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Celebrity Chef Who Specializes in East-West Cuisine to Prepare Five-Course Meal for Dignitaries from the Balkans

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 Contact: Teri Rizvi
 rizvi@udayton.edu
 or Max Stamper
 Dayton Peace Accords Project
 (937) 229-3514
 dpapress@hotmail.com

NEWS TIPS

**CELEBRITY CHEF WHO SPECIALIZES IN EAST-WEST CUISINE
 TO PREPARE FIVE-COURSE MEAL FOR DIGNITARIES FROM THE BALKANS**

Ming Tsai, who's been called "the foremost interpreter of East-West cuisine in America today," is flying to Dayton on Friday, Nov. 17, with two chefs and three cases of ingredients packed in dry ice. He's spending the afternoon in a kitchen at the Dayton Art Institute preparing an elegant five-course private dinner for 40 dignitaries, including presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from the Balkans. Staff from L'Auberge restaurant, which has experience hosting dignitaries from the region, will assist at the dinner.

Tsai, chef at the celebrated Blue Ginger restaurant in Wellesley, Mass., hosts two television shows on the TV Food Network, "East Meets West" and "Ming's Quest."

"The Dayton Peace Accords Project invited Ming Tsai to come and create this special meal because he has an outstanding reputation for creating cross-cultural menus," said Rebecca Hitchner, a member of the board of directors of the Dayton Peace Accords Project. "He uses food as a way of blending cultures harmoniously. In many ways, what he does is symbolic of the Dayton Peace Accords."

Like the famous accords, Tsai has strong connections to Dayton. He learned to cook at his parents' Chinese restaurant in Dayton.

Tsai is available to meet with the media from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m. at the Dayton Art Institute. The dinner is private and closed to the media.

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords, presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from the Balkans are gathering here to celebrate democratic changes in their countries, debate the future of the region and offer recommendations to a new U.S. administration.

For more information, contact **Rebecca Hitchner** at (937) 545-2090 or **Chuck Barnett** at the Dayton Art Institute at (937) 223-5277.