

# Chairman's Review

## 主席報告

1. Po Chung, Co-founder of DHL Asia Pacific, and Chairman Emeritus of DHL Express (HK) Ltd, kicked off the Chamber's 'Meet the Corporate Architect Series.'

敦豪國際亞太區共同創辦人兼敦豪國際速遞(香港)有限公司榮休主席鍾普洋為本會的「與創業家會面」系列論壇揭開序幕。

2. HKSAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang visited the Chamber on June 23 to meet with members of the General Committee.

香港特區行政長官曾蔭權於去年6月23日到訪本會，與理事會成員會面。



香港去年受到連串突發事件衝擊，除了內地的天災、金融危機、經濟收縮之外，效力本會18年的陳偉群博士亦不幸辭世。陳博士曾帶領我們的秘書處處理多項重要議題，由CEPA、世貿組織到競爭法、政制改革、環保、海濱規劃、西九龍文化區，以及其他數之不盡的政策範疇。陳博士去世，總商會及社會大眾皆感哀痛，我謹向其妻子和年幼女兒致以深切慰問。

2008年將永載歷史，這一年爆發的空前全球金融危機，將繼續影響我們的業務和個人生活。

香港經濟在去年初表現強勁，但其後受到外圍因素影響，原本穩健的本地經濟亦隨即轉弱。2.5%的實質增長是自2002年來最緩慢的速度，而外貿所佔的增幅更少於前一年的四分之一。到了年底，除了中國之外，全球幾乎所有主要經濟體都陷入衰退。香港的職位數目於2008年首季創出新高，這是在年底經濟下滑前，就業市場錄得連續第15季、也是最後一季的強勁表現。年內，本地價格雖然上升4.3%，是自1997年來最快的增速，但如今的憂慮卻是我們有可能步入通縮。

本會於2008年2月初舉辦首個與金融危機相關的研討會，其後亦籌備了一系列午餐會，探討追討欠債策略、持續營運規劃、定期經濟預測，以及評估和剖析金融危機對歐洲、亞洲和其他地方的影響等。本會年底也邀得AIG主席兼行政總裁Edward Liddy演說，分析這一家保險業巨頭打算如何走出危機。

Hong Kong was rocked by a series of unexpected shocks last year, from natural disasters on the Mainland to financial crises, economic contraction and the loss of our dear colleague of 18 years, Dr WK Chan. WK, as he was widely known, worked at the heart of our secretariat on issues from CEPA and the WTO to competition policy, constitutional reform, the environment, harbour front planning, the West Kowloon Cultural District and other policy areas too numerous to mention. His loss is keenly felt throughout the Chamber and the community, and our thoughts continue to be with his wife and young family.

Two thousand and eight will go down in history as the year of the first global financial crisis, and its effects continue to be felt in our businesses and personal lives.

Hong Kong's economy started the year strongly, but faded as external factors overwhelmed the still-strong domestic economy. The 2.5% real growth was the slowest since 2002, with foreign trade contributing less than a quarter as much growth as the previous year. By year end, just about every significant economy in the world – with the notable exception of China – was in recession. The number of jobs in Hong Kong hit a record high in the first quarter of 2008. It was the 15th consecutive, and last quarter, of very strong employment performance before the decline toward yearend. Although prices in the SAR rose 4.3% during the year, the fastest pace since 1997, concerns now are for a potential return to deflation.

The first in what has become a long series of seminars and roundtable luncheons related to the financial crisis was held in early February 2008. The series continued with sessions related to strategies for debt recovery and business continuity planning, regular economic forecasts and assessments and examination of the impact on Europe, Asia and elsewhere. We closed the year

1. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson (left), Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke (center) and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Sheila Bair testify at the House Financial Services Committee hearing on the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.  
在美國眾議院金融服務委員會的聽證會上，美國財政部部長保爾森(左)、聯邦儲備局主席伯南克(中)及聯邦存款保險公司主席拜爾指出，當前的經濟危機是自大蕭條以來最嚴重的一次。

2. Chamber members responded to China's worst snowstorm in half a century and the Sichuan earthquake with generous donations.  
內地去年先後爆發50年一遇的嚴重雪災和四川大地震，本會會員紛紛慷慨捐助。



with a talk by AIG Chairman and CEO Edward Liddy on how the insurance giant intended to turn itself around.

Nature was not kind last year, and Chamber members responded to natural disasters such as China's worst snowstorm in half a century and the Sichuan earthquake with generous contributions of aid. In addition to financial contributions toward reconstruction, members heard from Tony Ridley of International SOS on how companies could best prepare their own responses to natural disasters.

Coverage of the historic U.S. presidential election began in April with a debate between representatives of the two main political parties. Later in the year, U.S. Consul-General James Cunningham described the challenges and long-term prospects for Hong Kong's relations with the U.S., and Professor Ezra Vogel, one of the most renowned American scholars specializing on Asia discussed the results of the election and the Obama Administration's policy options.

The long awaited Beijing Olympics dominated the summer months, and both here and in the capital city the celebrations and competitions went off without a hitch.

Even in this challenging year, Hong Kong's environment remained one of the key issue areas for your Chamber. In November, the Chamber and business organizations joined together to host lunch with Environment Secretary Edward Yau to discuss the options and alternatives for developing a green economy and a green Pearl River Delta.

Restrictions imposed earlier in 2008 on the processing trade industries in the Pearl River Delta to encourage factories to move up the value chain or relocated to the hinterland left

去年是天災頻仍的一年，中國先後爆發了50年一遇的嚴重雪災和四川大地震。面對這些天災，本會會員都慷慨地捐助。除了捐款響應災後重建外，會員也參與國際SOS的Tony Ridley的研討會，了解企業如何做好準備，應對天災。

去年4月，美國兩大政黨的總統候選人進行辯論，本會展開了連串與這次歷史性總統大選相關的活動。美國總領事郭明瀚應邀分析港美關係的挑戰和長遠前景，研究亞洲事務的美國知名學者傅高義教授，亦與會員討論選舉結果及奧巴馬政府的可行政策。

期待已久的北京奧運成為去年夏天的焦點，香港和北京兩地的所有慶祝活動和比賽項目，最終圓滿結束。

即使在這充滿挑戰的一年，我們仍不忘關注香港的環境問題。去年11月，本會與其他商界組織合辦午餐會，邀得環境局局長邱騰華出席，探討發展綠色經濟及綠色珠三角的方案和選擇。

2008年初，中央政府對珠三角的加工貿易業實施限制，鼓勵廠商進行產業升級或轉移，令很多企業措手不及。本會隨即採取行動回應會員的訴求，成功游說香港及內地政府給予企業充足時間適應調整。



3. AIG Chairman and CEO Edward Liddy told members how the insurance giant intended to turn itself around. AIG主席兼行政總裁Edward Liddy向會員發表演說，闡釋AIG這位保險業巨頭打算如何走出危機。

4-5. Professor Ezra Vogel, Henry Ford II Research Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University, and Sam Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, were among the well-known speakers at the Chamber's events in 2008. 哈佛大學Henry Ford II社會科學系傅高義教授及溫哥華市長蘇利文是去年應邀蒞臨本會活動的其中兩位知名講者。

與此同時，中國實施的新《勞動合同法》、新《企業所得稅法》及其他與環保相關的法規，也使商界更加關注到內地瞬息萬變的經營環境。

年內蒞臨本會活動的政府高官包括：行政長官曾蔭權、財政司司長曾俊華、行政會議成員查史美倫、環境局局長邱騰華、公務員事務局局長俞宗怡、食物及衛生局局長周一嶽，以及運輸及房屋局局長鄭汝華。

重要政策方面，本會去年多次舉辦研討會，讓會員深入了解政府的財政預算案、施政報告、醫療融資改革、競爭法、避免雙重徵稅協議，以及新中環海濱發展等。此外，會員和員工曾就財政預算案和施政報告的多項議題表達意見和關注，包括停車熄匙、股市規管、《建築物能源效益守則》、空氣污染、營養標籤、醫療、競爭、仲裁、重寫《公司條例》及版權保護等。

作為香港卓越的獨立非牟利商界組織，總商會的貢獻主要以我們對會員和社會的服務來衡量。本會的工作以會員的需要為本，要達至這個目標，我們就必需得到有技能、有幹勁的領袖支持。我謹此感謝幾位一直孜孜不倦服務本會的主席委員會成員，包括本會常務副主席胡定旭、三位副主席楊國琦、和廣北及李澤鉅，以及本會立法會代表——商界（第一）功能組別的林健鋒議員，年內他們熱心參與會務，積極代表商界，功不可沒。

many companies unprepared. The Chamber acted quickly to answer members' calls for assistance by successfully lobbying governments in Hong Kong and the Mainland to grant businesses time to adapt to the changes.

Likewise, China's new Labor Contract Law, new Corporate Income Tax Law, and other regulations related to environmental protection also raised serious concerns from the business community about the changing operating environment in the Mainland.

Among the senior government officials speaking at Chamber events were Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah, Executive Councillor Laura Cha Shi Meilun and the Secretaries for the Environment (Edward Yau Tang-wah), Civil Service (Denise Yue Chung-yee), Food and Health (York Chow Yat-ngok), Transport and Housing (Eva Cheng Ru-hua).

In key policy areas, Chamber members were briefed on the government's budget and policy address, healthcare financing reforms, the competition law, double taxation treaties and the new Central harbour front developments. Members and staff put forward views on a wide variety of issues and concerns from the budget and policy address to a great variety of issues including idling vehicles, stock market regulations, building energy codes, air pollution, nutrition labelling, healthcare, competition, arbitration, revisions to the Companies Ordinance and copyright protection.

As Hong Kong's preeminent independent, not-for-profit business association, our contributions are largely evaluated by services provided to members and to the wider community. Our efforts are targeted at where we, the members, best feel we may be of use, and in that regard those skills and energies are dependent on our people and their commitment. In that regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few of the people who did

Dr Marvin K T Cheung, Chairman, Airport Authority Hong Kong, told members how the airport will maintain its status as a leading regional and international aviation centre. 香港機場管理局主席張建東博士闡釋機場將如何維持其地區及國際航空中心的領先地位。




the hard work, members of the Chairman's Committee, starting with our Deputy Chairman Anthony Wu, Vice Chairmen KK Yeung, He Guangbei and Victor Li, and our Legislative Council Representative in the Commercial (First) functional constituency, the Honourable Jeffrey Lam; all contributed and participated fully and strongly during the year.

The General Committee – the Chamber's leadership body – is elected by you, the members, and that committee is expected to work on behalf of us all. This, they do and we must not forget that they – and others – are actually "volunteers" who freely give their time and talent. Hong Kong is an incredibly busy place, particularly when the economy is doing so well, and it is both refreshing and humbling to see how many of you are so willing to devote large amounts of time to helping the Chamber fulfil its mission. For that, on behalf of the members, I thank you.

We must also give our thanks to the secretariat, under the leadership of our CEO, Alex Fong, who has developed and maintained programmes and activities to meet the diverse interests of our Chamber. In addition, he has introduced some energetic new talent to the secretariat, and has helped to keep our finances buoyant. The Chamber is fortunate to be served by loyal and committed staff – and our thanks should go to all of them.

Although our AGM in 2009 will be held amidst a global recession and great uncertainty, I am nonetheless certain that the Chamber will fulfil its role of helping our members to ride through the storm together.



Andrew Brandler  
Chairman

由會員選出的本會領導組織——理事會——肩負代表和服務商界的重任，我們也不能忘記他們及其他熱心商界人士都是義務工作，投入個人的時間與才華。香港是個非常繁忙的都市，在市道暢旺時尤其忙碌，因此，看見一眾理事和其他人士樂意投入寶貴的時間和精神參與本會事務，且不吝分享專業識見，其貢獻和熱誠極之可貴，我謹代表所有會員向他們表達由衷謝意。

我還要感謝總裁方志偉的領導，以及秘書處全體員工的努力。方先生為滿足本會的不同需要，年內不但增設和繼續舉辦各種項目和活動，也為秘書處引入了活力充沛的人才，同時保持財政穩健。總商會幸得一群竭力盡心的員工，我在此深表謝意。

儘管我們的2009年會員周年大會即將在全球衰退及極不明朗的環境下舉行，但我深信總商會必然可協助會員共同渡過風暴。



包立賢  
主席



The Chamber's submissions to the government on the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address and the Financial Secretary's annual Budget have helped to hone Hong Kong's competitiveness. 本會每年都會就行政長官的施政報告和財政司司長的財政預算案向政府提交建議書，協助香港提升競爭力。