

23 August 2002

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

2836 1011

2574 1362

(5) in L/M (5) in VTC – G 140/3/1 (IV)

CB1/BC/4/01

Attn : Ms Christina Shiu

Dear Ms Shiu,

Bills Committee on Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001

I refer to your letter of 16 July 2002 inviting views from us on the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001.

The Vocational Training Council supports the removal of the civil and criminal liabilities related to parallel importation of and subsequent dealings in computer software under the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528). We agree that allowing parallel importation would increase competition and promote product diversification in the market. From the economic perspective, consumers can enjoy more choices at lower prices.

Education institutions like us have long been pioneers in exploring the latest technologies and would value the availability of more new softwares. As a matter of fact, most of these new softwares are produced in foreign countries mainly in the US and Europe. With the implementation of the proposed legislative amendments, it will facilitate us in acquiring useful software products that may not be readily available in the local market thereby enriching our teaching and learning process.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Louisa Wong)
for Executive Director