

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

***Agenda Item 4(b) : 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 20 July 2022.

**Work progress of WRTF**

***Support Measures for Small and Medium Enterprises***

2. The Government strives to provide multi-pronged assistance to Hong Kong enterprises, and reviews and enhances various support measures from time to time having regard to the economic situation and needs of the trade, comprising the major support provided by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) (i.e. SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS), Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund), SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), “4-in-1” Integrated Services of SME Centres and SME ReachOut) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the wholesale and retail sector.

3. On 2 September 2022, the WRTF Secretariat reported to the Members by circulating a paper on the Government’s various supportive measures and enhancement arrangements to help SMEs in meeting challenges such as liquidity shortage, market development and business promotion, so as to upgrade or transform their business. There is a suggestion to streamline the application processes and shorten the turnaround time for approval regarding the Special 100% Guarantee Product under the SFGS. The CEDB responded that the HKMC Insurance Limited and lending institutions will continue to clearly explain various documentation requirements to applicant enterprises, process their applications promptly, and follow up on cases which need longer processing time.

## **Way forward**

4. 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**  
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