

40th Anniversary Gala Dinner

*National Committee
Chair Carla Hills
welcomes U.S.
Trade Representative
Susan Schwab.*

Photo by: Elsa Ruiz



The National Committee celebrated its 40th anniversary Gala Dinner in New York City on the evening of October 12, 2006. Nearly 500 guests attended the event, which was also an occasion to recognize the contributions made by two business leaders, Muhtar Kent and William C. Weldon, to strengthening U.S.-China relations. U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab was the speaker.

Muhtar Kent is executive vice president of The Coca-Cola Company and president of Coca-Cola International, with responsibility for all of the company's operations outside of North America. In China, he oversees a market that has grown to be the company's fourth largest. Coca-Cola was the first American consumer company to return to China after Sino-American relations were normalized in 1979 and it has been an innovative business leader and strong corporate citizen in the years

since then. Coca-Cola has also been supportive of National Committee projects for many years, beginning with the visit of the Chinese Ping Pong team in 1972.

William Weldon is chairman and chief executive officer of Johnson & Johnson, a leading manufacturer of healthcare products and provider of related services for the consumer, medical devices and diagnostics markets. He has held positions in Johnson & Johnson entities in the United States and abroad during his 35-year career with the company. Johnson & Johnson began its China operations in 1985 and now has seven entities in the country; it was named "Employer of the Year" in January 2006 in a Chinese Central Television competition.

Both honorees were presented with scrolls of calligraphy and painting done by famed Chinese artist Wu Huan, who traveled from Beijing for the event.

In her keynote address, Ambassador Schwab picked up on the "responsible stakeholder" theme that then-Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick introduced at our 2005 Gala. In her remarks, she pointed to some of the challenges and opportunities that China and the United States face as joint stakeholders in the global trading system, including the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

Highlights of the evening included letters from President George Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao, read by National Committee Chair, Carla A. Hills and Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Wang Guangya, respectively. Also of interest was the showing of an eight minute clip of an hour-long documentary that is being produced by the Voice of America (to show in China) on the last four decades of Sino-American relations as seen through the prism of the National Committee.

The Gala raised more than \$1.1 million for the National Committee's programs, with 55 companies and dozens of individuals providing support. ■

*Right: Former
Secretary of State
Madeleine K. Albright
talks with Assistant
Secretary of State
Christopher Hill.*

Photo by: Elsa Ruiz



*Bottom Right:
National Committee
Director Tom Gorrie
greet Wang Guangya,
China's Ambassador
to the United Nations,
and his wife,
Madame Cong Jun.*

Photo by: Elsa Ruiz

