

香 港 公 民 協 會 HONGKONG CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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Hilton Cheong-Leen Life President

CHINESE NEW YEAR OF THE DOG - MESSAGE

Since my youth, I have always admired Dr Sun Yat-sen, born in Chung Shan, Guangdong. He studied Western medicine in Hong Kong, which was his revolutionary base to overthrow the decadent Ching dynasty. When this happened in 1911, Sun became President of the country for a short period and since then was widely recognized by overseas Chinese worldwide as the Father of Modern China.

By the end of China's civil war in 1949, Mao Zedong, leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), stood up at Tienanmun Square in Beijing on October 1, 1949 and declared the establishment of the People's Republic of China. (PRC).

By 2017 when President Xi Jinping visited Hong Kong to appoint Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, as our new Chief Executive. the PRC by then had made gigantic strides in economic growth to the extent that it is now the world's largest economic power second to the United States.

Under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, both the mainland's socialist economy with Chinese characteristics and Hong Kong's capitalist economy, under the One Country, Two Systems principle, will collaborate even further in China's modernization plans and economic initiatives including One Belt, one Road and the Greater Bay Area.

The Hong Kong Civic Association a 63–year old political group, welcomes the growing trend on the mainland in adapting One Country, Two Systems and Rule of Law into the governance and development of the country as well as President Xi's drive to eliminate poverty in China as soon as possible.

If the Hong Kong SAR Government is to amply succeed in meeting the challenges and opportunities in its national development role, it will need to work closely with the various Central Government Offices stationed here, especially the Liaison Office of the PRC. In this respect, I believe the HKSAR Government is very committed and able to live up to its responsibilities and will not let the nation and people down.

In implementing her Election Manifesto promises to the Central Government and to the people of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam will have to rely on her experience and maturity and capacity to lead and govern.

Our association believes Carrie Lam will do her utmost to fulfill her responsibility to the Central Government and to the people of Hong Kong, providing our community leaders mobilize themselves to go all out to support her and her political team in building a Hong Kong Special Region (HKSAR) identity that "loves the nation and loves Hong Kong" (愛國愛港) under One Country, Two Systems.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, this year presented a well-structured Budget reflecting

- (1) the Chief Executive's manifesto vision for better living standards for Hong Kong people, and
- (2) the HKSAR's commitment to work closely with the Central Government under One Country, Two Systems on the country's National Development and modernization plans.

In this year of the Dog of the Chinese Zodiac, the dog is the symbol of friendliness and loyalty. May I wish all members and friends of our association good health, much happiness, great fortune and wellbeing.