Question: You are the first president of APAPA-San Diego Chapter, how is it like?

Ron Cho: It’s always a challenge opening up a brand new chapter. You need like-minded individuals with grass root thinking that are passionate about civic engagement. It takes a lot of efforts especially when we are a volunteer organization. There is a lot of heavy lifting that we do in order to create more momentum. Especially in a diverse town, like San Diego with an Asian American population that is spread out across San Diego County. A good example where would be like Orange County/Westminster, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, the denser the population, the less challenging to organize Asian American and Pacific Islanders to encourage them to participant in the public affairs and the election process.

Question: How has APAPA-San Diego Chapter been grown over the past three years?

Ron Cho: We have steadily taken calculated steps in growing our organization, because we don’t want to over promise. We’d rather do things right, do things in the way we believe that our board is capable of putting on civic engagement forums such as this, Town Hall Candidates Forums, voter registration that type of events, and doing it right instead of trying to do too much. We partner with like-minded non-profit organizations to extend our message and reach.
Question: What’s your vision of APAPA-San Diego Chapter in the next three years?

Ron Cho: We have steadily taken calculated steps in growing our organization, because we don’t want to over promise. We’d rather do things right, do things in the way we believe that our board is capable of putting on civic engagement forums such as this, Town Hall Candidates Forums, voter registration that type of events, and doing it right instead of trying to do too much. We partner with like-minded non-profit organizations to extend our message and reach.

Question: How has the Confucius Institute at San Diego State University been supporting APAPA events from last three years?

Ron Cho: The Confucius Institute at SDSU through Dr. Lilly Cheng has been very supportive. We have received a tremendous amount of volunteers from Yueying Zhan, CI’s Project Manager and past project leaders to support us in these events. It is an opportunity for the CI volunteers to learn from these events, they can get a sense of how a forum is organized and interact with attendees and they themselves are engaged in public affairs and civic engagement. Confucius Institute team has been very flexible and extremely invaluable to the APAPA San Diego Chapter. It’s a good experience from all involved.