

Personal History

I first came to Hong Kong in 1972 and have lived here ever since. After brief spells as a tutor and a journalist with the Star, I joined the Independent Commission Against Corruption on its establishment in 1974. After working in both the Operations and Corruption Prevention Departments, I joined the Government proper in 1980 as an Administrative Officer.



After a variety of different postings, I was made the first Director of the Business and Services Promotion Unit in the Financial Secretary's Office from 1997 - 2000, and from 1999 - 2000 concurrently the first Commissioner for Tourism. In those two capacities, I led the negotiations with The Walt Disney Company which resulted in the building of Hong Kong Disneyland. In July 2000, I set up an entirely new department, Invest HK, the investment promotion agency established by the Hong Kong SAR Government, and was its first Director-General up to retirement in December 2008. The agency won several awards and was recognized as the best investment promotion agency in Asia.

During my tenure in the government, I was chairman for five years of the public/private joint venture company which built and operated AsiaWorld-Expo and the first director of Hong Kong International Theme Parks Limited (which owns HK Disneyland), and an alternate director of the MTRC and KCRC among other statutory bodies.

For over 10 years after my retirement, I have been a regular columnist for the South China Morning Post and have contributed commentaries to the Hong Kong Economic Journal and The China Daily. I have also been a co-host of a current affairs talk show on RTHK on a weekly basis.

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

Relevant Experience and Personal Attributes

I believe this background enables me to bring a wealth of relevant experience to the work of the Legislative Council.

I am fully familiar with the workings and structure of the government and the relationship between the administration, the Executive Council and the legislature.

I have travelled extensively to all six populated continents to sell the merits of Hong Kong to international companies as a place to do business, both in its own right and as a stepping stone to the mainland. Conversely I have travelled extensively within the mainland to sell Hong Kong to Chinese companies as a place to do business both in its own right and as a springboard to international markets. As first Commission for Tourism, I have accumulated deep knowledge of that important industry, giving me solid experience of and insight into the tourism sector. This experience of business dealings and the network of relationships I have built up over the years will enable me to advise on how to maintain our city's attractiveness and competitiveness as an international financial and business centre.

I have maintained strong links with the international business community within Hong Kong. Because of this background, inevitably in the course of my work I have had extensive dealings with the international media, both locally and overseas. If I were elected, the connections and experience I have built up over the years will give me an edge in serving Hong Kong, helping me to strive for solid results in promoting our city.

As a media commentator for over a decade, I have not been shy to support the government when I thought it was doing the right thing, nor to offer constructive criticism when I thought it was going off course. If I were elected, I would continue to adopt the same approach in my work to keep the Government under close scrutiny.

Public Service

President of the Street Sleepers Shelter Society. Board member since 1980s

Affiliations

Hong Kong Institute of Directors
British Chamber of Commerce