The Better Hong Kong Foundation | 2020 Issue

IEWSLETTER



www.betterhongkong.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends.

Most of us will not easily forget the year 2020. It was overwhelmed by the impact of global pandemic. It "connected" the world and ironically kept people apart. The disruption caused lives, jobs, isolation, despairs etc. What could be the aftermath? This comes down to the leaders of our cities, countries and the world. Genuine leaders bring us vision and hope, not division, fear nor further disruption. Yet, everyone should play a

part to rethink and rebuild our society with faith, hope and love.

The disruption offers opportunities for innovation and creates a new form of the economy. Many happenings go online, from meetings to business transactions, from performances to arts exhibitions. However, development of Al and usage of big data and the implied concern on privacy and security is becoming a real issue. In the coming decade, geopolitics especially China-U.S. relations will

continue to be the focus of attention of the world. Brexit, signing of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and signing of Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between China and Europe also impact the landscape of the global geopolitics. We, of course, look forward to a cordial relation among countries and regions, and a win-win scenario for everyone.



Adapting to the New Normal

The Better Hong Kong Foundation ("the Foundation") always strives to connect people. In 2020, despite most events had to go online, it did not stop us from organizing and participating in talks and forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and reinforce understanding between people and organizations from different parts of the region. We invited Prof. Hui Kai-lung, Elman Family Professor of Business from the HKUST Business School, to talk about blockchain technology and the use of IT after the pandemic; Dr. Dong Tao, Vice Chairman Greater China of Credit Suisse Private Banking Asia Pacific, to speak about the global economic outlook, particularly on mainland China and Hong Kong, under the backdrop of the pandemic; Mr. Charles Li, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, to give a talk on "Will Hong Kong Remain an International Financial Center After the 2019 Social Unrest?"; and Prof. James Wang, Research Director of Belt & Road Hong Kong Centre to give a geo-economic analysis on the Belt & Road Initiative and Hong Kong's role as a connector between the world and the Greater Bay Area.

The Foundation was honored to have indepth discussions with Mr. Leung Chunying, Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference ("CPPCC") and former Chief Executive of the HKSAR, and Mr. Paul Chan, Financial Secretary on the challenges and opportunities to Hong

Kong, amidst the challenging environment that Hong Kong faced locally and globally. The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan shared his thoughts on the China-U.S. relations and the global politics; and the Middle East: Past, Present and Future in his two talks.

To continue the annual initiative with our Shanghai partners, we organized a virtual forum on deepening collaboration between Hong Kong and Shanghai on maritime and aviation. The Foundation, Shanghai CPPCC and Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences jointly organized the forum and experts from Hong Kong and Shanghai shared their insights, which contributed also to the drafting of Shanghai's 14th Five-Year Plan.





Virtual Meeting with Mr. Charles Li, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd in July 2020

A Future with Hope

We may realize how limited human can do in times of changing. The world however keeps changing and has changed a lot. We should seize every opportunity to make the world a better place and let time passes with a meaning. With that, I would like to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to our members, counterparts and friends who offer their understanding and unfailing support to us. This year, we are pleased to welcome three new Council Members: Mr. Christopher Chan, Managing Director of Fantastic Natural Cosmetics Ltd, Mr. Nathan Lee, Vice President and Head of Business Development of TR Capital and Mr. Eugene Cheung, Executive Director, Research of Grosvenor Ltd. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all stay healthy, happy and be hopeful.

Karen TANG

Executive Director
The Better Hong Kong Foundation

Kauntang

DELEGATIONS & EXCHANGES

The Foundation spares no effort in promoting dialogue and understanding between Hong Kong, China and the global community. We believe that through mutual discussion and first-hand experience, we can build better international understanding between the East and the West.

Delegations



United States

The Foundation organizes delegation to the United States regularly. The goal is to provide first-hand updates about Hong Kong's present situation, share our perspectives on developments in China, exchange views with interlocutors in the U.S. and gauge the temperature in the Beltway, as well as better understand their views on developments in Hong Kong, Mainland China, the U.S. and the China-U.S. relationship.





Meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao (middle) in 2017





Exchanging views with President Dr. Edwin Feulner (3rd right) and senior

fellows of the Heritage Foundation in 2017













Israel

The Foundation organized two delegations to Israel in 2011 and 2014, in partnership with the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council respectively. The delegations met with local government officials and companies in high-tech industries to learn more about investment opportunities in Israel as well as to explore collaboration opportunities with Hong Kong.









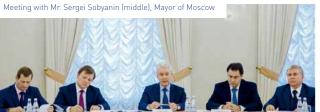


Dinner hosted by the Foundation for Mr. Anton Kobyakov, Adviser to the President (3rd left) and Roscongress Foundation in appreciation of their great support and hospitality



Russian Federation

In September 2018, the Foundation organized its first delegation to the Russian Federation, visiting Moscow and St. Petersburg. The delegation was able to meet with senior government officials and local business leaders to understand more about the investment opportunities and economic development in Russia as well as to explore collaboration opportunities with Hong Kong.













Turkey

The Foundation organized its first delegation to Turkey in September 2019, visiting Istanbul and Ankara. The delegation was able to meet with senior government officials and local business leaders to understand more about the investment opportunities and economic development in Turkey as well as to explore collaboration opportunities with Hong Kong.











The delegation's leader Mr. Ronnie Chan gave a speech at the Seminar on China-Turkey Economic and Cultural Cooperation organized by the Consulate General of the PRC in Istanbul





Beijing

In August 2019, the Foundation organized its first delegation to Beijing. The delegation met with senior Central Government officials and thoughts leaders to understand more about the nation's recent policy on Hong Kong.









company and hosted a dinner for the delegation



Taiwan

The Foundation organized its first delegation to Taiwan in April 2013, visiting Taipei and Taichung. The delegation was able to meet with senior government officials and local business leaders to understand more about the economic and cultural developments in Taiwan as well as its investment environment and opportunities.



Meeting with Mr. Jason Hu (7th left), Mayor of Taichung City







Exchanges

In 2008, Mr. Qin Gang (4th right), Spokesman and Deputy Director-General of the Information Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a luncheon for the delegation in Beijing





China-U.S. Journalist Exchange

Since 1996, in an effort to enhance the understanding of Mainland China and Hong Kong by the American media, the Foundation together with the East-West Center invite six to eight American journalists each year to visit Mainland China and Hong Kong. The Foundation sponsors and organizes their trips. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC, the program enables the journalists to meet with senior government officials in Beijing as well as local municipal officials of some cities in the Mainland. To broaden participants' network, the Foundation also organizes meetings with local key industry and business players, academic and research institutions, and media practitioners. In 2010, the Foundation in collaboration with the All-China Journalists Association enriched the program by adding the visit of Chinese journalists to the U.S.



Meeting with the Chief Executive Mr. Leung Chun-ying in Hong Kong in 2016



Exchanged views with Mr. Hu Xijin (5th right), Editor-in-Chief of Global Times in Beijing in 2018













center in Zhengzhou in 2016













SPEAKING EVENTS

The Foundation hosts and participates in various speaking events where old and new friends, local and overseas, meet, exchange views and share ideas. We also work with different organizations to invite prominent speakers from the Mainland and overseas to address the Hong Kong community from time to time.

Annual Spring Speaking Luncheon for Consuls General & Chairmen of International Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong

The Secretary for Justice Mr. Rimsky Yuen (2nd right) gave a speech at the luncheon in 2015

At the beginning of Chinese New Year every year, the Foundation always organizes a Spring Speaking Luncheon for the Foundation's members, Consuls General and Chairmen of international chambers of commerce in Hong Kong. A community leader will be invited to address on the occasion. The Foundation takes this opportunity to share our views and wishes on the development of Hong Kong and the world for the coming year.

(front row, 5th right) addressed the luncheon



The Chief Executive Mr. Leung Chun-ying (3rd left)

was invited to speak at the luncheon in 2013

Commissioner Xie Feng, Commissioner's Office of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR delivered a speech at the luncheon in 2018









The Foundation's members exchanged views with guests at the luncheon in 2017

With Local and Overseas Community and Thoughts Leaders

The Foundation always invites local and overseas community and thoughts leaders to share and exchange views on current social affairs.





Mr. Wang Zhimin (middle), Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR discussed and exchanged views with the Foundation's members in June 2018





Mr. Shiu Sin-por (5th left), former Head of the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR Government and Executive Director of the New Paradigm Foundation shared his insights on Hong Kong affairs in August 2019













Dr. Zhu Min (front row, $3^{\rm rd}$ left), Chairman of National Institute of Finance Research at Tsinghua University and former Deputy Managing Director at the International Monetary Fund shared his observation on the role of China under the backdrop of global economic development in October 2017



CONFERENCES & FORUMS

To foster discussion and exchange of views, the Foundation partners with prominent institutions to organize various conferences and forums where experts from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas can be engaged through direct communication and deliberation.

Annual Forum in Shanghai

Since 2005 the Foundation, together with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) and Shanghai Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), has organized a forum in Shanghai annually. Experts, scholars, government officials and entrepreneurs from Hong Kong and the Mainland participate in the forum where ideas on further collaboration between the two cities are exchanged and discussed.



Group photo with Vice Chairman of CPPCC Mr. Leung Chun-ying (front row, 6th left), Executive Committee Chairman of the Foundation Mr. Ronnie Chan (front row, 3rd right), Chairman of Shanghai CPPCC Mr. Dong Yunhu (front row, 6th right), President of the SASS Dr. Zhang Daogen (front row, 3rd left), members of the Foundation, speakers and other guests in 2019





The Foundation invited Mr. Lawrence Li (middle) and Mr. Christopher Hui (right) from Financial Services Development Council to share their views at the discussion session on financial services in 2019





The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan (front row, middle), Vice Chairman of the Shanghai CCPC Mr. Zhang Endi (front row, 4th right) and President of the SASS Prof. Wang Zhan (front row, 3th right) officiated the conference; Mrs. Regina Yip (front row, 5th left) was one of the keynote speakers in 2017





World Policy Conference

The Foundation initiated and organized a plenary session at the World Policy Conference (WPC) in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Invited by the Foundation, social and business leaders with extensive knowledge and experience on China participated in the plenary session to share and exchange ideas with conference participants from more than 50 countries.





(L to R) Ms. Karen Tang, Mr. Ronnie Chan, Mr. Leung Chun-ying, Prof. Thierry de Montbrial (founder of the WPC), Mr. Shiv Vikram Khemka and Dr. Bayu Krisnamurthi at the WPC 2018





Moderated by the Foundation's Executive Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan (left), Mr. Leung Chun-ying (middle) and Dr. Eric Li shared their views on China's position on sustaining globalization in 2019

Conferences and Forums in Hong Kong

In collaboration with various organizations, the Foundation co-organizes and supports conferences and forums to facilitate exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing.



In 2011, Vice Foreign Minister of the PRC Ms. Fu Ying (3rd right) spoke at an evening presentation jointly organized by the Foundation and the Asia Society Hong Kong Center



In 2011 the Foundation, together with the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce's Young Executives Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce's China Committee and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Small and Medium Business, invited the Convenor of the Executive Council Mr. Leung Chun-ying (6th left) to share views on Hong Kong's future position under the national plan



In 2014, Vice Foreign Minister of the PRC Mr. Zhang Yesui was invited to speak at the China-United States Exchange Foundation's annual conference. The Foundation was one of the co-organizers







In 2008, Mr. David McCormick (2nd right), Under Secretary for International Affairs of the U.S. Treasury Department spoke at a luncheon presentation jointly organized by the Foundation and the Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Organized by the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute and supported by the Foundation, the World Chinese Economic Summit was held in 2017. The Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan (middle) moderated the first session of the Summit





As the co-organizer, the Foundation invited Mr. Franklin Lam $\{5^{\rm th}\ {\rm right}\}$ to speak at the Hong Kong Partnership Summit hosted by the JCl Hong Kong in 2016

The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang (front row, 5th right) attended the Belt & Road International Youth Summit which was organized by the JCI Hong Kong and sponsored by the Foundation in 2018

Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area was successfully held in 2019

DIALOGUES WITH LEADERS

The Foundation endeavors to establish and strengthen its alliances with leading political, academic, media and business leaders. We keep close connections and engage in frequent dialogue with our counterparts around the world to keep them posted on the latest developments in Hong Kong and Mainland China; and to learn of the updates in their respective countries.

From Mainland China











With Chinese Ambassador to Austria Li Xiaosi (front row, 2nd left) in 2018



With Mr. Lu Kang (front row, middle), Director-General of the Information Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2016



With Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Xiong Bo (sitting, 3^{rd} left) and Chinese Ambassador to Belgium Cao Zhongming (sitting, 2^{rd} right) in 2019



25 ____

From Overseas









With Miss Emma McClarkin (UK) and Mr. Jens Gieseke (Germany),

Members of European Parliament (MEPs) of EU in 2018













SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG

With globalization, rapid change and worldwide competition, we cannot be complacent regarding the current state of affairs. The Foundation, in collaboration with renowned research institutes, conducts studies on the competitiveness of urban cities in China as well as bench marking world cities in the pursuit of excellence. We also recognize the importance of Hong Kong's youth development and endeavor to broaden our young people's horizon for the betterment and sustainable development of Hong Kong.

China's Urban Competitiveness Report

Since 2003, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences publishes the China's Urban Competitiveness Report ("the Report") annually. Leading by Prof. Ni Pengfei, the Report analyses the overall competitiveness of over 290 cities in China and cities are ranked by different indices on economic, sustainable and liveability competitiveness. The Report provides useful analysis and insightful advice on cities' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. After the release of the Report in Beijing, the Foundation organises luncheon discussion and press conference in Hong Kong where Prof. Ni presents the results of the Report, particularly on findings about Hong Kong, and exchanges ideas with the Foundation's members as well as local academic and experts on Hong Kong's future positioning.



The Foundation's Executive Director Ms. Karen Tang (middle) together with Prof. Ni Pengfei (left) from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Prof. Shen Jianfa from Chinese University of Hong Kong presented the report to media in Hong Kong in 2017



Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest

Launched in 2007, the Foundation jointly organized the Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest with the Office of Commissioner of the PRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR and the Education Bureau of the HKSAR Government for 13 consecutive years. The Contest aims to raise students' interest in international affairs and knowledge of the nation's foreign policy. More than 300,000 students from 164 primary and secondary schools have participated in the Contest so far. Study tours to Beijing and other Mainland cities such as Shanghai, Harbin, Hohhot, Nanjing, Xi'an, Guiyang and more, have been organized for the winning teams of the Contest. Through the contest, it is hoped that young people and the general public in Hong Kong will become more interested in learning about the development of China in the context of world diplomacy.



The Final of the 13rd Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest in 2019





The Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam presented the Gold Award of the Elite Group to Ying Wa College in 2018

Mr. Lu Kang, Spokesman and Director-General of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a dialogue with the winner of the Best Spokesperson Award in 2019









Mr. Geng Shuang, Spokesperson and Deputy Director-General of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with the winning teams at the Blue Hall in Beijing in 2018



In 2013, Deputy Commissioner Ms. Jiang Yu [middle] together with the Foundation's Council Member Dr. Roy Chung [2^{nd} right], representatives of the Education Bureau and the students officiated the kick-off ceremony of the contest





THE FOUNDATION MATTERS

Spring Luncheon

To celebrate Chinese New Year and exchange good wishes for prosperity in a new year, the Foundation holds a spring luncheon with members annually. The spring luncheon is hosted by the Foundation's Advisory Council Chairman Dr. Henry Cheng and chaired by the Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan.



On 16 January 2020, the Foundation held its annual spring luncheon to celebrate the Year of the Rat with members: (Front row, L to R) Mr. Thomas Woo, Ms. Diana Chou, Dr. Roy Chung, Ms. Li Xuhua, Mr. Ronnie Chan, Ms. Karen Tang, Mr. Chan Yim-kwong, Ms. Clara Chan, Ms. Juliana Lam and Mr. Adam Kwok; (Back row, L to R) Mr. Bosco Law, Ms. Alice Au, Mr. Bryant Lu, Mr. Allen Shi, Mr. John Lee, Mr. Sebastian Man, Mr. Andrew Yao, Dr. Frankie Yeung, Mr. Patrick Poon, Dr. Raymond Leung, Mr. Dario Pong, Ms. Rosana Wong and Dr. Wendy Hong



(L to R) Ms. Karen Tang, Mr. Ronnie Chan and Mr. Adam Kwok



(L to R) Dr. Roy Chung, Ms. Juliana Lam, Ms. Karen Tang and Mr. Andrew Yao $\,$



(L to R) Mr. Andrew Yao, Mr. Dario Pong, Mr. Bryant Lu and Mr. Bosco Law



(L to R) Mr. Allen Shi, Ms. Diana Chou and Dr. Raymond Leung