



## WEF 2006 China friendly?

By CK Wong 2006.02.02

<http://www.ck-wong.ca/China/wef%202006%20china%20friendly.pdf>

### Introduction

2006 World Economic Forum has closed. This is regarded as the most China centric WEF. Many praise the significant role of China plays in this year. I have my reservation.

### My impression

China has a sizeable delegate this year. Vice Premier Zheng Peiyang speaks on the five year plan of China in the opening ceremony as a special guest. Special thanks were made to the Chinese attendee to acknowledge their contribution to the meeting just before the Chinese New Year. All the courtesy and all politeness and communications (e.g. the cartoon) paints an important role of China's fourth largest economic of the world. It sounds respectable.

On the other hand, major forum and presentation were made on how US's economic policy influence the world to maintain the peace. How the US's contribution to the world economic growth. How the US's economic system supports the world. How the US companies and individual initiate projects to save the world.

China has been displayed to the world on its economic roadmap. But where is the US and EU's economic roadmap? Why it is so important to mention China's effort to have 50 Fortune 500 companies by 2010 with a doubtful tone? ("China announces ..... at least declares its intention to have 50 Fortune 500" Orit Gadiesh, Chairman, Bain & Company, USA in the China Goes Global session)

### My thoughts

I do not find all these attention respectful. China becomes another Qing China again. Western wants to find out what are the opportunities Western can take advantage of. China's contributions are not just only exporting deflation, investment opportunities for the West. The humanity programs in Africa were not presented (building road and railways). Only those by American were presented. If China is going to be a major economic and world stage player, it should be treated as a equal partner. China goes to global is just like American, Britain, Japan and India. There is no need to single out China's natural economic development path and examining it and analyses in a way, which I feel, like examine an exotic animal in a glass house. This supremacy attitude should be changed.

### My conclusion

I do not care how verbally the West respects China. The mind should be the same. Although China is where money will be, my advice is to balance the greed with respect. China is not a pie to be cut up by the West. Not any more.

## **Afterward**

This piece is inspired by Dean le Baron who suggests that the important thing for the WEF is what we think when we listen to the forum, not the discussion.