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## Seek Common Ground

While Mainland China and the United States remain caught in a tug-of-war over trade tariffs, the rest of the world hopes to see relations return to normal as soon as possible. Despite the trade deficit, economic and trade cooperation between the U.S. and China can bring about mutual benefits by utilizing resources more efficiently.

As such, the indirect benefits brought by free trade to the U.S. should not be ignored. With free trade as a common value treasured by both sides, economic cooperation between the two countries must be “depoliticized” and refocused on the tremendous opportunities ahead.

Since its reform and opening up, Mainland China has developed in leaps and bounds. Its achievements in innovation and technology (I&T) are obvious to all: Shenzhen, known as China's Silicon Valley, has become one of the most important I&T hubs in the Mainland and even the world, with an average annual GDP growth rate of almost 10% since 2010. This reflects China's hopes to improve people's livelihoods through education, international trade, technology and infrastructure, and with a view to narrowing the gap with developed countries.

Free trade is a key factor in promoting modern economic development. Trade barriers, in contrast, will cause chaos in the Chinese and U.S. markets and reduce consumer choice. Both sides may even have to resort to retaliatory measures, which will affect other goods. In the end, it is the people of the two countries who will suffer.

On the other hand, with reform and opening up entering a new stage, Hong Kong needs to leverage its unique advantages in line with current developments. For instance, with the launch of the Belt and Road and the Greater Bay Area initiatives by the Central Government in recent years, Hong Kong should actively grasp these significant opportunities by giving play to our strengths to help fulfill the country's needs. This means we can continue to contribute to reform and opening up, and lift “one country, two systems” to a new level.

Your altitude determines your vision. The higher we stand, the farther we see. China and the U.S. are the world's leading economies in terms of comprehensive national strength and global influence. Therefore, seizing opportunities for dialogue to seek common ground will better serve the global interest than being trapped in a state of see-sawing and confrontation.

As China shifts the positioning of its economy, and people's livelihoods evolve accordingly, national plans will be increasingly forward-looking in future. In view of this, Hong Kong should keep abreast of the times to avoid losing ground amid rapid economic development. ❀

## 求同存異

過去一段日子，中美兩國在貿易關稅的問題上拉鋸不斷，全球各國都希望能盡快回復正常貿易秩序。中美之間存在貿易逆差，不過兩國的經貿合作是合則兩利，能把資源更有效地運用。

因此，自由貿易對美國本土帶來的間接利益不容忽視。自由貿易是我們共同珍惜的價值，中美經濟合作必須「去政治化」，並且聚焦眼前的重大機遇。

自國家改革開放以來，中國內地發展一日千里，創科事業的成就更是有目共睹：有「中國矽谷」之稱的深圳，自2010年起其生產總值年均增長近10%，成為內地以至全球重要的科技創新中心之一。由此可見，中國希望透過教育、國際貿易、科技和基建來改善人民生活，拉近與發達國家的距離。

自由貿易是促進現代經濟發展的重要因素。反之，貿易壁壘會令中美兩國市場出現混亂，消費者選擇減少，甚至令雙方不得不採取報復措施，波及其他商品，最終受損的是兩國的人民。

另一方面，隨著改革開放進入新階段，香港必須因應新時代的發展，發揮獨特的優勢和作用。例如中央近年提出「一帶一路」、粵港澳大灣區建設等，香港應積極把握這些重大機遇，發揮自身所長，滿足國家所需，為改革開放繼續貢獻力量，推動「一國兩制」事業再上新台階。

高度決定視野，我們要站得高，才能看得遠。中美兩國是綜合國力及全球影響力首屈一指的經濟體，因此把握對話機會、求同存異，始終比拉鋸、對抗，更符合全球利益。

隨着中國經濟民生定位轉移，國家對未來的計劃愈來愈具前瞻性，香港應與時代接軌，以免在經濟發展領域進退失據。❀