

INVITATION

Shaping a Budgetary Strategy for Hong Kong

What can we expect from the HKSAR Government's 2009 Budget?

13 January, 2009

Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong

8.30am-10.30am

BACKGROUND

In the short-term, there are pressures not only for sharp monetary easing but also unprecedented fiscal relaxation. Looking further ahead:

- What are the implications for the budget of an ageing population and the pressure for higher levels of welfare and health spending?
- What are the spending implications to improve Hong Kong's education for the young? How urgent is it to take pre-emptive action?
- Can we rely on a growing economy to provide the means to meet the actual needs when they arise?
- Is the Hong Kong way of taxing land sustainable, and what are its benefits and constraints?
- There are also questions about the government's need to maintain financial reserves on the scale currently held, the case for broadening the tax base, and reforms to policies in such fields as land sales and public housing.

These issues are the subject of a Civic Exchange research project led by Tony Latter with the support of Leo Goodstadt and Roger Nissim. Co-organised by Civic Exchange, Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy (HKIEBS) and Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL) of HKU, the three authors of a soon-to-be-published report will discuss their findings and perspectives on Tuesday, 13 January 2009 at the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club.

DETAILS

Time : 8:30am – 10:30am (Registration at 8:15am)

Date : Tuesday, 13 January 2009

Location : Main Dining Room, Foreign Correspondents' Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

Admission is free, but seats are limited. Please click here to [REGISTER](#)

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SPEAKERS

The authors are well-known for their expertise in the respective fields. **Tony Latter** is a senior research fellow of the HKIEBS; he was previously deputy chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and a visiting professor at HKU. **Leo Goodstadt**, a former head of the government's Central Policy Unit, is now attached to HKU's Centre of Asian Studies. **Roger Nissim**, at one time government land agent, is adjunct professor at HKU, a founding director of the Heritage Hong Kong Foundation, and consultant to Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. Panel discussion session will be moderated by **Christine Loh** (Civic Exchange) and **Prof. Richard Cullen** (Visiting Professor, HKU) will give the first comment to kick-start the discussion. Please come and join this discussion.

REFERENCE

Please visit Civic Exchange website to download Prof. Richard Cullen's recent publication: "[*The Foundations of the Hong Kong Revenue Regime*](#)".