



*The Hong Kong Sea Transport
Association Ltd.*
香港航運協會

CB(1) 1336/01-02(01)

Date : 13th March 2002

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China
Legislative Council

Dear Miss Poon,

Thank you for your invitation to attend the Legislative Council Meeting on the 22nd of March, 2002. In representing our members, I would like to elaborate our point of view of the E-Man ordinance.

We understand the E-Man is a "Must" if Hong Kong wants to stay the world number one sea port and remain competitive with other adjacent Asian ports. We have no objection to this.

Our problem is that most of us are SME. We have implemented the simple computer system to suit our own requirement, to do our operation and reporting job. This investment is rather expensive especially the financial result of the past few years was very bad for most of us. Now the Government has appointed the third party – Tradelink as the service provider for the E-Man. Their computer system is very updated and sophisticated. Their system is using the XML system but most of us are still using the D-base system. These two systems cannot be connected unless we have to modify our computer system again. However, our critical financial situation cannot afford further investment on this IT Technology.

We would like to have the following suggestions:

1. Either Trade-Link or the Government can provide us with the simple software so that we can easily connect onto the Trade-Link System.
2. Or the Customs Department has the web-site so that we can down-load the application form to submit the Manifest.
3. The whole transport industry is waiting for the common platform so that any kind of transport companies can link to each other for easy operation, communication and documentation. Then it will help us to provide the most efficient and high-quality services and Hong Kong can remain competitive.
4. We also have a little unhappy about the charges from Trade-Link which should not be as high as HK\$20.- per transaction. We suggest the price shall not be more than HK\$5.- per transaction.

Mr. Alfred Tsao
Chairman - 2002
The Hong Kong Sea Transport Association Ltd.