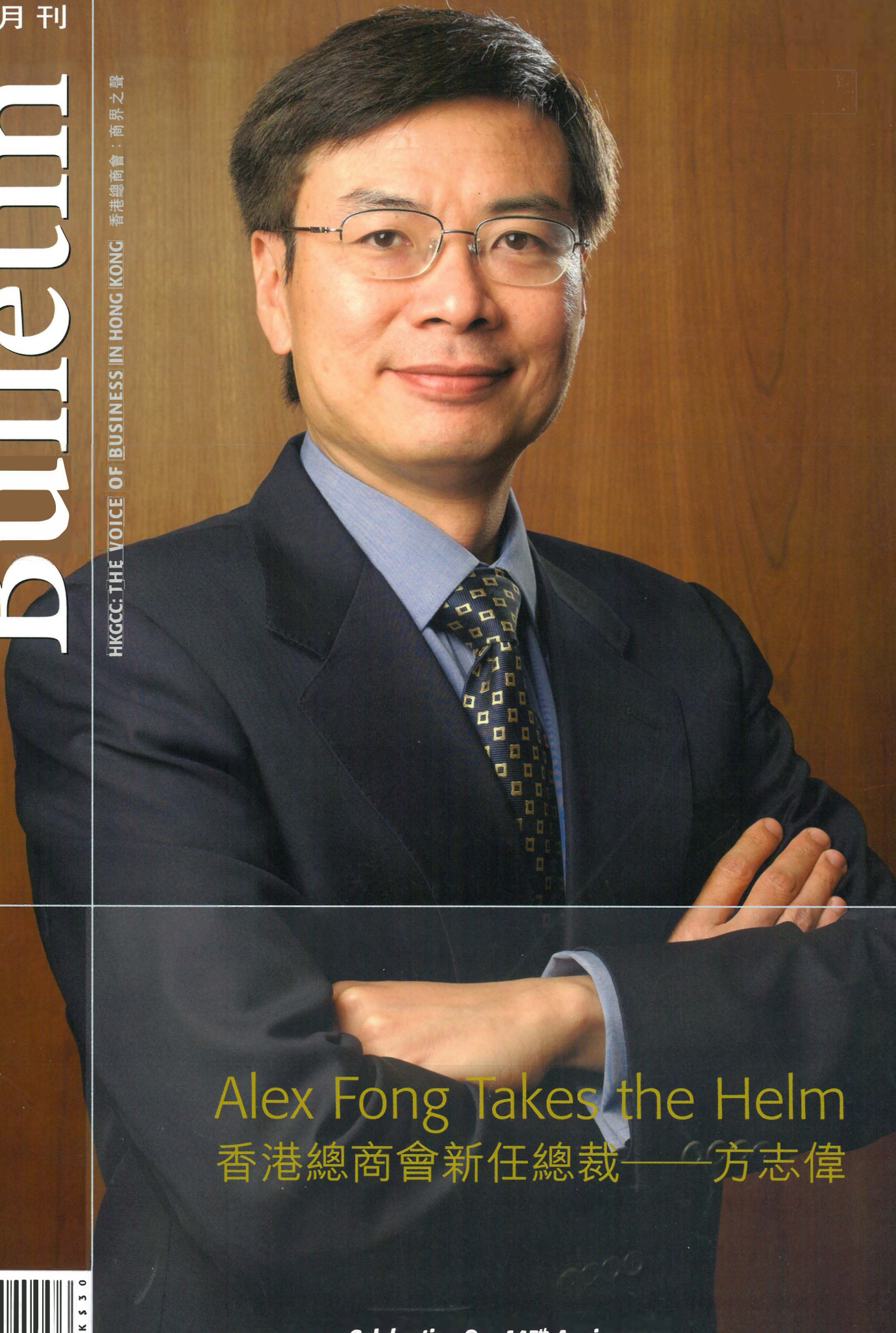


the Bulletin

HKGCC: THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN HONG KONG 香港總商會：商界之聲



Alex Fong Takes the Helm
香港總商會新任總裁——方志偉



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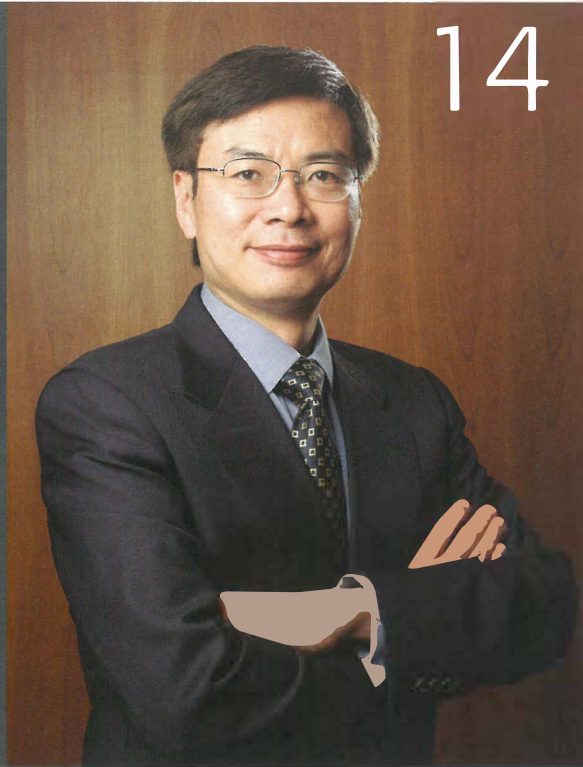
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Good Eating

分甘同味

Our monthly dining guide, Good Eating, is taking a break this month and will return in October.

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Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
香港總商會 1861

Celebrating Our 145th Anniversary



Members' standpoint

會員傳聲

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CSR: An Idea Whose Time Has Come? 企業社會責任已成氣候？

I enjoyed reading your feature article in the August edition of *The Bulletin*, titled "Corporate social responsibility: an idea whose time has come?" You raised some interesting points, not least the dilemma of CEOs using company money to practice CSR at shareholders' expense.

I believe CSR is, like anti-discrimination, something that many companies know that they should be practicing, but in reality are content to keep one eye closed to it if they can get away with it. Many people still have to endure sex, age and racial discrimination, because some bosses, for whatever reason, have certain preferences about who can and cannot work in their company. I have heard HR managers say that they prefer to hire female workers because

貴刊8月號的專題文章「企業社會責任已成氣候？」提出了好些有趣的論點。例如文中提到，行政總裁撥用公司款項來履行企業社會責任，有犧牲股東利益之嫌。

對於許多公司來說，企業社會責任與反歧視一類的原則差不多。它們理論上知道要實行，但現實中卻採取「隻眼開，隻眼閉」的態度，但求避過。不少僱主在招聘員工時，仍有著形形色色的偏好，以致性別、年齡和種族等歧視情況，依然甚多。一些人力資源經理偏好聘用女性員工，認為她們

they are more submissive. Others say younger workers have more energy. And the most flabbergasting statement that I've every heard was, 'we are not racist, we just think Chinese are better than other nationalities!'

As you hinted to in your article, companies that continue to live in their own little empire will sooner rather than later be relegated to the pages of history in the chapters on how a business should not be run. Well done for taking on such an important issue. I only hope that some businesses that continue to live in the past will sit up and take notice if they want to be competitive in the 21st century.

Yvonne Luk
Wanchai

的服從性較高；有些則認為年輕員工較有幹勁；我甚至聽過「我們並非種族歧視，只是覺得華人比其他國籍的人士更佳！」一類的論調，令人驚訝。

正如文中暗示，那些固步自封的公司，不久便會趕不上時代，也會淪為商業營運方面的反面教材。「企業社會責任」是個有意義的題目，貴刊以此為文值得一讚。那些仍舊不思進取的企業唯有醒悟過來，始能在21世紀繼續競爭。

Yvonne Luk
灣仔

工商月刊

the Bulletin

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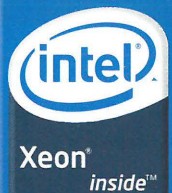
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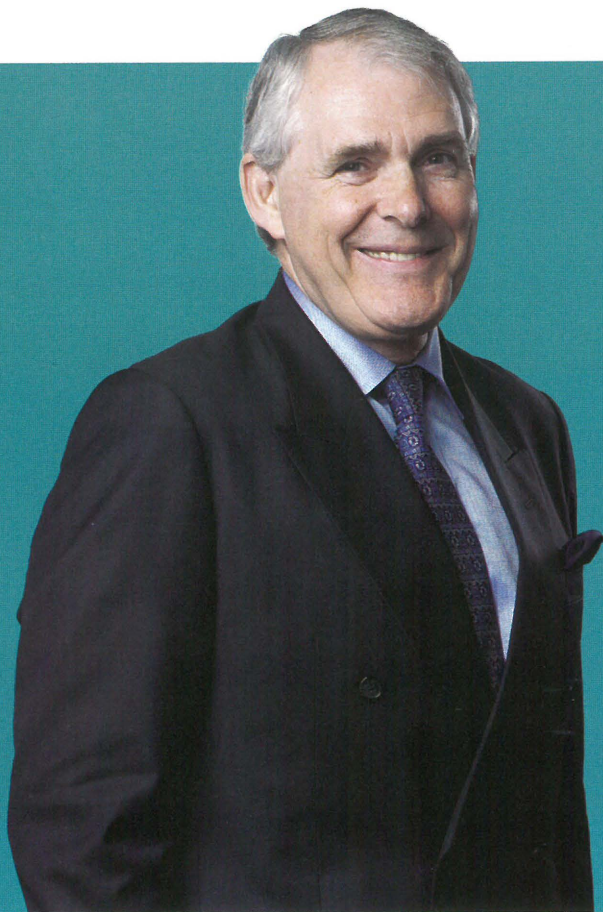
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Chairman's desk 主席之言

David Eldon 艾爾敦

The Five-Day Work Week

The Hong Kong Government in July began phasing in a five-day work week, and is urging the private sector to follow its lead. Earlier this year we wrote to the Chief Executive in support of government instituting a reduced work week, provided certain precautions and caveats could be observed.

We identified four main concerns in our letter, three of which were directly about government itself and one regarding the private sector. As you would have expected, we asked that service levels be maintained, and that services previously available to the public services previously available to the public on weekends remain available. We also urged that a close eye be kept on costs, so that the public purse would not be stretched any further. Finally, our submission emphasized that we would not support legislation compelling the private sector to follow suit; in other words it should remain a decision for business.

A principal argument in favour of working fewer days (although not necessarily fewer hours per week) is that it supports a better quality of life. By giving employees two full days a week for outside pursuits, people will have more time for their families and leisure activities. Another advantage is that commuting will be cut from 12 to 10 trips per week, saving both time and money for most employees (and, one hopes, a saving for the environment as well).

五天工作周

There is some speculation that the extra half day will encourage additional consumer spending, which may well be the case. Some of that spending, however, might be in Shenzhen or Macau, or even further afield if one of our many public holidays happens to fall on a Friday or Monday. But, if there is a small net gain (or even a loss) to spending, that shouldn't overly concern us, given the broader benefits.

Given the potential social benefits (and not everyone seems to be convinced so far), we do still need, however, to keep under review any possible negative impact on our competitiveness. We hold a prime position in Asia's business and financial environment, and a good part of the reason is that we have the ability – and the willingness – to get the job done when it needs to be done. The private sector has a built in incentive to keep an eye on competitiveness. Reviewing the situation in a year's time would be a useful exercise.

A second work week change takes place this month in the financial sector. In July, HSBC announced that starting this month it would extend some branches to seven-day opening, while simultaneously reducing the employee work week to five days. Standard Chartered quickly followed suit, saying it would keep all branches in Hong Kong open six full days a week. Between the two institutions, some 800 new jobs are expected to be created.

This extended frontline service is coming in conjunction with a move to a five-day clearing and settlement period for financial instruments, and may partly answer some of the recent criticism that banks rely on too much technology for the delivery of services. The back offices of all banks in Hong Kong will no longer clear cheques or make electronic transfers on Saturdays, which is in line with practice in the U.S., U.K., Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Australia and Singapore.

The combination of a shorter work week, longer opening hours for banks and five-day clearing and settlement should be viewed as generally positive. Those of us in offices should be able to get our work done between Monday and Friday (and, if we can't we'll still come in on the weekend). Extended banking hours are a business decision that will rightfully be evaluated on the basis of costs and benefits.

Perhaps the five-day work week will encourage weekend sports teams, hiking in the country parks and closer relations among families. My guess is that we are going to see a bit more energy on Monday mornings and maybe even a bit less time off to visit the doctor. 🌸

David Eldon is Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

香港政府於7月起分階段推行五天工作周，並鼓勵商界做法。今年初，本會曾經去信特首，支持政府引入較短工作周，同時提出幾點意見，盼當局推行時多加注意。

我們在信中提出的四點意見，其中三點與政府直接有關，另一點則與商界有關。正如大家所料，我們要求在新工作制下，政府各部門的服務水平會維持不變，而以往在周末對市民提供的公共服務亦不會取消。此外，本會促請政府密切留意有關的成本開支，避免對庫房增添壓力。我們在最後更強調，不支持當局透過立法強制商界跟隨，故此應由工商企業自行決定是否實行五天工作制。

引入較短工作周（雖然每周工作時數不一定因此而減少）的主要目的，是希望提高僱員生活質素。打工一族可善用每周兩天的休息日與家人共聚，以及進行各式工餘活動和消遣。與此同時，大部分僱員每周乘車往返公司的次數也會由12程減至10程，從中可省回時間及車資（希望這亦有助環保）。



Perhaps the five-day work week will encourage weekend sports teams, hiking in the country parks and closer relations among families. My guess is that we are going to see a bit more energy on Monday mornings and maybe even a bit less time off to visit the doctor.

依我看，五天工作周既能鼓勵員工周末多作運動、到郊外遠足或共聚天倫，那周末過後，員工個個應精神飽滿，因病告假的情況也相對減少了。

有人認為額外半天假期能促進消費，這固然是有可能的。只是，有些市民也許會過深圳或澳門消費，甚至趁著公眾假期與周末相連之時機，到外地遊玩。不過，既然五天工作周對社會市民都有裨益，又何需介懷於那點兒消費增減？

儘管推行較短工作周應有利社會（但這看法亦非人人認同），我們仍需時常檢討情況，以防削弱本港競爭力。香港在亞洲商界及金融界處於優越位置，很大程度是基於我們行動快，而且肯拼搏。時刻留意競爭形勢，一向是商界的本能。因此，於新工作制推行一年後檢討有關成效，會是可取的做法。

今月份，金融界在工作周方面亦開始實施新安排。滙豐於7月宣佈自9月起推行五天工作制，與此同時，部份分行周六及周日會延長服務時間。渣打銀行亦隨即宣佈，其本港全線分行將提供6天全日服務。兩行改動服務時間，料會新增共800多個職位空缺。

兩行延長前線服務，既配合業界的五天結算安排，也在某程度上回應了近期有批評指現今銀行服務過度依賴科技。全港銀行不再於周六結算支票或處理電子轉帳，與英、美、瑞士、德國、日本、澳洲及新加坡銀行業的做法一致。



業界推行較短工作周、延長服務時間和實施五天結算之出發點，基本上都是正面的。各行各業也應作出調適，盡量安排於周一至周五內完成工作（若未能完成，仍可於周末趕工）。銀行延長服務時間屬於商業決策，其作用如何，則要按成本和效益來評定。

依我看，五天工作周既能鼓勵員工周末多作運動、到郊外遠足或共聚天倫，那周末過後，員工個個應精神飽滿，因病告假的情況也相對減少了。✿

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Legco viewpoint 立法會視窗

Jeffrey Lam 林健鋒

Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance

Every summer, many people travel overseas to destinations like Europe and the U.S. with their families for a vacation. An alleged terrorist plot targeting Britain, a favourite destination for Hong Kong people, was reportedly thwarted early last month. According to intelligence obtained from surveillance operations over the past year, the British police successfully thwarted an alleged terrorist plot to blow up 20 planes. The incident highlights the importance of intelligence gathering by law enforcement agencies and explains why we in Hong Kong need the “Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance.”

This ordinance, passed by Legco last month, will give law enforcement agencies (Police, ICAC, Immigration and Customs and Excise) the necessary authority to gather evidence to combat certain crimes.

If the British Police had no authority to conduct covert surveillance operations, the consequences could have been disastrous. This also holds true for Hong Kong, which is why the “Interception of Communications and Surveillance Bill” has aroused extensive concern among the public. Many were looking forward to having a proper law put in place as soon as possible. Such a law will authorise law enforcement agencies to intercept communications and conduct surveillance when investigating serious offences, or handling cases concerning public safety. After all, protecting our personal safety and property as well as maintaining Hong Kong’s order is essential.

In deliberating the Bill, the respective Bills Committee that I am a member of and the government convened 52 meetings over four months. We had 130 hours of

in-depth discussions – which is definitely a new record – and also met with many organisations and individuals during the process.

A lot of suggestions were raised to ensure that freedom of communication, privacy and human rights would be amply and properly protected. The government adopted many of those suggestions and made 189 amendments to perfect the Bill to ensure that Hong Kong people's human rights and privacy will not be unreasonably infringed upon. Therefore, I voted for these amendments proposed by the government.

However, the legislation was considered a hasty move by some legislators. They proposed including a sunset clause in the Bill, stipulating that the Ordinance would lapse by August 2008, which would mean that the government would have to review the Ordinance 15 months beforehand. I did not vote for this amendment for a number of reasons. Firstly, the inclusion of a sunset clause is rare internationally, and it is usually added only when a law is made hastily in an emergency. For instance, the USA Patriot Act was submitted to the U.S. Parliament 21 days after the 9-11 incident, and hastily passed without any amendment in 3 weeks. Because the Patriot Act was enacted under extreme emergency for the sake of national security, and – most importantly – dramatically expanded the authority of American law enforcement in fights against terrorist acts, it was necessary to impose a clause stipulating the Act will lapse two years later for further review.

In the case of Hong Kong's "Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance," however, Legco had meticulously deliberated the Bill. Moreover, it contains sufficient provisions for the protection of human rights and privacy. The government has also promised to review the Ordinance at the end of 2009. Given the above considerations, my view is that the addition of a sunset provision is unnecessary.

Apart from the sunset provision, the legal sector was also concerned about the "legal professional privilege." To ensure confidentiality of communications between lawyers and their clients, the government proposed amendments which specify that interception of communications or surveillance on lawyers are unauthorised unless there is reasonable ground to suspect that a lawyer is involved in serious offence or poses a threat to public safety. I supported the amendments because they strengthened the protection on "legal professional privilege" substantially. I support the idea that waivers should not be given to lawyers under the Ordinance as they may possibly commit an offence or crime.

Some legislators were concerned that the government could use the Ordinance to monitor and suppress peaceful political activities, which is why they asked for a definition of the term "public safety." To ease their worries, the government amended to the Bill to clearly define that peaceful expression of views will not be regarded as a threat to public safety. In other words, public meetings such as peaceful demonstrations and protests will not be subject to scrutiny and surveillance, thus civil rights of the general public are amply safeguarded.

I supported the government's amendments in this respect. In fact, the Bill states that snooping operations will only be conducted when reasonable grounds exist that a serious offence has been, or is about to be committed. Such operations must also obtain approval from a panel of judges or Senior Superintendents of Police. Moreover, the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance will oversee the enforcement framework.

Meanwhile, I will continue to closely watch enforcement of the Ordinance to ensure it will not be abused, and that human rights and the public's privacy will not be unreasonably infringed upon.✿

If you have any views or comments, please send them to me directly at jefflam@fowind.com.hk, or visit my Website at www.jeffreykflam.com

Jeffrey Lam is the Chamber's Legco Representative.

截取通訊及 監察條例

暑假期間，不少人會趁機外遊，和家人暢遊歐洲和美國等地，舒緩工作的疲累。可是港人愛到的英國，於上月初卻出現恐怖襲擊的陰謀。英國警方憑藉過去一年對可疑分子的追蹤和監察，成功搗破一個可能涉及炸毀 20 架飛機的恐怖襲擊集團。事件足以反映執法人員收集情報的重要性，亦證明了上月在本港立法會通過的《截取通訊及監察條例》，可有助執法人員（警隊、廉署、海關、和入境處）取得合理授權，更有效地打擊罪案，保障港人安全。

假若英國警方無權追蹤調查，後果堪虞。對香港而言，亦是一樣。故此《截取通訊及監察條例》草案備受市民關注，他們均希望政府盡早立法，讓執法人員有法可依，就嚴重罪行或涉及公共安全的案件，進行截取通訊及秘密監察，以維護香港的治安，保障港人的財產和人身安全。

在草案的審議過程中，我們法案委員會與政府當局，破紀錄於 4 個月內舉行了 52 次會議，雙方深入討論了共 130 小時，亦接見了不少團體和人士。期間在保障市民的通訊自由、私隱和人權方面，我們提出了不少意見。政府亦從善如流，作出了共 189 項修訂，以確保市民的人權和私隱不會受到無理侵犯。故此，我對政府的修訂亦作出支持。

“Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance” will give law enforcement agencies the necessary authority to gather evidence to combat certain crimes.

《截取通訊及監察條例》有助執法人員取得合理授權，更有效地打擊罪案，保障港人安全。

但是，有議員以政府倉卒立法為由，提出於草案中加入具爭議性的「日落條款」，規定條例於 2008 年 8 月停止生效，迫令政府於 15 個月前全面檢討條例。本人對於此修正案並沒有支持。首先，「日落條款」在外國甚少獲得引用，通常在很緊急立法的情況下才用。例如，美國的《愛國者條例》(USA Patriot Act) 是在 911 事件後第 21 天提交國會，三星期後沒有經過修訂便倉卒通過。由於此條例是為保障國家安全而緊急立法，賦予執法當局極大的權力反恐，所以有必要於兩年後自動失效，以再作檢討。但《截取通訊及監察條例》是經過立法會詳細的反覆討論，過程絕不馬虎了事，條例亦充分保障了人權和私隱；再者，政府當局亦答允了於 2009 年底對條例作出檢討，故本人認為無必要加上「日落條款」。

除了日落條款，法律界亦關注「法律專業保密權」的保障。為了確保律師與客人之間的私隱，政府提出修訂，指明除非有合理理由，懷疑有關律師參與嚴重罪行或威脅公共安全，否則不得授權，對有關律師進行監察或截聽。我認為這修訂已大大提高了對法律專業保密權的保障，故作出了支持。畢竟，律師亦有干犯罪行的可能，不應受到條例的豁免。

此外，有議員也關注政府會否利用這條例對和平的政治活動作出監控和打壓，提議政府於條例中就「公共安全」作出定義。為了釋除疑慮，政府亦作出修訂，明確規定和平表達意見，將不同被視為對公共安全構成威脅。換言之，只要集會是一般的和平示威抗議活動，根本就不會受到監察或竊聽，市民的基本權利亦會得到保障，故此，本人支持政府的修訂。事實上，當局亦訂明只會對有合理懷疑的嚴重罪行，作出截聽和秘密監察，而有關行動亦要獲得小組法官或總警司的授權才會進行。整個執行機制亦受到截取通訊及監察事務專員的監察，對未獲授權監察的人士作出通知和賠償。故此，一般市民和商業機構毋須擔心他們的私隱會被侵犯。

條例經過立法會 4 日馬拉松式審議後，終於在 8 月 6 日凌晨份通過。儘管如此，我亦不會鬆懈，繼續監察條例的執行，以確保執法人員不會濫用權力，和市民的人權及私隱不會受到無理的侵犯。風雨過後，我們現可看到執法人員繼續維持香港作為一個安全、廉潔的城市。

歡迎您把意見和看法直接寄給我：電郵 jefflam@fowind.com.hk；或進入本人網頁：www.jeffreykflam.com

林健鋒為香港總商會立法會代表。



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CEO comments 總裁之見

Alex Fong 方志偉

A New Chapter

I suppose in one way my appointment as CEO of the Chamber marks the end of one phase of my career, and the beginning of another. Luckily for me, and hopefully for the Chamber, the experience gained during my service in the government in various capacities has many similarities to the work of the Chamber. I intend to use these experiences to promote the interests of the Chamber, its members, and the business community.

While there are many similarities, I also realize that I have a good deal to learn and that the organization of the Chamber is quite different from that of the government. Not least is the fact that the Chamber is essentially a membership-based organization and one which generates an independent voice of the business sector.

Most other similar organizations, not only in Hong Kong but internationally, specialize in certain segments, with some of them being professional, functionally or ethically oriented, and others supported with government funding. The Chamber is unique in that it is broadly based, has no need of financial support from the government and has a membership whose collective experience and counsel are prodigious.

The Chamber's role for the past 145 years has been to ensure that it can provide the right kind of service to members, and assist in the development of Hong Kong in general through the use of members' knowledge and skills. I cherish that tradition, and with a 145-year history to back it up, few would argue that the Chamber's guiding philosophy over the decades has not been right on track.

As I begin my work in the Chamber, I will be formulating ideas to implement continuous improvements in services to members. I have no preconceived goals and I am a firm believer that any good organization must be flexible and must adapt itself to the changing needs of its customers, or in our case, you the members.

Members form the heart of the Chamber, since without you there would be no Chamber. I hope that I will be able to meet with many of you very soon and that you will be able to find time to share with me any ideas that you may have about improving the Chamber's services, so that we can use them to further our pre-eminent position in Hong Kong. 🌸

Alex Fong is CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

新的一章

獲委任為總商會總裁，標誌著我事業上某個階段的結束，以及另一個階段的新開始。幸運的是，過去效力政府期間，我曾經肩負的一些職務與總商會的工作性質很相似。希望這些經驗，會有助我處理商會事務，以及能對總商會、會員及商界有所裨益。

不過，儘管有類似經驗，我仍有很多地方需要學習。總商會的架構有別於政府部門，而且是一個以服務會員為主，與及表達商界聲音的獨立組織。

在本港和外地的其他同類團體，有些是專業組織，有些是功能團體或有不同地理背景的商會，它們當中有一部分更獲得政府資助。總商會的獨特之處在於服務廣大商界，財政獨立及毋需政府資助。我們的會員包括各行各業的翹楚和精英，當中所匯聚之經驗和觀點極之可貴。

過去 145 年，總商會一直致力為會員提供適切服務，並善用會員的專業知識和睿智，協助香港特區整體發展。我重視這個傳統，而回看本會過去 145 年的成就，相信我們的辦會宗旨是無容置疑的。

上任後，我將構思如何繼續改進會員服務，我現時沒有一些既定的目標，因為我深信任何出色的機構，最重要是善於靈活變通，以迎合客戶（在我們而言，則是各位會員）因時而異的各種需要。

會員是本會的核心，沒有你們，便沒有總商會。我期望盡快有機會與大家見面。若你對改善本會服務有任何建議，歡迎與我分享，讓我們得以不斷進步，提供更卓越的服務。 🌸

方志偉為香港總商會總裁。

Alex Fong Takes the Helm

香港總商會新任總裁——方志偉

Bulletin: You have enjoyed a long career as a civil servant, why did you decide to join the private sector?

Alex Fong: I heard about the opening when I was still in Japan, and as my tenure in Tokyo was coming to an end, I decided to look into it. Basically, I think life is a journey through different stages of development: identity building when one is receiving education, career building at the early stage of work life, family building as one learns how to support dependents and then new life building as dependents gradually assume more responsibilities to handle their own affairs. This is the stage when one would shift his focus to take up challenges that can make use of all previously accumulated experiences. I see taking up the challenge as CEO of the Chamber as the start of a new life building stage for myself. I hope what I offer will also fit in well with what the Chamber requires at her present stage of development. I'm really looking forward to it.

B: Do you see any conflict of interest?

AF: No. Quite a few government bureaux are headed by people with rich private-sector experience. Similarly, there are numerous examples of people taking up senior positions in the private sector after leaving government, so it is nothing unusual.

The government tightened their rules in January this year on civil servants leaving active

The Chamber's new CEO took up the reins of HKGCC on September 1. *Bulletin* Editor Malcolm Ainsworth spoke with Mr Fong about his work as a civil servant and his expectations in his new role leading the Chamber. Following are excerpts from that interview.

本會新任總裁方志偉先生於9月1日履新。本刊總編輯麥爾康今期專誠訪問方先生，聽他談以往的公共服務經驗，以及對未來工作之期望。下文乃當天訪問的內容精華。

service to take up outside employment, and my application as Chamber CEO was subject to these new rules.

Cross-fertilization of experience between people in the public and private sectors is common in the USA and Japan, where I served as Hong Kong SAR's representative. I think such exchanges can help the private and public sectors to gain a better understanding of each other. Those involved in the exchange can bring new ideas to the organizations affected by these changes.

B: What expectations do you have as CEO of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce?

AF: I see my role as a bridge between the business sector and other sectors that are of interest to the business sector. I hope that I can leverage my experience in the workings of the public sector and my past work in promoting the business role of Hong Kong in the regional and international context to serve the





leadership and members of the Chamber. I also hope that I will be able to work with the leadership, members and staff to develop new initiatives that will advance the economic interest of Hong Kong and our members. I've played a bridging role in many of my previous postings, such as Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York and as Principal Hong Kong Economic and Trade Representative in Tokyo. This new position will allow me to play a bridging role from a different vantage point.

B: Are there any areas of the Chamber's operations that you feel can be further enhanced, or have the greatest potential?

I see the Chamber playing three main roles in three spheres. The three roles are the macro role – as the voice of business; the micro role – as facilitator of business; and the collaborator role – providing supporting services to members. The three spheres are Hong Kong, China and international.

As the premiere business organization in Hong Kong, the Chamber has been doing very well on all fronts. What I would like to ensure, as the new CEO, is that the existing operations can have continuous improvement. We will, of course, also be looking for new opportunities for growth. It would be premature for me to go into any specifics at this point, as I have just come on board and haven't had the opportunity to carefully study the

workings of the Chamber. I will be keeping members up to date on our plans as they evolve and I look forward to hearing suggestions from members.

B: What do you expect will be your biggest challenge?

AF: There are many similarities with this job and my previous postings, but one thing that differs is that the Chamber is a membership-based organization. Unlike government or government-funded organizations, which have access to public resources to do their work, the Chamber is a private organization which has to operate on a self-financing basis. I will need to make sure that the Chamber remains lean but at the same time can continue to provide relevant and high quality services to her members and the community.

B: You have worked as Secretary of the Hong Kong Port and Maritime Board, and headed Hong Kong's Economic and Trade Offices in New York, and Tokyo, how do you think these experiences will help you at the Chamber?

AF: These postings have helped me to appreciate better the roles of Hong Kong in the broader regional and international context, where opportunities for our future growth will lie. For example, my posting in the Hong Kong Port and Maritime Board has taught me ways to approach competitive analysis. My postings in New York and Tokyo have taught me what to look out for in relationship management. These experiences, I believe would be of tremendous help to me in my new role as the CEO of the chamber.

B: Your overseas postings have allowed you to look from the outside into Hong Kong, rather than inside out. Do you think this vantage point has given you a clearer picture of our advantages and challenges? And what do you think are the three major challenges for Hong Kong in the years ahead as seen from the eyes of someone outside Hong Kong?

AF: The major difference is that when people look at you from the outside, they review what you have against what are of interest to them.



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On the political front, I think people outside of Hong Kong are watching whether our future political system will evolve in such a way that we can maintain harmony, but at the same time preserve diversity.

On the economic front, the key concerns would be how we can sustain our role as the hub for the flow of people, goods, services, money and information after China has fully implemented her WTO obligations.

On the social front, I believe people outside of Hong Kong are watching to see what we are doing to improve our physical and human environment so as to ensure that the Hong Kong SAR remains a favoured city in which to live and do business.

B: Have concerns about Hong Kong in the minds of business people overseas changed over the years?

AF: Before unification, during my posting in New York, the predominant question put to me as Hong Kong's Director in New York was whether Hong Kong would survive the transfer of sovereignty. After unification, during my posting in Tokyo, the main issue on people's mind was whether Hong Kong will survive the competition from other cities in China. Hong Kong is often seen in the context of threats posed to us. What changes is the nature of the threats. What does not change is that Hong Kong has shown time and again that she is able to turn threats into opportunities.

B: On a more personal note, what were the biggest difficulties you faced during your postings in New York and Tokyo?

AF: I was lucky to be posted in two metropolitan cities in the East and the West, where I could experience the two extreme ends of individualism and collectivism. For New York, the sheer size of the area that I had to cover from New York (31 states) with a small staff complement was a challenge. For Tokyo, I would have to say that language and culture were the biggest obstacles. As someone who does not speak the language, when I first arrived in Japan, even simple things like getting around and ordering food were difficult at first. It also took time to decipher some of the cultural codes, but I was fortunate to have had very experienced staff in my offices to help me navigate through these challenges until I became acclimatised.

B: Would you like to go back and work there again some day?

I guess New York and Tokyo have both become my second homes after having lived in each city for four years, but there is no place like Hong Kong and this is where my heart will always be. ❀



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問：你是資深的公務員，為何決定加入商界？

答：我知悉有關空缺時仍身在日本工作。後來當我知道東京的職務快要結束，我便開始考慮應否嘗試。我覺得人生是一個有不同發展階段的旅程：求學時建立自我形象；畢業後投身社會，開始建立事業；有了家庭之後，則學習照顧和維繫家庭；到子女日漸長大和獨立時，又再開展另一種新生活。現階段正好是個轉捩點，既能善用往日累積之經驗來迎接新挑戰，更是我人生中新的一頁。因為出任總商會總裁是個挑戰，希望我的能力和經驗能配合總商會目前的發展需要。故此對於新崗位的一切，我充滿期待。

問：這會否存在利益衝突？

答：不會。某些政府部門主管，擁有資深的私人機構背景。同樣，不少公務員離開政府後，亦在私人機構出任要職。所以，這情況並非罕見。

今年1月，政府收緊了公務員離任後轉職其他機構的政策。我申請總商會總裁一職，亦

完全
符合當局
的新規定。

我曾先後出任駐美國和駐日本的香港特區代表。在這兩個國家，私人機構和公營機構人員交流經驗十分普遍，這有助公、私營業界彼此加深認識，參與交流的人員也能为所屬機構帶來新意念。

問：你對香港總商會總裁這角色有什麼期望？

答：我會扮演商界和其他與商界息息相關的界別之間的橋樑角色。我投身公共服務多年，也曾從事向亞洲和國際推廣香港商務的工作，希望這些經驗會對總商會領導層有幫助，亦能對會員帶來裨益。另外，我期望與本會領導層和職員緊密合作，以及與會員多作溝通，一起構思能促進香港經濟之良策，並盡力為會員謀福。我以往曾在其他崗位上扮演橋樑角色，例如香港駐紐約經濟貿易辦事處處長及香港駐東京經濟貿易首席代表等。在總商會的新崗位上，我會從另一個位置來擔當橋樑的角色。

問：你認為本會營運上有哪些範疇可以加強？或很具潛力，值得進一步發揮？

答：據我理解，總商會在香港、中國和國際這三個領域裡，發揮三大角色：第一是作為商界之聲，反映商界意見；第二是促進營商；第三是合作，為會員提供支援服務。

作為本港主要商會，總商會在各方面已有很出色的表現。在總裁之崗位上，我將致力令本會運作繼續進步，與此同時，亦會積極尋

求新的發展機遇。由於我上任不久，尚未有機會深入了解本會營運情況，故現階段不宜發表具體的想法。日後如有任何新計劃，我定會讓會員知悉有關進展和詳情，也期望聆聽會員的意見。

問：上任後，你預見的最大挑戰是什麼？

答：現時的工作與我過往曾擔任的一些職務很相似，分別在於總商會是個會員制組織，不像政府或政府資助機構，靠公共資源來維持運作。本會是自負盈虧的私營機構，我要維持本會架構精簡，並繼續為會員和社會提供合適以及優質的服務。

問：你曾出任香港港口及航運局秘書，及先後領導紐約和東京的香港經濟貿易辦事處。這些經驗，對你現時的職務可有幫助？

答：以往的工作任命，有助我深入瞭解香港在地區和國際層面所扮演的角色，而這亦關乎香港未來的增長機遇。舉例說，出任香港港口及航運局秘書期間，我有機會學習競爭力分析的技巧；在紐約和東京擔任經貿代表時，則有機會學習關係管理的要點。這些經驗，對我現時總裁之職務應有幫助。

問：在外工作數年，會否有助你更客觀地看清香港的優勢和挑戰？你認為在「外人」眼中，香港未來要面對的三大挑戰是甚麼？

答：外地人看香港，最大的分別是他們所關心的香港事務，皆與他們的利益有關。



會否順利過度政權移交。回歸之後，我被派駐東京，日本商界則關心香港與其他內地城市之間的競爭。在外地，有關香港的提問，人們總聯想到我們正面對之危機或問題。這些挑戰，固然不斷在變，但我們卻一再向國際社會證明，香港擁有善於應變、轉危為機的特質。

在政治方面，我認為其他地區都在留意香港的政制發展方向，也關注我們的社會能否保持和諧並保持多樣化。

經濟方面，焦點則落在中國全面履行入世承諾之後，我們怎樣維持香港作為區內人才、貨物、服務、資金和資訊樞紐的角色。

社會方面，相信其他地區都在密切注視我們如何改善香港居住及社會環境，令這城市繼續適合安居和營商。

問：這些年來，海外商界對香港提出的關注有否轉變？

答：回歸前，我被派駐紐約，在當地常被問到香港

問：對你個人而言，被派駐紐約和東京工作所面對的最大困難是甚麼？

答：紐約和東京，分別是西方和東方先進發達的大都會。我有幸被派駐兩地工作，能深刻體會到「個人主義」和「集體主義」社會之不同。在紐約，我們的人手不多，但要負責 31 個美國州份的經貿事宜，無疑是一大挑戰。在東京，我認為語言和文化是最大的障礙。由於不諳日語，初到時有關應付起居飲食的事情都不容易。再者，理解當地文化禮儀亦需要時間。幸好東京辦事處的同事都經驗豐富而且樂於幫忙，助我順利適應新環境。

問：你希望他日重回當地工作嗎？

答：我在兩地分別生活了 4 年，它們都成了我第二個家，但我始終心繫香港，沒有其他城市能與之比擬。✿



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21 Year in Hong Kong

First Half Trade Still Strong

上半年貿易仍然強勁

By David O'Rear

歐大衛



Hong Kong's two-way foreign trade in the first half of the year rose 9.5% over January-June 2005, a respectable, but slowing pace. After four quarters of averaging better than 12% growth – and four years at an average of nearly 13% p.a. – trade expanded just 6.5% in the second quarter.

The trend is exactly in line with that of China: Q-2 2006 was the slowest quarter for growth in two-way trade in both WTO member jurisdictions since the same period in 2002. The first graph illustrates the very close correlation between China's trade and that of the HKSAR.

The results shouldn't be too much of a surprise, but they do have important implications for the next year or two. Re-exports to and from China have become a much more important feature of Hong Kong's trade landscape, rising from less than one quarter of total exports 30 years ago to more than 90% today (see second graph). Anyone who hasn't figured out by now that "as goes China, so goes Hong Kong" hasn't been paying attention.

It has been a particularly good ride since 2002. China's two-way trade in the second quarter of this year (US\$426.8 billion) was 185.7% larger than four years earlier. Hong Kong's trade was 57.4% larger, at \$155.3 billion. In essence, for every dollar increase in China trade, Hong Kong makes 20 cents. Not a bad commission, I should think.

But all good things must come to an end, eventually. As the table indicates, the slowdown from the first to the second quarter was across-the-board. What's interesting is that the June growth figures are better, in many cases, than those for the second quarter as a whole. That's because May, at a mere 1.3% year-on-year growth, was the slowest increase in two-way trade in four years (excepting a couple of Chinese New Year seasonality factors).

Why was May 2006 such a poor month? After all, China's trade was growing 23.5% that month and U.S. imports were up a very robust 16%. Re-exports to China were slow (less than 2% growth), and as half of all re-exports (and more

Hong Kong's First Half Trade (percent change year-on-year)

	June	Q-2	Q-1	6 months
Domestic exports	16.5%	19.9%	38.7%	28.6%
Re-exports	6.2	4.6	10.8	7.5
Total exports	6.7	5.4	12.2	8.5
Imports	9.9	8.1	13.7	10.8
Two-way trade	8.3	6.5	13.0	9.5

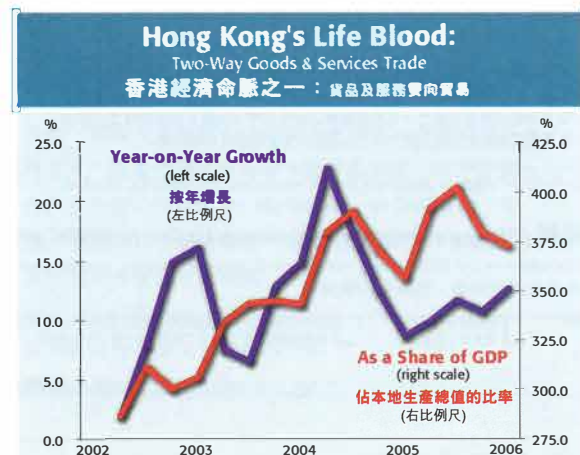
than 1/5th of all trade), but not slow enough. It turns out the other side of that re-export trade, the U.S., was much more important.

Declining imports from, and re-exports to the U.S. accounted for most of the slowdown in Hong Kong's trade in May of this year. That is puzzling, as U.S. imports were quite healthy, as noted above. One has to assume that more of the trade between the U.S. and China bypassed Hong Kong than before, which leads to the important implications for the next year or two.

The U.S. economy is clearly slowing, and China is determined to reduce its own break-neck pace of expansion to something closer to the speed limit. When either of those happens – the U.S. dips into recession or China reins in the roaring dragon – Hong Kong will slump. If both happen at the same time, it is going to get very rough indeed.

The last graph shows how important trade is to Hong Kong's economy. Four out of every five dollars of valued added in this economy arises from trade. When trade slows, its share of the economy rises, because so much of the rest of the bits and pieces – business travel, retail sales, property prices, banking services, transportation and communications – have a very strong link to the movement of goods and services into and out of Hong Kong. 🌸

David O'Rear is the Chamber's Chief Economist.
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HONG KONG ECO-BUSINESS AWARDS 香港環保企業獎

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環保實踐創意獎
- Green SME Award
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Goal of the Awards

The Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards are designed to honour businesses in Hong Kong that are committed to environmental management and to educate organisations in the benefits of environmental management.

獎項目的

香港環保企業獎除了獎勵那些致力推行環保管理的香港企業外, 也教育各行各業認識環保管理的好處。

Themes

Waste Reduction and Energy Conservation with particular focus on Clean Air are the main environmental themes for this year. The organisers would like to take this opportunity to inform business sector that every small step taken by them to support the clean-air and waste reduction initiatives in their daily operations can help reduce air pollution and soothe the pressure to the landfills. The organisers thus increase the weighted scores on the aspects of Waste Reduction, Energy Conservation and Clean Air. Applicant organisations which are outstanding in these aspects in their operations will obtain higher scores in the assessment process.

主題

「減少廢物」及「節約能源」是本屆環保企業獎的主要環保主題。而「清新空氣」是「節約能源」中的重點。主辦機構希望能透過這些主題, 讓香港企業明白只要在業務中的每一個小節上配合, 便能減低能源消耗及廢物, 更有助減低空氣污染及舒緩堆填區的壓力。主辦機構會在評審標準中加重有關廢物管理、節約能源及空氣質素的評分比例。參賽機構若能在上述主題中有出色表現, 將會取得更好的分數。

"Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards" logo is designed by the renowned architect Dr. Ho Tao.

「香港環保企業獎」標誌由著名建築師何燏博士設計。

Activity 活動安排	Date 日期
Green SMEs Day 中小企環保日	18 August 2006 2006年8月18日
2006 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards Launching Ceremony cum Wastewi\$e Logo Presentation 2006香港環保企業獎開幕典禮暨明智減廢標誌頒獎典禮	6 September 2006 2006年9月6日
Eco-Business Seminars 環保企業研討會	20 & 26 September and 4 October 2006 2006年9月20及26日、10月4日
Application Deadline 截止申請日期	16 October 2006 2006年10月16日
Preliminary Screening and Detailed Assessment 初步遴選和詳細評估	17 October 2006 – Late January 2007 2006年10月17日 – 2007年1月尾
Final Judging 最終評選	March 2007 2007年3月
Awards Presentation 頒獎典禮	July 2007 2007年7月

Wastewi\$e Scheme

明智減廢計劃

Concurrent with the Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards Scheme is the Wastewi\$e Scheme. The Wastewi\$e Scheme aims to commend and recognise waste reduction efforts of commercial and industrial companies and to promote waste minimisation, collection/recycling of recyclables and buying/manufacturing of recycled products.

與「香港環保企業獎」獎勵計劃同時進行的另一項重點活動是「明智減廢計劃」。明智減廢計劃的目的是表揚及嘉許積極消滅廢物的機構, 提倡減少廢物量, 收集可回收的廢物循環再造, 選購或生產含再造物料的產品。

Wastewi\$e Scheme Organisers:

明智減廢計劃主辦機構:



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Yes! Our company is interested in the 2006 Hong Kong Eco-Business Awards, please send us further information on:

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- Green Property Management Awards (Commercial & Industrial Buildings, Public and Private Housing)
環保物業管理獎(商業及工業樓宇, 公營及私營房屋)
- Wastewi\$e Scheme
明智減廢計劃
- Eco-Business Seminars (Free of charge)
環保企業研討會(免費)

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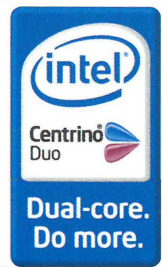
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For further information, please visit the ECC's homepage at <http://www.ecc.org.hk/eco-b> or call the Eco-B hotline at 2788 5619.

如需更詳細的資料, 請參閱環境保護運動委員會網頁 <http://www.ecc.org.hk/eco-b> 或電 2788 5619 環保企業熱線。

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香港上半年進出口貿易較去年同期(2005年1月至6月)上升9.5%，增長尚好但較慢。經過連續4個季度平均增幅超過12%，還有這4年來平均年增長接近13%，今年第2季度貿易增長卻僅得6.5%。

中國那邊，情形亦一樣：中國和香港皆世貿成員，兩地2006年第2季之雙向貿易增長步伐均為2002年同期以來最慢。圖1說明中港兩地在貿易方面的密切關係。

雖然這結果並不足為奇，但它們對未來一、兩年的情況有所啟示。對中國的轉口貿易已成為香港貿易的一大特色，佔本港總出口比率亦由30年前不足25%，上升至現今的90%以上(見圖2)。由此可見，中港兩地貿易緊緊相繫。

自2002年起，兩地之貿易增長尤其理想。中國今年第2季雙向貿易達4,268億美元，較4年前大增185.7%；同期香港貿易額為1,553億，增長57.4%。簡單地說，中國貿易每多賺一元，當中有2毫便會流進香港的口袋裡，這樣的佣金也不算差。

然而，凡事總有盡時。下表顯示，在第1至第2季期間，貿易表現全面放緩。有趣的是，6月份增長較第2季整體為佳。原因是5月份的按年增幅只有1.3%，是4年來最低之雙向貿易增長(農曆新年一類的季節性低潮除外)。

為何2006年5月份貿易表現如此欠佳？該月份中國貿易增加23.5%，美國進口亦升16%。對中國的轉口貿易增長減慢(增幅小於2%)，佔轉口貿易總額一半(佔整體貿易五分之一以上)，增速也未算過慢。問題其實與轉口貿易的另一對象——美國有關。

美國進口下降，對當地的轉口亦減少，是導致本港5月份貿易放緩的主要原因。基於上文提過，近年美國進口頗佳，這情況不免令人感到疑惑。若中美間經香港進行之貿易活動減少，未來一、兩年本港經濟將受到重大影響。

美國經濟明顯正放緩，中國則決定減慢其過快的經濟增長步伐。無論是美國經濟步入衰退，抑或中國壓抑經濟過熱，都將拖慢香港經濟增長。要是兩者同時發生，香港的情況會更為不妙。

最後一圖顯示貿易對香港經濟的重要性。本港經濟每進帳5元，有4元是來自貿易。當貿易放緩，香港經濟也會大受影響，因為許多行業和範疇，如商務旅遊、零售、物業價格、銀行服務、運輸和通訊等，均與香港的貨品及服務貿易息息相關。

香港上半年貿易 (按年變動百分比)

	6月	第2季	第1季	6個月
本地出口	16.5%	19.9%	38.7%	28.6%
轉口	6.2	4.6	10.8	7.5
出口總額	6.7	5.4	12.2	8.5
進口	9.9	8.1	13.7	10.8
雙向貿易	8.3	6.5	13.0	9.5

歐大衛為香港總商會首席經濟師，

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Juggling China's Trade Surplus and Exchange Rates

China's trade surplus last year broke the US\$100 billion barrier, sparking a barrage of protectionist measures from its trading partners. The surge in foreign exchange earnings also affected the Central Bank's monetary policies. China was hoping to reduce its trade surplus this year, but in the first six months of 2006, its trade surplus reached US\$61.45 billion, up 55% over the same period last year. No doubt the annual trade surplus will far exceed last year's total, despite a slew of macro-economic control measures introduced this year to cool down the economy. So the question has to be asked, how can China get its trade surplus under control?

Adjustment of export tax rebate inevitable
Despite the slight appreciation of the renminbi, China's exports still have an edge on price over their competitors. Consequently, adjusting the export tax rebate rate might be a more effective means to curb exports. Moreover, selective rebate adjustments can be applied selectively to cool specific sectors or products. China's export tax rebate policy came into effect in 1985. At the time, the value-added tax

(VAT) rate and export tax rebate rate for coal and agricultural products was 5-7% and 3% respectively. For industrial products, VAT was 13% and the rebate rate was 10%, while a 17% VAT was slapped on other products and the rebate rate was 14%.

In 1996, the Central Government reduced the tax rebate by half due to fiscal needs. However, as China's export growth dropped to almost zero in 1998 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis, in July 1999 the government revised the value-added tax rate to 13% and 17% in two categories, and adjusted the export rebate tax rate upwards.

China's rapid export growth since 1999 has been due in no small measure to the high export tax rebate rate. Therefore, cutting the rate is believed to be an effective way to curb export growth. Nevertheless, as China is free from fiscal pressures at the moment and with employment still a major concern of the authorities, at the time of writing, the Central Government had not yet taken any steps to adjust the export tax rebate rate.

中國的貿易順差和匯率

By Ruby Zhu 朱丹

Accelerating appreciation of the yuan

Since July 2005, the renminbi has appreciated by 4%, far below market expectations. China is still reserved about speeding up appreciation of its currency for fear of its impact on employment. Another concern is the mountain of hot money being speculated on RMB appreciation.

Speculators betting on the renminbi rising could have made more money investing in China's real estate or industrial markets. In the past few years, we have seen 17 interest rate hikes (each by 0.25) for the US-dollar, while the renminbi deposit interest rate has been raised only once by 0.27% in 2004. Therefore, the difference in interest rates between the US dollar and RMB is over 3%, but the RMB has appreciated by just 3.5% so far. Taking into account the transaction cost, speculators are losing instead of gaining. In this respect, the Central Bank has won the battle against speculators, yet it has had to pay the price of losing flexibility in monetary policy to a certain extent.

Speeding up appreciation of the yuan would benefit China in a number of ways. As global energy and raw material prices are high, the revaluation could help lower the cost of economic development. Moreover, this would boost imports and domestic consumption, while at the same time weaken demand for exports. This would help China's export-oriented economy gradually shift to one driven by domestic consumption, which is particularly important when the global economy slows.

However, fears are high that a surge of hot money will flood in if the government decides to speed up appreciation of the renminbi, and the resulting decrease in exports would hurt employment. As we all know, labour shortages in the Mainland are driving up wages, so the rising yuan's impact on employment would be insignificant unless the appreciation were substantial (over 10%). As for the influx of hot money, given that China's capital accounts are still controlled, foreign funds can only flow into China through trade surplus, direct investment in QFII and foreign currencies that Mainland residents are allowed to hold. Moreover,

the Chinese authorities can tighten control on the inflow of hot money. To this end, the Central Government has introduced a slew of measures, such as the latest restrictions on foreign investment in the Mainland's real estate market. It is expected that the effects of these steps will be seen soon.

In a nutshell, adjusting the export tax rebate rate or stepping up the pace of renminbi appreciation, or both, are possible ways for the Central Government to rein in its trade surplus. An across-the-board adjustment in the export tax rebate rate is unlikely, because the targets will probably be energy or labour intensive industries, and high polluting sectors focusing on low-end products. The speed of the renminbi revaluation may be quicker than last year, but it is unlikely to exceed 5% in the second half of this year. ❀



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去年中國的貿易順差突破 1 千億美元，已經令到貿易摩擦四起，外匯儲備激增，為央行的貨幣政策帶來困擾。去年中國就希望今年的貿易順差可以減少，但實際上，上半年的貿易順差已達 614.5 億美元，較去年同期增加 55%，全年的順差也勢必超過去年。今年的宏觀經濟調控措施雖然不斷出臺，迄今為止仍然溫和，貿易順差不斷增長的勢頭究竟會否得到遏制？

調整出口退稅勢在必行

中國的出口產品仍然以價格優勢佔全球市場，人民幣小幅升值對出口的影響幾乎沒有。當然，除了人民幣升值會打擊出口，出口退稅率的調整將是更為有效的方式，因為調整出口退稅可以有選擇性的針對某些行業和產品。事實上，中國的出口退稅制度始於 1985 年，當年的增值稅率和出口退稅率分別是：煤炭和農產品徵 5% 到 7% 退 3%；工業品徵 13% 退 10%；其他貨品徵 17% 退 14%。

1996 年，政府基於財政壓力，將退稅率減半。亞洲金融風暴令 1998 年中國出口增長跌至近乎零，故 1999 年 7 月時增值稅改為 13% 和 17% 兩種，並調高出口退稅率。

99 年之後的出口迅速增長源自中國的較高出口退稅率，因此調整出口退稅率將是減慢出口增長的十分有效方式。中國目前並無財政壓力，而就業的增長似乎更為政府所關注，因此到筆者截稿之時，還未見出口退稅的調整措施。

人民幣加快升值的步伐

在去年 7 月至今的一年內，人民幣僅小幅升值 4%，遠遠低於市場的預期。也未顯現對出口的負面影響。人民幣未能以較快速度升值，除了中央政府要考慮到對就業的影響外，太多的熱錢流入中國博人民幣升值也是主要原因，央行不想讓這些投機的熱錢將中國當提款機。

事實上，博人民幣升值的熱錢如果沒有投資中國的資產市場或實業的話，近幾年全部都虧本。因為這幾年裡面，人民幣的存款利率只在 2004 年提高了 0.27，而美元已經加了 17 息，每次 0.25。美元和人民幣的利率差異超過 3 厘，但人民幣迄今也只升了 3.5%，計入交易成本，根本賠錢。從這個角度說，央行成功阻擊了投機者，但貨幣政策卻陷入被動。

如果讓人民幣加快升值的速度，相信帶來的正面作用大於負面的效果。首先在國際能源和原材料價格高企的情況下，可以減低中國經濟發展的成本，增加進口，減少出口，提升居民的消費能力，讓中國經濟逐步從依賴出口轉到依賴內部消費，從而支撐中國經濟的可持續發展，特別在美國經濟增長放緩之時。

其負面效應就是減少出口影響就業和引入更多的熱錢。其實大家都知道內地民工短缺，工資上升迅速，因此在人民幣大幅升值（超過 10%）以前，相信對就業的影響並不太大。而熱錢的流入並非完全不能防範。賬面上的外資流入渠道有限，除了貿易順差，直接投資 QFII 以及內地居民擁有的外幣，在中國資本帳沒有完全開放的情況下，賬面上的熱錢流入應當可以通過加強監管而加以阻止。這方面，央行也出臺了許多措施，包括剛推出限制外資投資內地房地產市場的措施，相信會逐步見到成效。

因此如果中央政府要控制貿易順差的持續增長，有可能採取的措施就是調整出口退稅和加快人民幣升值的步伐，或者雙管齊下。對於出口退稅率的調整更有可能是針對政府不鼓勵的高耗能、高污染及低檔的勞動密集產品，而不是全面的下調。人民幣升值的速度可能較過去的一年快，但在下半年也不會超過 5%。

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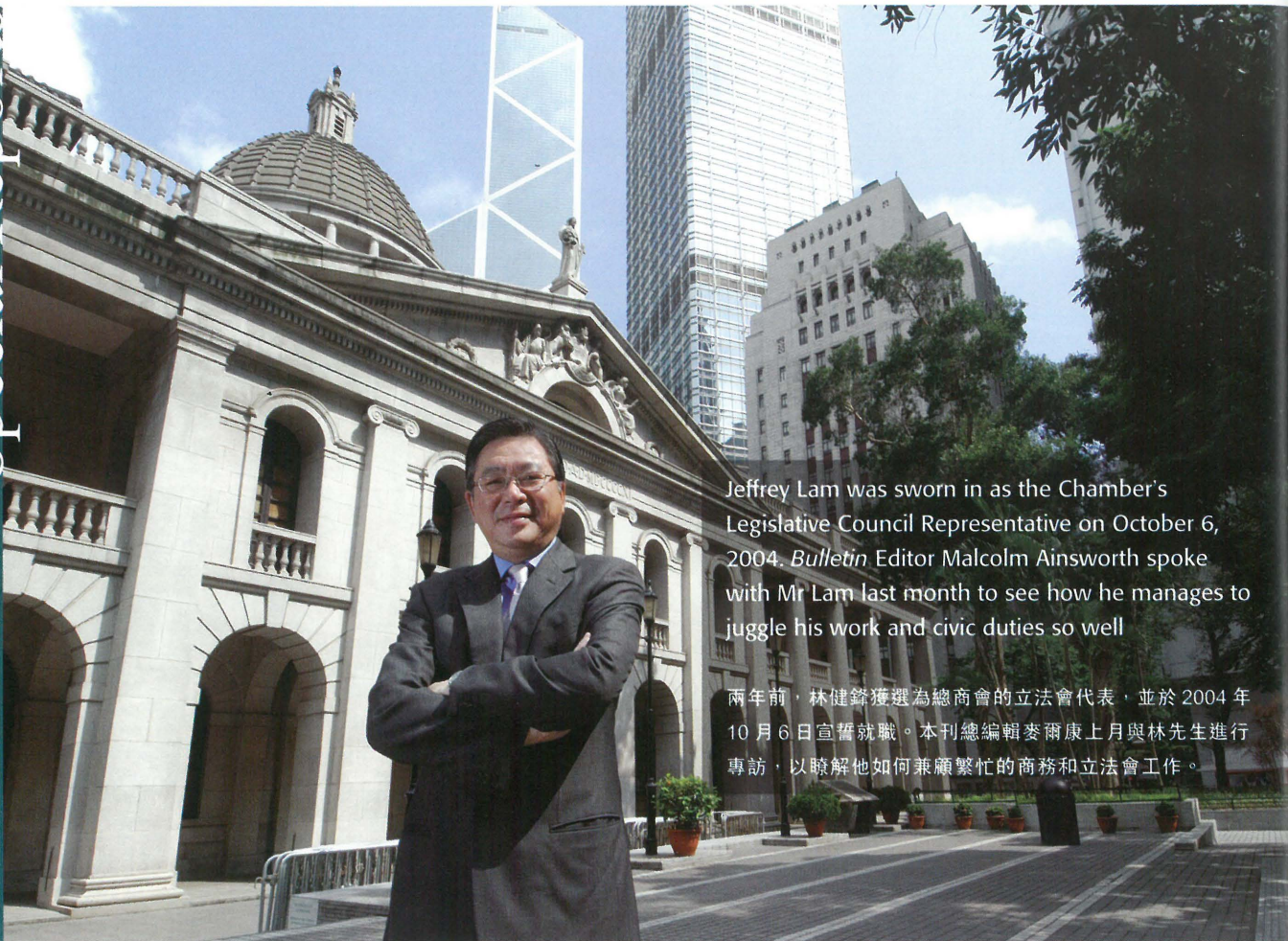
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Jeffrey Lam was sworn in as the Chamber's Legislative Council Representative on October 6, 2004. *Bulletin* Editor Malcolm Ainsworth spoke with Mr Lam last month to see how he manages to juggle his work and civic duties so well

兩年前，林健鋒獲選為總商會的立法會代表，並於2004年10月6日宣誓就職。本刊總編輯麥爾康上月與林先生進行專訪，以瞭解他如何兼顧繁忙的商務和立法會工作。

Bulletin: You were elected as the Chamber's Legco rep in 2004, how have you found the job so far?

Jeffrey Lam: It's been both meaningful and challenging. As you know, there have been some major political upheavals in the last two years with the resignation of Tung Chee-hwa and Donald Tsang's subsequent succession as Chief Executive. Then we had the endless political wrangling over Hong Kong's constitutional reform and the pace of universal suffrage. As a Legislative Councillor, I've discovered that you need to have your wits about you to cope with all these political and economic changes. On the whole though, I have to say that I really enjoy tackling these challenges and I am very proud to be working with the Chamber to help Hong Kong sail through these storms.

B: When and why did you decide you wanted to go into politics?

JL: Well, it's a long story. I've actually been working with the government on various advisory bodies for 20 years. Somehow politics and business are inseparable. As a businessman, I'm keenly aware of how a policy, be it minor or major, can impact the business environment. So I think it is very important for us, as business people, to take the initiative to fight for our interests.

B: What do you enjoy most about the work?

JL: I love having the opportunity to meet people from the entire spectrum of society, and listening to their views and arguments, particularly those from Chamber members. This interaction can be a real eye-opener. Politics, on the other hand, is very unpredictable and changes every minute. Also, every day something unexpected will pop up that requires my attention, such as the Covert Surveillance Bill that we just finished in Legco. I went through a four-day marathon vote without any break. This was really a colossal task.

What do I dislike about it? The heavy workload means that I simply don't have time to play golf, which I do love so much. I also have to sacrifice my personal time with my family too. That said, I am more than happy to pay this price for the opportunity to contribute to building Hong Kong's future.

B: How do you manage to balance your time between your business and your Legco work?

JL: As I mentioned before, I have a really hectic Legco schedule, because I have joined many Legco panels and Bills Committees that are closely related to the business sector. Juggling my Legco work and my own

Meet Jeffrey Lam

林健鋒訪談錄

business is really quite an art. I start every day at 7 o'clock and then rush back and forth between my office, Legco, and my business appointments. It's tough, but despite this I was delighted to find out that I achieved a 100% attendance rate at weekly Legco meetings and a 99% attendance record at panel meetings in the past year. There seems to be a misconception that businessmen are lazy when it comes to attending to their public duties, so I hope that my record clears up this misconception.

B: A lot of people say Hong Kong's political scene is very immature, how do you respond to such comments?

JL: Since the handover, the political climate has undergone huge changes, and more people understandably want to have a clearer picture about Hong Kong's political future. This is a good thing. But the problem is many people just scratch the surface of an issue and listen to one-sided views of an argument. They refuse to, or can't be bothered to, take the time to look deeper into an issue to really understand the entire issue. As a result, they jump to conclusions before they have grasped the whole picture. Take the issue of universal suffrage as an example. We often hear people shouting that they want universal suffrage to be introduced immediately, but they have little idea of how this can be achieved given Hong Kong's current political structure. I, along with many other people, agree that we should strive for this goal, but we need to think carefully about how Hong Kong should move towards democracy, step by step. This is something that cannot be rushed, otherwise there could be chaos. We have to make sure that such a transition is done smoothly and done right. Unfortunately, some people are somewhat immature in that they are reluctant to participate in any in-depth discussion about how we can reach this goal.

B: CEPA has given a real boost to many Hong Kong businesses. Where do you think we should be going from here?

JL: I think the trading sector will continue to thrive in Hong Kong, mainly due to the tremendous opportunities generated by CEPA and the "9+2" economic cooperation plan, but this doesn't mean that we can just sit here and wait for the profits to come rolling in. We need to seize every opportunity by

actively cooperating with the Mainland. In addition, we should also be exploring new emerging markets in countries such as Russia, East Europe and the Middle East, etc. Look at what is happening in Dubai; they are positioning themselves as the trading and service hub of the Middle East. I'm leading a trade mission to Budapest and Prague later this year, and the Chamber is looking at trade missions elsewhere. There are many opportunities out there, and we cannot afford to be sitting around waiting to get rich. We have to aggressively seek out these opportunities.

B: What are your top-three concerns regarding Hong Kong?

JL: The worsening air pollution tops my list of concerns. Finding a solution to this will require cooperation on all sides. Apart from the current initiatives that the government is working on with the Guangdong authorities, they should also consider providing incentives, such as interest-free loans, to businesses to equip or install environmentally friendly equipment in their businesses. But of course, the business sector needs to behave responsibly and cooperate with the government to reduce their impact on pollution.

The second issue is how we can enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness in the face of growing competition from our Asian neighbours and Mainland counterpart. We have to avoid becoming marginalized by keeping our competitive edge, especially in the areas of finance, logistics and tourism. One way that we can do this is to enact policies that can attract more talent to Hong Kong and ensure that we have the environment to keep local and foreign talent here.

The third thing is the serious polarization in Hong Kong. There has been a divergence of views on many political issues, which often result in frequent squabbles. This is really tiresome and not constructive to Hong Kong's development. I hope these people can act more in the best interests of Hong Kong, and think less about their personal interests. After all, a harmonious society is important for everyone, without which we won't be able to achieve much.

問：你在2004年獲選為本會的立法會代表，到目前為止，你覺得立法會的工作怎樣？

答：立法會的工作很富意義和挑戰性。過去兩年，隨著董建華辭任和曾蔭權上場，本港政壇已出現重大轉變，其後社會又為著政制改革和普選步伐等事而鬧得沸沸揚揚。作為立法會議員，面對這些政治和經濟變數，都必需保持應有的智慧去理智地處理。不過整體而言，我仍然樂於應付這些挑戰。有機會與總商會合作，伴香港航過風浪，是我的光榮。

問：你何時決定從政？原因何在？

答：說來話長。其實過去20年，我一直有參與多個政府諮詢組織的事務。政治和經濟總是分不開。作為商人，我非常清楚無論是大小政策，都可以影響營商環境。因此，我認為商界必須積極為自己爭取權益。

問：立法會工作為你帶來甚麼苦與樂？

答：我有機會接觸社會各界人士，瞭解他們的看法和觀點，尤其本會會員，更表達了不少有見地的意見，實在令我眼界大開。政治方面，事情是難以預測和瞬息萬變的，所以，天天都有突發的事要處理。像最近立法會審議截聽條例草案，我們為此而連續開了4天馬拉松式會議，過程艱巨。


至於苦處，也許是工作繁重，以致連最愛的高球也無暇打，甚至要犧牲與家人共處的時間。當然，參與立法、構建香港未來，是個難能可貴的機會，我樂意為此付出代價。

問：你要打理自己的業務，又要處理立法會的工作，兩者之間如何取得平衡？

答：先前提到，我的立法會工作實在非常繁忙，因為我加入了多個事務委員會和法案委員會，它們所議論的事務都與商界息息相關。如何在商務與立法會工作之間取得平衡，確是一門學問。每天打從7時開始，我便一直忙碌穿梭於辦公室、立法會和商務約會之間。雖然忙得團團轉，但我很高興於去年立法會周會及事務委員會會議上取得分別高達100%及99%的出席率。外界總認為商界人士出任公職，都是掛名居多，因此，我希望以身作則，消除這些誤解。

B: What is your greatest ambition?

JL: Everyone has lots of dreams when they are young; I remember I did. But as you grow older, these sometimes change. Now that my son has graduated and returned to Hong Kong to work, I want to contribute to making Hong Kong the best that it can be, because, after all, this is our home. So I guess my ambition is to work towards creating a prosperous and harmonious society for this and future generations.

Apart from this, I also have another ambition. Since I've played golf for so many years, I really hope that one day I will get a hole-in-one! This is a little secret ambition that I have had for years. 

問：很多人認為香港的政治環境仍未成熟，對於這種說法，你怎麼看？

答：自從回歸之後，政治氣候有重大轉變，更多人想看清楚香港的政治前景。這點是可以理解的，也是件好事。問題是很多人只看事情的表面，和只聽從單方面的意見，他們不願花時間深入瞭解整件事情。結果，仍未看清大局，已草率下定論。以普選為例，我們常聽到有人高喊要盡快實現普選，然而他們都不大瞭解，在本港現行政治制度下，如何才能達致普選。與大多數人一樣，我贊同努力邁向普選的目標，不過，我們要細想香港如何逐步實現民主。這事情不能操之過急，否則會引起混亂，有違順利過渡至普選之原則。可惜，有些人心態欠成熟，他們不願參與這方面的深入討論。

問：CEPA為香港商界帶來新動力，你認為未來的路應怎樣走？

答：受惠於CEPA和「9+2」經濟合作計劃所產生的大量商機，本港貿易行業將繼續興旺。然而，這並不代表我們可以坐享其成。我們要把握每個機會，積極與內地各省市合作。此外，我們應探索俄羅斯、東歐和中東等新興市場。看看杜拜，它正致力成為中東的貿易及服務中心。今年稍後時間，我將率領一個商貿考察團遠赴布達佩斯和布拉格，而總商會亦在策劃其他貿易外訪活動。外面機遇處處，我們應積極探索，不能坐失良機。

問：你認為香港目前最迫切的三大問題是甚麼？


答：我最關注日益嚴重的空氣污染問題。這問題需要各方合力，共覓對策。港府除了目前與廣東省當局一起進行之工作，還可考慮提供免息貸款一類的資助，鼓勵商界安裝環保設備。當然，商界亦要與政府合作，以負責的態度盡力減少業務所產生的污染。

第二個問題，是來自鄰近亞洲地區和內地其他省市的競爭日熾，我們應如何提升香港的競爭力。我們要保持競爭優勢，以防被邊緣化。在金融、物流和旅遊業方面，尤其不能掉以輕心。我們可制訂政策，吸引更多人才來港，並設法締造優良環境，令本地和外地人才樂於在港定居。

第三個問題是本港社會出現嚴重分化。在許多政治議題上，各界意見分歧，時有爭拗。這不僅耗費時間精神，也無助香港發展。我希望大家盡量拋開個人利益，多為大局設想。畢竟，社會不諧協，一切亦難有所成。

問：你最大的抱負是甚麼？

答：每個人年少時總有很多夢想，我亦不例外。但隨著年紀漸長，追求亦可能會變。現今，我的兒子已學成回港工作。我希望繼續出一分力，令香港更美好，始終這裡是我們的家。因此，我期望盡力為市民大眾以至我們的後代，締造繁榮、和諧的社會環境。

除此以外，我還有個小小的心願：我玩高球多年，常渴望終有一天能夠打出「一桿進洞」的佳績！ 

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Past Meets Present

中醫業新發展

By Carol Cheng 鄭蝶兒



"We try to explain abstract concepts and complex ideas about Chinese medicine as simply as possible so that everyone can understand the principles," says Ms Tse.

謝小姐表示：「我們嘗試將中醫一向比較抽象難明的概念轉為較淺白的文字，使大部份人都能看得明白。」

When Tse Leung set up his Chinese medicine practice in Guangxi Province over 100 years ago, he probably never even contemplated that most of his customers would one day be foreigners.

"About 80% of our customers today are non-Chinese," explained Sally Tse, granddaughter of Mr Tse and Director of Quality Chinese Medical Centre (QCMC), today's modern runner of the original century-old practice. "My grandfather passed on the business to my uncle, who passed it on to me when he retired."

She took over the reins of the family business in 1990, after working with her uncle since she was a girl, during which time she studied for her doctorate degree.

"I grew up with Chinese medicine, and this immersion has helped me to become a veteran in the

business," she said. "This experience enables me to tell the quality of any medicine or whether it is fake with just a glance."

Her clinic stocks around 500 herbs used in Chinese herbal formulas to treat a wide variety of ailments. Like the formulas, many of today's shops haven't changed much for hundreds of years. QCMC, on the other hand, is fusing the old with the new. Ms Tse has developed a trendy bilingual Website to educate people about Chinese medicine, as well as to promote the business.

“We try to explain abstract concepts and complex ideas about Chinese medicine as simply as possible so that everyone can understand the principles,” she said. “We think being online is also important in attracting a younger clientele.”

In recent years, the government has taken measures to regulate Chinese medicine practitioners. Ms Tse said she strongly supports the government’s decision to tighten controls on the industry and believes that having the necessary checks and balances in place will improve the public’s confidence in Chinese medicine and raise the overall image and standard of the industry.

Before the regulatory framework on Chinese medicine came into being, the industry voluntarily followed government guidelines on dispensing herbal formulas and consultations.

“Even before the government decided to regulate the industry, we had introduced quality management practices in our clinics. QCMC was certified ISO 9001:2000 by SGS in 2004, which made us one of the first – if not the first – of its kind in Hong Kong,” she said. “We also keep systematic diagnosis and prescription records of our patients, because this helps us to better understand their health.”

A lot of mystery and secretiveness surrounds traditional Chinese medicine and treatments. To try and dispel some of these “traditions,” Ms Tse thought that ISO accreditation would be a good way to manage and maintain the quality of the practice in a systematic, scientific and modern way.

“For example, our selection of quality Chinese medicine is based on a strict criteria, including medicine texture, origins and any presence of impurities. More importantly, we do not overlook the quality of auxiliary medicines like liquorice, as this also impacts the effectiveness of the herbal cure as a whole,” she explained.

When recruiting Chinese doctors, other than testing their knowledge of Chinese medicine, she also considers their qualifications and experience. Currently, QCMC hires mainly doctors with experience in practicing in the Mainland.

The “Certification for Employee Benefits (Chinese Medicine) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2005,” whose proposed amendments relate mainly to the recognition of Chinese practitioners for certifying employees’ sick days and sickness allowance entitlement, is an important step forward for the industry.

“The new law will put us on an equal footing with Western medical practitioners, and it is another form of recognition of the Chinese medicine profession,” she said.

Moreover, as Chinese medicine becomes more popular and is properly regulated, she expects the industry to receive recognition internationally.

“In light of growing demand for acupuncture and herbal formulas around the world, as well as courses in some universities in Europe and the U.S., I expect that Chinese medicine and treatments will become increasingly in demand around the world,” she said.

Such recognition is important in attracting students of Chinese medicine, and Ms Tse is very supportive of young people looking to pursue a career in the field. The market still has room for growth and demand for young practitioners is strong in Hong Kong. However, she said students of Chinese medicine need to gain experience and learn through practice to become proficient.

“Hong Kong is very different from the Mainland in this regard, as students here do not get enough exposure to a wide range of patients,” she said. “If hospitals or other facilities specializing in Chinese medicine could take on the role of a teaching hospital, local students will have more opportunities to accumulate experience.” ❀



寧心堂有近八成的顧客都是外國人，看來始創人定必始料不及。「寧心堂源自廣西梧州祝安路謝良記，是廣西專做中藥藥材的寶號，謝良是我祖父，也就是謝良記的創辦人，他將生意傳給我伯父，我則是第三代傳人。」謝沅宜，寧心堂中醫館的總監把藥館創辦起源娓娓道來。擁有博士學位的她，將謝良記中醫藥的精神帶來香港，並把香港藥館命名為「寧心堂」。

她說：「我自少接觸各種各樣的藥材，對於藥材的真與假、優與劣，一眼就可以分辨得出。如今我們的百子櫃裡，也常備至少五百多種中藥。」位於商廈中心內的銅鑼灣館於2001年開業，館內裝修簡潔，但一進門便聞到濃烈的中藥材味。受診者為白領人士居多，其中亦不乏外籍人士。

中醫是一門傳統的行業，但寧心堂卻引入新式手法來推廣及管理業務。例如推出設計精美，內容中英對照的網頁，讓顧客從中找到他們所需的資料。謝小姐解釋：「我們嘗

試將中醫一向比較抽象難明的概念轉為較淺白的文字，使大部份人都能看得明白，網頁也揀選了較年輕的顏色搭配。」她認為這提供多一個渠道讓年輕人接觸中醫診療，加上政府積極的監管與教育，使市民對中醫的信心增加。

對於政府對中醫業的監管越來越嚴謹，謝小姐十分贊成，認為這能夠使中醫服務更有保證，她說：「政府在推行全面性監管之前，只是推出一些中醫中藥指引來管理中醫行業，但事實上，我們由那時起已進行有關質量的管理，例如病人的病歷和藥方記錄，這有助我們更了解病人的身體素質。」寧心堂更於2004年獲SGS頒發國際質量保證標準ISO 9001:2000證書，是香港首間獲SGS頒發此證書之中醫診所。

謝小姐表示，對於獲頒證書，尤其是得到國際性的認可，他們感到非常高興和榮幸，而這亦絕非僥倖，因為他們一向高度注重中藥材、醫師及服務的質素。

她說：「中醫及中藥以往總帶著神秘的色彩，所以我想透過具體的質量證據來幫助管理及維持服務質素。例如在藥材方面，我們會就藥材本身的質地、來源、有否雜質來選取最優秀的。更重要的是，除了主要藥材的質量，我們尤其重視小至如甘草等『使藥』的質素，中醫藥講求君臣佐使，就算是最小的藥材也能影響一劑藥的藥效。至於註冊醫師方面，我們除了會用嚴謹的方法來考核他們的醫藥知識，更會考慮他們的學歷和經驗。目前，我們大多會聘用有國內註冊經驗的醫師。」

最近，立法會通過《2005年為僱員權益作核證(中醫藥)(雜項修訂)條例草案》，授權本港註冊中醫師日後可以向病人開病假紙及判傷。謝小姐對此感到非常樂觀：「能夠與西醫看齊，是對中醫專業資格的一種認同。」她預計保險公司會逐漸接受中醫發出的證明。隨著中醫的功效與監管日漸為大眾接受，中醫服務業的前景將不會只局限於香港或中國內地。她說：「中醫的普及將會是世界性的趨勢，許多國家和地區對針灸和中藥等需求龐大，而歐美也有很多學院開辦中醫學的課程。」

中醫行業前景一片光明，對於香港年輕新一代投身中醫行業，謝小姐表示非常贊同和支持：「因中醫市場尚未飽和，對中醫新血的需求仍然很大，不過中醫新秀需透過大量實習和工作機會來累積經驗。香港和內地不同之處，是這裡學生們沒有太多機會接觸不同種類的病人。如果香港可以發展中醫醫院或其它配套設施，必定能為他們提供更全面的學習機會。」



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Expert Expresses Optimism in 環保專家樂觀看香港空氣問題



Environmental Protection Department Assistant Director (Air Policy) Tse Chin-wan says despite the increasing complexity of Hong Kong's air-pollution problem, Hong Kong people will eventually win back a blue sky with their resilience and flexibility.

He hopes Hong Kong's air quality will some day be comparable with other advanced Western countries – or even surpass their standards – so everyone can be proud of the city's air.

"I have been with the department for 20 years and witnessed the changes in the nature of the problem," Mr Tse, who has been responsible for the city's air programme since 1996, recollected. "In the '80s, the industrial sector was causing serious air pollution and people living near industrial areas, for example, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, were severely affected."

Dramatic overnight change in air quality

"We introduced a law in July 1990, banning the use of high-sulphur heavy fuel oil in Hong Kong. The measure was so effective the sulphur-dioxide level in the air fell 80% overnight. We received many complimentary letters and the Kwai Tsing District Board even passed a motion praising our work. It was one of the most encouraging moments for EPD staff," he said

However, the nature of the problem changed and motor-vehicle emissions dominated the city's air pollution in the mid '90s because of the growing vehicle numbers.

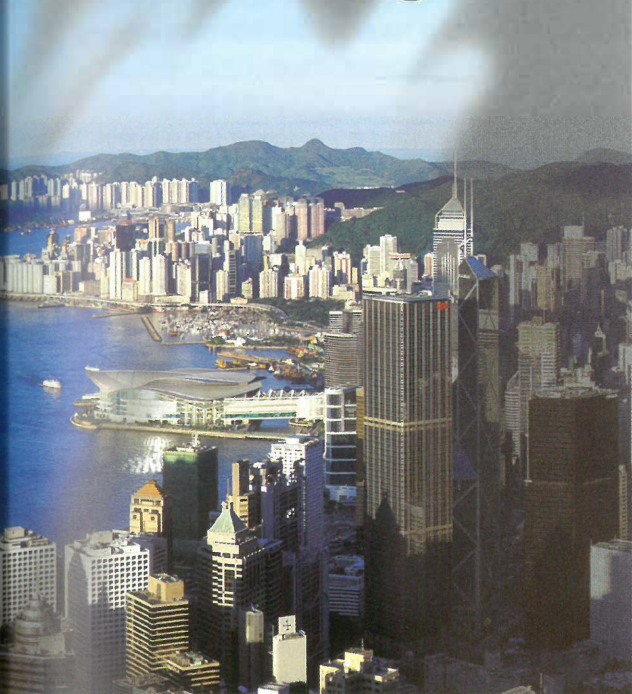
"The then Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa urged us to submit proposals to tackle the pressing problem and I was asked to meet Mr Tung several times to discuss the issue," Mr Tse said.

A comprehensive programme was introduced in 1999 to reduce vehicle emissions. It included the introduction of liquefied petroleum gas-fuelled taxis, introduction of ultra low sulphur diesel, adoption of the European emission standards, requiring old diesel vehicles to be retrofitted with emission-reduction devices, and enhancing the control and penalty of smoky vehicles.

"Since then, there has been a significant improvement in roadside air quality and the number of smoky vehicles dropped 80%. Many of my friends told me they could feel the improvement," Mr Tse said.

The encouraging development did not mean the city was rid of the problem for good. Recently, the smog problem and reduced visibility have become Hong Kong people's new concerns.

Clean-air Fight



HKTB

Smog a by-product of economic growth

“The smog problem is a serious problem because it is not an issue that Hong Kong alone can solve. When we travel in other cities in the Pearl River Delta, we also see the smog problem. It is a regional problem and we have to work with Guangdong Province to deal with it.”

In 2002, after years of hard work, the Hong Kong and Guangdong Governments reached a consensus, aiming to substantially reduce four major pollutants in the region by 2010.

“I suggested carrying out a joint study in 1996 and about one year later, both sides agreed to seek funding for the study. The study eventually started in 1999 and a consensus was reached in 2002,” Mr Tse said.

“I still remember how we worked to get funding approval for the study from the Legislative Council and later how hard work had paid off. I was totally thrilled to see the two governments reach an agreement after years of study and discussion.”

“Both governments are now working hard to achieve the targets. When the emission-reduction targets are met, we will see a major improvement in the smog problem.”

Chamber Supporting Action Blue Sky

The Chamber has produced a “7-7-7 Care-for-Air” Guideline under Project CLEAN AIR to inform the general public how they can take immediate, practical steps to contribute to improving air quality at home (7), at work (7) and while travelling (7), especially when the Air Pollution Index exceeds 100. Visit the Chamber’s Clean Air Website to download a copy, www.cleanair.hk.

Three SMEs have also agreed to take part in a pilot scheme on clean production. Under the scheme they will be given free consulting services and practical advice to implement air quality management that helps save operating costs and reduce emissions. The results of the scheme will be used to produce a set of guidelines for businesses to follow.

Meanwhile, the Chamber has also been conducting an in-house programme to reduce its impact on air pollution using the “7-7-7 Care-for-Air” Guideline. Since the effort began, the Chamber has managed to significantly reduce its monthly electricity bill through very simple measures that any company can immediately implement such as ensuring all office equipment is turned off after office hours and that PC’s, printers and photocopiers’ “sleep mode” is properly configured.

Please contact the Secretariat at 2823 1260 if you are interested in finding out more about the Chamber’s Project Clean Air.

“Guangdong is growing very rapidly in both economy and pollution production. When they introduce new measures, pollution has already grown a lot. Therefore, it is a big challenge for them to reduce their emissions substantially within a very short period of time,” Mr Tse said.

Clean-up an expensive process

It is not easy for Hong Kong to reduce air pollution, either. “Although Hong Kong has more technical know-how and is more mature in pollution control, since we have introduced so many measures in the past, it will be difficult and expensive for us to further reduce our emissions.”

Mr Tse said the government has encountered many kinds of difficulties in introducing pollution-control measures. One of the major difficulties is that many people do not realise that they themselves are polluters. Since there are many sources of air pollution, they tend to point the finger at others.

總商會支持藍天行動

隨著「清新空氣計劃」之展開，本會編製了《7-7-7 清新都市》指引，建議公眾在家居 (7)、工作 (7) 和路途 (7) 中採取簡易可行的措施，協助減少空氣污染，尤其建議市民在空氣污染指數超過 100 時，即時採取有效措施。歡迎瀏覽本會的「清新空氣計劃」網頁 (www.cleanair.hk)，下載有關資料。

另外，三家中小型企業已同意參與「中小企試驗計劃」，嘗試推行空氣質素管理。它們將獲專業顧問免費提供諮詢服務和建議，以達到節省營運成本和減少排放污氣的目標。試驗結果會用作編製一本商界指南，以供其他企業做法。

與此同時，本會亦正採取《7-7-7 清新都市》指引的建議，在辦公室會址推行簡易措施以協助減少空氣污染。例如在下班後關掉辦公室內所有設備，以及把電腦、打印機和影印機預設在「休眠模式」等。這些做法，對任何公司來說，都不過是舉手之勞，而本會在計劃實行後，每月電費開支得以大幅減少。

如欲瞭解「清新空氣計劃」詳情，請致電 2823 1260 聯絡本會秘書處。

環保署助理署長 (空氣質素政策) 謝展寰表示，雖然現時空氣污染情況較以往複雜，但憑着港人靈活的頭腦及勇於面對挑戰的精神，這個困擾港人多年的問題最終必可解決。

他期望香港的空氣質素，最終可媲美歐洲及北美等城市，甚而超越他們的水平，讓市民可引以自豪。

加入環保署超過 20 年的謝展寰，由 1996 年起擔任助理署長，負責統籌香港空氣污染管制及相關政策。他憶述：「香港空氣污染問題的性質，在 20 年間起了很大的變化。在 80 年代，香港的空氣污染主要源自工業。當時居住在工業區如荃灣及葵涌附近的市民，可謂飽受空氣污染之苦。」

獲得表揚感到鼓舞

謝展寰表示：「1990 年 7 月，我們引入法例，禁止香港工業界使用高硫磺重油，令空氣中的二氧化硫，一夜之間大幅減少 8 成。當時的葵青區議會，還特別通過動議，感謝我們的工作；我們也收到不少表揚信，令所有環保署同事感到十分鼓舞。」

不過，踏入 90 年代中期，空氣污染的主要來源，已轉為由車輛引起。隨着車輛數目增加，市區的污染情況日趨嚴重；路上出現很多黑煙汽車，市民在街上經常聞到混濁氣味。

“To improve air quality, we need somebody to pay the price, either in the form of money or changing their way of life or production processes. However, many people are reluctant to do so. That is why we need to step up our educational programme to get more people taking action to improve air quality.”

On discussions with the two local power companies on reducing their emissions by 2010, Mr Tse said all emission-reduction measures are expensive and it is natural for the two companies to have different views on certain issues.

“However, if we want to achieve the emission-reduction targets on time, it is essential for the power companies to reduce their emissions because 92% of the sulphur dioxide and half of nitrogen oxides and particulates come from electricity generation,” he said.

“We have made suggestions to the power companies on how to achieve the targets and we are now working together to explore all forms of options. I believe if both parties take air pollution as an important issue, all the difficulties can be overcome”.

Pollution affects HK's competitiveness

Recently many people have related air-pollution problems with Hong Kong's long-term

competitiveness. Mr Tse said it is good to see more people talking about the issue because it shows they realise the problems will have a great impact on Hong Kong's sustainable development.

“We, people in the government, should take this opportunity to enhance our publicity and educational programme so that people can understand the nature of the problem, the solutions available, and the prices to be paid. This will help our community prepare for new clean-air measures the government puts forward,” he said.

Despite all the difficulties and challenges, Mr Tse remained optimistic about Hong Kong's chance of winning the clean-air battle.

“Hong Kong people have encountered all forms of difficulties and are famous for their resilience, flexibility and diligence. If our whole community can work together, take their responsibility and take action in their own positions, I am confident Hong Kong will be able to get back a blue sky.” 🌸

Courtesy of news.gov.hk.

謝展寰說：「前行政長官董建華要求我們提出解決方案，我也多次被特首召見，討論有關問題。」

1999年，政府推出多項減少車輛排放的措施，包括引入石油氣的士、要求舊柴油車加裝減排裝置、引入超低硫柴油、使用最嚴格的歐盟排放標準、加強管制路上的黑煙汽車，以及加重黑煙汽車的罰則。

在政府的努力下，路上黑煙汽車的數目急降8成，路上汽車污染情況大為改善。

煙鎖香江有如夢魘

不過，香港並未因此而擺脫空氣污染；相反，煙霧問題近年經常如夢魘般困擾香港。

謝展寰表示，對於香港的煙霧問題，確實十分感觸！不過，煙霧問題是區域問題，目前珠江三角洲各地區均出現類似情況。

謝展寰說：「其實，早於1996年，我們已察覺這趨勢，並向廣東省提議一起研究；約1年後，雙方同意各自爭取撥款展開有關研究。」

「當時，我們成功爭取立法會議員支持通過有關撥款，由1999年起展開研究，經過多年努力，粵港終於在2002年達成共識，同意在2010年前，大幅減少珠三角4種主要污染物的排放量。」

粵港減排挑戰重重

他說，目睹兩地政府一同宣布達成減排目標的協議時，內心十分激動，因多年的努力並沒有白費；但兩地仍面對重重挑戰。

謝展寰說：「由於廣東省經濟發展非常急速，往往當他們引入一些管制措施後，污染程度已大幅增加；故要求他們在短時間內大幅度減少總污染量，對他們來說，是個極大挑戰。」

雖然香港的科技較成熟，對管制污染也更有經驗及知識，但由於以往已引入很多措施，進一步大幅度改善排放量，必須較以往付出更多努力和金錢。

身體力行承擔責任

談及在香港推行管制空氣污染措施時所面對的困難時，他表示，由於空氣污染涉及很多來源，不少人也慣性地把矛頭指向他人，而沒有意識到自己也是污染者。

他說，改善空氣污染必須付出代價，包括金錢，或努力改變一些行業的操作方法、市民的生活習慣等。

謝展寰說：「但當我們要求市民或業界承擔代價時，他們則以種種理由拒絕，這是我們經常面對的困難。」

政府近年推出不少宣傳及教育工作，目的是希望社會各界明白，必須從自己本身的運作及生活方式出發，提高解決空氣污染問題的速度及成效。

兩電減排事在必行

被問及與兩間電力公司減排討論的進展時，謝展寰說，由於所有減排措施均是昂貴的，故電力公司對採取哪種減排方式有不同看法，是十分自然的。

不過，香港二氧化硫的排放，約9成由發電產生，氮氧化物及粒子的排放，也有一半是由發電產生。

故此，兩間電力公司採取減排措施，是香港能夠在2010年前達到與廣東省定下的減排目標的必要條件。

謝展寰說：「若兩間電力公司均把改善香港空氣質素視為首要任務的話，我相信，最終定可找出彼此也可以接受的減排方式。」

對於空氣污染近期成為城中的熱門話題，不少人更把這問題與香港的長遠競爭力拉上關係，謝展寰認為，這是個好現象。

清新空氣有利競爭

他說，這顯示市民已開始意識到清新的空氣，與香港長遠的可持續發展有直接關係。

謝展寰認為，應把握這個時機，趁市民關心這個問題的時候，讓大家知道問題所在，社會有什麼選擇，大家需要為此付出什麼代價；以便推出新措施時，各界有充足的思想準備。

謝展寰對香港最終能否解決空氣污染問題持樂觀態度。他指出，香港人以往也曾面對不少困難，並能一一克服。

謝展寰說：「香港人一向以靈活處理各種困難而聞名，只要政府與社會各界可以同心合力，各自負起自己的責任，我有信心香港最終能解決這個問題。」✿

蒙香港政府新聞網允許轉載

Environmental Protection Department
Assistant Director (Air Policy) Tse Chin-wan
is optimistic about Hong Kong's chance of
winning the clean-air battle.

環保署助理署長（空氣質素政策）謝展寰認為本港的
空氣問題最終必可解決。





Kai Tak Planning Review

Raymond Lee (right) from the HKSAR Government's Planning Department, together with Consultants of City Planning - Maunsell Joint Venture, conducted a special briefing on Kai Tak Planning Review on August 15 to solicit views on the draft Preliminary Outline Development Plans. The plan aims to develop a distinguished, vibrant, and people-oriented Kai Tak with a focus on heritage, the environment, sports and tourism.

啟德規劃檢討

政府規劃署的李啟榮與都市規劃一茂盛(亞洲)聯營顧問的專家於8月15日主持一個關於啟德規劃檢討的簡介會，就起草「初步發展大綱圖」徵集各界意見。該發展大綱旨在把啟德變身成一個有活力和配合市民需要的特色地帶，發展時並會重點考慮文物古蹟、環境、體育及旅遊等元素。

Americas

Myron Brilliant, Vice President, East Asia, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, President, U.S.-Korea Business Council and Executive Vice President, Hong Kong - U.S. Business Council, visited the Chamber on July 27 and 28, and met with the Chamber's Chief Economist David O'Rear, and Chamber Chairman David Eldon, respectively. At the meetings, Mr Brilliant discussed China's capital markets, as well as opportunities for co-operation between the two chambers.

A delegation from the Fulbright-Hays National Committee on U.S.-China

Relations visited the Chamber on July 27 and met with Chamber Chief Economist David O'Rear. The 16-member delegation was interested in finding out about recent changes to Hong Kong's business and economic environment.

Mariano Macri, President, Argentine Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, visited the Chamber on July 31, and was welcomed by Eva Chow, Director of International Business. This was the first meeting since the two chambers signed a memorandum of understanding on April 20 this year, and the two discussed further co-operation and future projects of the two chambers.

Kieran Ring, CEO, Global Institute of Logistics, visited the Chamber on July 31 to discuss co-operation opportunities with the Chamber for a logistics symposium in 2007.

Asia / Africa

Pramon Sutivong, Chairman, Thai Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Board of Trade of Thailand, called on the Chamber on July 26 and was received by Asia/Africa Committee Chairman K L Tam. During the meeting, the two exchanged ideas on the roles and profiles of the two chambers, as well as economic and political developments in Thailand. The Thai Chamber of

Commerce is the leading chamber of commerce in Thailand, with offices in every province. The Board of Trade is a non-profit association made up of all major local and foreign chambers of commerce in the country.

K Kesavapany, Director of Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore, called on the Chamber on August 2 and met with Eva Chow, Director of International Business, who briefed him on HKGCC's work with regards to Hong Kong and the Mainland. Mr Kesavapany spoke about the latest developments in Singapore.

China

Dong Tao, Chief Economist (Asia Region), Credit Suisse, spoke at the Chamber's roundtable luncheon on July 20 about the outlook of the RMB revaluation and economic trends in the Mainland.



Yu Xuemin, Vice Head of Wenzhou Organization Department, led a Wenzhou Min Ying Enterprises Delegation to the Chamber on August 4. Alan Wong, HKGCC China Committee Chairman, welcomed the visitors and discussed opportunities for future cooperation.

Huang Zhiwei, Convenor of the Guangdong side of the Joint Investment and Trade Promotion Subgroup of the Greater PRD Business Council, led a delegation to the Chamber on August 4 to discuss an upcoming seminar in Foshan to promote cooperation between Hong Kong to Mainland enterprises.

Zhang Wenyue, Governor of Liaoning Province, hosted a meeting with HKGCC members led by Chamber Deputy Chairman Dr Lily Chiang at the Grand Hyatt on August 10.

Hu Jingyan, Director General of the Department of Services Trade of the Ministry of Commerce, visited the Chamber on August 11 to exchange

Dr Wang Yiming, Vice President of the Academy of Macroeconomic Research of the National Development and Reform Commission, spoke at the Chamber's roundtable luncheon on August 2 about the economic development of the Mainland.

國家發展和改革委員會宏觀經濟研究院副院長王一鳴博士為本會8月2日舉行的小型午餐會作演說，談內地的經濟發展。

views on the development of coalitions of service industries worldwide.

Environment

A number of meetings were held on Project Clean Air, including a meeting with the Environment Protection Department on August 7, in which it was agreed that the Chamber would jointly organize with the government a conference on November 27 to promote clean air. The Chamber also met with consultant ERM on August 8 to discuss the progress of the SME Pilot Scheme under Project Clean Air.

Industry and SME



Steven Davidson (right) of IBM and Stephen Ng (left) of Hong Kong University, spoke at the Chamber's roundtable luncheon on August 14, as part of the promotional programme for the Hong Kong Awards for Industries – Innovation and Creativity – of which the Chamber is the leading organizer.

Service Industries



Jeremy Godfrey, a telecom expert with over 20 years'

experience, shared with members at the Chamber's August 4 roundtable luncheon his insights into the potential of 3G and other wireless data services for business.



William Ryback, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong

Kong Monetary Authority explained the background and objectives of Basel II and how it would affect banks and their clients to Chamber members at a roundtable luncheon on August 15. ❀

The Chamber co-organized and supported several Mainland trade and investment promotion events held in Hong Kong recently. These included:

2006 Roundtable Conference for Exchanges and Co-operation between the Chambers of Commerce and Associations in Shanxi and Hong Kong.

Shanxi Taiyuan Business-recruit Project Introduction Meeting & Contract Ceremony.

2006 Shanxi Trade & Investment Promotion Symposium.

2006 Shenyang Puhe New City Investment Conference.

2006 Liaoning Anshan (Hong Kong) Promotion of Investment.

Liaoning "Open, Exploitation, Cooperation, Development" Investment Symposium.

最近，本會曾協辦及支持多項在港舉行的內地貿易和投資推廣活動，包括：

2006 晉港商協會合作交流圓桌會議

2006 年山西太原市 (香港) 招商懇談會

2006 年中國山西 (香港) 招商洽談會

2006 年瀋陽浦河新區招商會

2006 年遼寧鞍山 (香港) 推介會

「開放、開發、合作、發展」遼寧省投資說明會

美洲

美國商會東亞區副總裁、美韓商會總裁及港美商會執行副總裁 Myron Brilliant 於 7 月 27 日及 28 日到訪，分別與本會首席經濟師歐大衛和本會主席艾爾敦會面，討論中國的資本市場以及與本會的合作機會。

來自 Fulbright-Hays 美中關係全國委員會的代表團於 7 月 27 日到訪，與本會首席經濟師歐大衛會面。該 16 人代表團有興趣瞭解近期本港經濟及商業環境的轉變。

阿根廷華人工商會主席馬里奧諾馬克於 7 月 31 日到訪，由本會國際商務總監周紫樺接見。是次會見，乃兩會今年 4 月 20 日簽訂合作備忘錄以來之首次，雙方討論進一步合作和未來計劃。

環球物流學會行政總裁 Kieran Ring 於 7 月 31 日到訪本會，雙方研究就 2007 年舉行的物流業研討會進行合作。

亞洲／非洲

泰國商會主席及泰國貿易局主席 Pramon Sutivong 於 7 月 26 日到訪，由本會亞洲及非洲委員會主席譚廣濂接待。雙方就彼此的角色和架構組成交換意見，並談論泰國的經濟和政治發展。泰國商會在當地商界舉足輕重，於各省均設有辦事處。泰國貿易局為非牟利組織，由該國主要的本地商會和外國商會所組成。

新加坡東南亞研究院院長 K Kesavapany 於 8 月 2 日到訪，由本會國際商務總監周紫樺接見，並向他介紹本會在中港兩地的工作，Kesavapany 先生則簡介新加坡的最新發展。

中國



瑞士信貸亞洲區首席經濟分析師陶冬出席本會 7 月 20 日舉行的小型午餐會，談人民幣升值前景和內地經濟形勢。

中共溫州市委組織部副部長余蔭民於 8 月 4 日率領溫州市民營企業代表團到訪，由本會中國委員會主席黃照明接見，一起討論未來合作機會。

大珠三角商務委員會粵港投資貿易推廣小組粵方召集人黃志煒於 8 月 4 日率領代表團到訪本會，討論即將在佛山舉行的研討會，會議主題為促進中港企業合作。

遼寧省省長張文岳 8 月 10 日在君悅酒店與本會常務副主席蔣麗莉博士及會員會面。



中國商務部服務貿易司司長胡景岩於 8 月 11 日到訪，就全球服務業聯盟的發展與本會交流意見。

環境

本會多次就「清新空氣計劃」與各界舉行會議，其中本會於 8 月 7 日與環境保護署開會，議

定於 11 月 27 日與政府合辦研討會，推廣「清新空氣計劃」之訊息。另外，本會於 8 月 8 日與香港環境資源管理顧問有限公司代表會面，討論中小企試驗計劃之進展。

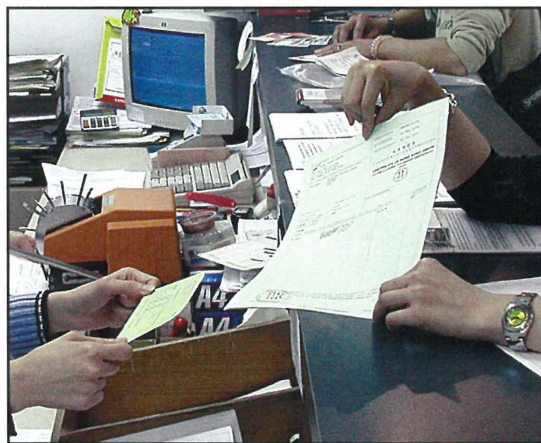
工業及中小企

IBM 的戴偉信和香港大學的吳惠群為本會 8 月 14 日舉行的小型午餐會作演說，藉此宣傳本會所主辦的「香港工商業獎」創意類別獎項。

服務業

資深電訊專家葛輝蒞臨本會 8 月 4 日舉行的小型午餐會，與會員分享 3G 和其他無線數據服務的商業發展潛力。

香港金融管理局副總裁章柏康於本會 8 月 15 日的小型午餐會中，解釋「新巴塞爾資本協定」(Basel II) 的背景和目的，並談對銀行業及其客戶所帶來的影響。



Chamber CO Services Now Available in Fotan

The Chamber's latest CO Office opened for business on September 1. The new office, close to Fotan Train Station and minibus terminus, is Hong Kong's first in providing a full range of certification of origin services to customers in the whole New Territories East Rail Area. It also provides data entry service for Trade Declaration.

Room 1406, 14/F, Shatin Galleria, 18-24 Shan Mei Street, Fotan, Shatin, New Territories.
Tel. 3586 8180; 3586 8130.

總商會火炭簽證辦事處投入服務

本會最新的簽證辦事處於 9 月 1 日投入服務。該辦事處位於火炭，鄰近火車站、巴士及小巴總站，是全港首個專為新界東鐵地區客戶簽發各類產地證的簽證辦事處，並設有代打報關證服務。

新界火炭山尾街 18 - 24 號，沙田商業中心 14 樓 1406 室
電話：3586 8180 / 3586 8130

Chamber Happy Hour

歡樂時光

七月份的總商會「歡樂時光」聚會於7月27日假港麗酒店舉行。當晚眾多會友聚首一堂，輕鬆暢談和聯誼交流。「歡樂時光」逢每月最後一個周四晚上6至8時舉行，無需預先報名，誠邀你光臨一聚！



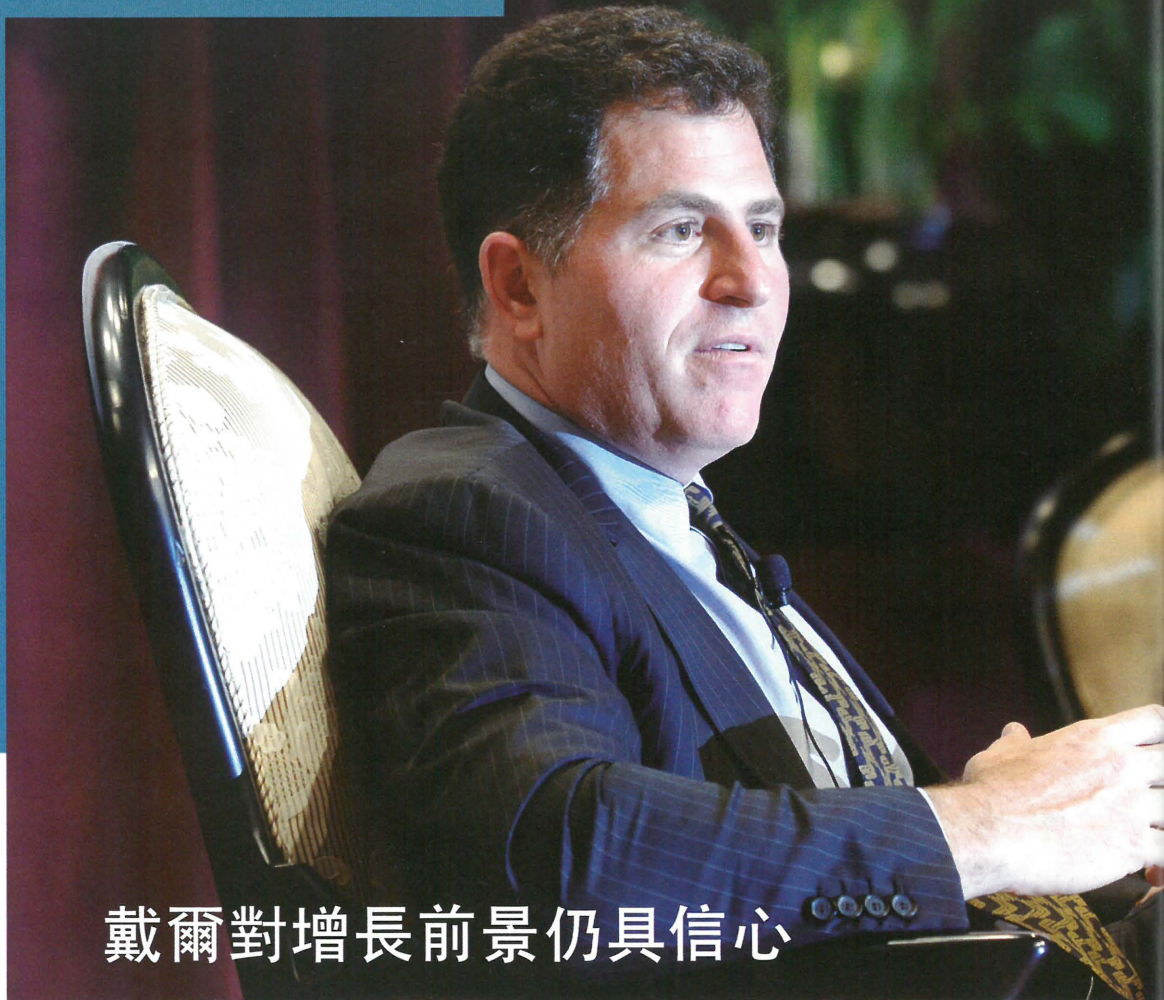
活動重溫



A good crowd turned out for the Chamber Happy Hour at the Conrad on July 27 to chat, network and meet new contacts. Chamber Happy Hour takes place on the last Thursday of every month and runs from 6-8 p.m. No registration is necessary, just walk in. See you there!



Dell Remains Upbeat on Growth, Despite Problems



戴爾對增長前景仍具信心

Michael Dell didn't blink an eye when he was presented with a Dell battery pack in front of a packed hotel ballroom last month. He simply smiled and told the presenter "you are a funny guy."

The public relations nightmare of recalling 4.1 million notebook computer batteries supplied by Sony Corp. – the biggest electronics recall in U.S. history – is no laughing matter for the founder and Chairman of computer maker Dell. Speaking to members at a Chamber Distinguished Speakers Series talk on August 18, he defended the recall, saying it will have a long-term benefit to the company once the media hysteria has calmed down.

"There are a number of things a company might do in this situation – you can run and

hide, you can wait for the regulators, or you can claim it is not a problem," he explained. "We are absolutely doing the right thing for our customers and in the long term it will be appreciated. There is no denying that it is an inconvenience, but I think customers would much rather Dell be proactive and address this with their safety in mind as opposed to waiting for some government agency to show up."

The 41-year-old executive, who founded his company after tinkering with an early IBM PC in his dormitory in 1984, said he is not fretting about the company's performance which was being lambasted for losing market share to its rivals. He said by putting Dell under the microscope, the media fails to realize that this relatively young company

"I think the media tends to focus too much on the last 24 hours and what is going to happen in the next 24 hours. I like to look at the last 24 years," says Mr Dell.

戴爾先生說：「我認為傳媒太著眼於短期所發生的事，相比下，我們的目光長遠得多。」



has been built from nothing into a US\$56 billion empire in just 20 years – the only company in history to grow so large so quickly.

"People think we have now run into a hard spot, but if you step back, even four to five years ago, we had negative growth in the past, so I take a little bit broader perspective," he said defending Dell's report earnings. "I think the media tends to focus too much on the last 24 hours and what is going to happen in the next 24 hours. I like to look at the last 24 years."

Looking to the future, Mr Dell said he is confident that his business model is sound. He rebuffed criticism that Dell's business model doesn't work in certain markets as nonsense, citing five years of very impressive growth in Asia.

On the convergence of media and technology, he believes that rather than getting smaller, consumers are looking for bigger products that can help to easily digest the huge increases in data and media that they now consume on a daily basis.

The convergence of video and media in the home is already happening as more people are using their PCs as their home media entertainment centers with breakthroughs in processing power and fiber optic broadband.

Just where the industry will be heading, however, is not so clear-cut.

"One thing I have observed in our industry is that we can reasonably predict what the physics of semiconductors will be able to do, but what people will be doing with these is incredibly difficult to anticipate or predict," he said.

Wider online interaction and social creation in the form of blogs and self-broadcasting is creating a new era in computing. It also represents a real-time pool of talent for companies to tap into and to interact and engage customers in response to new trends.

Dell has been criticized for producing ho-hum products, but Mr Dell said he is confident that a new line of machines that will be released early next year will tempt consumers to upgrade, who will then put pressure on their offices to follow suit.

A key development in the next IT revolution will be the introduction of 100Mb fiber optics into homes. Singapore has an ambitious programme to bring fiber into every home, as does South Korea, and this is an advantage that five years from now will be something that everyone will want to have.

"Governments have a role to play in this. Governments need to say we are going to give our citizens the tools they need to be successful in the 21st century, and those regions that do have this technology will thrive," he said. 🌸



本會於8月18日舉行的「特邀貴賓演說系列」講座，邀得邁克爾·戴爾為演說嘉賓。講座舉行當天，設於酒店宴會廳的會場座無虛席。會上有人向戴爾先生送上一枚「戴爾」電腦電池，面對這場面，他態度自若，只微笑著說：「你真風趣。」

對於電腦生產商戴爾公司的創辦人兼主席來說，要回收全球410萬枚由Sony所供應的手提電腦電池，可不是說笑的。而且這是美國史上最大規模的電子產品回收事件，無疑是公關人員的一場噩夢。然而，戴爾先生於會上為回收行動作出辯護，他認為待傳媒的一窩蜂報導冷卻後，事件會對公司有長遠裨益。

他解釋：「面對這情況，一家公司可以有幾種回應：可以逃避，可以等待監察機關找上門，甚至聲稱這完全沒有問題。我們的做法，全然是為客戶著想，長遠會得到認同和讚許。回收無疑構成不便，但我相信顧客寧願我們為了安全起見而積極採取行動，總勝過什麼也不做，被動地等政府人員找上門。」

現年41歲的戴爾先生於1984年在宿舍內試驗改裝一台早期的IBM個人電腦，因此而獲得啟發，創立了公司。市場預料戴爾電腦的市場佔有率會被對手奪去，因而影響公司業績，但戴爾先生對此並不擔心。他認為傳媒忽略了要點：戴爾公司在短短20年間，已發展成坐擁560億美元資產的大公司，而它仍然是一家相對上較年輕的公司，其增長之規模和速度，在史上絕無僅有。

他為戴爾公司的盈利辯解：「外界認為我們已陷入困境，但回顧過去，即使是4、5年前，我們也曾經錄得負增長，所以我們的看法會較宏觀。我認為傳媒太著眼於短期所發生的事，相比下，我們的目光長遠得多。」

展望未來，戴爾先生對公司的商業模式充滿信心。對於外界有評戴爾公司的商業模式並不適用於某些市場，他不以為然，並指近5年公司的亞洲業務增長可觀。

談到媒體與科技的結合，他相信消費者趨向需求較大型的產品，以便較易收納與日俱增的常用數據和媒體。

錄像和媒體的結合已然在家居實現。隨著電源和光纖寬頻技術方面的突破，愈來愈多人以個人電腦作為家裡的媒體娛樂中心。

然而，業界前景有很多可能性。他說：「我們可以從物理角度，對半導體未來發展作出合理的預測，但業界會如何應用有關科技，卻難以預料。」

隨著愈來愈多人以網誌和網播形式進行網上互動和社交，電腦的應用和發展步進新紀元。企業亦能藉此接觸到更多人才，並善用這些新趨勢，與顧客互動和吸引他們參與。

戴爾公司的產品曾被評為沉悶和缺乏新意，但戴爾先生有信心明年初推出的新系列產品會令消費者趨之若鶩，企業辦公室有見及此，亦會跟隨。

資訊科技界的下一項大革新，是把100Mb光纖引入家居。新加坡和南韓已積極計劃把光纖引進每個家庭，相信不出5年，便會成為每家每戶都需要之科技。

他說：「政府應為市民提供21世紀所必要之先進科技，以維持競爭力。掌握這種科技的地區將會在新世紀創出佳績。」

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Celebrating Our 145th Anniversary

Shanxi Eager for Foreign Investment

山西省積極招商引資

Yu Youjun is no stranger to Hong Kong businesses. After being appointed Mayor of Shenzhen in 2000, he began pushing to open state-dominated sectors to foreign investors, and is credited with further enhancing the city's development into a model for the rest of the country to follow.

China's leaders are hoping he can replicate some of that success in his latest position as Shanxi Governor, which he was appointed to in January this year. In July, he was in Hong Kong to drum up US\$147 billion in investment in the province through a three-day investment promotion fair in the territory.

Despite the Central Government's efforts to rein in surging overseas investment, Shanxi Province, in northern China, is eager to attract foreign capital to boost its economic development, he told members at a Chamber Distinguished Speakers Series luncheon on July 25.

Shanxi, with a population of around 33 million, depends largely on its agricultural industries, and as such its initiatives to develop its economy are in line with Beijing's policy of advancing underdeveloped provinces.

"Although the Chinese government has launched macroeconomic controls in recent months, the recent tightening measures, different from those 10 years ago, are aimed at hitting the brakes on some overheated sectors, while at the same time protecting some underdeveloped sectors," Mr Yu said.

The 53-year-old governor said the "Rejuvenating Central China Strategy," formally put forth by the Central Government in April, gives Shanxi the green light for further development. Eleven major cities and prefectures of Shanxi showcased their projects for overseas investment at the fair.

His experience and no-nonsense approach in Shenzhen has helped him trim excess red-tape in Shanxi in the six months that he has been on the job. He admitted that some Mainland provinces have created hurdles for foreign investors and that certain government officials are only concerned with getting rich. To increase transparency and improve the business environment in his department, "the Shanxi Government has created an accountability system for senior officials and set up a new supervision agency to look into public complaints against the government," he said.

Mr Yu is also hoping to boost tourism in the province, with its cultural legacies such as the Yungang Grottoes in Datong and well-preserved grand courtyards, formerly the homes of the country's richest bankers in ancient times.

Mr Yu presents Chamber Deputy Chairman Dr Lily Chiang with a model of Shanxi's famous Yingxian Wooden Pagoda.
于省長向本會常務副主席蔣麗莉博士致送山西著名的應縣木塔模型。



Mr Yu said he hopes more Hong Kong investors will look at opportunities in Shanxi.
于先生希望有更多港商到山西探索機遇。



香港商界對於幼軍並不陌生。他於 2000 年獲委任為深圳市市長，此後積極推動改革，把本來由國家包辦和經營的行業開放予境外投資者，並成功把深圳發展成模範城市，供全國其他省市做法，贏得讚譽。

中央今年 1 月委任于氏出任山西省省長，期望他再創佳績。上月，他來港出席一個為期 3 天的山西省投資推介活動，目標是為山西省引入 1,470 億美元的外資。

于省長於 7 月 25 日蒞臨本會舉辦的「特邀貴賓演說系列」午餐會。他向會員表示，雖然中央政府設法壓抑不斷湧入的外來投資，位於中國北部的山西省卻渴望吸引外資，進一步發展當地經濟。

山西省人口約 3,300 萬，省內以農業為主。推動山西省經濟發展的目標，與中央致力發展落後省份的政策正好不謀而合。

于省長表示：「中國政府近月推出的宏觀調控措施，與 10 年前實施的有所不同。如今的收緊措施旨在調控過熱行業，與此同時亦保護發展不足的行業。」

現年 53 歲的于省長指中央政府於 4 月實施的「中部崛起戰略」，有助山西省進一步發展。山西省 11 個主要市縣均積極透過是次招商活動，向外資推介當地的投資項目。

于氏個人作風務實，加上管治深圳時累積了寶貴經驗，故上任山西省省長僅 6 個月，已開始著手改革當地官僚文化。他承認一些內地省份對外商施加掣肘，也有政府官員只顧發財。他表示，為了增加其部門的透明度和改善營商環境，山西政府已設立高級官員問責制，並成立了新的監督機關，以跟進市民對政府的投訴。

However, he also realizes that illegal mining in the province is a serious issue which is perhaps more pressing. As Shanxi's coal reserves and output account for around one third of the country's total, illegal mining, which often leads to tragedies, is not uncommon. ❀

于氏也希望促進省內旅遊業發展。山西省文化遺產豐富，包括大同雲崗石窟，還有一些保存良好的豪宅大院古蹟。

此外，他意識到省內的非法採礦問題嚴重，急須正視和治理。山西的煤資源儲備和產出佔全國三分之一，省內非法採礦的情況普遍，煤礦意外及事故屢生。❀

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Firms Use CEPA to Target Specific Cities

企業利用 CEPA 進軍內地城市



Guangdong's proximity to Hong Kong makes it the ideal launch pad for local firms looking to break into the Mainland market under CEPA. According to a Trade and Industry Department survey of HKSS Certificate applicants, 44.4% have or plan to set up in the province. "But what is surprising is that 43.8% are targeting Shanghai," Raymond Young, Director-General of Trade and Industry, told members at a Chamber CEPA Roundtable Series luncheon on July 26.

Another surprise finding is that only 4.3% of applicants are interested in doing business in Beijing, according to the survey, while the remaining 7.5% are planning to start businesses in other provinces and cities. Out of the 978 HKSS Certificate applicants, 703 are in the transport, logistics, or distribution businesses.

Guangdong appeals far more to entrepreneurs looking to start up individually owned stores, with 1,807 applicants, out of a total of 2,040, already setting up shop in the province.

While establishing individual stores and opening certain types of industries has been relatively easy under CEPA, a member of the audience pointed out that cross recognition of professional qualifications, despite being "officially" recognized, are "in reality still mostly treated with lip service."

Mr Young said he is aware that certain sectors, especially the accounting profession, is a sensitive sector which comes up against all sorts of domestic sentiments for protecting the local

CEPA 實施後，廣東省由於鄰近香港，成為香港企業進軍內地市場的理想跳板。工業貿易署對《香港服務提供者證書》申請者進行的調查顯示，44.4%受訪者已經或打算在廣東建立業務。不過，工業貿易署署長楊立門在本會7月26日舉行的「CEPA系列」講座中卻指出，43.8%受訪者的目標城市是上海，這結果令人感到意外。

該調查更發現，只有4.3%受訪者有興趣在北京營商，而餘下的7.5%則計劃在其他省市開展業務。在978份《香港服務提供者證書》申請當中，有703份來自運輸、物流或分銷行業。

對於有意以個體戶形式進軍內地的商人來說，廣東是較具吸引力的目的地。因此在2,040份個體工商戶申請中，有1,807份均計劃在廣東省創業。

CEPA有助港商在內地以個體工商戶形式開展業務，也便利某些行業進入內地市場。然而有與會者指出，儘管兩地專業資格互認已「正式」實施，在現實中仍是「口惠而實不至」。

楊署長表示留意到某些行業（特別是會計專業）性質較敏感，進入內地市場時較易引起當地的保護情緒和反應。他慨歎道：「我們與內地多番磋商，仍沒有多大進展。最大的問題是，香港的公司都不願意把遇到的困難告訴我們。一直以來，我們都呼籲大小企業透露他們的問題和困難，讓我們向內地有關當局反映，一起商討解決方法。」

貨物貿易

透過CEPA而出口內地的港製貨物約佔港製品總出口7%。楊氏表示，目前這比率並不高，但長遠前景才是重點所在。

他說：「過去10年來，本地產品出口內地的數字一直下降，而CEPA則扭轉了這個趨勢。由2004年起，港製品輸入內地的數字一直增長。」

楊氏預期，隨著更多企業利用零關稅優惠把貨物輸入內地，這數字將穩步上揚。

他說：「目前只是起步階段，廠商需要時間計劃和決策。當然，對若干行業而言，在港生產始終不化算。因為縱有CEPA提供之優惠，在港生產某些貨品之成本仍甚高。不過，有個別行業還是能從中受惠。」

Mr Young says Guangdong and Shanghai are the two key targets for Hong Kong businesses setting up in the Mainland.

楊署長表示，廣東和上海是港商進軍內地的兩大目的地。



industries. "We have had round after round of negotiations, but we haven't been able to achieve much progress," he lamented.

"The biggest problem that we encounter is the reluctance for Hong Kong companies to approach us with their problems. We have been appealing to all and sundry to tell us their difficulties so we can then take these to the Mainland authorities to be addressed."

Trade in goods

The volume of products manufactured here for export to the Mainland under CEPA make up about 7% of Hong Kong's total domestic exports. Mr Young said that while this figure may not seem terribly significant, it needs to be put into perspective.

"Domestic exports to the Mainland have been falling for the past 10 years, but CEPA has reversed that trend. Since 2004, we now have had positive growth for domestic exports into China," he said.

Mr Young said he expects this growth to steadily increase as more businesses' plans to capitalize on tariff-free entry of goods into the Mainland come into being.

"It is still early days, as manufacturers have to plan and decide what to do," he said. "Of course this does not make sense for certain businesses, as CEPA doesn't offer a big enough incentive to people in certain goods because of the cost of manufacturing here, but there are certain niche sectors that are following this benefit."

Deepening Our Talent Pool

吸引外地優才來港



Ms Chan advises candidates to carefully review their application forms and documentation to avoid unnecessary delays.
 陳女士建議申請人細心檢查填報之資料和呈交的文件，以避免不必要的延誤。

The challenge of hiring overseas talent in Hong Kong became slightly easier with the introduction of the “Quality Migrant Admission Scheme” in June. Although an initial quota of 1,000 applicants has been set, Assistant Director of Immigration Helen Chan Wing-mui told members at a Chamber Government At Work Series roundtable luncheon on August 15 that this number is not set in stone.

“After one year we will review the whole scheme and if we find the scheme is welcomed, then we will of course revise the quota,” she said.

So far the Immigration Department has received over 200 applications, mostly from Mainland China applicants, and the first batch of cohorts is expected to be announced at the end of the year.

The scheme is open to all expatriate professionals between the ages of 18 and 50, and is operated on a points-based scoring mechanism. Unlike past schemes, applicants are not required to secure an offer of local employment before entering Hong Kong. They can also apply to bring in their spouse, and unmarried dependent children below the age of 18.

Applicants are assessed under one of the two points-based tests of the scheme – the General Points Test and the Achievement-based Points Test, and compete for quota allocation. The maximum points for both tests is 165, and the General Points Test is based on: age, academic/professional qualifications, work experience, language proficiency, family background. The Achievement-based Points Test takes into account individuals with exceptional talent or skill, or who have received an award of

港府於6月推出「優秀人才入境計劃」，有助吸引內地及海外人才來港發展。入境事務處助理處長陳詠梅於8月15日蒞臨本會舉辦的「政府運作系列」講座，向會員介紹計劃詳情。她表示，雖然每年名額初步定為1,000個，但日後可予調整。

她說：「我們會於一年後進行全面檢討，若發現計劃受歡迎，會調整有關名額。」

入境處迄今收到逾200份申請，主要來自內地居民，當局預計於年底公佈首批申請結果。

年齡介乎18至50歲的海外專才，均可作出申請，計劃會透過計分制度評審。有別於以往推行過的人才入境計劃，是次計劃的申請人毋需於入境前獲得本港公司聘用，他們更可申請帶同其配偶及18歲以下未婚及受養的子女來港。

計劃設有兩套計分制——「綜合計分制」和「成就計分制」，申請人須選擇其一，以獲取分數來爭取配額。兩套計分制的最高得分同為165分。「綜合計分制」按年齡、學歷或專業資格、工作經驗、語文能力及家庭背景來計分。「成就計分制」為具備超凡才能或技術，以及擁有傑出成就的人士而設，申請人須曾獲奧運獎牌、諾貝爾獎、國家／國際獎項等傑出成就獎項始能得分。

成功通過審批的申請人，一般獲准在港逗留12個月。在這段期限完結前，有關人士須證明確實有採取來港定居的步驟。

「優秀人才入境計劃」的另一特點，是容許申請人自由轉工。在一般就業簽證保證制度下，外地人才在港辦理轉工的過程和手續往往很複雜。✿

exceptional achievement, such as Olympic medals, Nobel prize, or national/international awards.

Successful applicants will normally be granted an initial stay of 12 months in Hong Kong. At the end of this period, entrants admitted under the scheme should be able to demonstrate that they have taken steps to settle in Hong Kong by taking up residence here.

Unlike other schemes, applicants will also be permitted to freely change jobs, a process that is often complicated under the general employment visa sponsorship system. ✿

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New Policies Cool China's Property Market

The greatest challenge in understanding China's property market is that regulations are in a constant state of flux, says Andrew Ness, Executive Director, CBRE Research, Asia.

"Look at my presentation. We worked on it just six hours ago and it is already out of date," he told members at the first in a series of Chamber roundtable luncheons on China's property market on July 28.

Mr Ness was referring to China's new regulation to impose a 20% capital gains tax on property sales to deter speculators, and also to limit property investment by both foreign nationals and overseas Chinese.

Since 2003 the Central Government has been rolling out a slew of regulations to let some air out of China's property bubble, the most recent being (the day before Mr Ness's talk), the State Council's "6 Point Measures and 15 implementing Regulations."

For the past five years, property construction has been increasing at over 20% annually, much of it being sunk into luxury properties for higher returns. This has worried the Central Government because it puts home ownership increasingly out of reach of the average Chinese family.

According to Mr Ness, China's house prices to income ratio are among the highest in the world, with 70% of urban residents being unable to afford to buy their own home. This is giving rise to the "housing slave" phenomenon, in which most of people's income goes towards putting a roof over their heads.

The danger here, apart from social unrest, is that too much credit is being pumped into the system on the back of excessive lending, which threatens the stability of China's finance industry should the property market crash.

內地樓市降溫新措施

CBRE 環球研究部亞洲區執行董事聶安達說：「研究中國房地產市場的最大挑戰，在於當地規例不斷改變。」

聶氏於 7 月 28 日為本會「中國房地產市場系列」首場講座作演說，他對會員說：「這份演說資料在 6 個小時前才剛擬備好，但如今事情又有新發展。」

他指的是中國為壓抑炒賣房地產而推出新規例，對二手住宅轉讓所得盈利強制徵稅 20%，以及限制外商和境外華人投資內地房地產。

自 2003 年起，中央政府推出連串措施，以抑制內地樓市泡沫。在講座舉行前一天，國務院剛出台被稱為「國六條」的調控措施和「國十五條」的實施細則。

過去 5 年來，房地產建設每年增長超過 20%，而新建的大部分是回報率高的豪宅。中央政府憂慮這趨勢會令一般平民家庭無法自置居所。

聶氏表示，中國是世界上房價對入息比率最高的國家之一，有 70% 城市居民無能力置業，令社會上出現「房奴」現象——百姓大部分收入都要用來供房子。

這現象有可能導致社會不穩，而大量資金湧入以致銀行過度借貸也是另一危機，一旦房地產市道逆轉，中國金融業亦岌岌可危。

Among the 6/15 regulations is the requirement that units measuring 90 sq. meters or less must comprise 70% of the total construction area. The regulation aims to adjust the housing supply structure and make units more affordable.

Also, "Before the 6/15 measures were introduced, the company that offered the highest bid for a plot would get the parcel of land up for auction," he said. "Now, bidders are required to tender both land and target housing prices, so rule of the game has changed, and the company which bids the highest land price may not necessarily win."

In Shanghai, Mr Ness says most developers have been caught completely by surprise by the magnitude of the regulatory changes. At the time of writing, the Shanghai Government had yet to release detailed implementing regulations, and as such the general reaction is to defer development plans and new projects until the dust settles.

「國六條」和「國十五條」規定房地產開發項目中，90 平方米或以下的單位須佔開發建設總面積 70%，用意在於調整住房供應結構，及重點發展較易負擔的住房。

他說：「在『國六條』和『國十五條』等措施出台前，土地拍賣一般都是價高者得。但如今遊戲規則已變，除了競地價，還要競房價，因此出最高地價者不一定能投得土地。」

聶氏提到，中央對房地產市場實施新管制，令上海不少發展商都措手不及。撰寫本文之時，上海政府仍未公佈新規例實施詳情，故發展商大多暫延發展計劃和新項目，靜觀其變。

他指上海平均樓價全年穩步上升。6 月份平均樓價較上月份增長 7.9%，主要原因是月內豪宅交易增多。然而，上海市政府公佈今年上半年住宅樓價實際上較去年同期下跌 5.2%。

對於在講座當日公佈的新規例，聶氏表示未能評論會對市場產生什麼影響。不過，其後有報告資料顯示，中央壓抑炒房的規例一實施，上海樓市於一周內已下調逾 10%。✿

如欲收聽聶安達演說錄音，請登入《i 工商月刊》
www.chamber.org.hk/Bulletin。

According to Mr Ness, the average price of properties in Shanghai has been rising steadily all year, with average prices increasing 7.9% m-o-m in June, mainly due to the higher percentage of luxury property transactions. However, the city government announced that residential property prices for the first half of this year are actually 5.2% lower than the same period last year.

Mr Ness said he wasn't in a position to comment on how the new regulations announced the day of his talk would impact the market, but subsequent reports showed that Shanghai's property market dropped more than 10% in one week as the policies aimed at deterring speculators began to take effect. ✿

Members can listen to Mr Ness's entire presentation at iBulletin, www.chamber.org.hk/Bulletin

China's house prices to income ratio are among the highest in the world, says Mr Ness.

聶安達說：「中國是世界上房價對入息比率最高的國家之一。」





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- 26 SEP
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- 3 OCT
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- 12 OCT
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- 19 OCT
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Events

活動預告

Training

18 SEP

Training: Chinese Etiquette Workshop

20 SEP

Training: Effective Succession Planning (*Cantonese*)

22 SEP

Training: Offshore Planning – It's Time to Review & Change! (*Cantonese*)

培訓課程: 離岸公司安排 – 是時候需要檢討和修改! (*廣東話*)

26 SEP

Training: Practical HR Workshop Series – Module III – “Employee Motivation” (*Cantonese with English Manual*)

27 SEP

Training: Coaching for Performance (*Cantonese*)

27 SEP

Training: Handling Complaint & Difficult People on the Telephone (*Cantonese*)

Roundtable Luncheons

18 SEP

Government at Work Series: “Common Unauthorized Building Works in Busy Commercial Areas and Fire Safety Requirements in Commercial Buildings”

22 SEP

Enhance Collaboration with Enterprise Information Portal & e-Workflow

25 SEP

Perspective of China's Current Property Market (*Cantonese*)

中國房地產午餐會系列：中國房地產最新市場情況透視 (*廣東話*)

25 SEP

Population Policy Forum: Ethnic Harmony and a Sustainable Economy

26 SEP

Equal Opportunities at Work

13 OCT

Population Policy Forum: Working Women, Are You Tired?

Workshop

29 SEP

DIT Workshop: IT for Non-IT People

Subscription Luncheon

13 SEP

Joint Subscription Luncheon with Ed Balls MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, U.K. Government

5 OCT

“Meet Your Banker” Series with Dr David K.P. Li, Chairman and Chief Executive, The Bank of East Asia Limited

17 OCT

Joint Business Community Luncheon with The Honourable Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of the HKSARG

Distinguished Speakers Series

21 SEP

DSS Luncheon with Jack Ma, Founder, Chairman and CEO, Alibaba.com

Networking Functions

26 SEP

SME Night on Business Facilitation Success Stories
中小企之夜

28 SEP

Chamber Happy Hour

Mission

25~27 SEP

HKGCC Study Mission to Changsha, Hunan Province for The 1st Expo of Central China Fair for Trade & Investment (*Putonghua*)

“首屆中國中部貿易投資博覽會”香港總商會湖南長沙訪問團 (*普通話*)

14~15 OCT

HKGCC Delegation to Guangzhou for The Opening Ceremony of The 100th Chinese Export

Commodities Fair (*Putonghua*)

香港總商會代表團“第100屆中國出口商品交易會《廣交會》開幕典禮” (*普通話*)

22~29 OCT

HKGCC Study Mission to Mexico to be led by Mr David Eldon, Chairman, HKGCC

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Life's Getting Better

The quality of life in Hong Kong continues to get better and better, according to the Chinese University of Hong Kong Quality of Life Index.

According to the survey, the index reached 107.47 in 2005, the third consecutive climb, up from 106.97 in 2004, and 104.20 in 2003. The findings may not come as a surprise considering how glum life was in 2003 and 2004, but looking on the positive side, the index says the standardized mortality rate, the stress index, the overall crime rate and the unemployment rate declined in this year.

Hong Kong people were more satisfied with their lives, and their satisfaction with the performance of the HKSAR Government drastically increased. With regard to the environment, the air quality, water quality, noise level and the recycle rate of municipal solid waste were better than that in previous years.

More>> at iBulletin

港人生活質素持續改善

香港中文大學公佈的香港生活質素指數反映港人整體生活質素持續改善。

據調查所得，香港的生活質素指數連續3年上升，在2005年更升至107.47的水平，比2004年的106.97和2003年的104.20為高。此上升趨勢，亦不足為奇，因為港人經歷過2003和2004年的逆境後，生活質素正逐漸回升。指數亦顯示本年度的死亡率、壓力指數、整體罪案率及失業率均有所下降。

港人對現時生活的滿意程度亦較以往高，他們對政府表現的滿意程度大幅上升。環境方面，本港的空氣、水質、噪音和都市固體廢物循環再造也比往年有所改善。

詳情載於《i工商月刊》網頁



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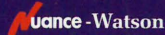
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