

## Speech

By

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“Launch & Press Conference for World Dance Day 2018”  
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Dear VIPs, Members of the Media, Guests, and Volunteers,

This is a press conference about an upcoming World Dance Day that is only about ten weeks away. This has been the case every April 29 since 1982 and the World Dance Day is a sanctioned event by the UNESCO's *Conseil International de la Danse* (CID).



All of us have heard of the United Nations, likely because there are 195 countries in the world and 193 are members of the United Nations (UN).

Less known is within the UN are 17 agencies, including the World Bank, World Food Program, World Health Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization, and many others. Of most pertinent to us today is the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

*Conseil International de la Danse* (CID) is under UNESCO, and understandably, because, contrary to popular belief, dance is generally regarded as educational or cultural. As a scientist myself, I would not hesitate to add that dance is scientific as well.

A frequently asked question is what dance does CID do? CID is an umbrella organization and it treats all forms of dances equally. It currently has more than 1,000 institution members, and about 10 times as many individual members from 170 countries.



Ribbon dance; Tibetan dance, and Chinese theatrical.



Singing too...

In the parlance of CID, dance is more than physical exercises or performances; it includes reporting, both verbally and written, and to be able to do so requires some competent research work in cultural and scientific knowledge. To this end, CID organizes world congresses throughout the year as a forum for experts to interact, and sanctions the World Dance Day to bring awareness. In fact CID works trans-agency with the World Food Program to help those malnourished.

Despite CID's best efforts, there are still some misconceptions about dance and the art of dancing, especially among the different forms of dances. Think of it this way: the United Nations was formed to regulate conflicts among nations; CID was formed to treat all dance forms on equally footing. Thus CID is the United Nations of Dance, or in short, United Dances.

This brings us to how we get to this point in the organization of 2018 World Dance Day. One of the things we love to do is to push boundaries or do something new. In almost all instances, the boundaries keep giving. So whenever we expand our goals or reach further out, those people who prefer to maintain *status quo* (or stay within their small coteries) rage in circles for days or even months until the completion of a first milestone – such as today – like so many provoked bees who, finding no one to sting, have nowhere to go but back to the hive.

After at least initial two months of tough “battles” and distractions, we have come to today's launch of the 2018 World Dance Day. I have to quickly add that there are beneficial bees too: They are experts who happen to share our vision. As of date, we have had an overwhelming number of domain experts from at least five countries who have lent supports in the form of brief videos of greetings.

This is actually easier said than done. Today would not have been possible without the initial hard work of Carmelita Chao, and then fortuitous coming together of Carmelita and Ong Peng Chu in Asia, and then came Coach Liu Xing Jiu. The three of them and volunteers, especially Carmelita, have done most of the work.



Carmelita; Ong Peng Chu and Dr. Hwa A. Lim

This year the World Dance Day will also push the envelope a little. The Day will end with a finale of Asian Gala, in which songs spanning over four decades will be sung, and danced to. In addition to other live performances, a currently very popular uprising singer from Asia will perform live on that day.

Today, I stand before you to bring out the gist of this Launch & Press Conference: it is that it makes the next showcase you watch, the next dance you perform, or the hit of whatever you enjoy at an extravaganza as more than just a product to consume. Think of the history behind it; think of the weight of human ingenuity, creativity and invention that had to build up before you could enjoy it as easily and safely as you do. Enjoy your dances, and respect them, too! More importantly, learn to appreciate other dances, and enjoy dancing with each other as well.

Let us come together to make this year's "World Dance Day – When Creativity Meets Dream Angels" the best ever yet, and let us help fulfill the ambitions of many dream angels, worldwide. Thank you.



The cake; Qipao as well...



