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7 April 2010

Ms Caroline Mak
Chairman
Hong Kong Retail Management Association
10/F First Commercial Building
33-35 Leighton Road
Causeway Bay
Hong Kong
[Fax No.: 2866 8380]

Dear Ms Mak,

The Environmental Levy Scheme for Plastic Shopping Bags

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2010 to the Secretary for the Environment, concerning a news article carried on Ming Pao of 16 March 2010 about the environmental levy scheme for plastic shopping bags.

As we reaffirmed in October 2009 vide our response to your earlier letter about another news article speculating on the future review, it is our formal commitment made at the Legislative Council in 2008 that we will conduct a comprehensive review of the levy scheme one year after its implementation. We have no plan to depart from this timetable. In the past months, we have been working with the trade to ensure the smooth operation of the levy scheme. We have also been collecting relevant data and statistics for the purpose of the comprehensive review. We wish to assure you that we would continue to maintain a constructive dialogue with the trade and other relevant stakeholders and take into account all relevant factors in the review.

As regards the deliberations of the ACE Waste Management Subcommittee at its meeting of 27 November 2009, we have duly drawn your comments to members' attention through the subcommittee secretariat.

Thank you again for your letter. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Margaret Hsia)
for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. Clerk to Panel
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