




自導遊核證制度於今年七月一日實施後，議會已開始派員往景點巡查，看看導遊有沒有佩戴導遊證。這兩三個月來，佩戴導遊證的導遊越來越多，很是可喜，證明導遊開始習慣佩戴證件這新規定，同時對於自己的專業開始產生自豪感，不再介意

別人知道他們正在工作了。

今年八月及九月，議會原本計劃推出兩班以英文授課的「在職導遊培訓課程」，但由於報名人數不足，兩班最終都要取消。議會現已把以英文授課的首班課程延至十月底，假如這次再因人數不足而取消，證明英文導遊課程的需求極微，恐怕日後也未必能夠順利開班。那些需要報讀英文導遊課程以考取導遊證的人士，希望能好好把握這個機會。

有關旅行社的責任問題，議會多年來一直甚為措意，也明白會員十分關心。議會目前正積極尋求各種可行的方案，例如由議會購買集體責任保險，為會員提供基本保障，會員則可按各自需要增加保額等。議會接觸過一些保險公司，對方的初步回應是旅行社必須符合一定要求才行。此外，議會也計劃制訂一份最佳作業守則，以減低會員日常運作的風險。這事議會定必全力跟進，務求儘快做出成果，希望會員繼續大力支持。

今年好像是選舉年似的，在世界各地已舉行的或將舉行的大小選舉簡直不勝枚舉。在九月十二日的立法會旅遊界功能界別選舉中，楊孝華議員再度連任；我謹代表議會祝賀楊議員，並希望他今後和議會有更密切的聯繫，為業界爭取更多利益。

今年的會員週年大會訂於十一月十六日假座香港洲際酒店舉行，會員千萬別忘記自己的權利，在當天投票選出最能代表自己的同業加入理事會。 


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Since the Tourist Guide Accreditation System was in place on 1 July 2004, we have sent staff to scenic spots to check whether tourist guides are wearing their Tourist Guide Pass when they are on duty. Our observations during these two to three months are very encouraging: the number of guides wearing their Pass is steadily increasing, which may be partly because they become used to wearing the Pass and partly because they begin to take pride in their profession and therefore feel more comfortable about letting others know they are working.

We originally planned to open two classes of the In-service Tour Guide Training Course in English in August and September respectively, but had to cancel both of them because of insufficient enrolments. Now, the first English class is re-scheduled for late October. If the intake of students is still inadequate this time, which reflects the extremely small demand for classes conducted in English, the chances for such classes to be launched again in the future may be rather slim. Those who need to take the English class in order to qualify themselves as tourist guides should not let this opportunity go so easily.

The TIC has paid much attention to the liability of travel agents for many years, and thus fully understands members' concern with the matter. We are now actively seeking viable proposals, including one that suggests the TIC take out collective liability insurance to provide basic cover for members, who may increase the limit of indemnity to meet their own needs. Initial responses from some insurers are that member agents must fulfil certain requirements if this proposal is to work. We are also planning to draft a code of best practice for members with a view to smaller risks in their daily operation. We will work on this matter with full force in the hope that some positive results will come out soon. Your support is therefore most important.

This year seems to be a year of elections as there are countless elections already held or about to be held in many parts of the world. On behalf of the TIC, I would like to congratulate Mr Howard Young on winning his seat again in the Tourism Functional Constituency during the Legislative Council election on 12 September. We hope he will work more closely with the TIC to fight for benefits for the industry.

This year's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2004 at the Inter-Continental Hong Kong Hotel. Members should make good use of their right and choose the right people for the Board of Directors. 

Joseph Tung