

總經理報告

General Manager's Statement



二零一九至二零年度是二零一零年代的最後一年，亦標誌着新一個十年的開始。對公司註冊處來說，這是一個非常特別的一年。在這年度的開始，我們積極參與來自財務行動特別組織(下稱「特別組織」)的評核員的多輪面談，而在年度的後期，香港因新型冠狀病毒(2019冠狀病毒病)疫情在全球爆發而面對着許多挑戰。

The year 2019-20 marks the end of the decade of 2010s and the start of a new decade. It was an extraordinary year for the Registry which started with our active participation in the interviews with the assessors from the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") and ended with a note of great challenge resulting from the outbreak of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic.





過去一年

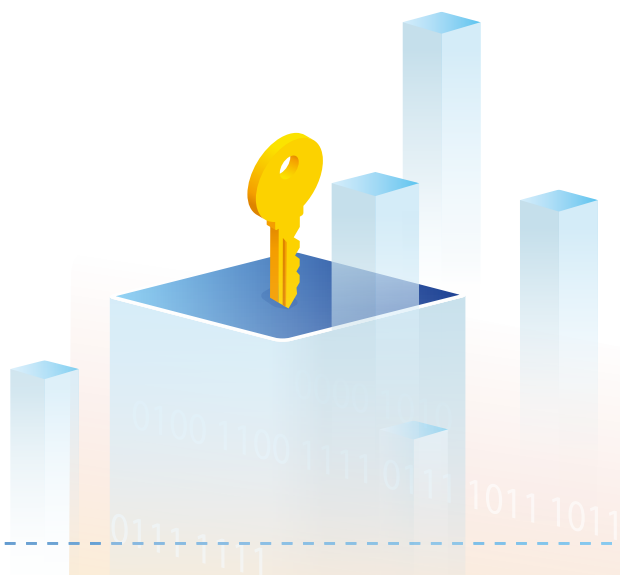
為了促進香港作為理想營商之地的競爭力，本處繼續為公司、公司股東及董事提供優質服務，以方便營商。本處的主要業務，包括為公司辦理註冊、為法定申報表辦理登記事宜，以及為公眾人士提供服務，讓他們取得多個法定登記冊所載的公司資料。在二零一九至二零年度，本處：

- 處理了119,201間新公司註冊成立的申請；
- 截至二零二零年三月三十一日為止，共有1,385,082間本地公司在公司登記冊上；
- 收到交付本處登記的文件有3,109,127份；
- 處理了4,972,351宗文件影像紀錄的查閱，而使用流動裝置進行公司查冊的數目達760,670宗；及
- 批出了659個信託或公司服務提供者牌照。

Year in Review

The Registry continues to provide quality services to companies, their shareholders and directors to facilitate their businesses to foster Hong Kong's competitiveness as an ideal place to do business. Our major businesses include the registration of companies and statutory returns and the provision of services for members of the public to obtain company information kept on the various statutory registers. In 2019-20, we:

- Handled the incorporation of 119,201 new companies;
- Had 1,385,082 local companies on the register as at 31 March 2020;
- Received 3,109,127 documents for registration;
- Processed 4,972,351 searches of document image records, with 760,670 company searches conducted through mobile devices; and
- Granted 659 trust or company service provider licences.





本處過去十年取得的成績

過去十年，我們不遺餘力地方便營商、加強企業管治、實施新措施、努力由一個以紙本模式運作的部門革新成為一個全面電子化部門並不斷改善服務，目的是實現受世界認同為卓越的公司註冊處，為社會提供優質服務的理想。我很高興在此概述本處過去十年的主要發展、重要里程碑和較顯著的成就。

就本處註冊的公司數目方面，由二零一零年的79萬間，增至二零二零年三月底的超過138萬間。《公司條例》已於2012年全面重寫，為在香港營運的公司提供現代化的法律框架，鞏固了香港作為營商地的競爭力。新《公司條例》自二零一四年實施以來，一直運作暢順，得以加強企業管治、確保規管更為妥善、方便營商，以及使公司法例現代化。

過去十年，我們成功革新，由一個以紙本模式運作的部門，演變成為一個全面電子化部門。本處精簡公司註冊成立程序及推出一站式公司註冊及商業登記服務，令香港在「開辦企業」方面的全球排名大大提升，根據世界銀行多年來發表的《營商環境報告》，排名由二零一零年的第18位躍升至二零二零年的第5位。方便快捷的公司註冊制度，包括以電子方式及流動裝置提交公司資料服務，增強了香港在開辦企業方面的競爭力和吸引力，亦令香港作為世界級營商之都的地位更形鞏固。

Our Achievements over the Past Decade

Over the past decade, the Registry has spared no effort in facilitating businesses, enhancing corporate governance, implementing new initiatives, transforming itself from a paper-based registry to a fully electronic one and improving its services in anticipation of achieving world-wide recognition as an excellent Registry giving the community a quality service. It is my pleasure to summarise the major development, notable milestones and the more significant achievements of the Registry in the past ten years.

In terms of the number of companies registered with the Registry, we have grown from 0.79 million companies in 2010 to over 1.38 million by the end of March 2020. The Companies Ordinance was completely re-written in 2012 to provide a modern legal framework for the operation of companies in Hong Kong and reinforce Hong Kong's competitiveness as a place to do business. The successful implementation of the new Companies Ordinance since 2014 enhances corporate governance, ensures better regulation, facilitates business and modernises the law.

In the past decade, the Registry has successfully transformed itself from a paper-based registry to a fully electronic one. Through streamlining of company incorporation procedures and the introduction of the one-stop company incorporation and business registration service, Hong Kong's ranking in "starting a business" jumped from being the 18th in 2010 to the 5th in 2020, as reported by the World Bank in its Doing Business Reports over the years. The convenient and efficient company registration system, including electronic and mobile filing of company information, has enhanced Hong Kong's competitiveness and attractiveness in starting a business. It also reinforces Hong Kong's position as a world-class place to do business.



為履行香港的國際責任及加強香港打擊洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集的監管制度，由二零一八年三月起，本處已實施法定的信託或公司服務提供者發牌制度，以及強制公司須備存重要控制人登記冊的規定。與此同時，為加大執法力度，我們亦設立專責的實地巡查小組，對公司、信託或公司服務提供者及持牌放債人進行實地視察，確保他們遵從有關法例規定、適用的牌照條件及有關的反洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集規定。

本處代表和我，聯同其他監管機構積極參與了特別組織其他成員地區在二零一八年及一九年就香港所進行的成員相互評估，本處代表展示了我們在部門運作時所採取打擊洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集措施的有效性。在特別組織所公布的香港相互評估報告中，香港的打擊洗錢及防止恐怖分子資金籌集制度整體而言獲評為合規而有效，令香港成為亞太區內第一個成功通過特別組織審核的成員地區。

In order to fulfil Hong Kong's international obligations and enhance Hong Kong's regulatory regime for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, a statutory licensing regime for trust or company service providers ("TCSPs") and mandatory requirements on the keeping of significant controllers registers by companies were introduced in March 2018. In tandem, to step up our enforcement efforts, we also set up dedicated onsite inspection teams to carry out site inspections on companies, TCSPs and licensed money lenders to ensure their compliance with relevant statutory requirements, applicable licensing conditions and the relevant anti-money laundering or counter-terrorist financing ("AML/CTF") requirements.

Representatives of the Registry and I actively participated in the Mutual Evaluation ("ME") of Hong Kong conducted by other member jurisdictions of the FATF in 2018 and 2019 to showcase, among other regulators, the effectiveness of the AML/CTF measures taken by the Registry in its operation. In the ME Report of Hong Kong published by the FATF in September 2019, Hong Kong's AML/CTF regime was assessed to be compliant and effective overall, making it the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to have achieved an overall compliant result in the ME.





在相互評估報告中，特別組織讚揚本處，特別是關於信託或公司服務提供者發牌制度及公司披露重要控制人的監管工作。

建設新年代

邁向新的十年，我們會致力建立穩固的基礎，藉以加強香港作為國際金融和商業中心的地位。

方便營商以促進及支持大灣區的發展

為了促進、支持和便利大灣區的進一步發展，本處會繼續致力提供現代化、高效率的公司註冊網上綜合平台，藉此方便營商，並會促進高水平的企業管治。

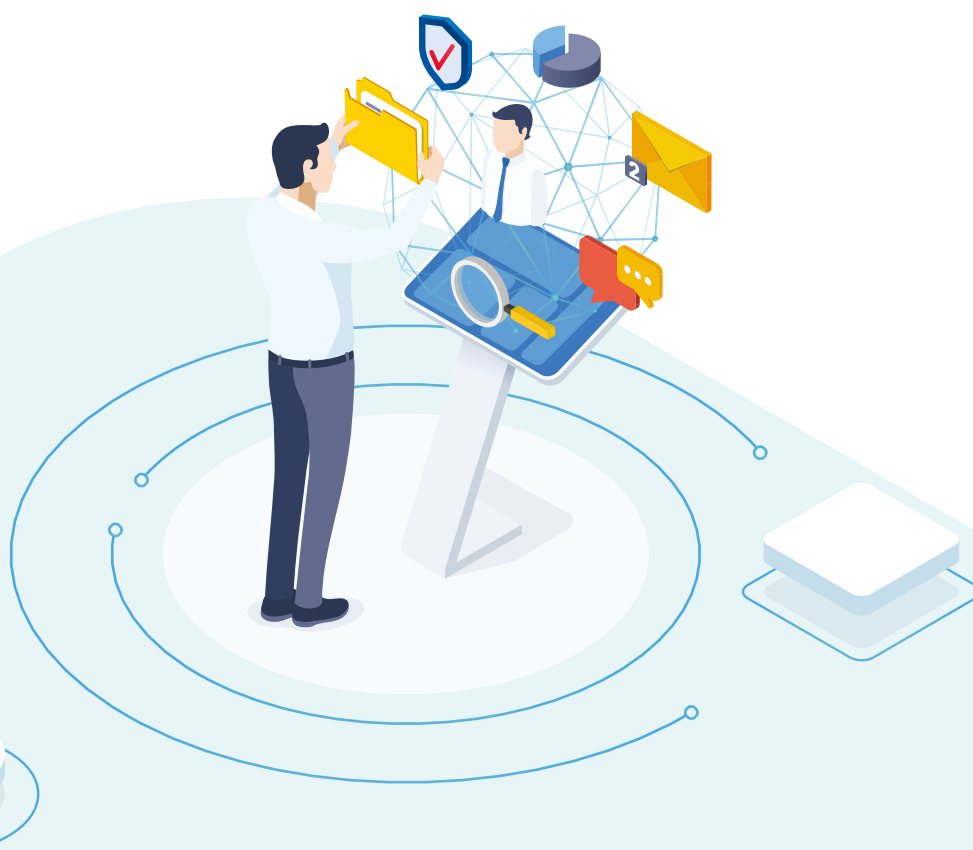
The Registry's regulatory efforts, in particular those in relation to the TCSP licensing regime and the disclosure of significant controllers of companies, were commended by the FATF in the ME Report.

Building for a New Decade

Marching into a new decade, we will strive to build on our solid foundation with a view to further strengthening Hong Kong's position as an international financial and business centre.

Facilitating businesses to foster and support the development of the Greater Bay Area

To help foster, support and facilitate the further development of the Greater Bay Area, the Registry will continue with its efforts in facilitating businesses by providing a modern, efficient and integrated online platform for the incorporation of companies and promoting a high standard of corporate governance.





發展香港成為國際資產及財富管理中心

為進一步發展香港成為首要國際資產及財富管理中心，政府於二零一八年七月引入開放式公司的新結構，以優化公眾基金的市場架構。由二零二零年八月三十一日起，本處亦負責執行全新的有限合夥基金制度，旨在吸引私人投資基金以有限責任合夥的形式在香港成立和註冊。

支援企業

為紓減2019冠狀病毒病對本地經濟帶來的打擊，政府已宣布及實施一系列紓困措施。其中一項支援企業的措施是本處將寬免公司的所有周年申報表登記費(逾期登記除外)，為期兩年，由二零二零年十月一日起實施。

Developing Hong Kong as an international asset and wealth management centre

To further develop Hong Kong as a premier asset and wealth management centre, a new open-ended company structure was introduced in July 2018 to enhance the market infrastructure for public funds. The Registry also administers a new limited partnership fund regime with effect from 31 August 2020 for private investment funds to set up and register in the form of a limited partnership in Hong Kong.

Supporting enterprises

To alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 on the local economy, the Government has announced, and implemented, a series of relief measures. As one of the measures to support enterprises, the Registry would waive the registration fees for all annual returns (except for late deliveries) for two years commencing from 1 October 2020.





利用創新科技提升本處服務

為應付在未來十年將會出現的新服務需求，我們會繼續利用創新科技和數碼技術來提升服務。本處依據「部門資訊科技規劃」研究的建議，展開了全面翻新現時「公司註冊處綜合資訊系統」的工程項目，以期利用最新科技發展來建設一個既能提供服務又能與持份者進行互動的單一網上平台。全面翻新的資訊系統會加入新的特徵，包括設立雲端平台、使用區塊鏈技術和人工智能來提供服務和備存公司資料等。

實施新措施和加強規管

毫無疑問，信託或公司服務提供者新發牌制度加強了香港打擊洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集的能力，有助確保香港繼續成為廉潔而信譽優良的營商之都。未來數年，我們會致力加強打擊洗錢及恐怖分子資金籌集的監管和執法工作。我們亦會特別留意放債業的發展，並繼續改善規管措施以加強保障消費者。

Enhancing our services through innovation

To cope with new service demands in the coming decade, the Registry will continue to enhance our services through innovation and digitalisation. Based on the recommendations of a Departmental Information Technology Planning study, we have commenced the revamp of the existing Integrated Companies Registry Information System, leveraging the latest technological developments to build a single online platform for the provision of our services and interaction between the Registry and its stakeholders. New features of the revamped system would include, for example, the setting up of cloud platform, the use of blockchain technology and artificial intelligence in the provision of our services and the keeping of company information.

Implementing new initiatives and enhancing regulation

The new licensing regime for TCSPs undoubtedly reinforces Hong Kong's capabilities in combating money laundering and terrorist financing and helps to ensure that Hong Kong remains a clean and trusted place to do business. The Registry will seek to enhance its AML/CTF supervision and enforcement efforts in the coming years. In particular, the Registry will keep in view the developments of the money lending sector and continue to enhance regulatory measures with a view to strengthening consumer protection.



感謝之言

最後，這年度的總經理報告是我以公司註冊處處長的身份撰寫的最後一份報告，本人要藉此機會，衷心感謝各持份者對我們的鼎力支持，以及在過去和現在跟我共事的同事，有賴他們以堅毅不拔的意志，秉持專業精神、堅守崗位，努力不懈，使本處得以做好作為公共服務提供者、監管者、促成者和推廣者的角色。特別是在今年年初，我們在極具挑戰性的期間繼續向公眾提供必要服務，各位同事的無私奉獻，克盡己任的工作精神，是有目共睹的。

在此，我祝願公司註冊處在未來十年再創輝煌。



鍾麗玲太平紳士

公司註冊處處長暨

公司註冊處營運基金總經理

A Word of Appreciation

Last but not least, this is my last General Manager's Statement in my role as the Registrar of Companies. I must express my sincere thanks to all our stakeholders for their staunch support, and my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues, past and present, for their perseverance, professionalism and commitment, without which we would not have been able to fully discharge our roles as public service provider, regulator, facilitator and promoter in the past decade. Their selfless devotion and dedication were particularly evident early this year, when we continued to provide essential services to the public in a very challenging period.

I wish the Registry every success in the new decade.

Ms Ada LL Chung, JP

Registrar of Companies and

General Manager, Companies Registry Trading Fund

