

香港特別行政區政府
商務及經濟發展局
工商及旅遊科



COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM BRANCH
**COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**
GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

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2 TIM MEI AVENUE
TAMAR, HONG KONG

By fax and email

21 January 2019

Clerk to the Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Judy YEE)

Dear Miss YEE,

**Legislative Council
Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up to the Meeting on 9.1.2019**

At the meeting of the Establishment Subcommittee held on 9.1.2019, Members discussed the following Government's proposals vide EC(2018-19)21–

- (a) creation of one permanent Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post to head the new Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in Bangkok;
- (b) creation of one permanent Administrative Officer Staff Grade B post to head the new ETO in Dubai; and
- (c) creation of one permanent AOSGC post in the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) to lead the new ETO Policy Division.

In response to the Chairman's request for the Government to provide information about the privileges and immunities (Ps and Is) given by the Thai Government and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government to the Bangkok and Dubai ETOs respectively, CEDB provides the reply in the following paragraphs.

To facilitate their effective discharge of duties, the HKSAR Government's overseas ETOs have been given Ps and Is which mainly include inviolability of office premises and official documents, immunity from the jurisdiction of the relevant authorities in respect of acts performed in the discharge of official functions, exemption from taxation of office premises and the officers posted to the ETOs, etc. As the Ps and Is given to the individual ETOs are the result of our negotiation with the respective host governments, the Ps and Is given to each ETO are not the same.

Referring to the Chairman's request, our discussion with the Thai Government on the Ps and Is to the Bangkok ETO has been satisfactorily concluded. The Thai National Assembly has passed the relevant bills which will come into effect after the King has given his Royal Assent. A summary of the Ps and Is given to the Bangkok ETO is at Annex.

For the Dubai ETO, our discussion with the UAE Government is expected to be concluded in the near future. Once agreement has been reached with the UAE Government regarding its provision of Ps and Is to the ETO, we will provide Members with the relevant information.

For enquiries about the above, please feel free to contact me at 2810 2963.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Connie CHEUNG)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

**Privileges and Immunities granted to
the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok**

1. Inviolability of official premises.
2. Inviolability of official archives and documents.
3. Permission for free communication for all official purposes including using encrypted message, and inviolability of official correspondence.
4. Immunity from the jurisdiction of the relevant Thai judicial and administrative authorities in respect of acts performed by officers posted to the ETO in the discharge of official functions.
5. Exemption to officers posted to the ETO from giving evidence in judicial or administrative proceedings concerning matters connected with the discharge of official functions or production of official correspondence and documents relating thereto.
6. Exemption from taxation on office premises.
7. Exemption from customs duty on goods and equipment that are purchased for the official use of the ETO.
8. Exemption from goods and services tax on goods and equipment that are purchased for the official use of the ETO.
9. Exemption from taxation on official vehicles and vehicles for private use of officers posted to the ETO.
10. Exemption from customs duty on personal and household effects of officers posted to the ETO and their families.
11. Exemption from local income tax for remuneration paid to officers posted to the ETO for their official activities.
12. Exemption to officers posted to the ETO and their families from any social security provisions or insurance contributions.