The 2015 USC Global Conference brought together more than 700 people in Shanghai—a record number of attendees and sponsors. Robert Iger, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, and Willow Bay, the director of the USC Annenberg School of Journalism, highlighted the event. This year’s presentations and panel discussions focused on cutting-edge innovations in business, science, technology, medicine, and the arts. Renowned business leaders and influential academics came together to discuss how these advancements address the most pressing issues of our time, and the crucial role that the Pacific Rim will play on the world stage. Thanks to the exceptional leadership of the co-chairs—USC Trustee Ming Hsieh and USC Provost Michael Quick, the conference exceeded all expectations.

To kick off the three-day conference, Ms. Willow Bay, director of the USC Annenberg School of Journalism, interviewed Mr. Robert Iger, chairman and chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company.
1. During the gala dinner, Mr. Bai Xu Xu, Dragon Television news anchor, and Ms. Dong Qing, a widely known CCTV presenter, served as the masters of ceremonies.

2. USC President C. L. Max Nikias welcomed a record number of attendees.

3. The opening night’s program included a performance by Mr. Hui Jin, a highly regarded opera singer, and current USC International Artist Fellow.

4. Mr. Robert Iger, chairman and chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company, discussed the important role China will play in the future of innovation.

5. President Nikias presented an honorary citation to USC Trustee Ming Hsieh, founder and chief executive officer of Fulgent Therapeutics; former president, chief executive officer, and chairman of Cogent, Incorporated; and co-chair of the conference.