

會長序辭

“本會積極配合國家的新規劃，檢視商會的定位和功能，致力協助工商企業尋找新的發展機遇和動力。”



2006年香港經濟連續第3年強勁復甦，國家“十一·五”規劃又給香港帶來了前進的方向和動力。本會積極把握香港與內地經濟增長的大好機遇，協助會員拓闊海內外發展空間，度過繁忙而務實的一年。

企業投資強勁 內需市場活躍

2006年香港經濟各項指標表現出色。全年GDP增長達6.8%；政府的經營及綜合賬目在05/06財政年度達到收支平衡，2004年財政預算案中提出的3大目標提前3年完成；股市交投暢旺，恒生指數年底一度突破2萬關口；在眾多中國企業來港上市的氣氛下，投資市場更形熾熱，並進一步推動市民的消费意慾；加上CEPA、自由行等政策支持，私人開支年度增長5.1%，為2001年以來最高，再次顯示加大投資和刺激內需有利本港經濟持續看好。

調整角色定位 強化支柱產業

2006年是國家實施“十一·五”規劃的第1年。有別於前十個五年計劃，國家首次明確走環保、高質量和高效率的發展道路。

此外，“十一·五”規劃還對香港在國家發展進程中的角色和功能加以清晰的定位，明確要保持香港作為國際金融、貿易及航運等中心的地位，充分顯示國家對香港殷切的期望及對香港優勢產業持續發展的支持。

故此，香港未來發展的一個重要方向，便是積極主動適應內地經濟新模式，在參與內地經濟建設中，努力結合內地發展的新領域、新方式及香港的優勢資源，向內地企業提供急需的產品和服務支援，並在這過程中努力強化香港金融、貿易及航運等支柱產業。一年來，本會積極配合國家的新規劃，檢視商會的定位和功能，致力協助工商企業尋找新的發展機遇和動力。

與時並進 增強商會服務功能

在2006年5月，本會修改章程，增設“聯席會員”。目的是透過吸納內地企業、本港非華資企業及海外企業為“聯席會員”，擴大本會與海內外企業的網絡，有利配合國家經濟的新轉變，在“引進來”和“走出去”的經濟活動中擔當更直接的中介角色。

我們挑選珠三角最具發展潛力的廣州南沙，建成中總大廈，並設立中總廣州代表處，希望藉着南沙的優越地理位置和完善商務設施，致力為珠三角企業舉辦交流活動、協助反映意見、提供經貿資訊及中介服務。香港、內地和海外企業亦可透過代表處的各项服務，擴闊人際網絡，獲取最新的商貿資訊，共同開拓海內外市場的龐大商機；並同時加強服務新加入的內地“聯席會員”及在粵投資之本會會員，協助會員了解內地相關政策等，以更便捷的服務增強商會功能，使各項會務活動更能與時代接軌。

以商會為平台 擴大海內外投資網絡

與此同時，過去一年商會的另一項重要工作，是協助會員加強對海內外投資環境的了解與聯繫。

由於內地“十一·五”規劃啟動了新的經濟增長模式，各地產業結構積極轉型，產品和市場的發展路向亦隨之變化。香港企業只有順應潮流，向內地提供新需要的技術、產品、管理和服務才能持續發展。故此，在組團考察內地投資環境，或與內地合辦論壇、研討會、座談會、展覽會時，我們都特別注重了解當地“十一·五”規劃的新部署、新政策，期望結合當地的迫切需求，協助會員開拓產品與服務的新領域。

同樣地，通過邀請各國駐港領事、商務專員介紹該國或地區與香港的經貿關係，或透過高爾夫球賽事等，我們得到更多機會了解多國的經濟環境，熟悉他們的人文風俗，加深相互了解和溝通，為會員或香港企業聯同內地企業“引進來”和“走出去”探索商機。

而兩年一度的世界華商大會，更是本會發揮作用的重要舞台。連續8屆華商大會以來，超過30個國家的18,000名華商代表出席了大會。如此龐大的網絡，再加上各種實地考察、論壇、研討會、座談會等，為與會者帶來大量信息，為進一步溝通與合作奠定了良好基礎。

本會除組織龐大代表團出席每屆大會外，亦從2005年10月起接任世界華商大會秘書處的工作。我們正發掘資源，努力做好第9屆和第10屆世界華商大會的籌備和申辦工作，並利用6年的任期，更充分地發揮商會的橋樑作用，廣泛宣傳內地和香港發展的新動向，吸引更多海內外投資者前來香港設點營運，為世界各地華商與內地企業互惠互利的合作穿針引線。

關注工商政策 致力改善營商環境

要實現工商百業興旺，良好的營商環境至關重要。本會在以上工作的基礎上，亦越來越注重投放資源，就香港及內地的經貿政策和投資環境進行調查研究和反映會員意見。

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，包括建議政府考慮開拓更多投資渠道，選擇內地一些穩健的大型基建項目作策略性投資、加強建設資產管理中心、增大辦理人民幣業務範圍、增建特色旅遊點、保障

食品安全衛生等；還因應政府和立法會的諮詢，表明了本會堅持按照《基本法》、循序漸進發展政制的立場和態度。

本會積極回應政府有關經濟政策的諮詢，努力維護工商權益。其中，對政府是否就最低工資、跨行業競爭立法等，本會都通過各相關委員會的討論，或透過成立專責小組，匯集意見向有關部門反映。

為縮小國家進出口貿易差距、致力東西部經濟平衡及做好環保、節能等，內地多種經貿政策、法規在過去一年都作出較大的改動。為協助本會超過1,200名會員在內地投資順暢，本會先後對勞動合同法、出口退稅、加工貿易、產業轉移、CEPA內容更新等，組織專門調查和召集座談會等收集意見，向特區政府和內地有關部門表達本會對建立平衡勞資關係、優化營商環境、加強資訊溝通等多項建議。

賀香港回歸10周年 商會更上一層樓

在總括會務工作之際，正逢香港回歸祖國10周年。10年來，香港歷經風雨，經濟從低迷走向復甦，近4年更有連續強勁的表現。我們見證了“一國兩制”從構思到成功落實，親身體驗了祖國的日益強大和對香港的支持，亦再次看到香港固有的精神和價值。

回顧與展望，本會一直與時代同步，與香港和祖國一起成長。跨越一個多世紀以來，我們的隊伍不斷壯大，並越來越年輕和多元化，各項會務都在順利開展，全賴全體會董仝人的鼎力支持、會員的踴躍參與、各委員會具建設性的構思和投入，在此我謹向各位表示衷心感謝。同時，秘書處為落實各項會務做了大量實際工作，我亦借此機會向員工的辛勤勞動表示感謝。

藉全港歡慶回歸10周年之際，祖國的發展正進入一個新的起點。讓我們同心協力，繼續學好和用好《基本法》，緊緊把握經濟增長的大好時機，以香港獨特的地位和優勢，共同創造祖國和香港的再度輝煌！

第45屆會長



(霍震寰)

Chairman's Statement

“To get in line with the new national plan, we have reviewed our position and role during the year, and have been dedicated to helping enterprises open up business opportunities for further development.”

While Hong Kong experienced a strong economic recovery for the third consecutive year in 2006, China's 11th Five-Year Plan also provided a great impetus to Hong Kong's further development. Seizing the opportunities of economic growth of Hong Kong and the Mainland, we have endeavoured to assist members in business expansion both at home and abroad. 2006 was indeed a busy and fruitful year for the Chamber.

Vigorous Corporate Investment, Buoyant Domestic Market

With major economic indicators suggesting a strong economic performance in the past year, GDP grew by 6.8%. Fiscal balance was restored in government's Operating Account and Consolidated Account, and the three fiscal targets set forth in the 2004 Budget were achieved three years ahead of schedule. Our buoyant stock market resulted in Hang Seng Index a breakthrough of 20,000 at the end of the year. The fact that increasing number of Mainland enterprises had come to list in Hong Kong accelerated the investment market as well as people's consumption and investment sentiments. In addition, with the implementation of CEPA and Individual Visit Scheme, private consumption expenditure leapt by 5.1%, a record high since 2001. This shows that Hong Kong can sustain its economic development by increasing investment and stimulating domestic demand.

Strengthening Pillar Industries

The year 2006 marked the launching of China's 11th Five-Year Plan. Different from the previous plans, it was for the first time that this plan stated clearly that China would be heading towards the development of an environmentally-friendly society of high quality and efficiency.

Moreover, Hong Kong's role in the course of national development was also explicitly highlighted in the 11th Five-Year Plan, which determined to preserve Hong Kong's status as an international financial, trade and shipping center. This reflects our motherland's high expectations on Hong Kong and her strong support for the sustainable development of our leading industries.

Towards this end, an important direction for Hong Kong's future development will be to conform to the new model of the Mainland economy. In other words, in the course of participating in the Mainland economic development, Hong Kong should strive to integrate the new domain and model of the Mainland development with Hong Kong's competitive edges. Hong Kong should provide Mainland enterprises with products and services badly in need. In the course of doing so, Hong Kong should try to enhance her pillar industries in terms of finance, trade and shipping. To get in line with the new national plan, we have also reviewed our position and role during the year, and have been dedicated to helping enterprises open up business opportunities for further development.

Enhancing Chamber's Services

We amended our M&A in May 2006 to introduce "Affiliate Members" as a new membership category. It is hoped that the initiative can encourage Mainland and overseas enterprises as well as non-Chinese companies in Hong Kong to join us, so as to strengthen our network with enterprises both at home and abroad. This would help us adapt to the new national economic development, and to give a full play of our intermediary role in the context of "bringing in" and "going out".

We identified Nansha in Guangzhou as one of the locations in the Pearl River Delta which is full of development potential. With the completion of the CGCC Building and the inception of a CGCC Representative Office in Nansha, we hope to fully utilize Nansha's strategic geographical location and its well-furnished business facilities to support enterprises in the region by way of organizing exchange programs, assisting in expressing opinions, providing economic information and intermediary service. Through the CGCC Representative Office, enterprises in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas will be able to enjoy an extensive business network and the most up-to-date information on trade and commerce, so as to explore international markets hand in hand. Moreover, we aimed to expand our services to newly-joined "Affiliate Members" from the Mainland and members investing in Guangdong Province by helping them to have a better understanding of local policies. By delivering more efficient and effective services, we strived to advance with the times.

A Platform for Expanding Network

Another priority task in the past year for us was to assist members in enhancing their network and understanding of investment environment both at home and abroad.

In tandem with the new model of economic growth introduced by the 11th Five-Year Plan, different industries in various places experienced structural changes. So were the product development and market trend. Only by accommodating the latest trend and presenting the Mainland with new technology, products, management and services, can Hong Kong enterprises sustain further development. In the course of organizing study missions to the Mainland, or co-organizing forums, symposiums, seminars and exhibitions with our Mainland partners, we considered that it was particularly important to understand the new policies implemented in different localities with regard to the 11th Five-Year Plan. We hoped to assist members in exploring new areas of product development and services in conformity with the local needs.

Similarly, we were able to get a better understanding of the investment environments and cultures of various countries by inviting Consuls General and Trade Commissioners in Hong Kong to share their views on business relations between their respective countries or regions and Hong Kong, or by inviting them to take part in our golf tournament. All these contributed to mutual understanding and communication and were conducive to facilitating members and enterprises in Hong Kong and the Mainland to tap on the opportunities of "bringing-in" and "going-out".

The biennial World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) is an important channel for us to give full play to our role. A total of eight conventions have been held so far with an attendance of over 18,000 from more than 30 countries. Such a huge network, coupled with field studies, symposiums, forums and seminars, has brought a lot of information to the delegates, therefore laying a solid foundation for further communication and cooperation.

On top of organizing large-scale delegations to attend the WCEC, we also assumed the Secretariat duties of the WCEC in October 2005. We have been pooling resources to ensure that the preparation and the application of the 9th and the 10th WCEC would be undertaken. By serving a term of six years, we will uphold our role to disseminate the latest news of the Mainland and Hong Kong, so as to attract more Mainland and overseas investors to set up operations in Hong Kong, and act as a go-between for a mutually-benefited collaboration between enterprises of the Mainland and Chinese entrepreneurs around the globe.

Expressing Concerns on Business Policies

Favorable business environment is conducive to prosperous businesses across all sectors. Besides the above tasks undertaken, we also pooled resources in the past year to conduct researches on economic policies and investment environment both of the Mainland and Hong Kong, and expressing concerns on behalf of members.

As always, we submitted recommendations and suggestions in response to the Policy Address and Budget in a timely manner. Our recommendations included exploiting more investment channels, targeting some key infrastructure projects in the Mainland as strategic investment, consolidating Hong Kong's position as an asset management center, expanding Renminbi (RMB) business, developing more unique tourist attractions and protecting food safety, etc. In response to consultations of the government and Legislative Council, we also upheld our sustained position on constitutional development in a gradual and orderly manner in accordance with the Basic Law.

To protect rights and interests of business community in Hong Kong, we responded proactively to government consultations on economic policies. To name just a few, we collected members' views on whether statutory minimum wage and a cross-sector competition law should be introduced through discussions by committees of related businesses.

In the past year, there were some fundamental adjustments on economic policies and regulations of the Mainland in terms of narrowing the gap between import and export, seeking balanced development between eastern and western parts of China, and ensuring resource conservation and environmental protection. In order to facilitate members' investment in the Mainland, which account for more than 1,200 members, we conducted studies and discussions to collect opinions on Labour Contract Law, export tax rebates, processing trade, industry transfer and updates of CEPA. Last year, we expressed our views to related government departments of Hong Kong and the Mainland on balanced employer/employee relations, favorable business environment and enhancement of information exchanges, to mention but a few.

Celebrating 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to China

As I conclude, it happened to be at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with our motherland. Over the past ten years, Hong Kong has experienced ups and downs. Hong Kong's economy has undergone downturn to recovery, whereas remarkable growth has been registered in the past four consecutive years. We have also witnessed a successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and growing national strength as well as the staunch support of our motherland. Once again we have seen that Hong Kong spirit and value prevailed.

Looking back and ahead, we have been keeping up with the times and have grown up with Hong Kong and our motherland. Over more than one century, we have been growing and becoming vigorous and diversified. Our development and progress should be attributed to the strong support of our committee members and participation of our members, as well as valuable insights and input of all committees. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you. My appreciation also goes to the Chamber's Secretariat for their diligence and efficiency to ensure accomplishment of all tasks.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with our motherland, our nation is on the threshold of a new stage of development. Let's make joint efforts to keep on learning and implementing the Basic Law. Let's seize the opportunities of economic growth and capitalize on Hong Kong's unique position and advantages to perform new miracles for our motherland and Hong Kong!



Ian FOK Chun-wan

Chairman

(The 45th Term of Office)