

會長序辭



2007年適逢香港回歸祖國10周年，香港經濟延續過去3年較快的增長，創造了10年來最好的經濟成績。國家落實十七大戰略部署，內地經濟保持較快增長，又給香港經濟增添了動力。藉此大好時機，本會積極協助會員把握海內外貿易及投資機遇，度過充實又富成果的一年。

香港經濟全面向好

2007年香港經濟各項指標表現令人振奮。本地生產總值增長達6.3%，內部需求成為增長重要動力，消費意欲旺盛，促使營商信心高企。金融業在各主要行業中增長最快，年內恒生指數升幅逾3成，股市總值及成交量均曾創下歷史新高。

更讓人感到高興的是，失業率在07年底跌至3.4%，創10年來的新低，令不同階層的僱員都能因經濟向好而受惠。政府在07/08財政年度的盈餘亦大幅超出預期，並創出10年來的新高。

搭建走向國際的平台

2007年國家繼續實施“十一五”規劃，推進環保、高質量和高效率的發展模式。年內召開的十七大會議，進一步確定了國家未來經濟社會發展的新目標，提出人均國內生產總值到2020年比2000年翻兩番。

面對內地的迅速發展，香港的角色正經歷着一次前所未有的變革，必須以更長遠的目光，明確香港在國家經濟中的新定位，利用自身的經驗、國際網絡和專業服務，在內地的資金、人才、企業走向國際的過程中發揮更積極的作用。一年來，本會配合國家和香港發展的需要，積極發揮商會作為一個平台的作用，致力協助工商企業尋找新的發展機遇。

洞察投資環境變遷

2007年，中國以至世界經濟均蘊釀着變局，協助會員洞察海內外投資環境的變遷，仍是本會工作的重點之一。

07年10月召開的中共十七大會議，為推進國家經濟、政治、文化及社會建設制定新綱領，標誌國家發展進入新的歷史階段。隨着內地轉變經濟發展方式，推動產業結構優化升級，香港必須以更積極的態度開拓高增值行的產業，並努力協助企業的轉型與升級。為此，本會除主辦研討會探討十七大為內地與香港發展帶來的新契機，亦組團考察內地投資環境，並與內地合辦論壇、座談會、貿易洽談會、展覽會，而且特別關注不同省市落實十七大部署的新政策措施，協助會員適應投資環境轉變，加速企業轉型及升級步伐。

在發展中國家經濟持續強勁增長的帶動下，07年世界經濟仍維持增長趨勢，但下半年美國次級按揭市場危機引發全球金融市場動盪，令世界經濟蒙上陰影。香港屬高度開放的外向型經濟，難免受到影響，可幸香港貨幣金融體系健全，並未出現任何系統性的問題。本會早於次按危機出現之初已關注此問題，除邀請專家剖析問題根源和發展趨勢，亦與各國駐港領事、商務專員的密切聯繫，了解不同國家和地區經濟發展的最新情況，協助會員開拓環球市場商機，分散與避免投資風險。

同時，本會藉兩年一度的世界華商大會，加強全球華商的聯繫、溝通與合作。本會除組織龐大代表團出席07年9月在日本神戶及大阪召開的第9屆世界華商大會，與30多個國家逾3,500名華商共同探討振興亞洲以至全球經濟，本會亦繼續承擔作為世界華商大會秘書處的重任，充分發揮連接全球華商的橋樑作用，廣泛宣傳內地和香港的發展機遇，吸引海內外更多投資者來港發掘商機。

廣州代表處搭建服務平台

為全面配合與支持珠三角的香港、內地及海外企業發展，07年6月本會在廣州南沙中總大廈正式成立廣州代表處，藉南沙的優越地理位置和完善商務設施，舉辦商務交流活動、提供經貿資訊、反映工商界意見，以及提供中介服務等，以配合國家經濟發展的新需求，在日趨頻繁的“引進來”和“走出去”經濟活動中，發揮商貿平台的作用。

本會廣州代表處同時加強服務新加入的“聯席會員”及在粵投資的會員，協助他們了解投資環境變化和相關政策，以更便捷的服務增強商會的功能，使各項會務活動更能適應會員的需要，達到與時代接軌。

與此同時，隨着內地經濟發展模式的轉變，包括本會1,200名會員在內的內地港商近年面對不少經營困難。為協助內地港資企業度過難關，本會先後對勞動合同法、企業所得稅法、加工貿易、產業升級及轉移、CEPA內容更新及實施細節等，即時召開各類座談會收集意見，透過特區政府和內地有關部門向中央反映，期望中央正視有關政策法規對企業帶來的衝擊，避免出現大量企業因成本大增而陷入困境。

關注政制發展及工商政策

穩定的政治環境是經濟發展的基礎，因此有關香港政制發展的討論與繁榮穩定息息相關。本會就特區政府年中發表的《政制發展綠皮書》廣泛諮詢會員意見，並召開專門會議，整理意見後向特區政府反映工商界意見，認為政制發展必須遵從《基本法》規定的原則，即符合香港在國家憲制中的地位，同時體現均衡參與，兼顧社會各階層利益，循序漸進及適合香港的實際情況。

此外，本會一如既往，就政府新年度發表的施政報告和財政預算案，及時向政府提交建議，包括提高外匯基金投資回報、支援內地港資企業、推動商品及期貨市場發展、拓展伊斯蘭金融產品、發展高新科技產業、協助專業界別拓展內地業務等。

有見於卓越的公務員隊伍是香港持續繁榮穩定的重要基石，本會藉香港回歸10周年之際，特別撥款贊助“2007公務員優質服務獎勵計劃”，表達工商界對公務員默默耕耘予以推崇，鼓勵公務員隊伍繼續為維護香港的長期繁榮穩定而努力不懈。

迎奧運 抗天災 眾志成城

總括而言，去年本會各項工作和計劃都得到全體會董的鼎力支持，各委員會的努力策劃，並得到會員的踴躍參與，在此我謹向各位表示衷心的感謝。同時，我讚賞本會秘書處員工辛勤和高效率的工作，使各項會務工作得以順利開展。

告別2007年，迎來炎黃子孫百年夢想的北京奧運年，亦是內地實施改革開放30周年。30年來，本會見證了改革開放從“摸着石頭過河”，到成為不可動搖的國策，親身體驗我國綜合國力大幅提升、國際地位和影響顯著提高，我們有幸參與國家的崛起，倍感自豪。

正當全球華人期盼北京奧運來臨之際，不幸發生了四川省汶川縣大地震的特大災難，本會全人深感悲痛，全體會員踴躍捐款賑災，體現“一方有難、八方支援”精神。我們深信，中華民族雖再一次經受磨難，只要團結一致，終能戰勝困難，使國家更加強盛。讓我們攜手同心，繼續發揚愛國愛港的優良傳統，善用香港的獨特地位和優勢，為祖國的富強昌盛、香港的繁榮穩定，作出新的貢獻。

會長



(霍震寰)

Chairman's Statement

The year of 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with our motherland. Hong Kong's economy registered a rapid growth for the fourth consecutive year, making the most significant achievement since the last decade. Meanwhile it was further driven by the implementation of the strategies set forth at the 17th National Congress of the CPC and continuous rapid economic growth in the Mainland. To capitalize on this favourable opportunity, we have endeavored to assist members in tapping potential business expansion both at home and abroad. The year of 2007 was indeed a very busy and productive one for the Chamber.

Economic Growth in Full Swing

The performance of major economic indicators in 2007 was encouraging. The gross domestic product grew by 6.3%. In the meantime, vibrant domestic demand and buoyant consumer spending greatly boosted business confidence. Financial sector saw the fastest growth among all industries. The benchmark Hang Seng Index grew by more than 30%, while the total turnover and trading volume in stock market hit the highest in history.

It was more delighted to notice that unemployment rate dropped to 3.4%, the lowest in the past ten years, indicating that employees at all levels have benefited from the flourishing economy. The 2007-08 fiscal balance of the government exceeded far beyond expectations and hit new height in ten years.

Serving as a Global Platform

During the year the implementation of the 11th Five-Year Plan was in a steady and continuous progress aspiring to develop environmental-friendly society of high quality and efficiency. A new goal for future socio-economic development was likewise set forth at the 17th National Congress of the CPC, targeting to quadruple the per capita GDP of the year 2000 by 2020.

Against the rapid development of the Mainland, Hong Kong's role is now undergoing an unprecedented transformation. In a longer run, Hong Kong must find a suitable niche in the overall economic development of our nation. By virtue of our own experience, global network and professional services, Hong Kong is able to play a more active role in the process of globalization with regard to the deployment of capitals and talents as well as the enterprises' development in the Mainland. In keeping up with the progress of our nation and Hong Kong, we, throughout the year, made relentless efforts to assist enterprises in searching for business opportunities by proactively utilizing the role of the Chamber as a platform.

Monitoring Changes of Investment Environment

In face of potential changes of China's and global economic landscape, assisting members in monitoring changes of investment environment both at home and abroad remained one of our priority tasks during the year.

The new program for economic, political, cultural and social development was laid down at the 17th National Congress of the CPC convened in October 2007. It was a milestone of the national development. Coping with the change of the economic development mode as well as restructuring and upgrading of industries in the Mainland, Hong Kong should proactively move towards a high value-added economy and help enterprises in adapting to these changes.

Taking these factors into consideration, we organized symposiums and held extensive discussions on new development opportunities both for the Mainland and Hong Kong brought by the 17th National Congress of the CPC. Apart from sending missions to study investment environment in the Mainland, we also organized series of forums, conferences, trade talks and exhibitions together with our Mainland counterparts throughout the year. We particularly focused on local governments at provincial and municipal levels in their implementation of the new program put forward at the 17th National Congress of the CPC. By facilitating members in adapting to the changes of the business environment, they could accelerate their pace of restructuring and upgrading.

The year of 2007 saw the world economy a trend of sustained growth driven by the dynamic economic growth in developing countries. However, the US sub-prime mortgage crisis in the latter half of the year resulted in a global financial turbulence, clouding the global economic outlook. Hong Kong's external-oriented economy with high degree of openness would inevitably be adversely affected. But thanks to the sound monetary and financial systems of Hong Kong, this crisis did not undermine our economy. We have been monitoring the above problem ahead of the crisis. Experts were invited to the Chamber to share their expertise on its cause and its development trend. We also maintained close relationships with consuls general and trade commissioners in Hong Kong and conducted frequent dialogues with them on business development of their respective countries or regions, so as to help members exploring business opportunities in the global market to diversify and avoid investment risk.

In the meantime, the biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) provides us with opportunities to strengthen relationships and communications and cooperation among Chinese entrepreneurs. We organized a large delegation to attend the 9th WCEC in Osaka last September and exchanged views with over 3,500 delegates from more than 30 countries on the development of economies in Asia as well as the world. In addition, we continued to assume the Secretariat duties of the WCEC. Acting as a bridge linking the Chinese entrepreneurs around the world, we disseminated information of development opportunities both in the Mainland and Hong Kong to encourage foreign investments.

Service Platform Provided by Representative Office

A CGCC Representative Office at the CGCC Building in Nansha, Guangzhou was set up in June 2007 to fully facilitate business development of the enterprises from Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas. By virtue of Nansha's strategic geographical location and well-furnished business facilities, the Office is well-positioned to organize exchange programs, provide economic information and intermediary service, express opinions and give a full play of its role as a trade platform in the context of the "bringing in" and "going out" policy.

During the year, the Office enhanced services to new "Affiliate Members" investing in Guangdong Province by helping them to have a better understanding of investment environment and related local policies. By delivering more efficient and effective services, we have been striving to strengthen our functions as a chamber of commerce and to ensure that our programs conform to the needs of our members and the times as well.

At the same time, with the increasing growth in sophistication in the Mainland, a number of Hong Kong businessmen including 1,200 members of the Chamber have recently encountered difficulties in operations there. To help them weather the storm, we conducted various studies and discussions to collect opinions on Labour Contract Law, Enterprises Income Tax, processing trade, industry upgrading and relocating, as well as updates of CEPA and its implementation. By submitting our views, we called for the Central Government's attention on the impact brought by the related laws and regulations, so as to save a large number of enterprises from making a hard choice resulted from increasing costs.

Concerns over Constitutional Development and Industrial and Trade Policies

Stable political environment is fundamental to the economic growth. Discussions on the Hong Kong constitutional development, therefore, are essential to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. With regard to the Green Paper on Constitutional Development published by the SAR Government in the middle of the year 2007, members' consultations were widely sought, special meetings were conducted and opinions were finally collected and forwarded to the SAR Government. We reiterated that constitutional development should be in line with the principles set forth in the "Basic Law". In other words, it should be in conformity with Hong Kong's position in the overall national constitutional development. Meanwhile the constitutional development should also take into consideration the balance of interest of all sectors. It should proceed in a gradual and orderly manner and suit the reality of Hong Kong.

As always, we submitted recommendations and suggestions in response to the Policy Address and Budget in a timely manner. Our recommendations included enhancing returns of exchange fund investment, supporting Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland, promoting development of products and futures market, exploring Islamic financial products, developing high-tech industries, facilitating professional sectors' expansion in the Mainland, etc.

Robust civil service lays a key foundation in maintaining prosperity and stability of Hong Kong. To pay the business community's tribute to the remarkable dedication and contributions made by the civil servants, and encourage our civil servants to keep up with their good work in maintaining the long term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, we have sponsored the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2007 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with its motherland.

Welcoming Olympics and Fighting Against Natural Disaster Hand in Hand

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our committee members who have given strong support and invaluable advice to our activities and programs and to our members for their active participation. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for their diligence and efficiency to ensure accomplishment of all tasks.

We are leaving behind 2007 and ushering in the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympic, a dream for many generations of the Chinese people. The year of 2008 also marks the 30th anniversary of China's economic reform and opening-up policy. Over the past three decades, we have witnessed the opening up process, from its preliminary stage when we had no previous experience to refer to, to the present unwavering direction of development. Our overall national strength and international position also enhanced tremendously. We are proud to be part of this rising nation.

While the Chinese people around the world are eagerly looking forward to the Beijing Olympics, a devastating earthquake struck the Wenchuan County in Sichuan Province. Saddened by the widespread destruction of the earthquake, the Chamber expressed its deepest sympathy to the victims and immediately appealed to all members for donations to the relief efforts. This has demonstrated a spirit of humanitarianism by extending helping hands. We are confident that the unswerving solidarity of the Chinese people will help them overcome any difficulties and make our country stronger than ever. Let us join hand in hand, uphold fine tradition of loving our country and Hong Kong, by virtue of Hong Kong's unique position and advantages, make new contributions to the prosperity of our motherland, to the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.



Ian Fok Chun-wan
Chairman