



## What is the Wenceslau de Moraes Association?

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Wenceslau de Moraes was commemorated during the year 2004.

I had the honour of having been invited by the “Instituto Camões”, the entity responsible for the organization of the commemorations, to be the Commissioner.

Far more than the mere celebration of the event, it was for me, since the beginning, a firm position, that it was necessary to change, during that year, the situation of almost oblivion that had progressively been dragged of the figure and, mainly, of the works of Wenceslau de Moraes.

The Far-East, after, during the XX century having achieved a political and economical independence from the Western influence, affirms itself worldly by some of its states, namely China and Japan, just as Moraes had predicted a century ago.

Beyond the writer who gave us so much knowledge about the people of the Far-East we celebrate the man who, talented with an enormous capacity of analysis, managed to foresee with extreme exactitude the geopolitical changes that would happen, decades after having left us.

So, it was absolutely necessary that far beyond the festive gathering, during the commemorations some achievement would remain that could be the beginning of a new dimension of Wenceslau de Moraes in the interest and collective memory of the Portuguese and of all interested in the relation East-West, which will certainly distinguish the unfolding of this XXI century.

Once arriving at the end of 2004, myself and a number of ancient and recent admirers of the writer and of his work assumed as settled that we should commit ourselves in the creation of an Association which would enable us to perpetuate our actions of the study and divulgation of Wenceslau, his works and his ideas of interchange and bilateral understanding West- Far-East.

We where about thirty founder members that gave legal existence to Wenceslau de Moraes Association by means of a notarial deed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2006.