

Letterhead of ERALDA INDUSTRIES LTD.

VIA FACSIMILE NO. 2877 8024

November 12, 1999

Mr Lau Chin-shek
Chairman of the Manpower Panel
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lau

I write a letter in support of incidental driving duties for foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

Our domestic helper, Mr Komar, has been in employment with our family for the last 25 years having worked initially for my parents-in-law. His driving is incidental to his other duties as a domestic helper, but is of considerable value and a great time saver on many occasions when assisting with supermarket shopping, and when my wife cannot possibly be running in three directions with three children at different activities. I know there are many other families with similar needs but who cannot justify employing a full time driver, as we can't. He is not taking away a job from a local driver who could not possibly fill in the needs of household chores nor who would be able or willing to do so.

The results of introducing a policy prohibiting foreign domestic drivers to drive would not have any positive effects, and would in fact discriminate them from other Hong Kong driving license holders, which would be a hard one to explain.

Please consider the above carefully.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stuart Forsgate
Managing Director