

CE appoints members to Independent Panel of Inquiry on the Harbour Fest

The Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa, today (December 12) announced the appointment of a two-member Independent Panel of Inquiry to look into the Harbour Fest event.

The Chief Executive said: "To address the concern among the public, the independent panel will conduct a thorough review of the event, identify any deficiencies as well as the responsibilities of any party for such deficiencies, and see what lessons can be learned for future reference."

The independent panel comprises Mr Moses Cheng, a senior partner of a solicitors firm, and Mr T Brian Stevenson, a former president of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. Both Mr Cheng and Mr Stevenson are distinguished members of their respective professions.

The independent panel will submit their report to the Chief Executive by March 31, 2004. In view of the wide public interest, the Administration will make public the report after receiving it from the independent panel.

The terms of reference of the Independent Panel of Inquiry are as follows:

- (a) To examine the procedures for assessing and approving the proposal by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) for the Harbour Fest in the Economic Relaunch Working Group;
- (b) To evaluate the organisation, administration and implementation of the Harbour Fest by AmCham and the Government's role in overseeing AmCham's actions in this regard;
- (c) To identify deficiencies, if any, of such procedures and processes, and where appropriate, the responsibility of any party for such deficiencies;
- (d) To make recommendations, where appropriate, on improvements for any similar future events that might require government sponsorship; and
- (e) To make a report with conclusions and recommendations to the Chief Executive by March 31, 2004.

Following are some background information on the two members of the Independent Panel of Inquiry:

Mr Moses Cheng, GBS, OBE, JP, is a practising solicitor. He has been active in community services and sits on various boards and committees in the areas of corporate governance, education, financial services and performing arts. He is the founder chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors Limited and a member of the Council of

the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Mr T Brian Stevenson, SBS, sits on various boards in the public and private sector, including the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, MTR Corporation Limited, and Securities and Futures Commission. He was president of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants in 1996 and chairman and managing partner of Ernst & Young, Hong Kong and China until he retired from the firm in December 1999.

Ends/Friday, December 12, 2003

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