



Canada's Rugby 7s team was on hand again at this year's Trade Show and Open House.

Entrepreneurs Committee holds second annual trade show and open house

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneurs Committee organized its Second Annual Trade Show & Open House on March 25 and 26. This year's event, held at the Century Hotel in Wanchai, attracted more than 25 exhibitors and over 300 visitors, as well as the Canadian Rugby 7s team who were on hand to sign T-shirts and sample Canadian beer.

This annual event provides a unique opportunity for Canadians in Hong Kong to showcase their products and services in a relaxed and festive environment.



The Commission for Canada beat the Rugby 7s team hands down in the "Identify the Canadian Beer" contest.

PWC member speaks openly about citizenship issues post '97

Preliminary Working Committee member Rita Fan replied honestly to questions of citizenship in Hong Kong post 1997 at a recent



Rita Fan speaks openly about citizenship issues at a members-only luncheon.

round-table luncheon for Chamber members only. Ms. Fan, a former Legco member and current General Manager (Operations) for the Emperor Group and co-convenor of the social and security sub-committee of the Preliminary Working Committee of the Preparatory Committee of the HKSAR, briefly outlined the six categories of people as they relate to citizenship matters.

The first three categories deal solely with Chinese nationals, categories four and five relate to non-Chinese nationals, and category six applies to residents without a nationality or right of abode elsewhere. Categories four and five were discussed in detail, as they pertain to Hong Kong-born Chinese who have become citizens of other countries.

Ms. Fan quoted from Article Four in the Basic Law which says that non-Chinese nationals can be permanent residents of Hong Kong if they have valid travel documents upon entry, have continuously resided in Hong Kong for seven years, and take Hong Kong as their permanent residence.

Ms. Fan's sub-committee is recommending to the PWC that returnees be allowed right of entry with no approval. At that point, they would have to reside in Hong Kong for seven years in order to become permanent residents.

To become permanent residents returnees must have a Hong Kong address, live here with their core family, pay tax in accordance with the law, have a steady income, and declare that they will not leave Hong Kong for a prolonged period of time.

With respect to the seven year requirement, Ms. Fan says there are a number of options being considered. The first option is that returnees must be here seven years from the time they return to Hong Kong. Second, any consecutive seven year period (i.e., 1970-1977) would qualify returnees for permanent residency status. Third, any consecutive seven year period would apply