

ANNUAL REPORT (1998-1999)

Time flies. It has now been a year since we have been elected at the last AGM. It gives me great pleasure to report on what we have done and achieved.

HKUAA (ONTARIO) CHINESE CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD FUND

In following its alma mater's tradition as a great learning institution, our Association aims to promote better understanding and closer ties among people, nations and cultures through learning about each other. Ontario is an increasingly diverse community. The Chinese-Canadian population is growing fast. It is important therefore to create a good understanding of the Chinese culture among citizens, not only to recognize heritage and build racial harmony, but also to develop a vision and capacity to effectively respond to the challenges of a multi-cultural society.



We have decided to, and have now, set up the Chinese Cultural Heritage Award Fund whose mandate is to sponsor or award post-secondary students and graduates (irrespective of age, race and nationality) to promote and/or pursue Chinese culture and heritage.

The setting up of this Award Fund was prompted by Dr. Dexter MAN Hung Cho, a renowned philanthropist and a HKU alumni.

Gala Premiere of "City of Glass"

In order to raise funds for the Award Fund, we challenged ourselves and succeeded in organizing on November 29, 1998 a Gala Premiere of the film "City of Glass". Directed by Ms. Yuen-ting CHEUNG, another HKU alumni, and starred by Leon LAI and SHU Ki, the film is set against the back drop of Lady Ho Tung Hall. The film maker managed to make the film before the old building was demolished and rebuilt. We believe this is first of its kind for fund raising among the Chinese community in the Greater Toronto Area.

We are honoured and flattered to have tremendous support from the sponsors, media, alumni and friends. Because of the overwhelming response, we actually had to arrange two seatings with more than 400 viewers attending the Gala. We have also put together and published a souvenir book for the Gala and held an exhibition displaying many valuable photographs on the past of HKU and other memorable sites in Hong Kong.

At the Gala, our Guests of Honour, Mr. Zhou Xingbao, Chinese Consul General, and Mr. Donald C.K. Tong, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, also officiated the setting up ceremony of the Chinese Cultural Heritage Award Fund. With the generous support from all quarters, we managed to raise more than \$8,000 for the Fund.



Scholarship & Assistance to Ontario Inter-Collegiate Chinese Debate Competition

The very first award given out by the Award Fund was to the winners of this Competition. This event is organized among all the universities and tertiary institutions in Ontario to promote social and academic exchange amongst Chinese students through the art of Chinese debate. The awards were presented after their finals on January 24, 1999.



In addition to sponsoring a scholarship for each of the winning teams, we have offered assistance through various directors acting as adjudicators for the Competition.

Scholarship with International Student Exchange Program, University of Toronto

With the moneys raised at the Gala, a significant donation from Dr. Man and other donations, we are proud to be able to set up a permanent scholarship in the name of HKUAA (Ontario) Chinese Cultural Heritage Award Fund to be awarded to University of Toronto students who are to participate in its International Student Exchange Program with University of Hong Kong or Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Our Association will be represented in the selection process. The size of the scholarship will be around \$2,000 each year sufficient to make two awards with at least one to be given to student studying at HKU. The 1st award is in the sum of C\$1,000 to be awarded to Ms. Zenia Kish who will begin her studies in Hong Kong in the fall of 1999. Ms. Kish will take, amongst other courses, a course titled "Hong Kong Culture: popular culture" and a non-credit intensive Mandarin language course for English students. We wish her every success. This scholarship will be presented in the upcoming AGM in June 1999.

Future Development

We believe that this will not be the end to this Award Fund and we look forward to receiving your continual support and suggestion.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Chinese Essay Competition

Our Association jointly organized the competition with the Toronto Chinese Writers' Association and Chinese Cultural Centre. We sponsored the awards to the winners of the competition and the prizes were presented on October 3, 1998.

Student Travel Award for HKU students

This Award was made available to full time HKU students with a view to promoting the idea of education through travel. This year, the award was made in April 1999 to Ms. Maggie FUNG Ka Ying, a 3rd year student to travel to Ghana, West Africa.

FUNCTIONS

Annual General Meeting 1998

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 7, 1998 at the Mandarin Restaurant when the new board of directors were elected. Professor Eric Fong of University of Toronto enlightened the meeting on his recent research on the ethnic economy of various ethnic groups in Canada. Other guests included Mr. Donald Tong, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office and Mr. Peter Li and Ms. Eliza Lai, president & vice-president of the Federation of Alumni Associations of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Summer Function to Meet Visitors from HKU

We were honoured to have been visited by Professor CHENG Kai Ming, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of HKU, Ms. Bernadette TSUI, Program Director, HKU Foundation for Educational Development & Research and Professor Rossie YOUNG, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of HKU. A dinner was held in their honour on August 21, 1998 when they updated us on the latest development of HKU and the HK education system.

Spring Dinner

We had fun time on March 7, 1999 at Bayview Garden to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit. It was a time to exchange greetings and to share memories. A quiz was set up with lots of gifts presented. Mr. Donald Tong, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, briefed and updated those present at the dinner on latest development in Hong Kong particularly on the 1999 Hong Kong Budget.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Meeting with Mr. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific



The Honourable Mr. Chan had a frank and cordial meeting with our directors on November 8, 1998 discussing a wide range of topics including his visit to South East Asia.

Lunch with Mr. Donald Tong, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office

Another causal and friendly meeting was set up with Mr. Tong and his colleague on November 10, 1998 to promote closer working relationship and to explore possible co-operation and support.



Lunch in honour of Prof. Arthur Li, Vice Chancellor of Chinese University of Hong Kong

Officers of our Association were invited to a lunch on February 15, 1999 hosted in honour of Prof. Li who delivered a very enlightening and lively address to the audience on the latest development in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Seminar

We participated at a luncheon seminar jointly organized by the Toronto Hong Kong Lions Club and the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office held on March 8, 1999. Guest speakers of the seminar included Mr. Donald Tong, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office and Mr. Lindsay Gordon, Executive Vice-President of Hong Kong Bank of Canada. They spoke on the economy of Hong Kong and the Southeast Asia.

FAACU Annual Banquet

It was our honour to have been invited to the annual banquet on March 13, 1999 hosted by the Federation of Alumni Associations of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Ontario). It helped to foster our relationship and co-operation in the future.

Luncheon in honor of Mr. Joseph Wong, Secretary for Education & Manpower

Our participation at the luncheon on April 15, 1999 was enlightening when Mr. Wong talked about Hong Kong's huge investment in education particularly in information technology.

Meeting with Dr. Lawrence Ng, President of HKUAA, Northern California

Dr. Ng from Northern California was kind enough to drop by during his recent visit and a meeting was held on April 21, 1999 to exchange ideas about running and better promoting HKUAA and its activities.

Inaugural Ceremony of HKPUAPEECA

We are honoured to be invited and shall attend this memorable ceremony on May 16, 1999 hosted by the newly founded Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni & Past Employees (Eastern Canada) Association. We shall deliver our sincere congratulation and regards and take time to share our fraternity.

CLOSING REMARKS

I am most thankful to have a very supportive and energetic board of directors whose dedicated efforts are vital to the success of the Association. Together with your support, we should continue to thrive for the goals of our Association: "to encourage, participate and sponsor educational, intellectual and cultural activities among members and with the local community, establish links and exchanges with other university alumni associations and make grants and awards of scholarships for meritorious achievements".

K. B. Ng
President
May 1999