

秉承監警會獨立、公正和誠信的價值觀服務社會 Committed to Serving the Community with Independence, Impartiality and Integrity



出任監警會主席一職，對我而言是榮幸也是挑戰。就任以來，不少朋友均問我對警民關係的看法。香港是一個有言論及集會自由的社會，市民可以用不同的合法方式表達意見。同時，香港也是一個治安良好的城市，為全球罪案率最低的城市之一。這除了是因為香港人的奉公守法文化外，亦有賴警隊的努力、專業和誠信。

近年坊間有說法認為警民關係越趨緊張。平情而論，從警方的整體工作層面來判斷，我看大部份市民都支持警方的執法工作。警察的主要職責是撲滅罪行、維持治安。我有些在香港居住的外國朋友，在來港數月後，都非常羨慕香港人有一個安全的居住環境，晚飯後可以和家人安心在街上散步。但在歐美國家的一些主要城市，晚上走在街上就因治安問題而要提心吊膽。聽到這些說話，我很感恩，同時覺得我們應該珍惜香港一直

The appointment as Chairman of the IPCC is both an honour and a challenge for me. Since taking up the position in June, I have been asked by a number of friends about my views on the relation between the Police and the public. People in Hong Kong enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of assembly; members of the public can legally express their opinions in various ways. Hong Kong is also a very safe city. We are one of the cities with the lowest crime rate in the world. Apart from the law-abiding culture of the Hong Kong people, the hard work, professionalism and integrity of the Police all contribute to Hong Kong being a very safe city.

Some views have come up that there is increasing tension between the Police and the public in recent years. Overall speaking, I think that most people are supportive of the work of the Police. They fight crime and maintain law and order. Some of my expatriate friends who have lived in Hong Kong for a few months told me that they admire people in Hong Kong having such a safe living environment. They can enjoy taking a walk on the streets after dinner with their families. In some major cities in Europe and the US, however, one must be concerned about personal safety when taking a walk on the streets

以來的和平融洽的社會氣氛。香港警隊在維持治安及社會秩序方面，表現有目共睹，可以說大部份市民均認同和滿意警方維持治安的工作。

惟近年示威遊行頻繁，警方對示威遊行的部署不時惹起示威人士的猜疑，認為警方故意阻撓他們表達自由。另一方面，近年社會上又的確出現了一批較激進的示威者。他們表達訴求的方式較以往激烈，甚至會做出違法的行為，影響社會秩序和安全，衝突亦隨之而起，致使警方及示威人士相互指責。其實，絕大部份的示威人士都是和平而守法的，大部份示威遊行活動都能夠有秩序及和平地進行。然而，發生衝突的部份卻往往較為引人注目，並被廣泛報導，結果便營造了警民關係緊張的印象。

在剛過去的七一遊行中，就我的觀察，主辦單位很認真努力安排當日的遊行，以他們有限的資源，加上當日的惡劣天氣，能順利舉辦七一遊行，實在殊不簡單。前線警員在處理遊行的過程亦非常專業，處變不驚地應付突發情況，確保遊行的秩序和參與者的安全。為數眾多的遊行人士，和平、耐心而守秩序地在惡劣天氣和擠迫的環境下參與遊行，顯示香港人和平、理性及守法的文化。

其實，主辦單位和警方同樣希望保障參與者的安全，以及確保遊行能暢順和平地進行。只是雙方的著眼點不同，尤其在人流管制的安排方面持不同看法，才引發各種爭議。警方除了要協助遊行順利進行外，還要顧及整體的交通安排、其他非遊行人士的安全、緊急狀況（如火災、醫療等）的應變和部署等，要兼顧的範疇甚多，而且每方面也不能鬆懈。因為警方不單要保障遊行人士的秩序和安全，也要保障整體社會的秩序和安全。需知道，警方要安排如此大型的公眾活動，需要高度的專業和效率，實在絕非易事。但警方的安排在遊行示威人士看來，卻可能誤以為警方故意阻撓遊行而惹起不滿。如果警方和遊行主辦團體及持份者能建立互信、互諒互讓，尊重彼此的立場，在處理問題上，雙方多點同理心，以積極的態度面對，情況應有改善的空間。

in the evenings. I am grateful on hearing this remark. We should treasure the peaceful and cordial atmosphere that we have in our society. Clearly, the Hong Kong Police have done an excellent job in maintaining law and order. I think most of the people in Hong Kong recognise this and are satisfied with the work of the Police.

In recent years, there has been an increasing number of processions. Demonstrators often query the Police's deployment of their forces as deliberate attempts to impede their right to freedom of expression. Furthermore, we have seen the emergence of more radical demonstrators, who take a more aggressive approach in expressing their demands. Sometimes, they may even resort to illegal acts which threaten the social order and public safety. When conflicts arise as a result, the Police and the demonstrators would tend to think the other side was in the wrong. In fact, most demonstrators observe the law and express their demands in a peaceful manner, and most of the processions have been conducted orderly and peacefully. However, very often, those parts of the processions which involved conflicts attracted most attention and at the same time, received wide coverage in the media. This leads to the impression that there is tension between the Police and the public.

From my observation of the recent 1 July procession, the organisers worked diligently on the arrangements for the event. Despite limited resources and bad weather, they kept the crowd flowing smoothly along the procession route which is not a simple task. The Police were also very competent in handling the procession. They effectively resolved incidents which popped up on the spot to ensure that the procession could be conducted in a safe and orderly manner. Demonstrators marched peacefully, patiently and in an orderly manner, despite the bad weather and crowded conditions. This is just another display of the peace-loving, rational and law-abiding culture of the Hong Kong people.

I can see that both the organisers and the Police were very concerned about the safety of the participants and the smooth conduct of the procession. It is just that they had different views on crowd management. We have to bear in mind that apart from maintaining the steady flow of the procession, the Police had many other considerations, including road traffic, the safety of non-participants, and emergency situations such as fire outbreak or medical services. In discharging their duties, the Police not only had to be responsible for the participants of the procession, but also for the society as a whole. In making arrangements for such a large-scale public order event, the Police had to exercise high levels of professionalism and efficiency. This is certainly not an easy task. Unfortunately, some demonstrators felt that the Police were purposely obstructing them, and this led to disputes. I believe that as long as there are mutual understanding, mutual trust and respect on both sides, improvements can be made in future.

監警會因應這情況，在過去兩年分別與警方、遊行主辦團體及持份者會面，了解警方的部署外，亦聆聽遊行主辦團體及持份者對遊行安排的意見，希望有助促進警民溝通。我認同亦感謝前任主席翟紹唐資深大律師開展了監警會觀察及了解警方處理公眾活動的工作，協助加強警方和遊行主辦團體及持份者的溝通。相信監警會在這方面的工作有積極的意義，亦因此警方和遊行主辦團體及持份者一再邀請監警會委員實地觀察遊行的情況，以及列席雙方討論遊行安排的籌備會議。促進警民溝通在緩和警民關係，避免不必要的衝突和誤會相當重要，監警會希望可以從中協助，從而減少針對警察的投訴。

我了解警方的管理層支持監警會的工作，我有信心作為一個專業的執法機關，警方與監警會將繼續保持緊密的溝通。在和警方合作之餘，監警會要堅守獨立、公平、公正的原則及形象，才能在市民心目中建立公信力，實踐獨立監察的工作，以符合公眾的期望。

最後，我希望遊行示威者能繼續保持香港的優良傳統，和平理性地表達訴求。香港人享有言論和集會自由，但這些權利不應被濫用，要尊重別人的權利，更絕不可訴諸暴力。而警方則有責任維持社會秩序和保障公眾安全。警方在維持秩序時，亦要謹慎使用執法權力，依照法律執行職務，保持克制，不可濫用權力。

作為監警會的新成員，我定必秉承監警會獨立、公正和誠信的價值觀來實踐我們的工作。

作者：監警會郭琳廣主席

For better understanding and assessment of the situation, the IPCC has met with the Police, the event organisers and other stakeholders over the past two years to hear their plans and arrangements for the procession as well as their views on the handling of the procession. I would like to thank the former Chairman of the IPCC, Mr Jat Sew-Tong, SC, for initiating the IPCC's on-site observations of public order events. I believe this part of the work of the IPCC is considered positive and helpful by all relevant parties as they have repeatedly invited the IPCC to take part in on-site observations and to attend the preparatory meetings for these events. Enhancing communication between the Police and the public can help prevent disputes and reduce misunderstanding. The IPCC hopes to serve as a bridge to build trust and reduce misunderstanding between them.

I understand that the management of the Police Force is supportive of the work of the IPCC. I trust that the Police, as a professional law enforcement agency, will maintain close co-operation with the IPCC. While working with the Police, the IPCC, in performing our duties, must uphold its independence, fairness and impartiality. We need to safeguard our credibility and ensure that our performance meet public expectations.

Lastly, I hope that procession participants will continue Hong Kong's fine tradition of expressing demands in a peaceful and rational manner. People in Hong Kong enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, but such freedoms should not be abused, and everyone should respect the rights of the others. Resorting to violence is never a good way. Police have the duty to maintain order and public safety, but they should also be mindful to carry out their duties in accordance with the law, to exercise restraint in the use of authority, and not to abuse their powers.

As a new Member of the IPCC, I am committed to performing our duties with independence, impartiality and integrity.

**Author: Mr Larry Kwok Lam-kwong,
Chairman, IPCC**