

**Transcript of
Dr. Hwa A. Lim's (林華安博士)
BravoComp2015 banquet speech:**



Honorable Mayor Jose Esteves, Honorable Vice Mayor Barry Chang, VIPs, Members of the Press, Parents, Participants and Guests,

My name is Hwa A. Lim. I have the honor of speaking to you tonight in my capacity as a professional member of the UNESCO's CID (Conseil International de la Danse or International Council of Dance).



United Nations (UN) logo; Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) logo; United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and Conseil International de la Danse (CID) logo.

CID was founded in 1973 within the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where it is based. UNESCO is, of course, like Mayor Jose Esteves of the City of Milpitas before me said, is the United Nations' Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.



Dr. Lim addressing a UN meeting, Seoul, Korea. (Circa 1993).

This affiliation is in fact my second affiliation with the United Nations. My very first affiliation with the United Nations is as a bioinformatics expert for the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

I take pride in this affiliation for two reasons: First I have been referred to as “Father of Bioinformatics”. Bioinformatics is currently a very hot topic in universities. Second, in that

capacity, I helped set up biotech research centers and bioinformatics centers worldwide, in particular, in the Pacific Rim nations, for more than two decades now since 1993.

This second affiliation is quite different from the first. CID is sometimes also known as the United Nations of Dance. In the spirit of CID, dance encompasses all forms of dances, NOT just ballroom dances, as we have most often been misled. And to properly know how to “dance”, we have to understand all aspects pertinent to dancing: culture, history, lines and forms, body dynamics, creative elements, musicality, just to name a few. Otherwise it is rote-learning at the very least, robot dancing at the very best!



Dr. Lim performing an aerial “press”, and “death sweep” with his regular partner. (Circa 2013).

I got into dancing partially for the same reason that Vice Mayor of the City of Cupertino Barry C. explained earlier just before my speech, as a de-stressor for my health amidst my heavy commitments. Despite my physique and my profession as a scientist and a tenured faculty member at a university, after training from a few world-class coaches, I became very good at it.



Four Fanime characters are volunteer hosts at BravoComp2015, July 5, 2015, Crowne Plaza Hotel and Spa.

BravoComp2015, organized by AHSA, is a true competition in the sense that it is following the guidelines of an internationally recognized esteemed body of experts, UNESCO’s CID.

This dance competition would have been the sixth AHSA has organized, or the third in the Bravo series AHSA has organized, and the very first AHSA has organized as an institutional member of CID!



Dance competition heats have been going on the whole day. Participants are from mostly Pacific Rim nations (China, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia) and the US and Ukraine, competing amateur, amateur-amateur (am-am) and professional-amateur (pro-am) categories. Next time we will try to invite participants from other parts of the world, and have professional competitions as well.



Tonight we will have a few more showcases and theatrical art competitions, in which competitors help each other in a cooperative (cooperative and competitive) manner in fellow competitors' showcases, and I myself will showcase with a few uprising dancers who are not my regular partners, but who have set their goals and have been training hard with me in the short few weeks leading to this competition! These pro-am showcases are a best way to get uprising dancers' feet into the door of dancing in front of huge crowds, and to train them to outperform themselves under all conditions.



Like in any competitions, there are some who outperform themselves and there are others who do not perform as well. These are not the most important reason for having this competition; rather it is all the experience and thrill, and goal-settings of competing that are

most important. By being a part of this competition, all the competitors are already a winner, whether eventually they win first place or not.

I hope with this international event, and with the successful completion of this dance event, we would have brought more understanding to dancing – cooperation, goal-setting, different forms of dance... The social media has also been very kind to propagate mutual understandings of dancing. In days past, dance competitions were dominated by a few organizations; but today, we can watch all forms of dances on Youtube, for example, from traditional dances to modern dances, read about dance pertinent materials on social media. In this sense, the social media is a true democratizer of dancing.

Indeed, at the individual level,

“Inside every man is a little boy who wants to come out to play; inside every woman is a little girl who wants to come out to dance.”

Or like a Zimbabwean proverb says, “If you can talk, you can sing; if you can walk, you can dance.”

So without much further ado, I would like to conclude by saying that dancing is a much wider subject than we have been unfortunately misled to believe. And competitions are not only for Standard or International ballroom dancers, like what most would claim! Standardization is good only for comparisons, but it can, in almost all cases, stifle creativities.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the evening!

