

外遊印花額打破歷年紀錄 Record levy amount for outbound market

內地《旅遊法》由今年十月一日起實施後，無論是對內地來港的入境團，還是對由香港往內地的外遊團，都有不同程度的影響(見「特稿」)。中國國家旅遊局非常重視《旅遊法》，先前與廣東、深圳、珠海的旅遊官員，以及旅遊事務署和議會的代表開會，審視《旅遊法》的實施情況。議會一定會盡力配合國家旅遊局，使《旅遊法》成功推行。

由十一月起泰國曼谷就有示威活動，至今仍未停止。保安局在十二月二日對曼谷發出紅色旅遊警示之前，由於主要的旅遊景點並沒有受到影響，所以泰國團大都如期出發；但一到紅色旅遊警示發出之後，泰國團大都取消，可見會員都以旅客的安全為大前提，值得嘉勉。

今年一至十一月的外遊印花額比去年同期增加了百分之十六點二，雖然曼谷的局勢對十二月份的市況會有一定影響，但今年單是頭十一個月的印花額已勝過去年全年了，大家無須為外遊市場擔心。至於入境市場方面，今年頭十一個月的內地入境團數目與去年同期相比，輕微上升了百分之四點五，而頭十個月的來港旅客則增加了百分之十二點三。由這些數字可知，《旅遊法》實施後，似乎內地旅客隨團來港的人數雖然減少，但以個人遊方式來港的人數卻不受影響。看來會員需要細思今後的經營模式了。

今年會員週年大會已於十一月十九日圓滿結束，會上並且由會員選出了四位理事，即陳寶華先生、梁天龍先生、黃進達先生、梁耀霖先生。我在這裡衷心祝賀他們當選或連任，期望今後與他們緊密合作，為業界出一分力。☞

董耀中



After the Tourism Law came into effect on 1 October this year on the mainland, both inbound tours coming from mainland China and outbound tours heading for it are affected to varying degrees (see "Feature"). **The China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) has set great store by the new law and sent its officials recently to have a meeting with tourism officials from Guangdong, Shenzhen and Zhuhai, as well as representatives from the Tourism Commission and the TIC in order to assess the implementation of the law. The TIC will do all it can to help the CNTA make a success of the new law.**

Demonstrations have been staged in the capital of Thailand, Bangkok, since November, with no sign of abating even now. Before the Security Bureau issued a red outbound travel alert for Bangkok on 2 December, most Thailand tours departed as scheduled since major attractions were not affected; but once it was issued, most Thailand tours have been cancelled, which shows that members give top priority to travellers' safety and which deserves appreciation.

A year-on-year increase of 16.2% in outbound levy was recorded between January and November this year, making the levy amount for the first 11 months of this year already outstrip the whole year's figure of last year. There is thus no need to worry about the outbound market even though the situation in Bangkok may have some influence on the market in December. As for the inbound market, the number of tours from mainland China for the first 11 months of this year was slightly up 4.5%, while the number of visitor arrivals for the first 10 months rose 12.3%. From these figures, **it seems that after the Tourism Law took effect, mainland visitors have joined fewer tours to Hong Kong, but have kept going to Hong Kong on their own. Members should indeed carefully ponder over their future business model.**

This year's Annual General Meeting was successfully concluded on 19 November, during which four directors were elected by members: Mr Stephen Chan, Mr David Leung, Mr Jason Wong and Mr Paul Leung. I wholeheartedly congratulate them on their election or re-election, and hope to work closely with them in the coming years to contribute to the industry. ☞

Joseph Tung