



News Release

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Pan Asian American Leadership Caucus Announces Outreach Plan to Promote the Opportunities Conference 2003

The Pan Asian American Leadership Caucus (PALC) today announced an extensive campaign to outreach to the Asian American community on the Opportunities Conference to take place in Washington D.C. September 24- 25, 2003.

The conference is the first of its kind focused on strengthening the economic development of the Asian Pacific and Hispanic American communities. The conference is co-organized by the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development and the Office of US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

PALC President Peter Yu outlined the group's efforts to promote the conference including direct-mail, outreach to media, phone bank and providing transportation by bus to the Conference from Manhattan to DC, free-of-charge.

PALC is one of 12 sponsoring partners of the Opportunities Conference 2003. Another partner of the conference, the US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce was represented by the President of its East Coast Chapter, Howard Li "Small businesses are the economic engine of America, but many Asian business owners work long hours and do not have the know-how to find business opportunities with the government or to get government loans to expand our businesses. The Opportunities Conference will offer so much for our community," said Li, who is a prominent business leader in New York.

Representatives of the organizing federal agencies discussed their perspectives on the conference. Angelica O. Tang, Secretary's Regional Representative of the US Department of Labor said, "The Opportunities Conference is an example of what we do to build our communities, through education, small business advancement and growth of community organizations. At the Department of Labor, we are giving hope and opportunities to Americans everyday."

"HUD has no higher priority than improving people's lives and strengthening communities," said Marisel Morales, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey. "Conferences

like this one fulfills HUD's mission by giving people an opportunity to become self-sufficient, thus empowering not only themselves but the communities where they work and live as well."

The Opportunities Conference 2003 aims to reach out to small business owners, non-profit organizations and community leaders. Attending the press announcement were chief officers of the Asian American Business Development Center, Asian Americans for Equality, Chinatown Manpower Project, Chinatown YMCA, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and the Indochina Sino-American Community Center as well as Asian American civic and business leaders.

Praising President Bush's appointment of Secretaries Chao and Martinez, Richard Yoon, President of the Manhattan Korean Association of New York, said, "Both are exemplary leaders and hard-working immigrants to this country who know first-hand about Building on America's Promise by advancing our communities."

David Chen, Executive Director of the Chinese-American Planning Council, the largest Asian-American social services agency in the country, underscored the Administration's high level of support for faith and community-based organizations, "I am pleased the Conference will focus on Limited English Proficient workers and address the issues that impact our constituents. It will strengthen our organizations and the communities we serve."

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