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本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref.

22 July 2015

Ms Debbie Yau
Clerk to Panel on Economic Development
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yau,

**Panel on Economic Development
Follow-up to the Meeting on 22 June 2015**

Single Window Consultancy

I refer to paragraph 2 of your letter on follow up action “The Administration was requested to provide more details on the consultancy study on ‘single window’ in respect of the development of Hong Kong’s existing ‘Government Electronic Trading Services’, and the ‘Port Community System’”, and append a note at **Annex** on the “single window” consultancy study for Members’ information.

Yours sincerely,

(Jenny CHAN)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

**LegCo Panel on Economic Development
Follow-up to the Meeting Held on
22 June 2015**

Single Window Consultancy

Introduction

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on 22 June 2015 where e-logistics was discussed, Members asked the Government to provide more information on the consultancy study on "Single Window" and related initiatives. This is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

Background

2. To maintain Hong Kong's competitiveness as an international trading centre, improve efficiency and promote e-commerce, the "Government Electronic Trading Services" (GETS) have been in operation since 1997. GETS provide front-end electronic platforms for the trading community to submit to the Government (business-to-government, B2G) certain types of documents that would be required for the trade of goods into, out of and through Hong Kong. Over the years, continuous improvements have been made to this trade facilitation initiative, which is now run by three private sector service providers and covers trade declarations, manifests (air and sea modes) and applications for dutiable commodities permits and certificates of origin.

3. Other trade facilitation initiatives have also been developed to streamline customs clearance, such as the introduction of the Road Cargo System (ROCARS) in 2010 for shippers and their agents to submit electronic advance cargo information to the Customs and Excise Department. As for trade documents not covered by GETS, such as applications for various import and export licenses or permits, they are separately handled by individual departments based on either paper or electronic submissions.

The "Single Window" Consultancy Study

4. To further facilitate trade in goods and customs clearance, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) is now spearheading a consultancy study to develop a full-fledged "single window" beyond the GETS model, namely a single entry point for parties

to lodge B2G documents and information for external trade purposes¹. The long-term aim is to put all existing services including GETS, ROCARS and departments' handling of import/export documents under one roof with streamlining to provide one-stop electronic services for the trading community. The consultancy will also address the issue of connecting the proposed single window with other platforms, such as single windows of other economies (government-to-government, G2G, interface) and IT platforms maintained by commercial parties (interface with business-to-business, B2B, processes).

Present Position and Next Step

5. The consultant has been taking stock of the local situation and overseas experience, engaging the trading and logistics sector for input and developing options for change. Subject to progress, CEDB's target is to complete the study in 2015-16. CEDB will consult the industry and the Legislative Council in due course on the way forward. The Transport and Housing Bureau will continue to liaise with the logistics sector to promote the wider use of e-logistics in Hong Kong.

*Transport and Housing Bureau
July 2015*

¹ According to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, a single window is a "facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardised information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements."