



THE FORUM NEWSLETTER

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Hong Kong is most definitely open for business.

Declan Martin, Director of Policy with Dublin Chamber of Commerce, recently travelled to Hong Kong to attend a briefing programme on Hong Kong's recovery from SARS. His comments and findings are reported a little later on.

I am also delighted to report that our May networking event in the Gravity Bar of the Guinness Storehouse was very successful. You will find more information on this and on other planned events in the body of this newsletter. We are particularly pleased to welcome Mike Rowse, Director-General of Invest Hong Kong, to address a Forum luncheon in September. Mike is a wonderful speaker and this promises to be a very enjoyable and informative event.

Remember, our aim is to provide a forum for companies and individuals interested in Hong Kong, giving members an opportunity to network, explore business opportunities, exchange views and remain informed of developments in Hong Kong and China.

We are always delighted to receive your suggestions and comments as to how we can achieve those aims. Remember, it's your Forum - make it work for you!

I'd also like to inform members that the Forum web page is now

up and running, hosted on the Dublin Chamber website. Go to the main page, <http://www.dubchamber.ie> and click on the icon in the bottom right corner, or go straight to <http://www.dubchamber.ie/hongkong.asp>. Let us know if there's something you think should be included on the web page.

I hope to see you at next weeks event in Break for the Border, and if not, at a Forum event in the very near future!

Kind regards

Clive Brownlee

2. BRIEFING PROGRAMME – HK'S RECOVERY FROM SARS

Hong Kong is SARS free and open for business.

That was the clear message given to a group of business leaders from around the world at a recent forum in Hong Kong, aimed at relaunching HK's image as a business location. The event was hosted by the HKTDC, and was opened by Michael Sze, Executive Director – one of the most influential public officials in the territory.

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director of Department of Health, provided an extremely honest and, at times, poignant description of Hong Kong's struggle to combat



WELCOME to the second newsletter from the Ireland Hong Kong Business Forum.

Much has been happening in Hong Kong since our last newsletter in May.

I am delighted to say that the SARS threat has lifted and that

the SARS outbreak. It was not of their making, since the disease had been brought into the city from mainland China, but it was certainly theirs to solve. And that they did – with enormous resource applied to the tracking of people’s movements and the identification of the source of the problem. Hong Kong is now SARS free, but –as Dr Chan admitted – they will have to be extremely vigilant in ensuring that it does not return. As a recognition of her international standing in this campaign, Dr Chan has now been appointed as Department Head at the World Health Organisation.

Elsewhere, there are many positive signs that Hong Kong is more than well prepared to take advantage of the international economic recovery. The group was given tours of the newest Science and Technology Park as well as the world famous Cyberport. These are two extraordinary developments of world-class scale – providing state-of-the-art facilities for start-up and research companies in new economy sectors.

Lest it be thought that the group was being given the official technicolour view of the economy, the visit coincided with the Economist Intelligence Unit’s (EIU) latest report on Asia and Hong Kong. Rarely known for their flattery, the EIU report examines all of the arguments relating to Hong Kong’s future threats and opportunities, and concludes that its economic future is extremely sound. Essential reading for all.

Declan Martin.



Declan Martin pictured with Peter Yeung during one of the events during the briefing programme; a luncheon addressed by Dr Margaret Chan, JP Director of Health, HKSAR Government.

3. MAY NETWORKING EVENT



Pictured above at the May Networking Event in the Gravity Bar of the Guinness Storehouse are (l-r): Raymond Yip, Regional Director Western Europe, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Clive Brownlee, Chairman of the Forum and Assistant Managing Director of Diageo Ireland, and Christopher Jackson, Special Representative for Hong Kong to the European Communities.

The event was a great success and was well attended by Forum members.

The Forum would like to thank the Guinness Storehouse and Diageo Ireland for their kind sponsorship of this event.

4. CURRENT EVENTS

We are pleased to inform members of the following events planned to take place

in Dublin over the coming months:

JULY NETWORKING EVENT: Tues 29th July 2003, 6.00 – 8.00 pm. Break for the Border, Lower Stephens St., Dublin 2.

This event will provide an excellent opportunity for Forum members to network and get to know each other in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Declan Martin, Director of Policy, Dublin Chamber of Commerce, will comment on his recent visit to Hong Kong to participate in the Briefing Programme on Hong Kong’s Recovery from SARS.

The Forum is very grateful to Capital Bars for their kind support of this event.

BUSINESS LUNCHEON: Mon 22nd September, 12.30 pm, The Westbury Hotel

The Forum are delighted to announce that Mr Mike Rowse, Director-General of Invest Hong Kong, will address a luncheon for Forum members on Monday 22nd September.

Speakers biography:

Mike Rowse came to Hong Kong in 1972, and has lived there ever since. After spells as an English tutor and a tabloid journalist, he joined the Independent Commission Against Corruption on its establishment in 1974. After serving in both the Operations and Corruption Prevention Departments, he switched to the Government proper in 1980 as an Administrative Officer.

His recent postings include being the first Commissioner for Tourism (from May 1999 to September 2000), and in July 2000 he was appointed as the first Director-General of Investment Promotion. In that capacity he established the government’s investment promotion agency – Invest Hong Kong.

He is married to Fanny Wong, former political editor of the South China Morning Post. They have one daughter and one son. Mike also has two sons by a previous marriage.

In August 2001, he became the first expatriate civil servant in Hong Kong's history to Naturalise as a Chinese National.

Please note that numbers are limited for both complimentary events. For further information or to book your place, please contact Emma Kytzia on emma@dubchamber.ie

NEWS ON HK TRADE FAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE TDC WEBSITE:

<http://www.hktrader.net/200307/lead/lead-tradefair200307.htm>

5. HONG KONG TO HOST 8th ASIAN GAELIC GAMES

The 8th Annual Asian Gaelic Games will be held in Hong Kong from 26-28 September 2003, the first time that Hong Kong has hosted the event. The Hong Kong GAA Club hope that at least ten countries across Asia will send teams and it is expected that over 300 players, male and female, will participate. Most of the players are Irish expatriates or expatriates with an Irish background based in Asia.

Last year President McAleese attended the games and awarded the trophies to the winning teams from Korea and Japan. Her presence gave the event a welcome boost. The event also has a charity angle and last year's event raised almost US\$ 10,000 for charities in Thailand.

The 2003 Games have been actively promoted throughout

Asia since March of this year. For St Patrick's Day, HKGAA distributed 10,000 flyers to the major cities across Asia. From a business perspective, the event offers Irish companies an excellent opportunity to network with Irish professionals working across the region. The event is now the largest Irish sporting occasion in the region and the organisers would welcome more involvement from the Irish business sector.

Further details are available from Fergal Power in Hong Kong at fergal.power@kpmg.com.hk, or from Peter Ryan in Dublin at peter.ryan@iveagh.irlgov.ie

6. ONLINE RESOURCES:

The Forum Webpage:

The Ireland Hong Kong Business Forum web page is now up and running. You can find it at:

<http://www.dubchamber.ie/hongkong.asp>

Hong Kong Trade Development Council:

tdctrade.com is a rich source of timely and practical information on Hong Kong, China and other markets, and attracts up to five million hits a day. Among its most popular features is hkenterprise.com, a non-stop cyber marketplace.

<http://www.tdctrade.com>
<http://www.hkenterprise.com>

Hong Kong Trader:

News for business readers around the world

<http://www.hktrader/net>

Customs & Excise Department, Hong Kong:

<http://www.info.gov.hk>

Dublin Chamber Visa and Legalisation Services:

<http://www.dubchamber.ie/visa.htm> Dublin Chamber has taken over the Visa & Legalisation Service formerly provided by Enterprise Ireland. The Chamber has built a strong

reputation for it's Documentation Service as the licensed suppliers of Certificates of Origin and the sole Irish agent for ATA Carnets for exporting companies. The new Visa & Legalisation service complements the existing Export Documentation Service and a top quality and efficient service is guaranteed to all clients.

Companies Registry in Hong Kong:

<http://www.info.gov.hk/cr/offices/index.htm> Under the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations, every person who imports or exports any article other than an exempted article is required to lodge with the Commissioner of Customs and Excise an accurate and complete import or export declaration within 14 days after the importation or exportation of the article. Prosecution may be initiated against any person who fails to lodge the required declaration, or knowingly or recklessly lodges any declaration that is inaccurate in any material particular. The Companies Registry integrates local and overseas companies into one registry.

Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide:

<http://www.hkfederation.org.hk>

The Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide was set up in November 2000. It is a unique network of 28 Hong Kong business associations, comprising over 8,000 individual associates promoting trade and business links with and through Hong Kong in 22 countries around the world. The Federation links and strengthens its member associations, helping them to expand their reach, improve their efficiency and enhance their networking opportunities. It provides an effective base from which multilateral business relationships and connections with Hong Kong - the most dynamic platform for doing

business with Mainland China and the Asia-Pacific region - can be promoted and expanded globally.

The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.chamber.org.hk>

Irish Exporters Association:
<http://www.irishexporters.ie>

Irish Business and Employers Confederation:
<http://www.ibec.ie>

7. MEMBER PROFILE

The Forum is pleased to provide a platform for members to communicate services, news or offers to fellow members. If you would like to see your company profiled here, please contact us at irelandhkforum@dubchamber.ie

The Asian Institute

Doing business in China and Hong Kong? Make it your business to know the Chinese.

The Asian Institute is a dynamic company designed to bridge the cultural gap between you and your Chinese clients, partners and employees. It's amazing what you will achieve when you know where they're coming from.

The Asian Institute will enable you to:

- > Make your best impression
- > Understand Chinese behaviour
- > Communicate effectively
- > Foster goodwill
- > Succeed in your pursuits

...through:

- > Cultural Training
- > Advice
- > Liaison
- > Translation / Interpreting

The Asian Institute's clients to date have included Iona Technologies, Sigma Wireless Technologies, Dorset College and Intel.

Managing director Sharon Keilthy has lived and worked in China and in Singapore. She speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and has a comprehensive understanding of Chinese culture and approach. With her team of trainers and consultants, she aims to make the Asian Institute the most renowned Asian business support provider in Europe.

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8. PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

A Hong Kong Youth Delegation will be visiting Ireland in August. Further information is available from Mr Kevin Hickey (kevin@eilireland.org), the President of the Youth Commission, who is the co-organiser of this very meaningful exchange between Hong Kong and Ireland.

9. CONTACT US

Please address all comments, suggestions or enquiries to:

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