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Ms. An Ping, 212-371-6565 or  
917-670-5871 (cell)

## **Committee of 100 Announces Landmark Survey Findings on Chinese American Attitudes toward China and Domestic Issues**

(New York, NY, May 5, 2005)-- The Committee of 100, a non-partisan organization comprised of Chinese American leaders, released the results of its third and final phase of a three-phase study on American Attitudes toward China, which also included questions on key domestic issues for Chinese Americans to mark the beginning of Asian American Pacific Heritage Month.

Phase III, conducted in April 2005, polled Chinese Americans (CA) chosen at random by Zogby International. Zogby had earlier conducted studies on the attitudes of the General American Public (GP) and Opinion Leaders (OL) in December 2004 and Business Leaders (BL) and Congressional Staffers (CS) in March 2005. The Phase III sample was comprised of 354 Chinese Americans with a margin of error of +/-5.3%. The General Public poll was based on a sample of 1,202 with margin of error of +/- 2.9%.

"Polling of Chinese American attitudes toward China provides insights into the opinions of those in this country who are directly impacted by China events. The domestic issues segment benchmarks Chinese American attitudes on topics such as the adverse impact of negative China sentiments on Chinese Americans, the image of Chinese Americans, discrimination and priorities," said Robert Lee, Chairman of the Committee of 100. "This landmark three-phase study demonstrates the Committee's commitment to researching the issues facing our community and helps us educate and promote understanding among the leaders of the United States, China and Taiwan."

### ***Key Findings on Attitudes toward China***

The Chinese American results on attitudes toward China showed many similarities to those of the General Public with some notable exceptions:

**Favorable Impression of China:** Chinese Americans parallel the General Public in having a favorable impression of China, but with more intensity (75% CA vs. 59% GP).

**Relationship over 10 years:** 70% of Chinese Americans believe the relationship between the US and China has improved over the past 10 years vs. 57% of the General Public.

**How to improve relationship:** Chinese Americans cite better/more communication, increased understanding, more balanced/ free trade, and a resolution to the Taiwan issue as ways to improve US-China relations/

**Human rights:** 46% of the General Public views human rights as the top concern with China vs. only 20% of Chinese Americans, with another 17% of Chinese Americans citing China's impact on the environment.

**China as a threat:** Chinese Americans view China as less of either a military threat or economic threat vs. the General Public. (Serious military threat: 15% GP vs. 10% CA; Serious economic threat: 24% GP vs. 14% CA)

**China as ally on War on Terror:** 56% of Chinese Americans view China as a dependable ally on the War on Terror vs. only 27% of the General Public, perhaps a reflection of the broader range of news sources for Chinese Americans, including Chinese language media.

**Cross Strait relations:** For those asked the question: "If a declaration of independence by Taiwan leads to hostilities, should the US commit military forces to defend Taiwan?," 45% of Chinese Americans responded "Yes" and 46% responded "No" vs. 59% of the General Public responding "No."

Pollster John Zogby states: "While Chinese Americans recognize problems between China and the United States, they favor diplomacy, communications, dialogue, negotiations, and trade as the proper methods to alleviate these problems. What better bridge can exist between two superpowers than Chinese Americans -- loyal and successful Americans, caring descendants of immigrants, who can play a useful role in building a bridge across the Pacific."

### ***Key Domestic Issues Findings***

**Impact of China on Chinese Americans:** 66% of respondents said that a negative perception of China held by Americans has an adverse impact on Chinese Americans.

**Image of Chinese Americans:** 70% of Chinese Americans agree that fashion, movies, culture from Hong Kong and China improve the image of Chinese Americans, as does increased Sino-US business (47%).

**Corporate board representation:** Chinese Americans overwhelmingly believe (79%) that they are underrepresented in corporate boardrooms, citing discrimination as the top cause, vs. only 44% of Business Leaders polled in the Phase II survey.

**Discrimination/racial slurs:** Chinese Americans are about evenly split as to whether they have faced discrimination or been subject to racial slurs. (52% have, 45% have not)

**Teaching materials:** An overwhelming majority, 84%, of Chinese Americans agrees that schools should include teaching materials related to China and the Chinese.

**Role models:** When asked which Chinese American role models come to mind (with open responses and no choices offered), the following are the top selections: Yao Ming: 9%, Connie Chung: 8%, Michael Chang: 8%, Elaine Chao: 6%, Bruce Lee: 6%, Jet Li: 5%, Jackie Chan: 4%, Yo Yo Ma: 3%; with I.M. Pei, Gary Locke, Jerry Yang, Lisa Ling, Amy Tan and Michelle Kwan all at 2%.

**Public service:** Almost half (46%) of respondents indicated they would like to see Chinese Americans make greater gains in government and public service, followed by 14% in science and technology and 14% in the corporate sector.

Founded in 1989 by prominent Chinese Americans, the Committee of 100 is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization composed of Chinese American leaders in a broad range of professions. With their knowledge and experience, they have committed to a dual mission: (1) encouraging stronger relations between the U.S. and Greater China and (2) encouraging the full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of American life. For more information, please visit our web site: [www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org).