

# *President's Statement*

## 會長報告



In last year's statement, I referred to the Society's response to complaints referred to us by the other regulators in the market and our intention to conduct a review of our self-regulation system.

Following some encouraging signs of economic recovery, corporate failures and the adequacy or otherwise of audits are less of a public issue. This notwithstanding, we have pressed on with a public relations programme to clarify the auditors' role and responsibilities and our advocacy for good corporate governance.

As regards the review of our self-regulation system, the Society has put out a "white paper" on the recommendations of a task force chaired by past President David Gairns. This consultation paper has significant implications on our role as a self-regulatory body. The spirit behind the proposed procedural changes is to bring in line with international practices by moving towards greater transparency, openness and efficiency in the whole disciplinary hearing process. I sincerely hope that all members in the accountancy profession would come out in support of the proposed changes and make suggestions as to how we can make the proposals work better in upholding the integrity of the system for the benefit of the whole community.

On corporate governance, the Society made some good headway this year by co-hosting with the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Futures Commission the Second Asian Roundtable organised by the OECD, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank here in Hong Kong in late May. Over 140 delegates from the world's highest profile financial institutions attended this three-day corporate governance conference. I believe the Roundtable achieved the aims of improving the understanding of corporate governance and promoting an ongoing dialogue between the private and public sectors as well as among the industry regulators. It



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在去年的報告中，本人提到公會對金融市場其他監管機構轉介給公會的投訴所作出的回應，以及公會對自我監管機制作出檢討的意向。

正當經濟逐漸復甦，公眾對公司出現財政問題及審計工作完善程度的關注經已減低。雖然如此，公會仍繼續加強公關活動，向公眾釐清核數師的職責及提倡良好的公司管治。

在檢討公會自我監管機制方面，公會採納了以前會長簡大偉為主席的專責小組的建議，發表了一份「白皮書」。該諮詢文件對公會作為自我監管機構的角色含意很大。該文件對改革紀律程序方面所作出的建議，旨在逐步建立一個更透明、更公開及更有效率的紀律聆訊過程，以符合國際慣例。本人衷心希望業界支持該改革建議，並提供進一步完善該建議的意見，加強公會自我監管機制的公信力，以維護公眾的利益。

在公司管治方面，公會於今年五月與聯合交易所及證券及期貨事務監察委員會聯合主辦了由經濟合作與發展組織、世界銀行及亞洲開發

also served to identify needs for technical assistance and inform the international community about reform initiatives in Asia.

Two milestone developments should be mentioned here. The first is the signing of the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the CPA Australia. The MRAs represent an achievement that should stand out in the Society's history. They not only affirm the quality of our professional Qualification Programme by two internationally renowned accountancy bodies, but are also an excellent reflection of the Society's international standing. The second momentous development is that we officially signed the WebTrust Licence agreement with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants in July during a three-day global WebTrust Summit in Paris. The signing of this agreement heralded an important development in the area of professional practice, as well as emphasizing the Society's contribution to the development of e-commerce in Hong Kong. Over the months to come, we will embark on a vigorous training and promotion programme on the WebTrust seal concept to our members and the business community.

During the year, the Society worked together with nine other major professions, to consider how best to promote the HK SAR's professional services when the Mainland joins the WTO. The idea behind such an initiative is to explore opportunities and overcome obstacles through research, promotion, lobbying and facilitation. We will also seek our members' views through the relevant committees as to what the Society could do to take advantage of tremendous business opportunities for the accountancy firms of different sizes.

銀行聯辦的第二屆亞洲區公司管治圓桌會議。超過140名來自世界各地著名金融機構的代表，參加了這個為期三天的公司管治會議。本人相信該會議達到了提高公眾對公司管治的瞭解，以及促進私營及公營機構和行業監管機構之間溝通的目標。同時，會議也界定了公司管治所需要的技術支援，並對國際社會匯報了亞洲區對公司管治的改革計劃。

本人於此應該談談兩項公會的突破性發展。其一為公會與英國特許公認會計師公會及澳洲會計師公會簽署的相互認可協議。該協議的簽署是公會歷史上的一項重大成就，它不但表明了兩個世界知名會計團體對公會專業資格課程質素的肯定，也充分反映了公會的國際地位。第二項突破性發展是公會於七月在巴黎舉行的一個三天的網譽認證會議上，與美國執業會計師公會及加拿大特許會計師公會正式簽署了網譽認證發牌權協議。該協議的簽署標誌了會計專業實務的重大發展，同時也顯示了公會對香港電子商貿發展的貢獻。在未來的幾個月，公會將為會員及商界推出有關網譽認證印章概念的訓練及推廣計劃。

年內公會與其他九個主要專業團體共同協商，研究在中國加入世界貿易組織時，應如何向內地推廣香港特區的專業服務。這項計劃的目的是透過研究、推廣、游說及協調來探索契機及克服障礙。公會將通過各有關委員徵求會員的意見，探索公會應如何善用在中國加入世貿後為不同規模的執業會計師事務所帶來的龐大商機。

The Society's commitment in producing a new generation of thinking and forward-looking accountants through the Qualification Programme continues to see an encouraging return. Feedback from both students and workshop facilitators to this programme has been positive. We now have 350 students on the register, compared to 69 a year ago. The Society is convinced that an interactive approach that embodies theoretical and practical knowledge will provide the right learning environment for our future accounting professionals. In the same vein, we published a consultation paper on practical experience requirements for membership admission. The thrust of the proposals in this paper is to define more accurately the types of skills that prospective members should acquire during this period of practical experience through a competency-based framework. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, I hope we can implement the new framework in early 2002.

On Continuing Professional Development, the compliance rate has been very encouraging since mandatory CPD were introduced in January 1999. As we take learning seriously, we are giving our clients, our employers and the public much greater confidence in our profession.

Over the past few months, the Council has embarked on the arduous work of the Fourth Long Range Plan and a review of membership structure. The review processes are stimulating and forward looking. When we have gone through the due process, I hope we will have a blueprint that shapes our future direction and branding in our business community as well as in the international arena.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Lee Kai-fat as our new Executive Director and Registrar with effect from 1 August 2000. Lee Kai-fat has succeeded Louis Wong who retired after 24 years of distinguished service. Lee Kai-fat has over twenty years of valuable experience in the

公會通過專業資格課程培育能獨立思考和具遠見的新一代會計師，成績繼續令人鼓舞。該項課程獲得註冊學生和研習班導師的正面評價。註冊學生人數經由一年前的69名增至目前的350名。公會堅信，這種包含理論性和實際知識的互動教學方式，將為我們未來的專業會計師提供適當的學習環境。按同樣的道理，我們就成為公會會員的實務經驗要求發出了一份諮詢文件。該文件建議通過一個以技能為本的結構，較明確地列出申請入會的申請人在其取得實務經驗期間所應得到的技能。倘若公會在諮詢過程中所獲得的回應良好，公會希望能在二〇〇二年初實施該項新措施。

在專業進修方面，自一九九九年一月的強制性專業進修制度實行以來，公會會員對該制度的接受程度令人鼓舞。當我們以嚴肅的態度對待學習的時候，客戶、僱主及公眾將對我們的專業有更大的信心。

過去數月，理事會進行了籌備第四個長遠計劃及檢討會籍架構的艱鉅工作。檢討過程既有遠見，亦具啟發性。當理事會完成整個過程之後，理事會希望能擁有一個藍圖，指引公會的未來方向及如何提高其在本地及國際商界中的知名度。

本人很高興宣布，從二〇〇〇年八月一日起李啟發接替服務了公會24年後榮休的黃洛華，出任為公會的總幹事兼註冊主任。李啟發在香港

administrative service of the Hong Kong Government. I am sure he will get the same support from members in meeting the challenges ahead of us in this rapidly changing business environment.

We are indebted to Louis Wong for his many contributions to the Society throughout his tenure as Registrar. His shrewd leadership had set the pace for significant growth of the Society from strength to strength over the past two decades.

I would like to extend our warm congratulations to Council member the Hon Chung Shui-ming, Timpson, JP, and member Dr. Lau Wah-sum, JP for being awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR Government. Congratulations also go to our past president Cheung Kintung, Marvin, JP and member Fong Ching, Eddy, JP for receiving the Silver Bauhinia Star; and former Council member Vernon Francis Moore for receiving a Bronze Bauhinia Star. I would also like to congratulate Eric Li, who has been re-elected as our representative on the Legislative Council this September.

Lastly, I am very honoured to have been re-elected President of the Society for a second term which takes my tenure through the New Millennium. I would like to record my thanks to all Council members, committee members, and staff of the secretariat for their support and team work, particularly the two Vice-Presidents Roger Best and Andy Lee.

**P.M. Kam**

3 October 2000

港政府服務二十餘年，擁有豐富的行政經驗，本人深信公會會員將一如既往，對李先生作出同樣支持，以面對這個日新月異的商業環境所帶來的挑戰。

黃洛華出任註冊主任二十多年，對公會建樹良多。在他英明的領導下，公會的會務有長足發展。

本人亦藉此機會，恭賀理事會成員鍾瑞明及會員劉華森獲得香港特別行政區政府頒發金紫荊星章；前會長張建東及會員方正獲頒銀紫荊星章；以及前理事會成員莫偉龍獲頒銅紫荊星章。本人也向於九月獲選連任立法會會計界代表的李家祥致以祝賀。

最後，本人很榮幸獲選連任公會會長，任期跨越千禧。本人謹向所有理事會成員，尤其兩位副會長路沛翹及李兆銓、委員會委員、秘書處職員的支持與合作，致以衷心謝意。

**甘博文**

二〇〇〇年十月三日