



# Newsletter

## Contents

- The Last Month in Brief, Shipping Companies..... 1
- GI (HK) Business, World Security: Economics, Nuclear, Europe ..... 2
- The Arab World, Afghanistan & Pakistan, Palestine, Asia ..... 3
- Thailand and Malaysia, The Malacca Straits, Somalia, Africa, The Americas, Myanmar, India ..... 4
- Nepal News..... 5 - 7
- Hong Kong News ..... 7 - 10
- Conclusion ..... 11



We publish this month a photograph of the **AIDAvita** of **AIDA Cruises**.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

The month has been a routine one, with no major company news to report.

## We Welcome

### Universal Ship Management

Bishal Gurung  
Sajan Gurung  
Dev Gurung  
Adit Gurung

### Carnival UK

Nikita Gurung

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 778 men and 157 women on ships, a total of 935 crew and staff under management.



## GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 32 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

# World Security

## Economics

Greece's creditors have agreed to give it another 86 billion Euros to enable it to repay its debts whilst imposing such strict controls on Greece's political and economic activity that the country has virtually lost its sovereignty. The Euro crisis has thus been delayed. No reduction of any of Greece's debt has been agreed by its creditors and the IMF has so far refused to participate in any new rescue plan until debt reduction is included. China devalued the Yuan, causing some alarm internationally and a fall in global stock markets.



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (left) meets President Prokopis Pavlopoulos to submit his resignation.

## Nuclear

Discussions on ratification by signatory countries continue on the Iran nuclear deal. There is no news on the North Korean nuclear programme.

## Europe

Russia has caused fighting to erupt again in the Ukraine, where separatists in the east of the country have been attacking government posts with heavy weapons. Russia has jailed for 15 years an Estonian Police Officer who was kidnapped on Estonian soil and then accused by Russia of being a spy. Baltic state members of NATO, alarmed at Russian aggression, are calling for NATO troops to be permanently stationed on their soil. The huge numbers of economic migrants reaching Europe from Africa and the Middle East continue to cause friction among European states. Large numbers of them are now camped at Calais, and nightly attempt to cross the English Channel by storming the fences at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel, leading it to be closed on occasion.

## The Arab World

The Islamic State (ISIS) remains the major problem across the Arab world, including Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Nigeria. The allied air campaign attacking its targets in Iraq and Syria seems to have made little difference. The civil war in Syria continues, as does the conflict in Yemen between Sunni government, Saudi Arabian and some Gulf state forces and Shia Muslim Houthi forces. Libya remains in a state of civil war.



Some of those injured in the strikes in Syria had to be treated in makeshift hospitals.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

The Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, who fled to Pakistan on the US invasion of Afghanistan, has been declared dead, although he had not been seen for many years and it is not known when he died. His successor, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, has not been accepted by all Taliban leaders and conflict is likely, which will make peace talks with the Afghan Government unlikely to succeed.

## Palestine

There has been little news this month.

## Asia

Islands disputed by China and Japan in the Sea of Japan continue to cause tension, as does Chinese activity around the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. China's insurgency problems in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province and in Tibet continue. The Black Flag Movement, an ISIS-linked group, continues Muslim terrorism in Mindanao in the southern Philippines. China suffered a massive series of explosion in warehouses in Tianjin port, seemingly caused by the illegal storage of a large amount of hazardous chemicals. There are so far 114 confirmed deaths, including 50 firefighters. 52 firefighters are missing. The blasts caused the evacuation of a large area around the port and the devastation of houses, flats, warehouses and cars parked in the open. Chemical fallout seems to have occurred over a wide area and insurance claims are estimated to reach US\$1.5 billion.



Japan is seeking to donate three TC-90 aircraft to the Philippines for patrols in the South China Sea.

## Thailand and Malaysia

Two bombs exploded in Bangkok, one placed near a popular shrine that attracts many tourists, killed twenty. Culprits have not been formally identified but are thought to be Uighur separatists objecting to Thailand's return of nearly 100 Uighurs to China. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.



Thai police released this sketch of the man suspected of planting the bomb.

## The Malacca Straits

Small scale piracy continues to be a cause of concern in the Malacca Straits and nearby areas of the South China Sea.

## Somalia

There are no new reports of piracy at present. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

## Africa

Nigerian and Cameroon forces continue to battle Islamic militants Boko Haram in their border areas. The security situations in Burkino Faso, the Central African Republic and Mali remain disturbed. Ebola fever is now almost eradicated in West Africa and a vaccine has been developed which can prevent infection. The civil war in South Sudan resumed after peace talks broke down.

## The Americas

There is little news of a security note this month.

## Myanmar

The military junta sacked Shwe Mann, the leader members of its own governing party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, in advance of the forthcoming national elections, in which Aung San Suu Kyi will not be permitted to stand for President. Shwe Mann and Aung san Suu Kyi are now collaborating.

## India

There is no news of a security nature this month.





The earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015 claimed the lives of about 9,000 people.

## Nepal News

### Risk of future Nepal-India earthquake increases

**7 Aug** - There is an increased risk of a future major earthquake in an area that straddles the west of Nepal and India, scientists warn.

New data has revealed that the devastating quake that hit Nepal in April did not release all of the stress that had built up underground, and has pushed some of it westwards.

The research is published in the journals *Nature Geoscience* and *Science*.

Its authors say more monitoring is now needed in this area.

Prof Jean-Philippe Avouac, from the University of Cambridge, told BBC News: "This is a place that needs attention, and if we had an earthquake today, it would be a disaster because of the density of population not just in western Nepal but also in northern India, in the Gangetic plain."

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal earlier this year killed about 9,000 people, and left many thousands more injured and homeless.

It occurred in a geological collision zone, where the Indian tectonic plate pushes north into the Eurasian plate, moving the ground an average of 2cm a year.

Over decades, stress built up along a

stretch of the fault line, which is called the Main Himalayan Thrust fault, close to Nepal's capital Kathmandu.

The boundary between the two plates in this area had become locked - stuck together by friction, and so immobile - building up energy that only a major earthquake could release.

However, the quake on 25 April only released part of this pent-up pressure.

"If the earthquake had ruptured all the locked zone all the way to the front of the Himalayas, it would have been a much larger earthquake," said Prof Avouac.

Instead, the researchers believe that some of this stress has shifted west, to an area stretching from the west of Pokhara in Nepal to the north of Delhi in India.

A major earthquake there is already long overdue: the last happened in 1505 and is estimated to have exceeded M8.5. The researchers say the new stress that has moved there could already be adding to the tension that has been building up over five centuries.

"At the moment, we are quite worried about western Nepal," said Prof Avouac.

The team says extra monitoring by the research community is now needed, although it is impossible to predict accurately when the natural disaster might strike.

"We don't want to scare people, but it is important they are aware that they are living in a place where there is a lot of energy available," Prof Avouac explained. "A lot of families are building their own houses in Nepal. With minimum care, it is possible to build small buildings that can withstand large earthquakes."

Commenting on the research, Prof David Rothery from Open University said: "Monitoring techniques have now advanced to the stage where we can work out how a previously 'locked' fault has 'unzipped' during the couple of minutes that it takes a major earthquake to happen.

"Lives would be saved by drilling school children in western Nepal and the nearby plains of northern India in how to react in the event of an earthquake, and in ensuring that at least school buildings are adequately constructed to survive seismic shaking."

Data from advanced GPS stations has also revealed that the death toll could have been far higher. These stations track tiny shifts in ground position, at a rate of five measurements every second.

Scientists say the seismic waves travelling underground were a lower frequency than expected, causing the ground to vibrate more gently.

Prof Avouac said: "When I heard about this M7.8 earthquake happening so close to Kathmandu, I was prepared for a death toll in the order of 300,000 or 400,000 people.

"But this earthquake didn't generate a lot of high frequency waves, which would have been devastating for the small buildings in Kathmandu. They could withstand the earthquake because of the characteristics of the 'pulse' - and its relative smoothness."

### **Helicopter Aid-Drops in Earthquake-Hit Nepal at Risk as Cash Runs Out: UN**

**11 Aug** - Emergency helicopter services in quake-hit Nepal may be forced to stop within weeks due to a lack of funding, leaving almost 150,000 people without food and shelter to survive the monsoon season, the United Nations warned on

added in a statement.

The UN helicopter service has only received half the \$18 million it needs to operate until the end of October. If the shortfall is not met soon, deliveries will stop at the end of August, UNHAS said.

The service, managed by the World Food Programme, has moved more than 2,600 aid workers and 1,450 metric tons of supplies across Nepal, and delivered aid to 139 remote communities unreachable by road.

Nearly three million survivors - around 10 percent of the Himalayan nation's population - many in mountainous, hard-to-reach areas, need shelter, food and basic medical care, according to a recent UN report.

Nepal's government has estimated the cost of recovery at over \$6.6 billion over

the task of reconstruction is an urgent one.

The earthquake destroyed over 600,000 homes and damaged nearly 300,000, according to the latest government figures.

Amidst the rubble and debris of flattened buildings in many of the affected areas, schools and shops have reopened and people have built makeshift dwellings.

Yet, the debris still blocking streets and the slow pace of demolition are among the biggest impediments to rebuilding the country.

Sluggish debris clearing coupled with hazy government guidelines about how to reconstruct could hinder the country's objective to "Build Back Better".

One of four priorities enshrined in the Sendai Framework, adopted by the UN



One of the biggest impediments to reconstruction has been the slow pace of clearing debris and demolishing irreparable buildings .

Monday.

Annual monsoon rains and resulting landslides could cut off access to remote communities devastated by the two quakes which struck in April and May, making helicopters crucial for reaching them, according to the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

The quakes killed around 8,900 people, injured more than 22,000 and forced tens of thousands into temporary shelters.

"We have pending requests to move about 650 metric tons of emergency supplies, and new requests for the movement of cargo continue to be received daily," said Edmondo Perrone, UNHAS logistics cluster coordinator.

"About 35 organisations are waiting for airlifts, which emphasises how desperate the need is for this service right now," he

the next five years, equivalent to one third of its gross domestic product, and has so far received donor pledges worth \$4.4 billion.

Nepal says the disaster destroyed more than 500,000 houses and pushed 700,000 more people to poverty. Already one in four of the country's 28 million people lives on a daily income of less than \$1.25.

### **Rebuilding Nepal: The rubble must go**

**19 Aug** - Nepal faces a monumental task to rebuild after the powerful April 25 earthquake, which killed more than 8,000, destroyed tens of thousands of homes and displaced more than two million.

With only a small window of time between the end of the rainy season in September and the beginning of winter, which will be particularly brutal for mountain communities living in temporary shelters,

General Assembly in March, is "Build Back Better," which entails reconstructing to safeguard against future disasters.

Nepal's April earthquake was the first large-scale disaster to occur after the framework's adoption, and the country will serve as a test case of sorts.

### *Slow demolition*

In many rural areas and historical urban centres of Nepal, where houses are built of brick and mud, homeowners themselves are largely undertaking the demolition.

Some municipalities have provided bulldozers and dump trucks, but most people have been left to their own devices.

In such cases, Nepalese have only basic handheld tools, such as levers and chisels, at their disposal, Amod Mani Dixit, executive director of the Nepal-based



National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), told Al Jazeera.

"There is no expert supervision, no demolition expertise being used, and the resulting risk is high for workers, bystanders and adjacent property," Dixit said.

It is the enormity of the task, as well as the lack of funding to carry out activities, which concern Renaud Meyer, Nepal country director for the UN Development Programme.

"The rate [of demolition] at the moment is extremely and frustratingly slow, because we don't have the resources," Meyer said.

"If we wanted to speed up the demolition, we would need more resources to bring in much more machinery and hire more people," he explained.

Although a June 25 donor conference saw the international community pledge \$4.4bn, Meyer points out that most of the funds were allocated to reconstruction.

Mobilising resources for the current, pressing issue of debris management has proved a major hurdle, he said.

"Donors prefer more glorious projects," Meyer added, and so they've been prioritising "funding for things that are secondary, that can only be done once the debris is cleaned".

Meyer said there are two ways to ensure funding for demolition: either through mobilising additional funding, which donors seem reluctant to do, or through reallocating some of the money earmarked for reconstruction, which can only happen through negotiations and agreements between the government and the donors.

### *Reconstruction*

Humanitarian experts say planning and coordination have been difficult given the paucity in specific, local level information about the destruction, with figures based on population growth estimates since the 2011 census.

When it comes to reconstruction, while Nepal's government has promised several types of benefits for victims of the earthquake, including initial grants of \$144, to be followed by grants of \$1,922, and loans at 2 percent interest rates for rebuilding homes, confusion is rife over how to go about obtaining them.

This is happening for a number of reasons, including unclear procedures, inadequate information provided by

local authorities in some places, and the spread of rumours in rural areas.

Many have already received the initial amount of \$144, but a major concern is that even if people are able to obtain the grants, the money wouldn't be enough to build a new home.

Manoranjan Baidhya, a 50-year-old NGO employee, whose childhood home in the centre of the capital Kathmandu was damaged beyond repair, estimates demolition alone would cost him up to \$1,918.

"The money promised by the government is not anywhere enough for me to pay for both the demolition and the reconstruction," he said. Given it was so difficult to procure the initial \$144, he said, "I don't have much hope to get the loans."

Moreover, there's a lack of clarity and guidance from the government over how to carry out reconstruction, and



experts worry that people could end up rebuilding dangerous houses.

In late June the government released its Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

### *Lack of strategy*

While NGOs say the PDNA has effectively laid out the scope of problems to be addressed, such as the earthquake's impact on infrastructure, cultural heritage, education, tourism and other sectors, the absence of a clear reconstruction strategy is hindering progress.

Som Paneru, executive director of the Nepal Youth Foundation, an NGO implementing a skills training programme for reconstruction in rural areas, said the biggest dilemma for people in these areas is how to go about rebuilding.

"People have no idea what kind of materials are appropriate for post-

earthquake reconstruction, how to build [earthquake-resilient] homes, and don't necessarily have the human resources available to do the reconstruction," Paneru said.

"The government should come up with a blueprint for what they want to do ... and that should be shared with the aid agencies."

Some experts say the lack of specific guidelines is partly due to the delays in setting up the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) formed in June to oversee "sustained, durable and planned reconstruction".

A CEO for the NRA was only recently appointed on August 14, nearly four months after the disaster.

Ministry of Home Affairs spokesperson Laxmi Prasad Dhakal said guidelines will be issued "very soon" and the Ministry of Finance just needs to finalise the provisions for loans and grants. He insists

they haven't been held up by the delays in forming the NRA.

Dixit, NSET's executive director, said the appointment of a CEO means the Build Back Better plan, "with all the proposed shelter designs, construction technology to be adopted and delivery systems" will be out soon and that should spur the government into action.

The government has already approved technical considerations, such as training for engineers and masons, and these will be adopted by the NRA, said Dixit.

He anticipates that people will start reconstructing after the monsoon and is optimistic that Nepal can be rebuilt in the five years outlined in the PDNA.

However, Dixit said, the government and the NRA must be transparent and apolitical.

"Timeframe is not an issue; being smart and reasonable is."



A customer, surnamed Ho (inset), says she ordered a dining table and chairs and a sofa and made a HK\$2,000 deposit in the DSC Prince Edward branch.

## Hong Kong News

### DSC closure catches staff, customers off guard

**3 Aug** - Home appliance and furniture chain DSC has decided to close all its outlets, throwing 900 people out of work.

The company made the announcement on Monday, citing financial difficulties, according to public broadcaster RTHK.

The chain store had been rumored to be on the verge of collapse.

An unnamed employee said suppliers had stopped deliveries even as the company frequently launched clearance sales at fire-sale prices.

One branch began taking cash again just last week, the employee said.

District councilor Kwok Wai-keung who represents trade unions said 50 employees had asked him for help.

The company owes worker about HK\$10 million (US\$1.28 million) in wages, he said.

Kwok criticized management for not providing any contingencies for the staff.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department opened 13 special counters in its job centers and a hotline for former DSC employees.

Also, it said it has contacted DSC for more information.

The Consumer Council has received 232

inquires and 42 complaints regarding the closure.

Most customer complaints were about the non-delivery of orders.

The council said DSC should refund customers or arrange for delivery of pre-ordered or paid products.

### Founders of defunct DSC chain stores arrested on return to Hong Kong

**11 Aug** - The founder of now-defunct home appliance and furniture chain store DSC and his wife were arrested around noon yesterday as they returned from Macau to Hong Kong.

Hui Ming-shun, 61, and his wife Lin Wai-yin, 55, were held in police custody last night over their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to defraud, reports the SCMP. The police awaited their return from Macau after receiving reports from DSC suppliers of furniture and electrical appliances that were not paid for.

At least 350 of the company's 900 employees have also lodged claims of unpaid salaries with the Labour Department, and the Consumer Council has received nearly 500 complaints relating to prepaid undelivered orders.

Nothing pisses people off more than paying for a sofa that never shows.

Secretary for Labour and Welfare Matthew Cheung said the wages, severance pay and holidays owed to

DSC employees total up about HKD10 million, but the total combined payment awaiting from DSC suppliers and employers is roughly HKD60 million.

The couple bravely fled the city a day before the closure of the chain's 14 stores on Aug. 3, leaving hundreds of employees jobless.

It is understood that they returned to Hong Kong to talk to the authorities and settle their obligations, like actual grown-ups.

However, yesterday afternoon, a lawyer for Hui informed the Labour Department that his client would not be attending the meeting with staff to discuss the outstanding wages.

DSC employees are now looking to the government to draw from the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund to pay their back salaries. The government has, however, confirmed that the process for ex-gratia payments cannot start until the firm's insolvency is confirmed.

Any failure of both parties to reach a consensus on the amount of claims would also result in a delay for the DSC employees hoping to see their hard earned cash any time soon.

Probably sucks to be them even more than those poor people struggling through life without a sofa.



### Hong Kong police arrest Uber drivers, search office

**12 Aug** - Hong Kong police have arrested five drivers from Uber in a sting operation and searched its office, media reports said Tuesday, in the latest blow for the global ride-sharing startup.

Uber has encountered a string of regulatory roadblocks as it grows around the world.



Police officers posing as customers rented five private cars through a mobile app Tuesday morning and paid by credit card, police said in a statement.

"Upon arriving at the destination, the officers paid with credit cards and then revealed their identities, arresting drivers aged between 28 to 65," the statement said without confirming that the drivers were from Uber.

It said they were held for "illegally driving a car for rental purpose and driving without third-party insurance".

News footage from Cable Television showed police raiding an office which displayed an Uber logo and taking away three people.

The drivers had been providing their services through Uber, Hong Kong Commercial Radio reported.

The company has been operating in Hong Kong for about one year.

"Uber ensures that all rides are covered by insurance, and all drivers on the platform undergo an extensive background check," the company's spokesman Harold Li told AFP, without confirming their drivers were arrested.

Footage showed five vehicles being cordoned off, including BMW and

Mercedes Benz sedans.

Uber has faced setbacks around the world as it expands internationally.

An Uber driver in Brazil's financial capital Sao Paulo responded to a call, only to find himself ambushed by a group of regular taxi drivers.

Last month the firm suspended its UberPOP service in France, six months after being banned.

There have been a string of protests against Uber by black cab drivers in London who say it represents unfair competition.

But in New York, city officials last week scrapped plans to cap the number of vehicles operated by Uber.

### Commission set up to investigate lead in Hong Kong water as more shocking test results flood in

**17 Aug** - A two-person commission has been set up to investigate findings of high lead levels in the water supply of some of Hong Kong's public housing estates.

As testing continues, there are so far 10 estates confirmed to have been affected

by heavy metal water contamination, with recent data showing that lead levels exceed the World Health Organization's (WHO) safety standard of 10 micrograms per litre at several locations.

With 153 micrograms per litre, Un Chau Estate's eight-year-old Un Kin House is leading this scandal with a whopping 14.3 times more lead than the WHO standard, reports the SCMP.

According to Derrick Au, Hospital Authority's director of quality and safety, city-wide blood tests revealed that ten residents, all children, were found to have 5.3 to 7.9 micrograms of lead per decilitre of blood. Children whose blood contains more lead than the WHO standard of 5 micrograms per decilitre could be exposed to the irreversible effects of learning disabilities.

In response to the scandal, Judge Andrew Chan and former ICAC commissioner Alan Lai Nin have now been charged with restoring the public's trust in Hong Kong's water by ultimately uncovering the causes of high lead contamination, analysing the competence of the monitoring system and finally offering water safety recommendations.

Over the next two months, authorities aim to test the water supply of public housing estates built between 2005 and 2010. The findings will be reported in around nine months' time, Chief Executive CY Leung said.

But are Hong Kong residents comfortable with waiting so long?

Rachel, a 25-year-old living in Kowloon, worries that a commission limited to two people will not be successful. "Water in Hong Kong recently has become a big issue, and it's necessary for the government to take action," she told Coconuts Hong Kong.



Lorraine, who lives in Mid-levels, agreed that “the government should do something immediately because water pollution is a serious issue’.

While the scandal has so far been contained in public housing estates and a university campus, some fear that private buildings could also be affected.. Lingo, who lives Shau Kei Wan, contacted his building’s management team when he heard rumours of estates in Mid-levels with water contamination. His water was tested and confirmed as safe to drink.

Virginia, a 35-year-old Wan Chai resident, however, thinks the panic may be unwarranted. “Perhaps people should talk to their water supplier. I think the news may be too dramatic because my friend is an architect, and he said it a normal problem”.

If you’d like to get your building’s water tested, take two samples (300 millilitres each) from your tap – one immediately after turning it on and the other after waiting two to eight minutes. Take these to an accredited laboratory, like the Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre, that tests drinking water. You’ll know within a couple of working days if your water supply is safe.

### **Consulting firm proposes to remove trams from Central**

**17 Aug** - A management consulting firm has proposed to remove tram services from Central in order to “solve traffic congestion”.

Last month, Intellects Consultancy Limited submitted a proposal to the Town Planning Board to eradicate tramways from the Daft Draft Central District Outline Zoning Plan.

The proposal claims tram services occupy 30 percent of Central’s roads, and thus phasing out trams from Des Voeux Road Central or Queensway could “enhance road efficiency” and ease traffic congestions, according to *Headline Daily*. The proposal was quick to attract criticism, since the public is probably sick of the government tearing down Hong Kong’s heritage, piece by piece.

A lady surnamed Choi told *Ming Pao* that the trams should not be replaced.

“Trams are a landmark in Hong Kong and they should remain!” she said.

A 90-year-old elderly man said he has been travelling by tram for the past 80

years, and has been taking them more as he’s gotten older.

He explained that it’s more convenient than travelling travelling by MTR, since the latter requires going “a few extra stories down” to the train platforms.

We’re not quite a century old, but we do agree completely that the tram is just about the most convenient form of travel (as long as you don’t have to be somewhere any time soon), and the trek it takes to get from street-level to the MTR trains sucks big time.

### **Joshua Wong and Alex Chow charged for illegal assembly after Occupy protests**

**19 Aug** - Two key figures in Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement have been charged with illegal assembly almost a year after students stormed government headquarters at the height of huge protests against Chinese rule, one of the activists said today.

Alex Chow, 25, the former leader of the Hong Kong Federation of Students, one of the main groups leading the Occupy movement, told Reuters he and teenager

Joshua Wong had been formally charged. Wong, 18, is leader of the student group Scholarism.

More than 100,000 people took to the streets at the height of the demonstrations, blocking major arteries and bringing large parts of the financial hub to a halt.

Wong was also charged with inciting others to gather for an illegal assembly, Chow said. The thin teenager with dark-rimmed glasses and a bowl-cut hairstyle became one of the most-recognised faces of the protest movement.

Wong wrote on his Facebook page yesterday he had no regrets about taking part in the protests and called the charges a “joke” because the area was considered a public space.

Wong could not be reached for comment today.

Chow said he and Wong had been told to report to police headquarters on Aug. 27. Police declined to confirm the charges but said investigations were ongoing and there could be further arrests.



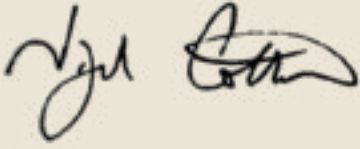
Joshua Wong



Alex Chow

# Conclusion

Our thoughts remain with the people of Nepal as they rebuild from the devastation of the recent earthquakes. We have yet to assist more projects in the country, but will do so soon, and we shall send news of which ones as we do.



**Nigel Collett**  
Managing Director

