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The News Letter from Dr. Kenichi Sudo

President of National Ethnology Museum of Japan
by minpaku



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The Wang's family visited our National Ethnology Museum of Japan from Michigan, U.S.A.

On March 20, 2014, the exhibition hall of China region culture has been renewed. At the corner for the overseas-Chinese and ethnic Chinese section, there is hanging a large beautiful cutting paper in a glass case. It was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Rui-Feng Wang and Chu-Chiang Lin who are residents of Michigan, U.S.A. This cutting paper is a motif of the Pagoda, Wang Xiang Ting, which Mr. and Mrs. Wang had built and donated to Beijing Bai Wang Shan Forest Park in 2005. This delicate beautiful cutting paper was created by a famous popular artist, Ms. Hu-Die Zheng. Mr. Wang heard the news from his long-time friend, Mr. Yao-Lin Chen, who is an oversea-Chinese in Kobe, of our museum's plan to open a new exhibit corner for overseas-Chinese and ethnic Chinese. In 2012, Mr. Wang visited Japan and donated this cutting paper.



(Photo by Dr. Tien-Shi Chen, March 20, 2014)

Because their parents moved from Taiwan to Japan during the era when Taiwan was under Japanese occupation, Mr. and Mrs. Wang were born and grew up in Japan until they graduated from university. And just before Cultural Revolution had started in China, they moved to Beijing, and had worked in China Radio International Japanese service, Beijing University of Agriculture and Genetic Institute, The Science Academy of China in Beijing. In 1979, they moved to U.S.A. In 2002, they re-visited Beijing, and decided to build the pagoda, Wang Xiang Ting, and donated it to the Bai Wang Shan Forest Park. The park is located at the front line of the past war between Chinese against the Japanese occupation. The progress for getting this donation to our museum has started when our associate professor Dr. Tien-Shi Chen (now, also working in the Waseda University) had talked to her friend Mr. Yao-Lin Chen about a plan to set up new exhibit corner for overseas-Chinese and ethnic Chinese section. According to Dr. Tien-Shi Chen, Mr. Wang wants to donate this cutting paper is because: "Regardless of a person's nationality, every person has his/her own personal journey from the place of birth and where he/she grew up and always has this place in the mind. I built this Pagoda with a wish for the peace to human kind. I am very happy that this cutting paper of the pagoda, Wang Xiang Ting, will be exhibited in your museum".

On March 20, 2014, at the Opening Ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Wang, accompanied by their two daughters and spouses, and their grandchildren little Jacqueline and Alexander, all 8 family members made a special trip to attend the Ceremony. Additional attendees of the Ceremony included: Mr. and Mrs. Chen and their daughter from Kobe, members of the alumni group-classmates of the Otemae High School where Mr. Wang graduated. The cutting paper of the pagoda, Wang Xiang Ting, donated by Mr. Wang, has symbolic meaning of their homeland for overseas-Chinese and ethnic Chinese. It has great meaning that it has become the rainbow bridge between overseas-Chinese emigrants and their mother land.

When Mr. Wang decided to donate this Chinese cutting paper to Japan, he had worried whether it will be used as political propaganda. But our museum is a national museum, and has exhibited variety of goods from many countries and regions of the world. Thus, he is happy that he could make sure it will maintain a "Neutral position". Mr. Wang has made great achievement in his three "homelands": Japan, China and U.S.A. He has put his philosophy on this cutting paper as a wish for peace to human kind. We deeply appreciate Mr. Wang's donation, which is based on his a noble philosophy.



(Interpreted from Japanese in English)