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HONG KONG
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT
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Hong Kong

本署檔案 Our Ref. : (5) in C&E ODA GR/4-35/2

來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB(3)/PAC/CS(42&43)

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20 January 2006

Clerk, Public Accounts Committee
(Attn : Mr Colin CHUI)
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8, Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 39

**The Customs and Excise Department's efforts
to protect government revenue from dutiable commodities**

With reference to your letter of 11 January 2006, I would like to provide an updated progress on the trial scheme of "Red and Green Channels" in the following paragraphs for consideration of the Committee.

The Red and Green Channel

With effect from 1 November 2005, the Customs and Excise Department has implemented a new mode of Customs clearance service for passengers, the Red and Green Channel System (the System), at all entry points. Under the new mode, passengers arriving in Hong Kong will make Customs declarations by choosing to be processed either at the Red Channel or Green Channel. Passengers having items to be declared are required to choose the Red Channel, otherwise they can proceed to the Green Channel.

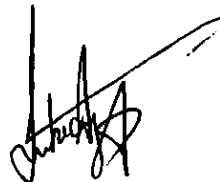
Publicity

Since October 2005, the Department has launched a publicity campaign to publicize the System through TV and radio APIs, posters, leaflets, and video clips shown in arrival flights. A press conference was held on 20 October 2005 to announce the implementation of the System. The public can also obtain information from the departmental website and telephone hotline.

Implementation Progress

From the review on the implementation of the System, it is observed that the majority of the passengers could quickly adapt to the new mode of clearance. Moreover, the daily duties and compounding penalties collected, dutiable commodities abandoned, and the number of prosecution cases have increased. This shows that the System has successfully achieved the objectives in facilitating passenger clearance and enhancing revenue protection on dutiable goods.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luke H L Au Yeung', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Luke H L Au Yeung)

for Commissioner of Customs and Excise