

International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong

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Welcome address by Mr J P Lee, SBS, OBE, JP, Chairman, International Chamber
of Commerce - Hong Kong at the 25th Anniversary Reception
Thursday, 30 November 2023, at the Asia Society, Hong Kong Centre, Hong Kong

The Honourable John K C Lee, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special
Administrative Region,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Our warm welcome to you to the 25th Anniversary Reception of the
International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong (ICC-HK in brief). We are very
grateful to Mr John Lee for consenting to be the Guest of Honour and officiate at
the Ceremony.

2. In 1998, ICC-HK was inaugurated by the Hon Tung Chee-hwa, then Chief
Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It is a reflection of the
principle of "one country, two systems" in the Basic Law for Hong Kong. The
Central Government has recently said this will continue, underlined the
international role of Hong Kong, and perceived the integration of Hong Kong into
the growing Chinese Mainland economy.

3. Hong Kong has earned its fame in the world over the years. From a small
entrepot port, it has become a notable city of light industries, renowned for its
apparel, toys and electronic products. We shall treasure the attributes of Hong
Kong's success to go forward, such as a free and low tax economy, the rule of law
and adoption of common law, Hong Kong people's work spirit and
professionalism in undertaking. Over recent decades, Hong Kong has built and
expanded its international financial and professional services. With the growth of
the Chinese Mainland economy, opportunities abound for Hong Kong to take
advantage of the two-way economic development. The Central Government has
acknowledged Hong Kong's value of being an international financial hub, and a
centre for international legal and commercial dispute resolution services.

4. History shows Hong Kong is resilient. It has gone through challenges because
of world economic downturn, international financial instability, change of



sovereignty, epidemic and other acts of Nature. Hong Kong is adaptable to change. The coming of advanced technological development will be a new frontier, and adds momentum to the vibrancy of the economy, particularly with the Government's avowed policy of supporting technology and innovation.

5. In the past 25 years, ICC-HK has been mindful of the objects of the International Chamber of Commerce, and our commitment to the international engagement of business in Hong Kong. In this regard, we shall relentlessly pursue to help build a favourable business environment. We aim to work for prosperity and peace. We stand for international cooperation not aggression nor encroachment. We are for a one world economy and accept rule based and open competition. We look upon International Chamber of Commerce for leadership in shaping an improved world trading system, and in facilitating the flow of investment to create wealth for better quality of life, while advancing the goals of the United Nations, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and having regard to related literature such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Human Rights for Business.

6. We should like to take this opportunity to thank the Central Government for accepting the institution of ICC-HK. We thank International Chamber of Commerce for admitting us to membership, enabling Hong Kong business to engage and contribute to its worthy undertaking. We thank the Hong Kong Government for extending courtesy to us, and cooperating with us in our endeavours to serve Hong Kong and the international community.

7. People could say "the good old days". Shall we say "for better days ahead" as Hong Kong goes from strength to strength in time to come.

8. May God be with us.

9. Thank you so much for sharing with us this unique moment of ICC-HK. Have an enjoyable and hearty evening.

-- Ends --
30 November 2023