

Templates For *Change*

"Envisioning a new world"



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A Meeting with the Confucian Academy in Hong Kong

Templates For Change directors John Edge and Christine Thompson recently had the privilege of a meeting with eminent Confucians, Dr. Tong and Dr. Kwan, the president and vice president of the Confucian Academy in Hong Kong. Over lunch at the Jade Restaurant in Star House where the Academy has its office, Drs. Tong and Kwan spoke of some of the aspects of synergy of mission they felt between their work and that of TFC.

The role of world citizenship

There was a great empathy of thought about global citizenship and the importance of harmony between 'heaven and earth' and 'man and nature' - harmony being at the heart of Confucian thinking, which originated with Confucius over 2500 years ago. Dr. Tong and Dr. Kwan had recently returned from visiting the Bureau of Religious and Cultural Affairs in Beijing to discuss the restoration of Confucianism as one of the national religions of China and their views and proposals were well-received by the Director and senior officials.



Dr. Kwan & Dr. Tong meet Christine Thompson & John Edge of TFC

Returning to core values

According to Confucius one of the most important virtues in life can be translated as 'humanity', 'benevolence' or 'righteousness'. And in a world with an ever growing materialistic outlook, these real values and humanity seem an essential part of the core foundation of a future global civilization. Dr Tong had also recently been to New York at the invitation of the United Nations. Clearly a man of worldwide influence, Dr Tong some years ago addressed a conference in Stockholm on new models of world government and how the wisdom of Confucius could add to this debate. One aspect of this is that a country's philosophical ideals should be integrated into the practicality and styles of its government.

Says Christine Thompson: "We would also like to thank Dr Tong, Dr Kwan and the Confucian Academy for their generous offer to help us establish a TFC office in Hong Kong as an exchange of good will between our two organizations. This was the first TFC visit to Hong Kong but, as long-time admirers of the Chinese culture, we felt and hope that this visit may be the start of an enduring friendship."



The Colloquium of Religions in Hong Kong

Dr. Tong is one of six spiritual leaders in Hong Kong and a member of the *Colloquium of Religions in HK*. Founded over thirty years ago, the Colloquium includes members from the traditional religions of China - Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism - as well as Anglican and Catholic Christianity and Islam. The six representatives have met regularly to discuss the moral welfare of HK citizens and each Chinese New Year they send out a message of hope and encouragement. They also study the trends of modern society and how this may be affecting morality and well being. Concludes Christine: "The harmony the Colloquium presents in working together is an inspiration in a world where religious difference can cause so much difficulty."