

**Mission to promote peace and harmony**

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**Dr. Paul Kan, Chair of Champion Technology Group, presents the third episode of the “Peace and Harmony” series: “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts” Exhibition, showcasing 108 statues of Manjusri and 108 related exhibits at Hong Kong City Hall**

Photos: <http://www.3trinity.hk/press/manjusri/21-9/>

2009 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of People’s Republic of China. Sponsored by Champion Technology Group, Kantone, Digital Hong Kong, A Better Tomorrow, Chinese Literature Foundation and World Cultural Relics Protection Foundation, “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts” Exhibition, jointly organized by Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and The Hong Kong Buddhist Association, will be held at Hong Kong City Hall Low Block Exhibition Hall from 11<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 and open to the public for free admission. As part of the celebratory programmes under “Silk Road Arts Festival”, the Exhibition will display the valuable artifacts which are the private collections acquired over many years by Dr. Paul Kan, Chair of Champion Technology Group, including 108 exquisite statues of Manjusri and 108 related exhibits that make debut appearance for the very first time.

Driven by his passion and expertise in collecting treasures, Dr. Paul Kan, Chair of Champion Technology Group, is a renowned collector and dedicated connoisseur in Hong Kong. After the great success of the first two episodes: “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Avalokitesvara from Tibet, China with 108 pieces of Avalokitesvara related artifacts” in 2007 and “Peace and Harmony: When East Meets West – a new perspective on Matisse from Dunhuang” that took place in August 2009, Dr. Paul Kan decided to stage the coming exhibition with “Manjusri” as the theme and display his treasures that include exquisite statues of Manjusri, Jambhalas, Thangka, ritual implements in the Esoteric Buddhism, such as Ga’u, Thokcha Wisdom Sword of Manjusri, Tsha-tsha, right-spiralling conch etc., for public appreciation.

Manjusri is a symbol of wisdom, and the great emperors in Chinese history have been regarded as the incarnations of Manjusri, with the ability to sever worries and bring bliss to all sentient beings. Holding a lotus denoting purity and a sword of wisdom that signifies his enormous power to cut off all afflictions, Manjusri is believed to be able to lead us to overcome challenges. Consistent with the theme of the previous episodes, Dr. Paul Kan is dedicated to bringing peace and harmony to the world via “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts”, “The purpose of initiating this exhibition is to promote the significance of the concept of ‘peace and harmony’ in Chinese culture”, remarked Dr. Paul Kan. With “wisdom” as its theme, this exhibition is meant to remind everyone in the world the true meaning of “wisdom” – while intelligence is able to create prosperity, it is true wisdom that is able to create peace and harmony. Only by learning to compromise, harmonize and seek common ground whenever conflicts occur and not to sacrifice the peace for short-term and individual benefits that we can reach the ultimate goal of “world peace”. Dr. Paul Kan added, “I wish everyone could apply the wisdom of Manjusri to life. Stay positive and we can conquer the financial tsunami and all other obstacles in our lives with wisdom and attain ‘peace and harmony’.”

A 300-paged Commemorative Journal – “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China – A collection of 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts”, will be published to commemorate the launch of the exhibition. Featuring impressive images of the statues of Manjusri and related artifacts, each with detailed explanation at its side, the colour-printed Journal is indeed an invaluable publication that features not only the extraordinary collections of Dr. Paul Kan but also his passion and vision.

**“Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts” Exhibition**

Venue: Hong Kong City Hall Low Block Exhibition Hall

Exhibition Period: 11<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009

Time: 10:00am to 10:00pm (11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009), 10:00am to 9:00pm (23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009)

Admission tickets are available for distribution for free. Please kindly refer to the website of “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts” Exhibition: [www.xiang-he.org](http://www.xiang-he.org) for details or reach the 24-hour hotline 2898 6683.

**Dr. Paul Kan CBE, Com OSSI, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, SBS, JP**

Dr. Paul Kan is the Founder and Chair of three information technology companies (Champion Technology Holdings Limited, Kantone Holdings Limited, and DIGITALHONGKONG.COM) which are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and an Independent Non-Executive Director of CLP Holdings Limited. Dr. Kan is also Chair of A Better Tomorrow; Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation; and World Cultural Relics Protection Foundation. He is a fervent supporter of the information technology industry and is currently Chair of Hong Kong IT Alliance; Chair of the Hong Kong Information Technology Industry Council; Chair of Information and Communications Technology Services Advisory Committee, HKTDC; and Convener of Hungarian – Hong Kong Innovative Business Council. As an aficionado and connoisseur of art and culture, Dr. Kan is the Patron of International Foundation for Art Research; Member of Arts and Treasures Evaluation Committee, Ministry of Culture, China; Executive Committee Member of Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation. Dr. Kan’s contribution to the development of technology, arts and culture has received worldwide recognition. He has been appointed a Justice of the Peace by the Government of the HKSAR; awarded Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2006; Commendatore dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana (Comm OSSI) by the Italian Prime Minister Hon. Romano Prodi in 2006; Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by the French Government in 2007; and Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) by the Government of the HKSAR in 2009.

**About Manjusri**

Manjusri, or “Bodhisattva Manjusri” in Sanskrit, is a symbol of wisdom denoting “living being who has the intrinsic nature of insight”. He is said to be the most ancient Bodhisattva, who appeared earlier than Avalokitesvara. Also called “Great Wisdom Manjusri Bodhisattva”, he is regarded as “the Master of all Buddhas”, “the Mother of all Buddhas” as well as the head disciple of Sakyamuni for his sagaciousness. The Four Great Bodhisattvas are Avalokitesvara, Manjusri, Ksitigarbha and Samantabhadra, signifying the four virtues – “Mercy”, “Wisdom”, “Vows” and “Conduct” respectively in which Manjusri is the head of The Four Great Bodhisattvas. Manjusri was honoured by emperors as the protector of the nation and a number of emperors were regarded as the incarnations of Manjusri.

Website of “Peace and Harmony – The Divine Spectra of Manjusri enshrining the Wisdom of China with 108 pieces of Manjusri and related artifacts” exhibition: [www.xiang-he.org](http://www.xiang-he.org)

Personal website of Dr. Paul Kan: [www.paulkan.com](http://www.paulkan.com)

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