



**Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Professor Xu Jialu
speaks in EAA's "Distinguished Speaker Series"**

(23 March 2006) Over 600 estate agency practitioners today attended the third seminar of the Estate Agents Authority's (EAA) Distinguished Speaker Series, which was given by Professor Xu Jialu, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

Professor Xu's speech, on the Eleventh 5-year Programme and Hong Kong's service industry, was well-received by the participants. A number of EAA members attended the event, including Mrs Amy Liu, Dr Charles Cheung, Mr Joseph Tsang, Mr William Leung, Mr Lun Chi-yim, Mr Paul Ma, Mr Wilson Wong and Mr Eric Lee. Also attending were various trade representatives.

Vice Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee since 1998, Professor Xu is also a renowned linguist and was formerly the Chairman of the State Language Work Committee and Vice President of the Beijing Normal University.

In her welcome remarks, EAA Chief Executive Officer Ms Sandy Chan said EAA was very honoured that Professor Xu came all the way from Beijing to speak to Hong Kong's estate agency practitioners.

Ms Chan said EAA introduced the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme last May to encourage practitioners to participate in continuing professional development and acquire more knowledge. She said, "Knowledge is power, and it is through the acquisition of more knowledge that one can gain more power. For a profession to have a future, its practitioners must continue to learn."

During the talk, Professor Xu briefed practitioners on the thinking behind the Eleventh 5-year Programme and analysed the problems and difficulties in the country's economic and social development. He said that Hong Kong could expand on its strengths in human resources, experience and capital resources, while the country developed and reformed its systems, and regulated and standardised its service industries.

He said the Mainland property market should develop from



“everybody having a home” to “everybody enjoying their home”, so that the public can enjoy a comfortable living environment. Hong Kong’s competitive edge was to provide the services that would facilitate this development, including the provision of regulated, legal and honest estate agency services. Lastly, Professor Xu encouraged local practitioners to continue participating in lifelong learning and to “rely on the motherland while reaching out to the world.”

The Distinguished Speaker Series is a major initiative of EAA’s CPD Scheme, featuring distinguished leaders in society and from a variety of professions.

The first two seminars in the Distinguished Speaker Series were held in May and November 2005 respectively. The first seminar was given by the Honourable Leung Chun-ying, Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council, who spoke on “New Milestones in the Economic Partnership between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta”. The second seminar was given by Mr Kwok Kwok-chuen, Government Economist, on “The Economic Transformation of Hong Kong: Problem, Challenge or Opportunity?”

In addition, a fourth seminar will be presented by Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) Mr Fred Lam at 10:30am on 3 May 2006 (Wednesday) in Theatre One, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wanchai. His topic will be “Building Together a Successful Hong Kong Platform”. The seminar will be conducted in Cantonese with simultaneous English interpretation. All licensed estate agents and salespersons are welcome.

Those interested in Mr Lam’s talk can register online or download the registration form from the EAA website: <http://www.eaa.org.hk>. Practitioners may also obtain a registration form by calling EAA’s Professional Development Hotline on 2150 2468.

Details of other recent CPD activities are available on the EAA website or via the Professional Development Hotline.