

Tapescript BW 3.5 Listening 2 (cont...)

Part 3

Interviewer: What are the key issues which need to be tackled if Hong Kong is to stay ahead?

M.E.: There is a need to ensure that standards are kept high in the workforce and that professionalism through higher education is encouraged. Hong Kong will always need a sophisticated, highly skilled work force to benefit from future business and trading partners. The SAR should continue to allow professionals to freely enter and leave Hong Kong.

Interviewer: What about people coming from Mainland China?

M.E.: Yes definitely, recruitment of Mainland employees with special skills should be allowed. Skilled people could be future entrepreneurs. Proficiency in Mandarin (Putonghua) and English is also important as is the need to emphasise training and to invest in training.

Investment in improving Hong Kong's technological instruction and processes that support already existing industries such as communications, trading, finance and logistics is very important. Hong Kong also needs to sustain support services in communications and information processing as well as logistic support software - these investments are critical to Hong Kong's present and future economic base.

Interviewer: Thank you for all your comments and insights. Is there anything else you'd like to add as a conclusion?

M.E.: The Hong Kong story is a complex one of adaptation, resilience, intuition and real market capitalism. Being unique is Hong Kong's most valuable asset because sustaining competitive advantages comes from uniqueness. If Hong Kong maintains and exploits its unique features, its economic future should be as successful as its past.