

# Business Advocacy

商界之聲



As the voice of business  
in Hong Kong, advocacy  
is one of the core  
functions and strengths of  
the Hong Kong General  
Chamber of Commerce  
香港總商會作為商界之  
聲，倡議工商政策是我  
們的核心工作之一

# Business Advocacy

## 商界之聲

Every year the Chamber formulates positions on issues relevant to the business sector through discussions with its various committees, as well as at events. It also communicates regularly with government officials and policy makers to press home our views. These can take the form of public campaigns, or position statements delivered to government.

總商會每年都與各委員會進行討論及舉辦活動，就商界有關的議題制訂立場和對策。本會還會透過組織公眾活動或向政府提交政策聲明，定期與政府官員和決策者溝通，反映商界意見。

Besides monitoring policies affecting small businesses, the SME Committee also organized a steady flow of events, including the SME Spring Dinner.

中小型企業委員會除了監察影響中小企的政策發展，也定期舉辦多項活動，包括「中小企春茗聯歡晚宴」。



## 經濟政策委員會

經濟政策委員會年內就本會呈交行政長官的施政報告建議書，以及財政司司長的財政預算案建議書，均提供了不少意見。委員會亦負責就醫療改革的公眾諮詢制訂回應，並籌辦了一個研討會，促進會員與政府官員之間的討論。

## 法律委員會

法律委員會渡過了繁忙的一年，先後就連串的工商法律議題，向政府提交建議，當中最重要的包括就重寫《公司條例》三個諮詢階段提出的建議，以及有關仲裁法、延長董事禁售期的建議書。

## 稅務委員會

2008年，稅務委員會的工作焦點是就放寬避免雙重徵稅協定的信息交換條款，以及建議加強稅務上訴委員會的工作發表意見。委員會亦致函政府，要求當局推出緊急紓緩措施，協助正在全球金融危機中掙扎求存的中小企，以及制訂其他長遠方案，改善營商環境。

委員會年內舉辦了多次講座，包括由稅務局局長介紹香港稅務協定網絡的最新發展、盧森堡與香港的稅務協定、應付零售業衰退的措施，以及近期有關企業稅務責任的訴訟結果對業界的啟示。

## Economic Policy Committee

During the year under review, the committee made substantial contributions to the Chamber's submissions to government on the Chief Executive's annual Policy Address and the Financial Secretary's annual Budget. The committee oversaw the formulation of a Chamber response to a public consultation on healthcare reform, and organized a seminar to facilitate discussions between members and government officials.

## Legal Committee

The Legal Committee had an active year, with submissions being made to government on a range of issues of business and commercial law. Among the most important of these were submissions on the three-stage consultations on the Companies Ordinance Rewrite, arbitration law, and extension of the stock market blackout period.

## Taxation Committee

The committee's main focuses in 2008 were on the liberalization of exchange of information provisions for double taxation treaties and proposals for enhancing the work of the Board of Review. The committee also contributed to a letter urging government to introduce emergency relief measures for SMEs struggling under conditions induced by the global financial crisis, as well as other long term initiatives to improve operating conditions.

Informative sessions organized during the year included an update by the Commissioner for Inland Revenue on the development of Hong Kong's tax treaty network, Luxembourg's tax treaty with Hong Kong, measures to cope with the retail downturn, and implications of recent case outcomes on companies' tax obligations.



The Chamber organized meetings with members to find out what difficulties they were experiencing due to the financial crisis, and submitted its recommendations to government.  
本會多次與會員交流會面，探討他們在金融危機下面對的困難，向政府提交建議。

### Real Estate and Infrastructure Committee

The committee received briefings from government officials and other experts on topical issues. Among the guests were Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning & Lands) Raymond Young; Architectural, Surveying and Planning Functional Constituency Legislative Council representative Prof Patrick Lau; and Urban Renewal Authority Managing Director Quinn Law.

The committee organized an Urban Renewal Strategy workshop at which members provided input to the first stage of the review exercise on setting the agenda for the consultative process.

### Retail and Distribution Committee

During the year under review, the Retail and Distribution Committee examined business facilitation initiatives launched by the government, as well as the impact of the introduction of the nutrition labelling regulation to the retail sector. The committee also evaluated the impact of the Mainland economy on Hong Kong's retail sector.

### Shipping and Transport Committee

During the year under review, the committee considered a range of issues that included government proposed major infrastructure projects, land use for the handling of containers, port cargo forecast and the EU's competition law on shipping. A seminar on facilitating Hong Kong's trade was organized with the Commissioner for Customs & Excise as guest speaker.

The Port Affairs Working Group, a sub-committee of the Shipping and Transport Committee, updated and published the 2009 schedules for Tramp Agency Fees and Mooring and Un-mooring Charges.

### 地產及基建委員會

地產及基建委員會去年邀得多位政府官員及專家講解不同的議題，當中包括發展局常任秘書長（規劃及地政）楊立門、立法會建築、測量及都市規劃界功能界別議員劉秀成教授，以及市區重建局行政總監羅義坤。

委員會年內曾舉辦市區重建策略工作坊，邀請會員就第一階段的檢討表達意見，以便制訂日後的諮詢工作。

### 零售及分發委員會

零售及分發委員會去年除了探討政府的方便營商措施，以及引入食物營養標籤制度對零售業的影響，還評估了內地經濟對香港零售業的影響。

### 船務及運輸委員會

船務及運輸委員會年內深入研究了多項議題，包括政府提出的主要基建項目、貨櫃處理的土地使用、港口貨運量預測，以及歐盟的船務競爭法。委員會選舉辦研討會，討論如何促進香港貿易，更邀得海關關長任演說嘉賓。

委員會轄下的港口事務工作小組去年亦制訂了2009年不定期貨船和船舶繫泊服務收費表。



Site visits, such as these to Eu Yan Sang, and the Central Police Station compound, were very popular with members.

參觀余仁生及中區警署建築群等實地考察活動，繼續深受會員歡迎。

## 環境委員會

本會去年加強了環境政策倡議方面的工作。環境委員會年內的主要工作，是向政府提呈一份重要的空氣質素政策文件，當中羅列的43項建議，不少都獲行政長官納入施政報告，包括提高空氣質素和減排的目標，以及加強跨境合作等重要建議，均獲當局採納。

委員會於2008年曾舉辦多個活動，讓會員認識環保法規的最新變動，以及當中的機遇。此外，委員會繼續在香港和內地推廣《清新空氣約章》，並展開活動的第二階段——「清新空氣審核認證計劃」。2008年，有七家機構通過審核認證過程，總商會是其中之一。

宏觀方面，委員會組織了多個項目和實地考察活動，認識氣候變化的問題。委員會亦透過支持「香港環保卓越計劃」及「清潔生產伙伴計劃」，提升公眾對可持續發展企業的認識。

## 工業及科技委員會

工業及科技委員會去年曾舉辦實地考察活動，率團參觀從事傳統工業、技術和設計的公司及機構，廣受會員歡迎。委員會亦就「香港工商業獎：創意獎」的發展方向提供意見，令中小企的參加數目創出新高。

The Chamber organized a site visit to the City University of Hong Kong to inspect the latest technologies applicable to the industrial and logistics sectors. 本會組團參觀香港城市大學，認識應用於工業及物流領域的最新科技。



## Environment Committee

The Chamber stepped up its environmental advocacy work during the year under review. A major undertaking for the committee was a significant policy paper on air quality, which was submitted to government. Many of the 43 recommendations contained in the paper found their way into the Chief Executive's Policy Address, most significantly, the adaptation of higher air quality objectives and emissions targets, in addition to closer cross-border cooperation.

The committee organized several events in 2008 to keep members abreast of changing environmental regulations, as well as opportunities arising from such developments. It continued to promote the Clean Air Charter in Hong Kong and the Mainland, and launched the second phase of the campaign, the Clean Air Certification Programme. The Chamber was one of seven companies that passed the certification process in 2008.

From a broader perspective, the committee tackled the issue of climate change by organizing a number of events and site visits. It also tried to raise greater awareness of the benefits of sustainable business through supporting the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence, and the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme.

## Industry and Technology Committee

The committee organized site visits to companies and organizations engaged in traditional industries, technology and design, which were very popular among members. It also gave direction to the "Hong Kong Awards for Industries: Innovation and Creativity," and was encouraged by the record number of SMEs entering the award.



## Manpower Committee

Throughout the year under review, the Manpower Committee provided input to the Chamber leadership and government on manpower-related issues, including minimum wage, Race Discrimination Bill, healthcare reform, MPF, civil service pay, and work-life balance, among others.

## SME Committee

The SME Committee monitored the development of policies affecting SMEs and worked closely with the government to facilitate small and medium enterprises. It lobbied government on simplifying rules and regulations, and worked closely with the administration's Business Facilitation Unit to address difficulties members had encountered.

In addition to its advocacy role, the committee organized a steady flow of training courses, roundtable luncheons and events specifically for SMEs, the highlight of which was the annual HKGCC SME Spring Dinner in February.

## DIT Committee

The Digital, Information and Telecommunications (DIT) Committee debated DIT related policy issues during the year under review, as well as encouraged companies to leverage IT in their businesses.

## Competition and minimum wage legislation

In response to government consultation, the Chamber's Expert Group on Competition Policy formulated HKGCC's position and continued to monitor government's preparatory work on drafting a competition law. A working group on minimum wage legislation was also set up to formulate the Chamber's response to the government's consultation on the introduction of minimum wage legislation in Hong Kong.

## 人力委員會

人力委員會年內曾就多項人力議題向本會管理層和政府提出建議，包括最低工資、種族歧視條例草案、醫療改革、強積金、公務員薪酬，以及工作與生活平衡等。

## 中小型企業委員會

中小型企業委員會的工作，是監察影響中小企的政策發展，並與政府緊密合作，改善中小型企業的營商環境。委員會曾促請政府簡化規管，並加強與方便營商處合作，以解決會員面對的難題。

除了倡議政策之外，委員會還特別為中小企籌辦了多個培訓課程、小型午餐會和其他活動，包括去年2月舉行的「中小企春茗聯歡晚宴」。

## 數碼、資訊及電訊委員會

數碼、資訊及電訊委員會年內不時討論與數碼、資訊及電訊相關的政策議題，並鼓勵企業善用資訊科技。

## 競爭法及最低工資立法

本會的競爭政策專家小組已就政府的諮詢為總商會制訂了既定立場，並於年內繼續監察政府的競爭法草擬工作。本會亦成立了最低工資立法工作小組，就政府在本港引入最低工資立法的諮詢，為總商會制訂回應。



Regular dialogue with government officials and members helped the Chamber to develop very useful and practical proposals on a wide range of issues.  
政府官員與會員之間的定期對話，有助本會就多項議題制訂實用可行的建議。

## 香港服務業聯盟

本會服務政策智囊團 香港服務業聯盟 去年連同全球服務業聯盟的會員，與世貿總幹事拉米及多位大使在日內瓦會談，游說他們盡早完成多哈回合談判。香港服務業聯盟年內亦繼續與環球及地區貿易決策者會面，倡議工商政策。

金融服務方面，香港服務業聯盟與強制性公積金計劃管理局曾交流意見，討論強積金行政規管的變動。該聯盟亦舉辦一系列研討會，探索企業在全球金融危機下的前路。

旅遊業方面，香港服務業聯盟轄下的旅遊委員會關注中區警署建築群的保育及活化工作，並曾與旅遊事務專員區璟智會面，討論政府的旅遊業發展計劃。

香港服務業聯盟教育及人力資源工作小組已完成研究，並建議本會跟進一些對香港競爭力有長遠影響的議題。

## Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries

The Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries (HKCSI), the service policy think tank of the Chamber, together with members of the Global Services Coalition, held meetings with WTO Director General Pascal Lamy and ambassadors of major WTO missions in Geneva to lobby for an early conclusion of the Doha Round. HKCSI also continued its advocacy efforts throughout the year with global and regional trade policy makers.

On financial services, the HKCSI exchanged views with the Mandatory Provident Funds Authority on regulatory changes on MPF administration. Seminars were organized on the road ahead during the global financial crisis.

For the travel & tourism sector, HKCSI's Travel/Tourism Committee looked into the conservation and revitalization of the Central Police Station compound, and met with Tourism Commissioner Au King Chi to discuss the government's plans to develop the industry.

The HKCSI Working Group on Education and Manpower completed its study and recommended that the Chamber follow up on issues that would have a long-term and far-reaching impact on Hong Kong's competitiveness.



Kim Salkeld, Land Registrar, updated members on proposed changes to Hong Kong's Land Registry.  
土地註冊處處長蘇啟龍向會員講解香港土地註冊處的建議新制。