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Urgent By Fax

Mr Andy Lau
Clerk to Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Tourist Association (Amendment) Bill 2001
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
[Fax : 2121 0420]

Dear Andy,

**Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Tourist Association (Amendment) Bill 2001**

Thank you for letting us have sight of further submissions from three organisations. We are pleased to note that all the three organisations indicate support for the Hong Kong Tourist Association (Amendment) Bill 2001. We will take into account the views expressed by the Hong Kong Retail Management Association on the composition of the future Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) when considering appointment to the future HKTB. As conveyed in my earlier letter dated 21 February 2001, nominations from the industry are always welcome. We will endeavour to maintain a balanced composition with representatives from relevant organisation and professionals to facilitate useful exchange at the future HKTB.

As regards the various suggestions made by the Association for Hong Kong Catering Services Management Ltd., almost all of them have been or are being implemented by the Government and the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA). The Tourism Commission is mainly responsible for formulating and

coordinating implementation of policies, plans and strategies for tourism development. We have maintained close liaison with the tourism authorities of the Mainland and Macau on tourism development in the region.

The principal role of the HKTA is to market and promote Hong Kong as a tourist destination. The HKTA has no plan to collect membership fees from the financial year of 2001–02 onwards. Nonetheless, it will continue to provide the best support to the industry.

The HKTA has also drawn up a comprehensive action plan to publicise the future Hong Kong Tourism Board and will soon launch a community-wide tourism promotion project entitled “City of Life – Hong Kong Is It!” with the full support of the 18 District Councils. The Quality Tourism Services Council is responsible for co-ordinating and promoting the Quality Tourism Services Scheme. Such arrangements will remain unchanged in the future.

I hope the above help address the comments made by the three organisations.

Yours sincerely,

(Wu Kam Yin)
for Secretary for Economic Services

cc. Mrs Grace Lee, Acting Executive Director, Hong Kong Tourist Association
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