

(Translation)

商務及經濟發展局
通訊及科技科

香港中環花園道
美利大廈一至二樓



COMMUNICATIONS
AND TECHNOLOGY BRANCH
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

1/F-2/F Murray Building
Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong

本局檔號 OUR REF : LM to CTB/CR 8/1/14
來函檔號 YOUR REF : CB1/PL/ITB
電 話 TEL. NO. : 2189 2236
傳 真 FAXLINE : 2511 1458
電子郵件 E-mail Address : kevinchoi@cedb.gov.hk

By Fax (No. 2869 6794)

23 May 2008

Ms Yue Tin Po
Clerk to Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yue,

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Meeting on 14 April 2008

At the meeting held on 14 April 2008, Members reflected the concerns of the local film industry over the slowdown of vetting process by the Mainland authorities for films produced by Hong Kong (Hong Kong productions) and co-produced by Hong Kong and the Mainland (Hong Kong-Mainland co-productions) after the screening of the film "Lust Caution". Members requested the Administration to clarify whether any assistance had been provided to the local film industry in such respect and to inform Members of the latest situation. Our reply is as follows:

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been supporting the local film industry in developing new markets including the huge Mainland film market. The film industry is, in fact, one of the sectors that have benefited most from the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement since it came into effect in 2004.

Nevertheless, Hong Kong productions to be distributed outside Hong Kong must follow the approving and relevant administrative mechanisms of those jurisdictions. When promoting Hong Kong films in the Mainland market, Hong Kong productions and Hong Kong-Mainland co-productions to be screened in the Mainland are required to comply with the Regulation on Film Administration of the Mainland China, as well as the censorship guidelines promulgated by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. The time required for completion of vetting process may vary, mostly depending on the compliance of the films with the regulations and guidelines in the Mainland in terms of content and technical requirements.

Early this year, our film industry reflected to us that they met with some uncertainties when submitting their films for censorship in the Mainland, e.g. the vetting process for some of their films appeared to be slower than before. The HKSAR Government, together with the Hong Kong Film Development Council, has immediately liaised with the Mainland counterparts to reflect the industry's concerns. It is noted that the project registration for Hong Kong-Mainland co-productions and the vetting of completed films are in progress, and films recently submitted for vetting are being processed within the normal timeframe.

The HKSAR Government will keep up its efforts to assist the local film industry in opening up the Mainland market by maintaining close ties with the Mainland authorities through the existing channels and established mechanisms.

Yours sincerely,



(Kevin Choi)

for Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development

c.c.

Commissioner for Television and Entertainment Licensing