

Interview with the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association

[The interview was conducted in Mandarin, and translated and transcribed by Charles Yang]

Place: Office of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association (535 Fisgard Street)

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Interviewers: Zhongping Chen; Charles Yang

Interviewees: Nan Hing Ho (何南兴), chairman of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association

Frank Wong (黄幸逢), former chairman

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Zhongping Chen: In your family, who was the earliest coming here?

Nan Hing Ho: He is the earliest in his family.

Zhongping Chen: Right, Mr. Wong...

Nan Hing Ho: When did you come to Canada?

Frank Wong: 1965.

Charles Yang: Were you the earliest one here?

Frank Wong: No, I wasn't the earliest.

Charles Yang: Was it your dad or grandpa who was here first?

Frank Wong: My dad was here.

Charles Yang: So in your family, who was the earliest one here?

Frank Wong: My grandpa was here first. Three generations.

Zhongping Chen: What was his name?

Frank Wong: Huang Liao Qiu (黄料求). My dad was Huang Han Wen (黄汉文).

Zhongping Chen: So do you know when did your grandpa come here?

Frank Wong: I don't know. I wasn't born yet.

Zhongping Chen: Why did he come here? From Canton to here? From which county?

Frank Wong: I don't know anything. I wasn't even born. I'm from Xinhui. My father applied for me to come here.

Nan Hing Ho: His dad applied for him to come here. His dad is a Canadian citizen.

Zhongping Chen: Do you know what kind of job your grandpa did when he first came here?

Frank Wong: A variety shop.

Zhongping Chen: A small store. In Chinatown here?

Frank Wong: Here in Victoria.

Zhongping Chen: Then did he stay here or later he went back to China?

Nan Hing Ho: He's asking if your grandpa has gone back to China.

Frank Wong: He has, he's gone back two, three times. My dad has also gone back a few times.

Zhongping Chen: So was your father born here or in China?

Frank Wong: China.

Zhongping Chen: Around when did he come here?

Frank Wong: I don't know.

Zhongping Chen: What did he do over here?

Frank Wong: He worked at a restaurant.

Zhongping Chen: Did he open a restaurant or worked at someone's restaurant?

Frank Wong: He opened a restaurant.

Zhongping Chen: What year did you come over?

Frank Wong: 1965, I said it already.

Zhongping Chen: What kind of education did you receive in China?

Frank Wong: I graduated from elementary.

Zhongping Chen: It was rather difficult to come here in the 1960s. Was it hard to come here from China?

Frank Wong: Yeah it was.

Zhongping Chen: Yes, there was no diplomatic relationship with mainland China.

Frank Wong: You weren't allowed into Canada.

Zhongping Chen: I believe at that time China didn't let people out either?

Frank Wong: I came from Hong Kong.

Nan Hing Ho: He first went to Hong Kong. He couldn't come from China. He first went to Hong Kong and then came to Canada. If he came from China then it wouldn't be possible. It was the Cultural Revolution at the time.

Zhongping Chen: Right. The Cultural Revolution started in 1966. How did you get to Hong Kong?

Frank Wong: I applied in China to go to Hong Kong.

Zhongping Chen: At that time, you were able to go to Hong Kong?

Nan Hing Ho: He first applied to go to Hong Kong from China, at that time Hong Kong wasn't returned yet.

Zhongping Chen: Did you apply to go to Hong Kong to visit family or for vacation?

Frank Wong: For work.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, at that time you could apply to work in Hong Kong?

Nan Hing Ho: At that time you could.

Zhongping Chen: Which year did you go to Hong Kong?

Frank Wong: 1955. I was in Hong Kong for ten years.

Nan Hing Ho: 1955 to Hong Kong...

Zhongping Chen: And then...

Nan Hing Ho: Hong Kong to Canada in 1965.

Zhongping Chen: Stayed in Hong Kong for 10 years?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes 10 years.

Zhongping Chen: So what did you do in Hong Kong?

Frank Wong: Worked for an export company.

Zhongping Chen: And then what did you do when you got to Canada?

Frank Wong: I worked at a variety store.

Zhongping Chen: Was it your family's store?

Nan Hing Ho: No, no. It's another one's, not a restaurant. He worked for a small store.

Frank Wong: It's now Fisgard Market.

Zhongping Chen: Who was the earliest in your family to come here?

Nan Hing Ho: I came in 1992.

Zhongping Chen: Did you have anyone in your family who was previously in Canada?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, I was reuniting with my daughter. My daughter was married in Canada, she applied for us to come here.

Zhongping Chen: That's because your father or your grandfather came first?

Nan Hing Ho: My father has never come to Canada.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, it's like that. So your grandfather and father were not here?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: You came in 1992?

Nan Hing Ho: I followed my daughter who married to here, to reunite with her.

Zhongping Chen: When did your wife come...

Nan Hing Ho: 1992.

Zhongping Chen: When did your daughter come here?

Nan Hing Ho: My daughter came here in 1964. After she came here, she got married and then she applied for me to come here.

Zhongping Chen: In 1964, how did she come to...

Nan Hing Ho: She came from Mainland China.

Zhongping Chen: How did she come here? Oh, she married.

Nan Hing Ho: If you're talking about when she married then it's 1984.

Zhongping Chen: Oh 1984, right.

Nan Hing Ho: She got married and so she was eligible to apply for me to come here.

Zhongping Chen: So your hometown in Guangdong is...?

Nan Hing Ho: Guangdong, Kaiping.

Zhongping Chen: Kai Ping. Which township is it?

Nan Hing Ho: Shuikou.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Shuikou. So your daughter also met someone in your hometown and then married over here?

Nan Hing Ho: They married here. My wife knows him.

Zhongping Chen: Are there a lot of people from Shuikou who come to Victoria?

Nan Hing Ho: A lot from Kaiping.

Zhongping Chen: Kai Ping is a county, and Shuikou is a township. Ok.

Nan Hing Ho: There're roughly 2,000 people from Kai Ping here.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, there're 2000?

Nan Hing Ho: From Kaiping. When I came here there were five people in 1992.

Zhongping Chen: Only five people from Kaiping?

Nan Hing Ho: No, myself. My whole family, five people came. Right now there's twenty-eight people.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, your whole family?

Nan Hing Ho: It's now expanded to twenty-eight people. There're my son, my grandchildren...

Zhongping Chen: How many sons?

Nan Hing Ho: Three daughters, one son.

Zhongping Chen: Ok, let's talk about the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association. Which year was the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association established?

Nan Hing Ho: 1971.

Zhongping Chen: Established in 1971. Who were the people who started it?

Nan Hing Ho: We were like this... Our Chinese Canadian Cultural Association originally had twelve people.

Zhongping Chen: Can you remember their names? Can you write it down?

Nan Hing Ho: There are a few who are still alive now.

Zhongping Chen: It's fine, you can write down whoever you can remember.

Nan Hing Ho: I don't really remember which one of them are still alive, the ones that are not here now I'm not too sure.

Zhongping Chen: It's fine. You can just write down whose names you remember.

Nan Hing Ho: But at the beginning... at that time I wasn't here.

Zhongping Chen: Do you know why they started this association?

Nan Hing Ho: It's like this... The members of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association love their motherland.

Zhongping Chen: Right.

Nan Hing Ho: Let me give you an information sheet. This information is very clear. It tells you how the association was formed inside. How it was established by local Chinese at that time.

Zhongping Chen: Can you tell me a little bit about these people's background?

Nan Hing Ho: In 1971 there was a group of patriotic Chinese citizens who formed it. Why was the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association established? They saw that there wasn't a way to communicate with China so they established a special group. It succeeded. It then slowly became this Chinese Canadian Cultural Association. The other reason is that China wanted to find an organization here, so they can promote Chinese culture, talk about China's development. When a leader from China comes here, he would look for this organization for help. It was convenient. Also, every year the organization can hold celebrations for the National Day of the People's Republic of China, the Spring festival...

Zhongping Chen: It seems that the CCBA also has a good relationship with mainland China.

Nan Hing Ho: It's good but inside there're still over ten Guomindang members. So we mainly help out the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [of China], the State Council's department regarding overseas Chinese affairs, Chinese Embassy. We communicate with them frequently.

Zhongping Chen: So what are the main kinds of things you do?

Nan Hing Ho: It's like this...every year we would use the National Day of the People's Republic of China to show China's changes.

Zhongping Chen: In total how many of such activities do they have... when the directors have a meeting, how many people are there?

Nan Hing Ho: seventy...

Zhongping Chen: For an association like yours, to join it do you have to pay a membership fee?

Nan Hing Ho: You do. You pay \$24 a year.

Zhongping Chen: Right now everyone still needs to pay \$24 a year?

Nan Hing Ho: We are very poor here.

Zhongping Chen: Approximately how many people are in this association?

Nan Hing Ho: Right now there are about eight official members.

Zhongping Chen: What is the approximate age?

Nan Hing Ho: Age? The oldest are over eighty years old. There are also people of thirty years old.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, there are also thirty year olds?

Nan Hing Ho: Older ones are the majority. We have a bit of financial difficulty... there's no property. This place is also just rented.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, it's a rented space?

Nan Hing Ho: Yeah, it's rented. This unit is rented by multiple groups. One is the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association, one is the Victoria Hoy Ping Association, one is...

Zhongping Chen: The Wong's Benevolent Association.

Nan Hing Ho: One is the Seniors Club.

Zhongping Chen: The Seniors Club is...?

Nan Hing Ho: They also support us.

Zhongping Chen: Who also support you?

Nan Hing Ho: The CCBA. They support our Seniors Club, the seniors. Seniors do not have money.

Zhongping Chen: When was the Seniors Club established?

Nan Hing Ho: This year is its 32nd anniversary.

Zhongping Chen: The 32nd anniversary should be...

Nan Hing Ho: 33rd anniversary.

Zhongping Chen: 33rd anniversary... Oh, they were established in 1978.

Nan Hing Ho: 1978.

Zhongping Chen: Besides these activities, what other activities do you have?

Nan Hing Ho: The others are helping overseas Chinese, getting their visas...

Zhongping Chen: Right, obtaining visas.

Nan Hing Ho: We also help them get pension from China. After we provide their healthy cards to their original working units, they can get pension.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, that's quite convenient.

Nan Hing Ho: It's very convenient. We also spread the news about China's reforms and opening door policies...

Zhongping Chen: Talk about it at your meetings...

Nan Hing Ho: Our Chinese Canadian Cultural Association's eighty members are also active in CCBA and other organizations. I was originally the Hoy Ping Association's chairman.

Zhongping Chen: You were the Hoy Ping Association's chairman?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes. You can only stay in that position for two terms. It's now changed to Maurice Wong. He and his wife, CCBA's secretary, Kileasa Wong, are also our members.

Zhongping Chen: So why does the Wong's Benevolent Association also have close relationship with your association?

Nan Hing Ho: The Wong's Benevolent Association?

Zhongping Chen: Yeah.

Nan Hing Ho: Because Kit Wong is the chairman.

Zhongping Chen: Oh because of him.

Nan Hing Ho: He's been the chairman for a very long time. It's not like our Hoy Ping Association... Our Hoy Ping Association's chairman can only be appointed for two terms. The Wong's Association isn't. You can forever be in that position. He's been the chairman of Wong's association for about twenty years.

Zhongping Chen: So it's this relationship...

Nan Hing Ho: He was once chairman of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association, chairman of the Wong's Association. He's also the Kong Chow Association's chairman.

Zhongping Chen: They are also have meetings here?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, often we got movies from the Chinese Embassy, and use the movies to spread knowledge of the changes in China. This place has a movie player.

Zhongping Chen: Where is it?

Nan Hing Ho: Upstairs to play movies.

Zhongping Chen: Now I knew why is your relationship with Hoy Ping Association and the Wong's Benevolent Association is especially close.

Nan Hing Ho: Hoy Ping Association and Wong's Benevolent Association also share our office. This office's rent is \$1,000 a month.

Zhongping Chen: Right, and then...

Nan Hing Ho: And then there's also hydro, electricity, etc. It roughly... costs \$13,000 a year.

Zhongping Chen: This place?

Nan Hing Ho: Yeah. So having a few more associations will reduce the pressure on us. There's also the Kong Chow Association.

Zhongping Chen: Kong Chow Association is for Xinhui people?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, Xinhui.

Zhongping Chen: Can you remember the names of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association's chairmen?

Nan Hing Ho: I can't. There is an election in every three years.

Zhongping Chen: Oh you are the 5th chairman?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes. I was also the vice chairman for a long time.

Zhongping Chen: You were the vice chairman before?

Nan Hing Ho: Vice chairman, I was in that position for over twenty years, as chairman, for about five years.

Zhongping Chen: Does this association have direct contacts with the Chinese government?

Nan Hing Ho: For China's national day celebration in Beijing, they invite us to attend.

Zhongping Chen: Approximately how many people get invited?

Nan Hing Ho: Usually one to two people.

Zhongping Chen: For China's national day celebration, are leaders of other organizations also invited to attend?

Nan Hing Ho: The Chinese Freemasons...

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, the Chinese Freemasons.

Nan Hing Ho: CCBA.

Zhongping Chen: That means each group has about one to two people going? Every year there're three groups...

Nan Hing Ho: It's not every year.

Zhongping Chen: Oh right. You three groups go to China to celebrate China's national day. What did you do over there, what kind of activities do you join?

Nan Hing Ho: See China's leaders.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you can only see them.

Nan Hing Ho: We had dinner together but their table was very far away.

Zhongping Chen: Did you attend other activities?

Nan Hing Ho: When going back to China we would visit Beijing, Central committee of Zhigongdang... because I'm the president of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association and secretary of the Chinese Freemasons in Victoria. So I visited them... Provinces, cities, we also go visit those as well.

Zhongping Chen: So you also went to Guangdong?

Nan Hing Ho: I went to Kai Ping too.

Zhongping Chen: Approximately, ... last year, how long did you go for?

Nan Hing Ho: Altogether, 18 days.

Zhongping Chen: That's from Beijing and then Guangdong...

Zhongping Chen: That is right. Now within your current members, what are the backgrounds of the majority members? Were they born here or did most of them come from Mainland China?

Nan Hing Ho: 90% of them are from Mainland China.

Zhongping Chen: Which decades did the majority come from?

Nan Hing Ho: On average, there are some from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980's... There are also some from the 1990s.

Zhongping Chen: What are your activities here for China's national day celebration? Do you organize a dinner for everyone? Do you organize other activities?

Nan Hing Ho: Oh, it's awesome. How about I give you an information sheet? Have a look.

Zhongping Chen: Oh your schedule for China's national day celebration...

Nan Hing Ho: This is the speech of CCBA's president.

Zhongping Chen: And then dinner. And then ... Oh you guys sing.

Nan Hing Ho: We sing the national anthem... It's this.

Zhongping Chen: So the Spring Festival is also a big event, right?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes. Spring festival, all our fellow Chinese... more than 200 Chinese.

Zhongping Chen: Coming here?

Nan Hing Ho: No. at Golden City restaurant.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Golden City restaurant, Right.

Nan Hing Ho: This is the picture of China's national day celebration at Don Mee's.

Zhongping Chen: About playing movies here, how often do you play movies here?

Nan Hing Ho: Very few people come now for movies.

Zhongping Chen: Oh?

Nan Hing Ho: There're computers and televisions at home now.

Zhongping Chen: How often do you play movies in comparison to before? Playing once every week or...

Nan Hing Ho: It was amazing before, before it was twice a week, one was Wednesday and the other was Saturday.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Wednesday and Saturday.

Nan Hing Ho: At that time there were a lot of international students.

Zhongping Chen: Oh international students.

Nan Hing Ho: There were a lot of people here but now there isn't anyone. It's very common to have computers and televisions in their house.

Zhongping Chen: Starting from when did you stop playing movies?

Nan Hing Ho: It's been about five to six years ago.

Zhongping Chen: Five to six years...

Nan Hing Ho: Haven't played movies for five to six years.

Zhongping Chen: So you're saying the elderly hold activities here often?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: What activities do they usually have?

Nan Hing Ho: Promoting physical health.

Zhongping Chen: Physical health?

Nan Hing Ho: Physical health education. What food is good for you to eat, exercising everyday....

Zhongping Chen: Oh you guys organize exercise here.

Nan Hing Ho: We invite a doctor here every Saturday.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, every Saturday you invite a doctor here?

Nan Hing Ho: Second is singing.

Zhongping Chen: Oh you folks have karaoke?

Nan Hing Ho: There's a song book... Everyone has to know this song.

Zhongping Chen: Sing this one?

Nan Hing Ho: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: You have quite a few songs.

Nan Hing Ho: Third, playing mahjong.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, playing mahjong. Playing mahjong is...

Nan Hing Ho: Usually their old partners died. So they feel bored being alone at home. They come here and are happy.

Zhongping Chen: Right, ... also playing chess. Do you open everyday?

Nan Hing Ho: No, every Saturday.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you only open on Saturday?

Nan Hing Ho: One day.

Zhongping Chen: You're usually not open?

Nan Hing Ho: Usually not open, there's nobody, nobody in charge.

Zhongping Chen: On Saturday it's open from morning till night?

Nan Hing Ho: I need to be in charge of this. Everything needs to be taken care of by me. There's no time. They requested to be open everyday but there's no way.

Zhongping Chen: Besides every Saturday ...

Nan Hing Ho: If it wasn't for CCBA's support, this Chinese Canadian Cultural Association... the senior club wouldn't have been possible.

Zhongping Chen: The CCBA gave them money?

Nan Hing Ho: Give \$250 a month to the Seniors Club. In the past, CCBA was supported by Taiwan as well. Frequently supporting them. Not anymore now.

Zhongping Chen: Oh Taiwan.

Nan Hing Ho: I spoke with the Chinese Consulate. Taiwan supports CCBA, so why don't you support us?

Zhongping Chen: When did Taiwan stop giving support to the CCBA?

Nan Hing Ho: Probably 10 years ago.

Zhongping Chen: But the CCBA has money now.

Nan Hing Ho: It has money now... We don't have money. We rely on support of the Chinese Consulate.

Zhongping Chen: Besides this, does your association have any other activities?

Nan Hing Ho: We help disseminate news about China, raise funds for disaster relief ... For some local Chinese, their houses in home places were confiscated. We helped them to get these houses back.

Zhongping Chen: Oh there's quite a few works....

Nan Hing Ho: The Chinese Consulate gives us information, like the Sichuan earthquake etc. I would gather up the support of other Chinese associations.

Zhongping Chen: To push other associations.

Nan Hing Ho: Because our members are also members of other associations...

Zhongping Chen: You mobilize these members...

Nan Hing Ho: Everybody could be a member of the Chinese Canadian Cultural Association... Every organization can take up the important tasks.

Zhongping Chen: Like the Sichuan earthquake, your association helped...

Nan Hing Ho: Not only for China. We also helped other countries, like Japan's tsunami...Every month we, all the members, have a meeting.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, having a meeting here?

Nan Hing Ho: Yeah, meeting here then we take action. Push all Chinese organizations give money to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army.

Zhongping Chen: Oh your association does not collect money?

Nan Hing Ho: The money does not go through us.

Zhongping Chen: So your association has its members over here for a meeting to tell them to go other associations and mobilize people...

Nan Hing Ho: They go other associations to do work and take action.

Zhongping Chen: Do you also help people to apply for Chinese visas...

Nan Hing Ho: The application for visas involves a few works.

Zhongping Chen: So every year, how many people apply for visas through your association?

Nan Hing Ho: More than 200 people.

Zhongping Chen: Every year, more than 200 people? Does your association charge a fee?

Nan Hing Ho: It depends. If it's a senior, we don't really charge a fee. But for others, we... charge a little bit. We also help people reclaim their confiscated houses in their home places.

Zhongping Chen: When were these houses confiscated?

Nan Hing Ho: During the Land Reform. It was chaotic in the past. In the Land Reform and the Cultural Revolution, overseas Chinese's houses had been taken away...

Zhongping Chen: How did you help them?

Nan Hing Ho: We could help him write a report, and would stamp a seal on the report ...

Zhongping Chen: Was your association able to help anybody to get his house back.

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, we have. As president, I've helped two people reclaim their houses.

Zhongping Chen: Two people?

Nan Hing Ho: One was in 2006 when I became president. Right now I'm also helping them do it.

Zhongping Chen: Can you talk about the case in more detail? When was his house taken away?

Nan Hing Ho: During the Land Reform.

Zhongping Chen: When did you help him take back the house?.

Nan Hing Ho: It's been two years ago.

Zhongping Chen: Two years ago. At that time...

Nan Hing Ho: I directly helped him write a few letters. Wrote to the court in Guangdong province. Wrote letters to the governmental departments in charge of overseas Chinese affairs. Wrote a lot of letters.

Zhongping Chen: Which place in Guangdong? Was it Kaiping county...?

Nan Hing Ho: Kaiping.

Zhongping Chen: Within Kaiping city...?

Nan Hing Ho: No, it's in a village.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, in a village? That wouldn't have been easy. Did you association also receive some high Chinese officials as its guests?

Nan Hing Ho: I once joined in the welcome ceremony for former Premier Zhu Rongji at the Vancouver airport, and also received the commander-in-chief of the South Sea Fleet from China. Former Defense Minister Zhang Aiping once visited our association.

Zhongping Chen: Which year did he come? 1984...

Nan Hing Ho: 1987. There were a lot of national leaders, Ji Pengfei.

Zhongping Chen: He was a former foreign minister of China.

Nan Hing Ho: Now they rarely come. Right now it's just the Chinese Consulate inviting us over to Vancouver.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, does your association organize tour groups to China...

Nan Hing Ho: Every year we organize a group for vacation in China. There are more than 60 people in a group.

Zhongping Chen: In the summer?

Nan Hing Ho: In the summer. Between summer and autumn.

Zhongping Chen: These people visit Guangdong or...

Nan Hing Ho: No, we go all over the country. Throughout the country, seeing the changes. Seeing how China has changed.

Zhongping Chen: It seems like you have a lot of activities. Let's talk a little about yourself. Where do you live in the city now? Do you live in Chinatown area or outside of Chinatown?

Nan Hing Ho: I live near Walmart

Zhongping Chen: That's uptown. Do you come to Chinatown regularly?

Nan Hing Ho: I arrive here daily around 7am.

Zhongping Chen: Why?

Nan Hing Ho: Seeing if anyone needs to apply for visas, seeing if anyone has something that needs to be done.

Zhongping Chen: You come every day?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, I come every day, 365 days a year.

Zhongping Chen: From morning till night?

Nan Hing Ho: No, until 2 o'clock in the afternoon because my daughter owns restaurants and I go and help with what I can.

Zhongping Chen: What kind of restaurant is it? Where is it located?

Nan Hing Ho: It's by Hillside, it's called Raymond's.

Zhongping Chen: So please tell me more about the Hoy Ping Association. You were also the former president of Hoy Ping Association, right?

Nan Hing Ho: No, not anymore since a week ago. We had the election last week.

Zhongping Chen: When was the Hoy Ping Association established?

Nan Hing Ho: Here, fifty years ago we already had Hoy Ping Association established. But by 1950 I don't know why, the association closed. In 1995, I re-established it.

Zhongping Chen: Oh it was restarted by you?

Nan Hing Ho: I re-established it. In 1995...

Zhongping Chen: It was restarted? How many people re-established it with you?

Nan Hing Ho: Five people.

Zhongping Chen: Who was the first president in 1995?

Nan Hing Ho: The first president? Zhou Bufa [Paul Chow]. He's from the Chinese Nationalist League.

Zhongping Chen: He became president in 1995?

Nan Hing Ho: 1995, but he didn't participate in the initiation of the association.

Zhongping Chen: Wasn't he the first president?

Nan Hing Ho: He was elected during the election.

Zhongping Chen: And then who was the 2nd president?

Nan Hing Ho: I became president in 1997.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, from 1997 till recently it's been you.

Nan Hing Ho: It's been me.

Zhongping Chen: When you first re-established the association, how many members did you have? The Hoy Ping Association.

Nan Hing Ho: About 36 members. But it's more than that now.

Zhongping Chen: How many now?

Nan Hing Ho: Now there are over 100 members.

Zhongping Chen: Over 100 members? Do members have to pay a member fee?

Nan Hing Ho: Joining the Hoy Ping Association, it's \$100 a person. \$100 for lifetime.

Zhongping Chen: Only need to pay \$100 for a lifetime.

Nan Hing Ho: Then you do not need to pay membership fee.

Zhongping Chen: Which year did your presidency end?

Nan Hing Ho: 2001.

Zhongping Chen: And then it was Maurice Wong. What type of activities does the Kai Ping Association have?

Nan Hing Ho: For 50 years, at the Chinese cemetery we have a gravestone for our Kai Ping ancestors.

Zhongping Chen: Is it the one at Harling Point?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, but nobody went there in fifty years. Then, there's the Hoy Ping Association. We used our own methods to get everyone to take action. Since we are all compatriots, why don't we go visit these graves? We used this to motivate our members [to participate in our activities].

Zhongping Chen: What other activities do you have?

Nan Hing Ho: Worshipping there... Spring festival celebration. Every year celebrate it once. Hoy Ping Association...

Zhongping Chen: About how often do you have activities, weekly?

Nan Hing Ho: No.

Nan Hing Ho: Generally once in two to three months.

Zhongping Chen: Let's talk about the Chinese Freemasons. We want to understand from your side. When did you join the Chinese Freemasons?

Nan Hing Ho: I joined in 1993.

Zhongping Chen: Oh you just arrived and joined the Chinese Freemasons. Why did you join the Chinese Freemasons?

Nan Hing Ho: Because I'm from Kaiping, we have an association leader Situ Meitang.

Zhongping Chen: Oh Situ Meitang is your...

Nan Hing Ho: He's a fellow villager.

Zhongping Chen: Was Situ Meitang also from Mainland China?

Nan Hing Ho: Yes, he had made the greatest contributions to the Freemasons. He was a major leader of Zhongguo Zhigong Party. He is very close to my family. He returned to China... He left the greatest influence on us in Kaiping. He's a major leader of the Chinese Freemasons.