

# 工作保險對行業整體有利

## Work insurance beneficial to all



**示** 威活動最近雖似稍見緩和，但仍未止息，致使業界對前景未敢樂觀。外遊業方面，聖誕市道比預期稍佳，報團人數只是下跌了大約百分之十至二十，但入境業卻毫無起色，內地入境團繼續暴跌九成，整體旅客也可能大挫百分之五十左右。

局面雖然嚴峻，但幸虧各方伸出援手，我謹此代表業界衷心致謝。李嘉誠基金會的中小企「應急錢」計劃，為中小型旅行社提供最多港幣五萬元應急錢，而政府出資的旅行社鼓勵計劃，為所有旅行社提供最多港幣六萬元現金鼓勵，兩者都令業者大為鼓舞。鼓勵計劃的入境部份更在十二月二十日推出優化措施，便利會員。

政府於十二月二十三日宣佈，明年一月將推出「綠色生活本地遊鼓勵計劃」，藉以支援旅遊及相關業界，同時又可鼓勵香港市民親近大自然，推動本地經濟活動。持牌旅行社如舉辦符合指定條件的本地遊，每接待一名參加者可獲港幣一百元，以五百人為上限，即最多可獲港幣五萬元。上述計劃由議會負責執行，詳情將於稍後公佈。

議會推出領隊和導遊工作保險計劃，是希望領隊和導遊在工作時，要麼得到僱員補償保險(即勞保)的保障，要麼得到工作保險的保障。經過將近一年籌備後，議會今年九月發出相關指引，生效日期為明年一月；可是，有工會十二月初表示憂慮，說當初諮詢時忽略了「自僱」一詞。議會理事會於是把指引中「自僱」一詞改為「自由作業」，而工作保險的基本標準及生效日期等則維持不變(見「議會簡報」)。工作保險對領隊、導遊及旅行社都有好處，但願各方都能為業界整體著想。☞

**A**s protests appear to have moderated recently but not ceased, the prospect of a full recovery remains dim. As far as the outbound industry is concerned, the market performed slightly better than expected over Christmas, registering decreases of about 10-20% in group traveller number; but the depressing situation of the inbound industry has shown no signs of abating: the number of mainland tours continued to plunge by 90% and the overall visitor arrivals were likely to drop by about 50%.

Despite the stern situation confronting the trade, many people have given it a helping hand, for which I would like to express gratitude on behalf of the industry. Members of the industry have been greatly encouraged by the Crunch Time Instant Relief Fund programme set up by the Li Ka Shing Foundation to offer up to HK\$50,000 instant relief funding to SME travel agents, and the Travel Agents Incentive Scheme launched by the Government to grant up to HK\$60,000 cash incentives to all travel agents. Enhancement measures to the inbound component of the incentive scheme were introduced on 20 December to facilitate members.

The Government announced on 23 December that a Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme will be rolled out in January next year in order to support the travel and related industries, encourage local citizens to get close to nature and give a boost to the local economy. Licensed travel agents organising local tours that satisfy specified conditions will be offered HK\$100 for each participant of such tours, with a cap on 500 participants, which means a maximum of HK\$50,000. The scheme is administered by the TIC and details will be announced later.

The purpose of launching the work insurance schemes for tour escorts and tourist guides is to enable them to be covered by either employees' compensation insurance or work insurance while performing their duties. After close to one year's preparation, the TIC issued the relevant directives in September this year, which will take effect in January next year. Some trade unions, however, expressed concern in early December, saying they had overlooked the term "self-employed" during the consultation process. The TIC's Board of Directors therefore replaced the term "self-employed" with "freelance", leaving the basic requirements of the work insurance, effective dates, etc unchanged (see "Council Bulletin"). As work insurance is good for tour escorts, tourist guides and travel agents, let's hope every party will take account of the overall interests of the industry. ☞