



會長序辭

2019年，香港經歷了內憂外患的嚴峻考驗，環球局勢不穩、貿易摩擦持續、連月社會爭議，工商經濟乃至社會各階層無不受到影響。本會致力發揮商會橋樑功能，協助會員及業界向特區政府反映意見和訴求，為應對經營困境爭取適切支援，並積極推動深化參與粵港澳大灣區和“一帶一路”等區域合作，與香港工商企業攜手探索新商機。

應對內外挑戰

過去一年，“貿易戰”無疑是影響全球政經形勢發展的關鍵詞。香港作為中美貿易往來的重要轉口港，工商界亦與兩地有不少業務及投資聯繫，企業經營備受困擾。此外，修訂《逃犯條例》觸發的社會爭議和連串違法暴力事件，嚴重衝擊本港法治，破壞公共秩序，也直接影響本地營商環境的穩定性。

在眾多不利因素影響下，2019年本港經濟持續疲弱，特別是下半年連續兩個季度錄得顯著收縮，全年經濟錄得1.2%負增長，是自10年前環球金融海嘯以來首次出現倒退。出口貿易、零售銷售及訪港旅客大幅下跌，失業率亦見回升。各行各業均面對不同程度的經營困境，本地消費、餐飲、旅遊及消閒娛樂等範疇更遭受沉重打擊，中小企及勞動市場所承受的壓力亦逐步加大。

中總一直跟進事態發展對會員企業及工商界帶來的影響。年內，本會透過施政報告、財政預算案和各類政策諮詢途徑，表達對經濟和營商環境變化的關注，提出意見，並多次與特區政府和本港主要商會交流討論，探討為工商企業提供應急支援措施。我們歡迎當局推出多輪支援企業和紓困措施，包括接納本會提出寬減各類企業收費和稅項、增加減免額度、恆常化中小企信貸擔保、優化BUD專項基金和中小企市場推廣基金撥款安排等建議，有助紓緩企業和商戶經營壓力，應對經濟下行帶來的挑戰。

對於去年發生的社會爭議，本會一再強調反對所有罔顧法紀的違法行為，重申支持行政長官及特區政府依法施政，支持警方嚴正執法，維護法治核心價值，保障社會秩序和市民安全。中總更牽頭多家主要商會發表聯合聲明，呼籲各界摒除成見，團結一致，為香港真正福祉，停止一切違法暴力行為，讓社會恢復正常運作，攜手聚焦經濟民生發展，市民才可安居樂業，企業才有穩定的營商環境，政府各項紓困措施才能有效發揮作用。

全國政協主席汪洋去年接見本會高層訪京團，讚揚中總是愛國愛港重要力量、旗幟鮮明，在新中國成立70年以來，積極推動香港工商界投入國家改革開放。他勉勵中總抓住粵港澳大灣區、共建“一帶一路”等重大機遇，助力推動香港加快融入國家發展大局，帶頭宣傳貫徹“一國兩制”方針，加強對青年一代的引導和幫助，積極凝聚正能量。

面對複雜多變的政經局勢，香港需要鞏固本身的獨特優勢，積極配合國家全面深化改革開放步伐，進一步加強香港“引進來、走出去”的平台樞紐地位。去年，本會透過舉辦一系列慶祝國慶70周年論壇研討活動，探討香港如何能更有效參與粵港澳大灣區和“一帶一路”等國家新時代區域合作，為港商企業、專業服務及人才開拓龐大發展空間。

我們亦協助會員企業了解和善用多項便利港人往返大灣區生活及工作的相關措施，並就加快灣區城市群進一步融合，深化區內人流、物流、資金流、信息流無縫對接，支撐“一帶一路”建設等範疇，向特區政府和內地相關部委提出意見方案，積極以香港所長貢獻國家所需，與國家同發展、共繁榮。

構建和諧社會

除關注工商經濟及區域合作發展，中總亦努力實踐企業社會責任。過去一年，本會繼續資助香港學生赴內地實習，並透過“中總愛心行動”舉辦不同類型的慈善公益活動，凝聚及傳遞工商界愛心。

新中國成立70年來，國家經濟高速增長，整體實力和影響力不斷提升，社會民生發展也愈趨完善。去年，我們舉辦國慶70周年攝影比賽，並贊助多項文藝表演活動，讓各界在體會國家經濟長足發展帶來機遇的同時，也從多元角度一起感受國家發展成就。

同心邁步向前

總結2019年，對工商及社會各界都是艱鉅的一年。踏入2020年，新型冠狀病毒疫情持續擴散，進一步令本港經濟與營商環境承受前所未有衝擊。面對逆境，本會大力推動會員及相關人士透過不同途

徑，自發出錢出力，向內地及香港捐款、捐物資，全力支援防疫抗疫工作。本會亦積極向特區政府反映業界經營困境，為企業支援措施提出建議，協助工商界渡過難關。

2020年是中總成立120周年的大日子。我們將繼續善用商會網絡優勢，除協助會員企業及工商界爭取紓困措施應對短期經營困境，也積極放眼未來，加快佈局，促進本港工商經濟邁向多元發展，融入國家發展大局，繼續發揮作為香港、內地及海外經貿聯繫的橋樑功能，貫徹中總“立足香港、背靠祖國、聯繫世界”的定位，推動中總成為服務香港、服務國家、以至服務全球華商的中華總商會。

第51屆會長



蔡冠深

Chairman's Statement

The year 2019 witnessed the besiege of Hong Kong by grave challenges on both external and internal fronts. An unsteady global geopolitical landscape, persistent Sino-US trade conflicts, and months-long protests inflicted an economic impact not only on businesses but society at large. CGCC has been functioning as a bridge to reflect the views of our members and the business sector, together with demands for due support, to the HKSAR government. At the same time, CGCC has remained committed to exploring new opportunities with the business sector, as we continue to promote greater participation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area), the "Belt and Road Initiative" (B&R) and other regional cooperation projects.

Grappling with external and internal challenges

"Trade war" was a buzzword in global politics and economic development last year. With Hong Kong being an important entrepot for Sino-US trade, many Hong Kong companies, especially those that have heavy business and investment involvements in both the Mainland and the US, suffered as a result of the friction between the two economic powers. The business environment was further destabilized by the series of protests and violent, law-breaking incidents triggered by the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance amendments, which challenged the rule of law and disrupted public order.

All these unfavorable factors had weakened Hong Kong's economy in 2019, particularly the second half of the year, when negative growth was recorded in two consecutive quarters. For the first time in a decade since the global financial tsunami, the economy contracted, with annual GDP down 1.2%. Export trade, retail sales and tourist number all dropped drastically, while the unemployment rate climbed up. Various industries have been struggling with difficulties of varying scale and nature, with consumption-related sectors including dining, tourism and entertainment hit the hardest. Pressure on SMEs and the labor market is also rising.

CGCC has been monitoring the impact of these developments on our members and the business sector. Through the consultations on the Policy Address, the Budget and government policies, we have expressed our concern over the deteriorating economic and business environment and offered our views. We have also met with the authorities and other key chambers of commerce to exchange and brainstorm ideas to help out the business sector. We welcome the measures launched by the government to alleviate the burden on businesses, and the adoption of various recommendations by CGCC such as the reduction of various fees and taxes on businesses, increased tax allowances, the regularization of the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme, and better fund allocation for the BUD fund and the SME Export Marketing Fund. All these have helped to relieve the pressure on businesses in the face of a recessing economy.

As for last year's social unrest, we have repeatedly voiced out opposition against any behavior that violates the law. We support policies implemented by the Chief Executive and the HKSAR government according to the law, and enforcement by the police in safeguarding the rule of law, social order and public safety. Under the lead of CGCC, various chambers of commerce issued a joint statement to urge society to put aside prejudices and work together for the betterment of Hong Kong; to stop all violent, illegal acts so that normal operation of society can resume; and to join hands to promote economic and social development to ensure stability for the community and businesses as well as the effectiveness of the government's relief measures.

When Wang Yang, Chairman of CPPCC National Committee, received CGCC delegation in Beijing last year, he commended CGCC for being an important force in championing patriotism and love for Hong Kong. Since new China was founded 70 years ago, CGCC has been actively encouraging Hong Kong businesses to devote to the cause of reform and opening-up. Wang urged CGCC to capitalize on the huge opportunities offered by the Greater Bay Area and the B&R to accelerate the integration of Hong Kong into the country's development, uphold the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, and provide greater guidance and assistance for the young generation so as to generate positive energy and enhance social cohesion.

In the face of the complex and ever-changing political and economic environment, Hong Kong must consolidate its inherent advantages, complement the country's reform and opening-up framework and reinforce its own status as a platform for "bringing in and going out". In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC last year, CGCC organized a series of activities including forums and seminars to find ways for Hong Kong to more effectively participate in the Greater Bay Area, the B&R and other new regional cooperation initiatives, while expanding opportunities for Hong Kong's businesses, professional services and talents.

On the one hand, we have been helping our members to better understand and leverage the numerous favorable measures for Hong Kong people to live and work in the Greater Bay Area. On the other hand, we provide recommendations to the HKSAR government and Mainland authorities on promoting the integration of the Greater Bay Area cities and facilitating the circulation of their people, commodities, capital and information, as well as on better supporting the B&R, among other areas. Through contributing to the country by leveraging the strengths of Hong Kong, CGCC strives for mutual development and prosperity for the two places.

Building a harmonious society

In addition to promoting economic development and regional cooperation, CGCC has been fulfilling its corporate social responsibility. Over the past year, we continued to sponsor internships in the Mainland for Hong Kong students. We also organized a variety of charitable activities through the "We Care • We Share" campaign to express the concern of the business sector for the community.

In the 70 years following the establishment of new China, the country has undergone rapid economic growth. Not only has its overall national strength and influence risen, but social conditions in the Mainland have also greatly improved. To deepen understanding of the opportunities brought by the country's economic expansion, CGCC organized a photo competition last year riding on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, and sponsored a number of cultural performances and activities, so as to showcase the country's achievements from multiple perspectives to the community.

Moving forward together

Undoubtedly, 2019 was a difficult year for the business and the society at large. The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 in 2020 brought further harm to the local economy and the business environment. Amid the pandemic, CGCC is committed to supporting disease prevention through mobilizing our members and partners and encouraging the donations of money and supplies to Hong Kong and the Mainland. We also actively reach out to the HKSAR government to reflect the predicaments of the business sector and provide suggestions on support measures to help businesses ride out the storm.

This year marks the 120th anniversary of CGCC. Looking ahead, we will keep seeking relief measures to help our corporate members and the business sector to cope with the prevailing challenges by leveraging our network and strengths. Meanwhile, we are laying eyes on the future and making strategic plans to facilitate the diversification of Hong Kong's economy and industries, and the city's integration into the national development, so that Hong Kong can remain its bridging role for Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas markets. We shall adhere to our vision of "taking roots in Hong Kong, gaining support from the Motherland and reaching out to the world", and continue to shape CGCC as the chamber of commerce that serves Chinese businesses in Hong Kong, the country and across the globe.



Jonathan Choi
Chairman
(The 51st Term of Office)