

## Press Release

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Harbour Fest inquiry panel gets more time to submit report

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The following is issued on behalf of the Independent Panel of Inquiry on the Harbour Fest:

The Independent Panel of Inquiry on the Harbour Fest has obtained approval from the Chief Executive to extend the deadline for submission of its report from March 31 to April 30, 2004.

"So far, the inquiry has been progressing well," the panel members said. "We have met a number of relevant parties and will be meeting others in the coming weeks. We are continuing to collect documentation from the relevant sources. We have asked for an extension of the deadline for submission of the report because we may have to conduct further meetings with the parties after reviewing the documentation. Also, the Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year holidays have inevitably resulted in longer lead time for setting up meetings and for the submission of requisite information to the panel.

"Apart from the parties involved in the planning and organisation of the Harbour Fest, we are meeting a number of industry experts," the panel members added. "An extension will allow us more time to schedule these meetings."

The panel also reminds members of the public who have views on the Harbour Fest to submit them as soon as possible.

Ends/Tuesday, February 10, 2004

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