

參與世博 連繫香港

Connect to Hong Kong at Shanghai Expo

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Interview with Mr Ronald Arculli, Chairman of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx)

Transcript of the interview

Nick: Hello, I am Nick Waters. Welcome to our interview series in the build-up to a major Finance Forum organized by Hong Kong in Shanghai on July 21.

I'm joined by Mr Ronald Arculli. Mr Arculli is the Chairman of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited or HKEx. HKEx is the holding company of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the co-organiser of the Finance Forum.

Firstly Mr Arculli what are the main topics that are going to be discussed at this Finance Forum?

Ronald: I think we felt that it would be a good opportunity during the Shanghai Expo to actually have this Finance Forum. A lot has happened in 2008 and 2009, and a lot of countries are examining what to do and where to go from here. So we felt that it is a great opportunity to gather some opinion leaders, be they business, finance, political views, to get everybody in a room and to exchange views about the way forward. From time to time one hears about proposals from different countries or jurisdictions from around the world. We really want to update ourselves to the current thinking.

Nick: You are going to be one of the keynote speakers at the Finance Forum. Can you give us some insight on what you are going to speak?

Ronald: I will basically be talking about the new economic order. This is really something that has again arisen over the recent few years, but exacerbated by the crisis in 2008 and 2009, particularly with the shifting of the economic center of gravity gradually from the West to the East. We are part of China, we are in the heart of Asia, and therefore we believe that Hong Kong has an important role to play, both in terms of the economic development and growth of China, as well as her role in the greater global order.

Nick: You said that you are going to bring all these people together for discussions, and you will be moderating one of these discussion panels. Can you give us a little bit taste of what you expect from it?

Ronald: I imagine the panel members will deal with some of the opportunities, some of the challenges, some of the concerns, new concerns about the inflation, stimulus packages, whether there is going to be a double dip, etc. I think for us in Asia we are probably much more fortunate than in the West or in other economies.

Nick: It is also quite interesting that it is the first large-scale Finance Forum to be organized by Hong Kong in the Mainland. There has been lots have been said about competitions

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HONG KONG @ EXPO

Hong Kong Pavilion - "Hong Kong – Potential Unlimited", Zone A, Pudong, Adjacent to Chinese National Pavilion

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between Shanghai and Hong Kong as the Mainland's main international financial centre, and possibly Shanghai is a threat to Hong Kong going forward. What's your view on that?

Ronald: Well we've worked with Shanghai for so long. We have so many companies, over 500, that are listed on our Exchange here, including some of the biggest financial institutions in the world. It's been much more a co-operative approach than a competitive approach. But having said that, there is always a healthy element of competition. Also, in Hong Kong we compete with other international financial centres. Currently of course Shanghai does a wonderful job serving the domestic market, and we serve the international and the local Hong Kong market in terms of investor access. But as things develop, we will count Shanghai as another New York, another London, another Hong Kong. But having said that, competition is obviously healthy.

Nick: So you mean there is room for competition between Hong Kong and Shanghai?

Ronald: There is always room and you know at the end of the day, you have to polish up your act and get along with it.

Nick: One issue that has been changing from the Mainland's point of view is the internationalization of its currency. What's your view on that and does it detract some of the advantages that Hong Kong holds at the moment?

Ronald: Not at all. It also presents Hong Kong with an amazing opportunity. Now the policy is to internationalize the Renminbi, clearly preparations have to be made as soon as possible. We are in discussion with the Monetary Authority, other regulators, and other market players to see how Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Exchange in particular, can play a very important role in this exercise. Clearly from Mainland China's policy point of view, internationalizing the Renminbi has many advantages. So we are here to make sure that some of the advantages Hong Kong can offer to that exercise can actually be done.

Nick: Great, thank you very much and all the best to the Finance Forum.

Ronald: Thank you very much.

Nick: The Finance Forum would be held in July 21, so please do take a look at the other online interviews in the build-up of this important event.

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