

Our Ref: CM/BC/237/2002

13 September 2002

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

Dear Sir

Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill 2001

The Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong supports the smart ID card scheme proposed by the Government for the following reasons:

- (1) Despite enormous resources and efforts being put into tourism, consistent congestion at immigration control points is causing increasing dissatisfaction from visitors. The launching of the smart ID card scheme should be able to shorten the waiting time at immigration and thus make the journeys of visitors more pleasant.
- (2) Apart from expediting immigration clearance, the smart ID card will also promote electronic transactions since the e-Cert that can be loaded onto the ID card is a recognised form of identification of its user. When a critical mass of e-Cert users is built up, more business visitors are expected to come to Hong Kong for the opportunities in e-commerce.
- (3) The launching of the smart ID card will project Hong Kong as a modern, forward-looking city and a leader in the use of advanced information technology.

The Travel Industry Council is therefore in support of the smart ID card scheme and hopes that the Bills Committee will accord priority to the vetting of the Bill.

Yours faithfully
TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

Ronnie Yuen
Chairman