

會長序辭



2009年適逢是祖國60周年國慶大喜之年，香港經濟亦在國家刺激經濟措施的帶動下，成功抵禦了金融海嘯的衝擊，並得以穩步發展。本會秉承愛國愛港、服務社會、與時並進的一貫宗旨，與全體會員及香港各界同心應對這百年一遇的金融海嘯，並與全港市民一起歡慶60周年國慶，度過了繁忙而充實的一年。

香港經濟漸趨回穩

回首2009年，香港經濟歷經了大幅波動的情況。據政府統計處資料顯示，2009年全年的實質本地生產總值倒退2.7%，其中全球貿易因金融海嘯和人類豬型流感的影響一度急挫，以致本港首季度經濟增長亦顯著萎縮7.5%；其後，隨着中央政府積極推動刺激經濟政策，以及特區政府的“穩金融、撐企業、保就業”措施漸見成效，帶動本港經濟迅速回升，至第四季更已回復2.6%的正增長。

除貨物貿易在年內大部分時間呈現倒退外，其餘多個經濟環節均在年初表現疲弱後亦迅速回復過來。私人消費開支由第一季下跌6.1%大幅回升至增長4.9%。失業情況亦在2009年初期顯著上升後穩定下來，並逐步回落至第四季的4.9%。

資產價格更在經歷年初沉重的沽壓後大幅攀升。在全球央行採取寬鬆的貨幣政策下，資金大舉流入香港及其他亞洲經濟體系，令息率持續低企，帶動本港股市及物業市場於09年初開始呈現顯著反彈，住宅物業價格在年內平均錄得27%的升幅，也令市場逐漸出現對資產泡沫的憂慮。

國家支持成關鍵

金融海嘯令過往依賴歐美出口市場的內地與香港經濟產生根本性改變。中央政府適時推出多項刺激經濟措施，積極推動基建與內需市場發展，為內地與香港的經濟結構和長遠發展模式帶來深遠影響。

要維護香港經濟繁榮穩定和持續發展，中央的支持以強化香港與內地進一步融合，乃是當中的重要元素。2009年，中央政府提出了《珠江三角洲地區改革發展規劃綱要》和《深圳綜合配套改革試驗總體方案》等具體政策方向，並與特區政府簽署CEPA補充協議六，進一步為提倡粵港深度合作、加速粵港經濟融合奠下重要基礎。

此外，隨着人民幣跨境貿易結算業務正式開展，香港亦成為首批境外人民幣貿易結算地區之一，這將有助港商減低匯率風險與營運成本，更為香港發展人民幣結算中心提供機遇，進一步推動香港人民幣業務多元化發展，鞏固香港作為國際金融中心的地位。

隨着國家經濟急速發展，香港與內地經貿往來愈趨緊密，特別是與廣東省經濟逐步融合發展，香港的角色定位亦正面臨關鍵性的轉變。為配合國家和香港經濟新趨勢發展，本會亦充分利用廣闊的人脈網絡、國際連繫和豐富的商貿經驗與專業優勢，積極發揮商貿平台的作用，協助強化香港與內地以至全球在經貿層面的溝通聯繫，藉以發揚本會“立足香港，建設祖國，聯繫世界”的崇高理念。

搭建工商界及全球華商交流平台

加強政府與工商界的交流，並適時反映業界意見和訴求，乃是本會向來工作重點之一。2009年，本會舉辦了多場研討會、專題講座及座談會，邀請內地和本港政府官員、專家學者、業界代表等，剖析經濟形勢，為工商各業發展集思廣益。本會亦一如既往，就施政報告和財政預算案表達工商界的關注，並對其他關乎整體經濟社會發展利益的諮詢，如《最低工資條例草案》、《空氣質素指標檢討》等向政府提交建議，為提升本港整體競爭力、促進經濟持續發展出謀獻策。

本會亦分別組織考察及貿易團前赴廣東、天津、寧夏、山東等地，了解營商環境，為會員企業開拓商機。本會更向商務部及相關省市領導反映在內地的本港中小企於金融海嘯期間所遇到的經營困境，並得到了有關方面的積極回應。此外，本會亦不時接待內地各省市領導的來訪，為他們介紹香港工商業的最新發展，共同探討香港與內地經貿合作的新方向。

在國際聯繫方面，本會是世界華商大會三個發起機構之一，並肩負華商大會秘書處的職責，致力推動全球各地華商交流合作，並藉此平台推介香港與內地的投資環境與合作商機。09年11月，本會組織代表團前赴菲律賓出席第10屆世界華商大會，與來自20多個國家和地區逾3,000名華商聚首一堂，互相交流，共謀合作與發展。此外，本會在09年亦加強與各國駐港總領事及商務參贊的聯繫，邀請他們介紹當地投資情況及前景，協助會員進一步了解和拓展國際市場。

構建和諧關愛社會

除關注工商業發展外，本會也十分關心社會公益事務。金融海嘯對香港經濟和民生帶來相當影響，讓我們意識到基層和弱勢社群需要的幫助正日益增加。09年6月，本會建立“中華總商會愛心行動”，希望藉此平台團結會員和工商界力量，以實際行動為社會作出更多貢獻與承擔。自“愛心行動”創立以來，本會已向有需要家庭及人士派發總值逾160萬元的美食券和應節食品，另亦設“緊急援助基金”為重大事故受害者家屬提供即時經濟援助。

“愛心行動”更藉去年慶祝國慶60周年之際，於9月舉辦了“國慶60周年千萬行”慈善步行活動，共110支隊伍逾14,000人參加了是次活動，為香港公益金籌得善款一千萬元，將香港工商界熱心公益的精神發揚光大。

加強香港新生代國民教育

為深化香港年青一代的國民教育工作，本會於09年8月獨家贊助由特區政府與中國航天員科研訓練中心首次合辦的“少年太空人體驗營”活動，撥出100萬港元資助30名香港中學生前赴北京及西昌的航天機構學習航天科學知識，體驗太空人訓練情況，加強中學生對國家的自豪與歸屬感。

本會亦繼續推動“大學生實習交流計劃”，資助香港大學生到內地實習交流，親身感受國家的發展。自計劃創辦以來，本會已捐助920萬元資助近1,800名大學生參與交流活動。

系列活動賀國慶

2009年，本會更舉辦了一系列慶祝60周年國慶活動，包括獨家贊助國慶煙花匯演、參與主辦《建國60周年大型展覽》，出版《與祖國同行—慶祝建國60周年特刊》，並於大廈外牆懸掛大型海報和擺設國慶燈飾，與會員及社會各界歡度60周年國慶。與此同時，本會亦舉辦攝影比賽，以記載本會慶祝國慶活動的精彩花絮。各項活動旨在回顧本會與香港、共和國一起走過的路，尤其分享在團結工商界、促進社會和諧、繁榮香港與推動國家發展等多方面的工作，凸顯本會承前啟後、發揚愛國愛港優良傳統的精神。

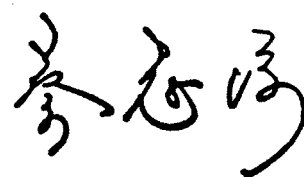
迎接110周年會慶

總括而言，2009年本會的各项工作和計劃得以順利完成，實有賴本會各首長、會董的鼎力支持和協助，各委員會的積極籌劃，以及全體會員的踴躍參與，在此我謹向各位表達衷心感謝。另外，我要多謝秘書處同儕的默默耕耘，使本會各項工作得以順利進行。

告別2009年，本會將迎來110周年會慶的大喜日子。我們將舉辦一連串慶祝活動，以表揚本會百多年來對推動國家經濟發展、協助香港工商界及維護整體社會繁榮穩定、以至加強全球華商聯繫交流所作出的承擔，同時更對歷史悠久、建樹良多的本會前輩致敬。

與此同時，本會將繼續緊貼國家及全球經濟新形勢的發展，充分利用本會龐大的聯繫網絡，進一步強化作為香港、內地以至世界華商的交流平台角色，協助會員找尋新夥伴、開拓新市場、探索新商機，並為國家繁榮昌盛、香港和諧穩定作出更大承擔。

會長



(蔡冠深)

Chairman's Statement

The year of 2009 witnessed the 60th anniversary of our motherland. Thanks to China's economic measures, Hong Kong's economy was able to weather the financial crisis and grew steadily. As always, we have been upholding our principles of "loving our nation and Hong Kong", serving the community and advancing with the times. Not only did we join hands with our members and the whole community to tide over the once-in-a-century financial tsunami, but also devoted ourselves to the celebration of China's 60th anniversary with the general public, which made our past year busy yet fruitful.

Steady Recovery of Hong Kong's Economy

Looking back at 2009, Hong Kong's economy was highly volatile. According to the Census and Statistics Department of Hong Kong, the real GDP recessed by 2.7% for 2009. The economic growth for the first quarter contracted substantially by 7.5%, attributed to the plunge in global trade amid the financial tsunami and human swine influenza. As the Central Government's economic stimulus policies and the SAR Government's initiatives in "stabilizing the financial system, supporting enterprises and preserving employment" began to bear fruit, local economy rebounded quickly later with a positive growth of 2.6% for the fourth quarter.

Apart from the setback in the trading of goods for the most part of the year, many of the other economic sectors recovered rapidly from their weak performances at the beginning of the year. Private consumption expenditure surged from a 6.1% decrease in the first quarter to a 4.9% increase. Unemployment also Asset price zoomed substantially after the heavy selling pressure at the beginning of the year. The loose monetary policies adopted by the central banks around the world facilitated funds to flow into Hong Kong and other Asian economies, keeping their interest rates at low levels. Against such backdrop, the Hong Kong stock market and property market saw a notable rebound since early 2009. In particular, prices of residential properties recorded an average growth of 27% during the year, leading to the market's concern over asset bubbles though.

China's Support Becoming Crucial

The financial tsunami has brought about fundamental changes to the Mainland and Hong Kong economies' traditional reliance on European and American export markets. The Central Government launched an array of timely stimulus economic measures, fostered infrastructure development and boosted domestic demand, which carry significant implications on the economic structure and long-term development mode of both the Mainland and Hong Kong.

To maintain the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong's economy and sustain its development, the support from the Central Government and the further integration between Hong Kong and Mainland are crucial factors. In 2009, the Central Government proposed specific policy directions in "The Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of Pearl River Delta" and "The General Proposal of Shenzhen Comprehensive Reforms". Besides, it signed the

Supplement VI to the CEPA with the SAR Government. All these moves laid an important milestone for stepping up the cooperation and economic integration between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Leveraging on the official launch of RMB settlement in cross-border trade, Hong Kong has become a forerunner of offshore RMB business, which helps reduce the exchange rate risk faced by Hong Kong entrepreneurs and their operating costs. More importantly, Hong Kong is given opportunities to develop itself as an RMB settlement center and further diversify its RMB business. As such, Hong Kong's position as an international financial center can be consolidated.

The positioning of Hong Kong faces a critical change amid the rapid economic development of China and the closer economic ties between Hong Kong and the Mainland, especially the gradual Guangdong-Hong Kong economic integration. In response to these new economic trends, we have been striving to serve as a commercial and trading platform by making the most of our extensive social network, international links and our rich experience and expertise in business and trading, so as to strengthen Hong Kong's communication and connection with the Mainland and even the world. With these efforts, we aim to achieve the goal of "Contributing to the Motherland and connecting the world with our base in Hong Kong".

Establishing Exchange Platform for Business Sectors and Chinese Entrepreneurs Worldwide

It is always one of our major tasks to reinforce the communication between the Government and the business sectors, and to express the views and requests from the sectors in a timely manner. In 2009 we organized a number of conferences, talks and seminars, in which government officials, experts, academics and industry representatives from the Mainland and Hong Kong were invited to share their insight on the general economic scene and the development of specific industries. As in the past, we voiced the business sectors' opinions on the Policy Address and the Budget. We also submitted our suggestions to the Government on other consultation issues related to economic and social development, such as the "Minimum Wage Ordinances (Draft Bill)", "Air Quality Objectives Review" and so forth. By contributing ideas and suggestions, we aim to help sharpening the competitive edge of Hong Kong as a whole and promoting the sustainability of its economy.

During the year, we organized delegations to Guangdong, Tianjin, Ningxia, Shandong, etc., which allowed our members to know more about the Mainland business environment and explore business opportunities there. We also reflected to the Ministry of Commerce and leading officials of provinces, municipality and cities the difficulties that some Hong Kong SMEs with Mainland operation faced during the financial crisis; the feedbacks we received were encouraging. In the meantime, we received provincial and municipal leaders from time to time. During these receptions, we introduced to our guests the latest development of Hong Kong's business and explore with them the new initiatives in the cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

For international network, as one of the three Founder Members of the World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) and the current WCEC Secretariat, we are committed to enhancing exchanges and cooperation among Chinese entrepreneurs around the globe. Through the WCEC, we also strive to promote the investment environment and business opportunities in Hong Kong and the Mainland. In November 2009, we organized a delegation to the 10th WCEC in the Philippines. The delegates met some 3,000 Chinese entrepreneurs from more than 20 countries and regions for exchanging views on collaborative development. In addition, we continue to reinforce our network with envoys in Hong Kong. We invited them to give briefings on their countries' investment landscape and prospects, assisting our members in further understanding and explore overseas markets.

Developing Harmonious and Caring Society

Apart from the development of Hong Kong's business sectors, social affair and the well being of our society are also our concerns. The considerable impact brought by the financial tsunami on Hong Kong's economy and the livelihood of its people pinpointed to the escalating demand by the grassroots and the disadvantaged for assistance. In response, we launched the "We Care · We Share Campaign" in June 2009, aiming to contribute to the community by concrete and concerted efforts of our members and the business sectors. Since its inception, the Campaign has delivered food coupons and festive foods with a total amount of over \$1.6 million to families and individuals in need. An "Emergency Assistance Fund" was also set up under the Campaign to provide immediate financial relief for the families of victims of major incidents.

In September the Campaign organized the "CGCC Charity Walk in Celebration of PRC 60th Anniversary", which was participated by 110 teams consisting of more than 14,000 people. A fund of \$10 million in total was raised for the Hong Kong Community Chest, showcasing the Hong Kong business sectors' enthusiasm in charity.

Beefing Up National Education for New Hong Kong Generation

To further promote national education to our young generation, we solely sponsored the first "Young Astronaut Training Camp" in August 2009, which was jointly organized by the SAR Government and the China Astronaut Research and Training Centre. A sponsorship of \$1 million was allocated to support the study trips of 30 Hong Kong secondary students to aerospace organizations in Beijing and Xichang. By learning space technology and experiencing the training for astronauts, the students developed their pride and sense of belonging towards their mother country.

We continued the "Intern Exchange Program for Tertiary Students", in which local undergraduates were able to experience China's development during their Mainland trips for exchange and internship through our sponsorship. Since the launch of the program, we have already sponsored the trips of nearly 1,800 undergraduates with a total amount of \$9.2 million.

Activities in Celebration of National Day

We organized a variety of events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, which included solely sponsoring the National Day fireworks display, co-organizing a large-scale exhibition, and publishing a commemoration album entitled “Growing with the Motherland – in Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the PRC”. A jumbo banner and lighting decoration were displayed on the external wall of our building to share the joy with our members and friends from all sectors. A photo competition was also organized to capture the memorable moments of our celebrations. These events did not only remind us of the path we have moved along with Hong Kong and China, but also demonstrated particularly our efforts in uniting business sectors, promoting prosperity and social harmony in Hong Kong, as well as facilitating China’s development. All these efforts manifest our principle of inheriting from the past and opening up the future as well as upholding our tradition of “loving our nation and Hong Kong”.

Greeting our 110th Anniversary

In conclusion, our activities and programs for 2009 would not succeed without the full support and assistance from our Chairmen, Committee Members, the various Committees, and all our members. To them I would like to express my deepest gratitude. Besides, I would also like to thank our Secretariat for their dedication and diligence that enabled our various activities to progress smoothly.

Bidding farewell to the year of 2009, we are going to greet the 110th Anniversary of the Chamber. A series of celebratory events will be organized in recognition of our over-the-century commitment in promoting China’s economic development, assisting Hong Kong business community, maintaining the prosperity and stability of our society, as well as reinforcing the liaison and exchanges among Chinese entrepreneurs worldwide. It will also give us an opportunity to pay tribute to our predecessors who have made tremendous contributions to our long-standing Chamber.

At the same time, we will continue to keep abreast of the latest development of China and the global economy. By capitalizing our extensive network, we will further consolidate our role as an exchange platform for Chinese entrepreneurs in Hong Kong, the Mainland and other parts of the world, in order to help our members to seek new partners, tap new markets and explore new business opportunities. We will undertake greater commitment to promoting the prosperity of our nation and the stability of Hong Kong.



Jonathan Choi Koon-shum
Chairman