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Photo Available Upon Request

Toastmasters members elect Keith Ostergard to group's international Board*New director at 250,000-member organization is from Potomac, Md.*

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, Calif., Sept. 9, 2009 – Keith Ostergard of Beijing, China, has been elected to the Board of Directors of [Toastmasters International](http://www.toastmasters.org), the world's leading organization devoted to teaching skills in communication and leadership. Ostergard was elected to the two-year term at the organization's 78th annual International Convention, held last month in Mashantucket, Conn.

A Toastmaster for the past 10 years, Ostergard is the co-founder of the Territorial Council of China, which has brought organizational structure to Toastmasters clubs within that country. He also served as the first district governor of China's District 85, and under his leadership it was named a "President's Distinguished" district in 2007-2008. Ostergard, who is a member of the Beijing Advanced Speakers club, initially joined a Toastmasters group in North Carolina and then joined clubs in the United Kingdom and then China when he moved to those places.

"I joined Toastmasters to try to improve my communication skills with clients and co-workers," says Ostergard. "My experience in Toastmasters has allowed me to develop those communication skills, along with leadership skills, in a safe environment. More importantly, by improving in these areas, I developed the courage to leave the corporate environment and begin a new career as a consultant and trainer."

He is president and chief consultant for LPC Consulting, LLC, in Beijing. Ostergard, who is married to Lijun Huang, is a music lover who also pens short stories and poetry.

About Toastmasters

[Toastmasters International](http://www.toastmasters.org) is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. The organization currently has 250,000 members in 12,000 clubs in 106 countries. Since its founding 85 years ago in October 1924, the organization has helped more than four million men and women give presentations with poise and confidence. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org.

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