

## **Committee of 100 Opens Greater China Office in Hong Kong Seeking Common Ground While Respecting Differences**

**Hong Kong, February 12** – The Committee of 100, comprising prominent Chinese Americans in academia, the arts, business, public service and the sciences, has opened its Greater China office in Hong Kong. Founded in 1990 by eminent architect I. M. Pei, the Committee of 100 is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that serves as a platform for Chinese Americans on domestic U.S. and international issues.

Mr. Robert Lee, Chairman of the Committee of 100, said: “The Committee of 100 is unique because our members, through the significant contributions they have each made in their respective fields, are Chinese Americans at the forefront of American progress. One of our goals is to encourage constructive relations between the peoples of Greater China and the United States. Our efforts in promoting Sino-U.S. relations and the Committee’s involvement in issues of concern to Chinese Americans have been well recognized by government leaders in Greater China and the United States.”

The Committee of 100 Greater China office will oversee and coordinate outreach activities in the region. These include an ongoing lecture series, an annual conference, exchange programs and increased interaction between Committee members and officials, students and professionals in Greater China and the U.S.

To launch the Greater China office, the Committee of 100 held a panel discussion in conjunction with Asia Society on “Election Year Countdown: Taiwan, the United States and the Chinese American Community”. The panel discussion examined current issues in Sino-U.S. relations including trade, jobs, security and politics - topics that will feature prominently in both Taiwan’s March elections and the U.S. elections in November.

Speakers at the event included Mr. Robert Lee, Chairman of the Committee of 100, Mr. John S. Chen, Chairman, CEO and President of Sybase, Inc., and Dr. Minxin Pei, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Mr. John S. Chen, Chairman of Sybase and Vice Chairman of the Committee of 100’s International Activities, said the newly opened Greater China office would work with its members to further develop the Committee’s Greater China activities.

“Our newly opened Greater China office will support the Committee’s endeavours to foster the exchange of ideas and viewpoints. Today’s panel discussion provided an opportunity to

share ideas and outline some of the important issues that the Committee of 100 is addressing,” Mr. Chen said.

“There will be a formal reception and ribbon cutting ceremony this evening to mark the official opening of our Greater China office. Our new office in Hong Kong will continue to fulfill the Committee’s two-fold mission while expanding our presence in the region.”

Since its inception, the Committee of 100 has addressed foreign relations, trade, public policy, civil rights and social justice issues of concern to Chinese Americans in addition to promoting cultural ties between China and the United States. Recently, the Committee has undertaken two important projects: the C100 Education Initiative which seeks to include education about Asia and Asian Americans in U.S. public schools from kindergarten to grade 12 and the C-100 Corporate Board Initiative which highlights the added value of Asian American as Fortune 500 Corporate Board Directors.

The Committee has released substantive position papers and brief policy statements with a distinct Chinese American viewpoint on Sino-U.S. relations. It has organized several delegations to Greater China. In 2001, a Committee of 100 delegation met privately with government leaders including China’s Premier at the time, Zhu Rongji, Hong Kong Chief Executive, C.H. Tung, and Taiwan’s President, Chen Shui-bian. The Committee of 100 has also established the C-100 Cultural Institute; undertaken landmark research; organized numerous cultural and educational events in China and the U.S.; and hosted leaders and delegations from Greater China, including the recent visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to the U.S.

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