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By Fax (2537 1736)
11 July 2007

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
8th floor, West Wing
Central Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Professor CHAN,

**Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Provision of
Boarding Places, Senior Secondary Education and Employment
Opportunities for Children with Special Educational Needs**

On behalf of the Subcommittee, I write to convey members' request to the Administration for increased procurement of services by Government departments from social enterprises to enhance the employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The Subcommittee has been examining the provision of employment opportunities for students with special educational needs. Members note with concern the limited employment opportunities made available to PWDs. Although being the largest employer, the Government has employed only 3 256 PWDs in the civil service. The total amount of service contracts offered by Government departments to social enterprises through the Marketing Consultancy Office (Rehabilitation) of the Social Welfare Department in 2006-2007 is \$660,110 only. Members consider it essential for the Government to take the lead in the employment of PWDs. This will set a good example for subvented organizations, public service bodies and private enterprises to formulate recruitment policies and employment indicators for PWDs.

As the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau is responsible for formulating policies and devising guidelines for the procurement of services by Government departments, members of the Subcommittee have requested your Bureau to take positive actions to enhance the development of social enterprises and the employment opportunities for PWDs. It is suggested that a certain percentage or amount of services procured by individual Government departments be offered to social enterprises by restricted tenders.

You may wish to note that at the meeting of the Subcommittee on 6 July 2007, members have similarly requested the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Education Bureau to take actions within their respective policy portfolios to increase the employment opportunities for PWDs. Upon receipt of the respective written responses, the Subcommittee will invite the representatives of the relevant Bureau including yours to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.

I should be grateful for your response before the commencement of the next legislative session.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung)
Chairman of Subcommittee

c.c. Mrs Fanny LAM FAN Kit-fong (Fax no. : 2119 9061)
Principal Assistant Secretary (School Administration & Support)
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Mrs Mary MA LO To-wan (Fax no. : 2543 0486)
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