

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES ORDINANCE CHAPTER 321

Federation of Hong Kong Industries (Addition of a Scheduled Group) Notice 2000

INTRODUCTION

The Federation of Hong Kong Industries (“the Federation”) has resolved to add a new scheduled group - Software and information technology - to the First Schedule to the Federation of Hong Kong Industries Ordinance (Cap. 321) (“the Ordinance”). The resolution is set out in the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (Addition of a Scheduled Group) Notice 2000 at Annex.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

The New Group

2. The Federation has from time to time amended the First Schedule to the Ordinance which lists the various groups forming its members to accommodate changes in the business environment. Information technology (“IT”) and the manufacturing industry are closely related and are indispensable to each other. The integration of IT and manufacturing is crucial for the future benefit of Hong Kong. At its 444th General Committee Meeting held on 27 April 1999, the Federation resolved to create a new scheduled group - Software and information technology. The creation of this new scheduled group aims to give due recognition to this important industry and broaden the representation of the Federation. It also signifies the Federation’s support of the Government’s policy on the development of the IT industry.

3. The Federation intends to recruit into the new group companies in the development, processing and transmission of information of all kinds through electronic means.

4. In particular, the Federation will target those companies involved in the development of software for the processing and transmission of information.

5. The Federation will also target those companies engaged in telecommunications and digital processing, as well as internet services providers, web or portal hosting companies, internet content providers, and internet technology providers.

6. As with members of the majority of other scheduled groups, members in the new group will be entitled to vote at the Federation's general meetings. They will also be entitled to be registered as electors under section 20R of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), i.e. Industrial (First) Functional Constituency. In accordance with section 45(5) of the Ordinance, the Federation has obtained the written approval from the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs for the addition of the group.

THE NOTICE

7. The Notice notifies the Federation's resolution to add a new group, "Group 25 - Software and information technology", to the First Schedule to the Ordinance.

BINDING EFFECT

8. The Notice does not affect the current binding effect of the Ordinance.

BASIC LAW IMPLICATIONS

9. The Department of Justice advises that the resolution is consistent with the Basic Law.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

10. The Department of Justice advises that the resolution has no human rights implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. The addition of the new group is a normal housekeeping

exercise to keep the Federation in line with the development of industry in Hong Kong. Public consultation is therefore considered not necessary.

FINANCIAL AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no financial or staffing implications for Government.

EFFECTIVE DATE

13. The addition of the new group will take effect on the date on which the Notice is published in the Gazette.

PUBLICITY

14. The Notice will be published in the Gazette on 19th May 2000. The Federation will make an announcement when the addition of the new group becomes effective.

ENQUIRIES

15. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Mrs. V. C. Davies, Director-General of the Federation, at 2732 3188.

Federation of Hong Kong Industries
May 2000