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To : Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry
From : Clerk to Subcommittee on Order made under Section 78B of
the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance
Our Ref. : CB2/SS/7/10
Date : 9 June 2011

**Subcommittee on Order made under Section 78B of
the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance**

**Provision of financial assistance to the trades affected by
the Daiichi nuclear power plant incident**

During the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Order made under Section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, members expressed concerns about the impact of the Order on the trades. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to consider providing financial assistance, e.g. offering special loans at preferential interest rate, giving subsidy on utilities expenses etc., to the affected trades to help them tide over the financial difficulties caused by the Daiichi nuclear power plant incident. The Administration responded that it had maintained close liaison with the trades and was examining how the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme could assist the affected trades.

2. The Subcommittee agreed that the subject of the provision of financial assistance to the affected trades should be referred to the Panel on Commerce and Industry for follow-up.

3 An extract from the report of the Subcommittee is attached for your easy reference and follow-up. Please contact me or Jove CHAN at 2537 4627 should you need further information.

(Mrs Sharon TONG)
Clerk to Subcommittee

Encl.

**Extract from the report of the Subcommittee on Order made under
Section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance
for the House Committee meeting on 10 June 2011
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 2000/10-11)**

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Impact on the trades

12. Concern has been raised over the impact of the Order on the affected trades. Members have queried whether the affected trades have been consulted on the Order. Members have requested the Administration to consider providing financial assistance, e.g. offering special loans at preferential interest rate, giving subsidy on utilities expenses etc., to the affected trades to help them tide over the financial difficulties caused by the Daiichi nuclear power plant incident. Given the concern about radiation contamination of Japanese food, Hon Vincent FANG has requested CFS to consider issuing labels affixing onto food products confirming that they have passed the tests in order to restore public confidence in the consumption of Japanese food.

13. According to the Administration, CFS met with the importers and distributors supplying Japanese food on 14 March 2011 and briefed the trades on the Order on 23 March 2011. Since 25 March 2011, if the radiation testing results are satisfactory for the concerned food consignments, CFS will issue a letter to the relevant importer stating words of similar effect. Regarding the issuance of labels, the Administration considers that the matter should be dealt with care as it would be difficult to monitor the use of such labels. The Administration maintains close liaison with the trades and is examining how the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme could assist the affected trades.

14. The Subcommittee has agreed that the provision of financial assistance to the affected trades should be referred to the Panel on Commerce and Industry for follow-up.

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