

Industry and Technology Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Industry and Technology Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2009 at 10:30 am in the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman

Mr Edmond Yue Wo Hing Construction Co Ltd

Vice Chairman

Mr K C Leung Sonca Products Ltd

Members

Mr Hon Yee Wong CityU Professional Services Ltd
Mrs Maria Cheung Hing Yu Metal Works Ltd
Mr Emil Yu Keystone Electric Wire & Cable Co Ltd
Mr Chris Chow Club de Lotto Ltd

Chamber Executives

Mr Alex Fong, CEO
Mr Adrian Cheung, Senior Director, Strategy and Research
Mr Thinex Shek (Meeting Secretary), Senior Manager, Business Policy
Ms Anita Lim, Assistant Manager, Public Affairs

Apologies

Mr Nicholas Brooke	Mr Nature Yang	Mr Oscar Chow	Dr Cliff C K Chan
Mr Laurence Chan	Ms Rachel Chan	Mr S H Chan	Dr Lily Chiang
Mr David Chu	Mr Manohar Chugh	Mr David Croasdale	Mr William Lai
Mr Antonio Lam	Mr Andy Lau	Mr Daniel Ma	Dr Stephen Ng
Mr James Wong	Mr Thomas Yeung		

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adrian Cheung, the new Senior Director for Strategy and Research, on board. Chamber CEO Mr Alex Fong introduced Mr Adrian Cheung to members.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 7 July 2009 were circulated prior to the meeting.

A typo was found on point 3.1 at the meeting. The meeting minutes were amended and signed by the Chairman on 13 October 2009.

2. Matters Arising

As agreed at the last Committee's meeting, the Secretariat had updated the terms of reference of the Industry and Technology Committee.

Members endorsed the revisions.

3. Committee's Activities and Initiatives

2009 Hong Kong Awards for Industries: Innovation and Creativity.

- 3.1 The Secretary reported that the Chamber had received 20 applications for the 2009 Hong Kong Awards for Industries: Innovation and Creativity. The overall quality of entries was good, but not particularly impressive compared with previous years. He felt that the economic downturn might have an impact on the programme, as development plans of businesses were pending.
- 3.2 The HKGCC Judging Panel, chaired by the Chairman of the Industry and Technology Committee, interviewed eight shortlisted companies on 13 October 2009. Mr K C Leung, Vice Chairman of the Committee would represent the HKGCC to nominate six winners to the Final Judging Panel on 23 October 2009.

Working Group for Testing and Certification Industry

- 3.3 Mr Alex Fong briefed members that a Working Group for Testing and Certification Industry was formed comprising members of the industry, professional, testing and certification sectors. The first meeting was held on 23 September 2009 to gather views on ways to promote the testing and certification services of Hong Kong companies. At the working group meeting, members said the testing and certification industry had not been well engaged by the Task Force on Economic Challenges in the process of formulating recommendations on promoting the six industries.
- 3.4 Working Group members generally agreed that the Government could serve as a major source of information on changing regulatory and standards in major overseas markets. The Government should consider how best to step up this information gathering capability through its overseas offices network and disseminating them to the business community in Hong Kong through various conduits such as the HKGCC.
- 3.5 In addition, the Government should find ways to pursue greater recognition of Hong Kong's accreditation services by the Mainland authorities, and help the industry to gain greater access to the Mainland market under CEPA. The recommendations would be put forward by the Chamber to the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification through the responsible bureau.

- 3.6 Although the testing and certification industry was relatively small comparing with other major industries in Hong Kong, Mr K C Leung believed that there existed market potentials for further development, given the growing demand for certification by foreign buyers. To promote the sector effectively, it would require substantial work of the Government in supporting the industry, e.g. advancing the standard via training programmes.
- 3.7 Mr Adrian Cheung thought that the main issues were about how to support small and medium laboratories and gain recognition of Hong Kong's accreditation services by the Chinese authorities. The Government should be well aware of these, which might be part of their messages on the Policy Address.
- 3.8 Mr Hon Yee Wong queried whether the testing and certification sector could be developed as a pillar industry, as there had not been a consensus within the industry. He and the Chairman believed that the Government should seek views from the industry and the manufacturing sector so as to formulate practical policies to serve their needs.
- 3.9 Mr Emil Yu told members that Hong Kong companies could apply for production permits only for those products not restricted by the Chinese policies. More opportunities could be provided to Hong Kong's testing and certification sector if such restrictive policies could be relaxed under CEPA.

Business Summit Series

- 3.10 Mr Alex Fong told members that the Chamber had organized an annual Hong Kong Business Summit last year, in a form of an internal retreat with about 150 active members to gather views on business agenda. The Chamber's submission to the Chief Executive's Policy Address was then developed from the framework prescribed by the "15 Christmas Trees" identified in the summit. To take this process further, it was proposed that the programme for Business Summit 2009 would straddle a 12-month period, during which a half-day conference would be organised in March 2010 to explore the role played by young entrepreneurs in shaping the development of creative, technology and innovative industries in Hong Kong.
- 3.11 The Industry and Technology Committee, together with the Digital, information and Telecommunications Committee, would provide advice to steer the development of this conference. Mr Alex Fong sought support from members.
- 3.12 Mr Emil Yu proposed to invite Dr Cliff Chan to be one of the speakers, who was a successful showcase of entrepreneurship.

4. A.O.B

- 4.1 Mrs Maria Cheung proposed to the Chamber to circulate a bilingual list of Committee members with contact details. She also suggested that the Chamber should re-consider publishing a membership directory to encourage the sense of belonging among members.
- 4.2 Mr Alex Fong replied that membership lists of all Chamber committees were available on the website. The Chamber was in the process of revamping the website to allow greater ease of applying the search function when data would be given in Chinese.
- 4.3 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Confirmed by

Secretary
21 October 2009

Chairman