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# IES Remembered

Saturday, November 12, 2011 • Olmsted Center, Drake University • 2507 University Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50311

2011





# a Letter from YING SA



Dear IES Sponsors, Supporters and Participants,

Thank you for being part of the 2011 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit (IES) on November 12, 2011. All together we attracted 468 attendees and conducted 15 educational seminars with class size average of 38 attendees at each session. The Olmstead Center was filled with IES exhibitors and visitors, businessmen and women, from all over the state and surrounding states throughout the day.

To the sponsors and supporters, we are grateful and want to thank you for your generous support. Your support has supercharged the growth of immigrant owned businesses. Since last IES, there were 125 new businesses formed by attendees from IES and 175 new jobs were created state wide. Governor Branstad personally signed all the Congratulation Certificates for those businesses and personally delivered his opening speech at the 2011 IES Opening Ceremony. On behalf of the planning team members, we thank you again for making business growth in our state a priority!

To IES participants, we thank you for your confidence in the IES program. We want you to know that the planning team put in over 2000 hours of volunteer work to bring the 2011 IES program to you. There were more than 14 group meetings and we generated more than 4000 email communications for this event. This doesn't count the endless miles the planning team members drove to deliver the program to each and every ethnic group location. The hard work was paid off with all of your economic successes in your persona business ventures and your encouraging words and your enthusiastic outlook for the future of IES.

To our volunteers, we thank each and every one of you for being the helping angels for all of us, before, at the event, and after. Without you we would not be able to move the crowd so orderly. The event went very smoothly because of your efforts and many people thought you were full time employees running events for a living. IES has the greatest volunteers in the world. The planning team members appreciate you! We invite you to help us again in 2012.

2012 IES planning work has already started. On November 19, 2011, the planning team met and laid out a long list of things to improve and things to continue. The IES planning team members are restless. Just like an immigrant business owner's American Dream, IES has its own American Dream too, to see each businessman and woman to be successful in business to their hearts fullest desire!

We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit with your persistent support.

Sincerely,

Ying Sa  
Chair, IES Planning Committee

## The planning committee obtained the following data from the service providers and IES sponsors, showing the impact of IES since 2010:

- As of October 1, 2011 there were over **125** new companies formed in Iowa by IES attendees. Governor Branstad personally signed the Congratulations Certificates to each of these companies at the 2011 IES.
- As of November 1, 2011, out of the **125** new companies, **175** jobs were created by these new companies. This number includes business owners.
- Out of the **125** new companies, bank accounts were established using the IES bank sponsors. Over **50** companies obtained professional services from companies that sponsored or were seminar presenters at IES.
- At the 2011 IES there were **468** participants. IES was attended by **425** people in 2010, **350** people in 2009 and **300** people in 2008. Since the first IES in 2008, collectively the Summit has been attended by over **1,500** business owners who originated from **52** countries.



**We are excited that IES has become an economic phenomenon. Watch us grow, or, better yet, join us. *Let's grow together!***

### Congratulations to 2011 IES Award Honorees

From left: Carlos Rios, Lori Chesser, Lily Hou, and Wilondja Msiando.



Let's grow TOGETHER!





# remembered...



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR: NOVEMBER 10, 2012

Photography by: Joesten Zhou





## There were 468 attendees from 45 countries:

### Africa

Benin	Burundi	Ghana	Kenya	Liberia
Morocco	Nigeria	Sudan	The Congo	Uganda
Zambia				

### America

Canada	Chile	Columbia	Ecuador	El Salvador
Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Nicaragua	Panama
Peru	San Juan	U.S.A.	Venezuela	

### Asia

Cambodia	China	Hungary	India	Indonesia
Iran	Japan	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar
South Korea	Taiwan	Thailand	Vietnam	

### Europe

Germany	Greece	Portugal	Russia	Spain
Ukraine				

...from 45 COUNTRIES

Along those lines, THANK YOU for spreading the word about the Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit Saturday that was held at Drake. It was a very powerful, colorful day of learning, like the man whose family floated out of Singapore on a homemade boat when he was 3 months old and, thank God, was picked up at sea 3 days later and he's now a businessman here in Iowa. We'll be going again next year. Also found out it's the only event of its kind in the country. CONGRATS to Ying Sa, Community CPA and her board for an outstanding event! it's November 10 next year and we'll be back and hope to take two of our children who are launching their careers and can benefit from this exposure to people who have overcome tremendous odds seeking hope in our country.

Kimberlee Spillers  
Global Horizons, L.L.C.

Dear Ying,

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and dedication in putting together the IES! it was fantastic and I loved being a part of it!

Cheri Van Valkragburg

Dear Ying, Swallow and Maggie:

Thank you so much for your warm hospitality last weekend! Congratulations on a great conference – you are truly leaders in the nation in recognizing and supporting the powerful assets of immigrant entrepreneurship!

Happy Birthday to the ladies, and thanks again Swallow, for inviting me to your palace – what a wonderful team you all have!

I'm off to China in the morning, and look forward to connecting with you in the near future!

Best Regards,  
Richard Herman, Esq.  
Herman Legal Group, LLC  
Attorneys at Law

Dear Ying,

CONGRATULATIONS to you and other planning team members for another extremely successful host of the Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit. In my perspective, the summit has evolved from a training seminar for immigrants four years ago to a brand new forum that draws local and national attention on immigration issues. I am very confident about the future and sustainability of this forum. I see that there will be a lot of growth for this platform and I am extremely happy that it is based here in Des Moines. If there is ever a need on the planning team for IES 2012, please keep me posted and I would love to get more involved. Thanks again, Ying for hosting this visionary forum and for having me in the past four years. Words cannot be used to describe how proud I am for your achievement!

Kenn Yu  
Principal Global Investors

Dear Ying,

What an outstanding conference – in every respect! It was such a thrill to be a part of it. The participation makes a huge statement about immigration and economic development, precisely the kind of statement which needs to be made. Obviously the Governor has understood the message, and he has, in large part, because of your work.

Your efforts have done more than any other single thing to enhance and clarify the need Iowa has to be able to attract immigrants to our state.

Thank you for your excellent work. I am eager to learn from you! It would be fabulous to be able to attract over 465 people to Passport!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Judith A. Conlin  
Executive Director  
Iowa International Center

