

主席報告

Chairman's report

自去年中社會事件在香港爆發，至今年一月開始新型冠狀病毒病在全球肆虐，本港旅遊業及相關行業包括航空業、酒店業、零售業、飲食業以至主題公園及郵輪公司等受重創，情況持續至今已超過九個月，而當中旅遊業的境況肯定最為嚴峻。

在前所未有的衝擊下，會員營運舉步維艱，業界從業員要面對裁員或收入驟減的苦況，議會的財政因印花收入暴挫而同樣出現巨額虧損。議會明白會員的困境，不停在各方面研究減輕會員負擔的方法，例如容許會員共用營業處所等等，希望會員在電子印花系統全面運作及疫情「新常態」下營運會有較大彈性。

此外，我與旅遊界立法會議員、商會會長及同業代表多個月來馬不停蹄，屢次致函並約晤旅遊事務專員、商務及經濟發展局長、食物及衛生局長、財政司長等，而且還向行政長官致函並發出公開信，竭力向政府爭取儘快推出防疫抗疫基金的紓困措施，冀望減輕疫情對業界的打擊，協助會員及業界從業員渡過困境。

由於群組聚集的限制，會員唯一可行的本地遊旅行團業務難以開展。議會為此在疫情受控時游說政府放寬限制，近日終於爭取到

Since the social event erupted in Hong Kong in the middle of last year and the novel coronavirus disease began to wreak havoc globally in January this year, the local travel industry, such related industries as aviation, hotel, retail and catering, and theme parks and cruise companies have all suffered severe impacts. Such a situation has lasted, so far, for more than nine months, with the travel industry undoubtedly being the most severely impacted.

Faced with such an unprecedented crisis, members have had much difficulty in carrying on their business, trade practitioners have been laid off or have had to live with much reduced earnings, and the TIC has fared no better with a huge deficit arising from a plunge in levy income. The TIC is aware of the dire situation in which members have found themselves and has kept exploring ways to alleviate the burden of members such as allowing them to share office premises so that they can enjoy greater flexibility with the e-levy system in full operation and the epidemic becoming the “new normal”.

Besides, I and the Legislator Councillor representing the tourism sector, together with the heads of trade organisations and trade representatives, have been working ceaselessly for months trying to convince the Government to launch various relief measures under the Anti-epidemic Fund as quickly as possible in the hope of alleviating the impact of the epidemic on the trade and helping members and trade practitioners to tide over their difficulties, by writing to and meeting with the Commissioner for Tourism, the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, the Secretary for Food and Health and the Financial Secretary, and even writing and issuing an open letter to the Chief Executive.

Owing to the group gathering restrictions, members have found it difficult to seize their only viable business

會員可有條件豁免舉辦不多於三十人的本地遊旅行團，以及政府資助持證導遊及領隊接受一次免費病毒檢測。業界期望這安排有助於健康碼及旅遊氣泡的推行，尤其是促成與內地早日通關，使業務得以逐漸復甦。

全球疫情迄今尚未減退，業界復甦之路恐怕非常漫長。議會將繼續不遺餘力，為會員探求出路。我謹代表議會與業界，衷心感謝政府及相關機構與組織一貫的支持。



主席
黃進達 JP

二零二零年十一月六日

opportunity: local group tours. The TIC has therefore lobbied the Government to relax the restrictions when the epidemic is under control, and has recently successfully persuaded the Government to grant conditional exemption to members so that they can organise local group tours of not more 30 people and to provide a Covid-19 test free of charge for accredited tourist guides and tour escorts. The trade hopes that this arrangement will be conducive to the introduction of health codes and travel bubbles, especially the early reopening of boundary crossing with the mainland, in order that business could gradually resume.

As the global pandemic has yet to recede, the path to recovery for the industry may well be a very long one. The TIC will continue to spare no efforts in helping members to find a way out of the crisis. On behalf of the TIC and the trade, I wish to wholeheartedly thank the Government and relevant institutions and organisations for their usual support.

Jason Wong JP
Chairman

6 November 2020