

EVENTS

Greater Chicago Area Commemoration of 600th Anniversary of Zheng He's Voyage

Strong interest about Chinese explorer Zheng He of the Ming Dynasty has been sweeping China, Southeast Asia and U.S. in recent years. Publication of the book "1421: The Year China Discovered America" by Gavin Menzies in 2002 added even more mystery and grandeur to the exploits of this legendary adventurer.

The Chicago commemoration is one of top events in the U.S. to honor Zheng He's achievements.

Lectures and Dinner Banquet
Saturday, August 6, 2005
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL

Featuring Presentations (4:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

Auditorium

Science and Technology Applied in Zheng He's Voyages

Dr. Jin Wu, Fellow of U.S. National Academy of Engineering
Professor of Oceanography and Marine Engineering, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

East-West Cultural Exchange in Zheng He's Era

Prof. Ming Wan, Director, Ming Dynasty Research Section
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

Zheng He's Voyages as Perceived by Western Scholars

Dr. Guy Alitto, Professor, Department of History, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago

Banquet (6:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Rotunda Hall

Dinner Service

Dedication of Zheng He's Treasure Boat Replica to Museum of Science and History

Keynote Speech: Contribution of Zheng He's Voyages to World History

Dr. Jin Wu

Keynote Speech: Economy Globalization and Cultural Melting Pot (Proposal)

Executive officer from a local major corporation such as Abbott Laboratories, Boeing, Motorola, UOP, Lucent

Speakers:

Jin Wu (Ph.D. in Mechanics and Hydraulics, University of Iowa), an internationally renowned researcher in oceanic science, was the Minister of Education in the Republic of China on Taiwan from 1996 to 1998. He is a member of both the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and the Academia Sinica. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Hydraulic and Ocean Engineering, National Cheng Kung University {in Tainan, Taiwan}, and concurrently Director of the Water Resources Research Center, and Director of the



Research Institute for Public Affairs, both at Cheng Kung University. Dr. Wu was for many years a professor of marine studies at the University of Delaware, one of the world's foremost centers for marine and oceanic studies. He is now H. Fletcher Brown Professor Emeritus of Marine Studies and Civil Engineering, University of Delaware.



Wan Ming, Professor of History Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Director of Ming Section in the History Institute; Vice Secretary General, Chinese Society on Ming Dynasty History; Secretary General, Chinese Society for Historians of China's Foreign Relations. She has been focused on the research of the historical records and literature about the cultural, political, technological and economical background associated with the Zheng He's voyages. In particular, Professor Wan has pioneered analysis of the rising of cultural and commercial exchanges between Asia and Europe through "Silk Ways" on the sea, as a result of the Zheng He's voyages. Professor will give an account on the major breakthroughs that have been achieved by Chinese historians on Zheng He's voyage.

Purposes

- Promote local public awareness about the Zheng He's voyage
 - One of the greatest events in the world history but not well known for the public around the world (Why were the records and artifacts destroyed? What are the newly validated facts about the event)
 - Rising public interests but limited solid answer (Did Chinese reach America 600 years ago?)
- Participate in the global commemoration during year 2005
 - Exhibitions, conferences, lectures and celebration parties around the world, particularly in South East Asia, Middle East, North East Africa where research on Zheng He's voyages are active.
 - Commemorate events are expected in Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco
 - Global commemoration is expected to bring fractional historical pieces into a complete picture about the Zheng He's voyage
 - Unique opportunity for bringing our celebration event to the Greater Chicago public
- Contribute to the local culture diversity
 - An opportunity to let the public appreciate the greatness of Zheng He's voyage as a part of the world history
 - An opportunity to advocate the influence of diverse cultures to the world community today

Links to resources on Zheng He

- www.international.ucla.edu/yccs/article.asp?parentid=10387
- Fifteenth-century trilingual inscription in Sri Lanka commemorating the second visit of Zheng He.

- Article in Asia edition of *Time* on the Sri Lankan trilingual stone tablet
- "The Rise and Fall of 15th-Century Chinese Seapower." Article by Michael L. Bosworth ("retired naval officer, naval architect and part-time doctoral student").
- Wikipedia: Encyclopedia article on Zheng He, with links.
- Nova article on Zheng He (from the program "Sultan's Lost Treasure," broadcast in 2003)
- "1492; The Prequel." *New York Times* article by Nicholas Kristof on the African connections to Zheng He
- *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*. Website of pop historian Gavin Menzies.
- *1421: The Year China DID NOT Discover America*. Website devoted to debunking Menzies claim that Zheng He "discovered" America.
- Book "When China Rules the Seas", Louise Levathes.