

政制及內地事務局
政府總部



CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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HONG KONG

香港下亞厘畢道

檔案編號：CMAB B21/3/B

25 October 2011

Hon Wong Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Chairman
Legislative Council Panel on Commerce and Industry

Dear Chairman,

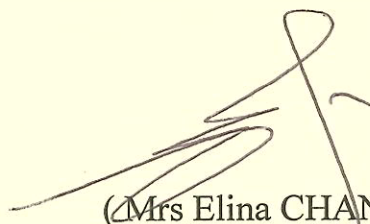
At the meeting of the Panel on Commerce and Industry on 18 October 2011, we briefed Members on the proposed detailed arrangements for setting up the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan (“HKETCO”). At the meeting, a Member requested the Administration to provide further written information regarding the status of the HKETCO, and that of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong. The requested information is set out below.

With the positive development of cross-Strait relations, Hong Kong and Taiwan are proactively stepping up exchanges with each other. In April 2010, we established the “Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council” (“ECCPC”). ECCPC has been working closely with the “Taiwan-Hong Kong Economic and Cultural Co-operation Council” (“THEC”) as its Taiwanese counterpart. A direct communication platform is thus formed. The establishment of the two Councils institutionalised the communication and liaison between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and enabled the two places to deepen their mutual understanding and enhance their exchanges and cooperation. In the past year or so, the ECCPC and the THEC have agreed on a number of priority cooperation areas at economic, trade and cultural fronts, and achieved considerable outcomes through exchanges and discussion. Although the ECCPC is not a government entity, it provides the platform for Hong Kong and Taiwan to

explore and discuss matters of mutual interest, including cooperation involving public policies.

To further promote the multi-faceted cooperation between Hong Kong and Taiwan, the two sides conducted rounds of discussion in the past few months through the ECCPC-THEC platform, and reached consensus on setting up multi-functional offices at the two places respectively in appropriate capacities. The Taiwanese side agreed to Hong Kong's setting up the HKETCO; and in the spirit of reciprocity, we agreed that Chung Hwa Travel Service could change its name to "Taipei Economic and Cultural Office" with effect from 15 July 2011 to reflect its functions.

Under the "One China" principle and guided by the basic policies provided by the "Qian Seven Principles", the HKSAR Government has been promoting cooperation with Taiwan in a pragmatic and proactive way. We consider this yet to be an opportune time for both places to set up official bodies. However, by assigning appropriate personnel to take forward the work of the two non-government entities, we are confident that they can help support the authorities of Hong Kong and Taiwan effectively in promoting matters involving public policies, especially cooperation at the economic, trade and cultural fronts. We are of the view that the present arrangement is proactive and pragmatic in opening up new horizons for exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and is a constructive stride towards positive development of the long-term relations between the two places.



(Mrs Elina CHAN)

for Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs