

會長序辭



2013年是國家貫徹落實“十八大”精神和推動深化改革重要部署的一年。“三中全會”更勾勒出國家未來經濟改革藍圖，為香港經濟帶來更多發展機遇。中總亦積極帶領會員企業和工商界抓緊國家新形勢發展，配合香港獨特優勢和國家構建開放型經濟新體制的步伐，促進香港與內地經濟共同邁向更繁榮發展。

香港經濟呈現穩步增長

回顧2013年，環球經濟在波動中溫和復蘇，內地經濟維持顯著增長，帶動本港經濟呈現不俗表現，全年本地生產總值錄得2.9%實質增長。受惠於旅遊及跨境金融業務持續增長的帶動，本港全年服務輸出實質增長5.8%。訪港旅客續創新高、加上本港就業情況穩定、收入持續上升，2013年的零售銷售總額更顯著增加11%。此外，全球貿易環境逐步改善，本港對外貿易表現亦大致平穩，整體出口溫和增長3.6%。

預期2014年環球經濟將持續改善，內地經濟保持平穩較快增長，更為區內經濟帶來重要支持。然而，全球經濟仍面臨一些不明朗因素，特別是美國正式啟動退市機制，將對環球經濟及金融市場帶來重要影響。此外，歐元區經濟基礎仍然疲弱、日本推動量寬措施刺激經濟成效如何、新興市場增長放緩、以及地緣政治局勢不穩等因素，或令環球經濟復蘇前景增添變數。

把握內地擴大開放發展的機遇

一直以來，香港在國家不同階段的改革開放進程中均積極參與，並持續受惠於內地經濟的高速發展。過去一年，國家致力推進新一輪市場開放及體制改革，在加快建設上海自由貿易區同時，亦就擴大對香港服務貿易開放推出多項政策措施，包括簽訂CEPA補充協議十、支持香港離岸人民幣業務創新發展、以及加快前海深港現代服務業合作區的建設等，這些均有利香港進一步發揮市場制度及服務業優勢，深化兩地經貿合作，更有助鞏固香港作為人民幣離岸中心和國際金融中心的地位。

與此同時，廣東省亦積極推動粵港澳自由貿易區的發展，並重點推進前海、南沙、橫琴新經濟規劃區的建設，為提升粵港兩地經貿融合發展、率先實現粵港服務貿易自由化構建穩固基礎和更廣闊的發展空間。

為配合香港與內地經濟新形勢發展步伐，本會一直發揮商貿平台的功能作用，強化香港與內地經貿往來，推進主要經濟區域加強交流合作。過去一年，本會組團拜會了中央領導人、以及廣東、廣西、天津、河北等省市領導，瞭解國家最新發展情況與合作商機，反映會員企業和本港工商界關注的議題和意見。本會並透過舉辦有關“十八大”、“兩會”、“CEPA”等專題論壇，探討國家相關政策對本港經濟長遠發展的影響，並為促進內地與香港更深層次合作探索新方向。

此外，本會亦組織會員前往珠三角、長三角以及鄭州、重慶、廈門等地，深入瞭解當地的營商環境和產業發展，協助抓緊內地市場的發展商機。同時亦透過舉辦兩岸三地論壇、組團考察澳門、橫琴等活動，進一步促進兩岸四地的經貿聯繫和交流合作。

構建國際商貿交流平台

除致力促進香港與內地經貿更緊密合作，本會亦善用與國際工商網絡的聯繫優勢，協助強化香港與周邊區域的貿易與投資往來，提升香港作為區域經貿樞紐和國際商業中心的功能，進一步發揮香港推動內地與海外企業“引進來、走出去”的橋樑角色。

過去一年，本會繼續強化與東盟、日、韓等地工商團體及商務部門的交流，協助推動東亞區域經濟合作，並積極關注香港與東盟地區洽商自由貿易協定的進展。本會亦透過組織訪問考察及舉辦各類投資推廣活動，協助會員企業及工商界抓緊東亞市場多元化的投資商機。

本會亦積極履行作為世界華商大會三個發起機構之一的應有使命和責任，協助華商拓展內地與國際市場，包括於年內組團出席了第12屆世界華商大會，與全球各地華商共同探索中國發展帶來的合作機遇，並推廣香港所能發揮的內通外連獨特優勢。

關注工商政策與營商環境

本會非常關注特區政府各項工商政策對營商環境的影響，並積極發揮溝通橋樑作用，就不同範疇適時反映工商界意見和訴求。過去一年，本會繼續就施政報告、財政預算案提出建議，包括就扶助多元產業發展、深化與內地經貿合作、加強支援中小企業、促進勞資關係和諧等議題表達意見，並透過舉辦研討會、座談會與專題講座，為全面提升本港整體競爭力建言獻策。

本會更積極就促進香港長遠可持續發展的相關議題發表意見，例如支持增加土地及房屋供應、推動各項環保與減廢措施、優化人口政策等，進一步為優化本港營商環境、推動經濟穩步增長、以及促進社會民生和諧發展創造更有利條件。

積極推動人才培育與社會公益事務

在關注工商業發展的同時，本會亦積極推動工商界人才及青少年的培育，透過舉辦“企業家論壇”，邀請商界精英分享企業傳承、培育行業人才等經驗和心得，並繼續透過“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，資助年輕人親身體驗國情及工商業運作，鼓勵他們多關心國家與社會發展。

本會更致力促進會員企業實踐社會責任。過去一年，本會繼續透過“中總愛心行動”，舉辦連串關愛長者、基層與弱勢社群的慈善公益活動，以及捐助四川地震賑災與廣西環保工程等，讓社會大眾感受工商界的關懷。

促進香港繁榮穩定發展

總括而言，本會於2013年各項工作和計劃得以順利完成，有賴全體會董鼎力支持、各委員會悉心籌劃、以及全體委員的踴躍參與，我謹此向各位表示衷心感謝。同時，我亦高度讚賞秘書處同儕為落實各項工作所付出的努力。

展望新一年，國家將進一步推進全面深化經濟改革的策略部署，本會將繼續帶領會員及凝聚工商界力量，積極配合內地與香港經濟合作新方向，為促進彼此繁榮穩定發展作出更大貢獻。

此外，隨着《2017年行政長官及2016年立法會產生辦法》的諮詢正式開展，2014年將是推進香港實現普選、進一步邁向民主政制發展的關鍵之年。本會期望社會各界加強溝通，以和平、務實和堅守法治精神的態度，在《基本法》和全國人大常委會有關解釋和決定的框架下，共同就政改和普選議題進行理性討論，為推動香港政制循序漸進發展凝聚共識，最終達致一個獲社會廣泛接受的政改方案。

第48屆會長



楊 釗

Chairman's Statement

The year of 2013 witnessed China realizing the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress and making essential arrangements for deeper reform. The Third Plenary Session of the congress, in particular, outlined the blueprint for the country's future economic reform, which brings more development opportunities for Hong Kong's economy. To promote the mutual prosperity of Hong Kong and Mainland China, CGCC was active in engaging its member enterprises and the business sector with China's new development while fitting Hong Kong's unique advantages into the country's efforts to build a new open economic system.

Hong Kong's Economy Grew Steadily

Looking back in 2013, the global economy saw a mild recovery amid volatility, whereas Mainland China's economy maintained significant growth, providing a positive boost for Hong Kong - its economy registered an impressive GDP growth rate of 2.9% in real terms for the year. As the tourism and cross-border financial sectors kept growing, Hong Kong's exports of services increased by 5.8% in real terms for the year. Thanks to the record-high numbers of visitors, stable local employment and sustained rise in income, Hong Kong's total retail sales climbed by 11% in 2013. Moreover, with the improving global trade environment, Hong Kong's external trade was generally stable and its total exports rose moderately by 3.6%.

It is expected that the global economy will continue to improve and the Mainland economy will maintain stable but rapid economic growth in 2014, which will provide important support for the economy of the region. Still, the world economy will be facing some uncertainties. Particularly noteworthy is that the US' exit from quantitative easing will have significant impacts on the global economy and financial market. Other variables that can cast shadow on the prospects of global economic recovery are, for example, the prolonged weakness in the euro zone's economic fundamentals, the effectiveness of Japan's quantitative easing measures in spurring its economy, the slowing emerging markets growth, as well as geopolitical instability.

Grasping Opportunities from Mainland's Further Opening-up

Hong Kong has played an active part at the different stages of China's reform and opening-up. It has also shared the fruit of the rapid growth of the Mainland economy. In 2013, the country strived to promote a new round of market liberalization and system reform. The development of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ) gathered pace, and a number of policy initiatives were rolled out to further liberalize the Mainland's trade in services for Hong Kong. For instance, the Supplement X to CEPA was signed; support was given to Hong Kong's innovative development in offshore RMB businesses; and the construction of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone was also expedited. These initiatives not only further bring out Hong Kong's strengths in market institutions and services, but forge closer the Mainland-Hong Kong economic partnership and strengthen Hong Kong's status as an offshore RMB center and an international financial hub.

At the same time, Guangdong Province is eagerly promoting the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao FTZ. In particular, it is also pressing ahead with the construction of the new economic planning areas of Qianhai, Nansha and Hengqin. The province's moves are set to create a solid foundation and broader space for the further Guangdong-Hong Kong economic integration and the early achievement of service liberalization between the two places.

In response to the new economic developments in Hong Kong and the Mainland, CGCC has been serving as a catalyst for economic interaction between Hong Kong and the Mainland and for cooperation among major economic regions. In 2013, we formed delegations to visit the Central leadership and the provincial and municipal leaders of Guangdong, Guangxi, Tianjin and Hebei, in order to keep ourselves updated about the latest development and cooperation opportunities in the Mainland. During the trips, we also expressed the views of our member enterprises and the Hong Kong business community on issues of concern. Besides, we hosted forums on the 18th CPC National Congress, the “Two Sessions” and CEPA to discuss the implications of national policies on Hong Kong’s long-term economic development and explore new directions for closer partnership between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Furthermore, business missions to the PRD and YRD regions, Zhengzhou, Chongqing and Xiamen were arranged to deepen our members’ understanding about the local business environments and industry development there, which would help them to tap into opportunities in the Mainland market. Efforts were also spent on augmenting economic ties among the four places of the Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. To this end, we organized a forum on cross-straits ties and Hong Kong, as well as a delegation to Macau and Hengqin.

Building Platform for International Business Interaction

While forging closer Mainland-Hong Kong economic partnership, CGCC also leverages on its international business networks to enhance Hong Kong’s trade and investment connections with neighboring regions, so that Hong Kong can play a better role as a regional commerce and trade hub and an international business center that help Mainland enterprises to “go global” and overseas enterprises to expand into China.

In 2013, CGCC further strengthened exchanges with business associations and commerce departments in the ASEAN countries, Japan and Korea to help promote regional economic cooperation in East Asia. We also kept in view the progress of Hong Kong’s negotiation with the ASEAN region for a free trade agreement. Study missions and various investment promotion activities were organized to assist our member companies and the business sector in capturing the diversified investment opportunities in East Asian markets.

To fulfill its role and responsibilities as one of the three Founder Members of the World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC), CGCC supports Chinese businessmen at home and abroad in their expansion into overseas and the Mainland markets. In 2013, we sent a delegation to the 12th WCEC to meet with Chinese entrepreneurs from all over the world. While exploring with them the cooperation opportunities arising from China’s development, we also took that opportunity to promote Hong Kong’s unique strength in connectivity.

Mindful of Business Policies and Business Environment

Much concerned about the implications of the HKSAR Government’s business policies on the business environment, CGCC acts as a conduit for the business community to express their views and demands on different areas in a timely manner. In the year, again, CGCC made proposals on the Policy Address and Budget, expressing our views on facilitating the diversification of industries, enhancing Hong Kong’s economic ties with the Mainland, providing greater support for SMEs, and promoting harmonious labor relations, among other issues. We also held seminars, symposia and forums to solicit suggestions on how to boost Hong Kong’s overall competitiveness.

CGCC also voiced opinions on matters concerning Hong Kong's long-term sustainable development. For instance, we showed support for government initiatives to rise land and housing supply, launch environmental protection and waste reduction measures, and refine population policies, as all these are conducive to a more friendly business environment, the steady economic growth, the better livelihood of people and social harmony in Hong Kong.

Active in Talent Nurturing and Charitable Causes

While keeping abreast of industrial and commercial development, CGCC is also eager to nurture business talents and the young generation. Business leaders were invited to our Entrepreneurs' Forums to share their experience and insights in business succession and nurturing industry elites. Through our Internship and Exchange Program for Tertiary Students, Young Astronaut Training Camp and Business Study Tour, we continued to provide sponsorship for young people to learn firsthand about the Mainland's development and business operation there, hoping to cultivate their sense of care towards national and social development.

Furthermore, CGCC encourages its member enterprises to fulfill their social responsibilities. In 2013, the CGCC "We Care • We Share" Campaign continued to organize a kaleidoscope of charitable activities to show care for the elderly, grassroots and disadvantaged. Donations were also made to support earthquake relief in Sichuan and environmental protection projects in Guangxi. These efforts showed the business community's concern for the general public.

Fostering Prosperity and Stability in Hong Kong

On the whole, our tasks and programs in 2013 were smoothly completed, thanks to the unstinting support of the Committee Members, the diligent planning of the various committees, as well as the active participation of our members. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all concerned. Appreciation must also go to the Secretariat for their diligence in getting the tasks done.

In 2014, as China further makes strategic plans for deeper economic reform, CGCC will remain committed to steering its members and the business community onto the new path of economic partnership between Hong Kong and the Mainland, making greater contribution towards the two places' mutual prosperity and stability. With the launch of consultation on the "Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive in 2017 and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2016", the year of 2014 will be crucial for the promotion of universal suffrage and the further development towards a democratic political system in Hong Kong. CGCC looks forward to see more dialogue in society, where all sectors are urged to discuss the issues of constitutional reform and universal suffrage under the framework of the Basic Law and the relevant NPCSC interpretations and decisions with a peaceful, pragmatic and rational attitude and with the spirit of the rule of law upheld. Only in this way can the Hong Kong society forge consensus on the gradual and orderly constitutional development and hence, reach an ultimate constitutional reform package that can be widely accepted by the whole society.



Charles Yeung
Chairman
(The 48th Term of Office)