

## Chairman's Report

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I am pleased to report that during 2008, the Association completed the project undertaken under the Task Force on Gemstones put together by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service of the SAR. In March the new Hong Kong Diamond Testing Standard was launched; it followed the Fei Cui Standard published in 2006. Once again this was the harvest of many months of hard work by the Diamond Testing Standard working group led by Irene Leung, and was the final step of the project *'Trustmarking Hongkong into an International Jadeite Jade and Diamond Jewellery Trading Centre: Establishing a Gem Testing Laboratory Accreditation System for Jadeite Jade and Diamond Jewellery in Compliance with the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025'* granted by the SME Development Fund and implemented by the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

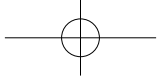
It is 100 years since it was first agreed, in England, that the jewellery trade had a need for its members to be properly educated in the ever increasing complexities of gemmology. The decision to set up gemmological courses resulted in the birth of what was to become Gem-A, which would in its turn give birth to GIA and many other centres of gemmological educational excellence. GAHK was happy to participate in Gem-A's HK celebration of this event in September and feels that it is an anniversary that we all share, regardless of Alma Mater.

A gratifying number of Association members have qualified to be Certified Gemmologist, (Fei Cui) and or (Diamond) – CGs. The first CGs (Diamond) were registered in May this year. To apply for this CG qualification, members must prove that they have fulfilled the CPD (Continuous Professional Development) study requirements. This programme is under the supervision of Johnson Li and Edward Liu, the Education Directors and their team. It is going very well with most of our members delighted to have the opportunity of updating their skills regularly in order to keep up with the ever changing/innovating techniques and advances in the world of gemmology.

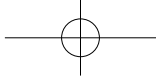
On May 12th North Western Sichuan was rocked by devastating earthquakes, resulting in tragic loss of life, homes and businesses for many people. There was a great response from around the world as people gave generously to help those affected and the suggestion was made that some of our members might wish to contribute through a fund set up by GAHK. This was willingly taken up and acknowledgement is made of those members who contributed to the GAHK Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund on page 2 of this journal. Thanks to KK Chow for initiating the Relief Fund.

### **Below are reports on:-**

**Programmes** -- Thanks to Eddie Fan, Henry Leung and their working group, the Association organised the following programmes in 2008, some of which were jointly organised with the public speaker team led by Norman Siu, Dominic Yim and Miranda Lee:-



- January 12<sup>th</sup>** -- Members enjoyed a visit to a gemstone factory in Shenzhen.
- March 4<sup>th</sup>** -- Miss Irene Leung, Mr C.K. Cheung and Mr Udi Lederer spoke at the press conference held to launch the new Hong Kong Diamond Testing Standard.
- May 26 & 27<sup>th</sup>** -- Mr C.K. Cheung spoke on the following topics:  
1- HOKLAS requirements and the application of ISO 17025 for gemstone laboratories  
2- Calibration and Testing – Uncertainties for Gemstone Laboratories
- June 15<sup>th</sup>** -- 翡翠的奧秘及鑑賞, Speaker: Prof. Mimi C.M. Ou Yang  
鑽石評級及鑑賞 - 最新香港標準鑽石測試方法和證書內容全解碼, Speaker: Miss Irene Leung
- June 16<sup>th</sup>** -- 解讀流行、潮流情報：珠寶營銷管理成功之鑰, Speaker: Dr. Norman Siu
- June 20<sup>th</sup>** -- Members spent an enjoyable evening at our Annual Dinner and Fellow Members Certificate and CG Certificate presentation. The Guest of Honour was Miss Connie Lau, Chief Executive of the Consumer Council.
- June 21<sup>st</sup>** -- Mr K.K. Chow presented the GAHK seminar at the June Hong Kong Jewellery & Watch Fair. His subject was: Jewellery Appraisal in the Antique Market – A Brief Evaluation Criteria of Antique Jewellery.  
Other speakers were:  
Dr Pornsawat Wathanakul who gave us Buying Tips for Ruby and Sapphire  
And Mr John Koivula: The Microworld of Jade.
- July 10<sup>th</sup>** -- Professor Yuan Xinqiang presented his Research Report on the Optical Effects of Round Diamond.
- August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup>** -- Some of our members were lucky enough to participate in a study trip to Sri Lanka.
- September 19<sup>th</sup>** -- The GAHK presented the following seminars at the September Hong Kong Jewellery & Watch Fair:  
The Origin and Characteristic Gemmological Features of the Glassy Variety of Jadeite Jade – Speaker: Prof. Mimi C. M. Ou Yang  
The True Raspberry Red Beryl from Madagascar – Speaker: Mr Lui Shang-I  
New Developments in the Study of Diamond and Diamond Cuts – Speaker: Dr Yuan Joe Chih-Chung
- November 22<sup>nd</sup>** -- “Gemmological Sharing”: We were privileged to be given a glimpse of the personal collection of Mr C.K. Chan. This was followed by a BBQ which was much enjoyed by all.
- Membership** -- with the great efforts of Membership Directors Michelle Lai and William Fong Yan, the total membership was 289 as of December 2008 with 252 Friends of GAHK.



We are now happy to have an increasing number of Fellows whose gemmological training has come from a variety of educational bodies and feel that this enlarges our perspective and broadens our view of professional gemmological education in HK.

**Journal** -- Thanks to Christine Chu and Anne Carroll Marshall for producing the 2008 GAHK Journal - a very time-consuming task which they have undertaken now for many years.

**Website of GAHK** -- Thanks to Eddy Wong, the web master and Norman Siu, the GAHK website has been vastly re-framed and will soon be hyper-linked to the Consumer Council.

Last but not least, I would like to express all our thanks, once again, to the members of your Board who have, as always, put considerable efforts into their work for the Association and whose contributions have made it another successful year. These thanks go also to those members who have actively participated in the many functions organised over the year. With such strong support I believe we may all look forward to further progress in the year 2008 even though many of our members may find it an economically testing time.

**Louis Lo**  
Chairman 2008