

8 October 2002

Clerk to the Bills Committee on
Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Sirs

Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) welcomes the opportunity to provide its comments on the above Bill from a tourism perspective. In principle, we support the introduction of the Amendment Bill, and take the view that the “Smart ID Card” can further enhance the service quality Hong Kong provides to its visitors in two significant ways:

- 1 The introduction of the smart ID card for Hong Kong residents will allow them to perform their own immigration clearance at self-service kiosks, thereby reducing the workload of the Immigration Department and enabling its manpower to be redeployed to serve visitors. In this way, the quality of service provided to visitors can be enhanced without the need to increase the resources of Immigration Department.
- 2 The smart card technology could be extended to the HKSAR Travel Pass issued to *bona fide* frequent travellers, to encourage them to apply for and use the Travel Pass. This, in turn, would encourage more travellers to visit Hong Kong frequently and facilitate their entry. We believe, however, that use of the HKSAR Travel Pass should continue to remain optional for qualified frequent travellers, and that there must be adequate data privacy protection.

We also take the view that implementation of the smart ID card will help demonstrate to visitors Hong Kong innovativeness and infrastructural strengths, and emphasise its convenience as a destination for business or leisure travel.

Page 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 October 2002

I hope you will find these comments useful. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours faithfully

Clara Chong
Executive Director