

強化香港總部經濟

ENHANCE HONG KONG'S HQ ECONOMY TO CONSOLIDATE SUPER-CONNECTOR ROLE











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出版人 Publisher

香港中華總商會(於香港註冊成立的擔保有限公司)

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承印人 Printed by

奧華印刷設計公司 Ora Printing & Design Centre

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香港灣仔駱克道361-363號 翹賢商業大廈21字樓 21/F, Kiu Yin Commercial Building, 361-363 Lockhart Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

售價 Price

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提振經濟信心是重中之重 BOLSTERING ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE IS KEY

蔡冠深Jonathan CHOI GBM, GBS, BBS, JP

月,夏寶龍主任在港進行一連七天調研考察,就推動香港經濟與社會發展廣泛聽取意見,充分體現中央對香港高度重視,為引領香港未來發展帶來積極提振作用。新一份《財政預算案》亦提出多項驅動經濟發展的財政支援措施,為鞏固經濟復甦提供有利條件,也為增強香港發展動能和競爭力作出長遠佈局。工商界將全力配合中央和特區政府積極提振經濟、推動高質量發展的大方向,尤其透過聚焦香港優勢產業發展、深化區域互動合作,進一步發揮香港"內聯外通"的功能優勢,提振經濟與營商信心。

着力"南金融、北創科"發展佈局

香港作為高度外向型和開放的經濟體,較容易受外圍環境波動影響。去年香港股市顯著下跌,樓市氣氛低迷,無可避免影響經營與投資氣氛。我們欣見新一份《預算案》接納本會提出的多項建議,包括全面撤銷樓市"辣招"、擴大發債規模、以及就提振營商信心等不同範疇提出具體支援。

《預算案》致力推動綠色經濟與金融發展,我認為香港在促進綠色低碳產業發展過程中可擔當關鍵角色,透過優化金融市場的運營機制,探討為包括"一帶一路"項目在內的綠色投資提供中長期融資管道,並制定適合香港金融機構的綠色信貸準則。我們亦支持《預算案》推出促進香港離岸人民幣業務發展的多項措施,包括開拓更多中東及東盟地區資金來港,期望當局積極向相關市場進一步拓展多元化人民幣業務,並支持香港股票市場建立"一帶一路板塊",為投資"一帶一路"市場的內地和國際企業提供融資渠道,促進人民幣國際化發展。

內地跟東盟和中東地區經貿往來愈趨緊密,特區政府可探討進一步引入中東、東南亞等地區新資金和企業落戶,並為區域商貿往來提供法律仲裁、調解、風險管理等專業服務,並研究進一步增撥資

源,為金融發展局、金融管理局等提供更多支援, 推動香港金融中心發展做大做強。

香港也要深化跟大灣區內地城市、特別是毗鄰的深圳聯動拓展創科產業,透過加快河套港深創科園建設步伐,加強香港園區與深圳園區的規劃和產業項目銜接,協同開展基礎前沿和重點產業領域科研發展,並爭取中央支持在河套香港園區設置國家高端實驗室,透過加強人才與創科資源雙向互動,配合北部都會區建設,合力促進產學研對接及成果轉化,攜手共建大灣區高水平人才和創新中心。

加強人流雙向互動

事實上,要真正發揮香港"內聯外通"優勢,必須 全面提升大灣區人員雙向互動往來的效率。中央宣 佈增加內地赴港澳"個人遊"城市,相信可增加本 港旅遊業及相關行業的商機,促進香港經濟發展, 也有助內地與香港的人員雙向流動。期望中央進一 步擴大"個人遊"相關安排,便利更多內地居民赴 港旅遊,為香港旅遊業注入新活力,助力推動香港 經濟發展。粵港澳三地政府亦可考慮研究推出"大 灣區卡",讓區內高端人才可更方便往來工作和生 活,藉此吸引更多海內外人才和資源匯聚,攜手促 進大灣區高質量發展建設。

此外,《基本法》第二十三條立法公眾諮詢於上月底結束,我們全力支持特區政府盡快完成立法工作,為維護國家安全提供更堅實法律屏障,鞏固和提升香港整體營商環境,讓工商界可以聚焦拼經濟,專注抓緊融入國家發展大局的機遇,攜手開創高質量發展新篇章。

66 我們欣見新一份《預算案》接納本會提出的多項建議,包括全面撤銷樓市 "辣招"、擴大發債規模、以及就提振營商信心等不同範疇提出具體支援。

It is a delight to see that the new *Budget* has adopted a number of recommendations by CGCC to address these issues, including the removal of the "harsh measures" for the property market, the expansion of the scope of government bonds, and concrete measures in other areas such as to rebuild business confidence.

uring his seven-day inspection visit in Hong Kong last month, Director Xia Baolong listened to opinions from different sectors on promoting Hong Kong's economic and social developments. His trip demonstrated the high importance that the Central Government places on Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the new *Budget* has presented various financial measures to propel economic development, boost economic recovery, and enhance growth impetus and competitiveness. The business sector will give the government its full support in implementing these measures, especially enhancing Hong Kong's valuable connections with the Mainland and the rest of the world through stepping up the development of industries with an edge, and deepening regional cooperation and exchange.

Focusing on the South-North dual-engine development plan

Hong Kong is susceptible to fluctuations in the external environment. Last year, the significant decline in Hong Kong's stock market and the unoptimistic outlook for the local property market had undoubtedly dampened business and investment sentiments. It is therefore a delight to see that the new *Budget* has adopted a number of recommendations by CGCC to address these issues, including the removal of the "harsh measures" for the property market, the expansion of the scope of government bonds, and concrete measures in other areas such as to rebuild business confidence.

The development of a green economy and green finance is a top priority in the new *Budget*. In my opinion, by optimizing the operation mechanism of the financial market, Hong Kong can look into providing mid- and long-term fundraising channels for green investments, and developing a set of green credit rating standards appropriate for the city's financial institutions. We also support the *Budget*'s proposed measures for further growing Hong Kong's offshore RMB businesses. We hope the authorities will actively expand Hong Kong's diverse RMB businesses in relevant markets, and support the creation of a "Belt & Road segment" in the city's stock market as well as provide fundraising channels to promote the internationalization of the RMB.

As trade ties grow closer between the Mainland and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Middle East, the HKSAR Government can find ways to attract more capital and enterprises from the two regions to Hong Kong, and provide professional services catering for

regional trade. In addition, the Hong Kong authorities should consider increasing resources to offer greater support that will allow Hong Kong to fully thrive as a financial center.

Hong Kong should also deepen cooperation with the Mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) to develop the innovation and technology (I&T) industry. While accelerating the development of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park, the alignment of the planning and projects in the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park should be strengthened. Hong Kong should also lobby for the Central Government's support to establish a high-end state laboratory in the Hong Kong Park. In addition, through amping up the mutual flow and interaction of talents and I&T resources, in light of the Northern Metropolis' development, the cities can work together to promote industry-academia-research cooperation and result conversion, and create a first-rate talent and I&T center in the Greater Bay Area.

Increasing people flow and interaction

To truly realize Hong Kong's role as a connector between the Mainland and the rest of the world, it is necessary to increase the efficiency of people circulation and interaction between the Greater Bay Area cities. Recently, the Central Government has announced the expansion of the coverage of Hong Kong's and Macao's Individual Visit Schemes to include more Mainland cities. This is expected to not only create new business opportunities for Hong Kong's tourism and related industries, thus promoting the city's economic development, but also promote people flow between the Mainland and Hong Kong. We thus hope that the Central Government will expand the scope of the scheme even further. The governments of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao can also consider launching a "Greater Bay Area card" that will allow top talents in the Greater Bay Area to travel more easily across borders to work and live, which can draw more talents and resources from both the Mainland and overseas to the area.

Last but not certainly least, we fully support the HKSAR Government in completing the legislative exercise relating to Article 23 of the *Basic Law* as soon as possible to improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security, so that the business sector can focus its efforts on promoting economic growth and integrating into the national development.



全面打擊網絡詐騙罪行 COMBATING CYBER FRAUD CRIMES ON ALL FRONTS

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府表示,2023年首十個月,共有33,923宗 詐騙案,較2022年同期上升52.1%,涉案 金額高達約72億元,升幅可謂驚人。當中 近七成為網絡詐騙案件,不乏涉案金額大、受害人數 廣的金融詐騙,以及利用人工智能技術行騙的新型手 法。不只個人,數碼港、消費者委員會,甚至著名的 公司或機構也接連 "中招",顯示本港的防範和監管 工作仍有巨大的完善空間。

中小企業頻遭攻擊損失嚴重

政府為打擊網絡詐騙罪行採取了一系列措施,包括設立一站式詐騙陷阱搜尋器"防騙視伏器"、推出"轉數快可疑識別代號警示",以及在2024年就關鍵基礎設施網絡安全向立法會提交立法草案。然而,對於資源較少的中小企和個人,我認為政府應該重點加強協助。

雖然騙徒無所不用其極,但萬變不離其宗,最終都是為了取得個人資料,從而進行勒索或詐騙。當黑客無差別入侵企業和機構網絡時,中小企由於自身資源有限,加上部分存有僥倖心態,對網絡安全的投入較少,難免首當其衝。根據思科(Cisco)於2022年發表的《中小企網絡安全報告》,43%受訪的香港中小企在過去一年曾遭受惡意軟件、網絡釣魚軟件等攻擊。其中39%指出網絡攻擊導致超過50萬美元的業務損失,另有10%更表示其損失高達100萬美元或以上。2023年的統計亦顯示,"香港企業網絡保安準備指數"創下新低,僅錄得47點。

安保管理不足 難堵安全漏洞

多年來,在政府與企業的共同努力下(包括申領科技 券計劃的資助),中小企在設置"防火牆"方面,大 致上可媲美大型企業。不過,很多中小企以為安裝了 防毒軟件,便可一勞永逸,因此較少進行系統保安修 補管理,造成安全漏洞。另外,礙於資源所限,中小 企在聘請網絡安全專家、為員工提供資訊科技保安培 訓或指引,以至訂立網絡保安守則等涉及員工參與的 範疇,與大型企業仍存在較大差距。

有鑒於此,我認為政府可以考慮與網絡安全公司合作,就中小企網絡安全較薄弱的環節,提供針對性的支援。舉例來說,提供統一培訓指引或教材,加強中小企的網絡安全培訓,特別是對人工智能等新型網絡詐騙技術加以提防,以及推出更多"狩網運動",通過網絡安全專家為中小企進行安全漏洞測試和補修管理。與此同時,有權利也應有義務,在網絡安全法立法的過程中,當局可參考澳門的做法,要求中小企制訂一定程度的個人資料保障措施,肩負起應盡的責任。

識別新型騙術 增強預警研判

網路詐騙具有手法更迭快、迷惑性強的特點,並且呈現出從"廣撒網"式的發佈詐騙廣告,到"精耕細作"獲取受害人信任的趨勢。例如,本港首宗人工智能深偽騙案,騙徒便是提前掌握該公司內部資料,有針對性的設計行騙劇本,打消公司職員的戒心。

針對不斷演變的行騙形式,我認為政府應該加強預警和研判,通過建立大數據模型和人工智能的輔助,識別網絡可疑信息發佈者和收入異常的賬戶。與此同時,通過完善網絡安全法律法規,增強執法,達到與防範工作相輔相成的目的。另外,政府亦可以考慮利用數據模型,分析出可能受騙的群體,以制定更有針對性的宣傳策略,增強公眾教育的成效。◆

全面打擊網絡詐騙罪行不僅關乎企業和個人的財產安全,亦對促進數字經濟和智慧城市發展至關重要。政府應重點協助缺乏資源的中小企業及個人,並且不斷提升防範和監管力度,善用科技築牢安全屏障,健全網絡環境。

Combating cyber fraud crimes on all fronts is crucial to promoting digital economy and smart city development. The Government should focus on assisting resource-lacking small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") and individuals, and continuously improve prevention and oversight.

he Government stated that the number of fraud cases in the first 10 months of 2023 increased by 52.1% compared with the same period in 2022, with the amount involved reaching about HKD7.2 billion. The increase was staggering. Nearly 70% of the cases were of cyber fraud. Not only individuals, but well-known organizations such as Cyberport and the Consumer Council were also among the fraud victims, which shows that there is still huge room for improvement in prevention and oversight in Hong Kong.

SMEs frequently hit by attacks and suffer serious losses

The Government has adopted a range of measures to combat cyber fraud crimes, including setting up Scameter and introducing a bill in relation to cybersecurity of critical infrastructure to the Legislative Council in 2024. However, I think the Government should focus on enhancing the assistance provided to SMEs and individuals with relatively limited resources.

Fraudsters often obtain personal information for extortion or fraud. When hackers invade the networks of enterprises and organizations, SMEs are inevitably the first to suffer as they invest less in cybersecurity due to limited resources. Some data indicate that 43% of the Hong Kong SMEs surveyed have experienced attacks such as malware in the past year. 39% of them indicated that cyber-attacks had resulted in a loss of USD500,000 or more and another 10% reported a loss of USD1 million or more.

Inadequate security management makes it hard to plug security loopholes

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Government and enterprises over the years, SMEs are generally comparable to large enterprises in terms of firewalls set up. However, many SMEs believe that having anti-virus software installed can solve the problem once and for all. This practice creates security loopholes. Moreover, due to resource constraints, there is still a big gap between SMEs and large enterprises in areas involving engaging cybersecurity experts and providing staff with information technology security training or quidelines.

In view of this, I think the Government can consider working with cybersecurity companies to provide SMEs with targeted support in areas with weaker cybersecurity. For example, such support can include providing SMEs with standardized training guidelines or materials to enhance their cybersecurity training, and engaging cybersecurity experts to conduct security vulnerability assessment and remediation for SMEs. At the same time, rights should come with obligations. In the process of legislating for cybersecurity, the authorities may require SMEs to formulate certain levels of personal data protection measures and take their due responsibilities.

Identify new forms of fraud and enhance early warning and assessment

Cyber fraud is characterised by fast-changing methods and being very deceptive. From publishing fraudulent advertisements to "cast a wide net", cyber fraud has shown a trend toward being more focused and directed to gain the trust of victims.

In light of the ever-evolving forms of fraud, I think that the Government should strengthen early warning and assessment, and use big data models and the assistance of AI to identify publishers of suspicious information on the Internet and accounts with abnormal income. At the same time, it should improve relevant cybersecurity laws and regulations as well as strengthen law enforcement to complement prevention. In addition, the Government can consider using data models to identify groups that are vulnerable to deception so that it can formulate a more targeted strategy for publicity and enhance the effectiveness of public education.

This is a free translation. For the exact meaning of the article, please refer to the Chinese version.

如對文章內容有任何意見,歡迎向廖長江議員反映。 Should you have any comments on the article, please feel free to contact Mr Martin Liao.

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強化香港總部經濟



早前《施政報告》提出強化發展總部經濟, 特區政府將與中央相關部委探討便利內地企 業在港設立總部或分部的措施,如資本項目 投資的便利安排;並會引入公司遷冊機制, 便利在外地註冊的公司,尤其以亞太區為業 務核心的企業,致力吸引海內外公司來港設 立總部或分部業務,為香港經濟注入新動力。 The recent *Policy Address* stated to strengthen the development of headquarters (HQ) economy. The HKSAR Government will explore with the relevant central authorities feasible measures to facilitate Mainland enterprise in setting up their HQ and/or corporate divisions in Hong Kong. It will also introduce a mechanism to facilitate companies domiciled overseas for re-domiciliation to Hong Kong. These are aimed at attracting enterprises from outside Hong Kong to set up their HQ and/or corporate divisions in Hong Kong.

劉凱旋 Alpha Lau

發揮香港多重優勢 打造企業總部樞紐 Leverage Hong Kong's Multiple Advantages to Create a Corporate HQ Hub



港是高度國際化的城市,一直擔當超級聯繫人的角色,積極尋求與內地及世界各地合作的機會。投資推廣署署長劉凱旋認為,進一步強化香港作為總部經濟的定位,除可引進更多海內外優勢企業來港,增進企業之間合作、擴大商業網絡外,更有助鞏固香港於全球的金融、運輸、貿易及航空樞紐的地位,繼而引入更多新資金、新技術和優秀人才。

香港位於亞洲的中心,毗鄰區內多個重要市場,並具備資訊和資金自由流通、法制完善等固有優勢,都是香港這個國際金融中心成為總部經濟地點的有利條件。"香港與亞洲主要商業城市都在五小時的航程範圍內,對內地和海外企業來説都是設立地區總部的理想地點。另外,隨着香港特區政府去年宣佈,香港註冊公司的外國人員可在港向中國簽證申請服務中心申請兩年或以上的'一簽多行'簽證前往內地,並可獲加快處理,大大便利外國公司人員北上洽談商務,進一步發揮香港聯通世界和內地的重要角色。"

支持創科發展 發揮固有優勢

香港這個城市充滿活力,創業生態日趨蓬勃,加上當局大力支持本港創科發展,劉凱旋相信,上述氛圍料可吸引海內外科技公司和初創企業以香港作為拓展業務的理想據點。"截至目前已有多個成功例子,其中法國傳感器晶片公司 Prophesee 去年底在投資推廣署協助下在港設立地區總部,進一步在亞洲推廣應用

仿神經型態人工智能技術;而獲署方支持在港發展的人工智能無人駕駛技術公司馭勢科技(北京)有限公司,因應規模不斷擴展,今年初亦決定在香港設立國際總部,期望透過香港多重優勢將業務拓展至世界各地,稍後並考慮在香港成立研發中心,專注為海外發展提供技術支援。"

她補充,作為國際金融中心及區內交通樞紐,踏入今年初,香港已相繼吸引多間公司透過投資推廣署協助在港設立總部,當中包括持牌金融科技公司 EVIDENT Platform Services Limited 開設全球總部,以及專門為公共運輸業設計和生產乘客資訊系統的英國公司漢諾威開設地區總部等。

香港低税率及簡單透明的税制,同樣是吸引企業落戶香港的亮點。劉凱旋表示,香港為合資格企業財資中心,提供有利的稅收環境和友好的稅務政策。只要符合特定條件,合資格企業財資中心從特定合資格企業財資活動中所取得的利潤,均適用8.25%的優惠利得稅稅率,即等同於基本利得稅稅率的一半,相信有助增加香港作為總部經濟地點的吸引力。

積極提供支援 帶動資金流入

隨着本港經濟進一步改善,各項推動總部經濟措施陸續出台,劉凱旋預計可為香港帶來新資金、新技及創造就業機會,亦可帶動商業及專業服務的需求,如招聘服務、甲級寫字樓租賃服務、金融服務等。



■ 除了設立國際總部, 取勢科技並計劃在港 設立研發中心 Apart from setting up its international HQ in Hong Kong, UISEE will also set up a R&D center in the city





■香港國際金融中心地位吸引持牌金融科技公司 EVIDENT 設立全球總部
Hong Kong's role as international financial center attracts EVIDENT, a licensed fintech company, to set up global HQ here

"我們察覺到內地及海外企業對在香港設立總部深感 興趣,投資推廣署將繼續致力為有意來港開展業務的 企業提供各項支援,協助他們掌握香港最新營商資 訊和機遇,並與其他政府部門通力合作,制定相關 措施,吸引更多企業在香港設立總部,深信在2024 年這個總部經濟趨勢將會持續向好。我們的願景是 將香港定位為企業總部的樞紐,長遠帶動香港經濟 的發展。"

n the view of Alpha Lau, Director-General of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK), further strengthening Hong Kong's position as a headquarters (HQ) economy will help consolidate its status as a global hub for finance, transportation, trade and aviation, thereby attracting more new funds, new technologies and top talents.

Located at the heart of Asia, Hong Kong enjoys close proximity to many of the region's key markets. It also has inherent advantages such as free flow of information and capital. These advantages provide Hong Kong, an international financial centre, with favourable conditions for becoming a location for HQ economy. "Hong Kong is an ideal location for setting up a regional HQ since it is within a five-hour flight from Asia's major business cities. In addition, as the HKSAR Government announced last year, foreign staff of Hong Kong-registered companies can apply for a two-year or above 'single visa, multiple travel' visa to enter the Mainland. Processing of such applications will be expedited, making it more convenient for foreign company personnel to go north for business discussions."

Support I&T development and harness inherent advantages

Hong Kong's entrepreneurial ecosystem is becoming increasingly thriving, and the authorities strongly support I&T. Lau believes that the aforesaid vibes can attract technology companies and start-ups to use Hong Kong as an ideal base to expand their business. "So far, there have been many successful examples, such as Prophesee, a French

sensor chip company, and UISEE Technologies (Beijing), an Al driverless technology company, both of which have decided to set up their international HQ in Hong Kong. UISEE is also considering setting up its R&D centres in Hong Kong to focus on providing technical support for overseas development."

She added that since the beginning of this year, Hong Kong has attracted many companies to set up their HQ in Hong Kong through the assistance of InvestHK. These include EVIDENT Platform Services Limited, a licensed fintech company, which set up its global HQ, and Hanover Displays, a UK based company designing and manufacturing passenger information systems for the public transport industry, which set up its regional HQ.

Hong Kong's simple and transparent tax system as well as low tax rates also attract companies to Hong Kong. Lau said that Hong Kong provides qualifying corporate treasury centres ("CTCs") with a favourable tax environment and friendly tax policies. Qualifying CTCs can enjoy a concessionary tax rate of 8.25% (i.e. half of the prevailing basic profits tax rate) on profits derived from certain eligible corporate treasury activities, subject to satisfaction of certain conditions.

Actively provide support to drive capital inflows

With the successive introduction of various measures to promote the HQ economy as Hong Kong's economy further improves, Lau expects it to bring new funds and new technologies, and create job opportunities for Hong Kong, as well as drive demand for business and professional services.

"We have noticed that Mainland and overseas companies are deeply interested in setting up their HQ in Hong Kong. InvestHK will continue to provide various support in addition to formulating relevant measures with other government departments to attract more companies. We firmly believe that this trend of HQ economy will continue to improve in 2024. Our vision is to position Hong Kong as a corporate HQ hub."

鄧希煒 Tang Hei-wai

增強總部經濟吸引力 推動企業發展 "雙總部" Enhance HQ Economy's Appeal and Encourage Enterprises to Develop "Dual HQ"



受到地緣政治因素影響,香港若要進一步發展總部經濟,香港大學經管學院副院長(對外事務)、亞洲環球研究所總監、馮國經馮國編基金經濟學教授鄧希煒認為,香港應主動出擊,如提供更全面的稅務以至租金優惠等,增強作為總部經濟地點的吸引力,並積極吸納若干內地龍頭企業通過發展"雙總部",將融資或出口業務帶到香港,進一步重塑香港作為超級聯繫人的關鍵角色。

作為國際金融中心,鄧希煒指出,香港長久以來都是連接內地與環球市場的"超級聯繫人",特別在過往中美關係良好及內地經濟發展最蓬勃的時期,香港可自動享受全球化帶來的"紅利"。但隨着地緣局勢改變,中美關係持續不穩,過去數年不少美資的總部公司因應疫情或他們認為的政治原因,相繼減少在港投資,部分甚至裁員或將總部遷移至新加坡及其他地方,"香港發展總部經濟再不能過於被動,必須更加主動增加自身吸引力,並應善加運用獨有的'一國兩制'、國際化、普通法及法律制度完善等優勢和軟實力。"

瞄準高科技企業發展所需

香港現正處於轉型的過程,"十四五"規劃支持香港定位為 "八大中心",鄧希煒指出,當中有多個中心皆與總部經濟息 息相關,包括維持作為國際金融中心的地位、環球風險管理 中心、國際貿易中心,以至知識產權貿易中心或中西文化交 流中心等,凡此種種均帶動大量高質量的專業服務和相關人 才的需求。他續指,現時的總部經濟未必只局限於香港傳統 以來的定位,如作為金融中心或法律中心的總部。事實上, 去中心化乃世界各地的大勢所趨,而粵港澳大灣區都是走高 質量、高科技或新型工業的發展路線,香港可考慮在這些全 新的經濟活動中發展為新的總部,如早前在港設立境外總部 的寧德時代,就是金融與專業服務以外的內地電動車電池龍 頭公司。

要吸納更多企業來港設立分公司或區內總部,鄧希煒強調,香港特區政府應率先從兩方面提升香港的整體形象,其一是聯同大學、NGO(非牟利機構)或智庫等,加強宣傳香港一貫以來具備的軟硬實力,打造一個更正面的形象;其二是善用普通法等優勢,聚焦一些對法律保障或金融監管服務有較大需求的內地或區內企業,爭取他們來港設立總部,甚至是發展"雙總部"。

鄧希煒以華為為例,其研發總部設於深圳或東莞,但在對外宣傳、出口或融資方面考慮到香港在相關範疇較具優勢,故選擇在港成立另一個總部。"內地的高科技企業或需要通過香港這個窗口走出去,特別是尋求融資、出口或專業服務,特區政府正可瞄準這些公司的發展所需,提供更多誘因。"

摒棄"小政府"思維 主動出擊吸納企業

香港一向沿用"小政府、大市場"的思維,鄧希煒認為,這種想法是時候要改變,特別是面對鄰近地區的競爭對手,如新加坡及內地其他城市早已推出一系列退税或減税的稅務優惠,以至租金補貼等政策,吸引更多龍頭企業或重點行業到當地設立總部或分公司,若香港依然處於被動的位置,未能提供具吸引力的"誘因",難免會落後於人。

鄧希煒表示,發展總部經濟可帶來眾多實質的經濟效益,其一是吸納更多高學歷、富經驗的專業人才,廣及法律、金融、保險及管理等範疇;其二是直接對 CBD (核心商業區)的租金市場有提振作用,減低甲級寫字樓的空置率;最後是推動香港經濟多元發展,令"超級連繫人"的角色更為穩固。他強調,今時今日的貿易並非只是貨櫃物流,背後涉及眾多專業服務如金融、保險,貿易程序和管理亦融入大量的數字科技如區塊鏈,這些都是新總部的活動,當局可聚焦吸引相關業務的公司來港設立總部,可望"對 GDP 有貢獻、對房地產有幫助、對租金市場有支持、對人才有吸納",從而對經濟轉型發揮正面作用。

前瞻未來發展,鄧希煒坦言,現階段全球正處於貿易戰及金融戰的年代,他強調發展香港經濟,必須避免只是由個別政策局推出若干零碎的政策,引致使用了很多彈藥卻看不到效果,"我們需要制定全面的戰略,透過系統性的政策互動,環環相扣,方能令香港經濟穩步上揚。

In the view of Tang Hei-wai, Associate Dean (External Relations), Director of the Asia Global Institute, and Victor and William Fung Professor in Economics at the HKU Business School, for Hong Kong to further develop its HQ economy, it should enhance its appeal as a HQ economy location and actively attract some leading Mainland enterprises to bring their financing or export business to Hong Kong through the development of "dual HQ".

Tang pointed out that Hong Kong was able to automatically enjoy the "dividends" brought about by globalization during the period

when China-US relations were good and the Mainland's economic development was the most prosperous. However, China-US relations have continued to be unstable amid geopolitical situation changes. In the past few years, many US-owned HQ companies successively reduced their investments in Hong Kong due to the pandemic or what they considered to be political reasons. Some even laid off employees or moved their HQ to Singapore and other places. "Hong Kong can no longer be too passive in developing its HQ economy. It must be more proactive in increasing its own appeal."

Target the development needs of high-tech companies

Regarding the "14th Five-Year" Plan's support for Hong Kong's development in eight key areas ("eight centres"), Tang said that many of these centres are closely linked with the HQ economy, all of which are driving the demand for many high-quality professional services and related talents. He further said that the current HQ economy is not necessarily limited to Hong Kong's traditional positioning. In fact, decentralization is a general trend around the world, while the Greater Bay Area's development pathway is characterised by high-quality, high-tech or new industries. Hong Kong can consider developing into a new HQ in these new economic activities.

Tang stressed that the HKSAR Government should take the lead in improving Hong Kong's overall image in two aspects. First, work with universities, NGOs or think tanks to step up publicity on Hong Kong's long-standing soft and hard powers. Second, leverage its strengths such as those in common law to focus on some Mainland or regional enterprises that have a greater demand for legal protection or financial regulatory services, with the aim of encouraging them to set up their HQ in Hong Kong.

Citing Huawei whose R&D HQ is in Shenzhen or Dongguan as an example, Tang said that the company opted to establish another HQ in Hong Kong in consideration of its advantages in related fields

in connection with external publicity, exports or financing. "The Mainland's high-tech companies may need to go global through Hong Kong."

Abandon "small government" mindset and proactively attract enterprises

In Tang's view, it is time to change the "small government, big market" mindset, especially in the face of competitors from neighbouring regions. For example, Singapore and some Mainland cities have already launched a series of incentives to attract more leading companies or key industries to set up their HQ or branches there. Hong Kong will fail to offer attractive "incentives" if it remains passive.

Tang said that developing the HQ economy can bring many substantive economic benefits. First, it will attract more highly educated and experienced professionals. Second, it will directly boost the rental market in the CBD and reduce the vacancy rate of Grade A office spaces. Lastly, it will promote the diversified development of Hong Kong's economy and further solidify its "super connector" role. He stressed that today's trade involves many professional services such as finance and insurance, and trade procedures and management also incorporate a large amount of digital technology. These are all new HQ activities. The authorities can focus on attracting companies with related businesses to set up their HQ in Hong Kong. This could "contribute to Hong Kong's GDP, help its real estate sector, support its rental market, and attract talents to it."

Looking ahead to future development, Tang said frankly that in developing Hong Kong's economy at this stage, we must avoid having separate policy bureaus rolling out some piecemeal policies as this will lead to the use of a lot of ammunition without showing any results. "We need to formulate a holistic strategy and through systematic policy interaction, we can achieve steady economic growth for Hong Kong.



■ 去年底寧德時代在港設立國際總部,並與香港科技園公司合作成立 "寧德時代香港科技創分司合作成立("寧德時代香港科技創新研發中心" CATL established its global HQ in Hong Kong and set up the CATL's R&D Centre in partnership with the HKSTP at the end of last year



THE BUDGET POINTS TO EFFECTIVE RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND PLANNING FOR GROWTH

本港經濟正緩步復甦,公眾普遍對政府如何 適當配置資源,以提振經濟信心、維持公共 財政穩健、支援各行業發展等抱有高度期 望。香港中文大學劉佐德全球經濟及金融研 究所常務所長莊太量認為,新一份《財政預 算案》針對上述幾方面均作出適切回應。

As Hong Kong's economy slowly recovers, there are high public expectations for the Government to allocate resources effectively to boost economic confidence, maintain sound public finance and support all sectors and industries. **Terence Chong, Executive Director of Lau Chor Tak Institute of Global Economics and Finance at CUHK**, believes the new *Budget* has made appropriate responses to address these demands.



莊太量 Terence Chong

"撤辣"促使恢復經濟信心

疫後復常的時期,推動 金融及經濟活動是《預 算案》的主要着墨之 處。莊太量表示,樓市"全面撤 辣"是一項重要亮點,將有效振 奮經濟信心。"香港經濟很大程度 依靠金融,而金融則依靠投資信 心。宣佈'撤辣'後,我們看見 市場明顯轉趨活躍,市民願意釋放財富於樓市之中。當樓價重回上升軌道,大眾逐漸增添信心, 金融活動便會更積極蓬勃,整體經濟勢將加速回暖。"

他又指,本港與內地的金融及商業往來將更緊密,而伴隨着科技發展,再加上《預算案》提出的舉措相互配合,包括深化至三人。 至通機制、進行數碼港元第三名 段試驗、加緊籌備人民幣櫃台納入港股通、減稅吸納內地及海營 下灣區整體資金及訊息的至 通,為香港工商企業帶來更多發展機遇。

萬億外匯基金支撐公共財政

公共財政方面,《預算案》採取全面的財政整合計劃,堅守量入為 出原則,讓赤字逐步收窄、回復 收支平衡。計劃的主要措施包括 控制經營開支增長、檢視政府基本工程的緩急優次、調整税項以 增加收入等,另外也會維持政府 借貸於穩健水平。

對此,莊太量認為政策力度恰當,而且並未看到香港陷入結構性財赤。他強調香港公共財政狀況仍然穩健,亦不能單以赤字產人。"事實上,外匯基金資產也是本港關鍵的財政支援,更是是本港關鍵的財政支援,,外匯基金資產總值為逾40,000億元。而完產總值為逾40,000億元。而去在度利率稍高,錄得2,127億元的投資收入,已高於同期的財赤金額。"

創科、旅遊加注復甦動能

《預算案》也關注助力各行業發展,例如針對創科產業,提出發 債推動北部都會區建設、培育初 創公司、設立百億新型工業加速 計劃、撥款30億元推行人工智



能資助計劃等。莊太量指,金融及出口業固然為香港之根本,惟發展創科產業也是一個新出口。以北部都會區為例,通過與內地接軌,有望令科技研發可以落實成為產業,同時吸引人才落戶香港,造就更多經濟活動。

莊太量亦相信,《預算案》撥用資源推廣本港的旅遊及盛事經濟,有助托住地價,同時惠及本地服務、餐飲、酒店等行業。整體而言,倘樓市能站穩陣腳,大眾對金融活動回復信心,並抓緊國家發展大局中的機遇,相信2024年將是本港經濟穩中求進的再起步點。

Scrapping property cooling measures boosts economic confidence

s the city gets on the path to post-pandemic normalcy, the Budget zeroes in on promoting financial and economic activities. Chong says scrapping all property cooling measures is a key highlight which will definitely boost economic confidence. "Hong Kong's economy relies heavily on finance, which in turns relies on investor confidence. Since the removal of property cooling measures, we have seen a clear turn in the market and the public is now willing to put their wealth into the property market. When property prices regain upward momentum and the public gradually gains confidence, the financial markets will be more active and vigorous, and the overall economic recovery will gather speed."

He also points out that going forward financial and commercial exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland will continue to increase. Supported by advances in science and technology, as well as complementary measures proposed in the Budget, including deepening the connectivity mechanism, the second phase of the e-HKD trial. gearing up preparations to introduce the RMB counter for Hong Kong Stock Connect, and tax reductions to attract Mainland and overseas family offices, overall capital and information exchange in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will be further strengthened. Hong Kong businesses will enjoy a wealth of development opportunities.

Public finance backed by trillion-dollar exchange fund

On the public finance front, the Budget adopts a comprehensive fiscal

consolidation plan and adheres to the principle of keeping expenditure within the limits of revenue. The aim is to gradually narrow the deficit and restore fiscal balance. Key measures of the plan include controlling operating expenditure increases, prioritizing government capital works and adjusting taxes to increase revenue. Efforts will also be made to maintain government borrowing at a healthy level.

In this regard, Chong believes that the government's policy is adequate and he does not think Hong Kong is trapped in a structural deficit. He stressed that Hong Kong's public finance remains sound and we should not base our judgment solely on the deficit. "In fact, assets of the Exchange Fund also provide important financial support for Hong Kong. This is our unique advantage.

The Exchange Fund currently has over HKD4,000 billion in total assets. Last year, when interest rates trended up, it recorded an investment income of HKD212.7 billion, which was already higher than the fiscal deficit in the same period."

I&T and tourism are bolstering recovery

The Budget also highlights the need to support development of various industries, such as focusing on the I&T sector and promoting the development of the Northern Metropolis with proposed bond issues, empowering startups, setting up a HKD10 billion New Industrialization Acceleration Scheme and earmarking HKD3 billion for the Al Subsidy Scheme. Chong points out that while finance and export are the bread and butter for Hong Kong, developing the I&T industry is

a new way out. Taking the Northern Metropolis as an example, this new district will integrate with the Mainland to create opportunities for industrializing technology R&D deliverables. It can also attract talents to Hong Kong and give rise to vibrant economic activities.

Chong also believes that the Budget will help maintain land prices and benefit local services, catering and hotel industries by allocates resources to promote Hong Kong's tourism and event economy. All in all, if the property market remains sound and the public regains confidence in financial activities and seize the opportunities presented by the overall national development, he believes 2024 will be a new starting point for Hong Kong's economy to prioritize stability while pursuing progress.

港經濟前景 有份項 PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG'S SLOWLY AND STEADILY RECOVERING ECONOMY

面對複雜多變的外圍大環境,地緣政局以至全球供應鏈的佈局都存在各種變數,在此新形勢下亦蘊藏不少機遇。踏入2024年,本港經濟復甦有望緩步增長,營商前景漸見明朗。

The geopolitical situation and global supply chains are subject to a variety of uncertainties amid a complex and ever-changing external environment. Given such a new situation, there are many opportunities waiting to be tapped. Entering 2024, Hong Kong's economic recovery is set to slowly pick up pace, with business prospects gradually getting brighter.





薛俊昇 Thomas Shik

生銀行經濟研究部主管兼首 席經濟師薛俊昇表示,過去 幾年本港經濟面對包括疫 情、地緣政治、環球利率高企等挑戰, 經濟增長備受考驗。直至去年第四季, 本地生產總值尚未回復2019年第一季 水平。然而,該行預計2024年本地生 產總值將按年上升2.8%。

消費及旅業帶動 GDP 料升 2.8%

薛俊昇指出,本地居民消費及旅客增加繼續成為本港經濟增長的主要動力。本港零售市道隨經濟復常而好轉,去年的零售銷售貨額為4,067億元,按年上升16.2%。同時,訪港旅客人次回升不少,據旅發局初步統計顯示,去年全年訪港旅客約為3,400萬人次,當中僅12月已有近400萬人次。同時,本港最近的進出口表現亦見回穩,去年12月出口貨額上升11.6%。

東南亞急速發展 港可拓新市場

薛俊昇預料,2024年主要經濟體的息口仍會高位徘徊,拖慢環球各地經濟增長。據國際貨幣基金組織於一月所發表的經濟增長預測,2024年全球經濟增長料為3.1%,美國增長2.1%,歐元區增長0.9%,而中國增長則為4.6%。

薛俊昇提及,近年東南亞經濟發展迅速,東盟及"一帶一路"國家佔內地

外貿比例持續上升,成為香港具潛質的 新市場,並對香港經濟長遠發展感到樂 觀。他又建議香港可向中東國家積極推 廣其金融服務,鼓勵當地企業來港上市 融資。

國家發展動力強 帶領香港前行

此外,粤港澳大灣區跨境基建愈趨完善,香港及區內各城市應積極推動軟件方面的配套建設,進一步促進香港融入灣區發展。薛俊昇也提到,內地加大對創新科技的投入,可謂成績斐然,例如內地近年於電池及電動汽車方面的發展非常蓬勃,料可為香港創新科技發以至整體經濟發展注入新動能。

事實上,香港四個主要行業包括金融服務、貿易及物流、專業服務,以及旅遊近年發展平穩,而金融服務增加值更是佔本地生產總值比重逾20%,百分比顯著上升。薛俊昇認為,香港擔當着離岸人民幣市場樞紐角色,隨着人民幣佔國際支付比例持續上升,香港應致力開拓人民幣業務,進一步鞏固和提升香港作為離岸人民幣中心的功能定位。

homas Shik, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at Hang Seng Bank, said that Hong Kong's economic growth was put to the test as its economy faced challenges in the past few years, including the epidemic, geopolitics, and high global interest rates. Its GDP had not returned to the level seen in the first quarter of 2019 until the fourth quarter of last year. Nevertheless, Hang Seng Bank forecasts a 2.8% year-on-year growth for Hong Kong's GDP in 2024.

Consumption and tourism set to drive 2.8% GDP growth

Shik pointed out that local household consumption and the rise in tourist numbers continue to be the main driving forces for Hong Kong's economic growth. Hong Kong's retail market has improved as its economy returns to normalcy. Last year's retail sales were HKD406.7 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 16.2%. At the same time, the number of visitors to Hong Kong has rebounded

significantly. According to preliminary statistics from the Hong Kong Tourism Board, about 34 million visitors came to Hong Kong last year, of which nearly 4 million came in December alone. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's import and export performance has stabilised recently. Export value rose by 11%, while import value rose by 11.6% last December.

Rapidly growing Southeast Asia could be a new market for **Hong Kong**

Shik forecasts that interest rates in major economies would still hover at high levels in 2024, thus leading to a slowdown in economic growth around the world. According to the economic growth forecasts published by the International Monetary Fund in January, global economic growth is expected to be 3.1% in 2024, with the US showing a 2.1% growth, the Eurozone showing a 0.9% growth, and China showing a 4.6% growth.

Shik said that along with the rapid growth of Southeast Asia's economy in recent vears, ASEAN and "Belt and Road" Initiative countries have continued to contribute a bigger share of the Mainland's foreign trade, becoming a potential new market for Hong Kong. He is optimistic about the long-term growth of Hong Kong's economy. He also suggested that Hong Kong could actively promote its financial services to Middle Eastern countries and encourage companies in these countries to get listed and raise funds in Hong Kong.

China's strong growth momentum set to boost Hong Kong's development

In addition, with the increasing completion of the cross-boundary infrastructure projects in the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong and other cities in the area should actively push for the construction of supporting software facilities to further promote Hong Kong's integration into the development of the Greater Bay Area. Shik also said that the Mainland's increased investment in innovation and technology (I&T) has achieved remarkable results. For example, the Mainland's thriving development in batteries and electric vehicles in recent vears is set to inject new momentum into Hong Kong's I&T development and overall economic development.

In fact, Hong Kong's four major industries, including financial services, trade and logistics, professional services, and tourism, have developed steadily in recent years, and the added value of financial services accounted for over 20% of the local GDP. representing a significant rise in percentage. In Shik's view, since Hong Kong functions as a hub for the offshore RMB market and given the RMB's rising share of global payments, Hong Kong should strive to develop RMB services to further consolidate and enhance its functional positioning as an offshore RMB hub.



春節酒會 歡欣賀歲

SPRING COCKTAIL RECEPTION

會假香港君悦酒店宴會大禮堂舉行"甲辰 年春節酒會",**全國政協副主席梁振英、財** 政司副司長黃偉綸、立法會主席梁君彥蒞 臨擔任主禮嘉賓,聯同本會各首長向場內約500位來 賓祝酒,共賀新歲。

本會會長蔡冠深代表本會令人向來賓送上新年祝賀。 他期待即將公佈的預算案能推一步提振香港營商與投 資環境,並指本會將全力支持特區政府推動基本法 第23條立法。黃偉綸則代表行政長官及特區政府向 出席來賓送上新年祝福,寄語本會繼續與業界攜手 同心,貢獻國家及香港。(22/2)











he Chamber's Spring Cocktail Reception was held at Grand Ballroom of Grand Hyatt Hong Kong this year. Officiating at the event were CY Leung, Vice-chairman of the CPPCC National Committee; Michael Wong, Deputy Financial Secretary and Andrew Leung, Chairman of Legislative Council. They joined the Chamber's Chairmen to propose a toast to nearly 500 guests to wish everyone a happy new year.

Jonathan Choi, Chairman of the Chamber, extended New Year greetings to the guests on behalf of the Chamber. He expressed his anticipation for the upcoming Budget announcement to further boost Hong Kong's business and investment environment. He also mentioned that the Chamber would fully support the HKSAR government's efforts in implementing Article 23 of the Basic Law. Wong, on behalf of the Chief Executive and the HKSAR government, conveyed New Year blessings to the attending guests and urged the Chamber to continue working hand in hand with the industry, contributing to the nation and Hong Kong. (22/2)

掃瞄二維碼 觀看春節酒會花絮片段 Scan the QR code to watch highlights of the Spring Reception







安心敬老粵劇晚會20

23 · 2 · 2024



會假北角新光戲院舉辦"愛心敬老粵劇晚會",招待逾千位長者欣賞 "鳴之聲劇團"精彩粵劇演出。勞工及福利局副局長何啟明應邀擔任主 禮嘉賓,與本會副會長張學修、永遠榮譽會長林銘森、公益事務委員 會主席陳智文及長者一起欣賞演出、共賀新春。

何啟明致詞時讚揚本會是特區政府的重要夥伴,一直致力推動香港經濟發展。而 工商行業蓬勃盈收,能為社會福利開支提供堅實基礎,讓政府有充足資源改善民 生服務,並希望與中總繼續攜手,為長者持續提供更多支援。

陳智文致詞時表示,本會一直致力推動商界實踐企業社會責任,促進社會和諧共融,並通過"中總愛心行動"舉辦多元化的慈善公益活動,傳遞商界關愛之心。 踏入甲辰龍年,本港經濟、社會、民生有序復甦,今年亦是中華人民共和國成立 75周年,國家將必龍騰飛躍,更加繁榮昌盛、香港更添活力繽紛。(23/2) ↔

SPREAD LOVE AND CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH CANTONESE OPERA



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o celebrate Chinese New Year, the Chamber held a Cantonese Opera Gala at the Sunbeam Theater, entertaining more than a thousand elderly people. Ho Kai-ming, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, was treated as the guest of honour and enjoyed the performance together with Charles Cheung, Vice-chairman; Lam Mingsum, Life Honorary Chairman; Stephen Tan, Chairman of the Chamber's Community Affairs Committee and the elderly.

In his speech, Ho recognized the Chamber as a very important partner of the HKSAR government and has been committed to promoting Hong Kong's economic development. He also expressed his hope to continue working together with the Chamber to provide more support to the elderly.

Tan said that the Chamber works on driving the business community to practice corporate social responsibility, enhancing social harmony, and organizing charity activities. Entering the Year of the Loong, he believes that China will leap forward and become more prosperous, where Hong Kong will become more vibrant. (23/2)





政府資助激活中小企業務拓展



為推廣和支援本港各行業的中小企發展,特區政府已推出 多個資助計劃,全方位涵蓋不同範疇。當局亦特別設立中 小企資援組,協助中小企配對合適的資助計劃方案,並解 答有關申請方面的問題。

In a bid to further and support the development of local SMEs in various sectors, the HKSAR Government introduced a number of funding schemes to aid all business segments. SME ReachOut, a dedicated service team, is on hand to help identify funding schemes that suit SMEs, while answering questions relating to applications.

業貿易署貿易主任石嘉慧介 紹指,對於有意參與出口推 廣活動,並藉此擴展香港境 外市場的中小企業,"中小企業市場推 廣基金"是一個合適的選擇。每家公司 的累計資助上限為100萬元,而每宗申 請的資助上限為10萬元或核准開支總 費用的50%,以較低者為準。

資助出口推廣 開拓境外市場

目前這項基金的資助範圍包括:於香港 及境外的實體及網上展覽會參展、參加 實體及網上商貿考察團、於貿易刊物刊 登廣告、在電子平台或媒介進行出口推 廣活動,以及建立或優化公司網站及流 動應用程式作出口推廣。

石嘉慧表示,這項基金已隨優化措施 自2021年4月底起放寬只限中小企業 申請的要求,有關措施於2022年《施 政報告》中宣佈延長至2026年6月30 日,即所有在香港擁有有效商業登記及 在香港有實質業務運作的非上市企業均 可申請。

助力升級轉型 促進品牌發展

數字化、科技化轉型是企業經營的大勢 所趨,生產力促進局中小企一站通高 **級經理陳慧芳**表示,科技券計劃正是支 援中小企使用科技服務和方案,以提高 其生產力或將其業務流程升級轉型。 每家公司的累計資助上限為60萬元, 資助範疇包括聘用科技顧問服務、購 買或租用與科技有關的硬件軟件服務及 方案等。

至於全盤業務拓展方面,則可考慮申請 "發展品牌、升級轉型及拓展內銷市場 的專項基金"(BUD 專項基金),每家 公司的累計資助上限為700萬元。陳慧 芳指,這項基金資助個別香港企業推行 有關發展品牌、升級轉型和促進銷售項 目到內地,以及其他與香港簽署自貿協 定或投資協定的市場。

而可獲資助的項目開支類別包括:為發 展品牌而制訂品牌策略、品牌形象設 計、品牌推廣、品牌註冊等; 為升級轉



石嘉慧 Kary Shek

型而引進新技術、提升管理體系、改善 生產自動化等; 及為拓展營銷而制訂市 場營銷計劃、開發或建立銷售渠道、進 行宣傳推廣活動等。

除以上計劃外,陳慧芳補充指,政府也 提供企業支援計劃、研發專案額外資 助、新型工業化資助計劃等,以滿足各 行業的需求。她提醒,為確保申請順 利,企業應確保符合申請資格、相關活 動的安排細節符合要求、項目與本身業 務有關,也須備妥及提交準確有效的證 明文件。

ary Shek, Trade Officer of Trade and Industry Department, explains that the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF) is a suitable choice for companies wishing to engage in promotion activities to expand overseas markets. Cumulative funding for each company is capped at HKD1 million, with a maximum limit of HKD100.000 or 50% of the total approved expenditure, whichever is lower, for each application.

Funding export promotion activities to explore overseas markets

The funding scheme is currently applicable to physical and online trade exhibitions held in or outside Hong Kong, physical and online business missions, advertisements on trade publications, export promotion activities conducted through electronic platforms or media, setting up or enhancement of a corporate website and mobile application for export promotion.

According to Shek, the SME-only application requirement has been relaxed since late



陳慧芳 Fion Chan

April in 2021 to align with enhancement measures. These measures are now extended to 30 June 2026, as announced in the 2022 Policy Address. In effect, the scheme is open to all non-listed companies with valid business registration in Hong Kong with substantive business operations in Hong Kong at the time of application.

Supporting upgrade, transformation and branding promotion

Digital and technological transformation is the general trend for business operation. Fion Chan, Senior Manager of HKPC SME One, says that the Technology Voucher Program aims to help SMEs improve productivity or upgrade and transform business processes with high-tech services and solutions. Cumulative subsidy for each company is capped at HKD600.000, and the scope of subsidy covers commissioning technology consultants, purchasing or renting technology-related hardware and software services and solutions, etc.

For companies seeking comprehensive business development, the "Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales" ("the BUD Fund") may be what they are looking for. It has a cumulative funding ceiling of HKD 7 million for each company. According to Chan, the scheme is set up to assist Hong Kong enterprises in developing their brands, upgrading and restructuring their operations and promoting domestic sales in the mainland as well as other markets with which Hong Kong has signed Free Trade Agreements ("FTAs") or Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements ("IPPAs").

Project expenses eligible for subsidy include: branding strategies for brand development, brand image design, brand promotion and brand registration, etc.;



deploying new technologies for upgrade and transformation, upgrading management systems, improving production automation, etc., and marketing plans to boost sales, developing or establishing sales channels, publicity and promotion activities, etc.

Chan adds that apart from the above schemes, the Government also offers other

subsidy programs, such as the Enterprise Support Scheme (ESS), additional funding for research projects and the New Industrialisation Funding Scheme (NIFS), to cater to the needs of all sectors. To ensure smooth application, she reminds businesses to check that they meet the eligibility criteria, details of relevant activities meet requirements and the project is related

to their specific business. They must also prepare and submit accurate and valid supporting documents.

上述內容為本會對外事務委員會、工商及社會事務委員會合辦專題講座:"申請工業貿易署'中小企業市場推廣基金'(EMF)"之內容撮要。

The above is an extract of the keynote talk on "Application for the TID SME Export Marketing Fund" jointly organized by the Chamber's External Affairs Committee and Commerce, Industry and Social Affairs Committee.

企業數碼化 起步非天價

AFFORDABLE DIGITALIZATION: IT'S WITHIN REACH

幾年疫情,令不少企業不得不思考數碼轉型的問題。如今疫情已過, 企業應該如何重設企業營運模式,以積極面對數碼新時代?

The epidemic in recent years has forced many companies to think about digital transformation. Now that the epidemic has passed, how should companies embrace the new digital era?

場瞬息萬變,要保持競爭力,甚至突圍而出,企業數碼轉型可謂必然趨勢。尤其在疫情期間,時勢加速了不少企業數碼化的步伐。大家最終發現,企業數碼化及智能化,實有助降低成本、提升效率及增加收入。

購買商用軟件授權門檻高

數萬元開始實現數碼化

面對這種兩難,吳君濠表示,採 用企業資源規劃(ERP)系統是其 中一條出路。他以其一位從事生 物科技業務的客戶為例,75,000 港元的價錢已有可能開始實現公 司數碼轉型。"該客戶的主要業 務是製造癌症、炎症相關疾病的 疫苗及抗體藥物,規模不算大, 連同內地員工不到30人。去年客 戶用了三個月時間完成第一期計 劃,以75,000港元建立了財務會 計及進銷存相關系統。"吳君濠 形容, 這是他們按照客戶業務需 要提供顧問、實施及培訓的度身 訂造服務,非市場上數百元一個 授權的普通系統可以比擬。

專業系統 優勢顯見

吳君濠強調,一套精良的系統有助企業更精細地計算成本。以往中小企公司,常以 Excel 方式管理帳目。公司每逢需要相關報告,員工往往需時蒐集數據以生



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吳君濠 Ng Kwan-ho

ПП

成報告。有了專業系統協助,東 主大可在自己手機上輕鬆得到所 需報告。他更指出,因為業務同 會計系統建基於同一平台,故少 了誤差,數據將更準確。

至於庫存方面,吳君濠説,系統的自動化功能提高了庫存準確率及訂單處理效率。他形容以往用Excel 處理,一小時可能只能處理數張訂單,但利用專業系統後。與實時間可處理數十張訂單果,同等時間可處理數十張訂單採購內,系統亦可協助客戶處理採購成本。

在資訊科技方面,吳君濠表示, 若客戶選擇 SaaS 這種雲端模式, 大部分資訊科技工序將由系統供 應商負責。故整個項目當中中對 調科技人員的需求,而且毋無 伺服器付出分毫,省錢之統,, 有服器付出分毫,省錢之餘,, 據亦獲得保障。吳君濠補充彈性, 客戶可因應自身需要選擇所需的 功能及服務。

善用政府資助

吳君濠強調,雲端產品只能協助 客戶節省硬件及資訊科技人員的 成本投入。但最有效令整個企劃 成本變低是申請特區政府相關的中小企資助計劃。他續以其客戶為例,指出他們申請了政府的科技券計劃,得到政府以三比一配對方式提供60萬元支援。

置身瞬息萬變的營商環境,吳君 濠認為,數碼轉型將為中小企未 責認無難當重要角色。中小企 責人若能快速適應雲端方案, 現管理、銷售系統數碼化, 數字轉化為具洞察力的財務 數字不但有助於推動業務發展, 更可以適應疫後時代的企 變,在行業中脱穎而出。 ◆

iven a rapidly changing market, it is an inevitable trend for companies to turn to digital transformation to maintain competitiveness. Especially during the epidemic, the circumstances have accelerated the pace of digitalization for many companies. Everyone finally discovered that shifting to digital and smart mode of operations can really help companies reduce costs, improve efficiency and increase revenue.

Costly to purchase business software licenses

Ng Kwan-ho, Account Manager at Yonyou Hong Kong, pointed out that over 60% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Hong Kong wanted to achieve digital transformation, but they faced many difficulties when actually getting it done, mainly due to the lack of funds and talents. He said that it would not be a surprise if they must fork out HKD600,000 to HKD700,000 for a set of business software plus server, company-related support personnel, and annual maintenance costs. This is guite a bother for SME owners who have limited funds.

Just tens of thousands of HK dollars to start digitalization

Ng said that adopting an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system is one option. Using one of his clients as an example, he said that HKD75,000

was enough to make it possible for the client, which is in the biotech business, to start digital transformation. "The client company has fewer than 30 employees, including those in the Mainland. At a cost of HKD75,000, it set up a financial accounting and purchase-sales-inventory-related system in three months last year." According to Ng, this was a tailor-made service in which they provide consulting, implementation and training according to the client company's business needs.

Specialized system has clear advantages

Ng stressed that a sophisticated system can help companies calculate costs more accurately. Business owners can easily get the reports they need on their mobile phones, without the need for additional timeconsuming data collection as in the past. He further said that there are fewer errors and the data will be more accurate because the business and accounting systems are built on the same platform.

As for inventory, Ng said that the system's automated functions have improved inventory accuracy and order processing efficiency. He described that in the past, only a few orders could be processed in an hour using Excel, but with the use of a specialized system, dozens of orders could be processed in the same amount of time. In addition, the system could assist customers in handling the procurement process and reduce procurement costs by using a centralized procurement model.

Regarding information technology (IT), Ng said that most of the IT processes will be taken care of by the system provider if the client opts for the SaaS cloud model. Therefore, in the entire project, the use of cloud technology helps reduce the company's need for IT personnel, and it does not need to pay for any servers. So besides saving money, data is also protected. Ng added that a cloud-native system offers modular flexibility where the client can choose the required functions and services according to its own needs.

Leverage government subsidies

Ng stressed that cloud products can only help clients save on the costs of hardware and IT personnel. But the most effective way to reduce the cost of the entire project is to apply for funding under the HKSAR Government's related SME funding schemes.

In Ng's view, digital transformation will play an important role in the future development of SMEs. SME operators being able to quickly adapt to cloud solutions will help them not only boost business development, but also adapt to corporate changes in the post-epidemic era and stand out in the industry.

上述內容為本會創科及產業委員會、會員服務委 員會合辦"數碼化及智能化如何協助企業降成本、 增效率"專題講座之撮要

The above is an extract of the keynote talk on "Shifting to Digital and Smart Operations: How It Helps Companies Reduce Costs and Boost Efficiency" co-hosted by the Chamber's Innovation, Technology and Industry Committee and Members' Services Committee



欲求龍年運 還看春牛圖

THE BUFFALO CHART HOLDS SECRETS TO FORTUNE IN YEAR OF THE LOONG

做生意講求靈活變通,最忌"一本通書睇到老"。但在一年伊始, 細看民間寶書《通勝》,推敲其中玄機,或許有助諸君在商場上知 所進退,趨吉避凶。

Into the new year, demystifying hidden messages in Chinese Almanac, the traditional book of fortune, may help you plan your market strategies to stay lucky and avoid calamity.

到《通勝》,最為膾炙人口的內容非"春牛圖"莫屬。 風水術數大師蔣匡文指,"春牛圖"對前瞻未來一年的情況頗有啟示。他説,《通勝》每年都會刊出"春牛圖"及《地母經》,其中"春牛圖"就是讓古時未必識字的黎民百姓,可以靠一幀圖像就接收到重要信息。中國以農立國,靠天吃飯,圖中牧童穿鞋還是赤腳,即預示了當年的天氣,讓農民得知降雨量、穀物收成等情況。

蔣匡文指,"春牛圖"其實不只預測天氣,還預示經濟情況,諸如失業率、生產成本、銀根鬆緊等,故對現代人來說同樣可資參考。本職為建築師的他,自言因為研究中國古建築而涉獵術數。40年下來,他發現"春牛圖"的預言甚為準確,從而深信術數實在有其價值與智慧。



蔣匡文 Michael Chiang

《春牛圖》中藏密碼

今年的"春牛圖",乍看之下牛郎是站於牛的前方。蔣匡文説,圖中的牛郎又名"芒神",他站於牛的前方代表立春早於正月初一。而牛郎的年紀,則是由地支得出。地支為辰戌丑未,屬季年(少年)芒神,故今年甲辰龍年大家可以看到"春牛圖"中的牛郎是牧童模樣。

"春牛圖"左右兩旁有八句七言的春牛 詩詩句,這些詩句是預測當年的天氣 及農桑收成。今年的"春牛圖"詩句 如下: 年值甲辰運豐亨,和風甘雨及時行。

無如龍少難兼顧,致令十地九不耕。

稻麥吳邦悲罕熟,蠶桑魯地喜敷榮。

三冬猶幸霜雪足,早兆來秋可滿盈。

蔣匡文指,今年國家大致風調雨順, 偶見乾旱情況。詩中的"吳邦"是指 長江三角洲地帶,旱情或見於此。然而 在科技進步下,國家不難克服問題。而 "霜雪足"代表2024年冬天常見落雪, 所謂"瑞雪兆豐年",乾旱泥土得到雪 水滋潤,有利種植,是好的兆頭。

暴雨將至 通脹高企

至於在《地母經》中,今年提到"稻麻一半空,春夏遭淹沒",蔣匡文這揭示了國家雖然有些地方面臨旱情,但在夏天卻會遇上暴雨。"估買價例貴,雪凍在三冬",他預計在今日社會角度而言,這是預測今年原材料價格上升,年尾亦會再次有大風雪。他並指,今年會有機會出現關於農畜的瘟疫,有意從事相關生意的商家務必注意。

蔣匡文續提到,今年見《地母經》有 "八日得辛"一句。他說,"辛"簡單 來說是代表時下流通的貨幣。"八日得 辛"昭示了銀行銀根鬆動,借錢仍然 不是太困難。至於"十牛耕地",他形 容:"就像本來一頭牛可耕的地,現在要用上十頭牛!"暗示了人工貴、成本高、物價將持續上升,預計來年將會高通脹。

重工新科技 未來勢抬頭

另外,蔣匡文亦提到甲辰龍年土較當 旺,預計今年樓市復甦,尤其下半年情 況更明顯。他並指,今年開始進入下元 的九運。九運是對應《易經》中的的 "離卦",五行屬火,故未來20年會旺 重工,包括鋼、汽車、輪船等。同時 "離卦"主革新、改革,有利新材料、 創新科技等行業。他認為,如果要九運 發達興旺,不妨往這些方向發展。

well-known and popular section of the Chinese Almanac. As Michael Chiang, Fungshui Master, points out, the Buffalo Chart offers an enlightening outlook for the coming year. He says Buffalo Chart and Earth Mother Sutra are standard sections of every annual Chinese Almanac. The shepherd boy's appearance, whether wearing shoes or barefoot, indicates the weather of the coming year and informs farmers about rainfall, grain harvest and other conditions.

According to Chiang, the Buffalo Chart also gives an economic outlook, such as unemployment rate, production cost and financial conditions. It is therefore a good

reference for modern people. As someone who has been studying geomancy for 40 years, he finds predictions of the Buffalo Chart very accurate.

Hidden codes in the Buffalo Chart

Chiang says that if the cowherd in the Buffalo Chart stands in front of the buffalo, it means spring begins earlier than the first day of the first lunar month. The age of the cowherd can be calculated with the earthly branches. In the Year of the Loong, you can see that the cowherd in the Buffalo Chart is a young shepherd boy.

He points out the country will enjoy generally good weather this year, with occasional drought. Wu Bang in the poem refers to the Yangtze River Delta area where drought may occur. However, with today's advanced technology, it is not difficult for the State to overcome this problem. Snow on the feet means that snowfall will be more frequent in the winter of 2024, and the arid soil is nurtured by icy water - a good omen for

Heavy rain and high inflation on the horizon

As for the mention of "half the crops are empty and flooded in spring and summer" in this vear's Mother Earth Sutra, Chiang reveals that although some parts of the country are facing drought, overall there will be heavy rain in summer. Regarding "purchase prices are expensive; snow and ice in the third winter", he says from a modern-day perspective, it means raw material prices will rise this year and there will be heavy snowstorms again at the end of the year. He also predicts animal epidemics related to livestock farming this year. Businesses interested in these activities should take note.

Chiang continues to say that a line in this years' Earth Mother Sutra says "eight days of Xin". This is a sign that money supply is adequate and it would not be too difficult to obtain loan facilities. As for "land costing ten-buffaloes", it implies expensive labour and operating costs and general prices will continue to rise. High inflation is expected for the coming year.

Heavy industry and new technology are future rising

In addition, Chiang mentions that earth is a strong element in the Year of the Loong. The property market is expected to recover this year, especially in the second half of the year. He also points out this year marks the beginning of the Ninth Period in the Lower Cycle. The Ninth Period corresponds to the "Separation Hexagram" in the Book of Changes and is characterized as fire amongst the five elements. Therefore, the next 20 vears will be a boom time for heavy industry. Moreover, innovation and reform are keys of the "Separation Hexagram", which benefits new materials, innovative technology and similar industries. He suggests businesses to explore these sectors to ensure prosperity in the Ninth Period.

上述內容為本會會員服務委員會舉辦之 "甲辰龍 年彈程"專題講座之撮要。

The above is an extract of the keynote talk on "Fortune Analysis for the Year of the Loong" organized by the Chamber's Members' Services Committee.



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RECEPTION OF GUESTS











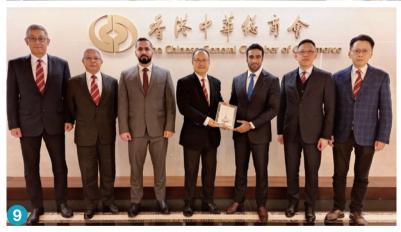
- 1. 律政司法治建設辦公室首席政府律師戴思勁(左二) (19/2)
 - Clifford Joseph Tavares (second from left), Principal Government Counsel, Legal Enhancement and Development Office, Department of Justice
- 2. 廣東省委常委、統戰部部長王瑞軍(右二)(27/1) Wang Ruijun (second from right), Standing Committee Member and Director of the United Front Work Department of CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee
- 3. 杭州市委常委、副市長胥偉華(前排左六)(21/2) Xu Weihua (sixth from left, front row), Standing Committee Member of CPC Hangzhou Municipal Committee and Deputy Mayor of Hangzhou
- 4. 横琴粤澳深度合作區執委會副主任蘇崑(左)(1/2) Su Kun (left), Deputy Director of the Executive Committee of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin
- 5. 河南省商務廳二級巡視員郭海燕(右四)(1/2) Guo Haiyan (fourth from right), Second-level Inspector of Department of Commerce of Henan Province













- 6. 江蘇省淮安市委統戰部副部長、淮安市僑辦主任蔡昀 (右一)(26/2)
 - Cai Yun (first from right), Deputy Director of the United Front Work Department of Huaian Municipal Committee of Jiangsu Province and Director of Huaian Overseas Chinese Affairs Office
- 7. 克羅地亞財政部長 Marko Primorac (左) (25/1) Marko Primorac (left), Minister of Finance of Croatia
- 8. 巴基斯坦駐華大使 Khalil Hashmi (左)(23/2) Khalil Hashmi (left), Ambassador of Pakistan to China
- 9. 沙迦外商直接投資辦公室執行長 Mohamed Al Musharrakh (右三)(23/1)
 - Mohamed Al Musharrakh (third from right), CEO of Sharjah FDI Office
- 10. 菲律濱菲華商聯總會理事長施東方(左)(3/2) Cecilio Kwok Pedro (left), President of Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry Inc



會員服務委員會舉行元老春茗聚會, 招待本會首長及各位退任前輩。各人 互道祝福,並分享當年點滴。(20/2) The Members' Services Committee greeted and celebrated the New Year with the Chamber's current leaders and retired seniors. (20/2)



春節團拜喜迎龍年

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

八甲辰龍年,本會舉行多 場團拜活動,共慶新禧、 瑞氣滿堂。◆

s we entered the Year of the Loong, the Chamber held several spring gatherings to express its best wishes to everyone.



青年委員會舉辦新春團拜晚宴,席間 設有抽獎及遊戲環節,一眾成員及親 友玩得盡興、歡笑聲不絕。(20/2)

Cheers! With lucky draw, games and laughs, members had a great night at the dinner held by the Young Executives' Committee. (20/2)







婦女委員會的新春團拜邀來**中聯辦協調部處長白靜**、 各商會代表和眾多嘉賓出席,共賀佳節。(21/2)

A toast to the ladies! Participants, including **Bai Jing**, **Director-General of the Coordination Department of the LOCPG**, and representatives from various chambers, enjoyed a joyful time at the Ladies' Committee's New Year's greetings. (21/2)



地區事務委員會舉辦新春聯歡晚宴暨義 工嘉獎禮,席間除了抽獎、會員合唱, 還請來年輕歌手表演贈慶,節目豐富。 (27/2)

The District Affairs Committee invited young singers to perform at its New Year Gala Dinner, making the atmosphere very lively. (27/2)





會員活動 **MEMBERS**' **ACTIVITIES**



1. 婦女委員會及文化委員會合辦午餐講座,請來**敦煌研究** 院特別研究員李美賢講解中國古代衣和食的有趣文化故 事,並即場展示各項相關文物。(31/1)

The Ladies' Committee and the Culture Committee jointly organized a lunch lecture, and invited Lee Mei-yin, Visiting Research Fellow of Dunhuang Academy, to share interesting cultural stories about ancient Chinese clothing and food. (31/1)

青年委員會舉行專題午餐講座,邀得立法會議員(選舉委 員會)梁毓偉就香港青年政策發展的回顧及展望作分享。 (30/1)

The Young Executives' Committee held a lunch talk having Kenneth Leung, Member of Legislative Council (Election Committee), talked about the review and prospects of the development of Youth Policy in Hong Kong. (30/1)