

會長序辭



2011年是國家“十二五”規劃開局之年。“十二五”規劃歷史性把涉及港澳內容單獨成章，充分顯示中央政府大力支持香港保持繁榮穩定。本會亦帶領會員企業和工商界抓緊“十二五”機遇，積極發揮香港的獨特優勢，以配合國家轉變經濟發展模式的步伐，為會員拓展內地及海外投資商機奠下更穩固基礎。

香港經濟機遇與挑戰並存

回顧2011年，歐美各國受制於財政不穩，市場需求持續疲弱，加上日本大地震進一步為亞洲以至全球的供應鏈帶來巨大衝擊，令環球貿易持續放緩。此外，美國主權債務評級歷史性被下調，加上歐洲債務危機持續升溫，更令全球金融市場出現顯著波動。

面對環球經濟發展的起伏，香港經濟亦難免受到影響，2011年經濟實質增長由首季的7.6%，逐步放緩至第四季的3%。本港產品出口自2011年中開始更呈現顯著下滑，並於第三季度錄得負增長，以全年計算則保持3.6%輕微實質增長。

幸而內地以至亞洲其他國家及地區的經濟仍然向好，加上本港失業率偏低、工資普遍仍有增長、訪港旅客數目持續創新高等利好因素，帶動本港零售消費市道和相關行業保持良好增長勢頭。與此同時，在中央政府積極支持下，本港人民幣業務發展迅速，人民幣存款更一度突破6,200億元，經本港銀行辦理的人民幣貿易結算交易倍增，人民幣債券發行額亦突破千億元，有助本港鞏固人民幣離岸中心和資產管理中心的地位。

積極推動香港與內地融合發展

對本港工商界而言，內地經濟在過去一年持續保持快速增長，並積極促進產業結構升級轉型和開拓現代服務業發展，加上李克強副總理訪港時公佈36項措施、CEPA補充協議八的簽訂等，均為提升港商長遠競爭力和協助拓展內地市場提供廣泛的政策支援，同時亦為促進香港與內地經貿進一步融合發展帶來新機遇。

事實上，本會一直不遺餘力協助會員及工商企業開拓內地市場。過去一年，本會透過不同渠道向中央及特區政府建言獻策，反映工商及專業界別的聲音，重點提出了強化香港人民幣離岸中心和資產管理中心地位、深化CEPA措施和加強香港在國家與東盟經濟事務角色等多項建議，均獲中央積極回應。

本會亦不斷探討加強香港與內地經貿融合，尤其是與珠三角、長三角及不同區域經濟之間的優勢互補、錯位發展，促進企業轉型升級，並透過香港專業服務的優勢，協助內地企業“走出去”，共同為推動香港與內地更緊密聯繫和構建更完善營商環境作出努力。

此外，本會就加強香港與前海、南沙及橫琴等規劃區的進一步合作向粵港政府反映意見，為促進珠三角地區更緊密連繫、強化珠三角專業服務交流合作、引進香港在專業服務的運作經驗和管理模式等出謀獻策。

年內，本會組織了多個考察及貿易團，前赴珠三角、長三角，以及天津、長沙、太原、廈門等地，讓會員企業更深入了解當地的營商環境，抓緊現代服務業合作的商機。本會也經常接待內地各省、市、自治區領導來訪，共同探討香港與內地經貿合作的新方向。

致力加強國際商貿合作交流

除促進香港與內地經濟更緊密聯繫外，本會亦繼續發揮香港背靠祖國、面向世界的獨特優勢，在環球經濟重心漸向東移、“中國—東盟自由貿易區”正式運作等契機下，積極協助會員企業把握機遇，並推動香港更好地發揮位處東北亞和東南亞結合點的樞紐優勢，為國家強化與東亞地區的合作發揮更大貢獻。

過去一年，透過與中央領導、國家商務部、東亞各國商務部及領事會面的機會，以及向全國政協呈交提案等途徑，我代表中總提出加強香港在推動東亞區域經濟合作中的功能和作用，獲得中央及特區政府高度重視。在中央政府的大力支持下，特區政府已向東盟表達希望香港加入“中國—東盟自由貿易區”。

與此同時，本會與各國駐港領事及商務參贊繼續保持密切聯繫，並與不同國家或地區的工商團體合辦投資推廣活動，包括與日本商工會議所合辦“港日經濟高峰論壇”，以及與日本九州經濟連合會簽署合作備忘等。本會亦繼續透過舉辦“香港高峰論壇”、“世界華商領袖峰會”等活動，匯聚政、商、學界精英，為香港、內地與世界各地華商搭建經貿交流互動平台。

本會於2011年順利完成了世界華商大會第二屆秘書處的六年任期，為世界華商大會的傳承和發展作出貢獻。在本會與新加坡、泰國中華總商會組成的召集人組織衷誠合作，以及歷屆大會主辦機構鼎力支持下，世界華商大會在強化全球華商經濟聯繫方面取得豐碩成果。

繼續推進社會和諧與可持續發展

在推動經貿發展的同時，本會亦致力促進會員企業實踐社會責任、構建社會和諧與推動可持續發展。過去一年，本會繼續透過“中總愛心行動”，為長者、青少年及基層人士組織參觀、遊覽、交流

以至電影首映等連串公益活動，並為重大事故受害者家屬提供經濟援助。本會亦持續舉辦“大學生實習交流計劃”、“少年太空人體驗營”、“工商體驗遊學團”等活動，資助本港大學生、中學生到內地實習交流，親身體會國家的快速發展，加深對祖國的認識與歸屬感。

2011年適逢辛亥革命100周年，本會舉辦了“紀念辛亥革命100周年暨香港中華總商會111周年會慶文藝匯演”，以及“溫故創新一孫中山與梅屋莊吉”展覽，讓社會各界重溫香港在辛亥革命歷史中所發揮的重要作用，緬懷先輩光輝事跡，藉此加強市民大眾對國家的認同和民族感情。

為完善香港優良的營商環境，本會除繼續就施政報告和財政預算案表達工商界意見外，亦積極關注競爭條例草案修訂、醫療改革第二階段諮詢、政制發展等議題的進展。本會亦十分重視環保與可持續發展等課題，年內分別就擴建第三條機場跑道、共建珠三角優質生活圈、擴大膠袋環保徵費等諮詢發表意見，全力支持“清潔生產伙伴計劃”、“香港環保企業大獎”等活動，同時更於2011年初開發“中總碳管理系統”網頁，為本港企業提供簡易的減碳計算平台，藉以提高工商界的環保意識。

抓緊新形勢帶來的發展機遇

總括而言，2011年本會各項工作和計劃得到全體會董鼎力支持、各委員會悉心籌劃、以及全體會員積極參與，充分凸顯本會上下一心、群策群力的團結精神，在此我謹向各位表達衷心感謝。同時，我亦要讚揚秘書處同儕的辛勤和高效率工作，讓各項會務工作得以順利開展。

踏入2012年，香港將迎來回歸祖國15周年紀念，新一屆特區政府亦將繼續帶領香港迎接挑戰、維持繁榮穩定。本會將一如既往，推動香港與內地經濟進一步融合發展，致力構建和諧社會。未來一年，本會將籌辦高峰論壇以增強香港在國家與東亞區域經貿合作的角色，並積極推動香港加入“中國—東盟自由貿易區”。同時，本會亦將舉辦兩岸三地經貿交流活動，以及續辦“世界華商領袖峰會”，強化全球華商交流合作。此外，本會將協助落實李克強副總理訪港時提出的36項措施，尤其是在深化CEPA、促進香港與內地企業聯合“走出去”、強化香港金融中心功能、加強粵港合作推動南沙新區建設等方面，反映會員及業界意見，提出具體可行建議，共同為香港和祖國長遠發展作出更大貢獻。

第47屆會長



(蔡冠深)

Chairman's Statement

The year 2011 marked the beginning of China's 12th Five-Year Plan period. For the first time, an individual chapter of the plan was dedicated to Hong Kong and Macau affairs, a striking indication of the Central Government's commitment to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. Against this favorable backdrop, we steered our member enterprises and the business community in general to grasp the opportunities that the plan gives rise to. By applying Hong Kong's unique advantages to the Mainland's transformation of its economic growth model, we laid a more solid foundation for our members to tap business opportunities in the Mainland and overseas regions.

Hong Kong Presented with Opportunities and Challenges

Looking back on 2011, fiscal instability in European countries and the US led to persistently weak market demand, and the devastating earthquake in Japan dealt a heavy blow to supply chains in Asia and the whole world. As a consequence, global trade was dragged into a slowdown. Adding to the complexity were the unprecedented downgrade of the US sovereign debt rating and the snowballing Eurozone debt crisis, which swayed financial markets around the globe.

Hong Kong's economy can never be immune from global economic swings. In 2011, its real economic growth slowed to 3% in the fourth quarter from 7.6% in the first quarter. Worse still, Hong Kong exports slid from the middle of the year and clocked negative growth in the third quarter, though mild growth of 3.6% was recorded for 2011 as a whole.

Fortunately, China and other Asian countries and regions made reasonable economic progress. For this reason, and thanks to other positive factors such as low unemployment, a general rise in wages and a record high number of tourist arrivals, Hong Kong's consumer market and related industries remained on a strong upward trend. Meanwhile, with energetic support from the Central Government, Hong Kong's RMB businesses developed rapidly: RMB deposits exceeded 620 billion for a while, RMB trade-settlement transactions handled by Hong Kong banks doubled, and total RMB bond issues exceeded 100 billion in value. Such a stellar performance strengthened Hong Kong's position as an offshore center and asset management center for RMB.

Promoting Hong Kong-Mainland Integration

During the year, the Mainland economy maintained fast-paced growth. Proactive efforts were made to promote the upgrade and transformation of the country's industry structure, as well as the development of modern service sectors. Moreover, 36 new measures supporting Hong Kong were announced by Vice Premier Li Keqiang during his visit to the city, and the CEPA Supplement VIII was signed. Such extensive policy support boosted the ability of Hong Kong businesses to compete and to tap the Mainland market. New horizons were thus opened up for Hong Kong to further integrate economically with the Mainland.

We spare no effort in helping our members and the business community at large to explore the Mainland market. Over the course of the past year, we offered our suggestions and expressed the business community's views to the Central and HKSAR Governments through various channels. In particular, we made proposals on reinforcing Hong Kong's position as an offshore center and asset management center for RMB, deepening CEPA measures, and enhancing Hong Kong's role in China's economic interaction with ASEAN countries, among others. We are glad that the Central Government responded positively to all of them.

Meanwhile, we sought to push forward Hong Kong's integration with the Mainland, with special attention paid to the city's complementary and staggered development with the PRD, the YRD and other regional economies. Besides facilitating the transformation and upgrade of businesses, we support Mainland enterprises' overseas expansion by using Hong Kong's strengths in professional services. Concerted efforts were made to forge closer Hong Kong-Mainland ties and a better business environment.

Furthermore, we maintained dialogues with the Guangdong and HKSAR Governments, giving our views on Hong Kong's closer collaboration with planned regions such as Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin, putting forward our proposals to foster a more closely knit PRD region as well as interaction among PRD professional services industry players, and submitting our ideas about introducing the operation and management practices of Hong Kong's professional services suppliers.

During the year, several missions and trade delegations were organized to visit the PRD, the YRD and Mainland cities such as Tianjin, Changsha, Taiyuan and Xiamen. These trips allowed our members to keep abreast of local business environments and explore the potential for cooperation in modern services. At home, we hospitably received leaders from various provinces, cities and autonomous regions, discussing with them new ways forward for Hong Kong-Mainland economic partnership.

Enhancing International Economic Interaction

While promoting economic ties with the Mainland, we also continued to bring the role of Hong Kong as a city that boasts strong backing from the Mainland as well as broad international exposure into full play. Noting that these unique advantages were ideally matched with the eastward shift of global economic power and the operation of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), we not only helped our members to capture the relevant opportunities, but also strived to deepen China's cooperation with East Asian countries by encouraging the better use of Hong Kong's pivotal location between Northeast and Southeast Asia.

Last year, I met with leaders from the Central Government and the Ministry of Commerce of China, as well as officials from commerce ministries and consuls of East Asian countries. I also submitted proposals to the CPPCC National Committee. On these occasions, I made proposals on behalf of CGCC on strengthening Hong Kong's role in East Asian economic cooperation. I am glad that these suggestions met with such positive reception: for instance, with the Central Government's support, the HKSAR Government has expressed to the ASEAN its interest in joining CAFTA.

We maintained close liaison with consulate-generals and business counselors in Hong Kong, and worked with business organizations from different countries and regions in rolling out a number of investment promotion initiatives. Highlights were the Hong Kong-Japan Economic Summit jointly held with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the cooperation MOU signed with the Kyushu Economic Federation. Preparations for events such as the Hong Kong Summit and the World Chinese Entrepreneur Leaders Summit also got underway. By bringing together the elites of political, business and academic circles, these two events will serve as a platform for economic interaction among Chinese entrepreneurs from Hong Kong, the Mainland and other parts of the world.

In 2011, our six-year office as the second-term secretariat of the World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC) came to an end. We had done our best to keep WCEC running and growing, and the convention has reaped great benefits from knitting together Chinese entrepreneurs across the globe, thanks to the whole-hearted cooperation among the WCEC Founder Members, comprised of CGCC, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Thai Chinese Chamber of Commerce, as well as the staunch support of former WCEC organizers.

Fostering Social Harmony and Sustainable Development

In parallel with the work on promoting economic development, our efforts were also spent on encouraging members to fulfill their corporate social responsibilities, in a hope to build a harmonious society and foster sustainability. Over the year, our "We Share•We Care" Campaign covered a variety of community welfare activities for the elderly, young people and grassroots citizens, such as visits, tours, gatherings and, last but not least, a film premier. Under the campaign's umbrella, financial assistance was offered to families of victims of major accidents. In 2011, the Internship and Exchange Program for Tertiary Students, the Young Astronaut Training Camp and the Business Study Tour were all run again, sponsoring local university and secondary-

school students' internship and exchange in the Mainland. These activities provided students with first-hand experience of the Mainland's development, thus boosting their understanding of and sense of belonging to the mother country.

Since the year of 2011 marked the centenary of the 1911 Revolution in China, we staged a gala variety show to commemorate the occasion while simultaneously celebrating the 111th anniversary of CGCC. Another highlight was the exhibition "Create The New From The Past: Dr Sun Yat-sen And Mr Shokichi Umeya", put on to reflect Hong Kong's role in the revolution and the stories of devotees to the patriotic movement. Through these events, we hoped to raise the public's awareness of its heritage and their sense of national identity.

To help build a more business-friendly environment, we not only expressed opinions on the Policy Address and the Budget, but also kept abreast of issues such as amendments to the Competition Bill, the second-stage public consultation on healthcare reform and constitutional development. Environmental protection and sustainability are another major concern of ours. During the year, we were consulted on the proposed construction of a third airport runway, the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area, and the Extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, as well as giving our full support to the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and the Eco-Business Awards. To raise the "green" awareness of the business community, furthermore, the web-based CGCC Carbon Management Tool has been in service since early 2011, providing a simple platform for enterprises to calculate their carbon emissions.

Seizing Opportunities in New Circumstances

Our work and programs in 2011 can generally be rated as highly successful, thanks to the unstinting support from all Committee Members, the meticulous efforts of our committees, and the whole-hearted participation of our members. It was a gratifying display of our solidarity and team spirit, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all concerned. Appreciation must also go to the Secretariat for its diligent and efficient work, which is essential for the chamber to run smoothly.

In 2012, Hong Kong will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of its reunification with China. And it is hoped that like its predecessor, the new term HKSAR Government will lead Hong Kong to rise to challenges, and will continue to do its utmost to maintain prosperity and stability in the city. As always, we will work towards closer Hong Kong-Mainland economic integration while contributing to social harmony. In the year ahead, we will stage a summit to strengthen Hong Kong's role in China-East Asia economic cooperation and lobby for Hong Kong's accession to CAFTA. Meanwhile, we will organize activities involving exchanges between Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan, and host the World Chinese Entrepreneur Leaders Summit again to augment interaction among Chinese entrepreneurs. Besides all this, we will assist the implementation of Vice Premier Li Keqiang's 36 measures, making particular efforts to deepen CEPA liberalization initiatives, foster Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises' cooperation for overseas expansion, strengthen Hong Kong's role as a financial center, and push forward Guangdong-Hong Kong cooperation in developing the Nansha New District.

While making the voices of our members and the business community at large heard, we will put forward specific, viable proposals designed to contribute more to the long-term development of Hong Kong and the Mainland.



Jonathan Choi Koon-shum
Chairman
(The 47th Term of Office)