

香港酒店業主聯會的信頭

Letterhead of The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners Limited

Our Ref: 249/98/ML

October 14, 1998

Dear The Honourable Legislative Council Members:

Hotel Accommodation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners welcomes the proposed amendments of the above Bill. However, the Federation has to make it very carefully and clearly what the hotel industry needs the Bill to be amended in the following aspects.

1. Clearly distinguishing between “purposely built hotel” and “guesthouse”

The Federation has all along demanded for a clear definition of “Hotel” and “Guesthouse”. Firstly, it is reasonable to make overseas customers known that many so-called “hotels” are simply guesthouses. They are far from the standard of a purposely built hotel. We demand the Licensing Authority to issue certificates to classify those bona fide hotels and those guesthouses. Only those with their certificates can bear the name as a hotel in their marketing and sale promotion. A clear definition would help to protect overseas customers as well as the hotel industry to build a better image internationally.

Secondly, by re-defining “hotels” and “guesthouses”, the Government may bring them under better safety control as they are distinguished from each other and regulations can be applied in a more detailed and specific way.

2. Licensing period up to 7 years

Hotel industry strongly demands for a licensing period up to 7 years’ validity. This licensing validity is in line with individual hotels’ major renovation period and reflecting major long-term investment involved in developing and operating a hotel.

Extending the licensing period validity from one year to 3 years is not long enough in practice. Normally hotels’ renovation cycle is 7 years. It would be convenient for the Government to assure that hotels comply with all the then applicable Building and Fire Services Ordinance (subject to the consultation of the Advisory Group).

香港酒店業主聯會
The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners Limited

We suggest that during the 7 year license period, hotel has to submit an annual certificate signed by an Authorized person certifying the building has not undergone substantial alteration or violated any regulations. On the other hand, the Licensing Authority could inspect any building at any time making sure that regulations are complied with.

We sincerely appeal to the Committee and the Government to consider our views for the benefits of the hotel and tourism industry.

We would be obliged to any question you would like to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Michael LI
Executive Director