

**Fifty-second Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

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

Purpose

This paper reports the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 28 June 2023.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. Since the last meeting, we have conducted one Business Liaison Group (BLG) meeting and proactively liaised with the trade of three BLGs. A total of six issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified, and one information dissemination session on e-services for licence applications was conducted by the relevant department as arranged by the Secretariat.

3. To enhance communication with the trade, we continue to provide various channels including an online form for the trade to share their views on licensing and regulatory regime. Summaries of the views collected and the Government responses are uploaded onto the Business Facilitation Initiatives website on a regular basis. Salient issues and examples have been presented in the 34th meeting of the BLGTF.

Implementation of Unique Business Identifier and Next Generation of Integrated Companies Registry Information System

4. In the BLGTF meeting on 22 August 2023, the Companies Registry (CR) briefed the BLGTF on the implementation of Unique Business Identifier (UBI) and the Next Generation of Integrated Companies Registry Information System (Revamped ICRIS). UBI enables the Government and businesses to uniquely identify legal entities in various transactions and regulatory interactions. The business registration number (i.e. the first eight digits of the Business Registration Certificate number) assigned by the Business Registration Office of the Inland Revenue Department will be adopted as the UBI of companies/entities. The UBI was implemented for limited partnership funds

with effect from 1 November 2023, and will be extended to cover other types of companies and entities on 27 December 2023.

5. Through integrating features and settings across CR's different services, the Revamped ICRIS, to be launched on 27 December 2023, will enable customers to interact with CR more easily via a single integrated online platform. For instance, customers can access CR's different services (namely e-filing, e-search and application for disclosure of withheld information/protected information) by a single log-on with a unified account.

6. BLGTF thanked CR for implementing the new measures to facilitate businesses.

Way forward

7. 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, Technology and Industry Bureau
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