

**Fifty-third 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 22 September 2023.

Work progress of the BLGTF

Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

2. Since the last meeting, we have conducted 11 Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings and proactively liaised with the trade of seven BLGs. A total of three issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified, and 14 information dissemination sessions on new regulatory requirements and e-services for licence applications etc. were conducted by the relevant departments 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 35th meeting of the BLGTF.

Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme

4. To alleviate the problem of labour shortage, the Labour Department (LD) launched the Enhanced Supplementary Labour Scheme (ESLS) on 4 September 2023 which allows employers with genuine difficulties in local recruitment to apply for importation of labour at technician level or below. In the BLGTF meeting on 28 December 2023, LD briefed the BLGTF on the details and enhancement measures of the ESLS, namely, enhancing coverage, enhancing dissemination of application information to employers, streamlining verification of application information, enhancing local recruitment arrangements of labour importation applications, refining workflow of

consultation with the Labour Advisory Board, and enhancing dissemination of information at briefings on employment rights.

5. BLGTF thanked LD for implementing the ESLS to alleviate the problem of labour shortage of the trade, thereby facilitate businesses, and expressed their concern about the lead time for application processing.

Way forward

6. 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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