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With Chinese Translation

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to AJLS Panel
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

By fax & by post
(Fax No.: 2509 9055)

Total : 2 pages

Dear Mrs Ma,

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
and Panel on Manpower**

Joint Meeting on 24 May 2004

Operation of the Labour Tribunal

Thank you for your letter of 29 April 2004 inviting the Judiciary Administration to be represented at this meeting for the presentation of the Research Report on "The Operation of the Labour Tribunal and Other Mechanisms for Resolving Labour Disputes in Hong Kong and Selected Places".

The Judiciary Administration will be represented by :

Mr. Wilfred Tsui
徐志强先生

Judiciary Administrator
司法機構政務長

Mr. Augustine L.S. Cheng
鄭陸山先生

Deputy Judiciary Administrator
(Operations)
司法機構副政務長(運作)

The Research Report will be considered by the Judiciary's Working Party on the Review of the Labour Tribunal in the course of its deliberations. The Working Party intends to submit its report to the Chief Justice by the end of June 2004.

As regards short-term improvement measures, the 3 months' experiment implemented in mid-2003 in listing callover cases separately in the morning and in the afternoon so as to minimise the time of the parties waiting for their cases to be heard proved to be satisfactory. It has been extended to other courts. The Working Party will examine the desirability of its continuation. The other short-term measures are continuing and will be reviewed by the Working Party.

The current 12 courts are adequate to deal with incoming cases. The waiting time positions are as follow :

Waiting time (day)	Target	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (as at 3.5.04)
From appointment to filing	30	27	11	14	19	14	5
From filing to callover hearing	30	25	21	24	25	24	24

Yours sincerely,

(Augustine L.S. Cheng)
for Judiciary Administrator

c.c. External : PSEDL (Labour)

Internal : Hon. Madam Justice Chu
CM
PPO
Registrar, Labour Tribunal
PIO(J)