



23 February 2012
 Clerk to Bills Committee on Competition Bill
 Legislative Council Secretariat
 Legislative Council Complex,
 1 Legislative Council Road,
 Central, Hong Kong

By email hysiu@legco.gov.hk & mjylee@legco.gov.hk and by hand

Dear Sirs

Re – Concerns regarding the possible exemption of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) from the Competitions Bill.

Reed Exhibitions Ltd – Hong Kong (RXHK) a division of the worlds largest exhibition organiser, Reed Exhibitions, would like to offer our support behind the fair competition legislation as we believe a fair playing field is essential for the continuity of growth and investment in any exhibition market.

It is our belief that all exhibition organisers should abide by a code of fair play and the government is correct to provide a legal frame work to reinforce fair competition.

We must however raise our concerns with clause 3 of the draft Competition Bill as this clause exempts the largest exhibition organiser in Hong Kong, The HKTDC, from these rules of fair play.

Our belief is any exemptions should not be automatic nor should they be granted in the case of the HKTDC. The HKTDC serves the industry well however in its role as exhibition organiser it is acting as a commercial entity and there is no doubt that the HKTDC's trade exhibition business is a commercial activity.

It is our strong belief that excluding the largest exhibition organiser in Hong Kong from the Competition Bill not only weakens the Competitions Bills effectiveness it also weakens 1) the future growth potential of new and existing exhibitions entering Hong Kong and 2) Hong Kong's standing as a leader in the global exhibition arena.

We sincerely hope the members of the Bills Committee will reconsider the automatic exemption of all statutory Bodies from the Bill. We suggest that exemptions only be granted on application and that applications be judged on their merit and denied where the applicant is clearly undertaking commercial activities.

We thank you for you time in considering our submission.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Thomas', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

Name: Brian Thomas
 Title: Vice President, Hong Kong
 Company: Reed Exhibitions Limited