李岚凤请朱镕基来演讲

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为了纪念丈夫何日华，李岚凤在2001年捐出50万元设立‘何日华亚洲领袖讲座’，先后请了内阁资政李光耀、马来西亚首相马哈迪。原来她心目中还有一个很遗憾的人——曾称‘铁面丞相’的中国前总理朱镕基。

她在2003年再捐出50万元设立‘李岚凤讲座’，每年每邀请大学、学者来演讲。她在有一天能邀请到武侠作家金庸(查良镛)。

她说：‘有时未免能讲到所要求的嘉宾，我们写了好几封信给金庸，都没有下文。他都八十几岁了，我也八十几岁了，我死了没有关系。他死了就没人演讲了。’

她说：‘何日华亚洲领袖公开讲座的头一炮请了李光耀。接下来是马哈迪，成绩很好。但是题目做得很大，以后就很难请，至今还没请到人，成绩差一点，不过基金和利息还在那儿。’盘旋在她脑海的除了朱镕基，还包括美国前总统克林顿、台湾国策顾问马英九、台湾总统陈水扁，甚至马来西亚的前首相安华等。

然而举办讲座要考虑费用和操作环节，例如何日华讲座想要请的一些嘉宾，因为身份的关系，邀请方和获邀请方的政治立场也会影响办讲座者的态度。

在李岚凤心目中，中国作家沈从文和老舍应该有希望得到诺贝尔文学奖。她年轻的时候在英国的大学以老舍作品题目演讲，‘可惜他们死了，我也请不到他们了。’

她说：‘目前香港讲座的钱大概没剩下多少了，可是我对(新加坡管理大学)说放心，不够的话由我来贴，老子有的是钱！哈哈。’”

原来她是套用张无极笔下光棍遭大汉所言：“老子有的是钱！”语毕，手握拳头，近乎拍案疾呼的样字，逗得旁人和自己都笑得人仰马翻。

华语和英语讲座各有不同

李岚凤认为华语讲座不一定比英语讲座受欢迎，不过她发现英语讲座听的人多，但是一定集中，而华语讲座的听众不一定集中，但是很专一，尤其是很多老年人，不一定多也来听。

国外讲座挽本地招待周到（《今早照样有好心情》）——02第23页

To remember her late husband Mr Ho Rih Hwa, Mrs Ho Lien Fung donated $500,000 in 2001 to set up the Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series. Speakers include Minister Mentor Mr Lee Kuan Yew and former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad. In fact, one person Mrs Ho would like to invite for this lecture is former China Premier Mr Zhu Rongji.

In 2003, Mrs Ho again donated another $500,000 to set up the Lien Fung's Colloquium which brings in writers and scholars to speak. Her dream is to have famous wuxia author Mr Jin Yong to come over.

She said: "It is not always possible to manage to get who we would like to invite. I have written several invitations to Jin Yong but have not heard anything. He is already in his eighties and I am also in my eighties. It doesn't matter if I die but if he passes on, there will be no more Jin Yong to give a lecture!"

She added: "The Ho Rih Hwa Leadership in Asia Public Lecture Series manages to secure Mr Lee Kuan Yew followed by Dr Mahathir. Due to the broad subject matter, it is very difficult to bring in the most appropriate speaker. We have not managed to secure any speaker for this lecture series but the funds and interests are still healthy."

Apart from Mr Zhu Rongji, Mrs Ho is also thinking of inviting former US President Mr Bill Clinton, Taiwan's Ma Ying-Jeou, former chairman of the Kuomintang, Taiwan President Chen Shui Bian and even former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dr Anwar Ibrahim.

There are also financial and environmental concerns when organizing the lectures. For example, if there are political issues, the governments on both sides of the inviting party and the invited speaker will also voice their comments.

In her opinion, Chinese writers Shen Chong Wen and Lao She are all Nobel Laureate potentials. In her younger days, she even made a speech based on Lao She in her American university. "Unfortunately, they have all died and I can never invite them."

"There is probably not much money left in the colloquium funds but I assured SMU that if funds run out, I can top up with my own!" she quipped.

Her humorous statement underscores her conviction and belief in the benefits brought about by public lectures.

She added: "A lot of money is needed to set up a professorship and I am not certain of its benefits."

"In my experience when I was schooling, one does not learn much in a university. In fact, what is important is one's hard work and learning on the job when one starts working. Hence, I hope to educate the masses through such public lectures. It is up to the public if they are interested to attend."

She feels that lectures have to first arouse the interest of the public. It does not matter if there the audience is too little so long as there is an active engagement.

She also urged the media to help publicise such talks as far as possible.