Business Facilitation Advisory Committee Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF)

An update of the progress of Business Liaison Groups

Purpose

This paper provides an update of the overall work progress of the ten Business Liaison Groups (BLGs) since the last Task Force meeting.

Progress

- 2. From 1 January to 31 May 2014, nine BLG meetings were held and a total of 42 issues raised by the trade were satisfactorily resolved or clarified. At these meetings, 15 information dissemination sessions on new business facilitation measures/new regulations/existing regulatory requirements and one consultation session on proposed regulation/legislation was conducted by the bureau/department concerned. A breakdown of these figures by the BLGs is shown at *Appendix*. Three typical cases satisfactorily dealt with by relevant BLGs are set out in BLGTF Papers 40 to 42.
- 3. As regards the consultation session mentioned in paragraph 2 above, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Home Affairs Department (HAD) consulted the trade on the proposed trade facilitation measure set out in paragraphs 4(c) and 16 to 18 of the Legislative Council Paper [No. CB(2)841/13-14(05)] at the BLG meeting for Family Amusement Centres (FAC) held in March 2014. Under the proposal, FACs will be exempted from the Amusement Game Centres Ordinance (Cap 435) and be allowed to install non-mechanical non-prize-giving amusement game devices approved by the Office of the Licensing Authority for persons under 16 with condition that such game devices should not constitute more than 10% of the total number of games installed therein. The trade expressed a number of views on the proposal (including their request for permission of installing prize-giving game machines with monitors at FACs) at the BLG meeting. HAB and HAD noted and would consider these views, with a view to drawing up details of the proposal for submission to the Legislative Council by end of 2014.

Way Forward

4. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and offer comments, if any.

Secretariat of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups June 2014

A breakdown of the work of the ten Business Liaison Groups from 1 January to 31 May 2014

BLG	No. of meetings	No. of issues resolved / clarified	No. of information dissemination sessions	No. of consultation sessions
Food business (restaurant)	1	7	2	0
Food business (non-restaurant)	1	5	2	0
Billiard establishments, public bowling-alleys and public skating rinks	1	3	1	0
Cinemas	1	8	1	0
Theme parks	0*	-	-	-
Family amusement centres	1	3	0	1
Hotels	1	5	2	0
Recreational clubs	1	4	6	0
Karaoke establishments, night clubs, bars and other entertainment clubs	1	4	0	0
Guesthouses, holiday camps and holiday flats	1	3	1	0
Total	9	42	15	1

^{*} The BLG on Theme parks will meet on 14 July 2014.