

**Forty-eighth 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 22 February 2022.

**Work progress of WRTF**

***Technology Voucher Programme***

2. At the WRTF meeting of 24 May 2022, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) briefed the WRTF on the implementation of the Technology Voucher Programme (“TVP”). The ITC launched the TVP in November 2016 under the Innovation and Technology Fund (“ITF”) on a pilot basis. The TVP has become a regular funding programme under the ITF since February 2019. The ITC reviews the operation and arrangement of the TVP from time to time, and has implemented a series of enhancement measures to encourage and facilitate the industry in making use of the TVP. The ITC will continue to promote the TVP to industries, and introduce further enhancement measures where appropriate.

3. The WRTF welcomed the regularisation of the TVP under the ITF and suggested the ITC to streamline the vetting procedures to help SMEs enhance competitiveness through better adoption of technologies.

***The Mercury Control Ordinance***

4. At the same meeting, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) briefed the WRTF on the regulatory framework under Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640) (the Ordinance). The Ordinance has come into effect on 1 December 2021 to effectively discharge duties of the Minamata

Convention on Mercury (“the Convention”) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Ordinance has four main provisions, namely, to introduce a permit system to control import and export of mercury and mercury mixtures; control the storage of mercury and mercury compounds; prohibit the manufacture, import, export and supply of mercury-added products listed in the Convention; and prohibit manufacturing processes listed in the Convention in which mercury or mercury compounds are used.

5. The WRTF thanked the EPD for their clarification of the regulatory framework for the Ordinance and the relevant situations that are exempted from the Ordinance.

### **Way forward**

6. Members are invited to note the work progress of the WRTF. The WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above initiatives.

**Business Facilitation Team  
Efficiency Office  
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau  
July 2022**