniversary reception. (Source: PRC Embassy in Vanuatu)

Education Diplomacy

Education diplomacy maintained its pace across the Pacific last week. In Kiribati, Zhao Jian visited a local elementary school in Buota Village, as noted above. In Tonga, Counsellor Ruan Dewen visited Lavengamalie Christian Elementary School to explore “smart education” improvements—his sixth visit to a school in recent weeks. Ruan also attended a Tonga China Alumni Association gathering where Ambassador Liu Weimin delivered remarks. In the Federated States of Micronesia, embassy staff presented medals to junior athletes at the closing ceremony of an elementary school soccer league.

Supporting Events

- **Kiribati:** [Zhao Jian Visits Buota Village with CCECC](#)
- **Tonga:** [Ruan Dewen Visits Elementary School](#)
- **Tonga:** [Gathering with the Tonga China Alumni Association](#)
- **FSM:** [Embassy Attends Youth Soccer Leagues Closing Ceremony](#)