

Panel on Security of the Legislative Council

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)

Identity Card Project: Card Face Design

INTRODUCTION

This paper informs Members of the final designs of the card face of the different versions of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) identity (ID) card as explained below and reproduced in Annex, including the adoption of the words “身份證”, as opposed to “身分證”.

BACKGROUND

2. At the meeting on 7 November 2001, we reported to Members progress of the new ID card project, including design of the card face of the new ID card. Members noted the indicative designs of the smart ID cards prepared by a consulting company which had taken into account feedback from public consultations. Members were advised that the indicative designs had incorporated sophisticated security features against forgery and alteration and that the contractor for the new Registration of Persons (ROP) System might suggest additional features to further strengthen the security of the ID card.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Final Card Face Designs

3. As with the current scheme of ID cards, the smart ID cards would continue to be grouped under two main streams, namely, Permanent Identity Cards and Identity Cards. They can be further divided into seven different card types, as follows:

- (i) Permanent Identity Card (aged 18 or above)
- (ii) Permanent Identity Card (aged 11 - 17)
- (iii) Permanent Identity Card (aged below 11)
- (iv) Identity Card (aged 18 or above)
- (v) Identity Card (aged 11 – 17)
- (vi) Overseas Permanent Identity Card (aged 18 or above)
- (vii) Overseas Permanent Identity Card (aged below 18)

4. Their card face designs must meet high aesthetical standards and contribute towards our fight against forgery or illegal alteration. The contractor selected for the production of smart ID cards has now completed the final card face designs, copies of which are reproduced at **Annex**. On the whole, they are similar to the indicative card face designs presented earlier to Members on 7 November 2001 which used the letters of HK as a theme and incorporated sophisticated security features. Further improvements made in the final designs are mainly security related, including the adoption of more sophisticated printing techniques employing multi-colour and multi-pattern background (i.e. patterns of guilloche, parallelogram, rectangle and hexagon) as well as the inclusion of intentional printing defects. Experts in the Immigration Department have examined these additional features and support their adoption.

The Use of “身份” in the New ID Card

5. The Chinese text of the Registration of Persons (ROP) Ordinance, declared authentic in September 1994, adopted the wording of “身分證” for “identity card”. On the other hand, the wording of “身份證” has been adopted in our ID cards before and after September 1994. As both words are interchangeable and the card face design is not prescribed by law, the adoption of “身份證” in the card face design of our ID cards would not be affected by the use of “身分證” in our existing legislation which has its own history and rationale.

6. We are of the view that the best way forward is to maintain the existing situation, viz. the smart ID cards should continue to adopt the wording of “身份證” in its card face design. This represents a continuation of the existing policy which has come to be accepted by the public over the years. Immigration Department has been following public opinions on the subject since the plan to issue the smart ID card came to light and it is clear that public views in favour of adopting the wording of “身份證” in the card face design are much more vocal and persistent.

Next Steps

7. Having finalized the card face designs, the contractor will proceed with card production which will take three months. To meet our target of introducing the smart ID cards in May 2003, the contractor is required to deliver the first batch of the blank ID cards to Immigration Department in January 2003 to provide adequate time for testing and rectification of defective cards/chips.

Security Bureau

23 September 2002

Samples of Smart Identity Card

Permanent Identity Card



for Adult



for Juvenile



for Minor

Samples of Smart Identity Card

Identity Card



for Adult



for Juvenile

Samples of Smart Identity Card

Overseas Permanent Identity Card



for Adult



for Juvenile or Minor