Our Ref: SME/40

27 May 2002

Clerk to Panel LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry 3rd Floor, Citibank Tower 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong (Attn: Ms Connie Szeto)

[Fax No: 2869 6794]

Dear Ms Szeto.

LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry Follow-up to meeting on 13 May 2002

At the Panel meeting on 13 May 2002, the Hon. Chan Kam-lam requested the Administration to provide further information on approved cases of the SME Business Installations and Equipment Loan Guarantee Scheme which involved loan facilities over \$2 million each. We undertook to furnish the information to Mr. Chan and other Panel members after the meeting.

As at 17 May 2002, we have approved 69 guarantee cases which involve loan facilities over \$2 million each. For about 84% of these cases, the amount of loan facilities falls within the range of \$2,000,001 - \$4 million. The remaining 16% of the cases involve loan facilities over \$4 million but below \$8.5 million. The applicants come from various sectors, including textiles and clothing, printing and publishing, and metals.

I would be grateful if you could pass the information to Members for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Eugene Fung) for Director-General of Trade and Industry