

China in 2017: A New Look

Totem Report April 5, 2017

By Mike Colbrese

President Cathy Gibson welcomed the attendees and introduced club members **Kari Rallo**, who introduced visiting Rotarians from as far away as Flint, Michigan, and Santa Barbara, and **Laurel James** who welcomed all visiting non Rotarians. Laurel introduced a guest from Mongolia who is the director of that country's Special Olympics program. She also introduced **Kim Moore** who welcomed seven new potential members.



President Cathy welcomed members **Connie Miller** and **Jane Pryor** who introduced new members **Dan Ketchel** and **Blake Hilty** respectively. Dan, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is the Delta airlines general manager at Sea Tac who is in charge of building partnerships with groups such as Amazon and Microsoft. Through his work he develops volunteer groups with the United Way and Habitat for Humanity. He is an avid outdoorsman. Blake is a family attorney and a graduate from the University of Washington with a law degree from Gonzaga. He and his wife have one son. They volunteer with Food Lifeline and Rotary First Harvest.



President Cathy thanked all of the club's sponsors and reminded the attendees of the Music4Life program which is a district project spear headed by Seattle #44. Every second Wednesday there will be a table in the lobby and members may drop off a used instrument at that table with the goal to collect 100 instruments for the program. **Lisa Mayfield** spoke about the club's next two programs. The May 12 program will be Dr. Bill Thomas who has been listed as one of the top ten innovators in America. His topic will be "Aging; life's most dangerous game." The program for the week of April 19 will be Brad Tilden, the president of Alaska Airlines. **Trent Mummery** and **Ken Colling** encouraged club members to attend the district conference which will be April 21-23 in Portland.



President Cathy announced that Consul General of Japan in Seattle and Seattle #4 member **Masahiro Omura** will be leaving his position. He has been the consul since 2013. She presented him with a Seattle #4 banner.



Diana Johns, vice president of exhibits for the Pacific Science Center, presented “Terra Cotta Warriors Of The First Emperor” which will be on display at the center from April 8 through Labor Day. She explained that the Emperor created an empire to run his afterlife by creating a terra cotta population of warriors, musicians, acrobats and horses that covered over 22 square miles underground. Pit 1 alone was over three football fields long. As part of the exhibit there are several bronze swans, cranes and geese which exhibit the reverence that the Chinese have for birds. Diana explained that there is a film that accompanies the exhibit and she encouraged the attendees to view the film before seeing the terra cotta figures.



President Cathy introduced club member **David Woodward**, who explained that China is now the 2nd largest economy in the world and a complex nation of over 1.3 billion people. It is one of the largest bilateral trading partners of the United States and is the 2nd largest holder of U.S. debt in the world. He then introduced the three panelists who included Governor Gary Locke, Robert Kapp, and moderator Nelson Dong to speak to the topic “China in 2017: Big Issues in a Big Country.” Locke was the U.S. Ambassador to China

(2011-14), U.S. Secretary of Commerce (2009-11), a two – term Governor of Washington State (1997-2005), and King County Executive County Deputy Prosecutor (1975-80). Bob is the founder and principal of Robert A. Kapp & Associates, a consultancy for businesses and organizations engaged with China. He is now Senior Advisor to the Cater Center’s China Program. Nelson is a senior partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, an international law firm, and is head of its National Security Group and co-head of its Asia Group. He is a leading practitioner, author and lecturer on international technology law and business issues, particularly cross-border mergers and acquisitions and investment, national security clearances of foreign investments in the United States, and U.S. export controls and economic sanctions.

Nelson’s question of Locke and Kapp was to explain China’s perspective of creating jobs and trade agreements. Governor Locke explained that in order to keep stability in China, jobs are a necessity with approximately 15,000 new jobs needed annually. Most of those jobs are in the export market with most of those exports to America. While China is America’s agricultural destiny, America is China’s export destiny. China welcomes American investments and it realizes that trade between the two countries is important but it is also a very tenuous balancing act. While hundreds of millions of Chinese have been brought out of poverty, China has also become the world’s most modern country. It has arrived. Mr. Kapp read a quote from a book that he has recently translated and that quote, when loosely translated, reads that China can no longer be treaded upon - that it’s time for it to show its strength. He continued by stating that while that might not be the publicly stated sentiment, it is one that is deeply rooted.



There followed a brief question and answer period with the first questions being about China's role in the concern about North Korea. The panelists agreed that China must play a role and that a military solution will not be possible. When asked about the potential for democracy in China the panelists explained that China's focus is really to keep power in the Communist party and the Communist party will crack down on corruption, and improve the environment and will continue rule day to day life. Following a round of applause, President Cathy thanked the attendees and the panelists.