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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

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1 April 2011

Ms Dora Lai
Chairman,
Cathay Pacific Airways Flight Attendants Union
6/F, Airline Store Building,
Cathay Pacific Airways,
2 Chun Ming Road,
Chek Lap Kok, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Lai,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2011 to the Secretary for Security. I am authorised to give you a reply.

On March 11 (about 1 pm, Hong Kong time), a severe earthquake (magnitude 9) hit the coast off the Miyagi Prefecture in Japan, which caused a tsunami. The HKSAR Government issued Red OTA for Japan on the same day. Since the earthquake, we have been closely monitoring developments. In view of the incident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, the HKSAR government on March 12 issued a Black OTA for Fukushima Prefecture of Japan, while Red OTA is maintained for the rest of the country.

Taking account of the seriousness and uncertainty of the incident of the nuclear power plants in Fukushima Prefecture, the HKSAR Government decided on March 15 to extend the Black OTA from one prefecture to four prefectures (i.e. Miyagi Prefecture, Fukushima Prefecture, Ibaraki Prefecture and Iwate Prefecture), urging Hong Kong residents to avoid all travel to these prefectures. We will monitor the situation closely. Any update will be issued through the media and the OTA webpage (www.sb.gov.hk/eng/ota).

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Considering the possible concern of residents returning from Japan, the HKSAR Government set up a health desk inside the restricted area at the airport since 16 March to provide service to travellers from Japan who volunteered themselves for radiation checks.

As regards the layover arrangement in Japan, we note that the Cathay Pacific Airways has announced on March 16 that its crew will stop staying overnight in Tokyo until further notice. I trust the measure has effectively addressed your concern.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



(Mr Louis Au)
for Secretary for Security