



非典型肺炎終於遠離我們，而過去幾個月來，復甦的步伐又顯得急勁有力，實在令人欣慶。在外遊業方面，雖然團費仍然處於較低的水平，但印花額已經和疫前相差無幾，而且外遊人數顯著上升，表明復甦在望。

近來不少會員推出各種優惠，相信是團費低廉的主因，希望會員依然保持服務素質，以免引起投訴。

入境業的復甦雖然更為強勁，但主要由內地市場帶動，歐美及日本等市場的增長仍然比較遲緩。內地近期旅客增長凌厲，這固然受惠於自由行旅客，但隨團來港旅客的增幅也十分可觀。希望會員在接辦內地旅行團時，必須訂妥酒店房間、與內地組團社簽訂合約、敦促導遊提供優良服務，以及做好預防疫病措施。

議會早前就旅遊業信託基金應否保留一事，召開了一次國際航空運輸協會審訂旅行社大會。與會的會員雖然有不少意見相左，但相信都是為了業界的利益著想而已。所謂「君子而和不同」，意見不盡相同，本來沒甚麼大不了，但最終還是應該以和為貴的。議會將與航空公司繼續磋商，務求既可減輕會員的負擔，而又能使基金運作下去。

今年的週年大會訂於十一月十二日假座香港洲際酒店舉行，屆時將選出四位新理事，接替任滿的湯麟華先生、王美倫女士、黃照康先生、葉慶寧先生。和往年一樣，我今年也同樣呼籲各位會員踴躍出席大會，選出自己的代表。不過，今年我還希望呼籲各位有識之士參選，因為業界正值機遇與考驗兼具的時候，十分需要大家集思廣益，共謀善策。

非典型肺炎目前雖然過去，但隨時都可能再度肆虐。議會與衛生署、入境處等有關部門會加緊聯絡，做好各種預防措施，希望會員能加以配合，同時千萬不要鬆懈，因為任何疫病爆發的話，首當其衝的必然是旅遊業。TIC

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It is very encouraging to see that business has shown a steep rebound in the past few months after SARS was finally away from us. For the outbound industry, although tour fares are still relatively low, the total amount of levy has almost reached the pre-SARS level and the increase in outbound travellers is very remarkable, indicating that a recovery is within sight. That tour fares are low is probably due to promotional discounts offered by members. Members are strongly advised to keep their service quality irrespective of the tour fares.

Despite a much quicker recovery in inbound travel, it is mainly driven by the China market. Such markets as Europe, the United States and Japan are still slowly climbing out of the doldrums. The recent surge in mainland visitors is attributable partly to individual visitors and partly to group visitors. I would like to remind members that when receiving inbound tour groups, they must confirm the hotel rooms, sign contracts with mainland tour operators, ensure good tourist guide service and take measures to prevent SARS.

The Council recently held an IATA agents meeting to study whether the Industry Trust Fund should be retained. Although the participating members expressed plenty of conflicting views at the meeting, I think they did so only for the benefits of the industry. As revealed by the Confucian teaching that "the gentleman seeks harmonious agreement with others without being an echo," it is nothing unusual to have different opinions; but what is crucial is to maintain harmonious relationships with others. We will continue discussions with the airlines so that the Fund could be retained and the burden on members relieved at the same time.

This year's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2003 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Hong Kong to elect four directors to take the offices of Mr Warren Tong, Ms Gianna Wong, Mr Sunny Wong and Mr Freddy Yip. I would like to urge members, just like every year, to attend the AGM and elect their own representatives. This time, however, I would also like to urge those learned members to stand for election, for this is a time of opportunities and challenges, and the industry very much needs to pool the wisdom of all of us.

SARS may strike again even if it has disappeared by now. We have been in close contact with the Health Department, the Immigration Department, etc to formulate various preventive measures. We urge members to be cooperative in implementing these measures because if any epidemic were to occur again, the entire industry would have no way to escape. TIC

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