

**“I look forward to another successful year with our young members learning from their seniors, and seniors finding fulfilment in contributing back to the profession.”**



Dear members,

Earlier this month, the Institute held a ceremony to mark the end of the second year and, at the same time, kick off the third year of the Mentorship Programme. It involved a great moment of experience-sharing among mentors and mentees. We are glad to see the programme picking up momentum this year with 172 pairs of mentor and mentee, an increase from last year's 142. This shows that both our young and senior members are seeing the positive value of this initiative.

Launched in 2015, the Mentorship Programme bridges the past, present and future of the accounting profession, bringing CPAs of all backgrounds and all walks of life together. A closer connection makes us a stronger profession, and this not only brings benefits to members, but more importantly, to the wider Hong Kong society.

I look forward to another successful year with our young members learning from their seniors, and seniors finding fulfilment in contributing back to the profession with their experience.

I was invited by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers to speak at its conference on Belt and Road earlier this month. To find out how we can tap into the immense

opportunities offered by Belt and Road and support the needs of investors, I looked at Hong Kong's competitive advantages in terms of infrastructure, manpower, professional services and education. In particular, I shared my perspective as an accountant. I was delighted to see the positive feedback from other speakers and the audience regarding the role of CPAs in supporting the Belt and Road project.

During the speech, I also shared my experience at the recent business mission to Cambodia and Indonesia organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. In Cambodia, I met some property and infrastructure developers and saw the many investment opportunities there. However, they lack CPAs and other professionals, and would like to work together with Hong Kong to enhance their capabilities, international experience and ethics. In Indonesia, despite its many high-rise buildings, there is also a need to improve infrastructure.

External funding is required to finance infrastructure projects and therefore CPAs will play a key role. But if you are still unsure whether it is the right time to step into the Belt and Road markets, I encourage you to join relevant seminars and

visits to stay up to date on the latest progress, and find out how you can fit into the overall picture.

Professional skepticism is often perceived as the cornerstone of audit quality, especially as the business environment becomes ever more complicated. To support members in this area, the Institute, working with the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, has launched the online professional skepticism course this month, aiming to enhance auditors' ability to apply sceptical thinking to audit work. The course is pragmatic, scenario-focused and provides innovative thoughts for auditors to improve their skills by challenging their approach to skepticism.

Next month, Council members and senior management will conduct their annual visit to Mainland authorities in Beijing and Shanghai. Taking this opportunity, the Institute will hold cocktail receptions in Beijing and Shanghai on 15 May and 17 May, respectively. Mainland government officials and other stakeholders are invited to join us. If you are working or living there, I look forward to welcoming you to the receptions, and exchange views with our guests, Council members, senior management and fellow members.

**Mabel Chan**  
President