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**COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS
BIENNIUM REPORT
SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNOR AND MINNESOTA STATE LEGISLATURE
November 1996**

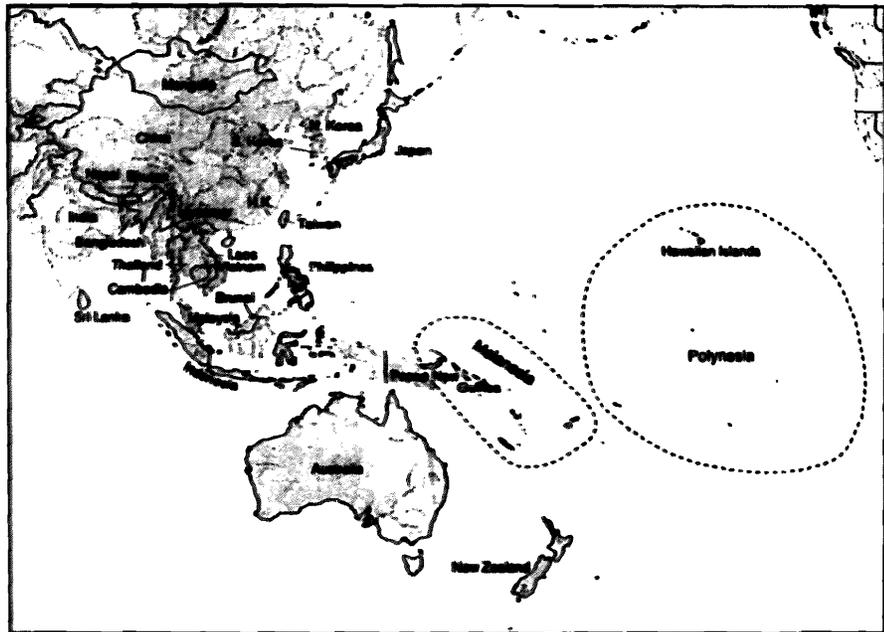
In Compliance with Minnesota Statute 3.9226, subd. 7

**THE STATE COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTAN'S
1996 BIENNIUM REPORT**

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Origins of Asian-Pacific Communities in Minnesota



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MISSION AND MANDATES

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1985 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 3.9226, subdivision 1. The mission of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is to ensure that Asian-Pacific Islanders living in Minnesota are more fully incorporated into the governmental and policy making process; that they have better access to state government services; that the talents and resources of the Asian-Pacific community be used and promoted where appropriate, and to assist others in their contact with Asian-Pacific people living in Minnesota.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 3.9226, Subdivision 3, the duties of the Council are to:

1. *Advise the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting the Asian-Pacific people in this State, including the unique problems of non-English-speaking immigrants and refugees;*
2. *Advise the Governor and the Legislature of administrative and legislative changes necessary to insure that Asian-Pacific people have access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;*

3. *Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature any revisions in the state's affirmative action program and other steps that are necessary to eliminate the underutilization of Asian-Pacific people in the state's work force;*
4. *Recommend to the Governor and the Legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Asian-Pacific people in this state;*
5. *Serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Asian-Pacific people in this state;*
6. *Serve as a referral agency to assist Asian-Pacific people to secure access to state agencies and programs;*
7. *Serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Asian-Pacific people in this state;*
8. *Perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to the problems of Asian-Pacific people in the areas of education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related areas;*
9. *Implement programs designed to solve the problems of Asian-Pacific people when authorized by other law;*
10. *Publicize the accomplishments of Asian-Pacific people and their contributions to this state;*
11. *Work with other State and Federal agencies and organizations to develop small business opportunities and promote economic development for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;*
12. *Supervise development of an Asian-Pacific trade primer, outlining Asian and Pacific customs, cultural traditions, and business practices, including language usage, for use by Minnesota's export community;*
13. *Cooperate with other state and federal agencies and organizations to develop improved state trade relations with Asian and Pacific countries;*
14. *Assist recent immigrants in their adaptation into the culture and to promote the study of English as a Second Language.*

In 1995, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 224 Section 35, the Minnesota State Legislature requested that the four Councils of Color look at their membership and

operational structure and recommend any changes needed to the State Legislature to ensure that the Council would be an effective State agency. The Council then engaged the services of Michael A. Hohmann and Co, an independent consulting firm, to assist in gathering input and suggestions from constituents. Two focus groups were held with opinion leaders and community members. Six hundred and seventy (670) surveys were mailed to agencies and members of the Asian-Pacific community.

A report was submitted to the Minnesota State Legislature and a Bill introduced, passed, and signed by the Governor during the 1996 legislative session which reflects the changes as proposed by the community and the Council. The Bill has the following effect on the Council:

1. Kept the Council membership at 19 with no more than one member from each ethnic group and eliminated all references to ethnicity;
2. Exempted the Council from the Sunset Provision;
3. Encouraged the Asian-Pacific communities and organizations to designate persons to serve as liaisons to the Council;
4. Defined an Asian-Pacific person as one whose ethnic heritage is from any country in Asia east of and including Afghanistan, and the Pacific Islands;
5. Created a clear line of authority between the board, executive director and staff;
6. Created a new mandate for the Council. This mandate calls for the Council to assist recent immigrants in their adaptation into the culture and to promote the study of English as a Second Language.

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is managed by a board of 19 appointed by the Governor of the State of Minnesota (see appendix). The Council employs four full-time staff to manage the day-to-day operation of the organization (see appendix).

The following report provides a glance into the Asian-Pacific community and summarizes some of the major activities that occurred during the last two years (1994 - 1996) at the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Profile of the Asian-Pacific Minnesotans Population:

International Immigration has been a significant factor in Minnesota's population growth within the last decade. According to a study by the Minnesota Planning "Ahead of Half-time: Minnesota at Mid-December," international immigration adds about 7,000 people each year to Minnesota's population. According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1,594 Asian-Pacific Islanders were admitted as immigrants to Minnesota in 1991 alone. This number includes people from China, the Philippines, Vietnam, and India.

Furthermore, the Council has learned that through an act of the United States Congress, over 350 Tibetans were allowed to join their families, numbered about 150, in Minnesota from India, where they have been in exile since the early 1950's.

Additionally, the Associated Press recently wrote that more than 6,000 Hmong have moved into the State of Minnesota from California because of employment, educational, and economic opportunities here. With changes in immigration and

welfare laws, more and more immigrants from other states will continue to migrate to Minnesota. Furthermore, it is expected that by year end 1997, up to 3,000 Hmong will have settled in Minnesota as the refugee camps in Thailand close.

Because of the large number of Voluntary Agencies (International Institute, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, and Church World Services) here in Minnesota, many Southeast Asians refugees from the war torn countries of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were settled here in the late 1970's and 1980's. Today, Southeast Asians make up the largest number of international immigrants coming to Minnesota (see chart 1.1). This population makes up more than 50% of the Asian-Pacific people living in Minnesota.

Chart 1.1

Southeast Asia	National Origin of Refugee Total Refugees
Cambodian	7,600
Hmong	32,000
Laotian	7,200
Vietnamese	17,000

Source: Minnesota Planning, 1995

Although there are no current statistics available on the number of non-refugee Asian-Pacific Islanders living in Minnesota, the 1990 Census documented that there are over 38,299 Asian-Pacific Islanders who came as legal immigrants to Minnesota. (See Chart 1.3).

Chart 1.3. Other Asian-Pacific Islanders in Minnesota (1990 Census)

GROUP	NUMBER
Korean	12,262
Chinese	8,283
Asian-Indian	7,220
Filipino	4,284
Japanese	3,708
Thai	575
Hawaiian	383
Pakistani	377
Sri Lankan	271
Afghan	200
Indonesian	134
Malayan	128
Samoan	120
Burmese	47
Bangladeshi	41
Other Pacific Islander	266

According to the U.S. Census, the Asian-Pacific population in Minnesota is one of the fastest-growing racial/cultural communities in the state. Between 1980-1990 the Asian-Pacific population grew by 194%. This population increased forty-three (43%) percent between 1990 to 1995. The Asian-Pacific population is expected to increase to 219,000 by the year 2000. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 113,000 Asian-Pacific Islanders, representing over 40 Asian ethnic groups, currently make Minnesota their home.

Another example of the increase in the Asian-Pacific population is reflected in the growth in the City of Woodbury, where 947 Asians live, making it the largest minority group in that City. This increase can be explained by the recruitment of Asian-Pacific Islanders to Minnesota by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing company (3M),

with an interest in tapping into the Pacific Rim markets. Corporations such as 3M, Cargill and Honeywell are only some of the businesses which are expanding in the Pacific Rim countries and Asia. They are recruiting Asian-Pacific Islanders from around the United States and around the World to bring their expertise to Minnesota.

Because of the recruitment efforts of Minnesota companies, we have seen an increase in the number of Chinese and Asian-Indians in Minnesota.

Chart 1.4 Population Distribution and Growth by Race and Hispanic Origin, 1995

TYPE	POPULATION 1995 (THOUSANDS)	MINNESOTA PERCENT OF TOTAL	PERCENT CHANGE 1990-1995
WHITE	4,344	94.4%	4.7%
ASIAN /PACIFIC ISLANDER	113	2.4	43.0
BLACK	104	2.3	8.3
AMERICAN INDIAN	58	1.3	13.7
HISPANIC ORIGIN	68	1.5	25.9
TOTAL	4,619		5.6%

Given the diversity of the Asian-Pacific community, it should not be surprising that important issues and needs vary among different segments of the population. While there are over 40 ethnic groups represented in Minnesota's Asian population, most generally fall into one of three socio-economic classifications:

- First generation; in search of improved economic opportunities for themselves and their families;
- Established second and third generation Asian-Americans that tend to be relatively well established in their communities, the result of good education and hard work;
- Most recently arrived refugees from war-torn areas of Southeast Asia, some fleeing political and religious persecution, many struggling in their new homeland.

The different needs and issues of perceived importance within the Minnesota Asian-Pacific population, depends on ones history and current situation in life. In the survey conducted by Michael A. Hohmann and Company, in 1995, the community identified seven major needs that they felt should be addressed:

- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Youth Programs**
- **Social and Family**
- **Community Cultural facility**
- **Legal Services**
- **Health and Human Services**

According to the 1990 United States Census, forty-five percent of the Asian-Pacific population in Minnesota are under the age of 18. The growth in the youth population has changed the face of the student populations in area Twin Cities public schools. According to information provided by the St. Paul and Minneapolis public schools, 25% of St. Paul's and 12% of Minneapolis' student population are of Asian Pacific descent. In St. Paul, Asian-Pacific Islanders are now the largest ethnic minority group in the district and In Minneapolis the second largest.

Educationally, the Asian-Pacific community is doing very well. According to the 1990 U.S. Census, on a national level, 78% percent of all Asian Americans 25 years old and over have graduated from high school and 40% of the Asian Pacific population earned a bachelor degree. In Minnesota, 70% of the Asian-Pacific population 25 years old and over have a High School Degree or GED and 34% with a Bachelor Degree.

Despite high educational attainments, the poverty rate within the Asian-Pacific community in Minnesota is high. Thirty-two percent (32%) of the Asian-Pacific

community State wide and fifty-four (40%) percent in the metropolitan area live below the federal poverty line. This is more than three times the poverty rate for all Minnesotans and more than twice the national rate for Asian Americans. . The highest concentration of poverty for the Asian-Pacific community is in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul.

In light of the above needs as identified by the community, the following report summarizes the activities and issues that the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans has worked on within the last two years.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

NEW LEADERSHIP

After serving ten years as the Executive Director of the State Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Albert De Leon, Ph.D., retired in April of 1995. In July of 1995, after an extensive six (6) month nation wide search, the Council hired Mr. Lee Pao Xiong, as the new Executive Director. He has formerly worked for United States Senator Carl Levin of in Washington D.C. and State Senator Joe Bertram of Paynesville,. Prior to joining the Council Mr. Xiong served as Executive Director of two non-profit community based agencies.

WELFARE REFORM

These past two years have been crucial for the well being of the immigrant and refugee population. Welfare and immigration reforms were top priorities for the Council in advising legislators on how these reforms would impact the Asian-Pacific community.

Welfare Reform will have a significant effect on the legal immigrants and refugee population, especially for those who have been here more than five years under refugee status. In Ramsey County alone, where 30% percent of its AFDC recipients are Southeast Asians, 3,200 individuals will lose their SSI benefits and as many as 7,000 non-citizens could lose their eligibility for food stamps.

The Council has proposed several innovative economic development packages to respond to welfare reform. In a bill introduced by Senator Randy Kelly and Representative Steve Trimble, a \$5 million dollar economic development package will be introduced in the 1997 Legislative session. The target population is legal immigrants and refugees who have lived in the United States for more than five years and those with severe obstacles to employment. Components of the package include:

- 1. Apprenticeship**
- 2. Workplace English Language Training (Functional Work English)**
- 3. Citizenship promotion**
- 4. Building the community's capacity to create a Community Development Corporation (CDC) workplace**
- 5. Skill Enhancement**

The Council has recommended to the Governor and key Legislators the establishment of a transitional fund to assist elderly and disabled individuals who will lose their benefits as a result of the new citizenship requirement under the Welfare bill. "The loss of SSI income and food stamps for the elderly and disabled immigrants will be dramatic," says Jim Anderson of Ramsey County. "Individual monthly incomes will

fall from an average of \$570 per month combined SSI, Minnesota Supplemental Assistance (MSA), and food stamps to \$203 per month on General Assistance.” As people look for alternatives, we need to be able to support them during this difficult time, perhaps through the establishment of a transitional assistance fund to cushion the blow of welfare reform.

The Council has recommended to the Governor, key Legislators and State Agencies that the State should:

1. Not deny State benefits (medical care, cash assistance, and social services) to legal immigrants;
2. Support citizenship promotion efforts;
3. Increase funding for English as a Second Language;
4. Support economic/community development efforts within the community;
5. Increase employment opportunities for legal immigrants ;
6. Provide assistance to the elderly, blind and disabled legal immigrants who will lose their federal SSI assistance as a result of Citizenship requirements.

The Council is currently working with Ramsey County to explore alternative employment options such as a pilot farming program for Southeast Asian refugees with an agricultural background. More than 60% of all vendors at the Farmers Market are Southeast Asians. We are interested in identifying available farm lands throughout the state and providing incentives for them and their extended families, to purchase land and raise livestock and cash crops. This plan would minimize the impact of Welfare Reform on the refugee population.

The Council has also been working with private sector groups to assist people with special craft skills such as sewing to help them in marketing their products to the mainstream community. Dayton Hudson Corporation and other large retailers have in the past contracted with many Southeast Asians to sew many of their products. The Council will look at how we can expand these opportunities.

These innovative proposals will not only assist communities who will be impacted by Welfare Reform but will have huge welfare savings for the State.

YOUTH

The Council recognizes the concern in the community of the increased problems relating to youth issues such as youth/gang violence, juvenile delinquency, and intergenerational conflict. Because the seriousness of these issues relating to youth, the Council has been involved in several youth oriented policies and programs.

The Council was extensively involved in the planning committee put together by the Office of Diversity with the Department of Administration to develop the Governor's Neighborhood Enrichment program. The Council made contacts for Mr. Steven Zachary, director of the Office of Diversity and the point person on this initiative to meet with the Asian-Pacific Community to hear suggestions and solicit support from them. The Council testified and encouraged members of the community based organizations to testify at several Legislative hearings. The Bill resulted in the 1996 Minnesota State Legislature appropriating over \$4 million to neighborhood collaborative to work with youth and families.

The Council has also been actively involved with a new statewide mentorship program which proposes to enhance established programs with more coordination of services and increase state employee involvement in the communities. Furthermore, the initiative proposes to explore ways of providing support to minority State employees.

ELDERS

The Council is increasingly concerned and aware of the impact of Welfare Reform on the elderly population in the Asian-Pacific community and has taken steps to explore creative ways to assist this population.

EDUCATION

During the 1996 Legislative Session, the Council worked with the Governor's office through the Director of Inter-Governmental Relations, Cindy Jepsen, with the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning to provide input into the Governor's School Choice Program. The Council sponsored four meetings for Cindy Jepsen to meet with service providers, churches, parents, and community leaders.

Currently, the Council sits on two committees created by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. The committees include the State Multicultural Education Advisory Committee and a committee relating to the State Desegregation Rule.

COLLABORATION AND ADVISORY

Within the last several years, the Council has advised several State and Federal Agencies about the needs of the Asian-Pacific community and has provided

input on how they can be effective in reaching out and making their services more accessible to the Asian-Pacific community. Agencies that the Council worked with include:

1. **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** - Provided input on how financial institutions are meeting the needs of the Asian-Pacific community. A meeting with business leaders was conducted.

2. **Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)** - Analyzed their outreach strategies and advised them on crime issues within the Asian-Pacific Community.

3. **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** - Informed the office on issues affecting the Asian-Pacific community, particularly relating to affirmative action programs.

4. **White House, Washington, D.C.** - Assisted in their effort to identify and reach out to key leaders within the Asian-Pacific community in Minnesota.

5. **Minnesota Department of Human Services** - Worked with the Department to establish the Commissioner's Outreach to the Asian Children Planning Committee. The Council made several recommendations to the Commissioner of Human Services. The recommendations are that:

- The Department of Human Services conduct a needs assessment of Vietnamese Amerasians, who are children of American G.I.'s admitted through the unaccompanied minors program.
- The Department of Human Services oppose any attempts to make English as the official language of this country - if and when English becomes the official language, Federal, States, Counties, and Cities would not be required to provide translation and interpreter services to the non-English speaking community. This would create barriers to services for non English speaking clients.

- The Department of Human Services should continue to provide assistance to legal immigrants who are tax paying residents of the State.

The Council worked with Mary Jean-Turinia Anderson, Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Civil Rights director for the Department of Human Services, and linked her with members and service providers of the Asian-Pacific Community to provide input into the design of the State's Language Services Protocol.

The Council is a member of the Department of Human Services' Mental Health Task Force and is helping the taskforce to develop operating guidelines and standards for the delivery of culturally competence mental health services.

6. Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development - The Council assisted the Minnesota Trade Office in planning for Governor Arne Carlson's trip to Asia in 1995 by pulling together individuals from the various Asian communities. Several meetings were held with representatives of the Minnesota Trade Office and members of the community.

7. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry - Provided information to the Director of the Enforcement Division at the Department of Labor and Industries concerning labor issues within the Asian-Pacific community. The Council proposed the following recommendations that:

- The Department translates their educational materials into the different Asian languages.
- The Department hires a bilingual enforcement/education officer to work with the Asian-Pacific community, in order to monitor and prevent "sweatshop" conditions. The person hired would be able to educate workers about their rights and thus enforce labor law violations in the areas of child labor, unsafe working conditions, and exploited labor.

The Council assisted the Department in securing a translator to assist them in translating two of the brochure/information sheets in the Hmong language and helped the Department put together a workshop on labor issues for key opinion leaders in the Asian-Pacific community.

8. Minnesota Department of Health - assisted the Department in reviewing two grant cycle proposals, one for the HIV/STD program and other for the ASSIST (tobacco/smoking) program.

9. Minnesota Department of Human Rights - Testified in support of the Department at the 1996 Legislative Session. Testified for an increase in funding for the Department and offered to assist the agency to secure volunteer attorneys to help bring down their case loads.

10. Attorney General's Office - The Council assisted the Minnesota Attorney General's office in testifying for a bill that was introduced in the 1996 Legislative Session to refine the Minnesota Communication Service Act.

The Council also co-sponsored a meeting with the Attorney General's Office to inform Communities of Color about crime legislations that were passed during the 1996 Legislative Session.

11. Department of Employee Relations, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity - recognized that there was a need for a qualified Asian-Pacific representative to work with the agency. A position was established in order to have better representation. The Council recruited and referred individuals in the hiring process, and as a result of our effort an Asian attorney was hired.

ISSUES, WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Human Rights/Civil Rights -On May 15, 1996 the Council sponsored an educational workshop for the Asian-Pacific community on discrimination held at the Lao Family Community, Inc. in St. Paul with Elsa Batista, Deputy Director of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, Joseph Brown of the St. Paul Department of Human Rights, and Nkajlo V. Vangh of Minnesota Department of Human Rights as panel members. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the community about their rights and what to do if those rights were violated. A press release of this event was published in a local Asian newspaper.

Citizenship- Because of the severity of Federal legislation impacting the immigrant and refugee population, the Council teamed up with Ramsey County, the Immigration and Naturalization Services, the International Institute of Minnesota and other social service agencies to draft a legislative proposal that would result in the creation of a state wide citizenship promotion program. Our proposal is modeled on a similar proposal that was developed and implemented in the State of Maryland. The target is to enroll over 2,000 legal immigrants into the program and assist them in becoming U.S. Citizens. This proposal will be introduced in the 1997 Minnesota Legislative Session.

Voter Registration Drive- The Councils launched a voter registration drive within the Asian-Pacific community in 1996. As a result of the Council's effort, over 400 individuals were registered to vote in the 1996 Election. The Council teamed with the

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis and registered over 30 low income Asian-Pacific Islanders living in North Minneapolis and worked with the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Employee Relations to staff a voter registration table at the convenience store, SuperAmerica.

Mental Health - Increasing evidence of depression among older Southeast Asians has brought to light often serious mental health issues. The Council has discovered through research that although gambling, depression, and post traumatic syndrome (PTSD) has become an increasing problem, treatment and prevention services to address them are still lacking. The Council in recognition of the serious challenges, has been involved with advising various agencies about issues of treatment of Immigrant mental health problems. The Council is a member of the Department of Human Services Mental Health Task Force.

Health -The Council has been active in the creation of a statewide non-profit health organization, the Center for Cross Cultural Health (CCCH). As a participant on the Center for Cross Cultural Health Advisory Board and subcommittees, the Council has assisted the agency develop a resource directory to be used as part of a clearing house of cultural health information, and the development of continuing education units for health professionals.

The Council also participated in a conference held by the Center for Disease Control held in St. Louis, Missouri in 1996 to address Cancer control in the underserved populations. Outreach and legislative strategies are being developed to address this need in the Asian-Pacific Community.

HIV/AIDS/STD - The Minnesota Department of Health approved a grant of \$57,600 to the Council to assist several Asian-Pacific non-profit organizations to develop their capacity to do an HIV/STD project. The Council is working with the Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota, the Asian American Renaissance, and the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota to develop curriculum and prevention strategies.

Chemical Dependency - The Council is finishing up its Chemical Dependency project. The Council has contracted with several Asian-Pacific community groups to educate the community about the effects of chemical dependency on the individual, family, and community.

Foster Care/Adoption Program - The Council concluded the Foster Care/Adoption Program in 1995 when the Minnesota Department of Human Services consolidated the program into one. The Department decided to consolidate all programs into one outlet. At the conclusion of the project, the following recommendations were forwarded to the Department of Human Services:

- Educate professionals about cultural values and traditions of the Asian-Pacific community. Educate the Asian-Pacific communities about foster care and adoption policies, rules, and legal procedures as they relates to neglect, abuse, etc.;
- Encourage governmental entities to enforce the "Heritage Act" provision which would consider placing the child with relative first, family of same culture second, and families who are sensitive to the culture third;
- To establish the concept of a "friendly house" where children can temporarily stay when they are taken from their home because of safety reasons.

Through this project the Council developed a cultural guide book for service providers in educating them about the Asian-Pacific community.

Housing - Since 1995, the Council has pulled together over 10 executive directors of the various Southeast Asian staffed non-profit organizations to look at how the community could participate in the Hollman Consent Decree discussion. Because of this lawsuit, which calls for the demolition of over 400 public housing units in Minneapolis, over 300 Southeast Asians families will be left without a home. The Council has played a leadership role in advocating on behalf of the community and assisted the community in raising close to 100,000 to assist the community based effort. The Coalition will now look at culturally specific housing developments that would support the concept of community and family within the Asian-Pacific community. The Coalition has partnered with Project for Pride in Living and Common Bond, two well respected housing developers in the Twin Cities.

Entrepreneurship/Small Business Training - The Council received a grant of \$8,470 from the Neighborhood Development Center, a non-profit community development corporation, to provide outreach to the Asian-Pacific community and to assist them with business support services.

Crime - The Council completed a research project funded by the Minnesota Planning on perceptions of crime in the Asian-Pacific community. The Council was specifically asked to look at 1). the best appropriate methods for gathering information on crime in the community, 2). strengths and weaknesses of different methods for gathering data, 3). suggested protocols for gathering primary data, and 4). the community's perception of crime and the criminal justice system.

Gambling - The Council was approached by the community to look into how gambling has affected the Asian-Pacific community. A report was produced with a series of recommendations. The report documents how compulsive gambling among Southeast Asians living in Minnesota results in financial and emotional problems such as family stress, loss of homes, incidents of divorce, neglect of children and even deaths. The recommendations being made to the Governor and various funding agencies include:

- Funding bilingual preventative education materials such as brochures and videos in Southeast Asian languages;
- Making funds available for training bilingual and culturally sensitive Mutual Assistance Association staff to take compulsive gambling in-service training;
- Funding the Southeast Asian Mutual assistance Associations and related Mental Health Services to run prevention and intervention programs;
- Further research into effective treatment modalities for Southeast Asian problem gamblers;
- Evaluation of demonstration treatment programs for Southeast Asians.

As a result of the Council's effort, the Minnesota Council on Compulsive Gambling and the Minnesota Gaming Association funded six compulsive gambling training scholarships for the community and provided additional discounts for two training scholarships when the response from service providers exceeded our expectations.

The Needs of Amerasians in Minnesota - The Council was recently asked by the Department of Human Services 1996 to assist them in gathering information on the

needs of Vietnamese Amerasians in Minnesota. A report will be produced by the Council by spring of 1997 with recommendations.

Internship Program - In order to promote public policy participation, build leadership, and community involvement, the Council has established an internship program for college students. Three interns took advantage of this opportunity during the 1996 summer and academic years. "Jesse" Seng Yang, a Hmong student from St. Mary's University, Winona, who is working on his B.A. in Social Work and Human Services, assisted the Council with Hmong translation and interpretation as well as conducted interviews of Council members and members of the Asian business community. Yoko Kawabata, a student at the University of St. Thomas, who has since returned to Japan, helped put together a trade primer "A ten minute lesson on how to do business with Asians." Cathy Ye Cheng, from Guangzhou, China, a business and marketing education major at the University of Minnesota, completed work on developing a cultural awareness resource for doing business in Asia.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

During the past two years the Council has focused its attention on educating the mainstream community about the needs and diversity within the Asian-Pacific community as well as reaching out to the Asian-Pacific community in Greater Minnesota to identify needs that they may have. The following sections of the report highlight what is happening in different regions of the State. The report also lists some of the

activities that the Council had worked on to educate the public and give recognize the accomplishments of the Asian-Pacific community.

REGIONAL REPORTS

The Southwestern part of Minnesota's rural landscape is evolving with a large increase of immigration labor. While national statistics shows that manufacturing jobs nation wide are declining, in Minnesota there is an opposite trend because of the availability of workers. Immigrants are moving to Minnesota to fill many of the positions which were once coined, "negative unemployment with essentially no local workers available to fill low-wage jobs." The increases of immigrants, largely Southeast Asians, has revitalized many of the rural areas where manufacturing jobs are on the rise. With the changing demographic landscape, rural areas are beginning to learn of needed services for these new immigrants. Services are needed which will help bridge the cultural and language gap of immigrants and assist them in becoming productive and contributing members of society.

The Council has made extensive efforts to make sure that the voices of the Asian-Pacific communities outside of the Twin Cities areas are heard and that resources and services are channeled to these new communities.

The following section of the report will cover some of the challenges that are faced by the Asian-Pacific community in the various regions of the State:

Mountain Lake:

The stereotypes of small mid-western towns as 99.9% white is rapidly changing. With the coming of new immigrants local industries maintain labor productivity, sustain school levels of enrollment, and bringing a new boost of energy to an otherwise declining rural economy. The 58 Lao families who are living in this area now have their own Buddhist temple. However, these families have a strong need for translators and interpreters to assist them in securing access to basic health and social services.

Worthington:

Currently there are 600 Asian-Pacific Immigrants settled in Worthington. Laotians and Vietnamese make up the largest ethnic minority group in Worthington. Many have come to work for Campbell Soup, Swift & Company, ConAgra, and Manforth meat processing plant. However, Campbell Soup's decision to sell it's Worthington plant will have a dramatic impact on the number of Asian-Pacific families working there. The Council is working with Mr. Sisoumang Rattanasitthi, a well respected community leader, to assist them in their planning for a Mutual Assistance Association, a non-profit organization created by and for the community.

Rochester:

According to statistics provided by the Diversity Council of Olmstead County, there are approximately 1,308 Asian-Pacific Islanders living in Rochester. This past year, the Council has met with community leaders, city officials, and social service agencies to identify community needs and resources. In meeting with key individuals within the community, the Council has identified that the Mutual Assistance Association

in Rochester is extremely underfunded. Mainstream institutions expect the Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association to provide most of the services for the growing immigrant and refugee community. However, the agency lacks the resources to fully assist the community.

In 1997, the Council hopes to do more work in helping the agency identify additional resources. Furthermore, the Council hopes to continue to meet with elected officials to forward the needs of the community to them.

Duluth:

The Council took part in the Southeast Asian Awareness Month at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Campus during the month of May 1996 by presenting information about the state of the Asian-Pacific community in Minnesota. Close to 200 Asian Pacific American students and their families live in Duluth. The Council also presented to service providers from the City of Duluth on the needs of the Asian-Pacific community and how the service providers can effectively work with them.

Warroad:

From November 15-17 1996 the Asian Pacific Council staff visited Warroad Minnesota to meet with over 40 Laotian families, many who work for Marvin Windows, to identify their needs. The Council participated in a community forum and heard many concerns being raised. Some of those concerns included: 1). Perceptions that Asian residents there don't really pay taxes; 2). The lack of translators/interpreters in medical clinics, schools, and social service institutions; 3). Limited access to the extra-curricular activities and educational opportunities for mainstream children and families.

Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Programs:

- In 1996, the Council co-sponsored and participated in a town meeting with the Urban Coalition for Asian residents of Minneapolis Public Housing about the housing issue as it relates to the Hollman Consent Decree. Over 100 people participated.
- In 1996, the Council co-sponsored with other Asian social service agencies and assisted in facilitating a community meeting/conference around immigration issues. Over 300 people participated in the conference.
- During the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, the Council collaborated with the Minnesota Cultural Diversity Center to put together a diversity dinner for several major corporations in an effort to educate them about the Asian-Pacific community.
- During the 1996 Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, the Council co-sponsored with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights a discussion about the future of Affirmative Action. Stuart Ishimaru, who served as Counsel to the United States Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division was the keynote speaker.
- In 1996, the Council co-sponsored a reception with the Chinese Senior Society, for visiting artist Chengshu Shen, a well-known Chinese calligrapher and painter in China. This event was held at the Lake Nokomis Community Center.
- In 1996, the Council served as a supporting agency for the Organization of Chinese Americans Annual meeting and luncheon with Dr. Chai-Wei Woo. Dr. Woo is the founding president of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and a member of the Preparatory Committee, which will oversee the transition of Hong Kong to China in 1997.
- * In 1996, the Council co-sponsored a town forum on immigration, broadcasted live on Cable, through Saint Paul Neighborhood Network.

Presentations Given about the Asian-Pacific Community & its Needs:**College/Universities**

University of Minnesota - Duluth
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Inver Hills Community College
Metropolitan State University
St. Cloud State University
Hamline University
Apollo High School, St. Cloud
Rochester Cultural Diversity Center
St. John's University

Non-Profit Organizations/Private Sector

The Wilder Foundation
Minnesota Council on Foundations
United Way of Worthington
Worthington Kiwanis Club
Worthington Chamber of Commerce
United Way of Minneapolis
Minnesota Culture Diversity Center
Asian Business and Community Foundation
India Club
University National Bank
General Mills
The Minneapolis Foundation
The United Way of the St. Paul Area
League of Women Voters
Hmong Cultural and Heritage Festival (Nquamtoj)
Minnesota Mutual Assistance Association
Hmong American-Coalition
Fil-Minnesotan Association
Neighborhood Development Center
The Partnership to Address Violence Through Education
National Asian-Pacific American Bar Association - Minnesota Chapter
The Korean Association of Minnesota
Asian Women United of Minnesota
Annual Conference of Judges
Lutheran Social Services of Duluth
The Asian/Pacific Cultural Center - Duluth
Boy Scouts of America - Indian Head Council
Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network

The St. Paul Winter Carnival
 KTCA - Channel 2 - Public Television
 KTCL - Channel 17 (Kev Koom Siab)

Government/Public Sector

The Minneapolis Public School
 The City of St. Paul
 The Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism
 Minnesota Department of Health
 Supreme Court Continuing Education
 Minnesota National Guard
 Ramsey County, Department of Community Corrections
 Minnesota Department of Economic Security
 Immigration and Naturalization Services-U.S. Dept of Justice
 Hennepin County Medical Center
 Hennepin County Minority Employee's Association
 Minnesota Department of Employee Relations
 Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning
 Cultural youth programs for the Lao children

Asian-Pacific Heritage Month In 1995 and 1996 the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans sponsored several major events celebrating the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. In 1995, the Council sponsored the Asian-Pacific Heritage Banquet where approximately 300 people participated. The Council recognized the following people in 1995 for their leadership in the community through the Asian-Pacific Leadership

Awards:

- **Asadulla Gharwal**
- **K.P. S. ("Shunk") Menon**
- **Ream Um**
- **Tony N. Leung**
- **Luis Siojo**
- **Daniel Ginting**
- **Dr. John Nobuya Tsuchida**
- **Dr. Joo-Ho Sung**
- **Lina Jau**
- **Virendra Ratnayake**
- **Dr. Nat J. Suwarnasam**
- **Hue Dao**

In 1996, the Council recognized the following individuals for their leadership within the community through the Asian-Pacific Leadership Award:

- **Bounxou Chontirabone**
- **Tom Tomeo Ohno**
- **Shen Pei**
- **Rampai Sukhum**
- **Dr. Krishan & Kusum Saxena**
- **Chang Won Song**
- **Chan Chhan Keo**
- **Linda de la Cruz Davis**
- **Soua Yang**

The Council is cooperating with the Asian American Renaissance and City of St. Paul to plan a 1997 Asian-American festival to be held during the 1997 Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Celebration (May 1997). The festival will be held in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul.

As a part of community outreach in educating community constituents about the various issues and recognizing the various Asian-Pacific accomplishments, a Council newsletter is distributed four times a year (winter, spring, fall, and summer). The Council has also attended numerous community and cultural events throughout the years and will continue to do so in an effort to learn more of the needs of the community as well as to inform the community about the work of the Council

The Council has also served as a resource for various media (radio, cable, television, print) in addressing policy issues which impact the community.

CHALLENGES:

As we approach the end of the 1990's and head into the Millennium, it is critical that the Council be ahead of the times. The Council is working to make sure that the Asian community is a part of this "Bridge into the 21st Century."

Resource shortages are making it even more difficult to ensure that immigrants and refugees are at the same level as long standing generational immigrant residents and American born citizens. Economic and Social safety nets and opportunities need to be available in order for immigrants and refugees to have a place to call home. The biggest challenge for the Asian community is for them to come forward with their issues so that hopefully these issues can be solved.

In 1997 - 1998, the Council will continue to focus its attention on fulfilling the Council's 14 Legislative Mandates. Additionally, the Council will pay particular attention on the following issues:

- Welfare Reform
- Economic and Community Development
- Affordable Housing
- Education (English-as-a Second Language, etc.)
- Elderly
- Youth

The Council will use the following approaches to assist in achieving goals as set forth in its Mandates:

- Research - Conduct studies on the subject
- Education - Educate community and policy makers on findings and issues
- Advocacy - Advocate on behalf of the community on issues identified
- Advising - Advise policy makers on issues identified and seek solutions

BUDGET
Receipts and expenditures

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
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 SUMMARY AGENCY/ORG/LVL G9N 0000 01 ASIAN-PACIFIC COUNCIL**

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 RUN DATE: 1/21/96
 RUN TIME: 1:49:46 PM

FD/AGY/ORG/UNIT	OBJ CLASS	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUMBERED	%ENC	EXPENDED	%EXP	BALANCE	%BAL
APPROP 100 G9 0000 100								
ALLOT 100 G9 1005 100								
FULL TIME	1A0	123,947	0	%	94,498	76%	29,449	24%
PART-TIME, SEASONAL, LABOR S	1B0	0	0	%	3,674	%	-3,674	%
OVERTIME PAY	1C0	0	0	%	108	%	-108	%
OTHER BENEFITS	1E0	7,590	0	%	8,308	109%	-718	-9%
SPACE RENTAL, MAINT, & UTILIT	2A0	11,400	0	%	9,091	80%	2,309	20%
REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS, & MAIN	2B0	1,000	0	%	442	44%	558	56%
PRINTING AND ADVFRTISING	2C0	11,000	0	%	3,574	32%	7,426	68%
PROF/TECH SERVICES OUTSIDE V	2D0	11,563	0	%	9,981	86%	1,582	14%
COMPUTER & SYSTEMS SERVICE	2E0	500	0	%	594	119%	-94	-19%
COMMUNICATIONS	2F0	9,000	0	%	4,860	54%	4,140	46%
TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE -INSTA	2G0	4,000	0	%	1,543	39%	2,457	61%
TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE -OUTST	2H0	2,000	0	%	0	%	2,000	100%
SUPPLIES	2J0	4,000	0	%	4,783	120%	-783	-20%
EQUIPMENT	2K0	4,000	0	%	2,707	68%	1,293	32%
EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT	2L0	2,000	0	%	420	21%	1,580	79%
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	2M0	6,000	0	%	5,103	85%	897	15%
TOTAL ALLOT CAPM OPS		\$ 198,000	\$ 0	%	\$ 149,687	76%	\$ 48,313	24%
TOTAL APPROP ASIAN OPS		\$ 198,000	\$ 0	%	\$ 149,687	76%	\$ 48,313	24%
APPROP 300 G9 0000 300								
ALLOT 300 G9 1000 300								
STATEWIDE INDIRECT COSTS	2P0	97	0	%	0	%	97	100%
TOTAL ALLOT AIDS FED		\$ 97	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 97	100%
TOTAL APPROP ASIAN FED		\$ 97	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 97	100%
APPROP 690 G9 0000 690								
ALLOT 690 G9 1002 690								
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	2M0	20,000	0	%	0	%	20,000	100%
TOTAL ALLOT CAPM GIFT		\$ 20,000	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 20,000	100%
TOTAL APPROP ASIAN GIFTS		\$ 20,000	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 20,000	100%
TOTAL SUMMARY ORGANIZATION 0000		\$ 218,097	\$ 0	%	\$ 149,687	69%	\$ 68,410	31%

SORT: AGENCY / ORG(LVL=2) / FUND / APPROP-ORG / UNIT / ALLOT-ORG / OBJ-CLASS

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<u>FD/AGY/ORG/UNIT</u>	<u>OBJ CLASS</u>	<u>CURRENT BUDGET</u>	<u>ENCUMBERED</u>	<u>%ENC</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>%EXP</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>%BAL</u>
TOTAL AGENCY	G9N	\$ 218,097	\$ 0	%	\$ 149,687	69%	\$ 68,410	31%

SORT: AGENCY / ORG(LVL=2) / FUND / APPROP-ORG / UNIT / ALLOT-ORG / OBJ-CLASS

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
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	<u>FD/AGY/ORG/UNIT</u>	<u>OBJ CLASS</u>	<u>CURRENT BUDGET</u>	<u>ENCUMBERED</u>	<u>%ENC</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>%EXP</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>%BAL</u>
APPROP	100 G9 0000 100								
ALLOT	100 G9 1005 100								
	FULL TIME	1A0	159,960	105,834	66%	54,126	34%	0	%
	OVERTIME PAY	1C0	0	0	%	101	%	-101	%
	OTHER BENEFITS	1E0	6,270	0	%	3,159	50%	3,111	50%
	SPACE RENTAL, MAINT, & UTILIT	2A0	9,000	4,535	50%	4,529	50%	-64	-1%
	REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS, & MAIN	2B0	3,000	444	15%	507	17%	2,049	68%
	PRINTING AND ADVERTISING	2C0	7,000	805	12%	950	14%	5,245	75%
	PROF/TECH SERVICES OUTSIDE V	2D0	10,000	0	%	500	5%	9,500	95%
	COMPUTER & SYSTEMS SERVICE	2E0	8,000	335	4%	265	3%	7,400	92%
	COMMUNICATIONS	2F0	8,000	2,511	31%	1,585	20%	3,904	49%
	TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE -INSTA	2G0	4,000	153	4%	502	13%	3,345	84%
	TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE -OUTST	2H0	2,000	340	17%	931	47%	729	36%
	SUPPLIES	2J0	6,000	342	6%	1,124	19%	4,535	76%
	EQUIPMENT	2K0	12,000	1,847	15%	816	7%	9,338	78%
	EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT	2L0	2,729	0	%	246	9%	2,483	91%
	OTHER OPERATING COSTS	2M0	16,204	101	1%	43	0%	16,060	99%
	MEDICAL/REHABILITATION CLIE	4A0	0	0	%	0	%	0	%
TOTAL ALLOT	CAPM OPS		\$ 254,163	\$ 117,247	46%	\$ 69,384	27%	\$ 67,533	27%
TOTAL APPROP	ASIAN OPS		\$ 254,163	\$ 117,247	46%	\$ 69,384	27%	\$ 67,533	27%
APPROP	300 G9 0000 300								
ALLOT	300 G9 1000 300								
	PROF/TECH SERVICES OUTSIDE V	2D0	9,000	0	%	1,500	17%	7,500	83%
	STATEWIDE INDIRECT COSTS	2P0	0	0	%	655	%	-655	%
TOTAL ALLOT	MN PLANNING		\$ 9,000	\$ 0	%	\$ 2,155	24%	\$ 6,845	76%
ALLOT	300 G9 1001 300								
	PROF/TECH SERVICES OUTSIDE V	2D0	16,178	0	%	0	%	16,178	100%
TOTAL ALLOT	CHEM DEP GRT		\$ 16,178	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 16,178	100%
ALLOT	300 G9 1002 300								
	PART-TIME, SEASONAL, LABOR S	1B0	34,960	34,960	100%	0	%	0	%
	OTHER BENEFITS	1E0	7,691	0	%	0	%	7,691	100%
	SPACE RENTAL, MAINT, & UTILIT	2A0	1,200	0	%	0	%	1,200	100%
	PRINTING AND ADVERTISING	2C0	500	0	%	0	%	500	100%
	COMMUNICATIONS	2F0	1,430	0	%	0	%	1,430	100%
	TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE -INSTA	2G0	1,240	0	%	0	%	1,240	100%

SORT: AGENCY / ORG(LVL=2) / FUND / APPROP-ORG / UNIT / ALLOT-ORG / OBJ-CLASS

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FD/AGY/ORG/UNIT	OBJ CLASS	CURRENT BUDGET	ENCUMBERED	%ENC	EXPENDED	%EXP	BALANCE	%BAL
SUPPLIES	2J0	1,127	0	%	0	%	1,127	100%
EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT	2L0	2,000	0	%	0	%	2,000	100%
STATEWIDE INDIRECT COSTS	2P0	4,952	0	%	0	%	4,952	100%
OTHER PMNTS TO INDIVIDUALS	4B0	2,500	0	%	0	%	2,500	100%
TOTAL ALLOT HEALTH GRANT		\$ 57,600	\$ 34,960	61%	\$ 0	%	\$ 22,640	39%
TOTAL APPROP ASIAN FED		\$ 82,778	\$ 34,960	42%	\$ 2,155	3%	\$ 45,663	55%
APPROP 690 G9 0000 690								
ALLOT 690 G9 1002 690								
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	2M0	100	0	%	0	%	100	100%
TOTAL ALLOT ASIAN GIFT		\$ 100	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 100	100%
TOTAL APPROP ASIAN GIFTS		\$ 100	\$ 0	%	\$ 0	%	\$ 100	100%
TOTAL SUMMARY ORGANIZATION 0000		\$ 337,041	\$ 152,207	45%	\$ 71,539	21%	\$ 113,296	34%

SORT: AGENCY / ORG(LVL=2) / FUND / APPROP-ORG / UNIT / ALLOT-ORG / OBJ-CLASS

APPENDIX

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES:**JOVITA L. BJORAKER, Office Manager**

Is originally from Indonesia and graduated from Padjadjaran University in Bandung, Indonesia. She majored in the German language and literature. Prior to coming to the United States, Jovita worked as an Executive Secretary and Management Assistant for two German companies. She has been with the Council since 1986.

ANN WEBB, Administrative/Legislative Assistant

In her pursuit for social and economic justice for multi-ethnic communities, Ann has pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations/Intercultural Communication at the University of Minnesota. Her prior experience has been working within the public and non-profit sectors. She has volunteered for several community based organizations such as the Filipino American Women Network (FAWN), South Suburban Literacy Program, COLORS Magazine, The Special Olympics, and is a program producer for the Filipino American National News (The F.A.N.N) program with a community based radio station, KFAI, that is broadcasted in the Twin Cities. Ann has been with the Council since November of 1996.

LEE PAO XIONG, Executive Director

Has over five years of non-profit management and community services experiences. He was formerly the executive director of the Hmong Youth Association of Minnesota and Hmong American Partnership. He has previously worked for U.S. Senator Carl Levin of Michigan as an Intern and Minnesota State Senator Joe Bertram. He has received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota in Political Science and is completing work on his Master of Arts in Public Administrations at Hamline University. Lee Pao has been with the Council since July of 1995.

DAVID B. ZANDER, Research Analyst

Is originally from London, England where he earned a teachers certificate from the University of London. Before coming to the United States, David taught in East Africa, Kenya and in the Bahamas. His work for the Ministry of Overseas Development influenced his future career in cultural research. He has received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Anthropology and Education from the University of Minnesota; He has worked as an ethnographic evaluator for the center for Urban and Regional Affairs (C.U.R.A). He has also provided technical assistance to the Minneapolis Public Schools, Limited English Proficiency program (LEP) along with the Mdwakaton Sioux Tribal Council pre-school in Prior Lake. David has been with the Council since April of 1996.

COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
--

**CHING-MENG CHEW
MALAYSIAN**

**BICH CHU
VIETNAMESE**

**SOTHEARY DUONG
CAMBODIAN**

**JENNIE HSIAO
CHINESE**

**DR. A. GHAFAR LAKANWAL
AFGHAN**

**ADEEL Z. LARI, CHAIR
PAKISTANI**

**BYUNG L. LEE, M.D.
KOREAN**

**ANANDA SRILAL LIYANAPATHIRANAGE
SRI LANKAN**

**MEHERUN NESSA
BANGLADESHI**

**REV. DR. CHERIAN PUTHIYOTTIL
ASIAN INDIAN**

**DR. KALONG SUJJAPUNROJ, VICE CHAIR
THAI**

**THOMAS T. TAKEKAWA
JAPANESE AMERICAN**

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INDONESIAN**

**TONG VANG
HMONG**

**BOON YOON VORASANE
LAO**

**BA THEIN WIN
BURMESE**

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**THE HON. CARLOS MARIANI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**THE HON. JOHN J. MARTY
STATE SENATOR**

**THE HON. SANDRA L. PAPPAS
STATE SENATOR**

COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
1996-1997**

