

By fax: 2878 8190

CB1/PL/FA  
2869 9244  
2869 6794

13 December 2005

Mr Joseph YAM, GBS, JP  
Chief Executive  
Hong Kong Monetary Authority  
55th Floor, Two International Finance Centre  
8 Finance Street  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr YAM,

**Panel on Financial Affairs  
Meeting on 6 February 2006**

**Closure of local branches by banks**

On behalf of Hon Bernard CHAN, Chairman of the Panel, I write to invite the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) to provide information on its follow-up actions taken on the captioned subject.

At the Panel meeting held on 5 December 2005, Hon Emily LAU expressed concern about the closure of local branches by banks and its impact on the public. She pointed out that following the oral question raised by Hon Albert CHAN at the Council meeting held on 9 November 2005, the Hong Kong Association of Banks and HKMA had met with some Legislative Council Members on 23 November 2005 to discuss the issue. It was agreed that HKMA would follow up the issue and discuss with banks. In this connection, Hon Emily LAU suggested and other members agreed that HKMA be invited to brief the Panel on the follow-up actions taken, preferably at your regular briefing of the Panel on the work of HKMA to be held on 6 February 2006.

I should be grateful if you would let me have the relevant information (in both Chinese and English) at least five clear days before the meeting on 6 February 2006, i.e. **by 26 January 2006**. Please forward the soft copy of the paper to Ms May LEUNG at [mleung@legco.gov.hk](mailto:mleung@legco.gov.hk).

Please note that unless you raise objection, the discussion paper for the above meeting will be made available to the media and public and placed in the Library of the Legislative Council. The paper may also be made available on the Web Site of the Council on the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Salumi CHAN)  
Clerk to Panel

c.c. Hon Bernard CHAN, JP  
Chairman of LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs

Mr Andy CHING  
Manager, Hong Kong Monetary Authority  
(Fax: 2509 9159)