

For discussion
on 17 November 2009

**Legislative Council
Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Establishment of the Hong Kong Council
for Testing and Certification and its Work Plan**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the establishment of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and its work plan.

Background

2. The Chief Executive established the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) in October 2008 to monitor and assess the impact of the financial tsunami on local and global markets. The TFEC has identified six economic areas where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages and has good potential for further development. The testing and certification industry is one of them.
3. In selecting the testing and certification industry for further development, TFEC noted that Hong Kong has the following advantages:
 - (a) a robust accreditation system is already in place to meet the needs of the enterprises;
 - (b) the local testing and certification has a high internal and international reputation and its services are accepted globally; and
 - (c) Hong Kong is well positioned to act as an independent third party to provide quality certification and product testing services for Mainland enterprises.
4. Moreover, as Hong Kong is an international trade, finance and business centre situated strategically at the door of the huge and rapidly growing Mainland market, TFEC considered that Hong Kong has the potential to develop into a major testing and certification centre in the region.

Establishment of HKCTC

5. In September this year, the Government established HKCTC to spearhead the development of the testing and certification industry. The terms of reference of HKCTC are at *Annex A*. The Council is chaired by Professor Ching Pak-chung, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Other members include practitioners from the testing and certification industry, business sector, professional bodies as well as relevant public bodies and government departments. The membership list is at *Annex B*. The priority task of HKCTC is to work with the industry to formulate a three-year market-driven development plan within six months of its establishment for submission to the Chief Executive.

6. The Government will render full support to the work of HKCTC. A dedicated team headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (a supernumerary post) has been set up in the Innovation and Technology Commission to provide support to HKCTC.

Work Plan of HKCTC

7. HKCTC has had three meetings since its establishment. It has drawn up a work plan to allow it to formulate the industry development plan within the timeframe allowed. The work plan has three phases:

- (a) Phase 1 – HKCTC will conduct background research (including the current mode of operation of the industry, international practices and the current position of Hong Kong’s testing and certification industry in the Mainland and international markets, etc.) in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the testing and certification industry. Such information will enable the Council to analyze the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the industry and devise supporting measures accordingly;
- (b) Phase 2 – HKCTC would identify measures to enhance the capacity and quality of the local testing and certification industry so as to enhance its competitiveness. These should include steps that could be taken by the industry itself and those that will allow the public sector to dovetail with private sector developments. Issues such as

enhancing the support to the industry provided by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service, strengthening manpower training and upgrading professional standards, as well as promoting testing and certification services in Hong Kong, the Mainland and other places will be looked into; and

- (c) Phase 3 – Will involve the refinement of measures and the preparation of the report, in particular the formulation of a three-year market-oriented development plan for the industry. The report will be submitted to the Chief Executive in April 2010.

8. Based on its initial research, HKCTC has found that different trades in the testing industry have varied characteristics and the nature of their current and potential needs for testing and certification services also varies. Hence, in formulating the three-year development plan, apart from measures that would promote the testing and certification industry in general, HKCTC will also look into specific measures for selected trades (e.g. Chinese medicine and food testing) where the use of testing and certification services may have greater potentials.

9. As part of its work plan, HKCTC will consult practitioners from the testing and certification industry, chambers of commerce and relevant stakeholders in drawing up the three-year market-oriented development plan for the industry. These will involve sending letters to chambers of commerce, universities, organizing of seminar, setting up of website (<http://www.hkctc.gov.hk> to be launched in mid-November 2009) etc.

Way Forward

10. Members are invited to offer initial views on the work of the HKCTC. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of work of HKCTC as necessary.

**Terms of Reference of
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification**

To advise the Chief Executive on -

- (a) a three-year development plan for the industry;
- (b) the long-term operational model of the Council, including its status, functions and staffing plan; and
- (c) exploring new opportunities for the industry to develop and to enhance its professional standards.

HKCTC will adopt new Terms of Reference after the first three-year industry development plan is accepted by the Chief Executive.

**Membership of the Hong Kong Council
for Testing and Certification**

Chairman

Professor Ching Pak-chung

Members

Mr Richard Fung Lap-chung

Professor Kwan Hoi-shan

Mr Lam Chun-hong, Dominic

Dr Michael Lam Po-hing

Mr Joseph Lau Man-wai

Ms Law Sau-mui, Christina

Mr Lee Wai-kwok

Ms Marianne Leung Yang Shih-ti

Ir Dr Lo Wai-kwok

Ms Evelyn Lu

Mr Bernie Ting Wai-cheung

Mr Yeung King-chung, Spencer

Executive Director of Hong Kong Productivity Council or representative

Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council or
representative

Executive Director of Vocational Training Council or representative

Director of Trade and Industry or representative

Commissioner for Innovation and Technology or representative