

**Legislative Council
Panel on Financial Affairs**

**New Directors' Index System in
the Companies Registry**

Introduction

At the meeting of the LegCo Bills Committee on the Companies (Amendment) Bill 1999 on 7 May 1999, the Chairman of the Committee asked the Registrar of Companies to provide an information paper on the new directors' index system to the Financial Affairs Panel when the system was ready. The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the system which was implemented on 31 March 2000.

Expansion of database

2. The Companies Registry (CR) is committed to continually improving the level and quality of the department's search services through the use of computer systems. In 1996, the department embarked on a database expansion project with the objectives of:-

- (a) increasing the categories of key corporate information available for public search;
- (b) providing a more efficient means for the public to obtain key corporate information from the CR.

The database expansion has enabled additional information such as a company's registered office address, share capital structure, particulars of directors and secretaries, details of receivers and managers (where applicable) and a charges indicator, for all registered companies to be recorded and kept up-to-date to facilitate more efficient searches by the public.

Directors' Index

3. The Index of Directors is a computer-maintained index of particulars of current directors of companies formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance. With the completion of the database expansion exercise, the scope of the Directors' Index has been expanded from the previous index which covered **only 700 listed companies** to **some 498,000**

local and overseas companies registered in the Companies Registry. Particulars of these directors as well as their directorships in other companies are available from the Index.

Search services available

4. Section 158C(2) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) provides that the Index of Directors is open to inspection by any person on payment of the prescribed fee.

5. The search facility is available by using the designated computer terminals provided in the Public Computer Terminal Room on the 13th Floor of the Queensway Government Offices. Customers can choose from several modes of searches, which can either be made in English or Chinese languages, as follows:-

(a) ***Company based search***

Customers can enter the company number or the company name of the company to obtain a list of all the current directors of a selected company. A fee of HK\$11 will be charged for each search.

(b) ***Director based search***

Customers can obtain all the directorships of a selected person. A fee of HK\$22 will be charged for each search.

(c) ***Director Particulars Report Search***

Customers can obtain the basic particulars of a selected director of a selected company by matching the company number and the name of the director. A fee of HK\$11 will be charged for each search.

Statistics of searches on the new Directors' Index

6. There has been a keen demand for the new search services. Since their introduction on 31 March 2000, there has been an average of 37 searches per working day on the Directors' Index as compared with the previous average of four searches per day.

Companies Registry

16 May 2000