



本函檔號 Our Ref. :
來函檔號 Your Ref. : CB1/PL/EDEV

電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2810 3137
傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2801 4458

By Fax
[Fax No.: 2869 6794]

10 July 2009

Clerk to Panel on Economic Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Debbie YAU)

Dear Ms Yau,

**Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development
Alternative berthing arrangements for cruise vessels**

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 2009. Our reply to the enquiries about alternative berthing arrangements of cruise vessels raised by the Honourable Tanya Chan is as follows:

Currently, for cruise vessels which cannot berth at Ocean Terminal due to size or conflicting schedule, the Tourism Commission (TC) will assist the cruise vessels to berth at alternative locations, such as the container terminals in Kwai Chung or China Merchants Wharf at Kennedy Town, or to berth mid-stream. In the case of container or cargo terminals, the relevant operators would need to apply to the Lands Department to alter the use of their terminals for berthing cruise vessels on a temporary basis. The relevant Government departments will fully consider the impact the proposed berthing may have on the nearby environment and traffic. To facilitate and expedite the alternative berthing of cruise vessels at container or cargo terminals, the Government introduced in November 2006 and January 2008 “Streamlined Procedures for Applying for a Temporary

Multiple-Visits Waiver for Berthing Cruise Vessels". Furthermore, to facilitate the calling of cruise vessels at Hong Kong and the arrangement of supporting facilities, TC will assist the local shipping agents of cruise operators to liaise with the Immigration Department, Marine Department, Transport Department and Police early for the preparatory work. We aim at devising the best arrangement to provide an enjoyable experience for our visitors.

In view of the growth of the cruise industry in the region, we expect there will continue to be a shortage of the berthing slots before the commissioning of the first berth of the new cruise terminal in mid-2013. TC will continue to assist the cruise operators to identify suitable locations for alternative berthing. As to whether container or cargo terminals would still be required for the temporary berthing of cruise vessels after the commissioning of the new cruise terminal, this will very much hinge on the future growth of the cruise market and the demand for berths.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patricia So', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Miss Patricia So)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development