



**Business and Professionals
Federation of Hong Kong
香港工商專業聯會**

CB(1)1198/11-12(10)

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

28 FEB 2012

Chairman

Panel on Transport

Legislative Council of the HKSAR

Dear *The Honorable Mr. Cheng*

We write to express our views on the Trial Scheme for Cross-boundary Private Cars (the Scheme).

There has been much debate about the Scheme lately. While we understand the concerns of the public, we believe that the Scheme is a positive step forward.

At present, only Hong Kong members to the National People's Congress, members to Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and businessmen who have fulfilled certain investment criteria in Guangdong can apply for Guangdong and Hong Kong license plates. The Scheme will give general motorists the opportunity to benefit from the convenience of cross boundary travel.

These fifteen years have witnessed increasing economic cooperation and integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and this trend is expected to continue. The Scheme will facilitate economic and social interactions across the border and in the longer term, it is inevitable that Hong Kong will see greater flow of people with Mainland cities.

Notwithstanding the above, there are some legitimate concerns which the government needs to address so as to ensure that the Scheme works. In particular, the Scheme will put



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pressures on some of the roads which are already congested. This points to the need for planning and control. The government should have an overall review of our road capacity, taking into consideration not only local needs, but also projected cross boundary traffic, and come up with long-term transport policy and measures to achieve it.

While road safety is of prime importance, education and training programmes will help drivers from both sides understand the different rules and we can refer to the experience of other countries, such as the Sweden, which managed to deal with the issue of left-hand steering wheel cars and right-hand steering wheel cars. It should also be pointed out that currently Mainland drivers, along with drivers from many other countries and territories, can already rent cars and drive them in Hong Kong using their local licences and travel documents.

It is also time to think out of the box, ideas such as having a vehicle exchange arrangement at Chek Lap Kok or a self drive park for vehicles in both directions, can be considered.

For any self drive tour programmes, there will be issues to be sorted out but they can be resolved. The concerns raised about the Scheme should not be taken lightly but we should not throw the baby out with the water.

Yours sincerely,

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Chairman