

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Stimulation of  
Hong Kong's Economy**

**Minutes of meeting  
on Monday, 28 June 2021, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP

**Members absent** : Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP

**Member attending** : Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding

**Public officers attending** : Agenda item I  
Trade and Industry Department  
  
Mr Brian LO, JP  
Director-General of Trade and Industry

Mr Kerr LI  
Assistant Director-General of Trade and Industry  
(Mainland)

Mr Arthur CHAR  
Principal Trade Officer

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau

Mr Joseph CHAN, JP  
Under Secretary for Financial Services and the  
Treasury

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Bill WONG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and  
Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)  
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Development Bureau

Mr Tony HO  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Development  
(Works) 4

Department of Justice

Miss Deneb CHEUNG  
Senior Assistant Solicitor General (China Law)

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Boris LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Rita YUNG  
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Ms May LEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Miss Teresa HO  
Clerical Assistant (1)3

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**I. Initiatives to promote Hong Kong's professional services active participation in the "domestic circulation" through the amended Agreement on Trade in Services under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1031/20-21(01) -- Administration's paper on "Initiatives to promote Hong Kong's professional services active participation in the 'domestic circulation' through the amended Agreement on Trade in Services under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)"

LC Paper No. CB(1)1031/20-21(02) -- Paper on the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

*[As agreed with the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman took the chair at the meeting.]*

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings in the **Appendix**).

Follow-up actions by the Administration

2. The Administration was requested to provide the following information:
  - (a) the annual average growth rate of the total services trade between the Mainland and overseas economies; and
  - (b) the annual average growth rate of import of Mainland services trade to Hong Kong from the implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement in 2004 to 2019.

*(Post-meeting note: The information provided by the Administration was circulated to members on 7 July 2021 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1100/20-21(02).)*

**II. Any other business**

3. The Deputy Chairman said that this meeting was the last meeting of the Subcommittee. The Secretariat would prepare and circulate a report on the work of the Subcommittee for members' consideration and then submit the report to the Panel on Commerce and Industry for endorsement.

4. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:29 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
19 August 2021

**Proceedings of the meeting of  
the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Stimulation of Hong Kong's Economy  
on Monday, 28 June 2021, at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action Required
<b>Agenda item I – Initiatives to promote Hong Kong's professional services active participation in the "domestic circulation" through the amended Agreement on Trade in Services under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement</b>			
000504 – 000641	Deputy Chairman	Opening remarks	
000642 – 000950	Deputy Chairman Administration	Introductory remarks by Director-General of Trade and Industry ("DGTI") on the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement ("CEPA") and the amended CEPA Agreement on Trade in Services ("the Amendment Agreement") (LC Paper No. CB(1)1031/20-21(01)).	
000951 – 001220	Deputy Chairman Administration	Briefing by Under Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury ("USFST") on the new liberalization measures related to the banking and securities sectors under the Amendment Agreement.	
001221 – 001600	Deputy Chairman Administration	Briefing by Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 4 on the new liberalization measures related to the construction and related engineering sector under the Amendment Agreement.	
001601 – 002218	Deputy Chairman Administration	Briefing by Senior Assistant Solicitor General (China Law), Department of Justice ("DoJ"), on the new liberalization measures related to the legal services sector under the Amendment Agreement and further developments.	
002219 – 003028	Deputy Chairman Mr CHAN Chun-ying Administration	On the implementation of the two-way cross-boundary wealth management connect pilot scheme ("Wealth Management Connect"), Mr CHAN Chun-ying called on the Administration to:  (a) allow Hong Kong residents to complete the Mainland investment account opening procedures in Hong Kong without having to go to the Mainland in person;  (b) liaise with the Mainland authorities to establish mechanisms for mutual recognition of	

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		<p>professional qualifications between the Mainland and Hong Kong relating to the sales of wealth management products in the banking and securities sectors; and</p> <p>(c) liaise with the Mainland authorities for an extension of the period of stay (currently for seven days) of Mainland residents in Hong Kong for business exchange in the banking sector.</p> <p>USFST responded that:</p> <p>(a) the account opening procedures for Mainland investment accounts of Hong Kong residents were governed by the Mainland authorities. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government ("HKSARG") would continue to liaise with the Mainland authorities on the implementation arrangements of the Wealth Management Connect, with a view to offering investors and the industry the necessary convenience while ensuring proper risk management;</p> <p>(b) the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA") had been working closely with the relevant authorities of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao on the preparation work with a view to expediting the implementation of the Wealth Management Connect. HKSARG would continue to discuss with the Mainland authorities establishing mechanisms for mutual recognition of professional qualifications in more sectors; and</p> <p>(c) the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau would reflect Mr CHAN Chun-ying's views on extending the period of stay of Mainland residents in Hong Kong for business exchange to the relevant Bureau for consideration.</p>	
003029 – 003613	Deputy Chairman Mr Holden CHOW Administration	Mr Holden CHOW was pleased to note that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA") Legal Professional Examination would be held on 31 July 2021, with a new examination venue to be set up in Hong Kong in addition to Shenzhen and Zhuhai; and that Hong Kong legal practitioners had responded enthusiastically towards the examination. In this connection, Mr CHOW	

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		<p>enquired about the arrangements for Hong Kong legal practitioners who had passed the GBA Legal Professional Examination to practise in the Mainland.</p> <p>Senior Assistant Solicitor General (China Law), DoJ, responded that:</p> <p>(a) Hong Kong legal practitioners who had passed the GBA Legal Professional Examination would be required to complete the intensive training organized by the Guangdong Lawyers' Association and pass the relevant assessment before they would be issued with a lawyer's practice certificate (GBA) by the Mainland authority to practise as lawyers in GBA; and</p> <p>(b) to better prepare Hong Kong legal practitioners to practise in the nine Mainland municipalities in GBA, DoJ planned to cooperate with Mainland authorities to provide practical training courses on Mainland laws for those who had passed the GBA Legal Professional Examination.</p> <p>With the application of Hong Kong laws in Qianhai, Mr Holden CHOW called on the Administration to step up promotion in the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN") to encourage their enterprises to partner with Hong Kong enterprises to tap into the Mainland market and adopt Hong Kong laws in Qianhai, which would bring more opportunities for the Hong Kong legal services sector to participate in the development of GBA.</p> <p>Senior Assistant Solicitor General (China Law), DoJ, responded that DoJ had all along been promoting in ASEAN countries Hong Kong's position as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. DoJ would continue its efforts in this regard.</p>	
003614 – 004158	Deputy Chairman Mr Christopher CHEUNG Administration	<p>Mr Christopher CHEUNG strongly called for the introduction of further liberalization measures under the CEPA framework to facilitate Hong Kong securities brokers to enter the Mainland market.</p> <p>USFST responded that:</p>	

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		<p>(a) according to CEPA, Hong Kong-funded financial institutions (including securities brokers) were allowed to invest in Mainland-Hong Kong joint venture securities companies in the Mainland. From 1 April 2020, the Mainland had removed the restriction on the percentage of foreign investment for securities companies, which should not exceed 51%. Since 18 April 2021, the China Securities Regulatory Commission had also relaxed the shareholding restrictions on securities firms. The definition of principal shareholders was revised from over 25% to over 5% in shareholding, with net asset requirement revised from over Renminbi ("RMB") 200 million to RMB50 million. The above measures were expected to facilitate the setting up of securities company in the Mainland by the Hong Kong's securities sector;</p> <p>(b) HKSARG would continue to liaise with the Mainland authorities for more liberalization measures under the CEPA framework to facilitate Hong Kong's securities sector to enter the Mainland market; and</p> <p>(c) HKSARG would also continue to strengthen and enhance the mutual access between the financial markets of the Mainland and Hong Kong, so as to help develop Hong Kong's financial services sector.</p>	
004159 – 005416	Deputy Chairman Administration	<p>The Deputy Chairman enquired about:</p> <p>(a) the annual average growth rate of the total services trade between the Mainland and overseas economies; and</p> <p>(b) the annual average growth rate of import of Mainland services trade to Hong Kong from the implementation of CEPA in 2004 to 2019.</p> <p>The Deputy Chairman expressed the following views:</p> <p>(a) the Administration should explore more liberalization measures under the CEPA framework to enable various Hong Kong business sectors to have broader and deeper access to the Mainland market at a lower cost</p>	The Administration to take follow-up action as required in paragraph 2 of the minutes.



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		<p>for participation in the development of the Mainland; and</p> <p>(b) HKSARG should continue to discuss with the Mainland authorities relaxing the qualification requirements for provision of services by Hong Kong professionals (including tour guides and tour escorts) in the Mainland, and establishing mechanisms for mutual recognition of professional qualifications in more sectors between the Mainland and Hong Kong.</p> <p>DGTI responded that:</p> <p>(a) on the basis of the existing CEPA, HKSARG would seek to promote closer economic and trade cooperation in collaboration with the Mainland, and continue to discuss with the Mainland authorities new subjects for cooperation and new liberalization measures, with a view to seeking room and opportunities for business development for the trade on the Mainland, so as to enable Hong Kong enterprises and professionals to better complement the country's economic development and "dual circulation" strategy during the 14th Five-Year Plan period;</p> <p>(b) different sectors might relay their suggestions to relevant policy bureaux and departments to further liberalize the Mainland market under CEPA. The Trade and Industry Department would coordinate the measures proposed by policy bureaux and departments and pass them to the relevant Mainland authorities for consideration through the Ministry of Commerce under the established mechanism, and actively follow up; and</p> <p>(c) under the framework of CEPA, the Administration had all along been committed to facilitating Hong Kong's professional services to enter the Mainland market with preferential treatment, as well as encouraging mutual recognition of professional qualifications by the professional bodies of different sectors from both sides. The Administration would take into consideration the views of various sectors when discussing with the Mainland authorities new liberalization measures and the expansion</p>	

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		<p>of mutual recognition of professional qualifications between the two places.</p> <p>The Deputy Chairman also enquired whether there was any training to help Hong Kong legal practitioners prepare for the GBA Legal Professional Examination scheduled for July 2021.</p> <p>Senior Assistant Solicitor General (China Law), DoJ, responded that:</p> <p>(a) in December 2020, the Ministry of Justice had arranged a seven-day online legal training for Hong Kong legal practitioners who had enrolled in the GBA Legal Professional Examination. Preparatory courses for the examination were also organized by other law-related organizations; and</p> <p>(b) as Hong Kong legal practitioners enrolled in the GBA Legal Professional Examination were required to have accumulated legal practice experience of five years or above, those who had passed the examination only needed to complete the intensive training organized by the Guangdong Lawyers' Association and pass the relevant assessment before they would be issued with a lawyer's practice certificate (GBA) by the Guangdong Department of Justice to practise as lawyers in GBA.</p>	
005417 – 010135	Deputy Chairman Mr CHAN Chun-ying Administration	<p>Mr CHAN Chun-ying called on the Administration to:</p> <p>(a) liaise with the Mainland authorities to allow Hong Kong banks to make enquiries, through the credit information system of the People's Bank of China, about the credit conditions of Mainland investors in order to tie in with the implementation of the Southbound Wealth Management Connect which allowed Mainland investors to carry out cross-boundary investment in wealth management products distributed by Hong Kong banks; and</p> <p>(b) liaise with the Mainland authorities on measures to facilitate the purchases of properties in the Mainland by Hong Kong residents (e.g. facilitating remittance arrangements by raising the daily cap of RMB80,000 per person).</p>	

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		<p>USFST responded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the regulators of the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao had signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the principles of supervisory cooperation under Wealth Management Connect. The Guangdong regulators promulgated the draft implementation guidelines for public consultation in May 2021. The Administration noted the industry's views regarding the credit conditions of Mainland investors. HKMA had been working closely with the relevant authorities of the three places on the preparation work with a view to expediting the implementation of Wealth Management Connect;</li> <li>(b) the prevailing cross-boundary RMB remittance arrangement for Hong Kong residents (i.e. a daily cap of RMB80,000 per person) mainly aimed at providing convenience for Hong Kong residents for their daily living and consumption in the Mainland. Since the remittance arrangement involved cross-boundary fund flow, any relaxation or adjustment was subject to the Mainland authorities' consideration. HKSARG would however, having regard to the actual situation and needs, liaise with the Mainland authorities to refine the facilitation measures in this respect;</li> <li>(c) on the facilitation measures for Hong Kong residents purchasing properties in the Mainland, the Department of Natural Resources of Guangdong Province released a notice in August 2020 regarding real estate mortgage registration in the nine Mainland GBA cities by banks in Hong Kong and Macao, which stated clearly that banks in Hong Kong and Macao could offer cross-boundary mortgage services and standardize their procedures for mortgage registration in the nine Mainland GBA cities. HKSARG would continue to follow up with the Mainland authorities to provide facilitation arrangements for Hong Kong residents to purchase properties in the Mainland GBA cities; and</li> <li>(d) under the Amendment Agreement, new</li> </ul>	

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		liberalization measures were introduced to support Hong Kong-funded non-bank financial institutions to conduct electronic payment business in the Mainland.	
<b>Agenda item II – Any other business</b>			
010136 – 010220	Deputy Chairman	Closing remarks	

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