



Name in English: Andrew J.C. Cherng
Name in Chinese: 程正昌
Name in Pinyin: Chéng Zhèngchāng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1948
Birth Place: Yangzhou, China
Current location: Southern California
Philanthropy: Yes

Founder of Panda Restaurant Group, Philanthropist

Profession(s): Restaurant Entrepreneur, Corporate Leader

Education: Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, Baker University, 1970; Master of Science, Mathematics, University of Missouri, 1972

Awards: 2008, City of Angels Award, LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce; 2008, Honorary Ph.D. Cal Poly Pomona; 1995, Award of Excellence, California State University Los Angeles Asian Support Group; 1995, Top 100 Restaurant Chains, Nation's Restaurant News; 1994, Top 200 Minority-Owned Business, Los Angeles Business Journal

Contribution (s): Andrew J.C. Cherng is the Founder and Chairman of the Board for Panda Restaurant Group (PRG). Most Americans are familiar with the company's Panda Express chain in shopping malls and other retail locations across the United States. In 2007, the company group was grossing more than \$1 billion and employed more than 18,000 people. Born in the Yangzhou region of China, Cherng had migrated with his family to the United States from Japan in the 1960s after leaving China by way of Hong Kong and Taipei. Cherng along with his master chef father, Ming Tsai Cherng, opened Panda Inn in 1973, one of the first full-service Chinese restaurants in Pasadena, California. The menu blended Mandarin and Szechwan styles that fit in well enough with the Southern California lifestyle to open six additional restaurants. Cherng later had a vision to create a restaurant that combined gourmet-style Mandarin cuisine in a typical American fast food environment. This resulted in the first Panda Express in 1983. Panda Express restaurants have expanded to more than 1000 locations across the US and Puerto Rico. Cherng later took the concept further to develop Hibachi-San, a chain of 27 quick service restaurants featuring Japanese hibachi grilling.

Philanthropy: Believing in corporate responsibility to the community, Cherng and his wife, Dr. Peggy Tsiang Cherng, co-chair of PRG, have given millions to non-profit organizations, schools, and hospitals through the Panda Cares Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PRG founded in 1999. When Panda Express opened its 300th restaurant in Las Vegas in 1999, the company donated 20 percent of its opening day profit to the Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer of Southern Nevada. The pair also donated over \$100,000 to Children's Hospital Los Angeles and \$1 million to the Collins School of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona.

External Links:

<http://www.answers.com/topic/panda-management-company-inc>.

<http://www.forbes.com/business/forbes/2008/0421/106.html>

<http://www.qsrmagazine.com/issue/interview/cherng.phtml>

http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200611/20061114_cherng.html

<http://atmizzou.missouri.edu/jan04/PandaExpress.htm>



Dr. Peggy Tsiang Cherng & Mr. Andrew Cherng from company website