Competition Commission Thrives on Board Diversity

委員會組合多元化 助競委會蓬勃發展

Zhang Mengying 張夢瑩



▲ Members and senior management of the Competition Commission attended the Directors of the Year Awards presentation ceremony. 競委會委員及管理層成員出席「2022 年度傑出董事獎」頒獎典禮。

he Competition Ordinance, under which the Competition Commission was established, is a relatively new law that came into force in December 2015. In the seventh year of its full operation, this young law enforcement agency has become a winner in the HKIoD's Directors Of The Year Awards under the Statutory/Non-Profit Distributing Organisations Category. The 21st Century Director has the pleasure to interview Mr. Samuel CHAN Ka-yan, BBS, JP, Chairman of the Competition Commission, revealing how the Commission embraces corporate governance excellence to navigate a complex new regulatory landscape, establish credibility, and win respect of a diverse range of stakeholders consistently over the last seven years.

Board diversity is a key success factor of the Commission, according to Samuel. The 15 Members on the Commission come

from a wide range of industries and fields, whose sage advice contributes to best-informed decisions made on the board level and implemented across the organisation.

"Every batch of our Commission Members are very diversified, comprising lawyers, economists, those with rich experiences in public administration as well as representatives from trade associations, political parties and academia, which ensure that we can make balanced and all-rounded decisions. Our role is to promote a competitive environment in Hong Kong that is conducive to free flow of trade, efficiency and innovation, bringing more choices and better quality and prices of goods and services to consumers," said Samuel.

The Commission also observes important international trends, including gender diversity. At the moment, over 30% of the Commission Members are female.

2022年模範董事專訪

Setting the right vision

The laws and economic theories in the competition regulatory regime are highly technical. While Hong Kong makes reference to the EU's model, our economy is vastly different from Europe or any other economies in the world.

"As a relatively young enforcement agency, we are learning as we grow in experience and exposure in enforcing the Competition Ordinance in Hong Kong. To build our credibility and relevance as an enforcer, our strategy is to carefully envision our way forward and set the right priorities, based on our Members' deep understanding of laws, economic theories and Hong Kong's unique business environment," said Samuel.

"We have set three priority areas as a guiding framework for the Commission's overall enforcement direction, namely (1) anti-competitive agreements and practices affecting people's livelihood, (2) potential exploitation of public funding and subsidies, and (3) cases involving digital markets, all of which are matters that people in Hong Kong care deeply about. These priorities are formulated under our vision to safeguard a level-playing field for businesses and in the interest of consumers, enhancing economic vibrancy, stimulating innovation and delivering consumer benefits in Hong Kong. We believe that if our vision is right, everything will fall into the right place," he added.

Performance and Conformance

In addition to attending Commission meetings, Members are also represented on the enforcement committee, finance and administration committee, and staff committee, which are established to oversee and assist with establishing



▲ Samuel believes board diversity is a key success factor of the Commission. Samuel認為委員會組合多元化是競委會成功的關鍵因素。

priorities for investigations, advise on financial and administrative matters, and make recommendations on organisational development respectively. It is evidential that the Competition Commission has proactively embraced corporate governance principles to drive excellent organisational performance, alongside fulfilling the high expectations of conformance as a statutory organisation.

Over the past few years, the Commission has spared no effort in developing its information technology capability to enhance productivity and efficiency in a fast-changing environment, especially in facing the challenges brought by the pandemic. A key initiative was the launch of a digital document management system which not only facilitates the circulation of confidential information among Members while maintaining the highest standards of security and integrity, but also demonstrates the Commission's commitment to environmental, social and governance principles.

"Like many other private and public organisations, the Commission has evolved rapidly to enhance our digital readiness during the pandemic. We are proud to witness how the Commission and its executive team have swiftly made digitalization of important organisational functions a priority and implemented new system upgrades to attain 'business as usual' since the beginning of pandemic. In addition to the capability of conducting Commission meetings virtually, we take pride in the Commission's efforts in achieving paperless document management for the board. Instead of going through a big binder of documents for each board meeting, now Members can access digital documents at their fingertips on a secured platform. This also makes the updating of documents more streamlined, confidential and environmentally-friendly, because we do not have to print and replace the updated content physically anymore," said Samuel.

Samuel thanked HKIoD for awarding the Commission this important corporate governance accolade, and providing the organisation an opportunity to reinforce the importance of corporate governance.

"The Commission is very encouraged to have won the HKIoD Directors of the Year Awards, which is an important recognition



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Oct 2023	11/10	2:15 - 4:15pm	Data Protection in Property Management Practices 物業管理的資料保障	Online 網上形式	\$750/ \$600*
	25/10	2:15 - 5:15pm	Recent Court and Administrative Appeals Board Decisions 法院及行政上訴委員會近期的案例	Online 網上形式	\$950/\$760*
Nov 2023	8/11	2:15 - 5:15pm	Data Protection and Data Access Request 資料保障與查閱資料要求	Face-to-face 面授形式	\$750/\$600*
S E	22/11	2:15 - 5:15pm	Practical Workshop on Data Protection Law (English) 資料保障法律實務研習班 (英語)	Online 網上形式	\$950/\$760*
Dec 2023	6/12	2:15 - 5:15pm	Data Protection in Banking / Financial Services 銀行 / 金融服務的資料保障	Face-to-face 面授形式	\$750/\$600*

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^{*} 只適用於私隱專員公署之保障資料主任聯會會員或支持機構(包括香港董事學會)的成員。

2022 Role Model Interview

of our dedication to high standards of governance in exercising our functions under the Competition Ordinance. It is also heartwarming to see our busy Members getting together and celebrate this achievement over the gala dinner. Moreover, many of the attending guests are our contacts in the closely knitted business circle and the opportunity to network and exchange is highly valuable to us," concluded Samuel. "Looking ahead, the Commission will continue to uphold excellence in corporate governance to ensure professionalism, transparency and integrity in the best interest of all consumers and businesses in Hong Kong."

015年12月全面生效的《競爭條 例》,是一條相對較新的法例,亦 是競爭事務委員會(競委會)成立 的基礎。在全面運作的第七個年 頭,這個年輕的執法機構亦成為了香港董 事學會年度傑出董事獎法定/非分配利潤組 織類別的得獎者。 《廿一世紀董事》藉此 採訪了競委會主席陳家殷先生BBS JP,分 享競委會在過去7 年來如何通過卓越的企 業管治,穩步應對複雜而嶄新的監管環 境、建立公信力,並贏取各方持分者的尊 重。

競委會的 15 名委員來自不同的行業和領域·陳家殷(Samuel)表示·委員會組合多元化正是競委會成功的關鍵因素。各委員的精闢意見·有助競委會作出明智的決策·並在組織內實行。

他補充:「競委會的委員構成非常多元化·包括律師、經濟學家、公共行政專家·以及行業協會、政黨和學術界的代表·全靠他們的寶貴意見·競委會才能夠做出平衡和全面的決策。競委會致力推動有利於自由貿易、高效率及創新的競爭環境·以祈為本港消費者帶來更多選擇、更佳價格和更具質素的商品及服務。」

競委會亦會留意重要的國際趨勢·包括董事 會的性別多元化。目前·競委會的女性委員 比例佔超過 30%。

訂立正確的願景

競爭監管制度牽涉複雜的法律和經濟理論。 雖然香港的競爭法參考了歐盟的模式‧但我 們的經濟與歐洲或世界上任何其他經濟體都 有很大的差異。

Samuel 解釋:「作爲一個相對年輕的執法機構,我們會在執行《競爭條例》期間一直 累績經驗和接觸不同範疇,從而不斷學習和 成長。為建立我們作爲執法機構的公信力及 相關性,我們的策略是根據委員們對法律、 經濟理論和香港獨特商業環境的深刻理解, 謹慎制定出正確的願景和執法重點。」

他又指出:「我們制定了三大執法重點·作為競委會的總體執法方向·三大重點包括(1)損害民生的反競爭協議和行為、(2)濫用公帑和政府補貼的行為·以及(3)涉及數碼市場的案件·這些都是香港市民關注的議題。我們的願景是為香港消費者及商界維護平等競爭環境·提升經濟活力、激勵創新·及促進消費者利益。我們相信·只要有正確的願景·一切工作都會明確到位。」

績效合規並重

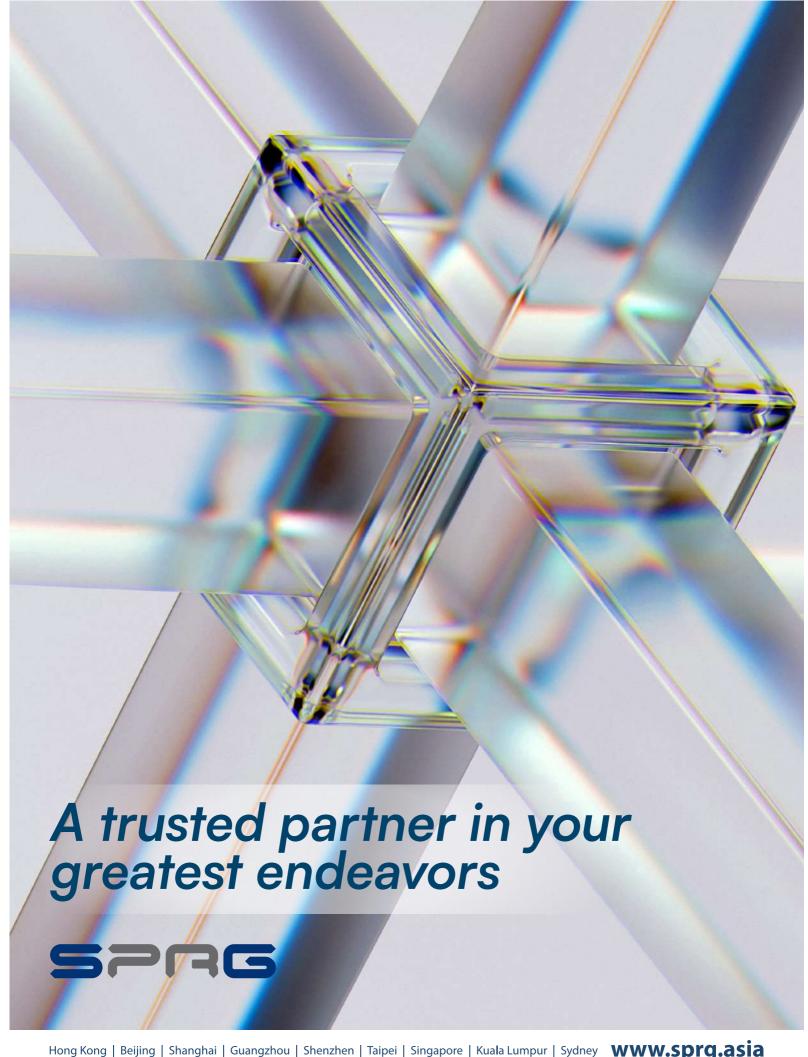
除出席競委會會議外,競委會委員亦會參與 執法委員會、財務和行政委員會以及人事委 員會,這些委員會的成立,是為了監督並協 助定出調查的優先次序,和就財務及行政事 宜以及組織發展提供建議。競委會積極實踐 機構管治原則,以推動卓越的組織成效,同 時滿足各界對其作為法定組織的合規性的高 度期望,這些成績是有目共睹的。

過去幾年‧競委會不遺餘力地發展資訊科技 方面的能力‧以提升生產力及效率‧同時應 對急速變化的環境以及疫情帶來的挑戰。其 中一項重要措施是推出數碼文件管理系統‧ 這不僅有助委員在高度安全及的環境下傳閱 敏感資料‧同時亦貫徹機構對環境、社會和 公司治理方面的承諾。

Samuel 表示:「與許多其他私營和公營機構一樣,競委會在疫情期間迅速加強了機構的數據系統能力。自疫情開始以來,競委會及其行政團隊把數碼化視爲優先事項,透過升級新的系統支援競委會履行其職能,並確保職員能在疫情期間如常辦公。除了以線上模式召開競委會會議外,我們亦為引入無紙化文件管理系統感到自豪。過去每次會議,委員都會收到一大疊文件,現在,他們可以在加密平台上輕鬆閱覽文件,這亦令更新文件變得更為方便、保密和環保,因為我們不再需要重新打印和替換相關文件。」



▲ Competition advocacy is an important part of the Commission's work. 宣揚競爭訊息是競委會的重要工作之一。



2022年模範董事專訪

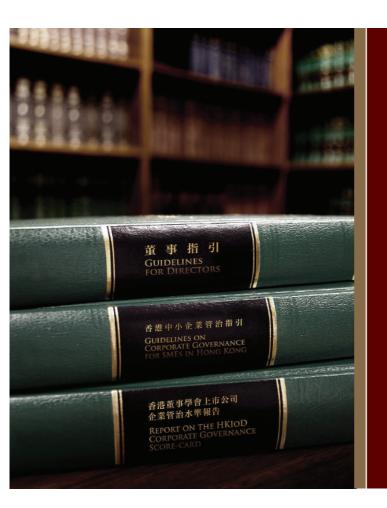
Samuel 感謝香港董事學會向競委會頒發這項重要的公司治理榮譽·並為該會提供了一個彰顯機構治理重要性的機會。

他總結道:「競委會對榮獲香港董事學會年度傑出董事獎感到非常鼓舞。這是對我們在履行《競爭條例》下的職能時‧致力恪守高水平機構管治的重要認可。看到忙碌的委員在晚宴上慶祝我們努力的成果‧實在感到欣慰‧不少在場嘉賓都是我們在業界的友好‧與他們交流的機會對我們來說亦非常寶貴。展望未來‧競委會將繼續努力‧堅持卓越的機構管治‧秉持專業、透明及正直的原則‧維護香港消費者和企業的利益。」

★美



▲ The Commission organized a press conference to announce its enforcement actions. 競委會舉辦記者會,向傳媒講解執法行動。



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