

October 8, 2002

Clerk to Bills Committee on
Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F., Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

Re : The Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001

We are glad to know that the Hong Kong Government is going to introduce a multi-application smart identity card for the citizens next year. As far as we understand, the new smart identity card will use state-of-the-art biometrics technologies and sophisticated printing and cryptographic techniques for card production to ensure that it is highly forgery-resistant. The launching of the smart ID card scheme will project Hong Kong's image as a modern, efficient and forward looking city and a leader in promoting the use of advanced information technology. This will certainly have positive impact towards Hong Kong as a business and investment centre of the region.

As Hong Kong's trade promotion agency, we have seen international business visitors coming to Hong Kong to attend our various activities growing steadily. With mainland China's WTO entry, this is expected to grow further. We now received about 130,000 international and mainland business visitors to our own trade fairs and a further 600 trade missions annually. Any measure which releases more resources to help expedite processing of overseas business visitors will undoubtedly be beneficial to Hong Kong.

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We are also pleased to note that free e-Cert will be offered along with the smart ID card system. This will help create a critical mass of e-Cert users and is conducive to expanding e-commerce and e-business. In the long run, it will lower the costs of commercial transactions and help to catapult Hong Kong as a regional leader of e-commerce.

We fully support the smart ID card scheme. We strongly believe that it will make significant contributions to Hong Kong as an international business centre.

Sincerely,

Alan Wong
Director, Services Promotion

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