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

20 March 2001

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, JP Chairman of the House Committee

Dear Mrs CHOW,

Consultation with the Panel on Manpower on "Admission of Mainland Professionals Scheme"

The Financial Secretary announced the Admission of Mainland Professionals Scheme in his Budget Speech delivered on 7 March 2001. The Administration subsequently briefed the Panel on Security on the Scheme on 14 March 2001.

At the meeting of the Panel on Manpower on 15 March 2001, members expressed concern about the Administration's procedure for consultation on the Scheme. While all Members were invited to attend the meeting of the Panel on Security, the Panel on Manpower considers that since it has been a practice for the Administration to consult the relevant panels on important policies, the Administration should have consulted the Panel on Manpower on the Scheme as it involves very important policy issues relating to manpower resources.

I hope that you would convey to the Chief Secretary for Administration the Panel on Manpower's concern about the Administration's consultation procedure.

> (LAU Chin-shek) Chairman of the Panel on Manpower