

Industry and Technology Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Industry and Technology Committee Meeting held on 8 July 2009 at 10:30 am in the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Meeting Chairman

Mr Edmond K. Yue Vice Chairman, Industry and Technology Committee
Wo Hing Construction Co Ltd

Members

Mr Daniel Ma	Aoba Hopkins Group
Mr Hon Yee Wong	CityU Professional Services Ltd
Mr S H Chan	CLP Holdings Ltd
Mrs Maria Cheung	Hing Yu Metal Works Ltd
Mr Emil Yu	Keystone Electric Wire & Cable Co Ltd
Mr Nature Yang	National Bridge Industrial (Holdings) Ltd
Mr Manohar Chugh	Nisha Electronic Industries Ltd
Dr Stephen Ng	Poon Kam Kai Institute of Management
Mr K C Leung	Sonca Products Ltd
Mr Chris Chow	Club de Lotto Ltd
Mr Laurence Chan	Golden Victory Limited

Chamber Executives

Mr Alex Fong, CEO
Mr Thinex Shek (Secretary), Senior Manager, Business Policy

Apologies

Mr Oscar Chow	Prof Cliff Chan	Ms Rachel Chan	Dr Lily Chiang
Mr David Chu	Mr David Croasdale	Mr Antonio Lam	Mr Andy Lau
Mr James Wong	Mr Thomas Yeung	Mr Joe Yiu	

The Chairman welcomed new members, who were Mr Daniel Ma of Aoba Hopkins Group, Mr Hon Yee Wong of CityU Professional Services Ltd and Mr Chris Chow of Club de Lotto Ltd.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15 July 2008 were confirmed and signed.

2. Committee Activities and Initiatives

Existing Committee's Tasks

- 2.1 The Secretary reported that the Committee had been working on a number of promotional projects, helping members advance themselves to cope with economic challenges and to seek new opportunities. These included:
 - 2.11 The “2009 Hong Kong Awards for Industries: Innovation and Creativity” – the Committee had been leading this annual flagship project to promote a culture of innovation amongst Hong Kong businesses by awarding outstanding and innovative companies.
 - 2.12 Design Roundtable Series - a series of four roundtable luncheons were, or would be organised quarterly in 2009 to help members make use of design tools to transform and upgrade businesses.
 - 2.13 Industry and University Collaboration – two university visits were organised to explore new technologies applicable to industry and business. Members were generally enthusiastic during the laboratory tours, and quite a few of them had shown interest in pursuing further discussion with the universities.
 - 2.14 Site-visiting Programme – the Secretary had encountered difficulties in confirming visiting programme to companies, mainly caused by the current economic situation.

Working Group for Testing and Certification Industry

- 2.2 Chamber CEO Mr Alex Fong told members that he attended a Task Force meeting of the Innovation and Technology Committee on the development of the testing and certification industry. Given the increasing safety standard internationally, there would be a potential to develop Hong Kong as a regional centre of testing and certification services. He proposed to form a working group to explore the needs of users and opportunities for service providers, so as to provide useful advice to the Government in the process of establishing the Testing and Certification Council.
- 2.3 Mr K C Leung agreed with Mr Fong that there would be a growing demand for testing and certification services. Being a Chartered Engineer and the President of the Hong Kong Electrical Appliances Manufacturers Association, he was interested in joining the working group to reflect the views of the industry.
- 2.4 Mr Hon Yee Wong suggested that the Government should look into new markets with high potential, such as Chinese medicine. He believed that Hong Kong seemed to be a place to provide quality assurance in the region.
- 2.5 Mr Emil Yu raised a concern that Government's initiative might end up with another brand of quality assurance driven by the private sector only, similar to

Hong Kong Q-mark, rather than a certification recognized by the Government. Product liability would also be another issue of concern. Mr Fong said that it would be of interest to members if a programme could be organised to address topic on product liability.

- 2.6 Given the interest of the Committee, the Chairman supported to form a working group to look into the above matters further. Selected members of relevant manufacturing sectors would also be invited, as their participation would be important to help gather useful views representing the general interest of members. Mr Fong also hoped to have more members from the manufacturing sector to join the Committee.

Innovation and Creativity

- 2.7 Mr Alex Fong invited views from members to promote innovation and creativity of Hong Kong businesses, which was another pillar industry identified by the Government.
- 2.8 Mr Hon Yee Wong interpreted innovation as a generation of creative concepts rather than technology. He used the example of Face Book to illustrate that the majority of successful products were caused by new product ideas rather than technology development. The Secretary echoed, and told members that the Innovation and Creativity Award aimed to seek new business ideas that were successful in the market. Mr Daniel Ma believed that many creative ideas came from within the company, so it would be important to facilitate a corporate culture of innovation.
- 2.9 Mr Alex Fong briefed members that he had been working on restructuring Chamber committees in line with the changing business environment. Some committees were renamed or merged. He recalled that there was a discussion on the merger of the Industry and Technology Committee and the Digital and Information Technology (DIT) Committee last year. For members' information, the DIT Committee had formed three working groups to explore ideas to promote knowledge management, e-commerce and creative industries. The Industry and Technology Committee, with its interest in innovation, could consider inviting innovators to speak to members on how their ideas were generated and implemented. The two committees should coordinate their works logistically, and in the longer term consider again the merger, so as to deal with issues on a broader context.
- 2.10 Dr Stephen Ng believed that innovation was a process of make-thing-happen, and he suggested that the Chamber could consider re-titling the Industry and Technology Committee to embrace innovation elements. Mr Alex Fong told members that the Chamber, so as the Government, had been evolving in a way that reflected the changing needs of economic development. The Innovation and Technology Commission was formed some years ago to facilitate innovation and technology development, and the Create Hong Kong was recently formed to drive the development of creative economy. The Committee should therefore wait and see how the Government and the businesses would go forward for the time being.

2.11 Mr S H Chan said that the business community had been facing a lot of changes in recent years, and he supported that the Chamber should look at the needs of our members so as to engage Committee's support in the work. Mr Chris Chow suggested that the Committee should also enhance the design elements in the Committee's promotional work.

2.12 The Chairman felt that there had been an increasingly interface among Chamber committees, giving more chances to cooperate together in pursuing issues of common concern. Meanwhile, the Industry and Technology Committee should also identify its differentiation. He and members agreed to include innovation as one of the key areas to be worked on. Committee's terms of reference would be updated. Mr Fong reminded members that one of the key functions of committees was to give advice to the General Committee and the directorate. He looked forward to counting on the expertise of members to drive the Committee forward.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairmen

3.1 Mr Alex Fong told members that it had been a customary practice for the Chamber to elect or re-elect committees' chairmen and vice-chairmen at the first meeting after the Chamber's AGM. The Secretariat had received three nominations prior to the meeting, respectively Mr Edmond Yue was nominated by Mr Emil Yu to be the Chairman, Mr K C Leung was nominated by Dr Cliff Chan to be the Vice Chairman, and Mr Nature Yang was nominated by Mr Edmond Yau to be the Vice Chairman.

3.2 Members unanimously agreed to the nominations. Mr Edmond Yue was elected as the new Chairman of the Industry and Technology Committee, Mr K C Leung and Mr Nature Yang were elected as the Vice Chairmen.

3.3 The Chairman proposed and members unanimously agreed to a vote of thanks to Dr Cliff Chan for his chairmanship over the past three years.

4. A.O.B.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Confirmed by

Secretary
14 July 2009

Chairman