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Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)  
(Fax: 2978 7569)

27 June 2013

Dear Ms LAU,

**Panel on Transport  
Meeting on 24 May 2013  
List of Outstanding Items for Discussion**

Thank you for your letter of 28 May conveying a query raised by Member at the meeting of 24 May 2013 relating to a review of the scope of assistance provided under the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme. Please be advised of the following-

The Traffic Accident Victims Assistance (TAVA) Scheme was established under the Traffic Accident Victims (Assistance Fund) Ordinance (the Ordinance), Cap. 229 of the Laws of Hong Kong. The TAVA Scheme aims at providing speedy financial assistance to road traffic accident victims (or to their surviving dependants in cases of death) on a

non-means-tested basis, regardless of the element of fault leading to the occurrence of the accident. The Ordinance requires that the traffic accident must involve vehicle(s) (including trams and light rail vehicle(s) operated on the North-west Railway) and occur on the road (including tramway tracks and railway of the Light Rail) or a private road. The accident must also cause death or injury to any person.

At the Legislative Council Adjournment Debate held on 18 October 2012, the Secretary for Transport and Housing indicated that the Government would make reference to the TAVA Scheme and explore the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme for providing speedy financial assistance to victims of marine accidents and their surviving dependants. Since November last year, the Marine Department has been in discussion with the trade, through meetings of the Local Vessel Advisory Committee Working Group, on the proposal. Since the proposal involves complex issues and considerations, participants of the Working Group agreed that more information and data are required for in-depth discussion. To this end, Marine Department has engaged a consultant to study the feasibility and technicalities for setting up a Marine Accident Victims Assistance Fund, including the possibility of bringing the provision of assistance to marine accidents victims under the scope of the TAVA Scheme. The study commenced in April 2013 and is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Subject to the study outcome, we will work with the trade and relevant bureaux and departments to further consider the matter.

We thank Members' interest in the matter.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Mary FY Tsang )  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Director of Marine (Attn: Mr HM Tung)