

(English translation prepared  
by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for Members' reference only)

(Letterhead of the Office of Emily LAU, Legislative Councillor)

To : Chairman and members of the House Committee  
From : Emily LAU  
Date : 28 October 2000  
Subject : Use of "cocktail language" at meetings

In less than a month since the commencement of the second term of the Legislative Council (LegCo), the problem of Members, Government officials and members of the public using "cocktail language" at LegCo committee meetings and even Council meetings has become quite serious. In this connection, Members are requested to comply with Rule 24 of the LegCo House Rules which stipulates, among other things, that "the chairman (of a committee), whenever necessary, should remind Members, Government officials and deputations to refrain from using "cocktail language" at committee meetings so as to facilitate the work of the simultaneous interpreters." Apart from facilitating interpretation, we should have regard to the needs of those Members and members of the public who do not have any knowledge of English, or they may have difficulty in understanding matters under discussion.