

For Discussion
9 June 2003

LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry

Follow up to the World Jewellery and Watch Fair 2003 incident and Participation of Local and Overseas Exhibitions and Trade Fairs in 2003

Introduction

At the meeting on 15 April 2003, Members were briefed on the sequence of events leading up to Hong Kong's withdrawal from the World Jewellery and Watch Fair 2003 in Basel (Basel Fair). This paper informs Members of the follow-up actions taken by the Administration and Trade Development Council (TDC) on the Basel fair; and measures taken to minimize possible disturbance to upcoming local/overseas trade fairs due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak.

Follow up actions arising from the Basel Fair

2. Following the denial of participation of Hong Kong exhibitors in the Basel Fair held on 3-10 April 2003, TDC filed a formal appeal against the Swiss Government's decree on 16 May 2003. This is to facilitate legal action against the Swiss Government at a later stage.

3. In parallel, TDC is seeking a settlement from the fair organiser, which is the main contracting party in this case. TDC wrote to the fair organiser on 14 April 2003, formally requesting a proposal for settlement of the claim. TDC advised that any such settlement should include both compensation for the aggrieved Hong Kong exhibitors and an undertaking that the Hong Kong delegation will be accommodated at Basel (rather than at the overspill venue in Zurich as was the case this year, despite TDC's protestations) for the 2004 Fair. The organiser's reply, received on 14 May 2003, indicates that they will appeal against the Swiss Government's decree. If successful, the appeal may provide a basis for TDC to seek damages from the Swiss Government, should this be an appropriate course of action to take.

4. In addition to direct communication between TDC and the fair organiser, the TDC's senior representative in Central Europe is discussing with the organiser regarding possible settlement terms. In parallel, TDC has engaged an international law firm with a Swiss associate to prepare the way for possible future litigation against the fair organiser in case a settlement along the lines described above cannot be reached.

5. As regards efforts to bring the case to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Administration wrote to the Swiss federal authorities on 16 April 2003, expressing our disappointment as well as seeking clarification on the decree in accordance with relevant provisions under the WTO Agreements. We received their reply in late May and are studying it in detail. Our preliminary assessment is that further clarifications are called for in a number of areas including the medical grounds for a differentiation of visitors and exhibitors and a quarantine period three times the maximum incubation period. We are seeking the views of the Director of Health and will take up the matter with the Swiss Government again.

Measures taken to minimize possible disturbance to upcoming trade fairs

6. The Administration has reached out to TDC and other trade and industry bodies in Hong Kong to obtain information on local and overseas trade fairs which Hong Kong businesses are likely to participate. Through these efforts, we have compiled a list of trade fairs scheduled from April to the end of this year, attached at Annex. We update this list on a regular basis.

7. The Administration has taken proactive steps and made use of various channels, especially through our overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), to brief foreign government officials, media, fair organisers and other overseas communities on Hong Kong's efforts in combating the SARS epidemic. We update them with accurate information so that overseas authorities and exhibition organisers would not impose unnecessary restrictions on our exhibitors, and overseas businessmen would continue to participate in marketing activities here.

8. The Administration has also from time to time briefed foreign consuls and business representatives in Hong Kong on the progress of our control measures against SARS.

9. We also keep a close touch on any restrictions imposed on visitors and exhibitors from Hong Kong by overseas governments and trade fair organizers, disseminate the latest information to the prospective exhibitors in Hong Kong, and take actions to persuade the relevant authorities to lift these restrictions. A recent example is the 2003 JCK Show in Las Vegas, held from 30 May to 3 June 2003. With the concerted efforts of the Administration and the concerned trade association, the organiser finally decided to allow our exhibitors back into the trade show, having regard to the precautionary measures taken by the Administration in terms of visitors departing Hong Kong and the various measures which our exhibitors have pledged to take on a voluntary basis.

10. TDC, through its overseas offices, has also been presenting factual, business-focused information about SARS to overseas business audiences. This involves regular, direct communication with overseas contacts, briefing trade associations and the trade media and mobilising influential overseas multipliers to help disseminate a balanced message. TDC's online newsletter, *Hong Kong Trader*, provides daily updates and stories on SARS for 140,000 overseas readers. TDC's trade portal, *tdctrade.com*, which receives up to 5.5 million hits per day, also has a dedicated SARS information and advisory section.

11. In addition, TDC has introduced a series of measures to persuade overseas businessmen to keep up their marketing activities in Hong Kong. For example, in the consolidated event of Houseware Fair and Gifts & Premium Fair held between 28 April and 1 May, TDC implemented a series of stringent sanitary measures in consultation with the Department of Health (DoH) to reassure overseas businessmen that Hong Kong was a safe place. The advice of the DoH was played up, pointing out that joining the event would not expose them to a higher risk of infection as long as they take the necessary precaution for themselves. TDC will keep future events under close review to see if similar or other measures are warranted.

12. TDC has also joined hands with airlines, hotels, restaurants and retail outlets to offer a wide range of discounts to overseas buyers in order to attract more business visits. TDC has enhanced its buyer promotion programmes through soliciting participation by past buyers, introduced new marketing initiatives, provided attractive travel packages and incentives, launched a customised business-matching programme to connect exhibitors with local buying offices, exporters and trading firms, and invited overseas buyers unable to attend to nominate local agents to visit on their behalf, with

help from TDC's business-matching service if required. Virtual coverage of TDC's physical fairs is also available to enable buyers and manufacturers to make contact online.

Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau
May 2003

Trade Fairs / Conferences scheduled from April to end of year 2003**A. Trade fairs held as scheduled**

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Apr 2-4, 2003	15 th Guangzhou International Toys, Children's Commodities & Gifts Fair	Guangzhou, China	HK Trade Development Council	Held as scheduled
Apr 22-26, 2003	International Jewellery Dubai	Dubai, UAE	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	“
May 2-5, 2003	MIDO - International Optics, Optometry and Ophthalmology Exhibition	Fiera Milano, Italy	HK Trade Development Council	“
May 4-6, 2003	Food Marketing Institute Show	Chicago, USA	HK Trade Development Council	“
May 4-11, 2003	Mercedes Australian Fashion Week for S/S 03/04	Sydney, Australia	HK Trade Development Council	“
May 13-15, 2003	FATEX 2003 - The Sourcing Trade Fair	Paris, France	HK Trade Development Council	“
May 14-16, 2003	Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3)	Los Angeles, USA	HKPC	“

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
May 14-24, 2003	MIF, Cannes	Cannes, France	HK Trade Development Council	“
May 18-21, 2003	National Stationery Show	New York	Individual companies	“
May 23-27, 2003	Interzum Cologne	Germany	Individual companies	“

B. Trade fairs / conferences affected by SARS

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Apr 3-10, 2003	World Watch & Jewellery Show 2003	Basel & Zurich, Switzerland	HK Trade Development Council	Withdrawn
Apr 7-9, 2003	APLF-Asia Pacific Leather Fair – Fashion & Finished Products (Spring)	Hong Kong	CMP Asia	Cancelled

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Apr 21-24, 2003	Hong Kong Houseware Fair 2003	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Consolidated fairs: Apr 28 – May 1, 2003 Jul 23-26, 2003
Apr 28 – May 1, 2003	Hong Kong Gifts & Premium Fair 2003	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	
Apr 28-30, 2003	Hong Kong Licensing Show & Conference 2003	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Jul 23-25, 2003)
May 15-17, 2003	7 th International Jewellery Kobe (IJK)	Kobe, Japan	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	Completed (7 out of the 10 HK exhibitors withdrew)
May 15-18, 2003	Computer Expo	Hong Kong	CMP Asia	Rescheduled (to Aug 7-10, 2003)
May 16-18, 2003	China (Shanghai) International Beauty & Cosmetics Expo	Shanghai	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Nov 6-8, 2003)
May 19-23, 2003	Beijing International Book Fair	Beijing	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Sep 17-21, 2003)
May 23-26, 2003	Taipei International Auto / Motorcycle Parts & Accessories Show	Taipei	HK Trade Development Council	Cancelled

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
May 27-29, 2003	GLDA Las Vegas Gem & Jewelry Show	Las Vegas, USA	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	Completed (with health measures taken by HK exhibitors voluntarily)
May 30-Jun 3, 2003	The JCK Show – Las Vegas 2003	Las Vegas, USA	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	Completed (with compulsory health measures taken by HK exhibitors)
May 30, 2003	Joint Conference with Management Consultancy Association “How to Build a Competitive Enterprise”	Shenzhen, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Dec 19, 2003)
Jun 2-3, 2003	Asia Pacific Forum (Federation of HK Business Associations Worldwide)	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to March 2004)
Jun 7-12, 2003	VicenzaOro II	Vicenza, Italy	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	HK exhibitors withdrew from this show but will join another show “Orogamma, Italy” held from Sep 6-11, 2003.

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Jun 11-13, 2003	International Food Ingredients and Additives / Health Food Exposition	Tokyo, Japan	Individual companies	The organiser requested all exhibitors and visitors from SARS affected areas to refrain from participating in the show, or they should arrive Japan 10 days in advance.
Jun 15-21, 2003	14 th China Harbin Fair for Trade and Economic Cooperation (to be followed by Boarder Trade Study Mission)	Harbin, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (downgraded from HK Pavilion to promotional stand)
Jun 17-19, 2003	Ambiente Japan Interior Lifestyle	Tokyo, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	The organiser required delegates from SARS affected areas to hire personnels from “clean” places to man their booths, or self quarantine for 10 days in Japan. 8 out of TDC’s 9 HK participants have withdrawn with a 100% refund.

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Jun 18-22, 2003	China International Consumer Electronics Show	Qingdao, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled
Jun 25-27, 2003	Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART)	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Sep 24-26, 2003)
Jun 26-28, 2003	APLF-Asia Pacific Leather Fair – Raw Materials & Manufacturing	Hong Kong	CMP Asia	Cancelled
Jun 26-29, 2003	Indonesia International Jewellery & Watch Fair	Jakarta, Indonesia	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	Rescheduled (to Aug 14-17, 2003)
Jul 3-5, 2003	International Stationery & Office Products Fair	Tokyo, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	Cancelled
Jul 23-28, 2003	Hong Kong Book Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Jul 29 – Aug 3, 2003)
Jul 25-27, 2003	China Digital Entertainment Expo, 2003	Beijing, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Jan 16-18, 2004)
Sep 25-28, 2003	Luxury China	Shanghai, China	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	Rescheduled to next year

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Oct, 2003	National Electronics Fair	Shanghai, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled (to Nov 18-21, 2003)

C. Upcoming trade fairs / conferences

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Jun 5-7, 2003	SME Market Day	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jun 10-12, 2003	Licensing International	New York, USA	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jun 23-27, 2003	National Plastics Expo	Chicago, USA	HK Mould & Die Council	-
Jun 29 – Jul 1, 2003	ISPO – International Trade Fair for Sports Equipment & Fashion	Munich, Germany	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jul 8-11, 2003	Hong Kong Fashion Week Spring/Summer	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Jul 8-11, 2003	Exploring Overseas Market Workshops	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jul 23-25, 2003	Hong Kong Licensing Show and Conference 2003	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from Apr 2003
Jul 23-26, 2003	Hong Kong Houseware Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jul 23-26, 2003	Hong Kong Gifts and Premium Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Jul 27-30, 2003	JA International Jewelry Show	New York, USA	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	-
Jul 29 – Aug 3, 2003	Hong Kong Book Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from Jul 23-28, 2003
Aug 7-10, 2003	Computer Expo	Hong Kong	CMP Asia	Rescheduled from May 2003
Aug 10-12, 2003	National Hardware Show	Chicago, USA	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 13-15, 2003	Kenfair Asia Expo	Las Vegas, USA	Kenfair International	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Aug 14-17, 2003	Indonesia International Jewellery & Watch Fair	Jakarta, Indonesia	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	Rescheduled from Jun 26-29, 2003
Aug 14-18, 2003	Food Expo	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 14-18, 2003	International Conference and Exhibition of the Modernisation of Chinese Medicine and Health Products	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 17-21, 2003	The 10th International Famous Furniture Exhibition Fair	Dongguan, China	International Furniture and Decoration (HK) Association	-
Aug 22-26, 2003	Tendence Lifestyle	Frankfurt, Germany	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 26-29, 2003	China Food	Shanghai, China	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 28-31, 2003	Korea Int'l Jewellery & Watch Fair	Seoul, Korea	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	-
Aug 29 – Sep 3, 2003	IFA-International Consumer Electronics Fair	Berlin, Germany	HK Trade Development Council	-
Aug 31 – Sep 3, 2003	International Jewellery London	London, UK	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Sep 2003	Hong Kong Logistics Delegation and Road Show to Western Europe	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep, 2003	Guangdong / Hong Kong / Taiwan Forum	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 2-5, 2003	Tokyo International Gift Show (Autumn Edition)	Tokyo, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 3-7, 2003	Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 5-8, 2003	M'B Montres et Bijoux	Paris, France	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	HKJMA will not form a delegation to this fair, as the booth selling is very poor.
Sep 5-8, 2003	Macef Autunno – International Exhibition of Tableware, Household, Gift Items, Silverware, Goldsmith's Items & Watches	Milan, Italy	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 6-11, 2003	Orogemma, Italy	Vicenza, Italy	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	-
Sep 9-12, 2003	MetalsAsia Exhibition	Singapore	HK Metal Manufacturers Association	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Sep 9-12, 2003	The International Shoes & Leather Exhibition	Guangzhou, China	Top Repute Co. Ltd	-
Sep 10-12, 2003	Japan Jewellery Fair	Tokyo, Japan	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	-
Sep 10-14, 2003	Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair	Bangkok, Thailand	HK Jewellery & Jade Manufacturers Association	-
Sep 13-16, 2003	The 15 th Dalian International Garment Fair	Dalian, China	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 17-21, 2003	Beijing International Book Fair	Beijing, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from May 2003
Sep 18-21, 2003	GDS – International Shoe Fair – Autumn	Dusseldorf, Germany	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 24-26, 2003	Hong Kong International Film & TV Market (FILMART)	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from Jun 2003
Sep 24-27, 2003	Guangzhou International Fair for Cosmetics and Hairdressing Products	Guangzhou, China	HK Trade Development Council	-
Sep 27 – Oct 7, 2003	Promotion of Hong Kong Branded Products	Wuhan, China	HK Trade Development Council	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Oct 2003 (tentative)	PRD Road Show in Europe	Europe	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 2003 (tentative)	PRD Road Show in Taiwan	Taiwan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 6-9, 2003	MOTEXHA – The Middle East International Fashion, Accessories and Leather Products Exhibition	Dubai, UAE	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 6-10, 2003	Hong Kong Total Fashion Fair	Tokyo & Osaka, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 7-11, 2003	INDEX – The 13 th Middle East International Furniture, Interiors & Retail Design Exhibition	Dubai, UAE	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 7-11, 2003	MidEast Watch & Jewellery Show	Sharjah, UAE	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	-
Oct 7-11, 2003	CEATEC Japan – Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies	Tokyo, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 8-12, 2003	Korea Electronic Show	Seoul, Korea	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 11-15, 2003	ANUGA	Cologne, Germany	HK Trade Development Council	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Oct 16-21, 2003	Equip Auto	Paris, France	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 12-18, 2003	Hong Kong Pavilion at ITU Telecom	Geneva, Switzerland	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 13-16, 2003	Hong Kong Electronics Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 13-16, 2003	ElectronicAsia	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 14-18, 2003	Jewellery Arabia 2003	Bahrain	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	-
Oct 17-20, 2003	SILMO – International Optics & Eyewear Exhibition	Paris, France	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 19-21, 2003	Union des Foires Internationales Congres	Cairo, Egypt	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 19-23, 2003	GITEX – Gulf Information Technology Exhibition	Dubai, UAE	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 21-25, 2003	Arab Jewellery & Watch Show	Abu Dhabi, UAE	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Oct 27-30, 2003	Hong Kong International Lighting Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 27-30, 2003	Hong Kong International Hardware and Home Improvement Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Oct 31 – Nov 2, 2003	Hong Kong Jewellery Exhibition in Miami	Miami, USA	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 2003 (tentative)	PRD Road Show in USA	USA	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 2003 (tentative)	PRD Road Show in Japan	Japan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 2003 (tentative)	Outreach Programme in Jiangmen, PRD	Jiangmen, China	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 3-7, 2003	Moscow Clock & Watch Salon	Moscow, Russia	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 4-6, 2003	FATEX 2003 – The Sourcing Trade Fair, Paris	Paris, France	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 4-7, 2003	AAPEX – Automotive Aftermarket Products Expo	Las Vegas, USA	HK Trade Development Council	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Nov 5-7, 2003	Hong Kong Optical Fair	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 6-8, 2003	China (Shanghai) International Beauty & Cosmetics Expo	Shanghai, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from May 2003
Nov 11, 2003	London Dinner	London, UK	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 17-21, 2003	COMDEX Fall	Las Vegas, USA	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 18-21, 2003	National Electronics Fair	Shanghai, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from Oct 2003
Nov 26-29, 2003	International Furniture Fair	Tokyo, Japan	HK Trade Development Council	-
Nov 27-30, 2003	The 11 th Hong Kong International Jewelry Manufacturers Exhibition	Hong Kong	HK Jewelry Manufacturers' Association	-
Dec 2003 (tentative)	Mission from Japan to HK and the PRD	Hong Kong	HK Trade Development Council	-
Dec 3-6, 2003	東莞國際機械及原料展	Dongguan, China	HK Metal Manufacturers Association	-

Date	Function	Place of function	Organiser / Coordinator	Status
Dec 7-11, 2003	21 st Saudi Arabia's International Trade and Fashion Fair	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	HK Trade Development Council	-
Dec 18-19, 2003	Hong Kong Professional Services Expo	Shenzhen, China	HK Trade Development Council	-
Dec 19, 2003	Joint Conference with Management Consultancy Association "How to Build a Competitive Enterprise"	Shenzhen, China	HK Trade Development Council	Rescheduled from May 2003