

**CB(1)762/11-12(06)**

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you in regards to the “Competition Bill,” and although I agree in principle that there is in fact an argument for a Competition Committee and a Competition Tribunal, I write to you in hopes that you will or have in fact carefully considered exemptions for semi-official entities, more specifically the “Hong Kong Trade Development Council”

Being an SME owner in Hong Kong spanning several industries, I have been an active customer of different exhibitions in both Hong Kong and abroad. Some run by semi-official entities and some run by strict for profit companies. The difference in quality of course varies and from my experiences, the TDC definitely ranks high, but this is not the important issue that I am writing to address, what is important is the motivation.

TDC has, over the years, run trade shows and exhibitions in Hong Kong, but in addition, they have also offered and provided SME owners with brand development opportunities, market intelligence, informational and developmental seminars, as well as formal and informal meet and greets with buyers and suppliers from all around the world.

The TDC has in essence created a vital growth platform for SMEs, one that would not make sense to the bottom line of a strictly for-profit private company.

I do agree that healthy competition is indeed important for the local exhibition market, but I fear that this integral platform for Hong Kong startups, specifically the additional services and access that the HKTDC brings, will be lost should this entity fall under the “Competition Bill”.

I would very much appreciate if your offices carefully consider the issue put forth.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours truly,

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Nicholas TUNG  
President  
World Essense Holdings Limited  
35 Floor, Far East Finance Centre,  
Admiralty, Hong Kong  
Office: (+852) 2528 6789  
[nicholas@essensetea.com](mailto:nicholas@essensetea.com)  
[www.essensetea.com](http://www.essensetea.com)