

**Economic Summit on  
“China’s 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong”  
Summary of Views Expressed at Focus Group Discussion on  
Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism**

(Translation)

**Welcoming Remarks by the Convenor**

The Convenor welcomed panelists to the discussion session of the Focus Group on Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism of the Economic Summit on “China’s 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong”, and introduced the attending panelists and government officials.

**Professional Services**

2. The Convenor invited Mr Christopher WONG, Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, to present the paper on “Professional Services” (Paper Ref.: 2006ES/8).

3. As regards professional services, panelists raised the following views –

Implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

4. The Convenor pointed out that the 11th Five-Year Plan signified the further advanced development of China. Given the opportunities and challenges ahead, the professional services sectors in Hong Kong should adopt a two-pronged approach. First, to “bring in”, i.e. to attract to Hong Kong target customers in the Mainland who would require our services. Second, to “venture out”, i.e. individuals and companies engaging in professional services in Hong Kong should seize the opportunity to practise or set up businesses in the Mainland. However, under the existing

arrangements, the market entry requirements of the two places for professional sectors had yet to be on par with each other. Apart from obtaining professional qualifications recognised by the Mainland, Hong Kong professionals intending to set up a sole proprietorship in the Mainland had to meet other requirements, for example, Mainland residency or partnership with Mainland residents. The scope of business for some professional sectors was also restricted. For the legal profession, for example, Hong Kong lawyers practising in the Mainland could only engage in civil and commercial matters or matrimonial and estate-related cases in criminal matters even if they had acquired a Mainland lawyer's practice certificate.

5. Noting that the above restrictions had posed additional difficulties to the professional sectors of Hong Kong in entering the Mainland market, panelists suggested that the Government should continue to work closely with the Mainland under CEPA with a view to facilitating Hong Kong professionals to gain access to the Mainland market. Panelists also urged the Government to follow up on issues relating to the additional requirements imposed on Hong Kong professionals intending to practise or start a sole proprietorship in the Mainland apart from specific professional qualifications.

6. A panelist remarked that CEPA had provided a platform through which Hong Kong professionals had gained initial access to the Mainland market. However, as professional services are personalized services in nature, business success hinged on individual efforts and operation. To achieve success in the Mainland, the professional services sectors of Hong Kong had to provide services that meet the needs for the Mainland market on one hand, and cooperate and complement with their Mainland counterparts on the other.

7. A panelist considered that a review should be organised to examine the effectiveness of CEPA, with a view to further optimising and improving it.

8. A panelist pointed out that Hong Kong enjoyed better treatment under CEPA than other foreign cities comparing with China's commitments under the WTO. He suggested that the Government should, in our overseas promotion, highlight Hong Kong's advantages in this respect so as to attract foreign investors to enter the Mainland market through Hong Kong.

#### Cooperation between Professionals of the Mainland and Hong Kong

9. A panelist pointed out that Hong Kong's professional services were up to international standards, and the professional training provided by Hong Kong had also gained recognition in the Mainland. Nonetheless, those who wished to practise or set up their businesses in the Mainland should enhance their understanding of the general situation and system in the Mainland. In addition, it was pointed out that there was difficulty for a full-scale mutual recognition of professional qualifications in view of the differences in systems and institutional set-up of the two places. Hence, the professional sectors of Hong Kong and their Mainland counterparts should collaborate and complement with each other. A panelist suggested that various measures should be vigorously worked out to promote cooperation and exchange of professionals between Hong Kong and the Mainland, including provision of opportunities of internship in the Mainland for Hong Kong students of professional disciplines, such as law and accountancy, with a view to increasing their understanding of the general situation and system in the Mainland.

#### Brand Building

10. A panelist considered that the purpose of supporting the development of the services industry in Hong Kong under the 11th Five-Year Plan was to facilitate the Mainland cities using Hong Kong as a platform to go global. With its experience and international network, Hong Kong could assist Mainland and local professional services sectors to build up their brands in the global market. For example, in the construction sector, there were currently a large number of building projects in the Mainland which were undertaken by overseas architectural companies. The panelist hoped that with the building up of brand names,

the Mainland and Hong Kong services sectors could compete for providing services to the Mainland and overseas markets.

### Others

11. A panelist proposed to expand the coverage of CEPA to include education services, thus satisfying the aspirations of Mainland students to study in Hong Kong. Moreover, while there was strong demand of Mainland students for university places in Hong Kong, local tertiary institutions could only provide a limited number of places for the Mainland students. One of the reasons being that the problem of shortage of student accommodation facilities was difficult to resolve. A panelist suggested consider converting the premises of primary and secondary schools that had ceased operation into student hostel facilities to accommodate further intake of Mainland students.

### **Innovation, Technology and Information Services**

12. The Convenor invited Mr Anthony WONG, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, to present the paper on “Innovation, Technology and Information Services” (Paper Ref.: 2006ES/9).

13. As regards innovation, technology and information services, panelists raised the following views –

### Innovation and Technology

14. A panelist suggested Hong Kong to collaborate with Shenzhen in the development of hi-tech industries. Hong Kong had a comprehensive education system, outstanding achievements in technological research, international reputation and image, stringent requirements in environmental protection and a wealth of talent. On the other hand, Shenzhen had land resources, experience in developing hi-tech industries, and a host of manufacturers that would require the services of Hong Kong. Combining these favourable factors, Hong Kong and Shenzhen would be good partners in the development of hi-tech industries.

15. A panelist pointed out that in the past, Hong Kong's business and industrial sectors were rather short-sighted and have neglected the importance of research and development. Overseas experiences indicated that technology and talents were the most valuable resources for creating wealth and boosting economic development. In this connection, panelists suggested that the Government should deploy more resources for nurturing talent, especially those in the technological field.

16. A panelist remarked that apart from Government support, investment from the business sectors was also very important in research and development. The business sector should be encouraged to increase their investment in this area.

17. A panelist pointed out that in addition to the manufacturing sector, other economic sectors were also in need of technological innovation. As such, both the Government and the business sector should look out for the potential of research and development in trade and business, financial services, maritime and logistics industries etc.

#### Information Services

18. Regarding information services, a panelist opined that the preferential treatment given by CEPA to the local telecommunications sector was limited. He hoped that the Government could help the local telecommunications sector and animation industry enter the Mainland market, and strive for Hong Kong's participation in setting telecommunications standards in the Mainland.

19. Separately, on application and services provision, there was currently only narrow-band connection between Hong Kong and the Mainland. It was considered that broadband connection was conducive to facilitating cross-boundary information flow and could promote further development of other industries. A panelist added that China was prepared to develop 3G business in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. It was hoped that Hong Kong would be given an opportunity to participate in that new business.

20. A panelist pointed out that Hong Kong enjoyed three main advantages in developing telecommunications services in the Mainland, including: (1) Hong Kong's extensive use of telecommunications and electronics technologies, successful examples including "Octopus" and cable television; (2) the presence of some 60 000 Hong Kong factories in Guangdong requiring electronic information services; and (3) opportunities of Hong Kong multinational corporations bringing with them information systems they had been using in Hong Kong into the Mainland when they entered the Mainland market. Hong Kong should capitalise on these advantages to extend its telecommunications and information services into the Mainland.

## **Tourism**

21. The Convenor invited Ms Maisie CHENG, Deputy Commissioner for Tourism, to present the paper on "Tourism" (Paper Ref.: 2006ES/10).

22. Panelists raised the following views on tourism –

23. A panelist highlighted that Hong Kong travel agents had provided services at low costs with proper programme arrangements and professional integrity. It was suggested that in support of the "Honest and Quality Travel" implemented by the China National Tourism Administration to improve the service quality of the Mainland tourism industry, a pilot scheme to allow Hong Kong travel agents to organise outbound Hong Kong or overseas tours for Guangdong citizens should be considered. This would not only facilitate exchanges between the local tourism industry and their Mainland counterparts, but also help improve the service quality of the latter and address the problems caused by "zero cost" tours.

24. A panelist opined that Hong Kong had great potential to develop into a tourism hub. Major international conferences and exhibitions hosted by Hong Kong were very successful, and annual festive events like Dragon Boat Race had also attracted a lot of overseas visitors to Hong Kong. It was proposed that Hong Kong, apart from stepping up the overseas promotion of the various conferences, exhibitions and activities it

staged, should consider cooperation with Mainland provinces and cities to promote thematic “multi-destination itineraries” to highlight its position as a cosmopolitan city, as well as a convenient interchange for overseas visitors travelling to the Mainland.

25. Panelists also suggested that Hong Kong should develop more tourist attractions and facilities and enhance tourist activities in the evening, so as to enrich the travelling experience of visitors in Hong Kong.

### **Way Forward**

26. The Focus Group would continue its discussion in the coming three months with a view to submitting a pragmatic “Action Agenda” to the Chief Executive by the end of this year. The Focus Group had decided to set up three sub-groups on professional services, information & technology and tourism respectively to consult the views of the industries concerned. Ms Elsie LEUNG, Mr Jack SO and Mr Jackie WONG would be the respective convenors of the sub-groups. The Focus Group welcomed members of the community to submit their views to the sub-groups.

27. The attendance list is attached.

Central Policy Unit  
September 2006

專業服務、信息、科技及旅遊專題小組  
2006年9月11日

Focus Group on  
Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism  
11 September 2006

召集人

Convenor

The Hon LEUNG Chun-ying

梁振英議員

官方成員

Official Member

Director, Chief Executive's Office

行政長官辦公室主任

委員

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方黃吉雯女士

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汪穗中博士

Mr WONG See-sum, Jackie

黃士心先生

Prof WONG Yue-chim, Richard

王于漸教授

Mr WOO Kwong-ching, Peter

吳光正先生

列席

In Attendance

Head, Central Policy Unit

中策組首席顧問

Commissioner for Tourism

旅遊事務專員



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|---|-----------------|
| Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs                                  | 政制事務局常任秘書長      |
| Commissioner for Innovation and Technology                                      | 創新科技署署長         |
| Deputy Commissioner for Tourism   | 旅遊事務副專員         |
| Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology<br>(Commerce & Industry) 2 | 工商及科技局副秘書長(工商)2 |
| Deputy Solicitor General (General)  | 副法律政策專員(一般法律事務) |