

**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP**  
**Western Australia Celebration of the First "ICH Spring Festival"**  
**Temple Fair & Gala**  
**497 Marmion Street, Booragoon 6164**  
**Saturday, 22 February 2025**

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Kaya Wonju Wonju (Hello and Welcome)

Patricia and I are delighted to join you on the occasion of the Western Australian Celebration of the First ICH Spring Festival Temple Fair and Gala.

Firstly, congratulations on this most magnificent event held to celebrate China's successful application for the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage Spring Festival' to showcase traditional Chinese culture and the unique charm of the Spring Festival.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet tonight, and I pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to First Nations people here with us.

I acknowledge the presence of:

- Nancy Wang, President of the Australian Chinese Women's Federation Inc and other Members of the Federation;
- The Australian Central China Association and its Members;
- The Western Australian Zhejiang Association and its Members;
- Ms Jess Yaping Jiang, Chairperson, Cockburn Chinese Community Association Inc and other Members of the Association;
- Representatives from community groups including India, Bhutan, Vietnam and Malaysia;
- Ladies and gentlemen, girls, and boys.

Patricia and I have been most impressed with the cultural displays since arriving here today and we thank you for embracing the multicultural community that reflects Australia's respect and value of the traditional cultures, customs and languages from people who have arrived on our shores from the four corners of the earth.

The traditional folk displays, handicrafts, food stalls, and interactive activities and the volunteers who have worked very hard to provide these are to be commended.

Later this evening spectacular performances including dance, comedy, and folk programs, showcasing the traditional charm of the Spring Festival and the integration of multicultural elements will entertain each and everyone of us.

The opportunity to engage in the vibrancy created across our communities is something that Patricia and I enjoy – it is an important part of our role in the community.

As we are aware, yesterday, Friday 21 February was International Mother Language Day celebrated each year to raise awareness of language, cultural diversity, and multilingualism around the world.

It reflects our commitment to being welcoming, culturally vibrant and the best place to live.

It is also about how we honour the beauty and diversity of languages, the lifeblood of our cultures and identities.

In 1952 the Language Movement in Bangladesh, saw brave individuals sacrificing their lives for the right to speak their mother tongue.

Their courage and determination resonated far beyond their time, inspiring global efforts to preserve and celebrate linguistic diversity.

This day achieved global significance through the recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1999.

Here in our community, we are privileged to witness this richness firsthand.

Each language spoken here, each cultural event represents a story, a heritage, and a unique way of seeing the world.

Events like today serve as a powerful reminder that linguistic and cultural diversity are not just things to be tolerated but celebrated and cherished.

Communities across the world now act as beacons of cultural pride and inclusivity, enriching cities, towns, villages and the like with traditions, art, and hospitality.

It is this commitment to keeping the legacy of International Mother Language Day alive highlighting the importance of protecting all languages and cultures.

In closing I want to thank you for the role each of you have played in making this inaugural event possible.

Your efforts showcase the values that make our communities such wonderful place to live and let's continue to build a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Thank you for inviting Patricia and I to be part of this meaningful celebration.