



會長序辭

2020年是充滿挑戰和變化的一年。受新冠疫情、“修例風波”引發的持續社會動亂所困擾，嚴重影響本港經濟與社會民生發展。面對各種挑戰，中總積極配合特區政府和社會各界齊心抗疫，並全力擁護香港國安法的實施，喜見整體社會呈現由亂轉治新局面。

此外，中總迎來成立120周年大喜日子；第52屆會董會亦於年內就任。在秉持中總愛國愛港優良傳統的同時，我們也與時俱進，積極與會員攜手應對挑戰，致力融入國家發展大局，在新形勢下邁步向前，探索新商機。

全力配合防疫抗疫工作

去年，新冠疫情嚴重打擊本港經濟、營商環境與市民日常生活。2020年全年整體經濟收縮達6.1%，是有記錄以來最大的年度跌幅。多個行業經營受到沉重打擊，零售銷貨額大幅下跌，航空、旅遊及相關業務更處於冰封狀態；勞工市場亦急劇惡化，失業率上升。

特區政府去年推出多輪防疫抗疫基金，資助受疫情嚴重影響的行業和人士，並透過撐企業、保就業措施，援助工商各業應對經營困境。中央政府更為本港加強病毒檢測工作提供支援，協助建設臨時醫院和擴展社區治療設施，紓緩本港醫療系統壓力。中總亦密切監察疫情對營商環境帶來的變化，積極協助會員和業界反映訴求，並就推動落實各項紓困措施提出建議。

疫情發生以來，中總成員積極透過不同方式及途徑，自發出錢出力支援防疫抗疫工作。本會多次安排向市民免費派發口罩及防疫用品，並與社福、地區機構合作，向長者、基層家庭、少數族裔、安老院舍和有需要人士分發防疫物資。中總及多位首長、成員也積極向內地及香港捐款捐物資，合共超過2,000萬港元。

香港國安法助穩定營商環境

香港國安法於去年正式頒布實施，令困擾多時的社會暴力得以平息。中總全力擁護和支持中央在港建立維護國家安全法律制度，有助撥亂反正，更重要是為工商企業和社會民生的正常運作提供保障，長遠有利穩定投資環境，增強本地和海外投資者信心。

事實上，香港國安法的實施引起國際社會關注，加上地緣政治的不確定性，不僅牽引全球政經形勢，對香港整體發展也產生關鍵影響。中總一直密切留意相關事態發展，協助政府向各國駐港領事及外國商會領袖進行解說，並適時襄助會員企業和香港工商界採取應對策略，分散市場投資，減低環球及本地政經形勢變化可能帶來的負面影響。我們亦透過施政報告、財政預算案和各類政策諮詢途徑，表達對經濟和營商環境變化的關注，並多次與特區政府和本港主要商會交流討論，探討為工商各業提供支援措施，緩減企業和商戶經營壓力，應對經濟下行帶來的挑戰。

積極融入國家發展大局

內地成功控制新冠疫情，令經濟率先走出陰霾，更成為2020年全球唯一實現正增長的主要經濟體。面對政經局勢和後疫情時期的新常態，內地亦正邁向全新的發展階段。習近平主席提出加快形成以國內大循環為主體、國內國際雙循環相互促進的新發展格局，並全面深化粵港澳大灣區建設，這些都為本港經濟以至工商各業長遠發展帶來龐大新機遇。

一直以來，本會積極推動會員及工商界參與國家建設、探索內地市場發展空間，近年更着力促進粵港澳大灣區全方位合作，善用商會跟內地網絡聯繫優勢，通過香港金融和專業服務等強項，深化港商與內地企業合作，協助會員拓展大灣區和其他內地市場。此外，區域全面經濟夥伴關係協定(RCEP)去年11月正式簽署。中總過去成功推動香港加入東盟自貿區，在爭取香港加入RCEP亦提出不少意見，帶領會員積極參與東盟等區域經貿合作發展。

因應疫情關係，去年我們雖然減少與內地和海外的實體交流、考察和研討等活動，但透過線上互動和其他不同途徑，我們與特區政府、內地及海外政府部門、駐港機構等保持着密切聯繫。今後，中總將繼續發揮商會的橋樑功能，積極協助會員和香港工商界投入國家發展大局，探討香港如何能更有效參與大灣區、東盟以至“一帶一路”等區域合作，協助會員企業拓展業務，對接國家“雙循環”發展新契機。

為長遠發展作更大承擔

經歷了艱巨的2020年，我們相信2021年將是挑戰仍在、機遇處處。中總作為香港歷史最悠久的愛國愛港商會之一，在當前百年未遇的環球大變局中，我們應有更多作為、更大擔當。全國人大通過完善香港選舉制度的決定和人大常委會通過修訂的《基本法》附件一和附件二，有助貫徹落實“愛國者治港”，為香港社會、經濟和營商發展構建繁榮穩定根基。中總將全面配合，積極推動工商和社會各界攜手努力，並加強對香港新一代的引導和幫助，協助提升年輕人的國家觀念和國民身份認同，為香港和諧穩定發展貢獻力量。

2021年是“十四五”規劃開局之年，全國“兩會”更通過2035年遠景目標綱要，為今後國家經濟和社會發展提供明確藍圖。中總將繼續致力協助會員和工商界在新形勢下應對新挑戰，為港商企業、專業服務及人才探索更多發展空間，抓住粵港澳大灣區、共建“一帶一路”等重大機遇，助力推動香港加快融入國家發展大局，為香港和內地工商經濟發展作出更大承擔。

第52屆會長



袁武

Chairman's Statement

2020 was a year of challenges and changes. The combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest triggered by the amendment of the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance severely disrupted economic and social developments in Hong Kong. During the testing times, CGCC worked closely with the HKSAR government and various sectors to fight the novel coronavirus outbreak, and gave its full support for the implementation of the National Security Law, which, to our delight, has put a stop to chaos and restored order in the city.

On a positive note, CGCC celebrated its 120th anniversary and the 52nd Term Board was inaugurated. While honoring its tradition of wholeheartedly serving the country and Hong Kong, CGCC did not allow itself to fall behind the times. On top of seeking to resolve the latest challenges, we worked with our members to speed up the integration of their businesses and Hong Kong into the country's development and capture opportunities emerging in the new era.

Contributing to the anti-epidemic effort

Hong Kong's economy, business environment and daily life suffered as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak last year. The city's whole-year GDP shrank 6.1%, the worst yearly decline in record. Multiple industries were dealt a devastating blow – retail sales plummeted, the aviation, tourism and related sectors came to a standstill. Overall, the labor market deteriorated, and the unemployment rate shot up.

In response, the HKSAR government launched a few rounds of measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund last year to assist seriously affected industries and members of the public and implemented other measures to help businesses stay afloat and keep workers in employment. Meanwhile, support from the Central government for Hong Kong to enhance its virus testing capacity and establish a temporary hospital as well as expand its community treatment facilities helped to relieve the pressure on the city's healthcare system. In addition to closely monitoring the changes brought by COVID-19 to the business environment, CGCC reflected the appeals of its members and the business sector and made recommendations regarding the implementation of various relief measures to the government.

Since COVID-19 first broke out, CGCC members have been making donations and supporting anti-epidemic work in numerous ways. CGCC itself distributed free masks and other supplies to the public a number of times and collaborated with welfare and community organizations to provide personal hygiene items to senior citizens, grassroots families, ethnic minorities, elderly homes and other parties in need. Altogether, CGCC and its various leaders and members donated money and supplies amounting to over HKD20 million in the Mainland and Hong Kong.

National Security Law helps to stabilize the business environment

The enactment of the National Security Law last year put an end to the violent social incidents that had been troubling the community. CGCC fully supported the Central government in establishing a legal system in Hong Kong to safeguard the security of the country. The system not only restored social order to Hong Kong, but also let businesses and people's life return to normal. In the long run, it helps to ensure a stable investment environment and thus increase the confidence of local and overseas investors.

The implementation of the National Security Law did arouse the concern of the international community. Combined with existing geopolitical uncertainty, this not only caused a shift in the global political and economic landscape, but also affected the overall development of Hong Kong. While keeping a close watch on the situation, CGCC assisted the HKSAR government in explaining the law to consuls and leaders of overseas chambers of commerce in Hong Kong. It also helped its members and the business sector to map out strategies and diversify their investments so as to minimize the negative impact arising from changing global and local political and economic circumstances. At the same time, we conveyed our concerns about the changes in the economy and business environment to the government through policy consultations including those on the Policy Address and the Budget. More than once, we met with the government and major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong to explore plausible measures to relieve the pressure on businesses and help them to overcome the challenges posed by the economic downturn.

Actively integrating into the country's development

The success of the Mainland government in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus allowed the Mainland economy to ride out the storm and become the only major economy in the world to achieve positive growth in 2020. In light of the evolving political and economic landscape and the post-pandemic “new normal”, the Mainland is going full steam ahead into a new phase of development. President Xi Jinping’s directive to accelerate the creation of a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other and to deepen the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) in an all-round manner presented immense opportunities for the long-term development of Hong Kong’s economy and business sector.

Through the years, CGCC has been actively rallying its members and the business sector to participate in the development of the country and explore the Mainland market. In recent years, one of our focuses has been to foster all-round cooperation in the Greater Bay Area. By leveraging our network in the Mainland as well as Hong Kong’s strengths in finance and professional services, we are able to deepen cooperation between Hong Kong and Mainland businesses and provide a springboard for our members to tap into the markets in the Greater Bay Area and other parts of the Mainland. CGCC has also been leading its members to take part in regional cooperation frameworks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In fact, it played a crucial role in lobbying for the inclusion of Hong Kong in the ASEAN Free Trade Area. More recently, it has provided views on lobbying for Hong Kong’s inclusion in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which was signed into effect in November 2020.

Due to COVID-19, we had to cut down on physical exchanges and delegations to the Mainland and abroad last year. Nonetheless, we continued to connect and interact with the HKSAR government, the Mainland and overseas authorities, Hong Kong-based organizations and other parties through online and alternative channels. Looking forward, CGCC will continue to function as a connector and help our members and the local business sector to participate in the country’s development. We will also explore how Hong Kong can more effectively participate in regional cooperation frameworks such as the Greater Bay Area, ASEAN and the “Belt & Road Initiative” (B&R), helping our members to expand their businesses and seize the opportunities arising from the country’s dual-circulation development.

Taking up greater responsibilities to facilitate long-term development

After a difficult year, we believe challenges will remain in 2021, but opportunities will also abound. As one of Hong Kong’s longest standing patriotic chambers of commerce, CGCC is keen to strive for greater achievements and take up greater responsibilities in a world that is undergoing unprecedented changes in a century. The adoption of the decision on improving Hong Kong’s electoral system by the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the adoption of the amended Annex 1 and Annex 2 to the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the NPC facilitated the implementation of the “patriots administering Hong Kong” principle, thereby laying the foundation for prosperous and stable social, economic and business developments in Hong Kong. On its part to promote the stable and harmonious development of Hong Kong, CGCC will mobilize the business and other sectors to work in solidarity, and provide stronger guidance and support for the young generation in order to enhance their understanding of their motherland and consolidate their national identity.

2021 marks the beginning of the “14th Five-Year Plan”. The “Two Sessions” have passed the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, confirming the blueprint for the country’s future economic and social developments. CGCC will continue to help its members and the business sector to tackle new challenges under the new circumstances, and help Hong Kong businesses, professional services and talent explore new room for development by capitalizing on the opportunities from the Greater Bay Area and the B&R. Above all, we will foster Hong Kong’s integration into the country’s development and make greater contributions to the economic developments in Hong Kong and the Mainland.



Yuen Mo
Chairman
(The 52nd Term of Office)