

Key Takeaways of Two Sessions 2023

2023 年兩會焦點

A distinguished panel of speakers shared insights into China's biggest political meetings of the year, and what the new policies mean for Hong Kong

多位專家分享對中國年度政壇大事的見解，並分析新政策對香港的意義

Hong Kong's stability and prosperity are firmly interlinked with China's progress: this was perhaps the most important message pertaining to the HKSAR to come out of the Two Sessions held in March, as President Xi Jinping reiterated Beijing's stance to leave the pandemic behind and re-establish itself as a global trade and financial hub.

China's Two Sessions, the new policy developments and their impact on Hong Kong were the subjects of a well-attended roundtable luncheon held at the Chamber on March 20. Sharing insights and providing in-depth analyses with members were four HKSAR Members of the National Committee of CPPCC – Chamber Deputy Chairman Agnes Chan; Chamber Vice Chairman Douglas Woo; General Committee member PC Yu; Former General Committee Member David Lie; and Nick Chan, Chairman of the Chamber's Legal Committee and HKSAR Deputy to National People's Congress.

In her opening remarks, Agnes Chan emphasized the importance of President Xi Jinping's re-election for his third five-year term: "President Xi's third term in office serves to provide the markets,

both local and international, with a lot of confidence in the country's leadership and economic outlook. The focus is on high-quality development nationwide, coupled with a pragmatic approach towards improving the lives of the people."

The Future of Hong Kong

She noted that Hong Kong had constantly featured in discussions and work reports throughout the Two Sessions 2023. Stability, prosperity, high quality development and innovation were the keywords, with prominence given to the role of Hong Kong in Mainland China's social and economic progress, and with emphasis placed on "One Country, Two Systems."

To pursue high-quality development, Hong Kong must focus on tech innovation, environmental protection/green development, supporting SMEs, and deepening opening-up and institutional reform.

"Making good use of technology, innovation in terms of relevance to people's lives, and a focus on carbon neutrality are ways in which Hong Kong can aim for high-quality development," explained Nick

Chan, adding that the messages from the Two Sessions had given confidence to both Hong Kong and international businesses.

PC Yu also noted that 2023 coincided with the 45th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up, as well as the 10th anniversary of the Belt & Road Initiative, and said that Hong Kong continues to court many opportunities for boosting investment: "For example, after President Xi's visit to the Middle East, Chief Executive John Lee and Chamber Chairman Betty Yuen also went on a trip to the region. This has opened up a lot of investment potential in Hong Kong, while also serving as a bridge to bringing investment to the GBA and Mainland."

On the topic of boosting economic growth, David Lie said that businesses in Hong Kong needed confidence to project a future that is prosperous. "During the pandemic, many companies faced supply chain difficulties. Costs increased and employment has become a growing concern, based on the challenges and the rising costs," he said. "However, Hong Kong has the advantage of having a unique position in terms

of its banking sector, tax system and rule of law, and we can look forward to and be optimistic about a future of prosperity and growth.”

China and the Bigger Picture

China aims to boost its gross domestic product by around 5% this year, with macroeconomic policies in place to stabilize economic growth. The country will target increasing domestic consumption and restoration in business confidence, including in tourism, catering and retail services.

During the Two Sessions, President Xi said that the focus of the ruling Communist Party was to “comprehensively build a modern and powerful socialist country and comprehensively promote the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.” He also said that scientific and technological self-reliance and expertise were drivers for the country’s progress.

Douglas Woo noted that the Central Government was working to tackle the issues of poverty and corruption, while putting the lives of its people front and centre with a focus on housing, medical facilities and food.



“The Government is wholly committed to stability and peace, having all hands on deck and working together,” he explained. “At the Two Sessions, problems in various sectors, including real estate and the IT sector, were also talked about, with many actions being taken through institutional reform.” Particular attention must also be paid to the establishment of the new Financial Supervision and Administration Bureau (which replaces the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission), as well as the National Bureau for Data, in a push to supervise, regulate and protect these industries.

Woo said the private sector economy was in the spotlight too, with initiatives tackling the refining of the commercial environment and risk management services to stimulate market vitality. He added that the country’s private sector has quadrupled in the past 10 years, and accounted for over 80% of urban employment.

With regard to foreign investment, China would continue to intensify efforts to attract companies and launch foreign-funded projects. PC Yu reiterated that the country would not shut itself off from the rest of the world, and would continue to contribute to the global economy.



香港的繁榮穩定與國家發展息息相關——對香港特區來說，這或許是3月全國兩會帶出的最重要訊息。國家主席習近平重申，北京將全力支持本港提振其作為國際貿易與金融中心的地位。

總商會於3月20日舉行午餐會，探討全國兩會、新政策方向及其對香港的影響，會員反應熱烈。四位港區全國政協委員：總商會常務副主席陳瑞娟、副主席吳宗權、理事余鵬春、前理事李大壯，聯同總商會法律委員會主席及港區全國人大代表陳曉峰，與會員分享交流。

陳瑞娟在開場發言時強調，國家主席習近平當選連任第三個五年任期十分重要。她解釋：「習主席連任第三個任期，能加強本地及國際市場對國家領導層

和經濟前景的信心。兩會的焦點在於全國高質量發展及改善民生的務實政策。」

香港未來

她又提到，香港經常出現在2023年兩會討論和工作報告中，穩定、繁榮、高質量發展、創新都是當中的關鍵字，凸顯出香港對內地社會及經濟發展的作用，亦強調了「一國兩制」的重要性。

要推動高質量發展，香港必須專注於創科、環保／綠色發展、支持中小企及深化改革開放。

陳曉峰解釋：「善用科技創新改善民生，堅定實現碳中和，都是香港邁向高質量發展的基礎。」他又補充，兩會帶出

的訊息為本港與國際企業帶來信心。

余鵬春指出，今年適逢中國改革開放45周年，亦是「一帶一路」建設十周年，香港繼續享有大量投資機遇。他表示：「例如繼習主席出訪中東後，行政長官李家超及總商會主席阮蘇少媚亦到訪當地，除了為中東來港投資打開大門，同時亦為當地企業開拓大灣區及內地市場搭橋鋪路。」

談到如何促進經濟增長，李大壯表示本港企業要對香港繁榮發展的前景有信心。他說：「在疫情期間，許多公司面臨供應鏈中斷，成本上升和就業問題亦引起關注。不過，香港在銀行業、稅制、法治等方面具備獨特優勢，未來大有可為。」



“Stability, prosperity, high quality development and innovation were the keywords, with prominence given to the role of Hong Kong in China’s social and economic progress, and **with emphasis placed on ‘One Country, Two Systems’.**”

「穩定、繁榮、高質量發展、創新都是當中的關鍵字，凸顯出香港對內地社會及經濟發展的作用，亦強調了『一國兩制』的重要性。」

Agnes Chan –
HKGCC Deputy Chairman and
Members of the National Committee of CPPCC
陳瑞娟
總商會常務副主席及港區全國政協委員



中國與大格局

中國今年將國內生產總值增長目標設定為 5% 左右，並會透過宏觀政策穩住經濟增長，提振國內消費，重建旅遊、餐飲、零售等業界信心。

兩會期間，習主席表示共產黨的中心任務，是要「全面建成社會主義現代化強國，全面推進中華民族偉大復興」，又指科技自立自強能力是國家發展的基石。

吳宗權表示，中央政府堅持人民至上，全力推進住房、醫療及食品安全等方面的實際工作，務求解決貧窮和貪腐問題。

他解釋：「中央政府致力構建和平共處、總體穩定的格局。兩會期間亦談及房地產、資訊科技等產業存在的問題，冀通過多項體制改革措施解決。」其中特別值得留意的包括：組建國家金融監

督管理總局（取代中國銀行保險監督管理委員會），以及增設國家數據局，以監管和保護有關產業。

吳宗權又指出，當局推出措施完善營商環境和風險管理服務，從而激發市場活力，可見民營經濟亦是焦點之一。他補充，內地民營經濟規模在過去十年間增長了三倍，提供八成以上的城鎮就業機會。

海外投資方面，中國將進一步加強對外招商引資。余鵬春重申，國家對外開放的大門不會關閉，並會繼續為全球經濟增長作出貢獻。