

Shanghai People's Square Toastmaster Club celebrate historic first win in Toastmasters International Speech Contest.

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Warwick John Fahy DTM won first place in the International Taped Speech Contest, held annually for all Toastmaster clubs based outside of Districts.

It is the first time a member from a Toastmaster Club based in China has won the award, which is open to competition for over 9,000 members in 195 clubs.

His 7 minute speech entitled, "Keep Believing" describes the lessons learnt from early business failures and the path of recovery to success. A positive speech it provides inspiration to people trying to overcome challenges in their life.

As Club President and sponsor of two clubs in Shanghai, Warwick's purpose for entering the contest was, "To put Shanghai and China on the Toastmasters map."

"I wanted to increase the awareness of these contests to our members and also help inspire our members to keep achieving greater and greater achievements."

Currently, Shanghai People's Square is leading a mission to start a network of 20 Toastmaster Clubs in Shanghai by 2008. Since 2003, two clubs have been formed with a Mandarin club to be established in July 2005.

Debbie Horn, Manager of Toastmasters International Education and Club Programming said, "We received many fine entries from around the world, so winning first place is a tremendous accomplishment. Congratulations."

A panel of Toastmasters judges evaluated contestants, who had submitted tapes of their speech recorded in front of a live studio audience. Criteria used in judging included speech content, organization, voice quality and gestures.

Warwick will go to Toronto, Ontario, Canada from Aug 24 to 27 2005 to collect his award in front of 1,600 Toastmasters from all around the world, who are gathering for Toastmaster's International four day annual convention.

Shanghai People's Square Toastmasters Club meets every Tuesday 7-9pm in the YMCA Hotel, 123 Xi Zang South Road, near People's Square metro station. For more information visit their web site at www.shanghai585.com

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has over 200,000 members in 10,000 clubs in 80 countries. Since its founding 80 years ago in October 1924, the organization has helped more than four million men and women give presentations with poise and confidence.