



香港女工商及專業人員聯會

Hong Kong Women Professionals & Entrepreneurs Association President's Report for 2004 - 2005

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I take pleasure to report on the main activities of our Association for the year term from September 2004 to August 2005. Thanks to support and contribution from all Members, I'm pleased to say that we have just concluded another fruitful year highlighted by a variety of activities focused on promoting the economic and social well-being of Hong Kong, and which also enhanced networking among members.

The activities which the HKPEA organized/co-organized/participated in can be categorized under outstanding women award, women business start-up assistance scheme, public seminars, China and international liaison, public relations, public affairs and fellowship events.

Membership

Our current total number of members stands at 97. Our membership spans across 21 sectors, and the ratio of entrepreneurs : professionals : senior executives in large/medium businesses remains at 20:20:60.

Outstanding Women Professionals & Entrepreneurs Award 2005

The Outstanding Women Professionals & Entrepreneurs Award 2005 was no doubt the most prominent event held during the year. The Award was launched in January 2005 and successfully concluded with an Award Ceremony and Dinner Reception held on June 8th. We were very pleased with the overall standard of the nominated candidates this year. 30 nominations were received and 6 Award Winners were announced. We were greatly honored to have six distinguished Panel Judges, namely, Head Judge Mrs. Anson Chan, Mrs. Laura Cha, Ms. Sandra Lee, Mr. Anthony Nightingale, Mr. Peter Sullivan and Professor Richard Wong. Six Awardees, under Professionals category are Professor Nancy Ip, Ms Vivien Chan and Professor Grace Tang; under Entrepreneurs category are Ms Sandy Yip, Ms Vivienne Tam and Ms Chiang Lai Yuen. All the winners achieved high accomplishments in their own areas. The Presentation Dinner was well attended by 230 members and guests.

Women Business Start-up Scheme

The Women Business Start-up Scheme continued to be a very important initiative that began in 2002, the aim of which was to provide women suffering from loss of employment and decreased income with business start-up assistance. Under Phase I of this scheme, we are happy that the Chinese medicine shop is running well and full loan had been repaid to HKWPEA. The other two had dropped out due to failure in solving various business difficulties. Phase II of this scheme was launched in Oct 2004 with a focus on helping women to go into business for themselves in a cooperative setting, and supported by a partnering NGO. Up to date, two applications were successfully selected, and one of which (a courier service) had just commenced business in August.

Public Seminars

Several public seminars were held in the past year, including an open environmental forum on "How to Make a Business Greener and More Competitive" in Dec 2004 with the HK Environmental Protection Dept. and with the Hon. Mrs. Rita Fan as keynote speaker, and a public forum with the Center for Entrepreneurship of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on "Women Entrepreneurs in Hong Kong and Shenzhen 2005" in June.

Another big highlight of this past year's activities was the "Successful Women Tell Their Stories Seminar Series" (女性成功分享系列), which were jointly organized with the Hong Kong Central Library and held on four consecutive Saturdays in July 2005. Eight outstanding women guest speakers, namely, Mrs. Rita Fan, Ms. Lisa Wang, Dr. Laura Cha, Dr. Maria Lee, Ms. Caroline Mak, Ms. Mary Ma, Ms. Audrey Eu and Ms. Chan Yuen Han shared their stories of success with a total of close to a thousand audiences. All the 4 seminars were very well received and we were immediately approached by the Hong Kong Central Library to stage a similar event next year.

Mainland China & International

The China Committee organized two Chinese Culture Talks featuring Mrs. Lee Mei Yin who is an expert in Chinese culture. The first talk, "Chinese Culture - Exploring its Origin" (中國文化之「探本溯源」) was held in March 2005, and tonight, we will be hearing the second Talk related to Duanhuang (敦煌) by Mrs. Lee.

In the government relations front, the HKWPEA continued to have a warm working relationship with the China Liaison Office.

Also worth noting is that the International & Local Liaison and Mainland Liaison Committees co-organized a highly successful Macau Trip in mid-Aug 2005. The 30-member delegation, led by Chartered President Marina Wong, had a successful mix with government visits including a meeting with the CE Edmund Ho Hau Wah, and leisure tours in Macau's famous hot spots.

Furthermore, Marina Wong and myself represented HKWPEA to participate in the International Conference in Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing + 10) in Beijing in August 2005.

The only regret in this section of my report is that due to scheduling difficulties, the China trip originally scheduled to visit Chengdu and Jiuzhaigou in Oct 2005 had to be postponed, because of insufficient member participation.

Public Affairs

We continued to be responsive to economic development and public issues in Hong Kong by submitting consultation papers to the HKSAR Government. To help better understand issues at hand and to facilitate thought processes, guest speakers from various related professions were invited to speak on the issues identified at lunch talks. These included Ms. Isabelle Young and Mr. Marcellus Wong, both from PricewaterhouseCoopers and Dr. Alex Fung, Head of HKBU Education Studies Department. Following their professional and insightful presentations, we submitted three Position Papers on Estate Duty Review, 2005-06 Budget Policy and Education Reform Consultation respectively. Other public figures who spoke at our meetings included Mr. Shih Wing Ching of Centralline Group who spoke on the property market, and Professor Peter Yuen of PolyU's Faculty of Business who spoke on Hong Kong Health Care Reform in June and Sept. 2005 respectively.

Public Relations

Two press conferences were held to launch Phase II Business Start Up Scheme and Outstanding Women Award in Oct. 2004 and May 2005 respectively. Press invitations were extended to invite the media to attend the Outstanding Women Award Presentation Ceremony and the Successful Women Tell Their Stories Seminar Series in June and July 2005 respectively. A supplement introducing HKWPEA, the Outstanding Women Award and the Award winners was published in the Hong Kong Economic Times on June 8, 2005.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee organized a number of fellowship events with interesting themes or topics. Famous political commentator and scholar, Dr. Ma Ngok gave a lunch talk on the hot issue of Legco election in Oct. 2004. Well-known image Consultant, Ms. Tina Lau gave an inspiring talk on how to enhance one's personal image at the Christmas Dinner in Dec. 2004. Our member Judy Wong was invited to talk on "Fortune in the Year of Rooster" at the Association's Spring Dinner in Feb. 2005.

The year's wide array of activities were made possible through the dedicated efforts of respective organizing committees and the active participation of HKWPEA Members. I'm specially grateful to all Board Members and Chairpersons of all the Working Committees, who despite their own heavy work and family schedules, were able to provide leadership and devote significant amount of time and efforts for the HKWPEA and the community at large. On a personal note, I'm particularly indebted to Chartered President Marina Wong who has continued to give the Board and me her unfailing encouragement, support and wise counselling. May I offer a special bouquet of thanks to all of you, and I look forward to your active support and participation in the year ahead.

With best wishes for continued success,

Sincerely,
Eva Cheng
President

13 September 2005