

## **Opening Address by Senator Vivienne Poy**

### **AAEOY Banquet 2011**

**Feb 26, 2011 - Seattle, U.S.A.**

**Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and new friends:**

**I wish to thank CIE-USA for inviting my husband and me to your very important annual award gala. Many of you must be wondering why a Canadian is standing here on stage at an American event. Well, it happened in a very strange and wonderful way.**

**On Feb. 9th last year, out of the blue, I received a letter from Dr. Liu JunMin, who found me through the help of the University of Hong Kong. No, I am not an engineer. It was my father who was a founding member of the CIE Hong Kong chapter, and CIE-USA was trying to gather information about him. Since then, I have also corresponded with various members, such as Dr. Chang Chein-Chi, Dr. Kai Wang and Dr. Jiin Chen, and have established friendships, and tonight, I can finally put faces to these prominent names.**

**As a historian, I have always known that China lacked engineers during the Qing dynasty, but I was not aware, until I read your history, that it was as late as 1905 that the first engineering project was built by Chinese engineers, led by Zhan Tien-You (Jing-Zhang railroad). Now, memories of the things I heard from my father make greater sense, and I understand why he studied to be an engineer to help China.**

**Memories are coming back to me about my father's responsibility for the completion and the repairs of the Qian Gui (Guizhou Guangxi) railway lines during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, which was very important for the evacuation of refugees. And I remember the time he showed me the bridge across the Pearl River that he was involved in building back in the late 1920s. He was also very involved with the rebuilding of Hong Kong after the Second World War.**

**As a child, I used to wonder why he always went to our own building sites on the weekends. Even though he didn't have to be personally involved with the construction, he loved it, because it was very much a part of his life.**

**Today, engineering comprises every aspect of our daily lives, both on earth and in outer space. Humankind cannot do without the kind of talents your members have. It's people like you who have continuously worked to make life easier and better for all of us.**

**In appreciation, I would like to present your organization with a certificate from the Senate of Canada.**