

# Board of Directors' Report 2023

Dear GAHK Members,

With the reopening of the border and the dropping of all Covid restrictions, the Hong Kong gem and jewellery industry is getting back to business as usual in this post pandemic period.

Thanks to the hard work of our directors we have been able to organise and participate in many gemmological events again this year.

The 43rd GAHK anniversary dinner cum presentation of FGAHK & Certified Gemmologist Certificates and Gem-A Gemmology and Diamond Diplomas was held on 16 December, 2022. Our thanks to Gem-A for their continuing sponsorship of the event. We were honoured to have Ms Louise Ho, Commissioner of Customs & Excise, Government of HKSAR as our Guest of Honour whose speech focused on a new registration regime for dealers in precious metals and stones (DPMS) in Hong Kong.

Apart from a full programme of professional gemmology seminars, it was a great privilege to invite Dr Lore Kiefert to give a special workshop on "Heat Treatment and Origin Determination of Ruby and Sapphire" on 2 March, 2023. It was a great success, and we all felt that Dr Kiefert's professionalism and experience would greatly enhance our fellow members' practical gem testing skills.

On 12 January, our representatives participated in the Asia-Pacific Gemstone and Technology Standardization Alliance (AGA) Board Meeting and shared our experience of the practical application of the Hong Kong Fei Cui standard in a virtual seminar. Congratulations to Mr Sumed Prasonpongshai of GIT who was elected as the next President of AGA. We anticipate that with the strong team assembled by AGA and given the keen cooperation of all its members AGA will go on to excel in Technology and Standardization for our industry.

On 16 February, I had the pleasure of being invited, along with Mr Kent Wong and Mr Stanley Chu (Honourary Industry Advisors of the GAHK Fei Cui Standard) to participate in a Fei Cui Jade Panel at the ICA Congress (Dubai) 2023. A comprehensive explanation was given as to the nomenclature, market for and scientific research into Fei Cui. The response was positive. Many ICA members and participants were surprised at the size of consumption of Fei Cui in China during the pandemic period. The event marked another milestone for the "Internationalisation of Fei Cui Standard".

In association with the Federation of Hong Kong & Kowloon Labour Union, we invited Mr C.K. Cheung to be our guest speaker on ISO training in April, 2023. Again, this was a great success. Core competencies and the requirements of ESG ISO training for "Certified International Gemmologist (CIG)" status were also discussed.

In order to promote and develop an internationally accepted Fei Cui Standard for the trade and clients and in order to strengthen regional cooperation, in August 2022 MOUs were signed with the Gemmological Institute, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan (GIC), Macau Goldsmiths' Guild, Guangdong Gems & Jade Exchange (GDGLE) and the Hong Kong Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association (HKJJA). A Professional Writers Team (PW) and a Consultation Advisors Team will be formed to prepare a draft of the International Fei Cui Standard for CIBJO/GAHK Fei Cui Working Group members' review, discussion and consideration. GIC Prof. Yang Mingxing will be the convener of the PW team and CIBJO President Dr Gaetano Cavalieri will be the Chief Advisor of the Consultation Advisors Team.

Our honorary legal advisor Mr Peter Ma has retired from his post as of August 2022. We thank him for his long and dedicated service to GAHK and wish him the best for his retirement! We were honoured to invite Ms Maria Y.C. Lo of So, Lung and Associates Solicitors to take over as our new honorary legal advisor in October, 2022. Her professional knowledge and legal expertise will surely be invaluable for GAHK's future development.

Thank you to all our fellow members, friends and other Associations and Organisations for their continued support. Let's embrace all the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead next year!

LIU Shang I, Edward (Prof. Dr)  
Chairman 2021-2023