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## **Committee of 100 Annual Conference Addressed by Gary Locke and Katherine Tai, Dedicated to Combating Racism and Discrimination**

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The Committee of 100, an elite Chinese American organization, held its 2021 annual meeting on 11<sup>th</sup>. Its new chairman, Gary Locke, said that the Covid-19 pandemic, the “China Initiative” and other targeted actions filled with anti-China rhetoric launched by the previous administration have made it the most difficult year for Chinese Americans in recent times. In addition to continuing its role as a bridge between the United States and China and their people, the Committee of 100 will dedicate its effort to combat racism and discrimination, and to make Chinese American history known to the whole society. As “our experience is America's experience.”

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual conference of the Committee of 100 went online. The theme of the two-day conference on May 11<sup>th</sup>, focused on the “Possibilities: US—China Relations in a New Generation.” It covered important issues about US—China relations and the Chinese community in the United States, ranging from economy, trade and public health, to culture, sports and entertainment. At the opening night, a special memorial ceremony was held to honor Shirley Yang, who passed away last year as one of the founders of the Committee of 100.

In his opening speech, the former U.S. Ambassador to China, Gary Locke, who newly had been elected as the chairman of the Committee of 100, said that the Committee of 100 would continue its mission to “build a bridge between the United States and China” and to “help Chinese Americans to fully integrate into American society.” He also said that Chinese Americans have faced an unprecedentedly increasing number of risks, harassment and attacks over the past year, and that “Chinese Americans are standing at a turning point in history and cannot remain silent in the face of discrimination and violence anymore.”

Last year, the Committee of 100 released a 142-page white paper. It reflected back in time, on the contributions that Chinese Americans had dedicated to the United States. Gary Locke addressed: “In the future, the Committee of 100 will not only fight discrimination and racism, but also educate the American society that the stories of Chinese immigrants, alike the stories of any other ethnic immigrants in the United States. They are the cornerstone of American nationhood; what America has experienced, we have all experienced.”

Gary also pointed out, that the “China Initiative” launched by the Department of Justice of previous administration was wrong. It caused Chinese American scientists to be unfairly treated and monitored, and even wrongfully arrested and charged. “Again, these are the examples of bigotry toward Chinese Americans. It must be corrected; as Chinese Americans should not be groundlessly accused as scapegoats.”

The U.S. Trade Representative, Katherine Tai, gave her keynote speech the same evening, addressing that the hardships and challenges faced by Chinese Americans in the U.S. history have been a major motivation for her commitment to public service as a second-generation Chinese immigrant. She said that she was deeply touched by the Chinese movie director, Zhao Ting’s quotation from the traditional Chinese classic “Three-Character Canon”, at the Oscar award ceremony: “Men at their birth, are naturally good.” She mentioned that she had the same childhood experience and it constantly reminded her to apply the goodness of human nature and the humanitarianism in dealing with the U.S. trade policy.



The U.S. Trade Representative, Katherine Tai, gave her keynote speech. (Video conference screenshot)