



## Message

My warmest congratulations to the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AustCham) on its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

AustCham is one of the largest and most influential business organisations in Hong Kong. Its prominent representation, ranging from start-ups, SMEs and NGOs to large corporates from various sectors and industries, reflects the scale and diversity of our business links. AustCham members are important partners for the continuous and prosperous development of bilateral relations between Hong Kong and Australia.

AustCham members' valuable contributions to Hong Kong are fully recognised by the Chamber's Community Awards at this year's Gala Dinner. I am pleased to learn that the number of categories covered by the Awards has increased to five this year, and that more AustCham members are deservedly recognised for their commendable achievements.

As an open and well-connected economy, Hong Kong has a multitude of strengths provided for by the "One country, Two systems" principle. These include our low and simple tax regime, trusted common law system, free flow of capital and information, and unparalleled access to the vast Mainland China market. We welcome more enterprises from Australia and across the globe to come to Hong Kong, seize the opportunities here, and share their good stories of our city with the rest of the world.



The smooth implementation of the Hong Kong-Australia Free Trade Agreement and Investment Agreement since 2020 demonstrates the importance of regional cooperation. With this in mind, Hong Kong is seeking accession to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and I appeal to AustCham for its continued support of our cause. With Hong Kong's firm commitment to free trade, we will continue to promote dialogue, inclusive collaboration and mutual prosperity, a vision that is shared by AustCham.

Once again, my congratulations to AustCham on its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With your staunch support, I look forward to more partnerships and closer cooperation on various fronts between Hong Kong and Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John KC Lee'.

(John KC LEE)  
Chief Executive  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region