

In search of truth and harmony

By Dr. Edward Lin

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No one needs to be reminded that we live in a world made increasingly ugly by ignorance, prejudice and an unwillingness to work towards win-win. If a small fraction of the money spent on actual warfare or preparing for such, were invested proactively (not as an after-the-fact necessity) in helping needy nations solve their social, environmental and healthcare problems, the benefits and goodwill will last generations and accrue to the advantage of not simply all Americans, but all mankind. The converse is also true. We owe it to ourselves to seek facts, and to understand, for only through that process can we effectively deal with the problems we face.

In 1969 when I was applying to come to study in the US, my application for a student visa was denied by the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur as I was too poor. It took a most improbable intervention by then Secretary of State William P. Rogers for my visa to be issued. On July 4, 2006, I celebrated the 230th anniversary of our nation's independence as a guest at the diplomatic reception hosted by the very same US Embassy. The irony was not lost. The tight security at a 5-star hotel (complete with metal detectors and security guards) dampened my spirits and reminded me of the turbulent times we are in, and how animosity can fuel ill will that can last not years, but generations. This is a cost none of us can afford. We must work towards win-win solutions with other nations and show by our actions that we are a nation with prejudice towards none, and brotherhood for all. This is our best long-term defense against terrorism. At home, we must be willing to do what it takes to strengthen our technological foundation by encouraging more of our students to pursue careers in science and engineering, and to proactively improve our natural and social environments.

In closing, I urge you to empower yourself to become involved in your Association and community and in the destiny of our great nation. In making a better world, we **ALL** can make a difference, **and we must!**

Ed

Dr. Edward Lin
GCAA President
Encourage Inspire Empower

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi