



Hong Kong Institute of  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
香港會計師公會

23 December 2014

Dear Member,

### **Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement ("CEPA")**

On 18 December 2014, the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government signed the "Agreement between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Achieving Basic Liberalization of Trade in Services in Guangdong (關於內地在廣東與香港基本實現服務貿易自由化的協議)" under the CEPA framework to liberalise trade in services between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Please refer to the HKSAR government website for the Agreement at:

- English: [www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/legaltext/cepa12.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/legaltext/cepa12.html)
- Chinese: [www.tid.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa12.html](http://www.tid.gov.hk/tc_chi/cepa/legaltext/cepa12.html)

The key liberalisation measures concerning the Hong Kong accounting sector include:

- CPAs who are Hong Kong residents and practising members of the Chinese Institute of CPAs ("Eligible CPAs") can become partners of partnership accounting firms in Guangdong Province with Mainland resident partners having control over such accounting firms. After becoming partners of Guangdong partnership accounting firms, Eligible CPAs need to reside in the Mainland and practise at their firms for more than 180 days per annum and take out professional indemnity insurance.
- For the purpose of applying to become partners of accounting firms in the Guangdong Province, the auditing experience acquired in Hong Kong is considered equivalent to the auditing experience acquired in the Mainland.

The Agreement will be implemented from 1 March 2015. You will be informed of the implementation details of the above liberalisation measures when available.

Yours sincerely,

Raphael Ding  
Chief Executive & Registrar  
Hong Kong Institute of CPAs