

CEPU taps insights of its Expert Group on "two sessions" for Hong Kong

The second annual session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and the second session of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee were successfully held in March. The Chief Executive's Policy Unit (CEPU) today (April 10) held a seminar at which members of the CEPU Expert Group shared their insights on the key content of the "two sessions" this year and their implications for Hong Kong's future development through in-depth exchanges and discussions.

The seminar was hosted by the Head of the CEPU, Dr Stephen Wong. Four CEPU Expert Group members, who are themselves deputies to the NPC and members of the CPPCC National Committee, were invited to give keynote remarks. They include the Vice-chairperson of the HKSAR Basic Law Committee, Professor Wong Yuk-shan; Hong Kong deputies to the NPC, Mr Nicholas Chan and Mr Allen Yeung; and Hong Kong member of the CPPCC National Committee, Professor Charles Ng.

Speaking at the seminar, Dr Wong pointed out that the government work report presented during this year's "two sessions" carried significant highlights on the parts related to Hong Kong and development proposals pertaining to various matters. All sectors of the community are proactively studying, promoting and implementing the spirit of the "two sessions". By convening this seminar and listening carefully to the views and suggestions from the Expert Group members, he wished to tap their insights on the opportunities for Hong Kong and the specific policy measures that Hong Kong might pursue. The four keynote speakers shared the important messages of the "two sessions" and their takeaways from these sessions. The seminar was held in hybrid mode, and attended by more than 30 Expert Group members. During the Q&A session, meeting attendees raised questions to the four keynote speakers and they had in-depth and lively exchanges and discussions.

Dr Wong said, "I am very grateful to Professor Wong, Professor Ng, Mr Chan and Mr Yeung for sharing with the fellow Expert Group members their understandings and insights on the content of the 'two sessions'. Many of the directions of development underpinned by the 'two sessions' are of great significance and relevance to Hong Kong, including the integrated development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the accelerated development of new quality productive forces, the promotion of innovative developments of the digital economy, the development of a high-quality education system, boosting self-reliance and strength in high-quality science and technology, the upholding of Hong Kong's status as the international financial centre, the promotion of green and low-carbon development, and the proactive linkage with high-standard international trade rules and regulations etc. Members of the Expert Group agreed that Hong Kong should consider ways of giving full play to its unique advantages under the 'one country, two systems' principle, capitalising on its strengths in finance, innovation and technology, and professional services, etc, and assuming its

role as the 'super connector' and 'super value-adder', so as to contribute to our country's high-quality development and grasp the development opportunities therein."

As an internal research organisation, the CEPU will analyse the valuable views and suggestions put forward by the experts in this seminar. It will continue its efforts of conducting strategic and forward-looking research so as to provide the Chief Executive with various viewpoints and research bases.

The CEPU announced in May 2023 the establishment of the CEPU Expert Group, which comprises members of different backgrounds including business, finance, professionals, think tanks and academia to provide expert views and new ideas to the CEPU concerning various topics. For the membership of the Expert Group, please refer to the website of the CEPU (www.cephu.gov.hk).