

Mr. Perot,

Professor Alan MacDiarmid, James Von Ehr Distinguished Chair in Science and Technology of UTD and Nobel laureate in Chemistry of 2000

Provost Hobson Wildenthal of UTD

Dean Robert Helms of UTD

My new friend President Wei Hwang of National Chiao Tung University

My old (but young) friend Executive Director General Bob Yang of ASTRI of Hong Kong,

My new friend Dr Ray Sung, Dean of the Medical School of National Cheng Kung University

My new friend Dr. Sean Wang, President of ITRI International,

Distinguished guests from all corners of North America and Asia Pacific:

My name is Da Hsuan Feng and I am the co-Chair of the 2006 Emerging Information Technology Conference. My partner-in-crime in this effort is Dr. Jyuo-Min Shyu, the deputy Director of the massive Industrial Technology Research Institute (more commonly known globally as ITRI). Unfortunately Dr. Shyu needs to be in Taiwan today to defend the budget of the Institute, and I do not blame him for putting that effort as higher priority!

I have NOW the greatest honor to declare that EITC-2006 is “open for business!”

Seven years ago, a group of visionary Chinese Americans from East and West Coasts of United States (regrettably I am not smart enough to be one of them), recognized that in the new millennium, global conditions are ripped for accelerated intellectual and economic interactions between North America and Asia Pacific. Such interactions will surely be one of the most important components for enhancing quality-of-life for humanity in the 21st century.

The driving forces of the interactions are as much scientific/technological as they are entrepreneurial, with a touch of cultural flavor. Yet, while there

were many conferences which serve as platforms for interactions for one discipline or another, there was not one where it admixes the highest level of discussions in science, technology and their economic implications for leading individuals in North America and Asia Pacific, with an Asian cultural flavor.

Hence, the birth of EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, now known globally as EITC.

Also, as the old saying goes, “Rome was not built in a day!” The success of this conference, attended by, as you can see, such a large number of luminaries from North America and Asia Pacific in the academic and commercial worlds, is built on what happened during the past five conferences, in Newark New Jersey Airport Marriott Hotel, Princeton University and National Taiwan University. We in the Metroplex want to specifically thank the organizers of those conferences for their successful hardwork!

For this conference, there are so many people to acknowledge and if I do so one by one, it will take two and a half days of the conference. So, I hope you will allow me to simply ask all those who have spent time on the organization to stand up so that the participants can recognize you and give you a big hand!

However, there is one person who we all recognize have been the unwavering pillar in the past seven years. I think I can honestly say that without his meticulously and relentless behind-the-scene “manipulations” (in a good way), there would be no EITC, 2000, the first conference or 2006 the current one. I think you know who I am talking about. He is someone who loves email even more than me! To get us to this point today, he sent over 2000 emails in order to keep all of us in line! He is someone who truly knows how to herd cats! He also said that this will be the last year where he will be working on the organization of EITC. With him gone, I have pity on the organizers of EITC 2007 in Princeton University in New Jersey!

He is of course, Michael Wang and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and ask him to come up to receive a small token of our appreciation.

Now, allow me the GREATEST honor of introducing our inaugural speaker who, as the old saying goes, NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION.

In Texas, Ross Perot is an icon, a visionary, a technologist, and of course a world class entrepreneur. I think it is difficult to think of Texas and not think of Ross Perot. In fact, personally, I think of Ross Perot in Texas just like I think of Sam Houston, the first President of the Republic of Texas.

In the United States, Mr. Perot has made history by being twice a presidential candidate. His participation in our political system has had profound impact on the national political landscape. I would be remiss in my duty if I did not underscore that Mr. Perot truly shares the pains of the veterans of this country, especially those with broken bodies. He has palpably demonstrated his deep compassion and concern for their well being.

Finally, while Mr. Perot is a great patriot, he has demonstrated over and over again of being a global visionary. United States and indeed the world need more, and more of, Ross Perot.

He is a man of both the 20th and the 21st centuries.

Therefore I am extremely honored to invite Mr. Perot to the podium to deliver what we Chinese refer to as *Kai Mu Ci* (or the speech to unveil the curtain)

(Photos of the first day can be downloaded from <http://eitc2006.xwiki.com/xwiki/bin/view/Photos/Day1>)