

INTERNATIONAL ZHENGHE SOCIETY

No.8, Commonwealth Lane, Singapore 149555

Tel : 65-6474 2112; Fax : 65-6474 0990

Website : www.chengho.org; <http://museum.chengho.org>

President's Annual Report for the 10th AGM held on Saturday, 28 April 2012

1. **Welcome** - Dear fellow members, let me welcome you to our 10th Annual General Meeting that marks our tenth year of Society's existence. Over the last decade, our Society has grown in terms of membership, activities and depth of involvement across continents. For these achievements, I wish to thank our both our present Council Members as well as those who served the Society in past years. We now look forward to our next decade of exciting developments and I see many opportunities ahead.
2. **A Review** - The last year has been a relatively quiet one after the busy 8th Term (2009-2010) when we organized a highly successful First Zheng He International Conference in Melaka, 5-8 July 2010. After our first committee meeting on 29 June 2011, we managed to convene our second and third committee meetings only on 10 February and 10 March 2012, respectively. Nevertheless, there had been some significant developments that took place in the background as well as new initiatives that were launched. We now look forward to a new session of 2012-2013 with a new Council that will be elected at this AGM.
3. **Membership** - As a result of our Melaka conference in July 2010, our membership rose rapidly and, at the start of the new term (ending June 2011), we had on our register 172 members comprising 86 Ordinary Members and 86 Associate Members. In effect, we have become an established and truly an international Society. We anticipate an even faster increase in membership with the expected activities including a Zheng He Society to be held in Nanjing, China, that will be organized by the Nanjing City Government and the Zhenghe Baochuan Construction Company scheduled to take place on 11-12 July 2012 as part of the China Maritime Day celebrations. Our Society has nominated a number of speakers and recommended participants from among those already associated with us. I am especially pleased to inform members that recently a Zheng He society had been formed in Malaysia and we expect close collaboration between the two associations.
4. **Publication of Conference Papers** - Our Society will be putting out two publications, one comprising the Chinese papers edited by Prof. Leo Suryadinata, Mr Kua Bak Lim and Prof. Koh Hock Kiat and the English volume edited by Dr Chia Lin Sien and Dr Sally K. Church of Cambridge University. The Conference publications Committee is chaired by Dr Tan Ta Sen. Both volumes will be published by our Society jointly with Perbadanan Muzium Melaka (PERZIM). At the time of writing, the manuscripts are being prepared for printing in Malaysia.
5. **Zheng He Art of Collaboration (AoC)** - We are delighted with the publication by the same title and authored by Prof. Hum Sin Hoon, Deputy Dean of the Business School of

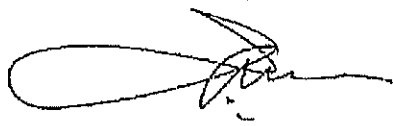
the National University of Singapore. The book was published by ISEAS jointly with our Society and it was launched on 28 January 2012. The event was attended by about 200 participants including several of our Council and Ordinary Members. The book represents a new business strategy based on collaboration, mutual respect and growing together. It is very much in line with the current business practices and reflects the spirit of Zheng He. The NUS Extension (NEX) under the university's Business Enterprise has been actively and successfully marketing AoC business management seminars and workshops including a study trip to Malacca in April 2012.

6. **Cheng Ho Cultural Museum** in Melaka underwent further development by way of additions of new exhibits to enrich the experience of visitors to the Museum. At home, Dr Tan has opened the **Zheng He Cultural Centre** located on the 2nd floor of the Utraco-GreenTech Building. The large space in the Centre is available for suitable events and activities such as art exhibitions and seminars.
7. **Civilizations in Contact (CiC) Project** – A proposal submitted to our Society was received from Dr Sally Church of Cambridge University and was endorsed and given financial and other support by our Society. Dr Tan personally donated \$10,000 to the project with possibility of another sum of \$10,000 to be added. Our Society has been seeking other donations to this very worthwhile project and will find opportunities to promote this project in China and elsewhere. The following is a statement from the Project Proposal:

“Civilizations in Contact is a web-based history resource focusing on the intersections and interactions between the world's civilizations prior to the Industrial Revolution. It aims to enhance intercultural understanding among peoples of different origins, faiths, and traditions in the world today by promoting an understanding of the past through classroom education, independent learning and scholarly research. Through this web-based resource, combined with supplementary materials, the instances of contact, communication, interaction, and exchange between individuals and communities across the pre-modern world are highlighted.”

The initial module of the CiC project will focus on Melaka, a focal point of Zheng He's voyages from which the Melaka Sultanate emerged to become a powerful State in the 15th Century. Close association of our Society with this Project will bring long-term benefits to our Society and create new opportunities for promoting the Zheng He spirit.

8. I am pleased to inform you that we now have Ms Joanne Kerk to assist in running the affairs of our Society. She will act as the focal point of contact for our Society and will help to lighten the work of Council Members.
9. May I wish you all an enjoyable evening. Thank you.



 Dr Tan Ta Sen
 President, 9th Council
 International Zheng He Society