

**Fortieth Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the  
Task Force on Business Liaison Groups***

**Purpose**

This paper reports on the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 14 March 2019.

**Work progress of the BLGTF**

***Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups***

2. From 27 November 2018 to 18 June 2019, four Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings were held and a total of 15 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. Five information dissemination sessions on business facilitation / new regulatory requirements were conducted by the departments concerned.

***Technology Voucher Programme***

3. To enhance the competitiveness of the local small and medium enterprises, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launched the Technology Voucher Programme (TVP) under the Innovation and Technology Fund on a pilot basis in November 2016, and a series of enhancement measures from 27 February 2019. The ITC briefed Members at the BLGTF meeting held on 19 June 2019 on the TVP and the enhancement measures, including converting the TVP into a regular funding programme under ITC, further expanding the eligibility criteria, doubling the funding ceiling per applicant from \$200,000 to \$400,000, increasing the maximum number of approved projects per entity from three to four, expanding the types of projects to be subsidised and simplifying the application procedures etc.

4. The BLGTF welcomed these measures which could encourage the wider adoption of technology by local entities to improve their efficiency and services.

***Exemption of Electronic Sports Venues from Licence Requirement under the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435)***

5. Depending on the actual operation of electronic sports (e-sports) venue, it may be necessary for the operators to obtain an Amusement Game Centre (AGC) licence pursuant to the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap. 435). To promote the development of e-sports, a mechanism was adopted by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to exempt e-sports venues from the requirements of AGC Licence. The HAD briefed Members at the same meeting the said mechanism, including the exemption principles, eligibility for exemption, licensing conditions applicable to traditional AGCs to be waived, as well as the one-stop service and guidelines offered by HAD to facilitate the trade to make an application.

6. The BLGTF welcomed the above business facilitation arrangements which could help promote the development of the e-sports industry.

***Measures to Facilitate Renewal of Cinema Licences***

7. In response to the trade's concern over the long processing time of applications for cinema licence renewal, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), in collaboration with the Buildings Department and the Fire Services Department, briefed Members at the same meeting the two business facilitation measures implemented, viz., provided that the proposed alteration works do not have adverse effect on the fire safety, building safety and public hygiene of the cinema as a whole, the departments concerned will not raise objection to the licence renewal application, and, upon confirmation that the premises for licence renewal could comply with various safety requirements, the departments concerned will issue a "no objection" advice for the renewal application to FEHD no later than two months before the licence expiration date.

8. BLGTF appreciated the efforts of departments concerned in facilitating cinema licence renewals which is conducive to business continuity.

**Way forward**

9. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

**Business Facilitation Team  
Efficiency Office  
Innovation and Technology Bureau  
August 2019**