

The Better Hong Kong Foundation is a privately funded, non-profit organisation and has no political affiliations. It was formed by influential Hong Kong business and community leaders in 1995 to build greater international understanding between the East and the West by facilitating communications between Hong Kong, China and the global community. The Foundation's principal objective is to help build a better Hong Kong.

December 2008 Issue

Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

We have experienced a volatile year in 2008 and many of us already feel the looming challenges in the year ahead. However, with the resilience that Hong Kong people have, I am sure we can turn these challenges into opportunities. In view of looking ahead, it would be our pleasure to share with you the achievements that we have made in the past few months.

Enhancing Communications

It has always been our mission to facilitate communications between Hong Kong, China and the global community in order to build greater international understanding between East and West. The Hong Kong Journalism Program is one of the annual programs to serve this purpose. In September 2008, 7 senior journalists from the United States were invited to join a 12-day study tour to Beijing, Kunming, Shangri-la and Hong Kong. As one of the participants said, "The program deepened my understanding of a broad range of issues in Hong Kong and Mainland China in a way that is only possible by actually visiting a country". By the same token, the Foundation's annual delegation to the United States in June 2008 also promoted better understanding through dialogues with various U.S. government officials, opinion leaders and interlocutors. The delegation shared its views on Hong Kong's role in the region and in the China-US relationship where the importance of China has never been greater.

Facilitating Discussion

The bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers was the prologue of the global financial crisis. In this "flattened" world, no part of the world could be immune from this global financial stress caused by diminishing market confidence. In October 2008, the Foundation invited U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Mr. David McCormick to speak at a luncheon titled "Financial Turmoil and the Global Economy". More than 300 attended the luncheon and exchanged views. Mr. McCormick suggested that the whole world had to work together to address the instability and to restore the health of the world economy. In another luncheon titled "China's Role in the World Economy & Financial Reforms" that the Foundation sponsored at the 4th Asia Economic Summit, speaker Mr. Claude Smadja, Former Managing Director of the World Economic Forum, explained the growing importance of Asia in the next decade after the world's financial turmoil and the role of China. He was joined by Ambassador Wu Jianmin who further elaborated what actions that China had taken for the sustainable development of the region in recent years. It was well attended by many of Asia's leaders from business, government and academia.

Promoting Civic Education and Corporate Social Responsibility

To make Hong Kong a better place, promoting civic education for individuals and social responsibilities taken by corporations are both important. Since 2007, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Education Bureau, launched the first Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic

Knowledge Contest, to enhance students' and the public's knowledge of international diplomacy and China's diplomatic policy. This year, more than 120 schools participated. The 5 winning teams not only were awarded a trip to Beijing to watch the Olympic Games, and were also received by Mr. Yang Jiechi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In an effort to promote Corporate Social Responsibility, the Foundation jointly launched the Heart of Gold Awards with Ming Pao Weekly and the Peace Development Foundation in 2006 and supported the Clinton Global Initiative and Prime Awards for CSR.

Joint Effort

Over the years, Hong Kong has made splendid achievements in the face of different challenges. The Foundation is pleased to share this solid foundation that we have established and is committed to continuing to work with various sectors to face new challenges.

As we are to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Foundation's members for their trust, support and advice to the secretariat, and to our partnering organizations and media friends for their contribution and support. The success of the Foundation was attributed and will continue to depend on your unfailing support.

May I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Karen Tang

Executive Director

The Better Hong Kong Foundation

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Upcoming Events (Dec 08 - Mar 09)

13 December 2008 – 4 January 2009 43rd Hong Kong Brands & Products Expo Photography Competition

Sponsored by the Better Hong Kong Foundation and organized by the Chinese Manufacturers' Association, the 43rd Hong Kong Brands & Products Expo Photography Competition will be held from 13 December 2008 to 4 January 2009. The competition aims to encourage people to portray the future of Hong Kong industry from their perspective and arouse their awareness on the importance of local brands towards the future development of Hong Kong as well as to enhance their sense of belonging to the city. The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang will be one of the judges of the competition.

For details of the photography competition, please visit the official website www.hkbpe.com.hk.

11 December 2008 – 10 January 2009 "Election of Top Ten Government Policies in 2008"

The launching ceremony of the "Election of Top Ten Government Policies in 2008" was successfully held on 11 December 2008. The election is jointly organized by 24 media organizations and co-organized by 57 organizations. The Foundation is one of the co-organizers.

In the election, a total of 20 government policies have been shortlisted for the public to vote for the top ten. Through the election, it is hoped that the public will understand more about the government's policies and, in return, the government could learn more about the aspirations and concerns of the general public so as to enhance the implementation of various policies.

Since its inception in 1998, the election has been conducted annually. The voting deadline this year is 10 January 2009 and the results will be announced on 23 January 2009.

For details of the election, please visit the official website www.top10.wenweipo.com.

19 December 2008

"Economic Transformation and Development of Shanghai and Hong Kong in the Global Financial Crisis" Forum in Shanghai

In an effort to better confront the global financial crisis and to strengthen the cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong, the Better Hong Kong Foundation in collaboration with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and Shanghai Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (SCPPC) will organize the captioned Forum on 19 December 2008 in Shanghai. The Shanghai International Economic Exchange Foundation is the Forum's supporting organization.

Renowned scholars, government officials and entrepreneurs from Hong Kong and the Mainland will deliberate on various issues such as the impact of the global financial crisis and the economic transformation of Shanghai and Hong Kong, etc, and the possible way forward. The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan, SCPPC Chairman Mr. Feng Guoqiang and SASS President Prof. Wang Ronghua will officiate at the opening ceremony of the Forum. Prof Lau Siu-kai, Head of Central Policy Unit of Hong Kong SAR Government will be the keynote speaker from Hong Kong.

Foundation members who will participate in the Forum include Council Members Ms. Winnie Ng and Mr. Albert Ip, and Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang.

January 2009 Gathering with the Media

To celebrate the Chinese New Year and to strengthen our communication with our media friends, the Better Hong Kong Foundation will hold its annual gathering with media in January 2009. Members of the Foundation will attend the gathering to celebrate the Year of the Ox. Details of the gathering will be announced later.

February 2009

New Year Luncheon to be Hosted for Consuls General & Chairmen of Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong

To express our festive greetings, the Better Hong Kong Foundation will host a New Year Luncheon for Consuls General and Chairmen of Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong each year. Members of the Foundation will take this opportunity to celebrate the Chinese New Year and share with our guests their wishes in the Year of Ox. Details of the luncheon will be announced later.

4 March 2009

Luncheon to be Hosted by the Better Hong Kong Foundation for Fulbright Scholars

On 4 March 2009, the Better Hong Kong Foundation will host a luncheon for American Fulbright scholars and students who will attend the Fulbright China Research Forum 2009 in Hong Kong during 2 – 6 March 2009. Organized by the Hong Kong America Center, the Forum is an annual meeting of American Fulbright research scholars who are conducting research in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Members and guests of the Foundation will be invited to join the luncheon to exchange views about the development of China and Hong Kong with the scholars.

The Fulbright China Research Forum is sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in China, the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange in Taiwan and U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, and supported by 8 local universities. This year's Forum is hosted by the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the University of Macau and the Instituto Cultural de Macau.

March 2009

Seminar and Press Conference on 2008 China Urban Cities Competitiveness Study (Hong Kong)

In March 2009, the Better Hong Kong Foundation will hold a Seminar and Press Conference on 2008 China Urban Cities Competitiveness Study (Hong Kong) which is authored by the Institute of Finance and Trade Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and supported by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The study was first conducted in 2001. More details of the event will be announced later.

Past Events (Jun - Dec 08)

8 - 9 December 2008

"China's Role in the World Economy & Financial Reforms" – Luncheon Speech by Mr. Claude Smadja, Former Managing Director of the World Economic Forum



(R to L) Mr. Ronnie Chan, Ambassador Wu Jianmin, Mr. Claude Smadja and Ms. Karen Tang

The 4th Asia Economic Summit – Reinvention Asian Economics for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity, jointly organized by the Asia Society Hong Kong Center and the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute, was successfully held on 8 – 9 December 2008. The Better Hong Kong Foundation sponsored the Luncheon entitled "China's Role in the World Economy & Financial Reforms". Mr. Claude Smadia. Former Managing Director of the World Economic Forum was invited to address at the luncheon while Ambassador Wu Jianmin also shared his views on the topic and joined Mr. Smadja to answer questions from the floor during the Q&A session, of which Mr. Ronnie Chan, Executive Committee Chairman of the Foundation and Chairman of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, was the moderator.

Foundation Trustee and Chairman of Lippo Group Mr. Stephen Riady spoke at the session on "Asia's Property Market – Towards Sustainable Development".



(L to R) Ms. Karen Tang, President of Swiss Chamber of Commerce Mr. Serge Fafalen and President, ASEAN of GE Mr. Stuart Dean

The Foundation's Council Members Dr. Gerald Chow, Mr. Joseph Yu, Mr. Tony Choi and Mr. Albert Ip together with Foundation's

Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang participated in the summit. By invitation



Foundation's Council Member Dr. Gerald Chow (1st left), Mr. Claude Smadja (3rd left), Mr. Zhan Yongxin (3rd right), Mr. Ronnie Chan (2nd right) and Ambassador Wu Jianmin (1st right)

of the Foundation, Swiss Consul General Dr. Hans Roth; President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Mr. Serge Fafalen; and the Managing Director of Investments, Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Ltd Mr. Alfred Tsai also attended the event.

2 – 3 December 2008 Clinton Global Initiative Asia Meeting

The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Asia Meeting was successfully held in Hong Kong from 2-3 December 2008. Former U.S. President Mr. Bill Clinton travelled to Hong Kong to host the first CGI meeting outside the United States. Several hundred Asian leaders from a variety of backgrounds participated in the CGI Meeting which focused on three primary areas of discussion, namely education, energy & climate change, and public health.

Mr. Yang Jiechi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC made the opening keynote speech. The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan was one of the panelists at the

session "Next-Generation Philanthropy". The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang was also invited to join the meeting.

In 2005, President Clinton established CGI to turn ideas into action and to help the world move beyond the current state of globalization to a more integrated global community of shared benefits, responsibilities, and values. Details of the CGI could be found from its website www.clintonglobalinitiative.org.

25 November 2008 China Economic and Business Symposium 2008 – The Insights

Jointly organized by the Institute of World Economics and Politics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Faculty of Business and Partnership Development Office of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the "China Economic and Business Symposium 2008 – The Insights" was successfully held on 25 November 2008. The Better Hong Kong Foundation was one of the supporting organizations.



Mr. Oscar Chow (1st left) joining the symposium as one of the panelists

The
Foundation's
Executive
Committee
Chairman Mr.
Ronnie Chan



Committee Mr. Ronnie Chan (3rd left) enjoying the conversation with Chairman Mr. Prof. Ko Jan-ming (2nd left), Vice President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

and Council Member Mr. Oscar Chow were moderators and speakers of the conference issues. Prominent speakers who are instrumental in providing high level analysis and research support to the Chinese government's policy development and

deployment were invited to speak at

the symposium. The symposium provided a timely opportunity for participants to gain access to top-level information about the Central government's direction and policy, thus enabling them to make well-informed decisions in one of the world's fastest growing economies. The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang attended the symposium where over 600 participants joined. Audiences not only gained insights from "the brains behind", but also learned views and opinions from business and industrial leaders in Hong Kong.



Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang receiving the souvenir from Prof. Ko Jan-ming, Vice President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

12 November 2008 The Heart of Gold Awards 2008

Since its inception in 2006, the Heart of Gold Awards honors annually Hong Kong artists and corporations that have made worthy contributions to sustainable developments to the community. The Better Hong Kong Foundation, Ming Pao Weekly and the Peace and Development Foundation are the three founding organizers.

The presentation ceremony of the Awards was successfully held on 12 November 2008 at the Grand Ballroom at the Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong. Mr. C Y Leung, Convenor of the Executive Council was the award presenter this year.



Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang (3rd left) taking a group photo with awardees of the Heart of Gold Awards 2008

Recipients of this year's Awards are:

- Artist or Artistic Group: Hong Kong Performing Artistes Guild
- Corporation & Business Entities: Hang Seng Bank



(L to R) Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang, Convenor of Executive Council Mr. C Y Leung, Ming Pao Ms. Lee Yin-king and Foundation's Council Member Ms. Winnie Ng of the KMB Co Ltd, winner of Heart of Gold Awards 2006



(L to R) Mr. Alex Law, Foundation's Council Member Ms. Judy Yu, Chief Editor of Mingpao Weekly Mr. Lung King-cheong, Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang and Ms. Mable Cheung

7 November 2008 Luncheon with Mr. Li Gang, Deputy Director of the Chinese Liaison Office in Hong Kong



(R to L) Dr. Gerald Chow, Mr. Ronnie Chan, Mr. Li Gang, Dato' David Chiu and Ms. Judy Yu

Mr. Li Gang, Deputy Director of Chinese Liaison Office in Hong Kong was invited to join a luncheon with members of the Foundation on 7 November 2008. Mr. Li was accompanied by Mr. Sin Jinquan, Deputy Director General of Publicity, Culture and Sports Department of the Chinese Liaison Office in Hong Kong.

The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan; Trustee Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu and Dr. Sumet Jiaravanon's representative

Ms. Li Xuhua; the Foundation's

Council Members Mr. Thomas Woo, Ms. Winnie Ng, Dr. Gerald Chow, Ms. Judy Yu, Mr. Joseph Yu, Mr. David Fong and Mr. Albert Ip; and the Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang and Communications Manager Ms. Jimmie Chow attended the luncheon and had fruitful dialogues with Mr. Li Gang and Mr. Sin Jinquan.

(L to R) Mr. David Fong, Ms. Karen Tang, Mr. Joseph Yu and Mr. Albert Ip



30 October 2008

Prime Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility 2008

Jointly organized by Prime Communications Ltd and the Hong Kong Institute of Directors, the Prime Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility 2008 was established in recognition for companies' efforts and involvement in taking up corporate social responsibility. Ms. Karen Tang, Executive Director of the Better Hong Kong Foundation was invited to be a member of the panel of judges and award presenter.

Results of this year's awards were announced at its presentation ceremony held on 30 October 2008. And this year's beneficiary organization of the event was Agency for Volunteer Service.

Please visit its official website www.primecomhk.com/extra/csr/2008/intro.shtml for details of the event.

22 October 2008

"Financial Market Turmoil in Perspective" - A Luncheon Presentation by Mr. David McCormick, Under Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Treasury Department



Mr. Ronnie Chan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Foundation introducing the honorable speaker Mr. David McCormick to the audience

Organized by the Better Hong Kong Foundation, Mr. David McCormick, Under Secretary for International Affairs of the U.S. Treasury Department delivered a luncheon speech entitled "Financial Turmoil in Perspective" at the Renaissance Harbour View Hotel in Hong Kong on 22 October 2008. More than 300 audiences who are professionals from financial and banking sectors, insurance and properties industries, academic and the government, etc attended the luncheon.

After a warm welcome given by the Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang and an introduction by Mr. Ronnie Chan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Better Hong Kong

Foundation, Chairman of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Chairman of Hang Lung Group, Mr. McCormick began his speech by saying that no country in the world could be immune from the recent global financial stress as well as the destabilizing financial markets caused by diminishing market confidence. To address the instability and restore the health of the world economy, Mr. McCormick urged that the whole world had to work together.

Mr. McCormick also shared his views on the root cause of the market turmoil, the measures that the United States is taking to mitigate risk as well as to stabilize the markets, and suggested some possible early lessons for both the United States and China. Four emerging themes have been suggested by Mr. McCormick, namely the reformation of US financial development of domestic anti-protectionism and the continuation of cooperation among government around the world. Although the interdependence of the global economy has made the current challenges more complex, Mr. McCormick believed that the challenge would be overcome with the joint effort of the world leaders.



Mr. David McCormick sharing with the audiences his views on the recent global financial turmoil and the way forward



(R to L) Mr. Ronnie Chan, Mr. David McCormick, Mr. Tom Easton, moderator of the Q&A session and Ms. Karen Tang

In the Q&A session, audiences asked how the US government could ensure its actions taken in dealing with the current turmoil would be effective and how the upcoming new U.S. administration would carry that forward.

At his introduction, Mr. Ronnie Chan commended the U.S. government for its wise decision to invite experienced experts from business who really understand the market. Good examples include Mr. David McCormick and Mr. Henry Paulson. Ms Karen Tang explained that the luncheon has been planned for more than a year and it turned out to be perfect timing. She thanked the Asia Society for co-organising the event and thanked media partners

The Economist, the South China Morning Post, and Caijing Magazine for supporting the event and making it a success.

Amongst the audience, the Better Hong Kong Foundation members who attended included Trustee Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu, Council Members Dr. Roy Chung, Mr. Thomas Woo, Ms Winnie Ng, Dr. Gerald Chow, Ms. Judy Yu, Mr. Joseph Yu and Mr. Albert Ip.

Other quests included:

- Mr. Joseph Donovan, U.S. Consul General, Mr. Christopher Marut, U.S. Deputy Consul General,
- Mr. Zhan Yongxin, Deputy Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR.
- Dr. Edgar Cheng, Council Chairman of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Chairman of the World-Wide Investment Co Ltd,



Foundation's Council Members Ms. Judy Yu and Mr. Joseph Yu (1st right) thanking Mr. McCormick after the luncheon

- Prof. Lawrence Lau, Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong,
- Mr. Douglas Woo, Acting Managing Director of Wheelock Properties (Hong Kong) Ltd,
- Dr. Gerald Chan, Non-Executive Director of Morningside Group, etc.



(L to R) Mr. Albert Ip, Council Member of the Foundation, Mr. Christopher Marut, U.S. Deputy Consul General Hong Kong, Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu, Trustee of the Foundation, Mr. Joseph R Donovan Jr., U.S. Consul General Hong Kong, Dr. Roy Chung, Council Member of the Foundation, Mr. Zhan Yongxin, Deputy Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR and Prof. Lawrence Lau, Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong



(L to R) Mr. Albert Ip, Council Member of the Foundation, Mr. Zhan Yongxin, Deputy Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR, Ms. Karen Tang, Executive Director of the Foundation, Prof. Lawrence Lau, Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Edgar Cheng, Council Chairman of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Chairman of the World-Wide Investment Co Ltd

6 October 2008

Brands Original from Hong Kong Awards 2008

On 6 October 2008, Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang was invited as prize presenter at the prize presentation ceremony of Brands Original from Hong Kong Awards 2008. The award was launched by the business magazine Capital Entrepreneur for the first time to recognize successful brands originating from Hong Kong. Corporations were judged by five criteria, namely innovation, market position, entrepreneurship, reputation, and familiarity among people in Hong Kong. 16 outstanding corporations were awarded.



Ms. Karen Tang (3rd left) officiating the prize presentation ceremony together with Miss Jessica Ng, CEO of South China Media Group and other guests

11 – 27 September 2008 The 2008 Hong Kong Journalism Fellowships

Overview

Since the launching of Hong Kong Journalism Fellowships program in 1996, the Better Hong Kong Foundation has worked with the East-West Centre, U.S. in organising this annual program for senior journalists from major U.S. media organizations. This year's program included a 5-day seminar in Honolulu and a 12-day study tour to Beijing, Kunming, Shangri-la and Hong Kong from 11 to 27 September 2008. Led by Ms. Karen Tang, Executive Director of the Foundation, the delegation was comprised of 7 journalists from the United States and was accompanied by Ms. Isadora Chen of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Jimmie Chow, Communications Manager of the Foundation and Ms. Marilyn Li, Seminar Specialist of the East-West Center.

Honolulu - Beijing

Before the study tour, the delegation attended seminars in Honolulu where experts on China and Hong Kong issues were invited to give an overview on the two places. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Better Hong Kong Foundation organized the study program to China and Hong Kong. On 16 September 2008, the delegation arrived in Beijing where they began their journey in China. To get a feel for the city, a sightseeing tour, including visiting the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, was held on the next day. The journalists were amazed and fascinated by both the historic and the state-of-the-art buildings in Beijing.



Meeting with Mr. Liu Mingkang (6th right), Chairman of China Banking Regulatory Commission



Meeting with Dr. Charles Zhang, Founder and Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of SOHU.com

In view of the recent global financial crisis, the meeting with Mr. Liu Mingkang, Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission was of great interest to the journalists where they were able to understand more about the financial policies and banking systems in China as well as Mr. Liu's views on the crisis. The delegation was excited to be received by Dr. Charles Zhang, Founder and Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of SOHU.com at the headquarters of the company. Dr. Zhang shared with the journalists his views on the Internet's development in China and also his opinion on the differences between Chinese and Western culture. The group also visited the Beijing Organizing Committee for Games of the XXIX Olympics. After meeting with the Committee's Spokesman Mr. Sun Weide, the journalists were thrilled to tour the "Bird's

Nest" and "Water Cube" which were specially opened for the delegation. During the stay in Beijing, the delegation met with Mr. Qin Gang, Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as other senior government officials from the Bureau of Energy under the National Development and Reform Commission, and the State Environmental Protection Bureau.

The group also visited the Renmin University of China and met with its Vice President Prof Chen Yulu, and had a fruitful and interesting dialogue with its students. On the last day in Beijing, the Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Beijing hosted a luncheon for the group and explained the role of the Hong Kong Government's Offices in Beijing and in other parts of the Mainland.



Visit to Bird's Nest



Mr. Gu Zhaoxi (3rd left) Vice Governor of Yunnan Provincial People's Government hosting a luncheon for the delegation

Kunming - Shangri-la

The second part of the study tour was a 5-day program in Kunming and Shangri-la. Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice Governor of Yunnan Provincial People's Government and other senior government officials hosted a luncheon for the delegation and gave an overview of the latest development and future planning of Yunnan Province. The delegates also paid a visit to the City Planning Exhibition Center and the famous sightseeing spot the Stone Forest in Kunming.

Upon arrival in Shangri-la, the delegation was stunned by the beauty of the natural environment. Noting the significant influence of Buddhism in

Shangri-la, the delegation visited the Gedan Songzanlin Lamasery and the Diqing Branch of Yunnan Buddhism College to understand more about the living and education of monks. Mr. Qi

Zhala, Party Secretary of the Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture met with the journalists and answered their questions regarding the government's policies on the city's planning and development, religion, ethnic groups' cultural preservation, environment conservation, etc. Mr. Qi then hosted a Tibetan dinner where the delegates were sung to and blessed by a choir of Tibetan singers. The group also visited Pudacuo National Park, Xiagei Cultural Eco-tourism Village, a Tibetan Mastiff Breading Base, Dukezong Old Town, Tangdui Village in Nixi Township, Shangri-la Alpine Botanic Park and Gesang Flowers Company. During the 3-day program in Shangri-la, the group was given the opportunity to understand the diversity of China in terms of culture, custom, ethnic minority, geography, etc.



Tibetan performers singing a song to welcome all the guests at the dinner hosted by Party Secretary Mr. Qi Zhala

Members of the Executive Council joined the luncheon hosted by Mr. C Y Leung for the journalists

Hong Kong

On 24 September 2008, the delegation arrived in Hong Kong, the last stop of the study tour. The breakfast meeting with Mr. Archie Tsim, Chief Financial Officer of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd served as a kick-off of the 2-day program in Hong Kong. As the financial crisis was the hottest topic in town, the group was eager to exchange views with Mr. Tsim on the financial issues, both locally and globally. The delegation enjoyed very much the luncheon hosted by Mr. C Y

Leung, Convenor of the Executive Council of the HKSAR and the opportunity to discuss with its Council Members Mr. Andrew Liao, Mr. Ronald Arculli, Dr. C H Leong, Prof Anthony Cheung, Mr. Bernard Chan and Mr. Jasper Tsang on various issues in Hong Kong as well as on international affairs.

The Foundation

hosted a dinner

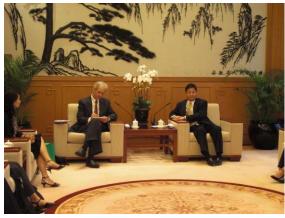
at the Dynasty

Mr. Lu Xinhua, Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong briefed the delegation on the relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland and the responsibilities of his office in dealing with external affairs for Hong Kong. The group visited the Office of the Former Chief Executives where Mr. Tung Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR and now the Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, shared his views on the developments of Hong Kong as well as those in the Mainland.



Meeting Mr. Tung Chee-hwa at the Office of the Former Chief Executives

about the legal, environmental and financial policies in Hong Kong. In addition, the Foundation also hosted a table at the luncheon presentation entitled "China's Post-Olympic Economic, Social and Political Environment" where the delegation was able to discuss with the speakers Mr. Zoher Abdoolcarim, Asia Editor of Times International, Mr. Thomas Easton, Asia Business Editor of The Economist, and Mr. Peter Stein, Bureau Chief Hong Kong of The Wall Street Journal Asia, as well as the President and members of the American Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong.



Meeting with Mr. Lu Xinhua, Commissioner of Commissioner's Office of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong (right)

Club where the journalists not only met Foundation members but also guests from the local business sector, academic and media. Dr. Henry Cheng, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Foundation, Council Members Dr. Roy Chung, Mr. Thomas Woo, Ms. Winnie Ng and Mr. Albert Ip showed their support at the dinner.

Meetings with key officials of the HKSAR Government including the Secretary for Justice Mr. Wong Yan-Lung, the Secretary for the Environment Mr. Edward Yau and the Acting Government Economist Mrs. Helen Chan were conducted to afford the journalists a better idea



Dr. Henry Cheng (sitting middle), Foundation's Advisory Council Chairman meeting the delegation at the dinner hosted by the Foundation

Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang expressed

her gratitude to the East-West Center and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their support and was grateful to all the participants for their active participation and cooperation to make the trip a success. In return the participants responded that the program enabled them to better understand China and Hong Kong. One participant said that the program deepened her understanding of a broad range of issues in Hong Kong and the Mainland in a way that is only possible by actually visiting a country.

List of Participants:

- 1. Mr. Travis Altman, Producer, Fox Business Network, New York, New York
- 2. **Ms. Lisa Girion**, Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California
- 3. **Ms. Leslie Hook**, Editorial Page Writer, *The Wall Street Journal Asia*, Hong Kong

- 4. **Ms. Kathleen Ingley,** Editorial Writer, *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, Arizona
- 5. **Ms. Toni Randolph**, Reporter, *Minnesota Public Radio*, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 6. **Ms. Lori Ruggiero**, Producer, *CNN/American Morning*, New York, New York
- 7. Mr. Steve Wilhelm, Staff Writer, Puget Sound Business Journal, Seattle, Washington

Detailed itinerary and more photos can be found at the Foundation's website www.betterhongkong.org.

15 August 2008

"The 2008 Presidential Campaign Trail: Where Does It Lead?" – A Luncheon Presentation by New York Times Columnist Mr. David Brooks and Political Commentator Mr. Charlie Cook



(L to R) Mr. Ronnie Chan, Mr. David Brooks, Mr. Charlie Cook and Committee of 100's Executive Director Ms. Alice Mong

Jointly hosted by the Better Hong Kong Foundation, Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Committee of 100 and the American Chamber of Commerce, a luncheon presentation on "The 2008 Presidential Campaign Trail: Where Does It Lead?" was successfully held on 15 August 2008. Speakers of the luncheon were Mr. David Brooks, a New York Times columnist and Mr. Charlie Cook, a political commentator.

The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan introduced the speakers to the guests at the luncheon where they were shared with Mr. Brooks' and Mr. Cook's views on the 2008 presidential election of the U.S. The presentation ended with a vote on "who would win the election" and more votes have been cast for Obama on the occasion.

The Foundation's Council Members Ms. Winnie Ng, Mr. Joseph Yu, and Mr. Alber Ip attended and guests included the Deputy Commissioner of The Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong SAR Mr. Zhan Yongxin; the Director of Public Affairs of U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong Mr. Anthony Hutchinson; the Chairman of Crown Worldwide Holdings Ltd. Mr. James E. Thompson; the Principal of Heidrick & Struggles Mr. Peter Liu; Reuters Columnist of the Chinese Language News Service Ms. Wei Gu and Researchers of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong SAR.



(L to R) Mr. James E. Thompson, Mr. Joseph Yu and Mr. Peter Liu

26 - 27 July 2008

The 5th International Forum on Global Urban Competitiveness



Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang speaking at the opening ceremony

5th International Forum on Global Urban Competitiveness was successfully held in Yangzhou on 26 27 July 2008. Initiated by the Global Urban Competitiveness Project (GUCP), this year's Forum was organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the Yangzhou government and supported by the Better Hong Kong Foundation. Hundred of experts and scholars from China and overseas as well as senior officials from local governments attended the Forum and exchanged their views on the strategies amid the increasingly fierce competition amongst cities, both locally and internationally.

The Foundation's Council Members Ms. Winnie Ng and Ms. Judy Yu, Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang and Communications Manager Ms. Jimmie Chow attended the Forum. By the invitation of the Foundation, Mr. Chiu Liang-ching (Columnist of Ming Pao Weekly Magazine); Ms. Chole Lai (Shanghai Correspondent of the South China Morning Post); Mr. Christopher Wilson (Asia Research Correspondent of The Economist) and Mr. Wong Bun-yuen (Editor and Head of Reuters Chinese News of Reuters News) also joined the Foundation's delegation.

As one of the officiating guests at the opening ceremony of the Forum held on 26 July 2008, the Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang was invited to deliver a speech. The Forum then commenced with the presentations on the theme report on "The Sustainable Development of Oriental Countries" and the case study on Yangzhou. The Mayors Round-table Meeting was conducted successfully with fruitful discussions made in the afternoon session. To welcome the delegates and to show them the beauty of the city, the Yangzhou government hosted a dinner reception and followed this with a night boat trip around the city.

The highlight of the Forum was the release of the Global Urban Competitiveness Report (2007 – 2008) by Dr. Ni Pengfei, the General Secretary of the GUCP on the last day of the Forum. The study covered over 500 cities



(L to R) Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang, Mayor of Yangzhou Ms. Wang Yanwen, Foundation's Council Members Ms. Winnie Ng and Ms. Judy Yu

around the world in which Hong Kong, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Beijing were ranked 26th, 41st, 64th and 66th respectively. The study also showed that the top 20 cities with highest economic growth are mainly from China. Scholars from Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Germany as well as the Mainland also shared their studies and research results on urban competitiveness with participants of the Forum. After the closing ceremony, Ms Karen Tang, Executive Director of the Foundation chaired the press conference for the Forum in which over 20 journalists from local and overseas media attended.

Since its inception in 2004, the annual Forum has been successfully staged in Tsing Tao, Ottawa, Chengdu, Seoul and Yangzhou respectively. The Foundation congratulates the CASS and Yangzhou government for the success of this year's Forum.

29 March - 28 July 2008

The 2nd Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest and the Top Five Winning Teams Study Tour to Beijing in August



Foundation's Trustee Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu (3rd right) presenting the award to one of the winning teams

The Finals of the 2nd Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest were successfully held on 28 July 2008. Last year's Champion, the CNEC Christian College won again in this year's contest, while the Cheung Chuk Shan College and the PLK Tang Yuk Tien College were proclaimed 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up respectively. The Baptist Lui Ming Choi Secondary School and Ying Wa College were given the Awards of Merit. (Please refer to the below list for the other 10 shortlisted schools). Jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, the Education Bureau and the Better Hong Kong Foundation, the contest was co-organized with the China Foreign Affairs University, the China Institute of International Studies, Mingpao, China Central Television, Hong

Kong Cable TV, Wenweipo, Xinhuanet and China News Services. Sponsors of the contest were Air China and Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Ltd.

The five teams competed in three different sections including the mandatory question and answer section, the scenario improvisation section and compete-to-answer section. Questions covered various aspects such as history of China's contemporary development diplomatic policies. of international relationships, current issues, 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, etc. Through the agility of their responses and strength of their supporting evidence, the students demonstrated their strong knowledge and understanding of China's diplomacy.

The Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR Mr. Lu Xinhua, the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR Mr. Li Gang, the Secretary for Education Mr. Michael Suen and the



Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang (6th left) and Deputy Commissioner Mr. Yang Zigang (7th left) presenting souvenirs to guests

Foundation's Trustee Tan Sri Dato' David Chiu were the officiating guests and presented trophies to winning teams. Commissioner Lu congratulating the winners and the success of the contest, hailed the young people in Hong Kong for their good team work and keen grasp of China's foreign policy and commitment and care for their motherland.

Judges of the contest included Mr. Zhan Yongxin, the Deputy Commissioner of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR; Mr. Xu Jian, Vice President, China Institute of International Studies; Professor Qin Yaqing, Vice President of China Foreign Affairs University; Mrs Sophie Leung, Legislative Councilor and Prof. John Leong, President of the Open University of Hong Kong. There were more than 300 attendees. Xinhuanet and people.com.cn had a live broadcast at their networks. The Cable TV also broadcast the contest on 29 August 2008. Details of the contest are available at marketing.mingpao.com/foreign_affairs/index.cfm.



Group photo of guests and winning teams

The 2nd Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest was launched in March 2008. A total of 121 local secondary schools have participated in the contest which consisted of first round competition, semifinals and finals. An open competition category for the general public was first established for this year's contest. Over 6,000 people participated in the open competition in which 61 prizes were awarded.

First Round Competition : 29 March 2008 Semifinals : 26 April 2008 Finals : 28 July 2008

Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College
PLK Centenary Li Shiu Chung Memorial College
SPHRC Kung Yik She Secondary School
CCC Ming Kei College
Ma On Shan St. Joseph' s Secondary School

Sing Ying Secondary School STFA Lee Shau Kee College La Salle College SKH Lam Kau Mow Secondary School Ng Wah Catholic Secondary School

^{*} List of the other 10 shortlisted schools:

Study Tour to Beijing in August

The five teams who won in the 2nd Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest visited Beijing from 13 to 16 August 2008. As representative of one of the three organizers of the Contest, Ms. Karen Tang, Executive Director of the Foundation, joined the trip. During its stay in Beijing, the delegation visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and was received by Mr. Yang Jiechi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Qin Gang, the Spokesman; Mr. Song Ru'an, Counselor of Department of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC; and Mr. Huang Songfu, Deputy General Director of Department of Hong Kong,



The Study Tour visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was received by Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs (7th right)



Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang presenting the souvenir to Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Macau and Taiwan Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC. Mr. Yang Jiechi praised the teams' outstanding performance and congratulated them on their success. Also the delegation had the opportunity to attend the Olympic Games, including the beach volleyball and hockey competitions.

The delegation stayed at the China Foreign Affairs University and was briefed by Mr. Heng Xiaojun, Professor and Deputy Secretary of CPC Committee of China Foreign Affairs University, about the history and programs of the University. In response to a student's question on the qualification of admission to the University, Mr. Heng Xiaojun answered

that students from Hong Kong could take an examination for Hong Kong and Macau students and that there were already students from Hong Kong studying in the University and the first



Enjoying the Olympic beach volleyball games

Macau student had just been admitted this year.

The delegation was grateful for the hospitality of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the University, and was thrilled by the Olympic Games ambience in Beijing. Their thoughts and comments on the trip are now available at the website of the Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR http://big5.fmprc.gov.cn/gate/big5/quiz.fmcoprc.gov.hk/chn/.

18 June 2008

"Perspectives on India & Sino-Indian Relations" - A Luncheon Presentation by Ambassador Zhang Yan, China's Ambassador to India

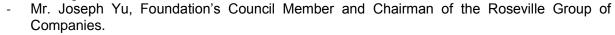
Co-hosted by the Better Hong Kong Foundation and the Asia Society Hong Kong, the Foundation was pleased to have Ambassador Zhang Yan, China's Ambassador to India give a luncheon presentation on 18 June 2008. Ambassador Zhang gave a speech entitled "Perspectives on India & Sino-Indian Relations" on the occasion. The Foundation's Council Members Dr. Roy Chung and Mr. Albert Ip together with invited guests Mr. C. K. Yeung, Director of University Development and Public Affairs of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Ms. Clara Choi, Executive Producer of Radio and Television Hong Kong joined the luncheon.

15 - 21 June 2008

The Better Hong Kong Foundation's Annual Delegation to the United States

The Better Hong Kong Foundation has successfully held its annual delegation to the United States this year. Led by the Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang, this year's members of the delegation included:

- Mr. Daniel Fung, Vice-Chairman of the Salzburg Global Seminar, Board of Governors of the East-West Center, National Delegate of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority, Senior Counsel of the Hong Kong Bar, Solicitor-General of Hong Kong (1994 - 98);
- Mr. James Thompson, GBS, the Founder and Chairman of the Crown Worldwide Group and former Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong for 2002 and 2003;
- Ms. Winnie Ng, Foundation's Council Member and Executive Director of the Kowloon Motor Bus Co. Ltd;
- Dr. Gerald Chow, Foundation's Council Member and Executive Director of Chow Sang Sang Holdings International Ltd; and





Ms. Karen Tang presenting a souvenir to Mr. Peng Keyu (3rd right), Consul General of the People's Republic of China and Mr. Kuang Weilin (1st right), Vice Consul

Pre-trip Press Conference

A pre-trip press conference was held on 13 June 2008 to brief members of the media about the theme and to introduce members of the delegation.

The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang said at the press conference that, "Hong Kong has been ranked as the world's freest economy. It is a vibrant international city with a low tax rate, sound international legal system and practices, free flow of capital and information; and accessibility to the Mainland China market, which retains and attracts talents and funds to stay and to come. I hope that we can share our experience and belief with the opinion leaders and decision makers in the States during our visit".



Meeting with Mr. Ian Solomon (4th left), Legislative Counsel for Senator Barack Obama

The U.S. Visit

This annual mission to U.S. took place during 15 to 21 June 2008, before the U.S. Presidential Election. Irrespective of whichever candidate succeeds in November, the policies of the incoming President Elect would herald material departures from the present incumbent. With that in mind, the Foundation visited New York and Washington D.C. and took the temperature of all the major players in both metropolises and exchanged views with them. The delegation visited the Executive Branch (U.S. State Department and U.S. Department of Commerce); the Legislative Branch (Congressmen and staffers including those of Senator Obama); think-tanks

inside the Beltway (the Brookings Institution, Center

for Strategic & International Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The CATO Institute, The Heritage Foundation, East-West Center, The U.S.-Asia Institute, etc); think-tanks in New York City (The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Asia Society); professional bodies (American Bar Association); financial institutions (Morgan Stanley); rating agencies (Standard & Poor's) and media representatives.



Meeting with the U.S. Department of Commerce

During the mission, the delegation attended a dinner hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C. for the Chinese delegation of the Strategic Economic Dialogue led by the Vice Premier Wang Qishan. It also participated in public talks and luncheons hosted by the Hong Kong Association of New York, American Bar Association, the Fund for American Studies and the Asia Institute for Political Economy respectively, where Mr. Daniel Fung and Mr. James Thompson gave speeches. The delegation was also invited to luncheons and a dinner hosted by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China based in New York, the Chinese Embassy to the US, and the Permanent Mission of the PRC to the UN respectively.



Group photo at the Embassy of PRC to the U.S - Mr. James Thompson (2nd left), Ms. Karen Tang (3rd left), Mr. Xie Feng (4th left), Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the PRC to the U.S., Mr. Ronnie Chan (4th right), Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman and Trustee, Mr. Daniel Fung (3rd right) and Ms. Winnie Ng (2nd right)



Mr. James Thompson (2nd right) delivering a speech at the Luncheon Talk hosted by Asia Institute for Political Economy, The Fund for American Studies

A detailed itinerary is available on the Foundation's website www.betterhongkong.org.

Post-trip Press Conference

A post-trip press conference was held on 3 July 2008 to brief members of the media about the main issues dealt with during the delegation's stay in the U.S. Members of the delegation shared their observations and experiences gained from the trip at the press conference.

Ms. Karen Tang said that the theme of this year's trip was "Hong Kong: an ideal place to live and to invest". "We meant to share the strategic position and value of Hong Kong to China and to the region, especially with its well established core value and system and its proximity to the Mainland" explained Ms. Tang.

Mr. Daniel Fung commented that, "The upshot of our full and frank discussions over five days is that the United States have no burning issues with regard to Hong Kong and acknowledge that our governance, economy and rule of law after reversion to Chinese sovereignty have all been a remarkable success, although they will look with interest at our democratic development after 2017. As for China, the United States recognize that Sino-U.S. relations constitute the single most

important strategic bilateral relationship in the world of the 21st Century. conclusion reached by consensus with our interlocutors at the end of our weeklong mission is that, despite challenges in many including trade, currency. areas environment, security including energy security, human rights, IPR protection, democracy and the rule of law, Sino-US relations will not merely remain stable but will continue to deepen, including deepening into strategic cooperation (including energy security and green tech), and the incoming US President Elect will likely govern from the center."



Delegation members attended the post-trip press conference: (L to R) Foundation's Council Member Mr. Joseph Yu, Mr. Daniel Fung, Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang and Mr. James Thompson

Mr. James Thompson shared that, "I felt that our dialogue with numerous influential people in New York and Washington helped us relay the importance of Hong Kong's position in the relationship between China and the United States. I came away from our trip with strong feelings that there is a keen understanding among America's most influential 'movers and shakers' that the world is focusing on China as we enter the Asian Century. Regardless of the outcome of the U.S. presidential election, I have confidence that trade and political relations with the United States will remain strong."

The Foundation's Council Member Mr. Joseph Yu expressed that he was glad to participate in this meaningful trip. He looked forward to more dialogues like these in the future. The Foundation's Council Member Ms. Winnie Ng, who has already participated in the Foundation's delegation to the U.S three times, believed that, "the Beijing Olympics marks a watershed in the development of China and an opportunity to further boost the international stature of Hong Kong". The Foundation's Council Member Dr. Gerald Chow further explained that, "China's rise has always been complex and evolving. As it promotes an export-based economy while maintaining domestic stability in today's flattened world, it is often faced with many daunting challenges. U.S.-Sino relations, in particular, have never before been in a delicate balance with strong nationalistic sentiment on both sides. With the coming U.S. election and perhaps, a more engaging foreign policy towards China with the new administration, this relationship can grow ever stronger through Hong Kong's role in working as a bridge between these two great nations. That Hong Kong will continue to maintain a special place in the future of China is without question; but it is perhaps more compelling to imagine the possibilities of Hong Kong's role in a world where China's influence has never been greater."

New Council Members (May - Aug 08)



Ms. Judy Yu Managing Director Carsac Limited www.carsac.com



Mr. Joseph Yu Shin-gay Chairman Roseville Group of Companies



Mr. David Fong Man-hung Deputy Managing Director Hip Shing Hong Group of Companies www.hshd.com.hk



Mr. Tony Choi Executive Director Hong Kong Garment Manufacturing Co Ltd



Mr. Albert Ip
Managing Director of Investments, Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Ltd
www.ml.com

Albert Ip has been Managing Director of Investments in Private Banking and Investment Group, Pacific Rim at Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Ltd since March 2008. From 1987 - 2007, Mr. Ip held a number of senior positions at Citigroup in Asia which included: Managing Director and Asia Regional Investment Finance

Head (Global Wealth Management), Managing Director and Head of Global Transaction Services and Financial Institutions, Financial Institutions and Global Relationship Banking Head, Corporate Banking Head, Commercial Banking Head, North Asia Real Estate Head and Real Estate Head-Hong Kong. From 1977 - 1987, Mr. Ip worked in Price Waterhouse, Citigroup and First National Bank of Chicago in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, New York and San Francisco. He was a lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh part-time MBA program. Mr. Ip was an independent non-executive director and audit committee member of Hopewell Holdings and Hopewell Highway Infrastructure (8/07 - 3/08). He is currently on the Advisory Board of Lingnan University, Business Studies in Hong Kong and the International Advisory Council for Asia of Washington University, St. Louis.

The Better Hong Kong Foundation

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