Camp Professionals and ICC Attendees,

The 2026 International Camping Congress at Thaiwoo Resort in Chongli, China is the centerpiece of a string of professional education and networking that is unprecedented in its scope and opportunity.

Since 1983, twelve (12) international camping congresses have been held in 8 different countries and regions of the world. Local camp associations and camp professionals have ICF leaders to build organizing committees. The objectives have always been to investigate and learn about the local camping scene while sharing the knowledge and wisdom of camp environments in other communities.

Each Congress is different. At each one we celebrate how we differ. At each one, we celebrate what we share.

Each one reflects the culture and history of the host country while ensuring the highest level of professionalism that the ICF community has been able to provide and the camp community has come to expect.

There is a traditional saying: 十里不同风，百里不同俗. "Sh*i li bu tong feng, bai li bu tong su*" translates to English as "*Every ten miles the wind differs, and every hundred miles the customs differ*". It is fitting, therefore, that China is ready to provide unique and multiple experiences in different regions of the country.

Following the pre-Congress events in Weifang and Chongli, the main Congress promises to be the largest Congress in recent history with associated youth programs and recreational opportunities. In addition, coupled with the main Congress, there is a special option to continue the camp education experience in another part of China.

The Greater Bay Area Regional Event follows immediately to provide an additional four days in southern China. There is convenient transportation directly from the Congress to the airport and assistance in arranging a direct flight to Guangzhou. This will allow us to dive into another cultural experience with more camp colleagues. Speakers and presenters are welcome and attendees can expect a different but equally stimulating conference event. There is plenty of information available on the ICF website at the following link: https://www.icfconnect.net/icc2026-post-congress-program-gba-regional-event/

Whether you choose the GBA Regional Event as an extension of the main Congress or as a stand-alone conference, you will not regret the experience, the education and the enrichment of these days in the Guangdong Region with its unique camp culture.

I am looking forward to exploring the camp culture with you.

Warm regards,

John Jorgenson
Chair, ICC2026 Greater Bay Area Organizing Committee