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## "兩會"給予 香港工商發展新動能 "TWO SESSIONS" GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

蔡冠深 Jonathan CHOI GBM, GBS, BBS, JP

家主席習近平於人大會議閉幕大會發表重要講話,強調推進強國建設離不開港澳長期繁榮穩定,支持香港發展經濟、改善民生。中央高度

重視和關心香港發展,實在鼓舞人心。今年"兩會"確立 以高質量發展推動全面建設社會主義現代化國家為首要任 務,更強調要扎實推進高水平對外開放,香港作為連通內 地與國際的"超級聯繫人"角色將可充分發揮,本港工商 界亦可用好"外通內聯"的網絡優勢,在新格局下探索發 展新機遇。

#### 發揮 "一國兩制"優勢

習主席強調要全面準確、堅定不移貫徹 "一國兩制"、"港人治港"、高度自治方針,進一步顯示中央對堅定落實 "一國兩制"方針的決心,意義深遠。國務院印發《黨和國家機構改革方案》,設立屬黨中央辦事機構的 "中央港澳工作辦公室",不但提升港澳事務層次,強化中央統一領導,加大對港的支持力度,讓香港長期繁榮穩定有更好的保障。香港只要發揮好"一國兩制"優勢,不斷完善與憲法和《基本法》實施相關的制度機制,致力維護國家安全,未來發展必定更為穩固。

中總一直全力支持特區政府依法和有效施政,配合各項有利工商經濟和社會民生發展的政策措施。我們積極引領會員及工商界深入學習貫徹習主席講話精神和"兩會"重要訊息,在"愛國者治港"基礎上,抓緊"一國兩制"帶來的機遇,協助工商企業融入國家發展大局。

#### 抓緊創科合作契機

促進科技創新是推動國家邁向高質量發展的重要元素。特 區政府早前與國家科技部簽署《內地與香港關於加快建設 香港國際創新科技中心的安排》,並與廣東省政府簽訂兩 項科技合作協議,充分體現國家對深化香港與內地科技合 作、打造香港成為"國際創新科技中心"的全力支持。

香港必須加強與大灣區在創料領域全方位合作,共同吸引 頂尖人才及龍頭企業匯聚,把香港科研和內地產業結合起 來,逐步實現兩地體制法規融合,協調兩地產業佈局與 升級轉型,積極配合內地科教興國的戰略部署,既為香 港產業轉型發展開拓新路向,也為國家推進高質量建設作出貢獻。

本會亦十分關注香港創科領域及相關產業的長遠發展,特別是深化推進跟大灣區聯動,包括透過與特區政府和內地相關部委交流,反映業界意見和訴求,並透過《施政報告》和相關諮詢渠道、呈交"兩會"提案等,積極建言獻策。

#### 強化"外通內聯"角色

政府工作報告明確傳遞以經濟發展為重點的強烈信號,提出八項重點建議,其中把着力擴大國內需求擺在優先位置,亦強調擴大市場准入,加大現代服務業領域開放力度、落實好外資企業國民待遇,這無疑是再次釋放出國家積極擴大對外開放的重要訊息。

香港必須乘着中央全力支持香港發展"八大中心"的東風,不斷強化國內大循環"參與者"和外循環"促成者"角色,致力拓展內地消費市場,尤其以粵港澳大灣區作為切入點,推廣香港優勢產品及服務,發掘內地具發展潛力的產品市場,加快建立內銷管道和拓展進口分銷業務。與此同時,香港更要善用與國際市場聯繫的經驗,協助內地提升產品品質,並充分利用香港與國際的人脈網絡、熟悉環球經貿與法規等優勢,更好發揮連接內地與世界各地的門戶功能,提升"走出去、引進來"的成效。

隨着香港很大機會於年內加入 RCEP,特區政府要積極部署加入 DEPA、CPTPP等高質量自貿協定,進一步提高香港國際化水平。香港亦要和大灣區內地城市攜手擔當國內國際雙循環戰略樞紐,積極引入海外企業、資金、人才,為內地企業走向世界鋪橋搭路。

本會向來不遺餘力推進香港與海內外工商夥伴加強聯繫合作,全面配合國家高質量發展戰略,推動會員企業做好與內地和海外市場對接工作,包括帶領工商界赴越南、泰國等東盟國家、以至中東等"一帶一路"沿線地區考察,更組織海外工商團體、領事等前往大灣區進行交流,透過親身體驗內地及海外市場發展情況,探索商機,用行動說好中國故事、大灣區故事、香港故事。

## 今年"兩會"確立以高質量發展推動全面建設社會主義現代化國家為首要 任務,本港工商界可用好"外通內聯"的網絡優勢探索發展新機遇。

The "Two Sessions" this year affirmed high-quality development as the first and foremost task in building a modern socialist country in all aspects. This will allow Hong Kong's industrial and business sectors to find new opportunities using their Mainland and overseas networks and connections.

t the closing meeting of the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), President Xi Jinping said that the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao is part and parcel of the building of a strong China, emphasizing support for Hong Kong to develop its economy and improve people's livelihood. The "Two Sessions" this year affirmed high-quality development as the first and foremost task in building a modern socialist country in all aspects, stressing that the country will make concrete efforts to advance high-standard opening up. This will allow Hong Kong to give its "super connector" role full play, and the city's industrial and business sectors to find new opportunities using their Mainland and overseas networks and connections.

### Leveraging the "One Country, Two Systems" advantage

President Xi's emphasis on the full, faithful and resolute upholding of the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy has significant meaning to Hong Kong. The establishment of the "Hong Kong and Macao work office of the CPC Central Committee by the State Council" at once elevates the status of Hong Kong and Macao affairs and strengthens the Central Government's unified leadership. Hong Kong can expect even stronger development as long as it leverages the "One Country, Two Systems" advantage, continues to improve the mechanisms and institutions relating to the implementation of the Constitution and the Basic Law, and dedicates itself to safeguarding national security.

CGCC fully supports the HKSAR Government in exercising effective law-based governance. We will actively guide our members and the business sector to learn and implement the important speech of President Xi and the spirit of the "Two Sessions", and by capitalizing on opportunities from "One Country, Two Systems", help Hong Kong businesses integrate into the national development framework.

#### Seizing opportunities from I&T cooperation

Sci-tech innovation is a decisive factor in advancing the country's high-quality development. The cooperation agreements between the HKSAR Government, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Guangdong provincial government demonstrate the country's full support for deepening sci-tech cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and for turning Hong Kong into an "international innovation and technology (I&T) hub".

Hong Kong must strengthen I&T cooperation with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in an all-round manner, drawing talents and leading corporations to the region through concerted efforts. In addition, Hong Kong's scientific research should be aligned with Mainland industries, its institutions and regulations should be integrated with those in the

Mainland, and cross-border industrial structuring and transformation should be coordinated, not to mention support for the national strategy of invigorating the country through science and education. These will not only open up a new path for Hong Kong's own industrial transformation, but also contribute to the country's high-quality development.

CGCC pays close attention to the long-term development of Hong Kong's I&T and related industries. In particular, we strive to promote greater interaction with the Greater Bay Area by reflecting the views and demands of the local business sector through exchanges with the HKSAR Government and Mainland authorities. We also provide our recommendations through the *Policy Address* and related consultation channels, and proposals to the "Two Sessions", among other means

#### Strengthening connector role

The eight key priorities listed in the 2023 Government Work Report clearly put economic development in the focus, again sending out the important message that the country is making an active effort to expand opening up.

Riding on the Central Government's support for realizing Hong Kong's "eight centers" positioning, Hong Kong must strive to tap into the Mainland consumer market, promote Hong Kong products and services with an edge, explore Mainland product markets that promise potential, and accelerate the creation of domestic sales channels in the Mainland and the expansion of import distribution businesses. Even more so, Hong Kong must assist the Mainland in improving product quality. By leveraging its strengths including extensive networks and familiarity with international regulations, Hong Kong should enhance its function as the portal between the Mainland and other parts of the world, and intensify support for the country to go global and attract foreign investment.

Meanwhile, the HKSAR Government should make active plans to join substantial free-trade agreements such as the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to further raise Hong Kong's level of internationalization. Hong Kong should also work with other Greater Bay Area cities to serve, as a whole, the strategic hub of "dual-circulation", and to pave way for Mainland businesses to enter the international market.

CGCC has spared no effort in promoting better communication and cooperation between Hong Kong businesses and their Mainland and overseas counterparts, and mobilizing our members' companies to link up the Mainland and overseas markets. Through such ways as leading business delegations, and organizing exchange tours to the Greater Bay Area for foreign entities including overseas business organizations and consulates, we strive to tell good stories of China, the Greater Bay Area and Hong Kong through actions.



















## 為國獻策 為港建言

# **Suggestions for Hong Kong and the Country**

Many of the Chamber's office-bearers are also NPC deputies or CPPCC National Committee members. Earlier, they attended the annual plenary sessions of the NPC and the CPPCC National Committee ("Two Sessions") to express their views on issues such as the economic development and social livelihoods of the country and Hong Kong as well as post-pandemic return to normalcy, and technological progress, actively involving themselves in government and political affairs.

#### 蔡冠深:見證國家對港關愛 疫後發展 更具信心

本

**會會長(全國政協常委)蔡冠深**指出,今年"兩會"承前啟後,為現代化建設作出全面部署,意義重大。對此,他有三點體會:

首先,新一屆領導班子凝聚億萬人民共同意志。習近平全 票當選國家主席、中央軍委主席,反映出民心所向和歷史 抉擇,是國家強盛的重要保障。新一屆國務院和國家機構 領導團隊年富力強,具備豐富工作實績和經驗,多數部委 主官留任,有利在複雜多變的國內外形勢下順利開展工 作,保證施政的連續性和穩定性。

其次,再次顯示中央對香港的關懷愛護。習主席在講話中強調,推進強國建設,離不開港澳長期繁榮穩定。強調中央政府始終高度重視發揮港澳獨特優勢,堅定不移貫徹"一國兩制",全力支持港澳融入國家發展大局。這番話說出了香港同胞的心聲,增強了港人對國家發展和香港前景的信心。

第三,為民營企業家打下強心針。隨着疫後國家全力拚經濟,各級領導在這次"兩會"上反覆強調要在政策和輿論上保護好民營經濟,這同時為香港融入國家發展提供了更廣闊舞台。他認為,中總要更好地團結工商各界,積極參與粵港澳大灣區和"一帶一路"建設,在追隨國家發展戰略過程中,再創香港輝煌。

#### 曾智明:與內地合作促進港青 對國家認同

如國家主席習近平所言:"青年興,則香港興。"本會副會長(全國政協委員)曾智明於今屆"兩會"呈交提案的重點亦放在青年身上。

他指出,目前仍有相當部分的港青對國家的認同感不夠堅定。為此,他建議國家有關部門與香港特區加強合作,透過學校、社交媒體等為切入點,配合特區政府早前公佈的《青年發展藍圖》,繼續加強歷史文化及國情教育,以期全面提高港青對國家和民族的認同感。

曾智明認為,鼓勵未能在港升讀大專院校的港青到內地升學,是加強他們對國家認同感的方法之一。至於較年幼一群,他建議內地和香港的教育部門合作,在深圳設立若干間由特區政府撥款並以港式教學模式為主的港式公立中小學,以免除奔波兩地之苦,促進人心回歸。

要達到以上效果,曾智明亦指經濟方面必須配合。他另一份提案則建議香港和南沙自貿區必須全面合作,以形成乘數效應,使兩地都成為推動大灣區經濟增長的主要引擎, 為大灣區的發展提速增效。

對於今屆 "兩會"繼續採取 "閉環"模式處理,曾智明認 為這種做法雖然嚴格,但卻保障了參與成員的健康,會風 亦得到保證,實在有其需要。

#### 王惠貞:政策、人才、資金三管齊下 引領科研發展

國家主席習近平在二十大報告中強調科技是第一生產力,本會副會長(全國政協常委)王惠貞亦一直對科研發展甚為關注,今屆"兩會"她就香港在科研方面如何融入國家發展發表意見。

她認為要發揮好"河套深港科技創新合作區",深化科技合作,構建高科技、國際創科中心,為國家吸引國際人才、企業。此外,宜重新審視行政流程並優化審批程式,同時在河套深港科技創新合作區制定便利科研資金跨境流動政策,為國際頂尖科學家申請內地專案提供科研經費跨境通道。她續指,一些人類生物樣本、資料及特殊技術和專才,目前尚不能自由進出香港和內地,宜對此拆牆鬆綁,促進科研成效。她亦希望能做到專業分工,將研發分為上游、中游和下游三階段,以期更精準將科研成果落地轉化為市場產品。

若要科研成功,還須仰賴人才。王惠貞認為,一方面應加 強粵港澳聯合辦學、人才培養和開展基礎學科共建;另一 方面,採取更開放的思維,對一些特定領域的專才實行特 殊綠色通道,以爭取國際人才。她亦建議發揮香港國際金 融中心作用,協助科創企業融資發展。

#### 胡曉明:中國式民主真正適合國情

本會副會長(全國人大代表)胡曉明表示,今年上京參與 "兩會"感受良多,有幾點可稍作分享。首先習近平主席全 票當選連任國家主席,反映他受到人民愛戴及支持,也讓 世界看見中國式民主,這顯示國家進入一個充滿希望、機 遇的新時代。

此外,政府工作報告提及的眾多施政成果亦來之不易,例如順利讓一億人成功脱貧,創造世界奇蹟;國內生產總值逾120萬億元,外匯儲備在三萬億美元以上,足以證明中國式的現代化和社會制度之優越,為我國未來發展打好基



礎。今後經濟發展是重中之重,需要擴大內需、繼續努力 吸引外資,而香港在吸引外資方面可繼續發揮重要作用, 貢獻國家所需。

今次"兩會"也體現了中國式民主的獨特優勢。例如《立法法》的修改貫徹全過程人民民主的重大理念,確保立法工作各個環節都能聆聽人民的聲音,讓人民當家作主,致力為人民生活帶來幸福感、獲得感及安全感。加拿大約克大學社會學教授加里·吳(Cary Wu)在《華盛頓郵報》網站上刊文稱,其研究調查發現,中國公民對國家政府的信任度提高到98%,可說中國式民主真真正正適合國情,從國家的發展成果也可見,其在中國發揮了最大效用。

#### 李引泉:協調港澳與內地居民之待遇

踏入2023年,香港與內地全面復常通關,兩地人員往來漸次恢復。本會副會長(全國人大代表)李引泉於本年度全國人大會議上,提出《關於對香港、澳門的中國公民在內地給予內地居民同樣的待遇的建議》,提議於疫後復常下,可進一步推動港澳和內地之間的人流、物流、資金流、信息流,特別是為人員流動提供方便。

李引泉指出《港澳居民來往內地通行證》是內地公安部門發予港澳居民中的中國公民,是港澳居民中的中國公民在內地的合法身分證明文件。他建議對港澳居民來往內地通行證持有者,在內地旅行、上學、就業、投資、辦企業、行業准入、行業監管、税收、社保、醫療保險等方面給予內地居民身分證持有者同樣待遇,此舉有利內地和港澳經濟、社會的互利協同發展,推動港澳人心的進一步回歸,讓港澳居民更好地融入國家發展大局。

#### 姚祖輝:香港各界齊心協力 共享國家發展成果

十四屆全國人大一次會議已順利落下帷幕,新一屆國家機構領導人在此次會議中順利產生。本會副會長(全國人大代表)姚祖輝表示,會上重點概括過去五年的工作成果及新時代十年的偉大變革,國家的各項事業和成就見證了這非凡的十年。今年是全面貫徹黨的二十大精神的開局之年,相信在習近平主席和新一屆中央政府帶領下,全國人民自信自強的力量將助力中國社會主義現代化強國的建設,推動中國實現高質量發展。



在強國建設的新征程道路上,國家對香港寄予厚望,對香港在未來開創新局面,實現新飛躍充滿信心。堅定不移貫徹"一國兩制",落實"愛國愛港者治港"是保持香港長期繁榮穩定,由治及興的最佳制度安排,必須長期堅持。姚祖輝表示深感使命光榮,責任重大,香港各界正齊心凝力,以全新姿態積極主動參與到國家高質量發展大局中;對接粤港澳大灣區建設,當好"超級聯繫人",全力以赴改善民生,解決社會深層次矛盾,讓香港同胞共享國家的發展機遇和成果。

#### 方文雄:兩個關鍵詞指導國民努力方向

今年是貫徹二十大精神開局之年,也是政府換屆之年。本會永遠榮譽會長(全國政協委員)方文雄認為"兩會"公佈的一系列重大國策指明國家未來發展方向,與香港發展息息相關,港人必須深刻理解國家大政方針,拓展視野尋找屬於香港的機遇。

方文雄指,今年"兩會"有兩個關鍵詞引人注目:其一是 "中國式現代化"。他說,多年來共產黨領導中國實現飛躍 發展,未來國人理應勇於創新走自己的路,實現中國式現 代化:例如發展經濟不忘共同富裕、物質文明與精神文明 並重等。

其二是"高質量發展"。方文雄指,習主席在會議上強調高質量發展是全面建設社會主義現代化國家的首要任務。 他認為由此可見中國經濟已由高速增長階段,轉向高質量 發展階段。各行各業都要努力提升高端化、智能化、綠色 化水平,實現高質量升級轉型。 隨着社會經濟全面復常,香港將與全國人民一起爭取高質量發展。"十四五"規劃、粵港澳大灣區、"一帶一路"等發展機遇就在眼前,香港要發揮"背靠祖國、聯通世界"獨特優勢,為國家作貢獻,為香港添動力,實現"由治及興"成功目標。

#### 李應生:持續建設大灣區中醫藥高地

本會永遠榮譽會長(全國人大代表)李應生一直關注國家中醫藥發展,於今年"兩會"提案中繼續就相關議題建言獻策。他指出,粤港澳大灣區中醫藥高地建設方案於2020年發佈,雖經歷兩年疫情,但在兩地政府及各方努力下,政策逐步落實,成效昭著,業界亦一致讚賞。現疫情漸退,建議可在多方面強化兩地共融發展:

- 建議成立大灣區中醫藥科研培育中心,邀請兩地專家、 海外專才合作研發專案,共同開拓中醫藥高地建設;
- 現時大灣區內各有不同中藥標準,為加快融合發展,建 議可編撰大灣區中藥材標準冊;
- 3. 目前在港澳註冊及製造之外用中成藥,已可透過藥監局制定的簡易註冊程式進入內地銷售,建議可進一步放寬至港澳製造的口服中成藥;
- 4. "引進來、走出去"是當前重任,內地的中成藥產品也可利用香港平台進軍國際,打造更大更強的愛國中醫藥產業;
- 5. 現在港澳地區註冊中醫師,可申請在大灣區的公營醫療體系工作,建議可進一步擴大名額,切合業界懇切期望。

李應生認為,中醫藥是我國傳統寶庫,數千年來輾轉傳承,生生不息,大灣區中醫藥高地建設方案為灣區帶來無限機遇。兩地應定期交流互訪,了解區內中醫藥發展最新情況,加以適時調整,為弘揚中醫藥不懈奮鬥。

#### 陳仲尼:發揮香港所長 融入國家發展

本會永遠榮譽會長(全國人大代表)陳仲尼表示,香港在"一國兩制"下擁有獨特優勢,可於多個範疇發揮自身所長,與國家共同發展、共同繁榮。首先,他建議可研究在滬、深港通機制下增設"新股通",容許內地和香港投資者認購對方市場的新股,進一步推動兩地金融互聯互通。他透露此構想已獲中央部委積極回應,惟仍需在投資者保障等細節上再加研究。

第二,陳仲尼認為香港可引領大灣區的兄弟城市,一同把 大灣區打造成綠色金融中心,內地城市可提供項目,香港 則擔任融資中心的角色。長遠更可憑藉香港在國際認證、 標準制定範疇上的豐富經驗,打造大灣區9+2城市的綠色 金融標準。 第三,香港要融入國家發展大局,具體政策落實上需靠香港和內地的公務員團隊緊密合作,故此他建議香港應有一套公務員到內地掛職的制度,讓公務員更深入了解內地的政策制定和執行情況。

此外,陳仲尼表示十分認同政府提倡的"搶人才"策略,他提議可嘗試把目光投向以色列、印度等新興國家。"不少新興國家皆有強大科研實力,政府可透過房屋津貼等配套措施,吸引當地人才來港發展,進一步增強本港的創科發展動能。"

#### Jonathan Choi: Country's care for Hong Kong boosts confidence in postpandemic development

onathan Choi, the Chamber's Chairman (CPPCC National Committee Standing Committee Member), said that this year's "Two Sessions" is of great significance as it, building on the past to herald the future, sets a comprehensive stage for modernization. In this regard, he has three takeaways:









to leveraging the unique strengths of Hong Kong and Macao, resolutely implement the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, and fully support Hong Kong and Macao in their efforts to integrate themselves into the country's overall development. President Xi's remarks, which accurately express the sentiments of the Hong Kong people, have boosted our confidence in the country's development and Hong Kong's prospects.

Thirdly, it has given a shot in the arm for private entrepreneurs. As the country goes all out to grow the economy after the pandemic, leaders at all levels have repeatedly underscored the need to safeguard the private economy in terms of policies and public opinions at the "Two Sessions", which at the same time provides a broader stage for Hong Kong to integrate into the country's development. In his view, the Chamber should better unite the industrial and commercial sectors to actively participate in the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) and the "Belt and Road" Initiative (B&R) so as to create new glory for Hong Kong in the process of following the country's development strategies.

Firstly, the new leadership team has brought together the collective will of over a billion people. Xi Jinping was unanimously elected President of our country and Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of our country, which, reflecting the people's common will and historical choice, is an important guarantee for the country's strength and prosperity. The new leadership of the State Council and state agencies, while young and vigorous, has extensive track records and experiences. With most of the heads of ministries and commissions remaining in office, they should be able to get work done smoothly amid the complex and ever-changing domestic and international landscape and ensure the continuity and stability of governance.

Secondly, it once again shows the Central Government's care and love for Hong Kong. In his speech, President Xi stressed that the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao are part and parcel of building a strong China. He also stressed that the Central Government will always attach great importance

# Ricky Tsang: Work with Mainland to enhance Hong Kong youths' national identity

As President Xi Jinping said: "Hong Kong will prosper when its young people thrive." Ricky Tsang, the Chamber's Vice-Chairman (CPPCC National Committee Member) also focused on our young people in his proposal submitted during this year's "Two Sessions".

He pointed out that a fairly large number of Hong Kong's young people still do not have a firm sense of identity with the country. To this end, he suggested the relevant national ministries and the HKSAR Government strengthen cooperation to use the schools and social media to continue enhancing education on history, culture and the country's basic conditions in tandem with the HKSAR Government's recently released *Youth Development Blueprint*,

with the aim of comprehensively improving the national and ethnic identity of Hong Kong's young people.

In Tsang's view, encouraging Hong Kong's young people who are unable to study at Hong Kong's tertiary education institutions to further their study in the Mainland is one of the ways to strengthen their national identity. As for the younger group, he suggested the education ministries of the Mainland and Hong Kong team up in setting up a number of Hong Kong-style public primary and secondary schools in Shenzhen. Such schools, which will adopt the Hong Kong-style teaching model and be funded by the HKSAR Government, can save them the hassle of traveling between the two places and boost a return of hearts.

Tsang said that economic cooperation is necessary to achieve the above effects. In another proposal, he suggested that Hong Kong and the Nansha Free Trade Zone cooperate on all fronts to form a multiplier effect, making both places the Greater Bay Area's main economic growth drivers, and accelerating and increasing the efficiency of its development.

Regarding this year's "Two Sessions" continuing to adopt "closed-loop" management, Tsang is of the view that such a strict approach was really necessary as it protected the health of participating members and ensured the smooth running of the sessions.

## Connie Wong: Drive development of scientific research through policies, talents and funds

In the 20th CPC National Congress report, President Xi Jinping stressed that science and technology are our country's primary productive force. During this year's "Two Sessions", Connie Wong, the Chamber's Vice-Chairman (CPPCC National Committee Standing Committee Member), who has always paid very close attention to the development of scientific research, presented her views on how Hong Kong can integrate into the country's development in terms of scientific research.

In her view, it is necessary to leverage the "Shenzhen-Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Co-operation Zone in the Lok Ma Chou Loop" to deepen scientific and technological cooperation, build a high-tech international innovation and technology hub, and attract international talents and enterprises for the country. In addition, it is prudent to re-examine the administrative processes and improve the approval procedures, and formulate policies for the Co-operation Zone to facilitate cross-boundary flow of scientific research funds and provide cross-boundary channels for international top scientists to apply for scientific research funds for Mainland projects. She further said that, for those human biological samples and materials, special technologies and professionals that are currently not allowed to freely enter and exit Hong Kong and the Mainland, relevant restrictions should be removed to boost the effectiveness of scientific research. She also hopes for a professional division of labor, i.e., dividing research and development into three stages, i.e., upstream, midstream and downstream, to more accurately turn scientific research results into products for the market.





Scientific research depends on talents for it to succeed. In Wong's view, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao should strengthen joint efforts in running schools, nurturing talents and teaching basic academic disciplines. In addition, a more open mindset should be adopted to put in place special green channels for professionals in certain fields in order to attract international talents. She also suggested leveraging Hong Kong's role as an international financial center to assist science and technology innovation companies in seeking financing for development.

## Herman Hu: Chinese-style democracy is truly suitable for China's national conditions

Herman Hu, the Chamber's Vice-Chairman (NPC Deputy) said that his participation in this year's "Two Sessions" in Beijing has left a deep impression on him, and he would like to share a few points. Firstly, President Xi Jinping's unanimous re-election as President of the country, which reflects the people's love, respect and support for him, is a display of Chinese-style democracy to the world. This shows that the country has entered a new era filled with hope and opportunities.

In addition, the many achievements mentioned in the Government Work Report have not come easily, e.g., the global miracle of successfully lifting 100 million people out of poverty, a GDP of over RMB120 trillion and a foreign reserve of more than USD3 trillion. These are the evidence of the superiority of Chinese modernization and social system and lay a solid foundation for our country's future development. Economic development, which is the top priority going forward, needs expansion of domestic demand and continuing efforts in attracting foreign investment, and Hong Kong can continue to play an important role in attracting foreign investment to serve the country's needs.

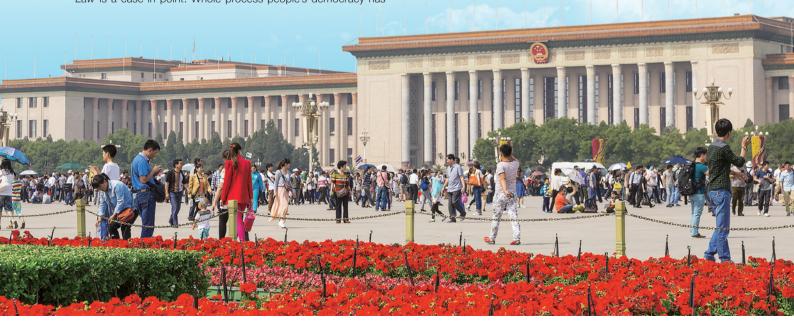
This year's "Two Sessions" also embodies the distinctive strengths of Chinese-style democracy. The amendment to the *Legislation Law* is a case in point. Whole-process people's democracy has

been the key principle guiding the amendment to ensure that the people's voices are heard in all aspects of the legislative work so that they can be the masters of the country, striving to bring a sense of happiness, fulfilment and security to their lives. According to an article published on the website of *The Washington Post*, Cary Wu, Assistant Professor of Sociology at York University in Canada, said his research showed that Chinese citizens' trust in their national government increased to 98%. It can therefore be said that Chinese-style democracy is indeed suitable for China's national conditions, and it is also evident from the country's development achievements that it has made the biggest impact in China.

#### Li Yinquan: Harmonise the treatment for Hong Kong, Macao and Mainland residents

Movements of people between Hong Kong and the Mainland have gradually resumed with the full resumption of normal cross-boundary travel in 2023. Li Yinquan, the Chamber's Vice Chairman (NPC Deputy) presented a proposal at this year's NPC session on giving Hong Kong's and Macao's Chinese nationals in the Mainland the same treatment as Mainland residents. Given the return to normalcy post-COVID-19, he suggested to further promote the flow of people, goods, capital and information among Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland, especially to facilitate the movement of people.

Li said that the "Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents" (Home Return Permit), issued by the Mainland's Ministry of Public Security to Chinese nationals who are permanent residents of or settled in Hong Kong and Macao, is a legal identification document for Chinese nationals among Hong Kong and Macao residents in the Mainland. He suggested giving holders of the Home Return Permit the same treatment as holders of the Mainland's Resident Identity Card in terms of travel, schooling,



employment, investment, business establishment, industry access, industry supervision, taxation, social security and medical insurance in the Mainland. This move is conducive to the mutually beneficial and coordinated economic and social development among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, promoting a further return of the hearts of the people of the latter two places so that they can better integrate into the country's overall development.

# Andrew Yao: All Hong Kong sectors join forces to share fruits of national development

New state leaders have been elected at the first session of the 14th NPC which has successfully drawn to a close recently. **Andrew Yao**, **the Chamber's Vice Chairman (NPC Deputy)** said that the session focused on summarising the achievements made over the past five years and the historic changes that took place over the past decade in the new era. The country's various undertakings and accomplishments are evidence of this extraordinary decade. 2023 is the first year to fully implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress. Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and the new-term Central Government, the strength from the self-confidence and self-reliance of the people across the country will help China achieve high-quality development and build a modern socialist country.

On the new journey of building a strong China, the country has high hopes for Hong Kong and is confident that Hong Kong will break new ground and achieve another leap forward. Resolutely implementing "One Country, Two Systems" and making sure that "patriots administering Hong Kong" which are the best institutional arrangements for maintaining Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, must be adhered to over the long term. Yao said he is keenly aware that he is entrusted with a lofty mission and important responsibilities, and all sectors in Hong Kong are working in unison to proactively participate in the country's high-quality development with a new stance, getting aligned with the construction of the Greater Bay Area, functioning well as a "super-connector", going all out to improve people's livelihood and resolving deep-seated conflicts in society to enable our fellow compatriots in Hong Kong to share in the country's development opportunities and achievements.

## David Fong: Two keywords point to direction of national efforts

This year, which is the first year of fully implementing the guiding principles set forth by the 20th National Congress of the CPC, is also a year when a change in government takes place. **David Fong**, **the Chamber's Life Honorary Chairman (CPPCC National Committee Member)**, believes that the key national policies announced at the "Two Sessions" are an indication of the country's future development direction and highly relevant to Hong Kong's development. Therefore, the people of Hong Kong must get an in-depth understanding of the country's key policies and broaden their horizons to seek opportunities that belong to Hong Kong.

Fong pointed out two attention-grabbing keywords at this year's "Two Sessions". One of them is "Chinese path to modernization."

He said that, under the leadership of the CPC, China has achieved rapid growth for many years, so the Chinese people ought to have the courage to set a new path for themselves to realize a Chinese path of modernization. For example, while developing the economy, we should not forget common prosperity, paying equal attention to material civilization and spiritual civilization.

The second is "high-quality development". Fong said President Xi stressed at the "Two Sessions" that high-quality development is the first and foremost task in building a modern socialist country in all respects. In his view, this shows that China's economy has shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development. All sectors and industries must strive to upgrade towards a high-end, intelligent and green direction to achieve high-quality upgrading and transformation.

With the return of society and the economy to full normalcy, Hong Kong will work with the people of the whole country to strive for high-quality development. With the development opportunities from the "14th Five-Year" Plan, the Greater Bay Area and the B&R right in front of us, Hong Kong should leverage its distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world to contribute to the country and add momentum to itself in order to achieve the goal of "advancing from stability to prosperity".

## Tommy Li: Advancing Chinese Medicine Highlands in Greater Bay Area

With a keen interest in the development of Chinese medicine at the national level, Tommy Li, the Chamber's Life Honorary Chairman (NPC Deputy), has contributed strategic ideas in his submission to this year's ""Two Sessions"". According to Li, the Construction Plan for the Chinese Medicine Highlands in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Plan) was announced in 2020. Despite two years of pandemic circumstances, the Plan has been gradually implemented and achieved remarkable effects, thanks to the hard work of local governments and other parties. There is also unanimous praise from the industry. As COVID recedes, he proposed that China and Hong Kong should strengthen their integrated development in the following ways:

- Establish a Greater Bay Area development center for scientific research on Chinese medicine, where China and Hong Kong specialists and overseas experts can be invited to collaborate on various projects, so as to broaden the construction of the Chinese medicine highlands;
- Compile a standard catalogue for Chinese medicines for the Greater Bay Area to align the varied standards adopted in the area and expedite integrated development;
- Currently, proprietary Chinese medicines for external use that are registered and manufactured in Hong Kong and Macao can be sold in the Mainland through streamlined registration application made available by the National Medical Products Administration. Further relaxation is recommended to include proprietary Chinese medicines for internal use that are manufactured in Hong Kong and Macao;
- 4. "Bringing-in and going-out" is the top priority of the moment. The Mainland's proprietary Chinese medicine products could ride on the Hong Kong platform and tap into the international market, so as to forge an even bigger patriotic Chinese medicine industry;

 At present, registered Chinese medicine practitioners of Hong Kong and Macao can apply to work in the public healthcare system in the Greater Bay Area. The quota could be further expanded to address the industry's earnest expectations.

Li reckons that, since Chinese medicine is a traditional treasure that has perpetuated for thousands of years, the Plan will bring about boundless opportunities for the Greater Bay Area. China and Hong Kong should regularly exchange ideas and conduct mutual visits to deepen understanding on the latest progress of Chinese medicine in the region, so that the industry could adjust and work incessantly towards the promotion of Chinese medicine.

# Rock Chen: Hong Kong should bring out its best and integrate into national development

Rock Chen, the Chamber's Life Honorary Chairman (NPC Deputy) said that Hong Kong should capitalize on its unique "One Country, Two Systems" advantages and synchronize with China's advancement and prosperity. He suggested setting up a connectivity mechanism for new shares under Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Connect, such that the mutual access between Hong Kong and China can be further propelled, allowing Mainland and Hong Kong investors to purchase new stocks in both markets.

He noted that the concept has received positive response from Mainland ministries, which will further study investor protection and other details.

Secondly, Chen believes that Hong Kong can spearhead the construction of a green financial hub with fellow Great Bay Area cities. Mainland cities can provide projects, while Hong Kong can act as a financing center. In the long term, Hong Kong's extensive experience in global accreditation, standards formulation and other areas could be leveraged to establish green financing standards for the 9+2 Greater Bay Area cities.

Thirdly, Hong Kong's integration into the national development relies on the concrete implementation of policies and close collaboration between the civil service teams on both sides. Therefore, he suggested setting up a work attachment system so that Hong Kong civil servants can better understand how policies are formulated and implemented in the Mainland.

As a proponent for the "competing for talents" strategy, Chen suggested seeking talents in emerging countries such as Israel, India, etc. "Many emerging countries possess notable strengths in scientific research. The government could incentivize these talents to advance their careers in Hong Kong by offering housing allowance and similar complementing measures. This could further enhance Hong Kong's momentum for innovation and technology development."



歷經三年疫情, 望穿秋水終於全面復常, 隨着各項防疫措施陸續放寬以至取消,香港對外亦全面復常通關,預料能為零售、 餐飲及旅遊等不同行業帶來提振作用,踏上全面復甦之路。 With anti-pandemic measures gradually relaxed or even scrapped, Hong Kong has fully reopened her borders. It is expected to give many industries a much needed boost and put us on the road to full-scale recovery.

#### 謝邱安儀:多管齊下重振零售 疫後復常審慎樂觀

Annie Tse: Multi-pronged Approach to Revive Retail; Cautiously Optimistic about Post-Covid Normalcy



零

售業在過往三年深受疫 情影響,**香港零售管理** 協會主席謝邱安儀指

出,當中尤以業務與旅遊相關的 行業所受衝擊最大。不過,現時 香港與內地已復常通關,訪港旅 客人數陸續恢復,雖然與疫情前 比較仍相差甚遠,但有關店舖的 經營情況亦漸見改善。

"現階段本港各個熱門旅遊區的 人流尚屬中規中矩,本會早前曾 就疫後復甦前景議題訪問會員。 他們普遍認為,最少要待九個月 後,零售業整體經營情況才可望 全面復甦;部分會員更估計要回 復疫前正常營運水平,或需時一 年至年半。"謝邱安儀補充説。

#### 發放消費券料有刺激作用

至於針對本地市場的經營方面, 謝邱安儀稱,對業界而言,最差 的時間已經過去,目前正逐步回 暖。"但自當局於去年九月底 施'0+3'入境檢疫新措施以來, 港人外遊愈趨踴躍,預期四月組 有清明節連同復活節可合由民 長假期,相信將吸引更多市民離 港旅遊;與此同時,疫後公本少 口罩防疫用品的需求一直減少一定 壓力。" 有危便有機,謝邱安儀喜見新一份《財政預算案》公佈繼續派發消費券,首輪更將於四月中發放,迅速回應業界一直以來的需求,配合香港旅遊發展局亦會向訪港旅客派發消費優惠券。料雙管齊下將有助同時刺激港人與旅客的消費意欲,令零售業受惠。

#### 重塑形象 吸納新血

提到零售業在復甦路上面對的最大挑戰,謝邱安儀認為,當中主要在於人手短缺。以連鎖店為例,較早前該會曾向有關會員進行調查,發現普遍連鎖店皆缺少一至兩成的人手,逾九成受話嚴峻情況屬中度至嚴重。"事實上,受疫情影響,不少連鎖店皆關閉了部分區域的居

舖,惟人手亦見短缺。稍後一旦 因應經濟復甦而決定重開所有分 店,有關情況只會更見嚴峻,為 業界帶來更大考驗。"

謝邱安儀續指,粵港澳大灣區建構的一小時生活圈,有助便利及加速區內人員流動,故期望當局可協助業界吸納有意加入本港零



售業的區內人士。他們當中不乏 懂得廣東話,也有以普通話為母 語卻熟悉南方文化,較容易適應 在港從事零售行業的銷售工作, 也有助業界達致全面復常。

#### 舉辦連串活動提升消費意欲

今年適值是香港零售管理協會成立40周年誌慶,謝邱安儀闡述,該會將推出一系列配合業界逐境常的活動,為零售業注入生氣及能量。"當中6月1日舉行的不固定聚身位業界翹楚,從各方面的是工學等的發展路向,更榮幸的是實李家超出席擔任主義有行政長官李家超出席擔任主的全力支持。"

隨着疫情過去,她續稱,該會亦 正籌備於今年七月在港舉行購 物節活動,正可配合第二期消費 券,鼓勵市民外出購物,同時亦 期望吸引更多海內外旅客來港消 費,助業界提振業務,加速復常 步伐。 hree years of COVID-19 had crippling impact on Hong Kong's retail industry. Annie Tse, Chairman of the Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA), says retailers leveraging tourism have taken the biggest blow. However, business is gradually improving for retail shops now that Hong Kong has reopened her borders with the mainland.

Tse adds, "At the moment we are seeing acceptable footfall in popular tourist districts. HKRMA interviewed some members earlier and the general view was that it would take at least nine months for the overall retail landscape to regain momentum."

### Consumption Voucher Scheme a good stimulus

As for retailers serving mainly local consumers, Tse says the worst time is over and the market is slowly recovering. "With the long public holidays over Ching Ming Festival and Easter coming up in early April, we expect more local consumers to take overseas trips."

However, crisis and opportunity always go glove in hand. Tse is pleased that

the Financial Secretary announced a new round of the Consumption Voucher Scheme in the latest *Budget*, which will be complemented by the Hong Kong Tourism Board's Visitor Consumption Voucher Scheme. These incentives are expected to drive spending of both domestic and overseas consumers to benefit the retail industry.

### Re-launching retail and attracting new blood

According to Tse, manpower crunch is one of the biggest challenges on the trade's road to recovery. "In fact, many chain stores are facing manpower shortage even though they have closed outlets in certain districts. As the economy rebounds, the situation will deteriorate when retailers re-open all their shops."

"Many retail workers chose to change professions in the past three years. These lost hands might not want to take up their old jobs." Tse believes the retail trade should re-engineer its image. Aided by active promotion by the government, it can attract more young people to the retail trade to fill the manpower gap.

Tse continues to say that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area one-hour living circle can expediate the flow of people within the area. She hopes the authorities can provide assistance to Greater Bay Area workers interested in joining Hong Kong's retail sector. Many of them can speak Cantonese and can quite easily adapt to working as retail sales representatives in Hong Kong.

### Rolling out events to boost consumer sentiment

This year marks the 40th anniversary of HKRMA. Tse reveals that the association is launching a series of events to support the retail industry's progressive recovery and provide vitality and momentum.

Tse says as we step out of the pandemic, HKRMA is planning a shopping week campaign in July which will coincide with the second phase of government's Consumption Voucher Scheme. She hopes the program will encourage people to go out shopping and attract more visitors from the mainland and abroad to spend in Hong Kong.



#### 黃家和:盼政府推出支援措施助業界加快復甦步伐

Simon Wong: Hoping to See Government Support Measures to Accelerate Recovery of Various sectors



三年疫情以來,本地餐飲業飽受 衝擊,不少中小型食肆乃至老老 號甚至因而被迫結業。作為會會 黃家和指出,疫情之下, 為對象的食肆面對最大影響 為對象的食肆面對最大影響 着香港與內地於今年二月全不 關,來港消費的內地旅客不 斷增 加,預期將為整體業界的經營帶 來曙光。

#### 內地旅客帶動餐飲業 回復暢旺

"根據恢復通關後的數據顯示, 現時平均每日來港的內地旅客約 四萬人,與疫情前每日20多萬 人相比,可見與復常仍有一段或離。"部分業內人士估計,或 待今年底至明年初才能回復需 時今年底至明年初才能回復相信 內地訪港旅客人數在今年中回復 持續上升,餐飲業可望全面回復 疫情前暢旺景況。

告別疫情之際,黃家和喜見當局適時推出若干針對各行業疫後復甦的支援措施,對外有香港旅遊發展局透過"飛遇世界鉅賞"機票送贈計劃,配合派送"香港有禮——旅客消費優惠券",吸引更多內地及海外旅客訪港;對內

則繼續向合資格香港市民派發消 費券,料可刺激本地消費意欲, 並惠及餐飲業。

#### 人手和租金影響復甦進度

雖然外圍環境漸漸向好,然而餐 飲業仍然面對不少經營挑戰, 黄家和坦言, 人手短缺是最大難 題,業界在疫情期間可謂舉步維 艱,有些結業離場,有些則縮短 營業時間,不少餐飲從業員為了 維持生計而選擇轉行。有統計數 字顯示,目前餐飲從業員整體 人數約20萬人,與高峰時期的 30萬人相距甚遠。隨着復常後 越來越多旅客來港,預計本地餐 飲服務需求大增,以目前緊絀的 人手實在難以應付。"早前有報 道,一個內地旅行團來港後,發 現擬入住的酒店未能提供所需服 務,最終全團即日返回深圳'過 夜'。餐飲業在人手短缺情況 下,同樣可能影響產品及服務質 素,影響深遠。"

#### 冀當局協助解決人手不足

旅客因素以外,疫情亦衝擊本地 及環球經濟,需時恢復。黃家和 表示,不少企業為求生存或裁員 或減薪,令'打工仔'消費意 欲大減;加上疫情期間要留家抗 疫,很多港人已習慣自行煮食, 這些都拖慢餐飲業的復甦步伐。" 隨着新一期消費券的推出,黃家 和希望可以發揮"漣漪效應", 吸引更多市民外出消費及用膳, 令業界受惠。

The local catering industry has been hard hit by three years of COVID-19. Simon Wong, President of Hong Kong Federation of Restaurants and Related Trades, points out that restaurants relying mainly on tourists have borne the brunt of the pandemic, and the complete reopening of borders is expected to bring new hope to the sector.

## Mainland tourists are main recovery drivers for the catering industry

"Judging by data available after border reopening, there is still a long way to go before business returns to normal." Some members of the sector estimate that boom times seen in the past will not return until the end of this year or the beginning of next year, but Wong believes the number of Mainland tourists visiting Hong Kong will continue to rise from the middle of this year. Business will return to pre-COVID levels for the catering industry.

Wong welcomes the government's timely action in launching support measures to drive post-pandemic recovery. Externally, Hong Kong will offer free air tickets and tourist consumption vouchers to attract more overseas visitors to Hong Kong. Locally, there is the consumption voucher scheme which is expected to benefit the catering industry.

## Manpower crunch and high rents affect recovery progress

Wong admits the catering industry still faces many operational challenges, and manpower shortage is the biggest problem. To make ends meet during the pandemic, many restaurant workers chose to change careers. At present, the overall number of catering workers in Hong Kong is about 200,000, much lower than 300,000 recorded at peak times. When business returns to normal and the demand for local catering

services increase significantly, it would be difficult to cope with such a small workforce. "It was reported earlier that a hotel was unable to provide necessary service to a Mainland tour group that arrived in Hong Kong. Eventually, the whole group had to go back to Shenzhen for the night. Likewise, manpower shortage in the catering industry might affect service quality."

Wong points out that high rents pose another major operational challenge. As the market recovers, many landlords are considering rent increases. "Rent rises at this particular time is a huge burden for us." He hopes all sectors of the society can support each other. For example, owners of large shopping malls and commercial buildings can delay rent increases until the economy has fully recovered.

## Government measures anticipated to address manpower shortage

Wong says many companies have

laid off staff or cut wages to survive, which has dampened spending desires of wage earners. In addition, after extended stay-home periods during COVID-19, many people in Hong Kong have become accustomed to preparing their own meals, which has slowed down recovery for the catering industry. With the launch of a new consumption voucher scheme, Wong hopes it will motivate more spending and dining and in turn benefit the sector.

According to Wong, the catering sector is still some distance away from full recovery. He suggests the government to consider further measures to help restaurants speed up recovery, such as providing subsidies for small and medium-sized restaurants to leverage new technology to replace manpower or streamline processes. The government can also consider attracting workers from the Mainland and abroad to alleviate the manpower crunch, with a view to moving towards full recovery as soon as possible.



#### 楊淑芬: 旅業復甦需時 趁機做好準備

Fanny Yeung: Make Good Preparations As Travel Industry Takes Its Time to Recover



隨着香港因疫情而實施的旅遊限制逐步取消;加上香港與內地恢復通關,**香港旅遊業議會總幹事楊淑芬**引述統計數字指出每年, 三月,入境旅客已回升至至,并至一月初只有六九至,,相對一月初只有一月不至,增幅高逾十倍,可見除了訪港旅客的數量漸不可見除,對旅遊業界的業務復常帶來正面影響。

#### 政府推低息貸款屬及時雨

不過,楊淑芬形容,由旅客入境 香港毋須再隔離與檢疫之時,正 是引領旅遊業業界走上復常之路 的重要轉捩點。隨着旅客數目會 不斷上升,業界的業務發展肯 定會逐步向好。只是相對其他行 業,旅遊業復甦需要較長時間。 以去年第二季已開始走上復常路的日本及泰國為例,至今經過差不多一年,兩個國家的旅遊數字仍未能回到疫情前,故本港業界在現階段仍需咬緊牙關,靜待當局與不同行業推出各項復常措施及支援,以準確捕捉更多復甦機遇。

#### 首要補充流失人才

與此同時,旅遊業在疫情中首當其衝,各地實施旅遊限制更令等為發見重創,引致嚴重的人生。楊淑芬表示,不少旅遊或有過一個人。楊淑芬表示,已轉行,與在這三年以來早已轉行,即使不可以或有過一個人工,要有關人,要有服人手短缺的挑戰存在很大困難。

"這是雞與雞蛋的問題:旅遊業 界欲吸引更多優質旅客,從而填 補旅客數目尚未復常出現的差 距,當中首重吸納人才解決人手 問題,以提升服務質素與構思更 多元化的旅遊產品;惟業務恢復 需時,企業現階段又未有能力提 升薪酬水平,與其他行業競爭, 令人才卻步。"楊淑芬期望,當 局能透過推出如配對基金等短期 支援措施,協助業界支付部分薪 金,以加速復甦步伐,對提振本 港經濟亦可發揮助力。

#### 為業界配對各地資源

她舉例稱,若有海外旅行社舉辦 訪港旅行團,可透過平台聯繫本 港旅行社,協助安排在港行程。 "我們期望業界能善用'旅淘' 這個平台,加強聯繫'一帶一路' 及粤港澳大灣區沿線地區的業內 人士,助本港進一步拓展海內外 市場及業務,全面捕捉旅遊復甦 帶來的發展機遇。"◆

Hong Kong has lifted many antipandemic travel restrictions. According to Fanny Yeung, Executive Director of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC), daily inbound arrivals have increased to more than 90,000 in March. In addition to continuous growth in arrival numbers, Hong Kong residents making overseas trips are also on the rise.

Yeung admits that the number of arrivals is way below pre-COVID levels. Similarly, outbound traffic is restricted



by flight availability and high air ticket prices. To retailers, current business turnover is not sufficient to support full recovery across the board.

### Government low-interest loans a timely relief

Nevertheless, Yeung believes business prospects of the travel industry will gradually improve as overseas arrivals steadily increase, although recovery might take longer than other sectors. For example, in Japan and Thailand where life returned to normal in the second quarter last year, tourist figures have not reached pre-COVID levels in almost a year. Evidently, tourism in Hong Kong still has to go through a rough patch in the near future.

"Many travel service operators understand that recovery does not happen overnight. The right thing to do now is to treat the original operation as a new business and be prepared not to see any profit for quite a while." Yeung adds that the government is offering 100% guarantee loans. Borrowers are only

required to repay interests for the first year and repay the principals over ten years subsequently. This scheme is a timely lifesaver for the travel industry that requires significant capital input.

## Filling the manpower gap is top priority

Meanwhile, the travel industry is in a quagmire of serious manpower shortage. Yeung indicates that many travel workers have changed jobs in the last three years. Even if some of them are willing to rejoin the market, employers cannot offer competitive wages because currently business still falls short of pre-COVID levels. Manpower shortage will therefore remain a highly challenging issue.

"To attract more quality visitors, the trade must first address the manpower issue. Only then can they enhance service quality and develop more diverse tourist products. However, talents are reluctant to take up jobs because business recovery takes time and companies are unable to raise pay packages at this moment."

Yeung hopes the government can mull more short-term support measures to accelerate recovery by offering some subsidies for staff remuneration.

### **Tourism resource matching platform**

To support the progressive recovery of Hong Kong's travel industry, TIC launched the tourism resource platform "GreaterGo". Yeung explains this is mainly a platform for sharing travel information, event promotion and business matching for members of the trade.

For example, overseas travel agents organizing group tours to Hong Kong can connect with Hong Kong peers through the platform to help arrange itinerary. "We hope members of the trade will make best use of the 'GreaterGo' platform to strengthen their ties with industry peers in 'Belt and Road' regions and the Greater Bay Area, so as to further expand overseas markets and operations, as well as seizing the development opportunities created by tourism recovery."



## 陳茂波:預算案全力支援疫後復甦

# Paul Chan: a Budget to Support Post-COVID Recovery



會聯同多家商會合辦財政預算 案午餐講座,邀請**財政司司** 長陳茂波闡述本年度《財政 預算案》。

陳茂波表示,作為疫情後首份《財政預算案》,政府鋭意拚經濟,支援經濟復甦。回顧去年經濟,俄烏戰爭持續、國際能源價格飆升、主要央行厲行緊縮政策,令環球經濟蒙上陰影;本港去年初也面對第五波疫情,為內部需求帶來沉重壓力。內外困擾下,全年經濟收縮3.5%,樓價也累計下跌15.6%。

今年形勢則有所改善,疫情緩和、香港 與內地和國際復常通關,整體經濟氣氛 改善。乘此勢頭,政府將再派發5,000元 消費券,為消費市場注入動力;也會繼 續推行引進重點企業、吸引人才措施, 強化經濟實力;另外會推出新的"資本 投資者入境計劃",申請人須於本地市場 投放一定金額,但不包括物業投資,在 通過審批後,便可來港居住及發展。

展室今年經濟表現,預期外部需求持續疲弱,但內地憑藉堅實基本面,經濟將可顯著復甦;加上復常通關效應,本港經濟有望明顯反彈,預期可錄得3.5至5.5%增長。陳茂波強調,本屆政府將着力結合"有為政府"和"高效市場",更主動地發掘新增長點、提升競爭力,支援經濟穩步復甦。(16/3)



n collaboration with fellow chambers of commerce, the Chamber has co-organized a luncheon themed around this year's *Budget*, in which **Paul Chan**, **Financial Secretary**, elaborated on its details.

According to Chan, this first *Budget* delivered after the epidemic illustrates the government is driven to pursue vigorous economic growth and to support recovery. Last year, the global economy was shadowed by the Russia-Ukraine war, soaring global energy prices, and financial tightening pushed forward by major central banks. Challenged by the fifth wave of COVID in early 2022, Hong Kong and its domestic demand were put under tremendous pressure. The Hong Kong economy shrank by 3.5% and its property prices recorded an accumulated decline of 15.6% during the year owing to these external and internal disruptions.

The general economic sentiment has improved as the epidemic subsides and quarantine-free travelling to the mainland and the world resumes in Hong Kong. Riding on this trend, the government will once again hand out consumption vouchers worth HKD5,000 to invigorate the consumption market. On the other hand, policies to attract important companies and talents to fortify the city's economic strengths will continue to be rolled out. Besides, a new "Capital Investment Entrant Scheme" will be launched, such that applicants who have invested a designated amount (excluding real estate investment) can enjoy the right to reside in Hong Kong upon approval.

As for the outlook of this year's economic performance, the economy is expected to leverage the solid fundamental conditions of the Mainland and recover significantly despite persistently weak external demand. Added with

the momentum brought by the resumption of quarantine-free travelling between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the local economy is expected to rebound strongly with a growth of 3.5 to 5.5%. Chan stressed that the current-term government would work towards the integration of a "capable government" and an "efficient market", which will actively uncover new room for growth, enhance the city's competitiveness and support the steady recovery of its economy. (16/3)





# 考察第16屆華商大會籌備工作

## **Inspection on Preparations for the 16th WCEC**

16屆世界華商大會將於今年6月24至26日在泰國曼谷舉行。本會作為世界華商大會召集人組織之一,本會會長蔡冠深聯同新加坡中華總商會代表早前應邀前往曼谷實地考察大會籌辦情況。他們視察了大會主會場泰國詩麗吉王后國家會議中心、聽取主辦機構泰國中華總商會匯報籌備進展,並舉行了召集人組織會議。

大會以"匯華商大智慧,譜華族新篇章"為主題,邀請全球政商界名人、專家、學者擔任論壇演講嘉賓,並設有旅遊考察、商務對接、高爾夫球友誼賽和大會展覽等活動。 三年疫情後再度復辦的世界華商大會意義非凡,屬全球華人盛事,將繼續為世界華商的持續發展搭建新平台,共拓新商機。大會預計,此屆世界華商大會將有3,000多人參加。(18-20/3)





he 16th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24-26 June this year. As one of the three convenor organizations of the WCEC, Jonathan Choi, the Chamber's Chairman, and representatives of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) were invited to Bangkok to inspect the preparations for the convention recently. While there, they inspected the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, the main venue of the convention, attended a briefing given by the organizer Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce on the progress of their preparations, and held a meeting of convenor organizations.

With the theme "Creating a New Chapter together with Chinese Business Acumen," the convention invites renowned political and business figures, experts and scholars from around the world to attend as guest forum speakers. It also features activities such as business tours, business matching, friendly golf matches and exhibition. The resumption of the WCEC after three years of COVID-19 is of great significance. A prestigious global Chinese event, it will continue to build new platforms for the sustainable development of the world's Chinese entrepreneurs, jointly exploring new business opportunities. The convention expects over 3,000 attendees to the coming WCEC. (18-20/3)

## 全方位強化香港物流基建

# **Enhance Hong Kong's Logistics Infrastructure on All Fronts**



"十四五"規劃明確表示,香港將繼續鞏固國際航運中心和國際航空樞紐地位。在此形勢下,特區政府將積極提升本港運輸物流基建,從海、陸、空三方面着手,全面提升物流配套,強化競爭力,不負國家期望。

The "14th Five-Year" Plan clearly stated that Hong Kong will continue reinforcing its status as an international shipping centre and an international aviation hub. Against this backdrop, the HKSAR Government will actively improve Hong Kong's transportation and logistics infrastructure, starting from three aspects, i.e., sea, land and air, to improve our logistics facilities on all fronts in order to strengthen our competitiveness and live up to our country's expectations.

港面積雖小,卻是亞太區內重要的航空、航運樞紐,再配合與內地便捷的陸路運輸,令此彈丸之地成為首屈一指的物流中心。運輸及物流局局長林世雄指出,香港固然坐擁不少優勢,但要維持物流中心的地位,必須從海、陸、空三方面着手提升競爭力,否則不進則退,有被競爭對手迎頭趕上之虞。

#### 力保航運中心優勢

海運方面,香港開埠百多年來,一直 是區內重要的國際航運中心。但林世 雄指出,隨着區內港口基建高之 展,香港正面臨激烈競爭。"大灣區 內尚有深圳、廣州兩大港口,聯不 透藉自由港、清關快和國際聯求 的特質,善於處理對時間要出 貨物,料可與主要處理進出 的深圳和廣州港協調,達至錯位分 工發展。"

林世雄續指,政府積極推動智慧港口發展,計劃建立港口社區系統,以電子方式簡化人手、紙張流程,令營運效率更為高效,同時為貨物提供實時位置追踪功能,進一步提升碼頭效率。"我們亦積極尋找新增長點,包括把握國家西部陸海新通道發展的機遇,或吸納如冷鏈貨物等高增值產品。"

#### 三跑鞏固航空樞紐地位

香港國際機場是世界上最繁忙的機場 之一,它在香港作為國際物流中心的 發展上發揮重要作用。林世雄闡釋, 香港的地理位置優越,乘飛機可在五 小時內到達全球半數人口居住地,對 航空業發展是一大優勢。而備受觸目 的三跑系統亦已於今年起接受航班升



降,預期到2035年客運量可達1.2億 人次,是現時的1.5倍,而處理的貨運 量將達到1,000萬公噸,對鞏固本港航 空樞紐地位大有幫助。

"去年九月起,本港陸續放寬入境限制,至一月整體航班起降量及客運量已回復至疫情前的50%及35%。隨着全面通關,加上'三跑'落成啟用,預期航空業將繼續穩步復甦。"林世雄表示,目前機管局正在機場島建設新的航空商業園,並與珠海市探討建立航空產業工業園,期望透過強聯手,共同推動大灣區航空業協同發展。

#### 陸上運輸通達四方

香港作為區內海、空物流中心,保持 與內地暢達的陸路運輸至關重要。林 世雄表示,隨着與內地全面通關,本 港各陸路口岸已全面復常運作。而新 落成的香園圍/蓮塘口岸亦首度展開 客運通關服務,更提供巴士、小巴、 的士、私家車或沿行人隧道步行共五 種交通方式,讓港、深聯繫更為緊密。 政府亦推出"港珠澳大橋港車北上不 設配額計劃",讓香港私家車可無須 取得配額下,經大橋往來廣東省作短 期商務、探親或旅遊,進一步發揮大 橋的龐大潛力,加上《施政報告》提 出的港深西部鐵路,可望進一步加強 香港與內地的陸上聯繫。林世雄強 調,本屆政府將繼續多管齊下,提升 本港運輸物流基建,善用大灣區帶來 的龐大機遇,鞏固國際航運中心和航 空樞紐地位,以期進一步融入國家發 展大局。

espite the small size of Hong Kong, it is a key aviation and shipping hub in the Asia-Pacific region. Coupled with its convenient land transportation with the Mainland, this tiny place has become a leading logistics centre. Although Hong Kong has many strengths, Lam Sai-hung, Secretary for Transport and Logistics, said that in order to maintain our status as a logistics hub, we must improve our competitiveness, starting from three aspects, i.e., sea, land and air, or else our competitors will catch up and leave us behind due to our failure to forge ahead.

### Maintaining Hong Kong's strengths as shipping centre

On the shipping front, Hong Kong has been a key international shipping centre in the region for over 100 years since its establishment. However, Lam noted that Hong Kong is facing intense competition amid the rapid development of port infrastructures in the region. "Despite the existence of the two Shenzhen and Guangzhou ports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), Hong Kong, given its proficiency in handling time-critical goods due to its free port status, fast customs clearance and strong international connections, could coordinate with the Shenzhen and Guangzhou ports, which mainly handle import and export goods, to achieve differentiated division of labour."

Lam further said that the Government, in its efforts to promote the development of a smart port, plans to set up a port community system to simplify manpower and paper processes by electronic means in order to make operations more efficient, while enabling real-time cargo location tracking to further enhance terminal efficiency. "We are also actively looking for new growth drivers, including seizing the opportunities brought by our country's development of the New Western Land-Sea Corridor, or absorbing the demand for transporting high-value added products such as cold chain goods."

### 3RS consolidates Hong Kong's status as aviation hub

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA),

one of the busiest airports in the world, has played a key role in the development of Hong Kong as an international logistics hub. Lam explained that Hong Kong's advantageous geographical location means that half of the world's population lies within a five-hour direct flight, which gives it a major advantage in developing its aviation industry. And with arriving and departing flights starting to use its much-anticipated 3RS (three-runway system) this year, HKIA is set to handle about 120 million passengers (1.5 times the current volume) and around 10 million metric tons of cargo by 2035, which will greatly help consolidate Hong Kong's status as an aviation hub.

"Since Hong Kong began to gradually relax border restrictions for inbound travellers last September, overall flight movements and passenger traffic had returned to 50% and 35% respectively of the pre-pandemic levels by January this year. The aviation industry is poised to continue to recover steadily following the full resumption of normal cross-border travel and the commencement of 3RS

operations." Lam said that Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) is setting up a new aviation business park on the airport island and discussing with the Zhuhai Municipal Government on developing an aviation industrial park in Zhuhai, with the aim of jointly promoting co-development of the aviation industry in the Greater Bay Area as strong partners.

### Well-connected land transportation

As a sea and air logistics hub in the region, it is essential for Hong Kong to maintain smooth land transportation with the Mainland. Lam said that Hong Kong's various land boundary control points have fully resumed normal operations following the full resumption of normal travel with the Mainland. In addition, the newly completed Heung Yuen Wai/Liantang Control Point, which has opened for full passenger clearance services, offers five means of transport for the public to bring Hong Kong and Shenzhen closer together; they are franchised buses, green minibuses, taxis,

private vehicles and walking through a pedestrian subway to the Control Point.

The Government also introduced the Quotafree Scheme for Hong Kong Private Cars Travelling to Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). Under the scheme, eligible Hong Kong private cars, without any need to obtain regular quotas, can travel to and from Guangdong Province via the HZMB for business, visiting relatives or travelling on a short-term basis. thus further unleashing the HZMB's vast potential. Coupled with the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link stated in the Policy Address, land connection between Hong Kong and the Mainland is set to be further enhanced. Lam stressed that the current-term Government will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach to improve Hong Kong's transportation and logistics infrastructure and leverage the huge opportunities from the Greater Bay Area to cement its status as an international shipping centre and an aviation hub, with a view to further integrating into overall national development.



立法會功能界別商界(第二)議員 廖長江 Martin Liao, Legislative Council Member, Commercial (Second) Functional Constituency

數字經濟立法是數字經濟高質量發展的內在要求,是維 護安全、防範風險的必然之舉,香港為數字經濟和電子 政務立法的工作刻不容緩。

Legislation on digital economy is both an inherent requirement for the high-quality development of digital economy and a necessary step to safeguard security and prevent risks. Hong Kong cannot afford any further delay in legislation on digital economy and e-Government services.

以香港而言,為加速數字化經濟進 程,財政司司長於2022年宣佈設立 "數字化經濟發展委員會",並就數 字基建、跨境數據流動、企業數碼轉 型,以及人力資源配套四大範疇深入 研究。特區政府亦已採取措施,在數 字經濟方面,推出"商業數據通", 《財政預算案》撥款5,000萬元加速 推動香港第三代互聯網(Web3)的發 展,並預留五億元加快中小企數碼轉 型;在電子政務方面,設立新一代政 府雲端基礎設施和大數據分析平台、 共用區塊鏈平台。行政長官在2022年 《施政報告》中訂下目標,兩年後政 府服務全面電子化,三年內全面採用 "智方便"提供一站式數碼服務,並 表示會進一步開放數據、拓展 5G 服 務網絡。

但總體上,當局較注重數字基建建 設,但在立法方面的工夫薄弱。《版 權條例》修訂自2006年開始諮詢,歷 經17年,終於在去年年底獲得通過 但這僅是力挽香港版權法落後世界 20年的蹉跎,更應以此為新的開始, 與時俱進,就非法串流裝置、數據開 採、人工智能等議題開展新一輪版權 檢討,以維持香港版權制度的健全和 競爭力。此外,根據瑞士洛桑國際管 理學院公佈的2022年世界數碼競爭 力排名,香港在全球63個主要國家及 經濟體中,排名第九。其中,在"未 來準備程度"上僅排第18名。細項 指標中,政府處理網絡安全的能力位 列第48名,法律對個人隱私的保護竟 然排在最低。我樂見政府籌備網絡安 全立法,並擬修訂《個人資料(私隱 條例)》,設立強制性資料外洩通報機 制、要求制訂資料保留政策等措施, 以更好地迎接數字經濟時代的挑戰。

#### 平衡科學立法 明確管理機制

首先,數據要素作為數字經濟和電子 政務深化發展的核心引擎,其所有 權、使用權和轉讓權應以法律明確。 現時,香港與數據相關的法例分散 於《個人資料(私隱)條例》、《版權 條例》等,未有專項法例規範數據管 理。這與全球各國主動建立數據管治 體系的趨勢相悖,歐盟於2016年制定 《通用數據保障條例》,2018年強制 實施保護個人數據的權利;內地去年 亦已開始實行《數據安全法》和《個 人信息保護法》。香港欠缺數據管理 機制,這樣會阻礙政府和私營機構開 放數據,影響數據流通進度。我建議 政府參考新加坡的《公營部門管治 法》,澄清政府須分享資料的情況, 減輕私隱方面的憂慮; 並探究以立法 方式建立數據生產要素會計核算制 度,鼓勵私營機構開放數據。

此外,數字經濟立法須在監管和發展 之間取得平衡。對於利用數據違法犯 罪或不當經營,包括濫用壟斷地位的 平台,可借鑒歐盟新推出的《數字服 務法》和《數字市場法》進行治理。 而對於人工智能、大數據、雲計算等 新技術應用領域,應消除非必要的監 管和企業負擔,首先考慮技術標準等 非監管措施,以包容心態充分釋放數 字經濟的發展活力。

## 加快灣區數據流通 促進產業數字轉型

粵港澳大灣區市場龐大、潛力廣闊, 發展須暢通人流、物流、資金流,以 及數據流的跨境流通。特區政府正與 內地有關部門研究促進內地向香港流 通的特定便利安排,預計今年在大 灣區推出數據跨境流動試行計劃。我 希望當局與廣東省除共同統籌協商推 進數字設施建設,加快大灣區數字 流通之外,能夠更進一步落實國家"十四五"數字經濟發展規劃,探索在大灣區建立各類產業集群跨區域、跨平台的協同新機制,以促進創新要素整合共享,提升產業鏈供應鏈協同配套能力,長遠促進大灣區產業群的數字化轉型。

ith the rapid development of information technology and the extensive use of digital technologies such as the Internet, cloud computing and Al. digital economy has become a key driver for economic growth. At present, major countries around the world all attach great importance to the development of digital economy, rolling out strategic plans and exploring the enactment of legislation to impose regulations in order to facilitate the healthy development of digital economy. For example, the State Council has issued the Plan for Development of the Digital Economy During the "14th Five-Year" Period to promote digital industrialization and industrial digitization, as well as to improve the governance system for digital economy: Singapore has introduced a Smart Nation blueprint; and the UK has launched the Digital Economy Act and the UK Digital Strategy.

In the case of Hong Kong, the Financial Secretary announced in 2022 the establishment of the Digital Economy Development Committee to accelerate the process of digital economy, and the committee would undertake in-depth studies in four major areas, i.e., digital infrastructure, cross-boundary data transfer, digital transformation of enterprises, and human resources support. The HKSAR Government has also taken measures in this regard. For the digital economy, it has launched the Commercial Data Interchange (CDI), and in the Budget, it allocated HKD50 million to expedite Web3 development and set aside HKD500 million to accelerate the digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For e-Government services, it has set up the Next Generation Government Cloud Platform, the Big Data Analytics Platform, and the Shared Blockchain Platform. In his 2022 Policy Address, the Chief Executive set the targets of turning all government services online in two years and providing one-stop digital services by fully adopting "iAM Smart" within three vears. He also stated to further open up data and expand the 5G service network.

However, generally, the authorities have focused more on digital infrastructure construction, but made poor efforts in legislation. The amendment of the Copyright Ordinance was finally adopted at the end of last year, i.e., 17 years after it was first released for consultation in 2006. But this was just time spent on trying to save Hong Kong's copyright law from lagging behind the rest of the world for 20 years. We should take this as a fresh start and keep pace with the times by launching a new round of reviews on copyright concerning issues such as illegal streaming devices, data mining and AI in order to safeguard the soundness and competitiveness of Hong Kong's copyright regime. In addition, according to the 2022 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking published by the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, Hong Kong ranked 9th among 63 major countries and economies in the world. We ranked only 18th in "Future Readiness". At a more detailed level, we ranked 48th in "government cybersecurity capacity" and worse still, the lowest in "privacy protection by law". I am pleased to see the Government is preparing for cybersecurity legislation, and planning for amendments to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, such as establishing a mandatory data breach notification mechanism and requiring formulation of a data retention policy to better embrace the challenges in the digital economy era.

## Balance science & legislation and clarify management mechanism

Firstly, as data elements are the core engine for deepening the development of digital economy and e-Government services, their ownership and the rights to use and transfer them should be clearly set out in the law. At present, Hong Kong's legal provisions relating to data are stipulated separately under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the Copyright Ordinance, and there is no specific legislation to regulate data management. This goes against the global trend where countries are proactively setting up data governance systems. For instance, the EU enacted the General Data Protection Regulation in 2016 and made it mandatory to protect personal data rights in 2018, and the Mainland put into effect the Data Security Law and the Personal Information Protection Law last year. Hong Kong lacks a data management mechanism, which will hinder the Government and the private sector from opening up data and affect the progress of data flow. I suggest that the Government should, by drawing reference from Singapore's Public Sector Governance Act, make clear the circumstances under which the Government must share data in order to alleviate privacy concerns. It should also explore establishing an accounting and audit system for data factors of production by way of legislation to encourage the private sector to open up data.

Furthermore, it is necessary to strike a balance between regulation and development in legislation on digital economy. For people using data to commit crimes or engage in improper operations, including platforms that abuse their monopoly status, the Government can draw reference from the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act newly introduced by the EU to take necessary actions. For areas relating to application of new technologies such as AI, big data and cloud computing, the Government should remove unnecessary regulation and burden on enterprises. As the first step, it should consider removing non-regulatory measures such as those pertaining to technical standards in order to fully unleash the vitality of digital economy development with an accommodating mindset.

## Speed up data flow to facilitate industrial digital transformation in Greater Bay Area

The development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), which has a huge market and great potential, requires smooth cross-boundary flows of people, goods, capital and data. The HKSAR Government is working with relevant Mainland departments to study specific facilitation arrangements to enhance such flows from the Mainland to Hong Kong, and will likely launch a pilot scheme for cross-boundary data flow in the Greater Bay Area this year. I hope that the Government and Guangdong Province, besides jointly coordinating and discussing to promote the construction of digital facilities and speed up data flow in the Greater Bay Area, could also further take forward the country's Plan for Development of the Digital Economy During the "14th Five-Year" Plan Period and explore setting up a new mechanism for cross-regional and cross-platform collaboration of various industrial clusters in the Greater Bay Area. This could help promote the integration and sharing of innovative elements, enhance the collaborative supporting capabilities of industrial chains and supply chains, and promote the digital transformation of the industrial clusters in the Greater Bay Area in the long run.

This is a free translation. For the exact meaning of the article, please refer to the Chinese version.

如對上文內容有任何意見,歡迎向廖長江 議員反映。

Should you have any comments on the article, please feel free to contact Mr Martin Liao.

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預計取消強積金"對沖"安排將不遲於2025年實施,屆時僱主將不可以用強積金僱主供款部分來抵銷裁員、結業時的僱員應得的遣散費和長期服務金。新安排、新法例實施在即,各位僱主及相關人員,務必對此有所了解。

The abolition of MPF offsetting arrangement is set to be implemented no later than 2025. Employers and relevant personnel must understand this in the light of the soon-to-be implemented new arrangement and new legislation.

看金制度於2000年實施以來,強積金 "對沖"機制一直沿用至今。但隨着去年六月立法會通過取消強積金 "對沖"機制,政府料將不遲於2025年,在積金局"積金易"平台全面運作時取消"對沖"安排。勞工處高級勞工事務主任陳佩貞指出,工商界或會擔心取消強積金 "對沖"方案會加重僱主成本負擔,但政府同時會推出中小企商戶支援配套,協助過度及適應。



#### 取消"對沖"前不應解僱僱員

陳佩貞指,取消"對沖"安排的要點在於:取消"對沖"安排不具追溯力,它將在指定日期(轉制日)開始生效。而在轉制日後,僱主不可使用其強積金強制性供款累算權益"對沖"僱員的遣散費或長服金。僱主的強積金自願性供款累算權益,以及按僱員服務年數支付的酬金,則可繼續用於"對沖"遣散費或長服金。

為減低在轉制日前引發大規模裁員潮 的風險,就轉制日之前已在職的僱員 的遺散費或長服金轉制前部分,會有 "豁免"安排。陳佩貞闡釋,如僱員 在轉制日之前已受僱,其遣散費或長 服金會分為轉制前部分(即轉制日前 的受僱期)及轉制後部分(即轉制日 起的受僱期)。轉制前部分會以轉制 日之前最後一個月的工資及當時的服 務年資計算,而轉制後部分則按終止 僱傭前最後一個月工資及轉制日起的 服務年資計算。至於遣散費或長服金 的總額(即遣散費或長服金轉制前部 分及轉制後部分的總和)仍以39萬元 為限。如果僱員的遣散費或長服金總 額超過39萬元上限,超出上限的部分 從轉制後部分扣減。陳佩貞指,僱主 可繼續用其強積金供款累算權益(不 論是在轉制日前、當日或之後作出, 亦不論是強制性或自願性供款),"對 沖"遣散費或長服金轉制前部分(但 不可"對沖"遣散費或長服金轉制 後部分)。因此,她認為僱主在取消 "對沖"前不應解僱僱員。

而僱員在轉制日或之後入職,陳佩貞 說,僱主的強積金強制性供款累算權 益不可"對沖"遣散費或長服金,至 於其他安排則維持不變 —— 僱主的強 積金自願性供款累算權益,與歸因於 僱員服務年資的酬金,可繼續"對沖" 遣散費或長服金。同時,遣散費或長 服金的計算方式也是維持不變。她補 充,經調整後的取消"對沖"安排, 同樣適用於部分職業退休計劃的利益。

#### 50萬元為界 協助中小微企

至於遣散費或長服金轉制後部分,陳佩貞透露,政府會推出為期25年、總額達332億元(以2021年價格估算)的資助計劃。她解釋,為更具針對性地協助中小微企,僱主會在取消"對沖"初期得到較高的資助額,而資助額會在25年內逐步遞減,讓僱主逐漸適應政策轉變。

陳佩貞説,政府資助比率將會以50萬 元為界線。她舉例,如僱主解僱一名 僱員,他須首先計算該年內他就所有 僱員支付的遣散費或長服金(指"轉 制後部分")總額是否已超過50萬元。 如總額在50萬元以下,則他就此僱員 所支付的該筆遣散費或長服金款額, 可享有較高的資助比率。如總額已超 逾50萬元,資助比率則較低。陳佩貞 指,由於接近九成中小微企每年的遣 散費或長服金支出不多於50萬元,中 小微企將會受惠於50萬元界線較高的 資助比率。她續指,在50萬元以內的 個案,僱主在首九年就每名僱員所需 負擔的款額會"封頂"。如按資助 比率計算出來僱主須負擔的款額超出 "封頂"金額,僱主只需支付"封頂" 金額,餘下的款額會由政府資助。首 三年的"封頂"金額更低至3,000元。

陳佩貞更提到,為使大眾更清楚強積 金"對沖"未來安排,政府已設立 專題網站。另外更備有網上計算工具 "取消對沖計得掂",協助僱主估算將 來須承擔的遣散費或長服金款項。◆

上述內容為本會工商及社會事務委員會"取消強積金'對沖'安排"線上講座之撮要。

he Government will likely abolish the MPF offsetting arrangement no later than 2025. Cecilia Chan, Senior Labour Officer of the Labour Department, said that the business community might worry about the increase in cost burden on employers, but the Government will also launch a support package for small and medium-sized enterprises to help them transition and adapt.

## Should not lay off employees before abolition of offsetting arrangement

Chan said that the key point of abolishing the MPF offsetting arrangement is: The abolition has no retrospective effect and will take effect on the transition date. After the transition date, employers can no longer use their ERMC (accrued benefits derived from employers' mandatory MPF contributions) to offset an employee's severance payment (SP) or long service payment (LSP). On the other hand, ERVC (accrued benefits derived from employers' voluntary MPF contributions) and gratuities based on the employee's years of service can continue to be used for offsetting SP/LSP.

To reduce the risk of large-scale layoffs before the transition date, there will be a "grandfathering" arrangement for the pretransition portion of SP/LSP of employees who are already in employment before the transition date. Chan explained that for employees who are already in employment before the transition date, their SP/LSP will be divided into pre-transition portion and post-transition portion. The pre-transition portion will be calculated on the basis of the monthly wages immediately preceding the transition date and the years of service before the transition date, whereas the post-transition portion will be calculated on the basis of the last monthly wages before termination of employment and the years of service starting from the transition date. The maximum amount of SP/LSP (i.e., the sum of pre-transition and post-transition portions of SP/LSP) is still capped at HKD390,000. If an employee's total SP/LSP exceeds HKD390,000, the amount in excess of the cap will be deducted from the posttransition portion. Chan said that employers can continue to use the accrued benefits derived from their MPF contributions to offset the pre-transition portion of SP/LSP.

For employment period starting on or after the transition date, Chan said that ERMC cannot be used to offset the employee's SP/LSP, while other arrangements remain unchanged, i.e., ERVC and gratuities based on the employee's years of service can continue to be used for offsetting SP/LSP. At the same time, the method of calculating SP/LSP remains the same. She added that the adjusted abolition of MPF offsetting arrangement is also applicable

to the benefits of some occupational retirement schemes.

### Threshold set at HKD500,000 to assist MSMEs

As for the post-transition portions of SP/LSP, Chan disclosed that the Government will introduce a 25-year subsidy scheme amounting to HKD33.2 billion. She explained that in order to assist micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in a more targeted manner, employers will receive a higher subsidy amount at the initial stage after the abolition, with the subsidy level progressively reduced over 25 years to help employers gradually adapt to the policy change.

Chan said that the threshold for government subsidy will be set at HKD500,000. Citing an example, she said that if an employer lays off an employee, he must first calculate whether the total amount of SP/LSP payable by him to all employees in that year exceeds HKD500,000. If the total amount is less than HKD500,000, he can enjoy a higher subsidy ratio for the amount of SP/



LSP payable by him for the said Employee A. The subsidy ratio will be lower if the total amount exceeds HKD500,000. She further said that for cases where the total amount falls within HKD500,000, there will be a "capped amount" in respect of the amount payable by the employer for each employee in the initial nine years. If the amount payable by an employer calculated according to the subsidy ratio exceeds the "capped amount", the employer only needs to pay the "capped amount". The remaining amount will be subsidised by the

Government. The "capped amount" is as low as HKD3,000 for the initial three years.

Chan also mentioned that the Government has set up a thematic website to make the public more aware of the abolition of the MPF offsetting arrangement. It also features "EasyCal", a calculating tool to help employers estimate the amount of SP/LSP that they will have to bear in the future.

This is an abstract of the webinar "Abolition of MPF Offsetting Arrangement" held by the Chamber's Commerce, Industry and Social Affairs Committee.



即使眼睛失去光明,只要內心燃亮心火,同樣可以勇往直前,更為同路人點亮前路。香港首位完成全馬賽事的視障人士傳提芬有望今年完成"世界六大馬拉松"所有賽事,成就人生里程碑。在人生跑道上,她不但收穫了愛情,更成為全港首批導盲犬使用者,以自身體驗推廣本港導盲犬服務普及,更啟發她與友人創辦"跑在黑暗",宣揚社會共融。

**Inti Fu**, Hong Kong's first visually-impaired runner to have completed a full marathon, is hopeful about completing all of the six World Marathon Majors this year. One of the first people in Hong Kong to use a guide dog, she advocated for popular use of this service by sharing her personal experience. She also co-founded "Running in the Dark" with her friend to promote social inclusion.

歲時近視已達約2,000度的傅提芬被診斷患有慢性育光眼,就算長期接受藥物及手術介入治療,仍無法阻止視力完全失去的命運,最終26歲那年雙眼永久失明。屋漏偏逢連夜雨,當時視力因無法分辨數字5和8而無法再勝任工作,成為"雙失青年","有次父親陪我出席面試,因我未能填寫工作申請表而被當場拒絕面試,我一踏出門外便大哭一場。"父親隨後一句"我養你"更令她崩潰大哭。

#### 跑步成人生轉捩點

"當下除了感到不忿,亦感到不孝, 反覆質問自己20多歲了,何以不能供 養孝敬雙親,不能因為失明而自暴自棄。"本性開朗積極的傅提芬遂重新振作,學習使用"白杖"及努力適應"新生活"。2008年,其友人組織隊伍參加十公里跑步賽事卻不夠人,臨時找上傅提芬充數參賽,從此便與跑步結下不解之緣。

當身體經歷連串操練,在一次又一次 的跑程中不斷挑戰自己的體能和精神,風雨無阻與跑友攜手奔向終點。 傅提芬坦言,縱然雙眼看不見,在領 跑員的帶領和講述下,彼此在同一空間中,沿路風景仍一切如詩,都一一 烙印在其心中、腦中。

#### 征服世界六大馬拉松

在過去11年間,傅提芬成為香港首位 全失明馬拉松女跑手,屢獲視障組別 三甲獎項,足跡遍佈內地、台灣、國 至非洲,至今已跑畢22項全程馬拉 松,去年更獲得"香港精神獎-獅子 山全民投票獎"。"今年目標是征 倫敦世界馬拉松,便可完成柏林、波 士頓、芝加哥、紐約、東京'世界六 大馬拉松'所有賽事。"



出戰 2015 年美國波士頓馬拉松 Fu participated in the Boston Marathon 2015

傅提芬揚言,跑步令她得到二次生命的機會。"雖然失去視力,但我四時之,跑步令我更有自信、更相信的能力,勇敢踏出每一步。"的能力,勇敢踏出每一步。"的下,亦在人生賽道上克服了復康、求事益道難關,現任全職活動,其精彩人生經歷亦成為電視劇《陪着你走》,是經歷亦成為電視劇《陪着你走》,要台劇《人生白手杖》及廣告的故屬社會大眾。

#### 視公眾教育為使命

當導盲犬仍未在香港普及之時,傅提芬於2012年便成為全港首批導盲犬使用者之一,翌年更親自執筆出版《我與導盲犬 Nana 的365日》,除了紀錄她與 Nana 的相處點滴,更重是大文化,鼓勵視障人士透過導盲犬文化,鼓勵視障人士對廣本港導盲犬文化,鼓勵視障人士對廣本港導盲犬取務的認識。"由最初 Nana 屢不交通工具及食肆拒絕入內的是對待,到今天大眾一般都已接來可以對導方,到今天大眾一般都已接來可以對導方,對今天大眾一般都已接來的導盲犬數量已增至約60隻,之前的付出都是值得。"

一路走來的經歷令傅提芬深感以生命 影響生命的意義,啟發她與友人共同 創辦非牟利機構"跑在黑暗",在校 園和企業機構舉辦生命教育講座及黑



暗體驗班,藉此宣揚"在黑暗中找到 光"的正面訊息,尋求社會共融。

u was diagnosed with chronic glaucoma with myopia of -20 diopters at 16. Despite extended medication therapy and surgical intervention, she eventually became totally blind at the age of 26. Her visual disability resulted in unemployment. "My father



獲邀出席學校誦脞 Fu was invited to be the guest speaker in a school

accompanied me to a job interview. I was turned down on the spot as I could not fill in the application form. I broke out in tears when we stepped outside the door." When her father said he would support her for life, she was shattered and cried out loud.

#### Running as a turning point

"I was bitter and felt I was not doing my duty as a daughter. I also felt I must not give up on myself just because I had lost my sight." Fu gathered strength again and learned to use the "white cane" to start a new life. In 2008, Fu's friends made a last-minute decision to approach her when they were forming a team for the 10km race. This introduced Fu to running.

Fu said that even though she could not see, she could still enjoy the scenic route under the guidance and narration of the pacer. They were running in the same space.

### Triumphing over six major international marathons

Over the past 11 years, Fu has become

Hong Kong's first completely blind female marathon runner with many top three wins in the visually-impaired category. Traveling across the globe, she has completed 22 full marathons to date and won the Spirit of Hong Kong Awards - Lion Rock People's Choice Award last year. "My goal for this year is to take the London Marathon, which would signify my completion of all the six World Marathon Majors."

Fu said running has given her a second life. She has overcome many obstacles in life: rehabilitation, job hunting and schooling. She currently works as a full-time activities tutor and has a happy love life. Her wonderful life story has inspired the TV drama series *Every Step You Take*, stage play *The White Cane* and the storyline of a commercial.

### A mission to promote public awareness

In as early as 2012 when guide dogs were not common, Fu became one of the first guide dog service users in Hong Kong. In the following year, she even penned a book to promote guide dog culture and encourage visually-impaired people to integrate into society by using guide dogs. Her actions also raised public awareness for the service. "We've come a long way. Nana was often refused entry to public transport and restaurants in the past but today most people accept and welcome guide dogs for the blind. The number of guide dogs in service has grown to about 60 here in Hong Kong. It makes all the hard work worthwhile."

This wonderful journey has taught Fu about making positive impact by life. It also inspired her to co-found "Running in the Dark", a non-profit-making organization that promotes social inclusion by hosting life education talks and dark experience classes in schools, businesses and organizations.

Life is rosy for Fu but she has more plans. She is taking a certificate course on Chinese Medicine Nutritional Studies at CUHK, hoping to raise her own health consciousness and that of people around her. "My life has just begun. I won't stop my steps."





## 紀念"三八"婦女節 Commemorating International Women's Day

港工商界婦女紀念 "三八"國際婦女節籌備委員會舉行紀念 "三八" 政節籌備委員會舉行紀念 "三八" 聯歡宴會,由籌委會主任委員。 會婦委會主席何超蕸致歡迎辭,本會婦委會副語等致祝酒辭,以及全國婦聯聯。 會邀請前任行政長官林鄭月娥、全國政協副主席梁振英夫人梁唐青儀、行政會議非官守長。 全國政協副部長徐小林、全國政協副部長徐小林、全國政協副部長徐小林、全國政協開委會基本法委員會副主任譚惠珠、全國政協常委及中總婦委會專責會長王惠貞、全國政協常委內超瓊、原全國人大常委范徐麗泰政原主 禮,與場內近450位嘉賓歡聚,席間更設精彩歌舞表演助興。(18/3)

he Preparatory Committee of Women in the Business and Industry Sector in Hong Kong for the Commemoration of the International Women's Day hosted a dinner reception. Maisy Ho, Preparatory Committee's Chairperson who is also Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the Chamber, delivered a welcome speech; Janice Choi, Honorary Chairman of the Ladies' Committee of the Chamber, delivered a toast while Huang Xiaomei, Vice-President and First Member of the Secretariat of the All-China Women's Federation, recorded a congratulatory video. Officiating the ceremony of the reception attended by some 450 quests were Carrie Lam, former Chief Executive; Regina Leung, wife of Vice Chairman of CPPCC CY Leung; Regina Ip, Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council; Alice Mak, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs; Xu Xiaolin, Deputy Director-General of the Coordination Department of the LOCPG; Maria Tam, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee of the NPC; Connie Wong, Standing Committee Member of the CPPCC National Committee and the Chamber's Vice-chairman; Pansy Ho, Standing Committee Member of the CPPCC National Committee; Rita Fan, former Standing Committee Member of NPC, and Elsie Leung, former Deputy Director of the Hong Kong Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee of the NPC. Song and dance performances brought extra delight to the event. (18/3)















## 新會員歡迎晚宴 Welcome Dinner for New Members

會舉行新會員歡迎晚宴,招待新會員及其介紹人,加強交流聯誼。席間亦介紹本會會員服務委員會、青年委員會、婦女委員會、地區事務委員會及五區聯絡處情況,並邀請新會員加入相關委員會及聯絡處,積極參與更多商會活動。(7/3) ◆

he Chamber hosted a welcome dinner reception for new members and their introducers for enhancing friendship. The freshmen were briefed on the structure of the Chamber especially on the Members' Services Committee, Young Executives' Committee, Ladies Committee, District Affairs Committee and five District Liaison Groups. They were also encouraged to actively participate in the Chamber's activities by joining these Committees and Groups. (7/3)

















- 1. 阿聯酋駐港總領事 Shaikh Saoud Ali M. A. ALMUALLA (左)(17/3)
  - Shaikh Saoud Ali M. A. ALMUALLA (left), Consul-General of UAE in  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{HKSAR}}$
- 2. "一帶一路"辦公室主任陳煥兒(右二)(27/3) Chan Woon-yee (second from right), Director-General of the Belt and Road Office
- 3. 甘肅省副省長張錦剛(右)(29/3) Zhang Jingang (right), Vice Governor of the Gansu Province
- 4. 中交集團黨委書記、董事長王彤宙(左)(25/3)
  Wang Tongzhou (left), Secretary of the Party Committee of the CCP and Chairman of the China Communications Construction Group

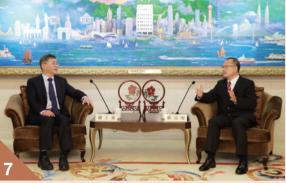
- 5. 肇慶市委副書記、市長許曉雄(左四)(21/3) Xu Xiaoxiong (fourth from left), Vice Secretary of the Municipal Committee of the CCP and Mayor of Zhaoqing
- 6. 廣州市委常委、統戰部部長王世彤(左)(23/3)
  Wang Shitong (left), Standing Committee Member of the Municipal Committee of the CCP and Director of the United Front Work Department of Guangzhou
- 7. 中國對外貿易中心黨委書記、主任儲士家(左)(21/3) Chu Shijia (left), Secretary of the Party Committee of the CCP and Director-General of the China Foreign Trade Center







## 接待嘉賓 Reception of Guests











- 8. 廣西壯族自治區港澳事務辦公室副主任、一級巡視員 宋海軍(左)(17/3)
  - Song Haijun (left), Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and First-level Inspector of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
- 9. 遼寧省商務廳副廳長李軍(右三)(10/3) Li Jun (third from right), Deputy Director of the Commerce Department of Liaoning Province
- 10. 山東省台港澳辦副主任尹曉民(左)(29/3)
  Yin Xiaomin (left), Deputy Director of the Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shandong Province
- 11. 安徽省商務廳二級巡視員徐滋躍(右四)(9/3)
  Xu Ziyue (fourth from right), Second-level Inspector of the Commerce Department of Anhui Province
- 12. 衢州市委常委、統戰部部長張曉峰(左)(13/3)

  Zhang Xiaofeng (left), Standing Committee Member of the Municipal Committee of the CCP and Director of the United Front Work Department of Quzhou
- 13. 安徽省蕪湖市政府副秘書長劉興榮(右一)(30/3) Liu Xingrong (first from right), Deputy Secretary of Wuhu of the Anhui Province









## 接待嘉賓 Reception of Guests

**14.** 瀋陽市政府駐深圳辦事處主任束從 傑(左二)(24/3)

Shu Congjie (second from left), Director of the Shenyang Municipal Government Liaison Office in Shenzhen

15. 廣東省陽江市貿促會會長、陽江市商務局黨組成員鍾健波 (左五) (9/3) Zhong Jianbo (fifth from left), Chairman of the Yangjiang Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export Trade Promotion and Member of the Party Leadership Group of the Bureau of Commerce of Yangjiang

**16.** 香港蘇州商會會長徐建成(左) (22/3)

> Xu Jiancheng (left), Chairman of the Hong Kong Suzhou Chamber of Commerce

**17.** 香港工業總會主席查毅超(前排左三)(22/3)

Sunny Chai (third from left, front row), Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries



## 會員活動 Members' Activities

1. 青年委員會接待及宴請馬來西亞中華總商會青商團總團 長李炯良一行,並安排參觀科學園,了解本港對創科企 業的支援政策。(13/3)

Young Executives' Committee received the delegation led by Leon Lee, Chairman of the Young Entrepreneurs Committee of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia. A visit to the Science Park for understanding the local support policies on innovation technology was arranged for the delegation. (13/3)

- 2. 地區事務委員會舉辦人大會議分享會,由全國人大代表、地區事務委員會專責會長李應生簡介政府工作報告、新一屆國家領導班子及國家未來發展重點。(17/3)
  District Affairs Committee organized a sharing session for the National People's Congress. Tommy Li, NPC Deputy and Office Bearer in Charge of the Committee, introduced the government work report, the new leadership and the main focuses on the country's future development. (17/3)
- 3. 新界區與九龍東區聯絡處合辦反貪個案分享會,邀請廉 政公署執行處前首席調查主任黎嘉恩分享貪污及刑事案 件調查工作,及偵探行業的經歷與心得。(14/3)

New Territories District and Kowloon East District Liaison Committee co-organized an anti-corruption case sharing



session. Andrew Lai, former Chief Investigator of the Operations Department of the ICAC, was invited to share his experience in investigation and his insights on the detective work. (14/3)

4. 九龍西區聯絡處舉行"中學生生涯規劃分享會"答謝宴,邀請曾作分享的嘉賓、參與學校校長及師生蒞臨聯誼共聚,並分享心得體會。(21/3)

Kowloon West District Liaison Committee has held an appreciation dinner for the "Career Planning Sharing Session for the Secondary School Students". Guest speakers, principals, teachers and students who has participated in the sharing session were invited. (21/3)



