

3 January 2012

Clerk to Bills Committee on Competition Bill

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
Fax: 2978 7569

AND

Ms Linda Lai

Deputy Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)
22-23/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong
Fax: 2840 1621

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a practicing solicitor and a partner of an international law firm. I am currently a member of the Design, Marketing & Licensing Services Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC").

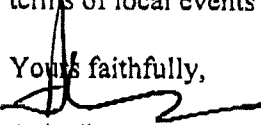
I have been working with the HKTDC for many years, giving free seminars at HKTDC trade fairs, licensing shows and trade missions outside of Hong Kong. The latest one being in Taiwan in November 2011, explaining to Taiwanese entrepreneurs why they should come to Hong Kong and use Hong Kong service providers to help them enter the China market.

HKTDC is a non-profit organization and has a mandate to promote Hong Kong trade, which is quite different from other profit-making commercial organizations, the targets of the current Competition Bill. The trade fairs organized by HKTDC are of high quality, have gained a good reputation and goodwill both locally and internationally and have proven to be an effective tool for promoting the industries in Hong Kong. Further, HKTDC often offers a lower participation fee for Hong Kong SMEs than the mainland and overseas participants at its trade fairs.

On the contrary, commercial organizations have no social or public responsibility towards SMEs or traders in Hong Kong nor are they obliged to promote the economic development of Hong Kong. Putting HKTDC, a non-profit making organization with specific public function, into the same basket as these commercial organizations is not in the spirit of the Competition Bill nor does it benefit Hong Kong as a whole.

As such, I support exempting HKTDC from the Competition Bill. Without the exemption, HKTDC may no longer be able to offer subsidies to SMEs in Hong Kong both in terms of local events as well as overseas missions.

Yours faithfully,


Anita Leung
Solicitor