

## FEATURE



**John S. Chen**, Chairman, CEO and President of one of the world's largest publicly traded software companies, Sybase, assumed the Committee of 100 Chairmanship following the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. He becomes the fifth Chair since 1989. Chen was born in Hong Kong in 1955 and completed his secondary education at the Northfield Mt. Hermon college prep school in New England. In 1978, Chen graduated magna cum laude in electrical engineering from Brown University, and a year later he received his M.S. in the same field from California Institute of Technology. Since 1997, Chen has been with Sybase, having been brought in to bring the ailing company back to health. He previously was president of the Open Enterprise Computing Division of Siemens Nixdorf and chairman and CEO of Pyramid Technology Corporation. When Chen took over Sybase, there was much debate over whether he could reverse the flagging fortunes of the software company, which specialized in helping large organisations manage information, primarily through databases, and was losing market share and employees. Mobile computing became the avenue for Sybase's resurgence, and today the company provides mobile databases, mobile middleware, mobile device management and mobile messaging for a wide variety of enterprises in all fields. Read a recent interview done by Quentin Hardy of Forbes on Chen's turnaround of Sybase.



## Committee of 100 Chairman, John Chen

### Engagement is His Mission

June 2009 | By Jane Leung Larson

Chen has given much thought to the future of the Committee of 100 and how the organization can grow. His vision of a much-expanded range of higher-impact programs to be undertaken by C-100 calls for a stronger organization in which members have a greater role. So, Chen is making structural changes in the organization to involve more members, such as expanding board membership and adding more Vice Chairs with new responsibilities.

"Engagement" is Chen's watchword for the Committee's work in the months ahead. "I hope to engage the organization and the members to reach new heights. We'll expand the range of our programs to make the most of our members' expertise in fields from science and technology to arts and entertainment, finance, energy and the environment, and more. We plan to develop programs that are relevant to our objectives. We'll also be engaging with decision-makers and taking positions on key issues. And, we'll be engaging with other organizations that deal with Asian American affairs as well as U.S.-China relations."

"I see two aspects to this engagement: celebration and empowerment. We have a lot to celebrate with the success of our members, but we need to go beyond that to celebrate the success of Chinese Americans. We have accomplished a lot now with Chinese Americans in politics, such as our former members Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and Homeland Security Department General Counsel Ivan Fong. There is also much

to celebrate in U.S.- China relations as we mark the 30th anniversary of normalization. Empowerment means empowering the next generation of Chinese Americans through mentoring, Mandarin in the schools, and our education program."