

By Email (letters@scmp.com)

The Editor  
South China Morning Post

Dear Sir:

I find the article by Anthony Cheung on China's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (Oct. 7) to be both informative and thought provoking.

I concur with him that if China's resurgence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to be sustainable, its "soft power" levels need further upgrading, especially in the rule of law, reining in of corruption, improving living standards for the desperately poor, and pressing ahead with social and political restructuring in parallel with rapid economic growth.

An encouraging sign in that direction is the recent announcement by the CCP leadership that there will be more intra-party democracy introduced which will then expand outwards towards the vast expanse of China's body politic.

Hong Kong's Professor Charles Kao has just won the Nobel Laureate award for his achievement in Fibre Optics research, which has created a revolution in the pace of global communications. Achievements such as this give reason to hope that China could become a "prosperous, democratic, harmonious and culturally advanced" country in even less than the 40 years envisioned by Premier Wen Jiabao.

In this regard, the Hong Kong community can play a constructive and significant role under the Basic Law, and the "one country, two systems" principle.

Firstly, Hong Kong cannot under any circumstances forego its status as an economically strong, competitive and vibrant international financial and business centre.

Secondly, if Hong Kong is to attain universal suffrage by 2020, the different sectors in the community will have to exert their utmost efforts to achieve concrete and binding agreement at each stage of the negotiating process.

Hong Kong residents as a whole are sensible and pragmatic, and for this reason I am highly optimistic of Hong Kong's future.

Sincerely,

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