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Dear members,

It has been a busy month for me as president. With business returning to normal after the summer lull, conferences, awards, events and dinners are back in full swing. Getting the opportunity to meet and converse with members and stakeholders is one of the great perks of my role.

Early in the month, I presented CPA Australia with an in-depth update on practice review undertaken by the Institute. Some of the top and common practice review findings were shared with participants to help them maintain a high standard of audit and assurance work. I also introduced the Institute's various resources that are available to support them.

At the “Think Asia, Think Hong Kong” event hosted by the Trade Development Council in London, I joined the panel on Chinese outbound investment and highlighted the strength of Hong Kong and how our members can help Mainland enterprises expand overseas with their versatile expertise. While at the Cross-straits, Hong Kong and Macau Accounting Profession Conference in Ningxia, I spoke of the importance of information technology and accounting.

As Chinese outbound investment continues to grow under Belt and Road, Greater Bay Area and other

initiatives, and technology brings change to the profession, the opportunities for Hong Kong will increase, and it is up to us as CPAs to seize them when they arrive.

I had great pleasure in welcoming Matthew Cheung, the Acting Chief Executive of HKSAR at the time, to the National Day Celebration Dinner we held in conjunction with the Society of Chinese Accountants and Auditors. Maintaining good rapport with the government allows us to better convey the views of our members and ensure that our stakeholders see the benefits to society our profession provides.

The second President's Dinner was held in the middle of the month and was a great success, gathering past presidents, Council members and committee chairs. It was a pleasure to introduce the guest of honour, Bernard Chan, Convenor of the Non-Official Members of the Executive Council, and learn from him some ways we can help the society as a whole.

Bernard is very active when it comes to contributing to public service, and making a difference to society is a duty that many of our members uphold too. The Institute recently held a press briefing highlighting the corporate social responsibility activities organized

with our Accountant Ambassadors. I strongly believe that through long-running and new activities such as those under the “Rich Kid, Poor Kid” and “CPA for NGO” programmes, our members can help make lasting improvements to the welfare of the community.

Another two events I would like to highlight are the Business Leaders Series seminar and the annual Professional Accountants in Business conference. The valuable insight from our eminent speakers provided great opportunities for participating members to gain inspiration for their career and business development.

Judging is underway for the Best Corporate Governance Awards and I am pleased to see so many new and returning entries. Your support and involvement has made these awards the benchmark for good practices, and an integral part of the Institute's efforts in advocating for a high standard of corporate governance in Hong Kong. I look forward to the results announcement in November.

Finally, I would like to bring attention to the recent Qualification Programme prize and scholarship winners, who the Institute recently honoured at an event. The hard work and determination they have shown will help them flourish in their careers ahead.

Mabel Chan
President