



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China



立法會

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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11 January 2013

Dr KO Wing-man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health
18/F, East Wing
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar
Hong Kong

Dear *A. Ko*,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Meeting on 8 January 2013**

**The business environment of public market stalls,
including rental adjustment mechanism and air conditioning charges**

On behalf of the Panel, I write to convey to you our views expressed in the captioned subject and request your personal attention to the matter.

There is a broad consensus among members of the Panel as well as those Members attending the meeting that improving the business environment of public markets, in particular, the provision of air-conditioning facilities to all public markets, is of utmost importance. In this regard, we do not see any ready support for any proposals to increase the rentals of public market stalls unless the business environment of public markets has been substantially improved.

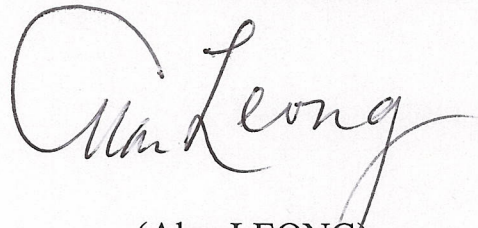
The Panel is also deeply concerned about the sustainability and viability of public markets. Members have urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of public markets including the policy, positioning, functions and usage of public markets. They have also stressed the need for the Administration to put forward concrete proposals for improving the business environment of public markets such as upgrading market facilities and strengthening promotional activities. In this connection, members have suggested that the

Administration should organize a forum inviting stakeholders as well as management experts who are knowledgeable and experienced in the operation of successful shopping arcades in the private sector to advise on ways to improve the patronage and competitiveness of public markets.

While the Under Secretary for Food and Health has undertaken to seriously consider the Panel's suggestion, we request that you could accord high priority to considering the views and requests of the Panel. We await your earliest response and advice as to what steps the Administration will intend to take and the relevant time frame, with a view to discussing them in the Panel's meeting in April 2013.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "L".

(Alan LEONG)

Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene