

議會轉型之路正式開始 Path to transformation begins



零一八年十二月七日，黃進達先生連任議會主席，任期三年，直至二零二一年。剛巧在同一天，《旅遊業條例》在憲報刊登，成為法律，估計大約兩年後全面生效。換言之，黃先生會在任期之內，帶領議會由自律監管組織轉型為業界商會。我在此祝賀他連任主席，相信他可以達成會員的厚望。

廣深港高速鐵路香港段、港珠澳大橋先後於九月和十月通車，為香港的外遊業和入境業創造無限機遇，而在兩者之中，港珠澳大橋的效益更加快捷而明顯。經大橋往內地的外遊團固然增加不少，但反方向來港的團隊更是增長強勁，因而令十一月和十二月內地團的總數有二至三成的升幅。不過，大橋通車初期，各種安排未能立刻就緒，所以對東涌的居民有一定影響，但幸好經過各方努力，問題已大體解決。

過去幾年來，大批內地入境團前往紅磡、土瓜灣、九龍城等地區，造成道路擁擠、交通阻塞，以及衛生和噪音等問題，因而令投訴不斷。議會雖然一直在敦促旅行社、導遊和登記店舖，必須減少旅行團對社區的滋擾，而且定期與區議會、旅遊事務署、運輸署、警務處等不停磋商，制訂種種方案，但那些地區的道路較為狹窄，交通配套不足，而且人多車多，加上議會權力有限，所以問題始終難以根治。

議會當然會繼續竭力處理有關問題，但旅遊業會繼續發展，內地入境團也會繼續增加，因此並沒有一蹴而就的解決方法，也不可能畢其功於一役，只能以耐心與堅毅，不懈努力而已。☞

On 7 December 2018, Mr Jason Wong was re-elected Chairman of the TIC for a term of three years until 2021. Coincidentally, the Travel Industry Ordinance was gazetted on the same day, which has since become law and will take full effect in about two years. In other words, Mr Wong will, during his tenure, lead the TIC in its transformation from a self-regulatory organisation to a trade association. I congratulate him on his re-election, and believe he will live up to the high expectations of members.

The commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong High Speed Rail and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in September and October will bring a wealth of opportunities to Hong Kong's outbound and inbound industries, with the Bridge to bring more immediate and noticeable benefits. Whereas outbound tours heading for the mainland via the Bridge are on the rise, inbound tours coming here from the opposite direction are surging more substantially, pushing up the total number of mainland inbound tours in November and December by 20-30%. As the various arrangements for the Bridge, however, were yet to be ready when it was opened to traffic, the residents in Tung Chung were somewhat affected, which was largely resolved thanks to the concerted efforts of many.

In the past few years, large numbers of tour groups from the mainland have visited such places as Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan and Kowloon City, causing overcrowding, traffic congestion and hygiene and noise problems, followed by complaint after complaint. Much as the TIC has kept urging agents, guides and shops to reduce any nuisance caused by tour groups to the local communities, and has regularly discussed with the District Council, the Tourism Commission, the Transport Department, the Police Force, etc for various solutions, the problems can hardly be totally resolved as the roads are narrow, ancillary transport facilities are inadequate, vehicles and people are numerous, but the power of the TIC is limited.

The TIC will of course continue to strive to tackle the problems, but the tourism industry will continue to grow, and so will the tour groups from the mainland. No single solution to the problems is thus possible, nor can they be resolved at one go. What is needed instead is continuous effort, combined with patience and perseverance.☞

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