

**For discussion  
on 15 November 2011**

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Progress Report of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification**

**PURPOSE**

This paper –

- (a) updates Members of the work of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) in promoting testing and certification services; and
- (b) seeks Members' support to retain a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2) post, designated as Secretary-General (Testing and Certification) (SG(TC)) in the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In September 2009, Government established HKCTC, with the secretariat support provided by ITC, to advise on the overall development strategy and initiatives for promoting the growth of the testing and certification industry.

3. In April 2010, Government accepted the three-year market-oriented development plan for the testing and certification industry submitted by HKCTC. HKCTC recommended Government to adopt a dual approach – making improvements on the general front whilst putting focused efforts on specific trades with particular potentials. We last briefed Members on the

progress of implementing the industry development plan at the Panel meeting on 17 May 2011.

4. We would like to report the latest work of HKCTC since our last report.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF MAJOR PROGRESS**

### **Improvements to Accreditation Service**

5. The accreditation service provided by ITC's Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) is the cornerstone for the development of the testing and certification industry. To enable the industry to cope with service expansion, HKAS has introduced three new accreditation services since May (i.e. our last report to the Panel):

- (a) testing for the US Energy Star product certification program;
- (b) certification of occupational health and safety management system to OHSAS 18001 standard; and
- (c) testing for phthalate plasticisers.

HKAS also plans to launch the accreditation service for certification of information security management system to ISO 27001 standard in November 2011.

6. Through joining mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) administered by international and regional accreditation co-operation bodies, the accreditation granted by HKAS to testing and certification organisations is recognised by over 80 accreditation bodies in about 65 economies, including Hong Kong's major trading partners.

7. Recently, HKAS succeeded in expanding the scope of its MRAs with the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to cover environmental management system (EMS) certification and product certification. This has significantly improved the worldwide acceptance of EMS and product certificates granted by local

certification bodies accredited by HKAS. The expansion of the MRA scope to product certification also allows local accredited certification bodies to provide services for overseas product certification programs that require accreditation by IAF MRA partners (e.g. US Energy Star product certification program).

8. To raise the international profile of HKAS, Hong Kong will host the Annual Meeting of PAC in June 2012. Accreditation bodies from more than 30 economies are expected to participate in the event.

## **Enhancement to Factors of Production**

### Manpower

9. HKCTC, the relevant Government departments and public bodies (e.g. Vocational Training Council, HKAS) have been organising technical seminars/workshops/short courses to raise the technical expertise of practitioners in the industry. Since April 2011, more than 45 such training events have been organised.

10. High professional integrity of our practitioners has always been well recognised as one of the major competitive edges of Hong Kong's testing and certification industry. To uphold this edge, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) developed a "Corruption Prevention Guide for Testing and Certification Industry" which provides tailor-made internal control measures for the industry. HKCTC and ICAC will work closely to promote the Guide – on 3 November 2011, HKCTC and ICAC together launched the Guide at the Ethical Management Seminar for Testing and Certification Industry. To complement this initiative, HKAS plans to require all accredited organisations to develop and implement a code of conduct accordingly.

### Capital and Technology

11. HKCTC and ITC have been encouraging wider use of the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) for research and development (R&D) of new testing technologies. Two ITF projects, one on the development of a low-cost detector for deteriorated food and the other on the development of a

DNA-based method to identify Chinese herbal medicines, have been approved since April 2011. Another nine applications for funding research work in testing and certification are now being processed.

12. The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) and the Hong Kong Science Park have laboratory facilities and equipment that are available for shared use by private testing organisations. By making use of these shared facilities, testing organisations will not need to make huge capital investment if their business volume for the relevant tests is not high.

13. In August 2011, HKPC set up a new electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) anechoic chamber with \$9.9M funding from Government. The new chamber enables local testing organisations to test products according to the latest EMC requirements in the European market.

14. Last year, HKCTC worked with HKPC to arrange a seminar cum laboratory tour to introduce HKPC's shared facilities to the testing and certification industry. As the response was encouraging, HKCTC also organised a similar seminar cum tour to the Hong Kong Science Park in September 2011 for the industry to get acquainted with advanced facilities for various testing, e.g. materials analysis, wireless communications, semi-conductor lighting etc.

### Land

15. The position remains largely the same as our last report in May 2011, i.e. the stock in industrial and commercial premises in Hong Kong should generally be able to cope with the demand of the testing and certification industry. HKCTC will continue to closely monitor the situation.

### **Focused Effort on Specific Trades**

16. HKCTC has identified good opportunities to promote the use of testing and certification services in the following four selected trades :

- (a) Chinese medicines;
- (b) construction materials;
- (c) food; and
- (d) jewellery.

(a) Chinese medicines

17. HKCTC is supporting the industry to build up technical capability to authenticate Chinese herbal medicines by microscopic examination and physicochemical methods according to the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS). HKCTC is now organising an inter-laboratory comparison exercise so that testing laboratories can assess their technical competence by comparing testing results with other laboratories. Participation in inter-laboratory comparison is required if testing laboratories want to apply for accreditation on authentication of Chinese medicines from HKAS in due course.

18. HKCTC has also invited universities to consider providing short courses to equip practitioners in testing laboratories with the necessary technical skills in authentication of Chinese medicines.

(b) Construction Materials

19. To upgrade the quality of its buildings and set an example for the local construction industry, the Housing Authority is taking the lead in requiring product certification for fire rated doors, panel wall partitions, cement products, tile adhesive, ceramic tiles, repair mortar and aluminum window by phases. HKAS has already accredited four certification bodies to provide product certification services for the first four types of construction materials and is processing accreditation applications from certification bodies to provide product certification services for ceramic tiles and repair mortar. A certification scheme for aluminum windows is now being developed by the Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction. HKAS is ready to accept application for accreditation from certification bodies to provide certification according to the scheme once it is finalised.

20. With the availability of more certified construction materials in the

market, HKCTC would like to promote wider acceptance of product certification in both public and private construction projects. As a start, HKCTC plans to focus such efforts on introducing the concept and benefits of product certification to professionals and practitioners in the construction industry. In this connection, HKAS has made presentations to the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and the Hong Kong Construction Association and is exploring more presentation opportunities with other stakeholders in the industry, such as the Construction Industry Council. HKCTC has also planned a seminar for professionals and practitioners in the construction industry and the testing and certification industry on 23 November 2011. Experts from Australia, United Kingdom, Singapore and the Mainland are invited to share their experience in introducing product certification.

### (c) Food

21. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University will develop an HACCP<sup>1</sup>-based food hygiene management certification system aiming at local catering industry with funding support from the General Support Programme of ITF. The new certification system will give special attention to the needs of small and medium enterprises to facilitate their adoption. The project is supported by major trade associations and players in both the catering industry and the testing and certification industry. Upon the development of the certification system in end 2012/early 2013, accredited certification bodies will be able to provide certification services for catering establishments based on the system. HKCTC will work with the testing and certification industry to promote the certification service.

22. With the support of ITF, the Chinese University of Hong Kong has been developing authentication of selected high-valued food (e.g. abalone, dried scallop and bird's nest) through DNA sequences analysis since March 2011. The project has initially identified the relevant DNAs that may characterise the authenticity of the selected food products. Next stage will involve DNA sequencing and validation. Upon the completion of the project in end 2012, a database will be developed. Private testing laboratories with DNA sequencing equipment will be able to provide authentication services for the selected food based on DNA information in the database.

---

<sup>1</sup> HACCP – the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System

#### (d) Jewellery

23. HKCTC has sponsored the Gemmological Association of Hong Kong (GAHK) to develop a consolidated set of standard testing methods for kosmochlor and omphacite. This will supplement the existing standard testing methods for jadeite jade so that a complete set of standard testing methods will be available for all three types of Fei Cui. The initiative is strongly supported by the Customs and Excise Department. GAHK has conducted researches into various testing methods adopted by the trade and is now consolidating and drafting a standing testing method based on its findings. At the next stage, GAHK will carry out testing using Fei Cui samples to validate and fine tune the testing methods. A pilot will also be conducted by a laboratory to seek accreditation from HKAS. Experience from the accreditation exercise will be used to finalise the testing methods. The standard testing methods for kosmochlor and omphacite are expected to be available for use by the testing industry and the jewellery trade in late 2012.

24. HKCTC has stepped up the promotion of Hong Kong's existing accredited testing services for jadeite jade and diamond. We have worked together with the jewellery trade and the testing industry in producing a pamphlet for distribution to retail shops through trade associations. The pamphlets will be made available for visitors at entry points in Hong Kong. We have also produced stickers for retail shops to indicate that they could arrange for the issue of testing reports from accredited laboratories. Separately, both the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Hong Kong Consumer Council also provide information on how to locate testing laboratories for gemstones at their websites.

#### **Mainland Market**

25. Under the Supplement VII to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) signed in 2010, testing laboratories in Hong Kong are allowed to co-operate with designated Mainland organisations in testing products for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System on a pilot basis. This applies to four types of products (viz. toys, circuit installation, information technology equipment and lighting apparatus)

processed in Hong Kong. Such testing laboratories have to be accredited by HKAS as capable of performing tests for the relevant products. As of October 2011, HKAS has accredited one testing laboratory as capable of performing CCC testing for toys and is processing seven other applications.

26. In August 2011, the Mainland agreed to extend the coverage of the pilot from four types of products to all 23 types of products under the CCC System that are processed in Hong Kong. This reflects further acceptance of Hong Kong's testing and certification results by the Mainland. ITC is now discussing with the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the Mainland (CNCA) on the implementation timetable and details.

27. When the Vice-Minister of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine cum Chief Administrator of CNCA, Mr SUN Dawei, visited Hong Kong in late October 2011, we took the opportunity to brief him on the latest development of Hong Kong's testing and certification industry. Mr SUN also met with members of HKCTC and visited local testing and certification organisations to get a better understanding about the services provided in Hong Kong.

### **Promotion of Services**

28. HKCTC, HKAS and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) have continued to work together to promote the branding of "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong" to potential service users both locally and outside Hong Kong through HKTDC's platforms.

29. In 2011-12, we plan to set up promotional booths in 17 local trade fairs. HKTDC will also help display materials to promote Hong Kong's testing and certification services in Hong Kong Pavilion organised by HKTDC in 13 trade fairs outside Hong Kong.

### Annex A

30. Snapshots on the work of HKCTC since May 2011 are *at Annex A*. To sustain the work done hitherto, we propose to extend the post of SG(TC) from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014.



## EXTENSION OF THE POST OF SG(TC)

Annex B

31. A dedicated team has been set up in ITC to provide support to HKCTC and serve as its secretariat. The organisation chart of the Secretariat is at *Annex B*. The Secretariat is headed by SG(TC), a supernumerary AOSGC post approved by the Finance Committee (vide EC(2009-10)14) for a period of two years from 16 March 2010 to 15 March 2012. SG(TC)'s current job description is at *Annex C*.

Annex C

32. SG(TC) is the key officer leading the Secretariat in coordinating the testing and certification industry, relevant government departments and public bodies to implement HKCTC's three-year industry development plan. As testing and certification is one of the six economic areas that has been identified for further promotion in Hong Kong, the SG(TC) post is required to provide continued support to HKCTC beyond the expiry of the post on 15 March 2012.

33. On the general front, SG(TC) will have to assist the testing and certification industry in ensuring adequate manpower supply, e.g. by increasing students' awareness and understanding of the industry through career talks and internship opportunities, coordinating trainings for practitioners to enhance their technical expertise, etc. SG(TC) will continue to encourage R&D projects on new testing technologies by introducing ITF to the industry through various means, e.g. seminars and HKAS newsletters. Given the rapid changes in the global economic environment, it will also be necessary for SG(TG) to keep close contact with the industry to gauge their views on how to cope with the challenges.

34. For the selected trades, SG(TC) is required to continue to follow up on the initiatives being taken forward by HKCTC, including supporting the testing and certification industry to build up expertise in authentication of Chinese herbal medicines, promote wider acceptance of product certification for construction materials, introducing a HACCP-based food hygiene management certification system for the local catering industry and the development of a consolidated set of standard testing methods for two types of jade. Moreover, SG(TC) will need to support HKCTC to start working with the testing and certification industry and stakeholders in the environmental

protection and the information and communications technologies trades to explore opportunities for new testing and certification services.

35. HKCTC was set up in September 2009. It formulated a three-year industry development plan in March 2010 which will end in March 2013. By that time, SG(TC) will have to support HKCTC in conducting a comprehensive review on the progress made and formulating a plan to further support the industry, including the long term role and functions of HKCTC based on the experience after more than three years of operation.

36. Given the substantive policy content and the complexities of the duties involved, we propose to retain the post of SG(TC) at the rank of AOSGC from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014 to undertake the tasks described above. The proposed job descriptions of SG(TC) are at *Annex D*. ITC will review the need for retaining the SG(TC) post for a longer period or on a permanent basis upon HKCTC's comprehensive review of its long term role.

#### Annex D

### **Alternatives Considered**

37. We have critically examined whether the existing directorate officers at D2 and above in ITC can be redeployed to undertake the tasks. However, all these directorate officers are already fully engaged in their respective portfolios, in particular taking into account that ITC is also tasked to promote the development of the innovation and technology industry, also one of the six economic areas. The coming major tasks include the further review and enhancement to ITF, promotion of the use of ITF in the public sector, monitoring the development of Science Park Phase 3, stepping up technology collaboration with the Mainland and revitalisation of Industrial Estates. It is therefore operationally not feasible for the existing directorate officers in ITC to take up the additional duties of SG(TC) which are highly demanding.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

38. The proposed retention of the supernumerary AOSGC post will require

an additional notional annual salary cost at mid-point of \$1,611,600. The additional full annual average staff cost, including salaries and staff on-cost, is \$2,104,200.

39. We have reflected the required provisions in the Estimates of 2011-12 and will include the necessary provision in the Draft Estimates of subsequent years to meet the cost of the proposal.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

40. Members are invited to –

- (a) note the latest work of HKCTC; and
- (b) support the retention of the supernumerary AOSGC post from 16 March 2012 to 31 March 2014 to lead the Secretariat for HKCTC. Subject to Members' views, we will submit the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee for consideration.

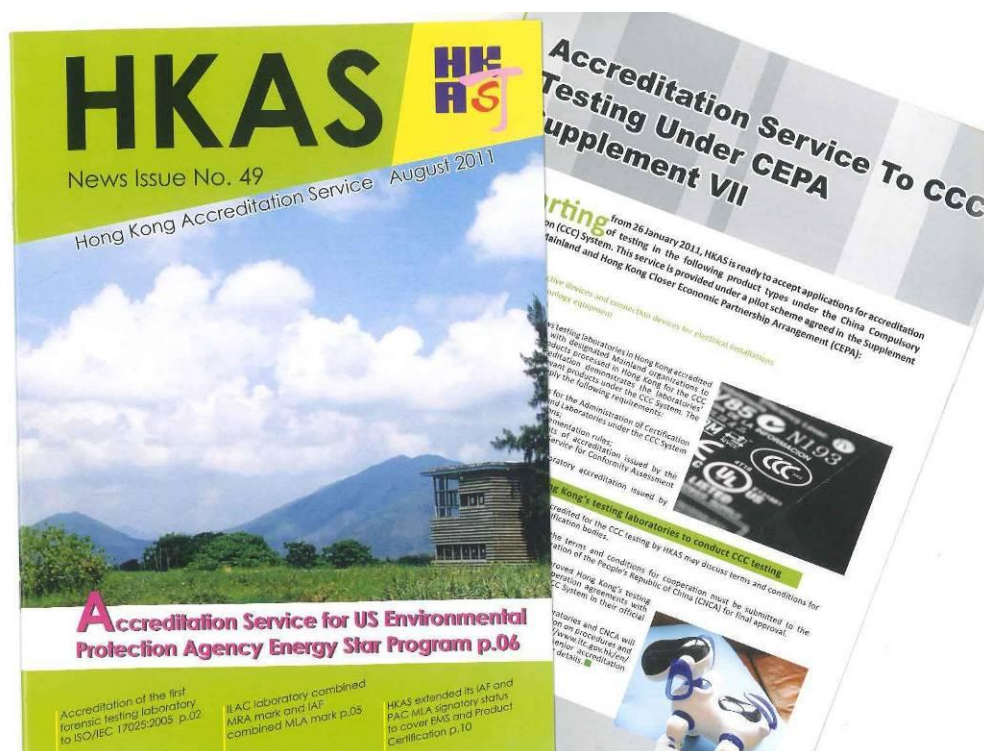
Innovation and Technology Commission  
November 2011

## Annex A

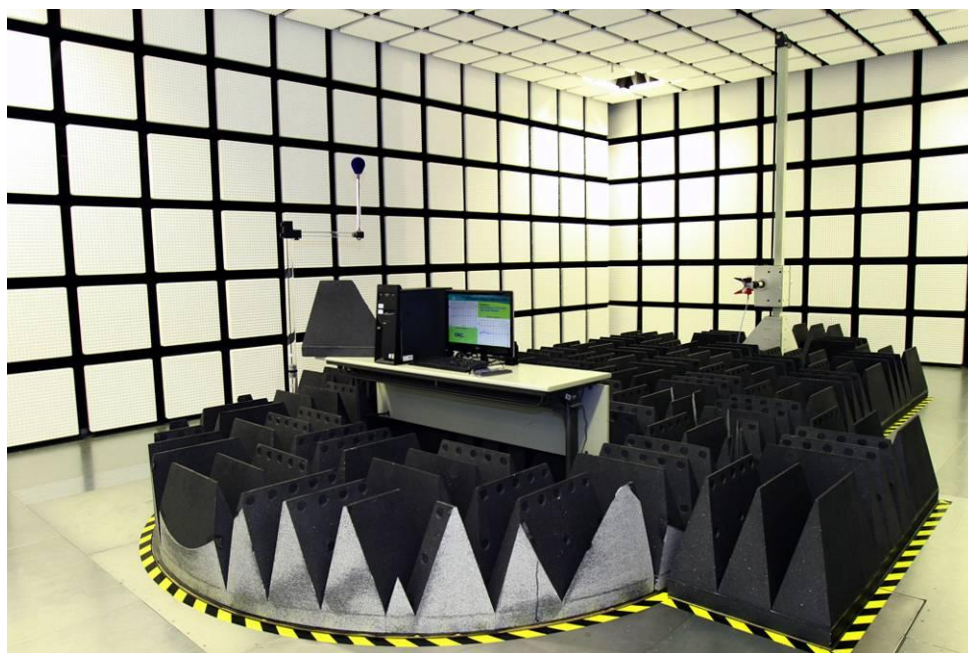
### Snapshots of Various Supports to the Testing and Certification Industry



Seminar for Practitioners



Newsletters of Hong Kong Accreditation Service



New Electromagnetic Compatibility Testing Chamber  
at Hong Kong Productivity Council



Promotion at Local Trade Fairs





Promotion through Hong Kong Trade Development Council's  
Booths in Overseas Trade Fairs



Promotional Pamphlets



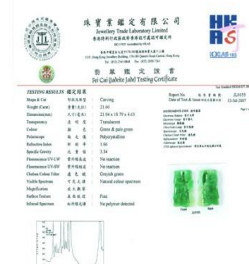
#### 鑒別翡翠的真偽

由於肉眼難以分辨翡翠真偽，或再經化學處理，消費者可考慮有「翡翠鑑定證書」的產品。  
現時本港有機構進行翡翠鑑定工作，例如「香港珠寶玉石鑑定學會」及「珠寶業鑑定有限公司」，該機構已獲得「香港政府認可處」頒發「HOKLAS 香港認可處」之鑑定證書，發出之鑑定證書，由兩位資深之鑑定師共同簽發，落實「翡翠鑑定證書」(見下圖)十三項測試程序及結果，全部符合國際認可標準。

在測試過程中，該鑑定所進行以下的特定測試或量度翡翠之特性：

1. 形狀及琢型 (Sharp and Cut)
2. 尺寸(毫米) (Dimension(mm))
3. 重量(克拉) (Weight(carat))
4. 透明度 (Transparency)
5. 顏色 (Colour)
6. 偏光性 (Polariscope)
7. 折光率 (Refractive Index)
8. 比重值 (Specific Gravity)
9. 熒光性 (Fluorescence)
10. 透色值 (Chelsea Colour Filter)
11. 可見光譜 (Visible Spectrum)
12. 放大觀察 (Magnification)
13. 紅外線光譜 (Infrared Spectrum)

#### 天然翡翠鑑定證書



## Website of Consumer Council Providing Information on Hong Kong's Jewellery Testing Services

### 香港檢測及認證業新機遇

## 參與內地 CCC 測檢工作

《CEPA 補充協議七》容許香港檢測機構參與中國強制性產品認證 (CCC) 的檢測工作。上月底，香港檢測和認證局、工業貿易署、香港認可處主辦的「中國內地檢測和認證的商機」研討會，邀請本港和內地的官員簡介計劃的相關程序及要求，並由業界交流內地提供檢測認證服務的經驗，以助本港檢測機構把握內地的商機。

管理創新科技署長李卓人認為檢測及認證服務發展不單為業界帶來商機，更有助港產貨品進入內地市場。他表示：「這次研討會，開啟了內地檢測工作的小門，希望在香港業界的努力下，日後能開啟更大的門。」

#### 兩地審批參與資格

有意參與 CCC 檢測工作的香港檢測實驗室，須先經香港認可處確認是否具備「CCC 制度相關產品檢測能力」，獲得資質認證後，方可向 CCC 指定認證機構提出合作意向。雙方合作協議經國家認證認可監督委員會 (認委會) 審批後便可生效。

認委會國際合作部副主任黃雲介紹了 CCC 檢測工作安排，他表示：「這是 CCC 首次容許大陸以外地區進行檢測。認委會審批香港實驗室與認證機構的合作協議，但當中並不涉及實驗室能力問題，通過審批後會盡快在網上公布。」黃副主任亦介紹了加入 IECEE/CB 多邊互認體系途徑和申請要求，他期望香港的實驗室也能加入體系中。

香港認可處執行幹事陳成斌表示：「香港認可處已為資質認可服務，有關申請費會優先處理。當收到申請後，會派評審隊到實驗室進行評估，若符合香港認可處及 CCC 的相關要求，便會發出認可資格，並通知內地認委會。」

#### 交流內地檢測經驗

大會為讓出席者了解更多內地檢測工作，邀請到廣東省質量技術監督局廣東省質量技術監督局局長黃曉雲為粵港實驗室發展與認證機構的合作經驗，黃局長介紹了廣東省實驗室檢測和認證機構的運作程序，以及深圳市場監督管理局計量處李大利處長介紹深圳檢測和認證的情況。

▲香港認可處執行幹事陳成斌表示：「香港認可處已為資質認可服務，有關申請費會優先處理。當收到申請後，會派評審隊到實驗室進行評估，若符合香港認可處及 CCC 的相關要求，便會發出認可資格，並通知內地認委會。」

▲大會吸引了超過 200 人出席

內地三家外資檢測和認證機構的高層，包括天祥集團中國區總裁柏理德、萊茵技術服務大中華區副總裁溫嘉格和通標標準技術服務有限公司副總裁馬曉輝，分享了在內地提供檢測和認證服務的經驗。

萊茵技術服務大中華區副總裁溫嘉格表示：「在中國設立檢測實驗室，是為了在市場上更嚴格的安全要求，並因應在內地生產的產品，符合出口市場的安全要求。溫嘉格是平衡產品質量與市場需求，有的生產商希望檢測工作能快速完成，但我們希望產品銷售給顧客時，能確保符合安全規定。」

#### 「投資研發現金回贈計劃」可助檢測和認證業

政府已於 2010 年 4 月 1 日推出「投資研發現金回贈計劃」，以鼓勵企業與本地大學科研機構加強合作。在該計劃下，政府會為企業進行應用研發項目所作出的投資提供 10% 的現金回贈，適用範圍包括創新及科技基金資助的項目，以及企業與指定本地科研機構進行的研發項目。此計劃可支持檢測實驗室所作出的研發工作，以發展技術能力。詳情請瀏覽「投資研發現金回贈計劃」或致電 2737 2435 查詢。

#### 例子

公司的研發支出	\$
研發的開支 (16.5%)	800,000
現金回贈 (10%)	(80,000)
現金回贈 (10%)	(80,000)
公司進行一項研發 100 萬元的研發	5,250
項目實際開支*	375,750 (約 37%)

\*視乎公司是否須繳付利得稅



## 政府支持檢測及認證服務 助港企拓展市場 提升科技與競爭力

**檢測及認證業為六大優勢產業之一，政府成立香港檢測和認證局，協助各方面支持業的發展。由於行業有助各地貿易商利用香港作為貿易平台，獲香港貿易發展局大力支持。另一方面，政府亦鼓勵業界利用「創新及科技基金」加強研發，提升技術水平。**

### 貿發局推動香港國際檢測中心

由於檢測及認證有助促進各地貿易商利用香港作為貿易平台，亦獲各界對產品的信心，因此貿發局和認證局向來積極為本地企業提供檢測和認證服務。貿發局（下稱貿發局）大力支持，並與香港檢測和認證局合作，加強在本地及海外的推廣。

現時港內的有五百多間私營檢測及認證企業，當中約有八成提供出口貨品檢測服務。貿發局總裁林天福先生表示，現時國際間對進口貨品的安全要求日益嚴格，而香港貿易界亦有良好的國際關係與聲譽，預期未來需求將會增加。

除了為內地出口貨品提供服務外，港內進口市場亦為本地檢測及認證服務發展的一大重要方向。林天福稱在去年CEPA補充協議七周年後，香港的檢測結果已有限度地獲內地接受。林天福並建議發展，冀望香港成為進口內地和出口外地貨品的檢測基地，這對本地貿易界亦一舉兩得的商機。「我們希望最終能為香港檢測及認證服務建立「香港檢測、香港認證」的品牌。」

### 協助推廣本地檢測認證服務

檢測和認證是一種複雜的行業，以往都比較「低調」，因而不大為人了解。為配合香港檢測和認證局加強推廣，貿發局特設檢測服務中心，「我們在香港主要的展覽會中，設立「檢測及認證」專區，便利業界與潛在客戶接觸，並加強推廣。」林天福表示，但該中心不舉行研討會，讓廠商對本地檢測認證服務加深了解，從而製造商機。

至於開拓海外市場方面，貿發局經常組織貿易團，參與國際級的電子展、玩具展等展覽會，並協助香港檢測和認證局在貿易展的香港館內向外賓家介紹利用香港檢測認證服務的好處。林天福稱貿發局亦會邀請本地的檢測和認證機構參與訪問團，去香港以外地區尋求商機。

### 「創新及科技基金」資助香港中文大學研發食品DNA檢測

政府的創新及科技基金一直支持香港的應用研發，資助對創新和服務業提升科技水平有幫助的項目。檢測認證行業是一個廣泛應用科技的行業，創新及科技基金可以協助業界開發新的檢測技術，提升科技水平。

最近香港中文大學食品研究中心的「鑑定海味及進補食品平台之創新發展」研究項目，便成功申請「創新及科技基金」300萬元的資助。食品研究中心主任甄海山教授表示，近年出現不少不法商人魚目混珠的個案，例如賣賣假鮑魚肉，以片鱗冒充鮑魚片等，既影響香港戶的食慾，亦同時危及市民的健康，因而讓相關食品業的穩定需求上升。

中心將購入各地的海參、花膠、干貝、鮑魚、燕窩及花膠等海味及進補食品，收集其DNA樣本後將資料輸入資料庫，供業界作為進行鑑定測試的參考標準。除了分辨真偽，項目亦可協助分辨產品的品種，例如價錢相宜甚佳的澳洲鮑及日本宮古鮑。

「這套平台可應用廣泛，此為對業界提供DNA資料支持，除商業價值外，項目亦可幫助政府及其他團體，例如海關便可以利用DNA資料分辨貨物，同時亦可提升食物安全。」甄教授說，項目的一項階段將會研究產品認證標準，讓消費者能辨別真偽。

香港檢測和認證局成員甄海山教授表示「提升技術水平對維持香港檢測和認證行業的競爭力非常重要。」他期望業界申請「創新及科技基金」的資助，以開發新的檢測技術。

(資料由貿發局提供)

## Panel's efforts to boost jewellery trade

Testing & Certification Series

Hong Kong's status as both a manufacturing and consumption centre of jewellery will be further enhanced following the establishment of a panel tasked with the promotion of testing and certification services in the jewellery trade.

In addition to being long recognised as a premier manufacturing centre for jewellery, Hong Kong has emerged as one of the largest consumption centres for jewellery in the world, in a market where customers have eyes for finesse and sophistication, the professionalism of the trade and the efforts of a newly set up cross-industry panel will benefit everyone involved in the industry.

When it comes to the business of jewellery, Hong Kong is unchanged in certain areas. With the city's fondness and experience in Fei Cut for example, professional practitioners in the city were pioneers in the development of standard testing methods for the precious gemstone Jadeite Jade, a type of Fei Cut.

As one of the four trades identified by the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) to target development potential in the relevant testing and certification services, the jewellery trade has good statistics to back up this placement.

With an annual export value of HK\$3.6 billion, Hong Kong currently ranks fourth globally. To those in the know, however, this figure can be underestimated. "The trade volume controlled by Hong Kong companies could be much bigger, considering the fact that many jewellery manufacturing facilities located in the Pearl River Delta are owned by Hong Kong interests," says Mr Alan Wong, Convenor of the Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Jewellery Trade.

While the root of jewellery manufacturing in Hong Kong runs deep and remains strong, the demand for jewellery by tourists is also significant, estimated at HK\$7.8 billion annually, further reinforces the city's position in the world of precious stones. Consumers take confidence in shopping in Hong Kong, thanks to the professional integrity and offering of an array of testing laboratories for diamond and Jadeite Jade.

The testing and certification services, therefore, form an integral and inseparable part of the jewellery trade base. "The

Increasing trend in export and consumption of jewellery requires the support of testing and certification services, which are in essence a natural extension of the services provided to jewellery customers in a service-oriented economy in Hong Kong," according to Mr Wong.

The Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Jewellery Trade is composed of cross-industry industry leaders and professionals. It aims to facilitate the development of the testing and certification services industry in the jewellery trade, followed by the promotion of the brand name "Tested in Hong Kong, Certified in Hong Kong", which will also benefit the jewellery trade.

The panel is presented with a number of items on the agenda that can be seen as reflective of the demand of the jewellery industry in Hong Kong. Considering the fact that Hong Kong is sitting at the pinnacle of the jade trade, an immediate action plan is drawn for the development of standard testing methods for two more types of Fei Cut, namely Koushonor Jade and Omphacite Jade, on top of that for Jadeite Jade already in place.

### Purchasing tips for Fei Cut Jadeite (Jade) and Diamond:

- Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) accredited laboratories can identify natural, chemically treated and resin impregnated or dyed Fei Cut Jadeite (Jade).
- Apart from international renowned diamond laboratories, HKAS accredited laboratories can also provide professional diamond authenticity identification and grading certificates. Diamond certificates issued by accredited laboratories bear the HKAS logo.
- Show are accredited laboratories, for details please visit [hkcas.hk](http://hkcas.hk) or email [info@hkcas.hk](mailto:info@hkcas.hk).
- Asian Gemmological Institute and Laboratory, China Gem Laboratory, HK Jade & Stone Laboratory, Hong Kong Gem Laboratory, Jewellery Trade Laboratory, CAS HK Gem Laboratory, NGTC (HK).

You do not have to flatter the Great Star of Africa or any fancy gemstone on a piece of headgear before you are admitted to the Gemmological Association of Hong Kong (GAHK).

Arrived at possessing "higher levels of professionalism and disseminating information about new developments in gemmology to its members and practitioners", the GAHK makes a good step for those who are interested in becoming a gemmologist. Pupils can simply check out a number of courses provided by international institutes, such as the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A), and Gemmological Institute of America (GIA).

Meanwhile, the GAHK provides training for certified gemmologists on ISO 17025, an international standard used by testing laboratories, and equips them to become an authorized laboratory of HKAS.

"The promotion of testing and certification services in the jewellery trade is a welcome move. "As the jewellery market becomes more sophisticated, certification can be one of the most effective tools available to the trade," Mr Louis Lo, Chairman of the GAHK, supports the promotion of laboratory accreditation in Hong Kong in enhancing the professional standards.

Determining whether a diamond is natural or synthetic.

### More than a master

Mr Tommy Tsui, Laboratory Director, China Gem Laboratory Limited

In Hong Kong, there are six laboratories for Jadeite Jade testing accredited by the HKAS, whereas for diamond testing there are just two. China Gem Laboratory Limited is the only independent testing laboratory accredited under the HKAS for both precious stones.

"Like many independent testing laboratories, an HKAS accredited laboratory for the two precious stones is equipped with trained professionals, proper facilities and precision equipment. Certified gemmologists are required to undergo professional training, such as the GIA Grading System for diamonds and the unique training applied to Jadeite Jade. The facilities of a laboratory, meanwhile, must meet requirements with reference to light condition and other criteria, whereas the equipment must be recalibrated regularly," says Mr Tommy Tsui, Laboratory Director, China Gem Laboratory Limited.

When it comes to a Fei Cut, a gemstone in identification would undergo 13 steps that take into account the stone's characteristics including shape, weight and colour, before it is put under equipment such as a polariscope, a refractometer and a FTIR Spectrometer. It is only after all the procedures that a stone in identification is certified a natural, treated or dyed Fei Cut, or anything in disguise.

### R&D Cash Rebate Scheme Can Help the Testing and Certification Industry

The Government launched the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme on 1 April 2015 to encourage enterprises to establish stronger partnerships with local public research institutions. Under the Scheme, the Government will provide a cash rebate equivalent to 10% of the investments to enterprises in conducting applied R&D projects with the support of the Innovation and Technology Fund or in partnership with the designated local research institutions. This Scheme can help testing laboratories by supporting their R&D activities to raise technical competence. For details, please visit <http://www.itf.gov.hk> or call 2737 2435 for enquiries.

### Example

In the case of an RTR collaborative project costing \$1 million (i.e. company and ITF each contribute half of the project costs), the actual expenditure incurred by the company will roughly be \$370,000 only (assuming it to be pure profit loss).

R&D expenditure by the company	\$ 600,000
Profit tax savings*	\$ (82,000)
Cash rebate (10%)	\$ (50,000)
"Net cash rebate" (16.6%)	\$ (132,000)
Actual expenditure for undertaking the \$1 million R&D project*	\$370,000 (i.e. about 37%)

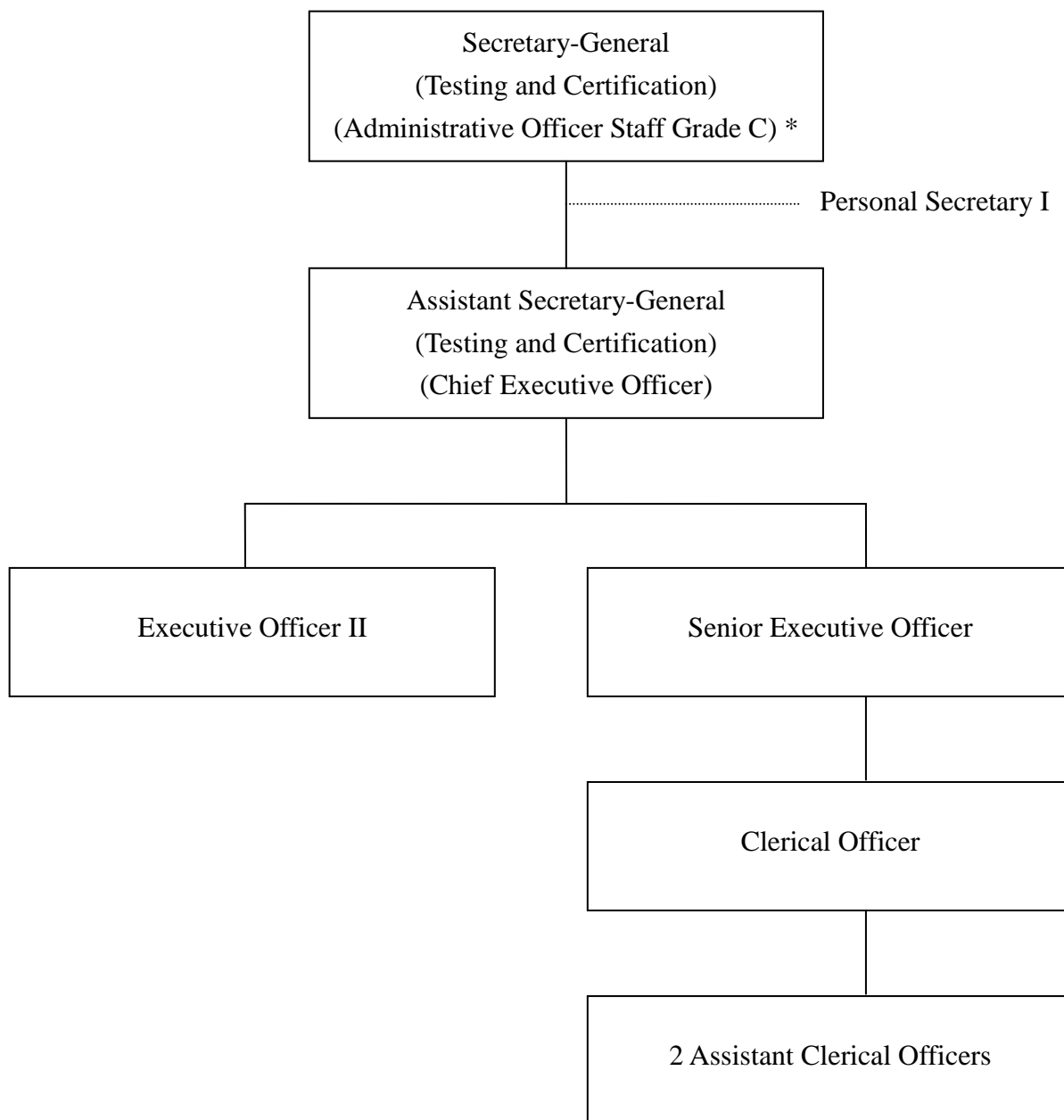
\*The actual expenditure depends on whether the company has any profit loss.

## Newspaper Advertorials



**Annex B**

**Organisation Chart of the Secretariat for the  
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification**



\* Supernumerary post to be lapsed after 15 March 2012.

**Annex C**

**Existing Job Description**

**Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)**

**Rank** : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

**Responsible to** : Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

**Main Duties and Responsibilities :-**

- (a) to head the Secretariat for the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and provide secretariat support to the HKCTC on the implementation of the three-year development plan for the industry, which would include:
  - (i) on the general front – to implement measures to enhance the various factors of production;
  - (ii) in respect of specific trades with good potential – to work with parties concerned to bring concept to reality;
  - (iii) promotion of Hong Kong's testing and certification services in the Mainland and overseas; and
  - (iv) any other areas of work arising from the endorsed recommendations of the three-year development plan;
- (b) to liaise with the Mainland authorities with a view to drawing up areas of cooperation so as to bring benefits to both sides;
- (c) to assist HKCTC in advising the Government on the long-term role of the Council, including its status, staff establishment, functions and interface with the Hong Kong Accreditation Service; and
- (d) to oversee the administration of the Secretariat.

**Annex D**

**Proposed Job Description**

**Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)**

**Rank** : Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)

**Responsible to** : Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

**Main Duties and Responsibilities :-**

- (a) to head the Secretariat for the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and provide secretariat support to the HKCTC on the implementation of the first three-year development plan for the industry, which would include:
  - (i) on the general front – to implement measures to enhance the various factors of production;
  - (ii) in respect of specific trades with good potential – to work with parties concerned to bring concept to reality; and
  - (iii) promotion of Hong Kong's testing and certification services in the Mainland and overseas.
- (b) to assist HKCTC in reviewing the progress made in its first three-year industry development plan and formulating a new plan to promote further development of the industry
- (c) to assist HKCTC in advising the Government on the long-term role of the Council;
- (d) to liaise with the Mainland authorities with a view to drawing up areas of cooperation so as to bring benefits to both sides;
- (e) to oversee the administration of the Secretariat.