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28 June 2016

Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attention: Mr Raymond SZETO)

Dear Mr Szeto,

**Finance Committee
Follow-up to Meeting on 10 June 2016**

**FCR(2016-17)39 – Increase in the Commitment by \$20 million
from \$520 million to \$540 million for the Film Development Fund**

At the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10 June 2016, Members requested the Government to provide information on the policy and planning of new cinemas in Hong Kong. We provide the requested information below.

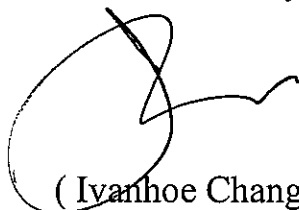
The development and selection of locations for cinemas involves complex commercial considerations. Government actions cannot replace such commercial decisions. Since the beginning of this year, three new cinemas have come into operation while two cinemas have been wound up and the total number of cinema seats remains more or less the same. This indicates the dynamic nature of the cinema sector. The Government can only play a facilitating role where the circumstances so warrant.

The above notwithstanding, we believe increasing the provision of cinemas will facilitate movie-watching by the community and support audience-building, which in turn is conducive to the long-term development of Hong Kong's film industry. Hence, the Government is actively considering the option of requiring developers to include cinemas in their developments as appropriate in the terms and conditions of the land lease, as announced by the Chief Executive in the 2016 Policy Address.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) has been conducting an internal study on the matter along the direction set out in the Policy Address, having regard to various factors including technical considerations, financial implications, availability of suitable land sale sites, etc. We aim at completing the study and formulating the measures as soon as possible. The CEDB has also been in close liaison with the relevant parties to explore the feasibility of reserving space for cinemas in major cultural and entertainment development areas in order to realise synergies between cinemas and cultural and entertainment facilities therein.

Apart from the options mentioned above, the CEDB has also proactively implemented other measures to facilitate movie-going by members of the public thereby supporting audience building. For example, the CEDB has worked with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Architectural Services Department on a project to provide screening facilities and conduct related upgrading works at the auditorium of the North District Town Hall to promote movie-going among residents in the district, in particular students and young people. The works are expected to be completed by the end of this year. Having regard to the experience of this pilot project, the CEDB will explore whether and how to further provide or upgrade screening facilities at appropriate government premises in other districts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

(Ivanhoe Chang)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development