

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance
Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Session No. : 4**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
<u>S-CEDB(CIT)01</u>	SV002	TONG Ka-wah, Ronny	152	
<u>S-CEDB(CIT)02</u>	S028	WONG Kwok-hing	96	Commercial Relations

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 152 Government Secretariat:
Commerce and Economic
Development Bureau (Commerce,
Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational
Expenses

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question :

Noting that the revised estimate of recurrent operational expenses under Head 152 Subhead 000 for 2007-08 was higher than the originally approved estimate by \$454,518,000, Mr Ronny TONG requested the Administration to account for and to provide a detailed breakdown on the overspending.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The 2007-08 approved estimate has included provision only for the former Head 152 – Government Secretariat: Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (Commerce and Industry Branch). The 2007-08 revised estimate is higher than the approved estimate by \$454,518,000 because with effect from 1 July 2007, the new Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch) has taken over part of the policy responsibilities and the related expenses from the previous Economic Development and Labour Bureau (Economic Development Branch).

2. The additional amount of \$454,518,000 of recurrent operational expenses under Subhead 000 includes \$30,375,000 for personal emoluments and personnel related expenses, \$778,000 for departmental expenses and \$428,065,000 for subvention to Consumer Council and Hong Kong Tourism Board, partly offset by the decreased requirement of \$4,700,000 for subscription to the World Trade Organization.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MISS YVONNE CHOI

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Commerce and Economic Development
(Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Date _____

7.4.2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 96 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Overseas Economic and Trade Offices

Programme : (1) Commercial Relations

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
(Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question :

According to the Reply Serial No. CEDB(CIT)114 0551, since the new ETO in Berlin has not been set up in 07-08 as scheduled and there is still the need to earmark provision for its setting up cost, the 07-08 estimate remains the basis for formulating the 08-09 estimate. Why has not the new ETO in Berlin been set up as scheduled in 07-08? How much provision has been reserved by the Bureau for this project? What is the detailed usage of the provision?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

We have been liaising closely with the German Government on the arrangements for the setting up of the new Overseas Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Berlin. We are still waiting for the German Government to confirm the details of the arrangements and to complete the necessary formalities and procedures. Since April 2007, a team from Hong Kong has started operating in Brussels to prepare for the setting up of the Berlin ETO. It has also commenced networking with 6 of the 8 countries under the purview of the new ETO to promote Hong Kong's trade and investment interests in those places.

2. In 2008-09, \$32 million has been reserved for the new ETO to be set up in Berlin, including \$9 million for setting up cost, \$22.2 million for operating expenses and \$0.8 million for the purchase of an office car.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MISS YVONNE CHOI

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for
Commerce and Economic Development
(Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Date _____

7.4.2008