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24 June 2019

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

Dear Ms CHAN,

Panel on Economic Development

**Motion passed under agenda item III on
“Enhancement of the services of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry”
at the meeting on 27 May 2019**

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 2019. Regarding the motion passed at the meeting of the Panel on Economic Development (“ED Panel”) on 27 May 2019, our response is set out below.

As mentioned in the discussion paper CB(4)897/18-19(03), the operation of the shipping industry, as a global business, spans across many time zones. Ship owners or operators may need the service of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (“HKSR”) while their ships are at ports outside Hong Kong. In view of this, the Government plans to establish Regional Desks of HKSR in selected overseas and Mainland Economic and Trade Offices and Liaison Units by phases, so as to widen the service network of the HKSR, enabling it to provide more direct and prompt

services for the Hong Kong fleet at ports outside Hong Kong. Such services include round-the-clock technical support as well as on-site handling of ship registration, provision of advice on port state inspection or other emergency matters, as well as processing of ship exemption applications.

We understand that immediate attention and swift action of the Marine Department in handling exemption applications, which may be raised at any time during the course of a journey, is crucial to ship owners/operators, as this can ensure that ships can set sail on schedule and minimise any possible undesirable detention.

The view of the ED Panel expressed in the motion is duly noted. The Marine Department will plan for the manpower deployment for the Regional Desks in a holistic manner, establish effective response mechanism for prompt handling of ship emergencies in the regions concerned, and continue to review and enhance the services and efficiency of the HKSR, with a view to maintaining the excellent quality of the Hong Kong fleet registered under the HKSR.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Vicky CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing