Professor Deng Dasong, Professor Zhang Xiaotong, Associate Professor, School of Political Science and Public Administration, were pleasantly surprised during the roundtable held with IIR staff to hear of the various ways in which China was featuring in their current research work, from a simple appreciation of Chinese gastronomy, to how China was utilising its diplomacy to advance its foreign policy objectives and national development, the possibilities of China as an alternative hegemony within the Latin American and Caribbean region, to the contributions of new Chinese migrants to the region.

Discussions were held to further the possibilities of collaboration under the newly signed MOU. Amongst these were-reciprocal academic visits to Wuhan and IIR, UWI of scholars, joint research and development projects, co-sponsorship and planning of international conferences, seminars, workshops, development of joint book projects, including translation of books written by Caribbean academics into Chinese for dissemination across China, short student exchange educational programmes,-research internships, development of a joint Wuhan/IIR research forum/centre utilizing joomla software for virtual collaboration, senior scholars as Visiting Fellows and participation of Wuhan teaching staff in the Diplomatic Academy within IIR.

The IIR staff had the pleasure of hosting Professor Deng Dasong, Professor Zhang Xiaotong and the two other members of the delegation, Professor You Chuanming and Professor Yan Shuangwu, Vice dean of the School, later that evening at the Shanghai Experience in MovieTowne along with associates of the IIR and members of the Chinese Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago; where our guests were treated to a sumptuous encounter with Chinese gastronomy, 'Trini' style.