

## **Hong Kong Economic Association**

### President's Report 2004-2005

I have been fortunate enough to serve the Hong Kong Economic Association as President for 3 terms since 1999/2000. With the strong support from the Exco Members and from all sister universities we have organized three very successful international conferences. This past year we have for the first time joined hands with the Western Economic Association, the University of Hong Kong, and Lingnan University in organizing a 3-day conference at Lingnan University, which again was co-organized by the Chinese University, the City University of HK, the University of Science and Technology, and HK Baptist University. We had over 50 sessions, with a total of about 180 registered participants. Thanks to the help of the Western Economic Association, we had Prof. James Heckman as our Keynote Speaker to deliver a lecture on labor market reforms around the world. Thanks to all our sponsors, we were able to make ends meet and retained a small surplus, with which we can support the editorial expenses for the Pacific Economic Review. We are now expecting a special issue, most probably on US China Economic Relations, following a key session in the conference.

As stated in my report last year, we collaborated with the Nihon University to bring forth a fourth issue for the Pacific Economic Review in 2004. You must have received it by now, as the first issue of 2005 has already been distributed. The Nihon team is not satisfied with the quality of that particular issue, but promises to work hard to improve it.

We are expecting to hear the verdict on our application to get SSI listing within a matter of weeks. Given the performance in terms of timeliness, quality, and networking, the editorial team is very hopeful that the verdict will be a positive one.

This past March we held our Spring Banquet as usual, and we had a very interesting speaker, Mr. Raymond Lo, to advise us that Hong Kong is due to be ascendant for another cycle of good fortune, and that the world is now entering a phase of greater readiness for compromise as opposed to conflict.

Checking through our record, I notice that we have not held any forum beyond one on the goods and services tax held in April last year. We were

actually about to organize one on trade issues but this was put off for the time being because of timing difficulties. With a big WTO meeting going to be held in Hong Kong and with advice from our senior member Mr. Kayser Sung, the Exco is committed to organizing a forum on trade-related issues before too long.

Finally, let me report that we currently have 21 Life Members, as compared to 14 last year. However, because we are still in the process of collecting the membership fees, the latest number of members in the other categories are not yet available. .

Lok Sang HO  
April 27, 2005