

Speech by Mr Watson Chong, President, Association of Asian Aerospace Professionals, at the Shanghai 2010 Award Presentation on Saturday 25 September 2010 at the Salvo Hotel, Shanghai at 5.30 pm

Distinguished Guests

Fellow Members

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

Introduction

There is an urgency to highlight, promote and document the contribution of Chinese pilots' and aviation pioneers' contributions during World War II; the contributions of aerospace professionals to the development of the aviation industry in China.

There is a dearth of knowledge, accounts and understanding of the early pioneers from the early 1930s, during and after World War II in China.

For example, the television series entitled “The World At War” – there were inadequate mention on the contribution of Chinese combat pilots and aviation professionals.

Yet another example, in the Hollywood war movies, such as “The Flying Tigers 1942” starring John Wayne, it fails to highlight the contribution of Chinese pilots collaborating with the Americans in the fight against the Japanese. There was only ONE Chinese character – a mechanic, played by an American of Korean descent, named Chester Gann.

There is an urgent need to give credit, honor and recognition to all who have contributed to the war effort and put them in the rightful place in history.

The Association does not glorify and promote war. Tonight’s theme: “The Spirit of Working Together for a Better World” is appropriately chosen for this evening to promote international friendship and understanding.

Tonight the Association of Asian Aerospace Professionals is proud to give away the Distinguished Asian Aerospace Professional Awards to three individuals, who are in my mind the movers and shakers of the aviation industry in China. They pursue their dreams to become pilots and later were brought together by fate as 'Three Pilots on the same Boat' – Out of civil duty they avail, serve and take on missions that inspire and move the human spirit.

Why, you might ask, that I called them as “Three Pilots on the same Boat”?

I use the word 'boat' metaphorically. Let me explain.

During the war they avail themselves as pilots out of civil duty, honor and country (for the same reason).

In 1946 they were with CATC (the same boat) as Operations Manager, Chief Pilot and Captain till 1949.

A three-string cord is not easily broken. They came together, soared new heights in their profession and came out victorious!

They have lived up to the motto of our association:

“Coming Together, Soaring New Heights, Envisioning the Future!”

Each year the Association honors and recognizes individuals who have attained outstanding achievement in their respective aviation field and for their contribution to the growth and development of the aviation industry in Asia.

It is without a doubt that these individuals will serve as examples to be emulated and will inspire the next generation of aerospace professionals to be the best they can be, not only for themselves, but also for the profession and the country they represent.

Shanghai 2010 Awards Ceremony

It's my pleasure to be in Shanghai, China to give away the Distinguished Asian Aerospace Professional Awards to China's aviation pioneers.

They have been a part of the aerospace industry in China since the early 1930s.

They have served as fountain heads that nourishes the development and transformation of civil aviation in China and Asia.

Conclusion

Movers and Shakers

Tonight's recipients are not only pioneers that have been instrumental in the transformation of the aviation industry in China.

Captain Moon Fun Chin, the late Captain Pan Guoding and Captain He Qichen receiving the Awards tonight have qualified themselves as movers and shakers in the

aerospace and **political** landscape in China and the whole of Asia.

Congratulations to each of you!!

End