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來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

22 January 2005

Hon Abraham Shek, J.P.
Room 806, Manning House
48 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2588 1623)

Dear Hon Shek,

**Hong Kong's Contributions to the 8th Replenishment of
the Asian Development Fund ("ADF IX")**

I write to follow up regarding the discussion at the Panel on Financial Affairs meeting held on 6 December 2004 concerning Hong Kong's contribution to ADF IX. We note your suggestion that the Administration should explore with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) measures to facilitate the participation of Hong Kong firms and professionals in ADB sponsored projects.

Participation in bidding for contracts and offering services for projects financed by the ADB is limited to nationals of ADB members, among which Hong Kong is one of them. Detailed information on ADB projects is shown on the ADB's website. Companies may submit expressions of interest online or by hard copies to the Director, Consulting Services Division of the ADB. Therefore, Hong Kong firms may bid for ADB projects in the same manner as firms from other ADB member economies. In fact, according to the ADB, on a cumulative basis up to end-2003, Hong Kong firms have been awarded a total of US\$589 million worth of goods and civil works procurement contracts and US\$46 million worth of consulting services and technical assistance contracts in relation to all ADB sponsored projects.

To further assist Hong Kong firms to participate in ADB projects, we have explored channels to better disseminate information on ADB projects to local firms. For instance, we have sought the ADB's agreement to establish a hyperlink on the website of the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council (TDC) connecting to the ADB web page where new projects are announced. We are also exploring the possibility of holding a Business Opportunities Seminar (BOS) in Hong Kong in 2005. For your information, the ADB and the TDC have co-organized two BOS in Hong Kong since 2001. This is a common practice of the ADB to provide its member economies with business opportunities in bidding for ADB contracts. We are now discussing with the two organizations on the feasibility of organizing another BOS later this year.

Last but not least, let me thank you for your support to the proposed contribution to ADF IX. The contribution will no doubt demonstrate Hong Kong's strong commitment to poverty reduction efforts in the region.

Please feel free to contact me at 2529 0121 or Mr Y K Mo of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority at 2878 1655 should you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Millie Ng)

for Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. Clerk to LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs

Chief Executive/Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Attn: Mr Y K Mo)