The Better Hong Kong Foundation | 2021 Issue

NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

I would like to start with wishing you and your loved ones good health and happiness. In the past two years, people around the world have experienced waves of Covid-19 pandemic, making life more than unusual for the world. World leaders have been struggling to open the border to let people live and travel freely and to revive the economy, or to continue the restrictions for upholding public health. On the one hand, we could appreciate more time spent with our family for staying, working and studying at home. On the other, we should be more considerate and offer our help to those who lost their jobs. health or even friends and relatives. New opportunities came along with all these changes and technology disruption but more adaptation is needed from all of us.

Another challenge that we are facing is climate change. The mounting disasters caused by extreme weather give pressure to countries to tackle it with joint effort. The risk of cold war or decoupling thinking will only be harmful to all problems that lie ahead. Global collaboration should be the answer, even with different ideologies. As Chinese idiom says, "Gentlemen seek harmony but not uniformity".

Year 2022 marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland. The implementation of the National Security Law in 2020 and the improvement of the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") in 2021 helped restore Hong Kong's stability, which is beneficial to our social, political and economic development. With the advantage of "One Country Two Systems", Hong Kong is positioned to be the hub of the Greater Bay Area ("GBA") in eight areas, under the 14th Five-Year Plan of the nation: international financial center: international transportation center; international trade center; international legal, deal-making and

dispute resolution hub in the Asia-Pacific; international aviation hub; international I&T hub; East-meets-West center for international cultural exchange, and regional intellectual property trading center. We shall look forward and move fast to embrace the huge potential in the GRA

Over the past one hundred years, China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in many aspects. Over 850 million Chinese people have been lifted out of poverty, and 400 million people are now classified as middleincome earners. China is now the world's second largest economy, and the largest manufacturing country and commodity trading nation. China has also built the world's longest high-speed rail network as well as the largest highway network. Now, the country is marching towards its second centenary goal of becoming a great modern country. Hong Kong is proud to progress with our country by contributing our strengths.



Be Adaptive and Prepare for a New Chapter

The Better Hong Kong Foundation ("the Foundation") spares no efforts on facilitating ideas exchange and promoting collaborations with different counterparts. In 2021, we organized virtual and physical meetings where prominent speakers in economic, political, academia and media fields shared their wisdom and insights with our members. In July, we were honored to have invited Mr. Leung Chun-ying, Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference ("CPPCC") and Former Chief Executive of the HKSAR, to share his views on Hong Kong after the implementation of National Security Law and the new election methods. In May and in October, Mr. Chris Tang, the then Commissioner of Police and currently the Secretary for Security, spoke to us on leadership and risk management during the 2019 social unrest and challenges ahead. On the economic front, Mr. Eddie Yue, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Monetary Authority in March and Mr. Nicolas Aguzin, Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd in August shared with us their thoughts on the market and their plans in response to the fast-changing global economic environment, especially under impact of the pandemic. In April, the Foundation's Executive Committee Chairman Mr. Ronnie Chan shared his insights with members on the China-U.S. relations amidst the growing tension between the two great powers.

When Hong Kong is preparing to strive further, it is important that we could learn from the past. In August, we invited



Mr. Shiu Sin-por, former Head of the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR Government and Executive Director of the New Paradigm Foundation, to comment on governance of Hong Kong during British colonial rule. In November, Prof. Li Pang-kwong, Professor of Practice of Department of Political Science at Lingnan University, further gave us his insightful review from the British declassified files. on British strategy of governance and planning before the handover of Hong Kong to China. In June, Mr. Lo Wing-hung, Publisher and Chief Curator of the Bastille Post talked to us the political environment and media ecology during and after the social unrest in 2019.

Every changes of policies and moves of China catch the world's attention, not to mention its huge influence to Hong Kong. In November, Dr. Shan Weijian, Chairman and CEO of PAG, was invited to share his interpretation on the recent polices introduction and its impact on economic and social developments in Mainland China. The national 14th Five-Year Plan maps out the country's social and economic development plan for 2021 -2025. In June, the Foundation, the CPPCC Shanghai Committee, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Hong Kong Coalition jointly organized the annual Shanghai-Hong Kong Cooperation and Development Forum where in-depth discussions on how the two places could leverage the numerous opportunities arising from the 14th Five-Year Plan. Over a hundred of participants attended the physical meeting in Shanghai while around 200 participants from Hong Kong joined the forum virtually.



Message from the Director





Inject New Powers

This year, we are pleased to welcome six new Council Members who share the Foundation's vision on building a better Hong Kong. They are Mr. Paul Tai, Regional Director of Mainetti (HK) Ltd, Ms. Catherine Leung, Co-Founder & Partner of MizMaa Ventures Ltd, Mr. Stanley Sun, CEO of China-Hongkong Photo Products Holdings Ltd, Mr. Albert Chuang, Chairman & Managing Director of Chuang's Consortium International Ltd, and Ms. Lesley Kwok and Mr. Jonathan Kwok, both are Directors of Empire Group Holdings Ltd. While the globe is overwhelmed with misleading or false information and mistrust, the Foundation hopes to cultivate the spirit of openness and trust through sincere communication among people, across borders and boundaries. I hope you will join hand with us to make this happen. May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to you, to our members and counterparts for your long-term and unfailing support!

Karen TANG

Executive Director The Better Hong Kong Foundation

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.











Delegations & Exchanges

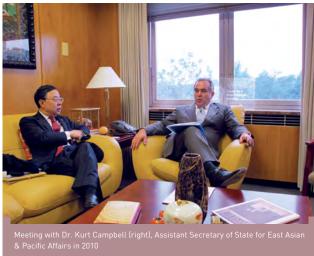












Israel

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.













Delegations & Exchanges



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.













Delegations & Exchanges



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.









Dr. Lee Kai-fu (front row, middle), Chairman and CEO of Sinovation Ventures introduced the high-tech products of his 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.













Delegations & Exchanges

Meeting with Vice Minister of Finance Mr. Zhu Guangyao (Lan Left) in Beijing in 2016



Exchanges

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.





feeting with Mr. Tung Chee-hwa (4th right), Vice Chairman of Chinese People's Political onsultative Conference and first Chief Executive of the HKSAR in Hong Kong in 2017













Delegations & Exchanges











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

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.









Speaking Events









Mr. Jasper Tsang, President of the Legislative Council (middle) spoke at the luncheon in 2011



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.



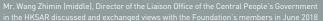








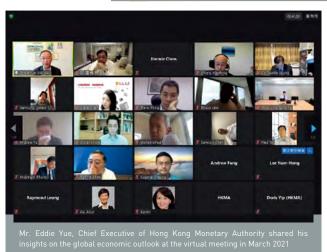
























Conferences &

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 Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) jointly organize 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.











Conferences & Forums





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.









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.



Jointly organized by the Foundation, the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR Government and the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Hong Kong Business Community Forum on the Pearl River Delta Development Plan was successfully held at the City University of Hong Kong in 2009



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



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



Conferences & Forums



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





Jointly organized by the Foundation and the Office of Commissioner of the PRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR, the conference on "China's 40 Years of Reform and Opening up: Implications for the World and Role of Hong Kong" gathered international political leaders, senior government officials, prominent scholars and business leaders to share their experiences and insights in 2018



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



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









Dialogues with Leaders



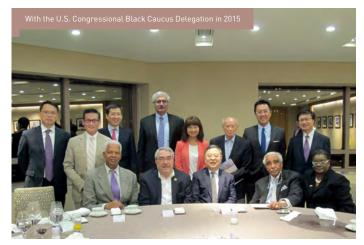








From Overseas











Dialogues with Leaders













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 benchmarking 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.







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.









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











Sustainable Development of Hong Kong













The Foundation Matters

Spring Gathering

To celebrate Chinese New Year and exchange good wishes for prosperity in a new year, the Foundation holds spring gathering with members annually.



