

**Forty-first Meeting of  
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(a) : Report on the work of the  
Wholesale and Retail Task Force***

**Purpose**

This paper reports on the work of the Wholesale and Retail Task Force (WRTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting held on 28 August 2019.

**Work progress of WRTF**

***New Loan Guarantee Product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme***

2. At the WRTF meeting held on 2 December 2019, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and HKMC Insurance Limited (HKMCI) briefed Members on the Government's proposal to introduce a new 90% guarantee product under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) administered by the HKMCI.

3. The 90% guarantee product is to tide enterprises over potential financing difficulties amidst the economic downturn and provide additional support to smaller-sized enterprises and businesses with relatively less operating experience, as well as professionals seeking to set up their own practices. Subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, it was planned to launch the 90% guarantee product under the SFGS in the first quarter of 2020.

4. WRTF welcomed the new loan guarantee product which assisted Hong Kong enterprises, particularly small and medium enterprises, to tide over the financing difficulties due to the economic downturn. WRTF suggested that the Government should arrange a briefing for the relevant trades to understand more about the application procedures and requirements of the 90% guarantee product so as to facilitate them in obtaining finance at the soonest. WRTF also proposed to enhance and streamline the relevant application procedures, and make "special arrangements" for SMEs to help them resolve the capital shortage problem due to the social events. The Secretariat had liaised with the CEDB regarding the arrangement of the briefing.

***“Salt / Sugar” Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products***

5. At the same meeting, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department briefed Members on the “Salt / Sugar” Label Scheme for Prepackaged Food Products (the Scheme). It provided a set of four labels, namely “Low Salt”, “No Salt”, “Low Sugar” and “No Sugar”. The Scheme was voluntary and aimed at helping consumers identify low-salt-low-sugar products more easily and make informed choice, and also serving as a catalyst for the trade to provide more varieties of low-salt-low-sugar products for consumers.

6. WRTF appreciated CFS’ efforts in promoting the Scheme which would be conducive to the consumers in making the right choice when purchasing food.

**Way forward**

7. Members are invited to note the work progress of WRTF. WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above issues.

**Business Facilitation Team  
Efficiency Office  
Innovation and Technology Bureau  
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