

21st Century Journey: Chinese Humanism

Welcome to an exceptional evening of Chinese and Western cultural performing arts. It is significant that the World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention is held outside of Asia for the first time. This is symbolic of the fact that the Chinese Entrepreneurs network is not only inter-regional but international as well. For the last three days, you have all celebrated the success of the Chinese Entrepreneurs. You have learned a great deal more, not only of information technology's impact on all of us, but also of the ever-growing World Chinese Entrepreneurs' network. Indeed, John Naisbitt, has pointed out, "the world is moving from a collection of nation states to a collection of networks." The Chinese entrepreneurs promote mutual respect, cultural exchange and networking, and learning from each other and the world. The overseas Chinese economy alone, before the inclusion of China's economy, is the third largest economy in the world, and it is borderless. The significance of the Chinese entrepreneurs is ever increasing as the economies of the world progressively move from government controlled to market-driven.

The diaspora of the Chinese entrepreneurs throughout the world is well recognised. Our ability to cultural adaptation is a critical aspect of our success and must not be overlooked. The symbiotic relationships have been of mutual advantage to both the Chinese and the differing "host" communities and countries in which the Chinese have resided.

At this convention, we witness 1,400 successful Chinese entrepreneurs and community leaders and delegates from 23 countries and diverse socio-economies. I know many of us think of ourselves as Chinese Confucian entrepreneurs. But regardless of our orientation, Chinese entrepreneurs have always emphasized ethics and human relationships. I think you will all agree that the common principles we believe in include: loyalty to friends and family, trust, commitment to hard work, education and intellectual development, better health care and a strong commitment to our young. Therefore, we have always tried very hard to contribute towards a progressive future for the generations to come. Our ability to be flexible and our ability to accept different points of view, for the promotion of mutual respect and harmony, has attributed again, to our continued success.

In the future, the common thread that will be significant for our continued success well into the 21st Century, in my view, is "Chinese Humanism". Humanship means the promotion of the best values of the Chinese and the rest of world's best values for symbiotic co-existence. This will include all aspects of humanity from both the arts and sciences. The Chinese reality has been one of diaspora, symbiosis and humanism.

What we, as a group, have to offer is our entrepreneurial spirit and capabilities, rich cultural inheritance, networking skills and indeed our broad networks throughout the world. Western information technology has already helped us significantly in our development. Two shining examples are the Hong Kong and Singaporean economies which are in the forefront of information technology applications. Another valuable contribution of the West is that it

has enabled us to make use of the market in a strongly competitive way. Our exposure to Western philosophies and the arts have also enriched us. Indeed, the exchange between East and West enriches everyone, and the acceptance of multiculturalism and the celebration of its diversities, such as in countries like Canada, leads us to the realization that one's view of how the universe operates is not the only one. This realization is both enlightening and liberating. World peace will be attained only when cultures learn from each other.

Tonight we have before us, performances in Chinese and Western performing arts by artists who are all Canadians of Chinese ancestry. They are living examples of the benefits of multiculturalism. Their mastery of musical instruments, songs and dances of different cultures will enliven your senses. The arts invigorates our intellect, uplifts our spirits and expands our appreciation of humanity.