

Taiwan, China & Cincinnati USA: A Commentary on Things to Come in 2008

An Opinion by Charleston C K Wang, 1/12/2008



in the shortest time towards a national objective, in this case the hosting of tourists and sports enthusiasts from all corners of the Earth. True to the original spirit of the ancient Greeks who "invented" the Games as well as democracy, sports shall replace war, at least for the duration of the gathering under the Sanctuary of Zeus.

Meanwhile, back in the USA, certain lawmakers in Congress have declared their intention to use the limelight of the Olympics to focus attention on their various grievances against Beijing. For example, Rep. Chris

Smith, (R-N.J.) urged in an interview, "The Chinese want this 'Show' - with a capital 'S' - to showcase their government to the world. Congress should use that as leverage to 'bring maximum scrutiny and light to their egregious human rights abuses.'" Global politics once again will scramble to bask under the glory of sports.

Meanwhile, back in Cincinnati, Ohio, during the end of December, 2007, the Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce completed an election for a new Board of Trustees. 17 volunteers were elected to the Board - never mind the small number of voters, it was a good start - a small but nice tribute to the democratic process. The volunteers deserve our congratulations and the previous individuals who gave of their time and effort, our thanks.

Given the global issues that are looming across the Pacific, just three of which are men-

tioned above, 2008 promises to be an interesting year for the Chinese Chamber. The US will feel the push from China and China will also be dis-comfited by opinions from the USA. Recent developments in Taiwan offer a new opportunity for the expansion of international trade, although not without risks and the potential for set-back. I look personally look forward to a continued improvement of travel and exchange between the two countries.

Cincinnati, despite that immortal quip of Mark Twain about our inability to sense the end of the world, surely will also feel every bulge and surge. Global love-hate pressures surely will be felt locally and in all directions. The Chinese Chamber must develop the vision to see what the future portends and maintain the wherewithal to turn the forces of challenge into showcases of

opportunity. That famous adage, "Think Global and Act Local" is entirely appropriate here.

The leadership of the Chinese Chamber must first think and then rise above personal self interest and pursue broad action for the common good. This means the provision of value to its membership which includes American companies interested in trade with China, and the advance of the Chinese American community, and the community-at-large. And all in fair and commendable proportions. A conscientious effort must be made to avoid even appearances of favoritism and conflict-of-interest, maintain budgetary discipline, and provide transparency. Because of global forces from without and narrow forces from within, the pressure for discord is ever present but so are the opportunities to do good.

Yesterday, the people of Taiwan cast their votes for a new legislature and gave the opposition National Party (aka Kuomintang) a landslide victory (KMT 81 seats, Democratic Progressive Party 27 seats, Others 5 seats). Facing this debacle, President Chen Sui-Bian promptly announced his resignation as DPP chairman. Democracy again appears to be flourishing in Taiwan. The presidential election in Taiwan is scheduled for March 1 and I hope for another peaceful reaffirmation of the democratic process. For you see, democracy should suit not only the West, but Asia as well.

In the meantime, China is feverishly putting on the final touches for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games scheduled to begin on August 8, 2008. By this world event, Beijing intends to showcase China as a world power in sports, economics, and whatever else that makes a Nation such. As a state under the solid tutelage of a single political party, much can be completed



Chinese Academy of Cleveland

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Chinese New Year Celebration

Date: Saturday February 9, 2008

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6:30pm - 7:30pm. Refreshments

Location: Auditorium, Shaker Heights Middle School
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Admission: \$10.00 per person (Refreshments included)

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01/12/2008 (Sat) 09:45 am to 10:30 am
01/26/2008 (Sat) 10:00 am to 01:00 pm
02/02/2008 (Sat) 10:00 am to 01:00 pm

By Mail
Please make check payable to Chinese Academy of Cleveland and send check with reply email address to "New Year Ticket, 645 Dewitt Dr., Highland Hts., OH 44143"

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