



市況漸現好轉跡象 Signs of a turnaround in the air

今年五、六月，人類豬流感陸續在世界各地爆發，外遊業和入境業同受打擊。外遊印花費方面，五、六月比去年同期急挫百分之三十七點七，七月出現微升，八月情況才真正改善，比去年同期回升百分之三十。至於內地入境團登記的數目，五至七月的跌幅相當大，高達百分之四十五點四，到了八月才反彈百分之二十七點五。雖然上述數據似乎顯示業界暫時擺脫了人類豬流感的威脅，但希望大家不要鬆懈，繼續提供優良服務。

自從法航及荷航宣佈會逐步把旅行社的佣金減至零之後，議會一直與它們反覆磋商，希望減佣計劃可以撤回。可是，兩家航空公司最後依然決定計劃不變。議會票務委員會於是建議召開特別會員大會，以表達會員的強烈不滿。理事會詳細考慮後，決定於十月十四日召開特別會員大會，相信會員都已收到通告了。

外遊警示制度快將推行了。在政府籌備期間，議會不住和主事的官員磋商，務求新制度實施後會員能迅速適應。香港人素來喜歡外遊，但外遊時一旦碰到出乎意料的事情，就往往要靠旅遊保險來提供保障。因此，議會現正研究，可否規定外遊旅行團只容許購買了旅遊保險的人士參加，以確保發生事故時團員都會有最佳保障。

十一月二十五日，是議會舉行會員週年大會的日子，屆時會選出四名同業出任理事。議會向來鼓勵會員以候選人的品格、才能等條件挑選理事，也期望候選人憑藉對業界整體利益的承擔而爭取選票。希望會員踴躍出席大會，選出賢能擔任理事。✎

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In May and June this year, outbreaks of human swine flu began to be seen around the world, severely hitting the outbound and inbound industries. The outbound levy dropped by 37.7% year on year in May and June, edged up a bit in July, and rebounded substantially by 30% in August. As for the number of mainland inbound tour registrations, it plunged hugely by 45.4% from May to July, and then rose by 27.5% in August. Although the above figures seem to indicate that the industry has got out of the grip of human swine flu for the time being, we should continue to provide quality service for travellers.

Ever since Air France and KLM announced their plan to progressively slash agency commission to zero, the TIC has engaged the two airlines in repeated negotiations in the hope that the plan could be abandoned. Nevertheless, they have finally decided to stick to their original plan. The TIC Ticketing Committee therefore suggested that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) should be convened in order to show members' intense opposition. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors has decided to hold an EGM on 14 October, the notice of which should have already reached members.

The Outbound Travel Alert System is about to be implemented. During its preparatory stages, the TIC has been in constant discussion with the officials in charge to ensure quick adaptation by members once it is in place. Hong Kong people have been fond of travel for a long time. When unexpected incidents occur during their journeys, travel insurance often plays a critical part in protecting them. As such, the TIC is now studying whether outbound package tours should only be open to those who have bought travel insurance in order that tour participants will have the best protection in case of accidents.

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 25 November, at which four traders will be elected directors of the TIC. **While members have always been encouraged to vote for candidates after weighing their character, ability, etc, candidates have been expected to win votes by demonstrating their commitment to the overall interests of the industry. It is hoped that members will actively attend the AGM and vote in men and women of integrity and competence.** ✎

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