

AustCham Macao gathered to celebrate the third year of the three-year long running Power Hour program (Series 31)

A truly remarkable luncheon event featured three amazing speakers who engaged the audience with their concise and fascinating presentations, focusing on Greater Bay Area development.

We were concerned when extreme weather hit Hong Kong just a few days before our scheduled lunch but very fortunately, everything went off beautifully affording a most wonderful occasion. A big thanks goes to our exceptional speakers who discussed the hot topic of GBA development and as always, our team members and guests who so fervently supported the event.



We were privileged to welcome Shannon Powell, the Australian Deputy Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner. Additionally, we had the honour of hosting two highly qualified lawyers, Nicholas Tam who was based in Melbourne, Australia. Nicholas is the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society, as well as the Vice President of HKACE. We were also pleased to have Kenneth Wan, a Justice of the Peace, who is accomplished in his legal field. Kenneth is one of the first batch of lawyers [who](#)

passed the examination in the GBA area. He is now qualified to practice law in Hong Kong, China, and Australia, making him a valuable asset among our VIPs.

Two trade officers from the Queensland government, Director of Trade, Tanya Dillon and Trade officer Gary Tsang also participated in the Power Hour Luncheon. They were both amazed by the turnout and wholeheartedly enjoyed the event. This visit to Macao marked their first after three long years of pandemic related travel restrictions. They expressed a keen interest in further interaction with the Australian Chamber of Commerce Macau going forward.



We were honoured to have in our presence Consul General Custodio Raphael Marques from the Mozambique Consulate, who has been part of the Commonwealth community since 1995. It was truly a privilege to welcome attendees from various academic circles, healthcare professionals, IT technology sector representatives, members of the press, and individuals from the banking sector in Macao.

During the luncheon event, Shannon Powell, the Senior Trade Commissioner praised a large contingent of Australian biotechnology companies that recently visited southern China. They showcased incredible advancements in biomedical innovations and many experts from various technology parks in Australia. CEOs from these companies, as part of a significant delegation emphasised the importance of the Australian technology sector's involvement in the region. In doing so, they highlighted the crucial role they can play as a strong partner in many ongoing, fascinating projects.



Nicholas Tam also stressed the significance of the Commonwealth's participation, emphasising the Commonwealth is an institution based on voluntary cooperation, mutual respect, and consensus decision making. We can all benefit from embracing these values in seeking a less confrontational way of interacting with each other and exploring the opportunities for cultural and economic exchange with the 56 Commonwealth countries, each with its own unique set of resources, skills and needs.



Kenneth Wan found the audience highly engaging and thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. He clarified, "As a lawyer qualified both in the common law system and civil law system, an Australian trained GBA lawyer can be an expert and trusted advisor for clients solving their cross border legal issues. The PRC legal system shares some similarities with that of Germany, Japan and other civil law jurisdictions. However, it is also unique in the sense that its development based on China's unique history and political system."

He continued, "Language ability (English & Mandarin) will be very useful so that the lawyers can communicate with clients and stakeholders directly and have-frank conversation. I encourage young Australian lawyers (ethnic Chinese or otherwise) to understand more about the PRC legal system and explore the enormous market there. Look at that horizon, follow the rainbow and go ride it. For those who pursue that rainbow, you will have a joyous and exhilarating ride."

Both Nicholas and Kenneth expressed their willingness to return and share more of their ideas on ongoing development projects in this legal area.

Chairman of the board, Billy Chan, emphasised the noteworthy fact that exports in the Guangdong area had increased by 3.1% year on year, reaching a record-breaking 3 trillion renminbi. This achievement was attributed to the zero-tariff policy implemented with ASEAN countries which motivated more GBA enterprises to explore various Asian markets. The trade volume in Guangdong and the GBA reached 4.5 trillion Renminbi from January to July, accounting for 19.3% of China's total. Notably, the growth of electric vehicle and lithium cells, as well as solar cells, served as the primary drivers of this remarkable growth with substantial increases of nearly 570%, 23.9%, and 44%, respectively. These figures reflect the GBA commitment to the green and clean energy industries.



In this amazing Power Hour event, participants engaged in meaningful conversations, forged new connections and benefited from a wealth of knowledge. The event took place in a beautiful ballroom of St Regis creating an atmosphere conducive to networking and collaboration. This event and others planned by AustCham Macau have the potential to serve as a catalyst for ongoing business growth and success within the Macao community.