

National Treatment for HKSAR Companies Doing Business in the Mainland Under CEPA

The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) achieved a breakthrough development with the signing of an agreement at the end of last year to liberalize trade in services between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

Over the past decade, the Chamber has played an active role in submitting recommendations to the Hong Kong and Guangdong governments regarding further liberalization measures under CEPA. The latest measures include the introduction of a “negative list,” which will be first implemented in Guangdong. The granting of pre-entry national treatment will help lower the threshold for setting up business in the Mainland, facilitating Hong Kong SMEs’ entrance into the Mainland market. The agreement also makes it easier for young people to develop their careers in the Mainland.

The new agreement aims to achieve basic liberalization of trade in services between Guangdong and Hong Kong, which is consistent with the “early and pilot implementation” approach supported by the Chamber. As this experience can be used to test the waters, liberalization measures could later be extended nationwide.

Although only Hong Kong service enterprises established in Guangdong can enjoy “national treatment,” there is no restriction, in principle, on serving clients beyond Guangdong, which is in line with Mainland enterprises, except for those restrictions stated on the negative list.

The Chamber is pleased that many of our proposals have been adopted in the new agreement, and that trade liberalization measures in legal, accounting, insurance, banking, telecommunications, technology testing and analysis, will boost opportunities for Hong Kong companies. ✨

CEPA賦予在內地營商的港企「國民待遇」

《內地與香港關於建立更緊密經貿關係的安排》(CEPA)於去年底有突破性發展，香港與廣東簽訂服務貿易自由化協議。

過去十年，總商會一直致力向兩地政府遞交CEPA開放的相關建議。最新措施包括設立「負面清單」，並率先在廣東落實；而准入前國民待遇，則有助

減低到內地開設公司的門檻，令香港中小型企業更易於進軍內地市場，對年青人到內地開創事業也有幫助。

新協議先讓廣東與香港體現服務貿易自由化，與本會倡議的先行先試理念一致。待相關措施累積足夠經驗，去蕪存菁後，再推廣至全國各地。

雖然只限在廣東設立的港資服務企業享有「國民待遇」，但原則上，除了「負面清單」另有規定，其服務對象、營運地域與內資企業看齊，並不局限於廣東。

總商會欣見新協議採納了我們的多項建議，在法律、會計、保險、銀行、電訊及技術測試和分析等行業，都有進一步的開放措施，為港商帶來更多機遇。 ✨