



The Weihai Way

January 2010

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A New Year Prognosis from Peter Haslund: **Weihai Sister City Association is Alive and Well**



It was 23 years ago when I first visited the Chinese city of Weihai for the purpose of exploring that city's interest in a Sister City linkage with Santa Barbara. It took a number of years to negotiate a final agreement, but by the early 1990's, it became official! Our Mayor, Hal Conklin, went to Weihai, and their Mayor came here to sign the agreement! We were Sister Cities!!

Now, 20 years later, many students have visited Weihai through SBCC's Study Abroad program, and three groups of Santa Barbara area high school teachers have participated in helping Weihai students improve

their conversational English , so we have made some progress in terms of our stated purpose of advancing cultural and academic exchanges. Next year, Weihai authorities are likely to send teachers to Santa Barbara to help our students learn Chinese and to find out more about our approach to secondary education.

The final link, a focus on advancing commercial links between the two cities, may recently have received a boost. Executives from the Santa Barbara based True Vision Systems, Inc., recently visited their counterparts in Weihai and may well be doing business for the foreseeable future.





Forrest Fleming, CEO of Santa Barbara's TrueVision Systems, with Mayor Marty Blum shortly before departing for China and presenting a gift to Mayor Shutao in Weihai in December, 2009.

TrueVision® Systems is a Santa Barbara company pioneering a real-time 3DHD vision system for microsurgery. It converts the stereoscopic optical view of surgical microscopes to a digital 3DHD image, called TrueView™, and displays it on a projection screen or monitor. Surgical procedures are now performed without the need to be permanently attached to the microscope oculars.

TrueVisions Systems is now exploring a business relationship with Santa Barbara Sister City Weihai, China.

MAJOR NEWS IN OUR TEACHER TO TEACHER RELATIONSHIP!!!



Santa Barbara area high school faculty at the Weihai #1 Middle School, July 2009

Last summer's teaching experience was truly exceptional! Santa Barbara area teachers worked with Chinese students at the #1 Middle School of Weihai and made a real impact! Supported by a grant from the Freeman Foundation, our teachers taught and mentored over 100 of their students who made significant progress in their quest to master our spoken language. Now, Weihai officials would like to send at least two teachers here to learn more about our approach to teaching while offering to teach Chinese to our students. This is a real tribute to the hard work of our teachers.

The Newsletter for the Santa Barbara / Weihai Sister City Association



Currently in Weihai... It's Cold !!!

High temperatures are in the 20's or low 30's and the freeze is affecting the marine fisheries in Weihai and nearby seaports. Following is from an article published in the January 15, 2010, *People's Daily Online*:

Sea ice off China's east coast is killing fish stocks and causing huge losses to the fishing industry -- and the ice is set to worsen, the State Oceanic Administration warned.

Almost 30,000 square km of sea ice was covering up to 40 percent of the Bohai Sea off east China's Shandong Province, said Lin Shanqing, director of disaster relief department of the State Oceanic

The worst sea ice in 40 years appeared began early January along the coasts of the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea as cold fronts pushed temperatures below minus 10 degrees Celsius, according to the National Marine Forecasting Station. Sea ice had affected fisheries of Shandong's Qinghai, Yantai, Weihai port cities, as stocks died and boats were trapped in port. The direct economic losses of the fishing industry in Weihai City were estimated at 420 million yuan (61 million U.S. dollars). In Yantai City, 200 boats were trapped in port for more than a month.

Important Notes from the Outreach Committee:

The mission of our committee is to build awareness of our organization in the community and to keep our existing membership lists up-to-date. To this end, we wish to let you know that we value your relationship with us and hope you consider renewing your membership for 2010.

As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter, be invited to our Annual Meeting in May as well as to all other events sponsored by our Association. Our next event is the Chinese New Year Celebration in February which will usher in the Year of the White Tiger. 2010 promises to be an exciting year and we want you to be a part of it. Don't miss out!

Annual dues are collected during the Chinese New Year Celebration:

Family ...\$35

Individual ...\$25

Student ...\$15

OUR ASSOCIATION

Weihai, in Shandong Province, China, became a Sister City to Santa Barbara in 1993. We participate on the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board, Chaired by Ms. Takako Wakita. Currently, Santa Barbara's Sister Cities include Toba City, Japan; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Weihai, Peoples' Republic of China; San Juan Metro Manila, Philippines; Dingle Ireland; and Kotor, Montenegro. For more information about Weihai or other Sister Cities, visit : http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Visitor/Sister_Cities/Weihai_China/



ADDRESS

IT'S THE YEAR OF THE TIGER!

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY FOR OUR
ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER**

- *CHINA PAVILLION ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH*
- *SILENT AUCTION, CELEBRATION, CHINESE DANCERS*
- *5:00 PM REGISTRATION – NO HOST BAR*
- *6:00 PM DINNER – EIGHT DELICIOUS DISHES*

**LIMITED SPACE, SO USE THE CONTACT
INFORMATION INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER TO
RESERVE YOUR TICKETS ASAP!**