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Tang recruits heavyweights as campaign aides

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Gary Cheung and Tanna Chong

Bank of East Asia chairman David Li Kwok-po will head the campaign office of Henry Tang Ying-yen for the chief executive election. And Joseph Yam Chi-kwong, former chief executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, will be among the heavyweights in the former chief secretary's campaign team.

Li had directed Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen's campaign for the top job in 2005 and 2007.

Kelvin Ho Chi-ming, a former permanent secretary for financial services and the treasury, will be the secretary-general of the office.

A person close to Tang said Yam would join the campaign office as a senior adviser and would help draft Tang's manifesto.

Other prominent Tang supporters include former executive council convener Chung Sze-yuen and former financial secretary Antony Leung Kam-chung.

But Hospital Authority chairman Anthony Wu Ting-yuk will not take up any post in Tang's campaign office as expected, although he has pledged his support to Tang.

Wu was invited to head Tang's campaign office, 'but Wu did not take up the offer as he believes there is another better candidate for the job', said a person close to Wu.

More than 200 Tang supporters will attend a rally at HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity in Kowloon City tomorrow.

Although industrial-sector lawmaker Lam Tai-fai - a close friend of Tang's - confirmed his attendance, he said he would not take any role in the campaign office.

Other attending lawmakers include four from the pro-business Economic Synergy, led by Jeffrey Lam Kin-fung, and the insurance sector's Chan Kin-por.

In the business sector, Irons Sze Wing-wai, the new president-elect of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association, Jimmy Ng Wing-ka, a vice-president of the association, and Shirley Chan Suk-ling - a cousin of Chan Wing-kee, a high-profile Tang supporter - will also attend.