

From the Editors

On May 26-29, OYCF held its 8th Annual Meeting on the campus of Vanguard University by the beautiful beach of Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies, University of California, Irvine. The theme of this year's meeting was "Social Classes in Transitional China." In this issue, we publish a special report from the meeting that summarizes the presentations and discussions, as well as some feedbacks from the participants.

Since 2005, the most remarkable event in Taiwan has been the leadership change in the Nationalist Party and the rise of Ma Ying-Jeou as a political superstar. On March 21, at his alma mater, Harvard University, Mr. Ma delivered a speech to systematically outline his cross-strait policy. In the speech, "A Vision for Peace and Prosperity," he emphasized to achieve political stability by keeping the status quo, and to improve economic relations with the mainland by removing legal obstacles for Taiwanese to take businesses opportunities on the mainland. Jin CHEN's news commentary reports the details of this speech.

CHEN's other news commentary brings us to a broader setting: the world economy at the beginning of 2006. With a review of economies in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and India, readers are led to this question: how does China do its best in the right direction and be a responsible stakeholder of the international community?

In the Society and Culture column, Fen LIN investigates the current landscape of journalism in China and its historical trajectory since 1949. She reveals that this landscape has been largely shaped by the relationship between the state, media, and market. In the Political Theory and Practice column, Ying MA from the leading conservative think tank, American Enterprise Institute, overviews one of the major ideologies in American politics, conservatism. She traces its historical development, its core values, and its influence on the foreign policy debate in the post-9/11 era.

Finally, Di WANG and Ting LU summarize their respective experiences of teaching popular culture at Nankai University and economics at Nanjing University, which were supported by the OYCF Gregory C. and Paula K. Chow Teaching Fellowship.

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue of Perspectives and warmly welcome your comments, suggestions and manuscript submissions.

Wish you all a wonderful summer,

The Editors