

**To: Asian/Asian American employees in LANL**  
**From: Asian American Diversity Working Group**  
**RE: Meeting with Director Browne**

Many of us are going through a very difficult time due to the recent negative publicity which particularly affects our community here within and outside the Laboratory. The members of the Asian American Diversity Working Group (ASADWG) would like to share the following with you. We hope this will lift up your spirits and allow you to refocus on your work at LANL: ASADWG members met with Director John Browne on Thursday, March 18. This meeting was initiated by the Director. Dr. Pete Miller was also present at the meeting. Dr. Browne is very concerned about the morale of the Asian/Asian American employees, due to the recent publicity on alleged espionage activities at the Laboratory.

Dr. Browne wanted to emphasize that he does not believe the incidents can be attributed to any ethnic group, but rather only acts by individuals. No group of U.S. citizens or foreign nationals of any particular background will be singled out as security risks as he has stated in his memo to all employees on March 17:

"I also want to reassure you that I remain committed to protecting the rights and privileges of Laboratory employees whether they are U.S. citizens, regardless of their country of birth, or citizens of other countries, as provided for by U.S. law and consistent with national security requirements." In particular, no one should fear the loss of employment opportunities due to his or her national origin.

Dr. Browne firmly believes that, to maintain our status as one of the foremost scientific research institutions in the world, it is necessary to have foreign nationals at the Laboratory, both as staff members and as visitors. Just as the United States draws its strength from its diversity, this Laboratory has, since the Manhattan Project days, tapped talents from around the world to accomplish its missions. While travels to sensitive countries and visitors from sensitive countries will be under closer scrutiny, contacts with foreign nationals are still considered vital for the workforce to stay knowledgeable in their fields. Dr. Browne reassured us that there will be no fundamental change in Laboratory policies to prevent appropriate contacts with foreign nationals.

This is a difficult time for not only the Asian/Asian American community but also for the entire Laboratory as well. Dr. Browne asked for our patience and cooperation, and encouraged us to let him know, via e-mail, of any concerns, comments, and suggestions regarding the present situation.