

CB(1)2005/05-06(01)

香港特別行政區政府
工商及科技局
工商科



香港金鐘道八十八號
太古廣場第一期二十九樓

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH
COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND
TECHNOLOGY BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

LEVEL 29, ONE PACIFIC PLACE
88 QUEENSWAY
HONG KONG

Tel: 2918 7450
Fax: 2877 5650

14 July 2006

Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry
(Attn: Miss Polly Yeung)
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Panel on Commerce and Industry Meeting
on 21 February 2006**

In discussing the proposal to set up a new Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Berlin at its meeting on 21 February this year, the Panel on Commerce and Industry observed that the overseas ETOs should play a more active role in disseminating information on business environment and investment opportunities in the European countries, such as by assisting the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) to set up dedicated websites for this purpose. We are grateful for this observation which we have discussed with ETOs and TDC.

As part of their work to promote Hong Kong's economic and trade interests, overseas ETOs have been working closely with other Hong Kong Inc. members, such as TDC, to organize briefing sessions and seminars on the business environment and investment opportunities in economies under their purview for Hong Kong companies and trade delegations visiting them. They are also actively involved in arranging visits to Hong Kong by government officials or private sector missions from their host countries. These visits usually include meetings with our business associations which can make use of the opportunity to obtain first-hand information about business prospects in overseas markets.

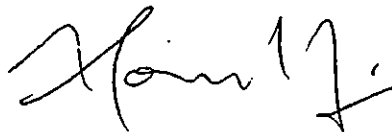
-- 2 --

TDC and its global network of more than 40 offices closely monitor overseas market opportunities and organize promotional and exchange activities, including outreach programmes, trade fairs and trade missions to emerging markets, on a regular basis. TDC also provides a business matching service to Hong Kong companies seeking specific information on overseas markets.

TDC has set up its trade portal (<http://www.tdctrade.com>), on which Hong Kong businessmen can look for information on trade policies, market trends, new laws and regulations etc. in overseas markets. For example, the portal offers a trade news service, namely SME News Flash, for small and medium enterprises through e-mails. It aims to update SMEs with changes in trade regulations on the part of Hong Kong's major trading partners. It is a free subscription service, with 100 000 SME subscribers currently. Moreover, bi-weekly online newsletters providing updates on the trade policies and regulations in the Mainland, the United States and the European Union are also available on the portal. The websites of our ETOs have hyperlinks with the TDC websites.

We shall continue to facilitate close liaison between the ETOs and TDC to ensure timely information is available to our businessmen.

Yours sincerely,



(Howard Lee)
for Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology