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President's Message

A leading social commentator recently, rather simplistically, divided people into two groups. The first group he styled as "Hong Kong People" and the second as "Harrogate People".

"Hong Kong People", he considered, recognize that the world is now in a permanent state of chaos and disorder and that it is necessary to take opportunities as they arise, respond to sudden recent changes in the political and economic order and generally embrace the uncertainties which

appear to be part of life in the 1990s. The writer recognized that these qualities manifest themselves to the extreme in the Hong Kong community and hence termed such people as "Hong Kong People".

On the other hand, and in contrast, "Harrogate People" believe that the present state of world disorder is only a temporary phenomenon and that there will be a welcome return to the equilibrium and social order of the 1970s. Accordingly, "Harrogate People", the writer choosing as his example the community of the conservative English country town of Harrogate, refuse to recognize that the world order, and even the social order within their own community, has changed forever. As a result, "Harrogate People" do not take advantage of the opportunities which present themselves today and continue to conduct their lives and their investment strategy as if nothing has changed in the last 25 years.

Those of us who have come to Hong Kong from other communities around the world, I am sure, recognize "Harrogate People" when we see them and even understand the perception.

Perhaps the groupings are simplistic, and clearly such groupings polarize the two view points, however, such illustrations prompt discussion to determine into which of these two groups leaders of major companies and organizations fall.

During my recent visit to Canada, I was able to discuss the opportunities in China and Hong Kong with several leaders from within the Canadian financial community. I am happy to report that those whom I met were very firmly "Hong Kong People" who recognized that irreversible changes had taken place within the world's economic and political community and accordingly were in the process of developing interesting strategies to prosper through these changes and take advantage of the present state of political and social disorder. Indeed, I found that for major corporations an "Asia Strategy" has a huge priority.

In the coming year, the Chamber stands ready to serve Canadian business in orienting itself towards China and its markets in this most challenging of decades.

香港加拿大商會陳清霞主席獻辭

最近，一位聲望高重的社評者簡單地把人分作兩類，第一類為「香港人」，第二類為「哈羅蓋特人」。

他認為，「香港人」確認世界正處於持續混亂狀態，必須緊握一切機會，期對政治經濟秩序突變作出回應；他們對九十年代生活的無常變化處之泰然。評者認為上述特性乃顯示這些人為香港社會之極端典型，因此可稱之為「香港人」。

另一方面，「哈羅蓋特人」則認為，世界目前的混亂狀態只不過是暫時現象，社會終會回復到七十年代的均衡狀態和秩序，他們甚至否認自己社區內的秩序已現永恆的改變。結果是，「哈羅蓋特人」不會抓緊眼前時機，並繼續他們生活方式的舊哲學，猶如過去二十五年內什麼都沒有改變。哈羅蓋特乃英國一保守城鎮，作者以其名借喻此一類人。

我相信來自世界其他地方的朋友，肯定會認出「哈羅蓋特人」，甚至能夠理解他們的想法。

這樣的分類也許過於簡單，顯把兩種觀點都極端化了，然而，它卻能引起人們立即展開討論，到底一些公司和機構的領導人是屬於何類人。

最近我剛訪問完加拿大，有幸與幾位加拿大金融界領袖談及在中國及香港的投資機會。很高興他們是非常典型的「香港人」，他們認為世界政治經濟環境已起了不可逆轉的變化，因而在制定其策略的過程中，會透過這些轉變，因利乘便創造繁榮，並把握現今政治乃社會的紛亂狀態。而事實上，我發現不少大公司已把「亞洲策略」列為其發展計劃之首位。

來年，本商會將傾力協助加拿大商界熟悉中國及其市場，並會在這最具挑戰性的年代，擔當起締造商業成就的角色。

ELIZA C H CHAN