



A



Moment
To
Remember





The Story Of IC2000

In 1996 the Hong Kong District Council decided to bid to host the International Convention. Although passed by all of the Club representatives present, the resolution was reviewed at 2 subsequent District Council meetings: with the local Y's membership decline, we wanted to size up the responsibilities attached to the assignment against our abilities and resources. Eventually, the District Council resolved by majority to confirm the bid, with all of the Clubs agreeing to do its best to produce a good convention.

At ICM97, the International Council awarded the bid to us. Hong Kong was to host the 64th International Convention to be held in the summer of 2000 ("IC2000").

IC2000 had to be organized by a Host Committee ("HC"). To my surprise, in September 1997, I was appointed to be the Host Committee Chairman ("HCC"), when I was a DDG and there were several other more experienced people around. Accepting the appointment, I thought I could manage. As it turned out, the challenges were quite beyond my imagination.

One of my first tasks was to check the budget. Hong Kong had won the bid with a budget prepared by the Hong Kong Tourists Association ("HKTA") which provided that the meetings were to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre ("HKCEC") and the delegates were to be given 6 meals - 3 lunches and 3 dinners. 5 of the meals were to be taken at a Chinese restaurant across the HKCEC. Because I was not in the ad-hoc committee that put the bid together, I got to see the budget only after taking up the HCC appointment. After discussing with the Chinese restaurant, I realized that we had made a serious mistake. Speeches, ceremonies and performance had to take place during the meals, but the Chinese restaurant had only a small stage that could not be seen by all. Further, the Chinese restaurant was not prepared to serve lunches to the delegates at the same times, or the dinners at civilized hours.

On the other hand, price quotes from HKCEC were far from comforting. Thanks to high cost of production, meals at HKCEC were charged at the same level of those of a 5 star hotel. It was simply impossible for us to feed the delegates so many times at HKCEC unless, of course, we were to increase the registration fee by about 30%.

I put my findings to the HC, pointing out that we should try to produce a Convention that would show the delegates from all over the world the good things of Hong Kong. It would not make sense to organize the Convention at a country camp and take the delegates to McDonald's for meals. I got the HC's mandate to seek to revise the budget so as to reduce the number of meals to 4 (1 lunch and 3 dinners) and change the meal venue to HKCEC itself. Despite my explanation in detail, the revised budget was not entirely acceptable to the International Council: at MYM 98, it was resolved that the bid be reopened. I confess that given the various negative responses to the revised budget, I half-wished that Hong Kong lost the reopened bid. In the event, the other bidders decided not to re-submit their bids, and Hong Kong's status as the host for IC2000 was confirmed in March 1998.

At ICM 98 in Helsinki, the International Council approved the revised budget and asked me to go ahead and show them Hong Kong's best. On behalf of the HC, I promised not to let them down and told them that it would be a Convention to remember.

At IC1998 the HC made its first official promotion appearance. We put on Chinese traditional garments and gave away lots of pamphlets, souvenirs and Chinese snacks. We showed our promotion movie and did a lucky draw. Darrel Yuen addressed the delegates by telling them about the new Chek Lap Kok Airport, assuring in earnest that by 2000, the blunders there should have been fixed. When I called out the lucky draw winners, I turned myself into a laughing stock: I had problems in pronouncing the Os with two dots on top or a cross. Not that the lucky draw winners seemed to mind the least. I figured it was good fun to all and we made a nice impression.

The rest is a lot, a lot of hard teamwork. First of all, the HC had to recruit all those who wanted and/or could help. We had several officers: myself as the HCC, Alexander Chan as the VHCC, Cary Fung as the Hon. Secretary and Fred Cheng as the Hon. Treasurer. To function as a "think tank", there was a Core Group composed of past APs, RDs and the DC. We had 10 sub-committees headed by people who had proven leadership and experience in Y's activities. The decision making power was vested in the representatives of the Clubs in Hong Kong. The mailing list of the HC had 50 peoples' names and addresses. Though one of the biggest in history, the HC functioned orderly and efficiently. Every meeting was called with written notice, sub-committees often reported in writing, and discussions were carefully recorded.

64th INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
3rd to 6th August 2000



Then we fund raised. To facilitate cash outlay, the HC called on the Core Group members and the local Clubs for loans. By September 1999, we got HK\$200,000 loan money which would enable us to finish the project without bothering the International for any funding.

We advocated 100% participations by local members. Time and again, we pointed out that nobody should host a dinner without being there himself. The result was that most of the Clubs in Hong Kong had all of their members registered as delegates to IC2000.

We worked hard to promote IC2000. The HC sent out teams to IC1998 in Helsinki, Taiwan Regional Convention 1999 in Taichung, US Area Convention 1999 in Hawaii and Asia Area Convention 1999 Hokkaido, Japan. Each member of the promotion teams was given a subsidy that could be less than his airfare, but the tedious travel and promotion work were actually enjoyable. It always feels good to pitch something good, I suppose.

We were conscious from day one that it would be important to have good shows at the dinners so that the delegates would get a fair view of Hong Kong. With the little money in the budget for entertainments, I started off expecting to engage students to perform for the Convention. Luckily several organizations were persuaded into sponsoring. HKTA gave us a lion dance and the City of Wonders movie, which, with its three wide screens and special sound effects, earned a few rounds of applause.

Also, there was the show by Chinese YMCA at the International Night. An inspiring extravaganza of slides, dance and songs about sufferings and services, the Chinese YMCA show left us pondering. The outstanding artistic, thoughtful and costly production was a demonstration of the tight partnership between the YMCAs and Y' s Movement in Hong Kong. We are proud of Chinese YMCA.

At IC2000 we organized an optional lunch and devoted it to Time of Fast. We got HKCEC to waive venue charge and reduce the meal cost to the minimum and invited the local Clubs to sponsor the occasion. My home Club, Hong Kong Club, pledged a sizeable TOF donation to make the lunch a real success in terms of both participation and fund raise. Having achieved a HK\$ 33,000 donation to the TOF, we probably set a good example.

Taking place at the same time as IC2000 was the Youth Convocation ("Y.C.") for youngsters aged between 15 years and 25 years. The two conventions used to be held separately, even at different times, but it had been the recent practice to allow

the Y.C. delegates to take part in the International Convention. We booked Chinese YMCA' s Wu Kwai Sha Camp for the Y.C., and Y.C. subcommittee chairperson Rose Yun and her people tried their best to pamper the Y.C. delegates.

The budget provided for participations by the Y.C. delegates in IC2000 save for the meals, but several months before the Convention, the HC bravely decided to treat the youngsters better. Considering it important to enhance the image of the Y' s Movement on the Y.C. delegates, we had the young people at all of the ceremonies, meetings, seminars, and shows, and it worked pretty well. Although this bold move increased the subsidy to the Y.C. by 300%, luckily we did not have a deficit in the end.

Which brings me to the meetings and seminars. Of the "Best Convention Venue in the World" fame, HKCEC had the best facilities and services for us. Because of the smaller-than-expected registration, we had spacious venues for almost all of the gatherings. Although HKCEC is huge, the meeting rooms were close to each other so I think nobody got lost. The food was very good. We had an international buffet lunch (not the TOF lunch, of course), 2 Chinese banquet dinners (with different menus) and a lovely Western dinner. We used the famous Grand Hall for the President Ball and had a swell time dancing to Ricky Martin numbers, and of course, Village People's "YMCA".

Between November 1997 and July 2000, the HC met 15 times, and I cannot possibly count the smaller meetings. Most of the 200 Y' s Men in Hong Kong took active parts in putting IC2000 together, plus Chinese YMCA assigned a lot of people to help out the registration and marshal tasks. Still, everyone wished to have an extra pair of hands and 48 hours each day.

We were really fortunate to work with PIP Christian Friis. He was appointed the Chairman of the International Convention Committee, which made him our supervisor and mentor. He and his Y' s Mennette Carol travelled to Hong Kong from California twice to meet with the HC and he laboriously stitched together the program and fixed it with speakers, MCs and presenters. He and I talked a lot over the phone, fax and Internet, and naturally became friends. An excellent leader who seemed to be always in his prime, he was unfailing with his advice and gave us encouragements whenever we needed them. Chris "the Chief" has become nothing less than a legend here.

We were also fortunate enough to receive donations and sponsorships. Internet service provider GlobalNet gave us a website for free into which we loaded some information and the registration forms. HKTA went a long way to help us promote

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
3rd to 6th August 2000



IC2000 by giving us advice and loads of pamphlets and souvenirs, and their City of Wonder movie and lion dance added colours to the Opening Ceremony.

Some of the functions were late, a few people fell ill, and there were other hiccups, but I think we managed it well. The venues were spacious, flow of meetings smooth, food good, entertainment delightful, newspaper timely and well stocked, and Marshals nice and well-liked. I got quite a few letters, faxes and e-mails from the delegates saying how satisfied they were at IC2000, but I was particularly happy to hear from the few delegates who were in Hong Kong and/or at an IC for the first time that with such a good time they had, they would return.

In April 2001, we had the accounts audited and finalized with the International and sent the surplus we got - HK\$30,721.83 - over. On 25th April 2001, I sent the HC a fax that announcing that the HC' s tasks were over, thus closing my 3 years 7 months chapter as the HCC.

The organization of IC2000 took place when Asia was suffering from an economic recession that seemed to have no end. During 1997 to 2000, the Y' s membership in Asia fell from about 11,000 to about 9,600. Most of the people in Hong Kong saw their asset value substantially depreciated and their income and business opportunities shrunk. However, such background did not deprive the HC of manpower or spirit. The sub-committee chairpersons and their people really did wonders. Fred Cheng and Charles Sit managed the money and accounts with perfect system and efficiency, like a bank. Cary Fung was an excellent secretary, with his timely notices and accurate minutes. Andy Fu published advertisements all over the world, organized roadshows to major conventions, and when there was no promotion work to be done, he happily took up a hawker' s post : he manned the souvenir desk. Elsie Woo organized the lunches in perfect order, with a clever scheme that divided the hall into sections. Jackson Leung oversaw the three dinners with calmness, as if he did it everyday. Rose Yun and William Woods produced such a good Y.C. that some of the youngsters literally refused to go! Johnny Lee worked with the travel agent very well to provide excursion tours and other travel services to the delegates with absolute professionalism. Yvonne Lok and her people printed everything, produced the delegates' packages and published the newspapers well beyond my simple prescription: make them the best ever. Alex Fu managed the Opening and Closing Ceremonies exactly the way we wanted : perfect. Thomas Kwan set about the registration work with a good system that facilitated his personal touch on every aspect. Last but not the least, David Wong and Tony Chan proudly led a team of untiring and handsome Marshals who virtually anchored IC2000.

IC2000 was a success in many ways. We put the functions through smoothly. The TOE lunch afforded a meaningful and low cost optional meal, at the same time getting good donations. Without any inhibition to the flow of activities, the Y.C. delegates had the chance to participate in IC2000 to the fullest extent. Even with 20% less attendance, we had a good surplus. Most importantly, we have become tighter knitted and better equipped to foster the Y' s Movement. The achievement belongs to the whole of the Y' s membership in Hong Kong and, of course, PIP Christian Friis.

It was a true honor to sit on the chair of the HC, and I had a real good time working with my colleagues there. From my colleagues, I have come to realize the importance of communication, understanding, faith and trust. I made a fool out of myself with the repeated slips of tongue and outbursts of temper, and I don' t know why the HC seemed to tolerate me. I suppose they punished me with the chair.

Finally, I could not have done it without my backbone: my wife and twin kids. Many a time they had to miss me as I was locked in a HC meeting or the office, working head over tail on IC2000. I keep reminding myself that one should always count his blessings rather than complain about life. The reminders have helped me walk the uneven path of life and meet the challenges along the way. My fortune is my family and they are the reason why I feel duty-bound to try making the world a better place. I dedicate my trivial achievements to them. Thank you, Chris, Eugene and Gabriel.

Kenneth Sit
Host Committee Chairman
IC2000



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
3rd to 6th August 2000



~IC2000 HONG KONG ~

An Odyssey

At the 1997 ICM Council Meeting, Hong Kong was selected to host IC 2000. At that time the Troika appointed me to be the International Convention Committee Chairman (ICCC). Little did I realize the task ahead. To my delight I was blessed with a wonderful Host Convention Committee (HCC), chaired by the very able and personable Y' s Man, Kenneth Sit. Hong Kong District has the luxury of having 11 different Y' s Men' s Clubs and they were all welcome and needed for the challenge that was before us. They set up a core group to supervise several sub-committees.

As well as promoting and preparing an International Convention, I was also responsible for arranging for the International Council Meeting-2000 (ICM) that would take place just prior to the Convention. In addition, we were responsible for arranging a Youth Convocation at a different site. It was established that the ICM would be held at the Chinese YMCA hotel in Kowloon as they had ample facilities and rooms for all the Council Delegates, Brotherhood Delegates and additional observers, as required. At the end of the Council Meeting, they would then be transported to the Wanchai area to stay at the Chinese YMCA' s Harbor View International House for the duration of the Convention. This worked very well due to a lot of effort by the Sub-Committee members.

The site for the Youth Convocation was to be the beautiful Chinese YMCA' s Youth Camp, Wu Kwai Sha. This facility is only a short bus ride from the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center (HKCEC). Y' s Man Ros@un was appointed Chairperson for the Y.C. and did an outstanding job organizing and promoting the Y.C.

Hosting the Convention at the beautiful HKEC gave us the opportunity to have venues that were more than adequately capable of supporting programs of our choice. Simultaneous interpretation equipment was available and we used it extensively.

Opening Ceremonies in the Convention Hall started promptly at 2:00 PM on Thursday, August 03, 2000 by Hong Kong Y' s Man Tony da Silva.

ISC Ingvar Wallin narrated a very meaningful Roll Call of Places in Y' s Dom. An

Official Welcome was extended by Y' s Man Kan Tanikawa, President Asia Alliance of YMCA' s, by HCC Kenneth Sit, by ICCC Christian Friis and by Miss Winnie Ho, Assistant Commissioner for Hong Kong Tourism.

The Installation of New International Officers was conducted by Christian Friis, ICCC. Community Service Leader, Y' s Man Eric Li, gave a stirring Keynote Address on the Convention Theme, "Service and Youth into the Next Century".

During the evening of August 03, the Ballantyne and Elmer Crowe Awards were presented. A very special Dragon Dance presentation concluded the evening.

Friday morning, August 04, 2000 was devoted to two Plenary Sessions. One was the ISC' s Annual Report and the second was a much anticipated introductory speech by incoming ISC Rolando Dalmas from Montevideo, Uruguay.

Lunch was enjoyed and followed by a presentation by Bart Shaha, Secretary General Asia Alliance of YMCA' s. This was followed with words by Y' s Man Lawrence Yik, General Secretary Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. The two gentlemen presented knowledgeable remarks on the "Development of YMCA - Y' s Men Movement in Asia." A presentation on the "Golden Anniversary Trust Fund" was given by Cecil Chan, Vice President Asia Alliance of YMCA' s.

One of the unique forums given in the afternoon was a presentation by IYR Angelique Roseman, ISDYLA Rossana Croci Reyes, PYI Marianne Coh, AP-LAC Silvyta Reyes de Croci and PASD Yeep Canada, Marilyn Hamilton. The title was "Dealing with the Challenges of the New Century / Say No to Violence." Other Service Forums were also offered.

The Y' s Menettes, under the capable direction of ID Brenda Berry, held important meetings throughout the day as well as joining with the Y' s Men during their functions.

The evening was devoted to International Night. The Hong Kong Chinese YMCA benevolently sponsored this. It was an evening to remember!

Saturday morning, August 05, 2000, was an interesting time for all. The Youth Delegates, as a group, gave the Morning Devotion. Following this, the same group, under the direction of IYR Angelique Roseman, gave a report on the Youth Convocation. Time was then designated for Area Meetings under the leadership of their respective Area Presidents.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
3rd to 6th August 2000



Lunch was very significant, as it was a symbolic Time of Fast meal. The Hong Kong Y' s Men' s Club generously subsidized this. Thank You!

The afternoon was declared free for rest and shopping and both were accomplished with gusto! The evening was exceptional and took place in the famous Grand Hall. A ' western dinner' was served and enjoyed by all. IP Dale Fotheringham gave a very insightful inaugural speech, which was followed by an evening of dancing with a locally famous and talented dance band. The Youth participated fully. It was obvious that the evening was a success as the dance floor was full from beginning to end.

Sunday morning, August 06, 2000 dawned bright and early as everyone gathered for an Ecumenical Worship Service. This was presided over by Chinese YMCA Chaplain Simon Chan. It was a meaningful and well-planned service. The service was followed by the Closing Ceremonies. "Thank You' s" were given by several individuals, the Bible was closed, candle extinguished and the Christian and Y' s Men' s flgs were retired by the IEO' s. Song Leader PIP Erick Kim led us in "Auld Lang Syne" and everyone exited with regret, but wishing each other well until we all would meet again in 2002 in Sydney, Australia.

It was a tremendous three years in preparation. A gigantic amount of correspondence was required to arrange for speakers, forum leaders, masters of ceremonies, seating arrangements etc., etc. Thank goodness for computers and e-mail service! If we had to do it all over again we probably would !!! So many thanks need to be given to my wife, Carol. Without her encouragement, there were times when the job seemed too big to handle, but each new day brought us a ray of sunshine.

Y' sly Yours,

Christian Friis
International Convention Committee Chairman
IC2000



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

3rd to 6th August 2000



Host Committee Executive Membership

Officers

International Convention Committee Chairman :	Christian Friis
Host Committee Chairman :	Kenneth Sit
Host Committee Vice Chairman :	Alexander Chan
Hon. Secretary :	Cary Fung
Hon. Treasurer :	Fred Cheng

Core Group Members :

Kenneth Sit	B. L. Wong	C. L. Kung	Chou Wing Ping
Tony Chan	Benjamin Lam	Andy Fu	Alexander Chan

Sub-Committee Chairpersons

Dinners :	Jackson Leung
Finance :	Fred Cheng
Hospitality & Tour :	Johnny Lee
ICM & Control :	David Wong
Lunches and Meeting Venues :	Elsie Woo
Programme :	Alex Fu
Promotion :	Andy Fu
Publication :	Yvonne Lok
Registration & Accommodation :	Thomas Kwan
Youth Convocation :	Rose Yun

Head Marshal

Tony Chan

YMCA Related Secretary

Cheuk Sai Ying

Sub-Committee Members :

Abraham Poon	Albert Poon	Tinlo Poon	Peggy Shum
Alice Lam	Alice C. L. Lam	Stella Lam	Lydia Lau
Chan Hung Fai	Tommy Chan	Wister Chan	Annie Cheung
Charles Chu	Winnie Chu	Coretti Chue	Kathleen Chui
Charles Sit	Alan Siu	Larry So	Simon So
Edith Law	Law Yim Ping	Albert Lee	Lee Hing Wai
Florence Ng	Ng Kin Sun	Norman Ng	Alan Ngan
Ho Hon Kwong	Desiree Hu	Peter Ko	Tony Kwok
Kathy Leung	Leung Kam Ling	Kathy Lui	Mak Kam Wah
Kyran Sze	Tang Pak Kwong	Robert Tong	Marianna Tsang
Lee Man Key	Lee Shing Pak	Cherry Leung	James Leung
Margaret Chui	Christopher Chung	Kevin Chung	Tony da Silva
Sophia Fong	Elaine Ho	Frankie Ho	Gigi Ho
Tsang Ma Ming	David Uen	Wong King Kong	Tim Wong
William Woods	Danny Yao	Sarah Yang	Yeung Kin Tong
Winnie Ching	Cary Chiu	Ken Chow	Caroline Chu
Yeung Tsui	Yip Ho Kau	Susan Yu	Terry Yu
Darrel Yuen	Vickie Yuen		

64th
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
3rd to 6th August 2000