

Meet Vincent Yao

Introduction by Jan Levy

It is my honor to introduce our newest Rotarian, Vincent Yao, nominated by David Woodward, our Diplomacy Task Force Chair.

Vincent serves as the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle. He was appointed to this position in August, 2016. Talking with Vincent is like getting a history lesson on U.S./Taiwan relations – I learned so much during our visit! For example – did you know that Taiwan is the U.S.'s ninth largest trading partner?



As Director General, Vincent works on broadening and deepening Taiwan's diversified relations with the Northwest, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. He also has responsibility for consular affairs and maintaining relations with the Taiwanese communities in these states. Prior to his current position, Vincent was Deputy Director General of the Dept. of North American Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of China (Taiwan). He has been a Foreign Service Officer since 1993 – more than 20 years.

Because Vincent's last post was in "the other Washington," I asked him how he liked Seattle, as compared to D.C. He likes our relaxed pace, the friendly atmosphere, and warm hospitality. His favorite Asian restaurant? Din Tai Fung, which started in Taiwan, and has locations in Seattle and Bellevue.

After receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Relations in Taiwan, Vincent attended a diplomats' training program at Oxford University, and was a Senior Executive Fellow in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Serving in the Foreign Service has offered Vincent the opportunity to travel all over the world, which he enjoys greatly. Something that you may not know about Vincent is that he is a musician – in fact, he was part of a rock band in college where he played guitar!

Arts Committee, take note – Vincent and his wife Frances enjoy attending the Seattle Symphony. He also enjoys golfing, table tennis, and fly fishing with his son Sean, who is a junior at Newport High School in Bellevue.

Please join me in giving a warm Seattle welcome to Vincent Yao, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle.