

Board of Directors' Report 2024

The new Executive Committee of GAHK was elected during the Annual General Meeting on 11 September 2023. It is my honour to continue serving as Chairman.

The Gemmological Association of Hong Kong uphold our mission to promote the education and practice of gemmology, foster professional development, while ensure the highest standards of integrity and expertise within the industry. The previous year has marked significant advancements in our educational programs, research initiatives, and community engagements.

Thank for the hard work of all directors. We conducted various seminars including advance gemstone testing techniques, grading and market trends successfully. Seminars comprised of opal, ruby & sapphire, as well as fei cui, etc. Additionally, we hosted the Seminar on International Fei Cui Standard during the HKTDC Hong Kong International Jewellery Show in March 2024, where the global harmonisation works and the discussion draft to CIBJO/GAHK Fei Cui working group were communicated. The activities offered unique and valuable experiences, expert insights and practical learning opportunities. Members could expand their knowledge, skills, and expertise during participation.

The Highland Reservoir (East Dam) Geo-Trail in April 2024 was a resounding success, introducing to participants impressive geological features of hexagonal rhyolitic tuff columns in the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. Participants acquired essential insights of Hong Kong's geological history. Through hands-on activities and identification of rocks and minerals the tour highlighted the critical role of volcanic activities in shaping the region's geological evolution. This immersive experience deepened participants' understanding of the geological processes leading to formation of valuable gemstones. This cultivated greater appreciation for Hong Kong's rich geological heritage.

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for gemstone standardisation was signed with The Gem and Jewelry Institute of Thailand (GIT) in March 2024. Both parties would recognise the fei cui and corundum testing standards and reports mutually, whilst would collaborate more closely to provide professional trainings and information exchange for staff and members.

The collaboration between GAHK and GIT on research projects has achieved significant advancement in gemmology, especially in Guatemalan fei cui and in determining the geographic origins of high-quality green fei cui from different countries. Publishing the research findings in the prestigious *The Journal of Gemmology* (Gem-A) and presenting during the 37th International Gemmological Conference (IGC 2023, Tokyo - Japan) has not only enhanced GAHK's reputation as a leading authority in gemmology in Hong Kong while elevated our international standing.

In addition to co-organising public seminars with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), and the Hong Kong Jewelry Manufacturers' Association (HKJMA) during gems and jewellery shows in Hong Kong, GAHK has actively cooperated with alliance associations and institutes to promote community engagement. In 2023, we were honoured to receive award certificate as one of the Star Supporters of the Qualification Framework (QF).

We deeply regret to convey about the death of our Honorary Advisor, Dr Rafael Aharoni, BBS, on 11 June 2024. Dr Aharoni had been a dedicated senior member of GAHK. His contributions were invaluable, and his passion for jewellery and gemmology inspired many within our community. He will be fondly remembered for his unwavering commitments and positive impacts to GAHK. Our thoughts are with him.

Finally we would like to express our gratitude to our members, friends, alliance associations and organisations for their unwavering patronage. The achievements of the previous year would not be possible without their dedications and commitments. We look forward to the coming year of growth and success.

LIU Shang I, Edward (Prof. Dr)
Chairman 2023-2025