

# Letter from the Chairman

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## 2017

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This has been another tough year as I have worked to achieve the goals set in my second year as chairman of GAHK.

On 1 July 2017, the Fei Cui Testing Standard 2016 was implemented by the jewellery industry and joint laboratories, making *Natural Fei Cui* (天然翡翠) the final conclusion for test reports. The Consumer Council will follow the testing Standard when mediating in any disputes between traders and consumers. The Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department will also apply this Standard in their execution of legal action under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance.

We have received strong support from the jewellery industry and the Hong Kong Council for Testing & Certification who continue to sponsor and promote the Standard and are urging us to complete the documentation so that the Standard can be handed over to the HOKLAS Task Force of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service for its ISO 17025 second version update.

Many thanks to the publication team who have done a marvelous job in collecting professional articles for our journal; the programme and public speaker teams who have operated CPD updating seminars and workshops; the Certified Gemmologist programme under the education team who monitor the CG qualifications; the membership team whose successful promotion means that we have an increase in membership numbers this year, taking us up to 489 members; the education team who edit and revise those training courses which reflect our professionalism; the web master team who have developed and maintained an updated website function which is not only a great help to our members but also fosters the understanding of Gemmology among the general public; the ambassador team who have worked silently but effectively to keep our Association in the public eye; and the label scheme team who diligently persist with the revision of our qualification policies.

Finally, special thanks to our former Chairmen, Louis Lo, and Henry Cheng and Chairlady Mimi Ou Yang. The successful functions and achievements that have advanced our association's aims over my two years as Chairman owe a great deal to their generous guidance and support.

**K. K. Chow**