

THE OPPORTUNITY - FULFILLED

Dr Alex K H Ooi, 2 February 2013

I thank Prof Yetian for recording my journey leading up to the successful and hospitable 18-20 January, 2013 Symposium in Harbin.

First visit:

My first contact with the legacy of Dr Wu Lien-teh (DrWLT) was in August 2008 when I visited Harbin for the museum opening, led by Dato Ng Kong Yeam, along with Mrs Ng (Swee Pin), Lim Ho Hup, Larry Lai, Chia Lin Sien and Kitson Ng. It was truly an eye-opener, as many who attended this Symposium can attest to.

Though from the Penang Free School myself and aware of a Sports House named after Dr WLT, that was about all. On this trip, the man came “alive”. I also met Prof Fu Shiying (who worked with Mrs Betty Tai to materialize the museum), Marie Wu, Wong Ai Luen and Ong Lay Hong. See pics A1 to A3.



I developed the strong desire to promote and spread the lessons gleaned from Dr WLT's life, work and principles. I was to spend effort researching, gestating and gelling the concept.

Second visit:

Then, in January 2011, I accompanied Ong Lay Hong to the 100th anniversary of DrWLT's Mukden (Shenyang) Conference on the Plague in Beijing. The Old Fries Association of Singapore (OFAS), of which I am President, gave support. I roped in Loke Gim Tay, an old Penang Chung Ling High School boy.

From Beijing, we proceeded to meet Prof Fu Shiying in Harbin – only to confirm his unrelenting strong desire to see Dr WLT's principles of medical service and public health placed on better footing and its reach more pervading. We checked out the conference facilities, the hotels and the local sights. See pics B1 to B3.



I got to dine a second time at “Old Chef”!

The rough journey:

I recall the many moments of doubt and the need to doggedly persist.

Timing-wise, January appears best - being Ice Festival time (and when Dr WLT arrived in Harbin) - though the extreme cold could be daunting for many.

However, holding it in 2012 was not to be, as the stimulus could not be applied in time. Prof Fu then sent Prof Yetian (and Dr George Liu) to meet with me to lay the groundwork, in May 2012. They managed to visit Mrs Betty Tai (who was Dr WLT's first daughter and born in Harbin) whilst in Singapore.

That was also when Dato Anwar Fazal of Penang Heritage Trust put on Think City's Penang Story – with Ong Lay Hong speaking on her 3-part documentary on Dr WLT (aired on Channel News Asia and also shown in 2008 at the Dr WLT Museum opening). Loke Gim Tay and I sponsored the visitors to Penang to attend and to meet the Penang officials. See pics C1 to C4 (including picture of a talk for the Singapore-China Friendship Society in April 2012, in Singapore).



PENANG STORY LECTURES

by **Ong Lay Hong**
*Managing Director, Singapore Media Academy,
A MediaCorp Enterprise*

PLAGUE FIGHTER Dr Wu Lien-teh

A Penang Hero who modernized medicine in China

Date: 19 May 2012 (Saturday)
Time: 4pm to 6pm
Venue: Wawasan Open University

Programme

4.00pm	Registration
4.30pm	Welcome Speech by Dato' Anwar Fazal
4.35pm	Introduction by Dr. Alex Ooi
4.45pm	Public Lecture by Ms. Ong Lay Hong
5.30pm	Q&A
6.00pm	Light Refreshment/Ends

Joint Organisers:

thinkCITY

That proved to be the pivotal point to turn feasibility into reality. With the support of Dato Anwar and Ooi Geok Ling, Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng officiated

the Penang Story. Prof Tian issued the invitation to this Symposium (to be alongside his Cardiology Conference) and I was to undertake the logistical necessities outside of Harbin and to act as go-between.

The logistics and linkages went smoothly (along with the usual pains getting registration details and participation fees!) – with language concerns eventually sorting itself out when more effectively bilingual people came on board.

Moving Forward:

Dato Anwar and Penang's officials moved fast, to be well prepared. The DrWLT Society inauguration was held on 14 Oct 2012 - rules were confirmed and the protem committee formed (registered 2 January 2013) .

As our OFAS AGM guest speaker, Dato Anwar came to Singapore on 21 Oct 2012 where he also met up with Mrs Betty Tai, Wong Ai Luen and Ong Lay Hong. See pics D1 to D3.



Consequent to the strong interest of Penang officials to forge corresponding links in Harbin, many were initiated, with Penang Medical College able to conclude an MOU with Harbin Medical University.

We take cognizance of InvestPenang's support - with Dato Lee Kah Choon representing Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng (unable to leave Penang due to exigencies) and to lead the Penang team, comprising also Penang Institute, Penang Heritage Trust, Penang Global Tourism and Penang Medical College. The large number from Island Hospital, led by Dato Dr Chong Keat Foong, two top officials of Penang Tourist Guides' Association and the very many others from all over, lent color, enthusiasm and gaiety to the gravity of the objective.

I thank Dr WLT and all parties involved for the opportunity – now fulfilled. The fruition of a sound scientific program, linkages and friendships is now history for all to judge and to build further upon for collaborations and global public health.

Thank you.

从机缘到功成

2013年2月2日

黄君贤医生

在此我特别感激田野教授一路助我记载迈向历史的旅程，并最终于2013年1月18日至20日在哈尔滨市成功号召了这一届的伍连德博士纪念大会。

首次访问：

我第一次接触到有关伍连德博士的事迹是在2008年8月，正逢我跟随拿督黄光炎夫妇，林和合先生，赖先生，谢林仙先生和黄吉生先生等人一起出席在哈尔滨举办的伍连德博士纪念馆开幕仪式。对于众多出席了本届研讨会的嘉宾来说，当时的确是一个令人大开眼界的难忘经验。

虽然我曾多年在槟城大英义学里受教育，仅知校内有一个体育组以伍连德博士为名，我对伍博士的了解可谓极为肤浅。可是经过这一趟访问后，伍博士在我眼前“活”了起来。我有幸拜见了傅世英教授，得知他曾与伍玉玲女士合作完成纪念馆的成立。我也和李刘美瑞，台艾伦和王丽风女士们作了交谈，了解更多情况。（参阅图片A1至A3）

从那时起，我心里泯起了强烈的愿望，想要大力推广和学习伍连德博士的生活与工作精神及其为人道理，并全力以赴来研究，孕育和凝着这个理念。

二次访问：

之后在2011年1月，我连同王丽风女士到达北京出席纪念伍连德博士在奉天（沈阳）举办万国鼠疫研究会100周年的学术研讨会。身为新加坡大英义学校友会主席的我还拉拢了骆锦地先生，一位出身于槟城钟灵中学的老校友来一起参会。

我们从北京出发，到哈尔滨拜见了傅英世教授，目睹了他不屈不挠地要达到推广伍连德博士对医疗服务和公共卫生的济世精神能在更稳健的基础上及更广阔的范围中发扬光大。当时我们也检讨哈尔滨会议的设施，酒店住宿设备和当地景点。（参阅图片B1到B3）

顺便一提：我真有口福再次登门“老厨房”享用了美食！

筹备工作，颠簸的旅途：

我记得很多时候出现了重重的质疑难题，需要本身顽强地坚持下去。

时序安排方面，1月份刚好碰上冰雪节，和当年伍博士抵达哈尔滨时一样寒冷，对许多人来说可能是艰巨的考验。

然而要在2012年短期内筹备恐怕还是具备不全，时机未到。2012年5月傅教授派遣田野教授和刘医生与我会面，奠定了筹备工作的基础。在新加坡逗留期间他们也拜访了伍玉玲女士，也就是出生在哈尔滨的伍连德博士长女。

适逢槟城古迹信托会的拿督安华法扎勒先生主办《槟城的故事》讲座，以伍连德博士为题邀请王丽风女士主讲。王女士完成3部有关伍博士生平的纪录片，曾在新加坡亚洲新闻频道里播出，伍连德纪念馆2008年开幕时也有重播过。骆锦地和我赞助国内访客到槟城出席参加，并且礼会了槟城的当地官员。（参阅图片C1至C4，包括2012年4月在新加坡-中国友好协会内主办的座谈会）。

槟城的会议恰是个转折关键，把可行性转变为现实。在拿督安华和黄玉玲女士的安排下，槟州首席部长林冠英先生为伍连德博士讲座主持开幕礼。田教授之后发出请帖邀请大家参加2013年哈尔滨伍连德博士纪念大会暨第三届寒地心脏病学会议，我则承担哈尔滨以外的后勤工作，为此穿针引线。

种种的手续和联系，进展还算顺利（偶尔也为了追讨报名资料和参展费而伤脑筋！）。幸好有精通中英双语的人士现身帮忙，语言通讯上的障碍方可一一迎刃而解。

下一步：

拿督安华和槟城的热心人士迅速采取行动，在2012年10月14日创立了槟城伍连德博士学会，编立学会规章和筹备临时委员会，终于2013年1月2日正式注册，为出席哈尔滨大会铺路做好充分准备。

2012年10月21日，新加坡大英义学校友会常年大会上拿督安华被邀来新加坡当台上演说嘉宾，他也和伍玉玲，方艾伦和王丽风女士等人会面。（参阅图片D1至D3）

随之而来的是槟城官方与民间组织的浓厚兴趣，希望与哈尔滨市各界机构单位建立相应的链接，包括槟城医学院与哈尔滨医科大学缔结一项谅解备忘录。

在槟州投资机构的鼎力支持下，一个代表首席部长林冠英的拿督李家全带领了槟城团队，包括槟城研究所，槟城古迹信托会，槟城环球旅游机构和槟城医学院，槟榔医院的拿督鍾杰丰医生及医师团，槟城导游协会和来自多方的代表兴高彩烈地来到哈尔滨参加大会。

我衷心感谢伍连德博士和所有各方的参与，实现了我的机缘。一开始完善的科学程序，联系和友谊，已是目共睹地达到开花结果之境。下一步还需要大家的共同努力来进一步巩固合作和普及全球公共卫生的知识。

谢谢！