

# MESSAGE

The strong rebound of Hong Kong's economy in the past year or so has to a large extent been led by our external trade, underlining the importance of our role as a conduit between the Mainland of China and other parts of the world.

It is this role and our entrepreneurs' ability to use the Mainland, and especially the Pearl River Delta, as our economic hinterland that have made it possible for Hong Kong to entrench and enhance its status as the region's leading international trade and business centre.



One of the main missions of the Commerce and Industry Bureau is to seek to provide a business-friendly environment in which individual businessmen are able to make their own business decisions, which collectively would enable Hong Kong's economy to grow and prosper.

The Commerce and Industry Bureau was reorganised in July this year precisely to better serve the business community. We will work closely with the business sector in its efforts to meet the new challenges and tap the new opportunities which will arise from the imminent accession of China to the World Trade Organisation.

It is also our mission to contribute to the realisation of the Chief Executive's vision of making Hong Kong an international world-class city. Attracting the world's major companies here to do business is a key aspect of that overall vision. And in this regard, on 1 July, we set up a new

department - Invest Hong Kong - and charged it with the mission of attracting more external investment and a greater international business presence here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chou Tak Hay', with a stylized, cursive script.

(CHAU Tak Hay)  
Secretary for Commerce and Industry

# **International Trade and Business Centre**

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## **Policy Objective and Key Result Areas**

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BUSINESS CENTRE\*

Our Policy Objective is to strengthen Hong Kong as an international trade and business centre.

## Overall Targets

Our targets this year in pursuing this Policy Objective are –

- to further promote global free trade and investment in multilateral and regional trade fora including the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)
- to facilitate trade
- to further improve Hong Kong’s capability to protect intellectual property rights through strengthening our legislative, enforcement and educational efforts
- to identify further opportunities for deregulation, cutting red tape and introducing new or improved services in the Government
- to further enhance Hong Kong’s position as a pre-eminent services centre in the region
- to attract more foreign enterprises to do business in Hong Kong and influence existing investors to expand operations

\* Previously this Policy Objective booklet was entitled “International Trade Centre”.

## Progress

We continued to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international trade and business centre through various efforts. Much headway was made in the past year to improve the business environment in Hong Kong, including enhancing competition in various sectors of our economy, cutting red tape, and providing new and improved government services.

Vigorous efforts were made to strengthen Hong Kong's intellectual property protection regime through the enactment of three ordinances, education and enforcement actions against copyright piracy. The results of these efforts were most encouraging - the number of pirated optical discs circulating in the market was reduced by 98% compared to one year ago.

A major development in the past year was the re-organisation of the Trade and Industry Bureau and its supporting departments. On 1 July 2000, the role of the Bureau was expanded to include responsibility for commerce in general, in addition to trade and industry. The English name of the Bureau was changed to "Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB)" to reflect our expanded responsibilities. The Business and Services Promotion Unit (BSPU) previously under the Financial Secretary's Office was integrated into CIB. A new Innovation and Technology Commission was set up within CIB to deal with policy and executive matters related to innovation and technology. A new department named Invest Hong Kong was set up to spearhead promotion efforts in inward investment. The Trade Department and the Industry Department were merged to become the Trade and Industry Department. The policy responsibilities for competition policy and consumer protection were transferred to the Economic Services Bureau.

As a result of these changes, the Key Result Areas (KRAs) under this Policy Objective have been revised. We achieved the following progress in the six KRAs under the new structure.

### 1 Promote global free trade

Despite the failure of the Third WTO Ministerial Conference held in Seattle, USA in November 1999 to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, we continued to work with other WTO members to ensure that the WTO remains focussed on trade liberalisation. We participated actively in the negotiations on services, and in the

discussion on how best to ensure the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations are fully and faithfully implemented to the benefit of all WTO members. In addition, we continued to play an active role in rebuilding support for the launch of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

We have made good progress in various initiatives on trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation as well as capacity building agreed by the APEC Economic Leaders.

## 2 Facilitate trade

The Mainland and HKSAR Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade was established in November 1999. It provides a useful liaison mechanism with the Mainland authorities on trade and commerce matters. By strengthening mutual understanding and communication, the Commission has contributed to the improvement of the business operating environment.

Because of our firm commitment to maintaining an effective textiles control system, we made continued efforts to step up enforcement action against illegal transshipment of textiles and clothing products (T&C products). In April 2000, a Textiles Task Force was set up to intensify operations at all cargo entry and exit points and cargo handling basins to detect and seize falsely labelled garments and textiles shipments intended for illegal transshipment or local sale.

In addition, in January 2000 we commissioned a comprehensive study on possible ways and means to streamline customs clearance requirements and services for cargo being imported, exported or transshipped by air, land and sea as well as by intermodal means without compromising the integrity of our trade controls. The study was completed in August 2000 and we are implementing the recommendations.

The Air Cargo Transshipment (Facilitation) Ordinance came into operation in May 2000. The Ordinance provides for the relaxation of import and export control on a number of categories of articles brought into and taken out of Hong Kong as air transshipment cargo within the restricted areas of the airport. This initiative will facilitate the development of Hong Kong into an international and regional air cargo hub, without compromising the overall integrity of our control system.

The implementation of electronic data interchange (EDI) for Government-related trade documents is on schedule. In addition to the restrained textiles export licence in 1999, we fully implemented EDI services for production notification, trade declaration and certificate of origin earlier this year. Development of EDI services for cargo manifest and dutiable commodities permit is in train.

We also laid down in January 2000 the timetable for opening up the rice trade in phases until full liberalisation in 2003, when parties interested in rice-importing business would be free to enter the market with minimum restrictions.

### 3 Protect intellectual property rights

In January, we classified certain piracy and counterfeiting acts under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance, whereby Customs officers are given extra powers to tackle them, particularly where criminal syndicates are involved. In May, we enacted a new, modernised Trade Marks Ordinance. In June, we enacted new legislation to prevent bootlegging and to facilitate prosecution of corporate copyright piracy activities.

We continued to take vigorous enforcement action against copyright piracy and counterfeiting. We completed more than 5 000 investigations and conducted 300 inspections of licensed optical disc factories. The Customs special task force continued its very effective operations against copyright piracy at the retail level.

The year also saw a series of high-profile activities for raising public awareness of the importance of protecting intellectual property. These included two media advertisement campaigns and a major publicity campaign involving all the 18 districts. We continued our education programme for school students.

We also improved significantly our services for the registration of patents, trade marks and designs. Through redeployment and re-prioritisation of resources, we achieved all our 1999 targets for the processing of applications related to patents, trade marks and designs. We also cleared most of the backlog cases for patents and designs. Despite considerable increases in application for registration of trade marks over the last two years, we managed to reduce the outstanding caseload substantially.

#### **4 Maintain a business-friendly environment**

We continued to work closely with the business community to identify opportunities for improving Hong Kong's business-friendly environment. We completed ten projects and studies on eliminating over-regulation, cutting red tape, and introducing new or improved services. Government departments implemented some 50 recommendations resulting from the earlier helping business studies.

In the past year, we organised six seminars and talks to civil servants to encourage them to serve as business facilitators rather than business obstacles, and to see themselves as part of the solution, not part of the problem. We also organised a Helping Business Awards Scheme for civil servants. The Scheme generated many constructive proposals which are being pursued by the departments concerned.

#### **5 Enhance Hong Kong's position as a pre-eminent services centre in the region**

In the past year, we co-ordinated the implementation of 17 initiatives under the Services Promotion Programme. These projects aimed to stimulate strategic thinking about the future development of our services economy, strengthen institutional support for the services sector, and promote or support specific service sectors. All except one item have been completed. The outstanding item will finish in 2001.

We also tracked the progress made on 125 action items put forward by the Task Force on Services Promotion in 1997. Of these items, 35 have been completed, 26 are progressing towards the targets set, and the rest are on-going commitments.

We successfully organised a Quad Forum where over 130 business leaders, senior government officials, Legislative Council members and leading academics brainstormed on Hong Kong's economic strategy. We organised our second Webpage Design Competition which attracted record numbers of sponsors and participants and which successfully raised awareness of the importance of our services economy. We also revamped our popular "Doing Business in Hong Kong" homepage.



## 6 Attract external direct investment

In the past year, we completed a major review of the strategy and institutional arrangements for promoting inward investment in Hong Kong. A new agency called Invest Hong Kong was set up on 1 July 2000 to spearhead the Government's efforts in attracting external direct investment to Hong Kong. To support this work, we also set up an internal Investment Promotion Steering Committee to provide steer and co-ordination for major investment projects, and an Investment Promotion Strategy Group to advise on the Government's investment promotion strategy and programme. The Financial Secretary will chair both the Steering Committee and the Strategy Group.

Progress on each previously announced initiative under the above KRAs is set out in the "Detailed Progress" section of this report.

## Looking Forward

To achieve our overall targets this year, we will undertake the following initiatives and targets under each of the KRAs for the coming year.

# 1

## Promote global free trade

Hong Kong is a staunch supporter of free trade and open markets. We recognise the vast opportunities and advantages brought by free trade and investment, including enhancing efficiency, reducing operating costs, increasing competitiveness and facilitating knowledge and technology transfer. An effective means to achieve a free trade and investment environment is for “Hong Kong, China” to participate actively and constructively in the multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and through this to lower trade barriers and enhance market access for our traders.

The multilateral rule-based trading system has been highly successful in fostering the growth of international trade in general to the benefit of all members of the WTO. The system has been particularly important for smaller economies such as Hong Kong. The basic principle of non-discrimination guarantees equitable treatment of all WTO members, irrespective of their political weight.

It is necessary to ensure that the future work of the WTO will be able to meet the needs and challenges of an increasingly globalised and technology-driven economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have therefore participated actively in virtually all aspects of WTO work of interest to Hong Kong. These include the negotiations on services, the examination of new areas such as e-commerce and the preparatory work for the early launch of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

We will continue to adopt a similarly active profile in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) which has set itself the ambitious goal of attaining free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by the year 2020.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The extent to which progress in furthering trade liberalisation has been made in the multilateral trading system. Our targets are as follows. First, to press for the early launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. Second, to continue pushing for progressive liberalisation of trade in goods as well as services. Third, to continue to pursue better multilateral rules which take account of the changes in the pattern of world trade.
- The extent to which progress has been made in furthering trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation, and strengthening capacity building in the APEC. Our target is to strive for good progress and outcome in the initiatives agreed by the APEC Economic Leaders, with emphasis given to those which can help expand business opportunities in the region.

To enable our businessmen to take full advantage of the tremendous opportunities in the Mainland market upon its accession to the WTO, we will continue our efforts to strengthen and deepen our symbiotic economic relationship with the Mainland. The Mainland and HKSARG Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, established in November 1999, has provided a useful mechanism for fostering such a relationship particularly in –

- the provision of information on the laws, regulations and the latest economic developments in the Mainland in a timely fashion
- reflecting the views and concerns of Hong Kong businessmen, thus facilitating their operations in the Mainland
- expanding opportunities for trade, investment, as well as business and technological collaboration between the Mainland and Hong Kong

To maintain the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR's) status as an international trading centre, the HKSAR must fulfil its obligations under multilateral trade agreements. Inability to do so will damage the reputation and interests of the HKSAR in the international trading community.

Under the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, quotas for textiles and clothing products (T&C products) will be removed by 2005. Before that, we are obliged to ensure that T&C products using Hong Kong quotas and claiming Hong Kong origin are actually made in Hong Kong. To fulfil this obligation and to facilitate the access of our T&C products to the world markets, as well as to protect our legitimate exports, the Government will spare no effort in combating illegal transshipment of T&C products. In parallel, the Government will monitor closely the implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing to ensure that our T&C exports are treated equitably in overseas markets.

The Government will also continue to take trade facilitating initiatives to streamline procedures and enhance cost efficiency for legitimate traders.

Electronic data interchange (EDI) is the computer-to-computer exchange of business information in a standard format. It reduces the paperwork involved in trading procedures and improves efficiency. With the rapid growth of the Internet and electronic commerce worldwide, Hong Kong businesses must quickly embrace the use of EDI in order to remain competitive. To promote the wide use of EDI in Hong Kong, the Government has implemented EDI for four key Government-related trade documents and will phase out the use of paper forms for other documents over time.

Rice is classified as a reserved commodity and has been subject to import quota control since 1955. Rice importers and wholesalers are required to be registered with the Government and are subject to requirements which restrict the cross-ownership of importers and wholesalers. Following a critical review of the rice control scheme, we have decided to open up the rice trade by phases to promote greater competition.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- Fruitful liaison and dialogue is maintained with the Mainland authorities
- Smooth access of our T&C products to the world markets. Our target is to guard against, and to seek early removal of, discriminatory measures, if any, imposed on the imports of T&C products from Hong Kong by overseas markets.
- Clear and efficient processing of documentation requirement for export of textiles. Our target is to process 90% of Form 5 and Form 8 (export licences) within two working days.
- The levels of import and export control which help ensure access of legitimate Hong Kong T&C products to the world market. Our target is to ensure the effectiveness, integrity and credibility of Hong Kong's textiles export control system by maintaining both enforcement control and administrative actions against any origin fraud.
- The extent to which Government-related trade documents may be processed through EDI. Our target is to make available EDI processing for dutiable commodities permits and cargo manifests by 2001-2002.

- Efficient clearance of cargoes without compromising the integrity of trade controls. Our target is to consider possible ways and means to further streamline customs clearance requirements and services for cargoes being transported by land, air and sea as well as by intermodal means.
- Liberalisation of the rice trade. Our target is to lift the restriction on cross-ownership of importers and wholesalers to allow both to engage in the importation and wholesale of rice by 2001 before the full liberalisation of the scheme in 2003.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative *	Target
To introduce electronic data interchange (EDI) service for dutiable commodities permits <i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i>	Pilot run and launch of service in 2001
To introduce EDI service for cargo manifests <i>(CIB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pilot run in the second half of 2001</li> <li>● Launch of service in the first half of 2002</li> </ul>
To lift the restriction on cross-ownership of importers and wholesalers and to allow them to engage both in importing and wholesale of rice <i>(Trade and Industry Department)</i>	By January 2001

\* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

Our policy in protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) has four main strands –

- Comprehensive and effective legislation
- Transparent, user-friendly and efficient registration system
- Vigorous enforcement action
- Well-planned and sustained public education

We have a modern and comprehensive system of IPR laws that fully complies with the international standards laid down in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights under the WTO. We keep our laws under constant review to ensure that they meet the needs of the changing environment.

We strive to increase the efficiency of our trade mark, patent and design registry services. We are modernising our computer systems to support faster and more effective processing of applications. In the longer term, we plan to make registry data available for public inspection through the Internet, as well as to allow applications for registration to be published electronically.

We are committed to taking vigorous enforcement action against copyright piracy and trade mark counterfeiting at the production, distribution and retail levels. To complement our efforts, we maintain close liaison with rights owners and other enforcement agencies in the region.

Enforcement action alone will not be sufficient to make Hong Kong pirate-free. It is vital for the public to respect IPR and to say “no” to pirated or counterfeit goods. To this end, we will maintain a well-planned and targeted public education programme. To set a good example for the community, we have introduced within the Government a software asset management system to be adopted by all departments. We have also appointed an intellectual property compliance officer in each department to oversee compliance matters.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- The extent of enforcement action taken to protect IPR. Our targets are to complete 300 inspections of licensed optical disc factories, and to complete 4 500 IPR investigations in a year.
- The extent of facilitation efforts taken on the registration of patents, designs and trade marks. Our targets are to issue 25 000 examination reports or acceptance notices for applications for registration of trade marks, to examine 6 500 requests to record for standard patents, to complete 150 examinations of short-term patent applications, and to complete 2 400 examinations for registration of designs.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>
To set up a computer forensic laboratory to provide support to frontline enforcement officers in tackling Internet piracy and other computer crime problems <i>(Customs and Excise Department)</i>	To set up the laboratory by 2002
To offer to host an APEC Intellectual Property Expert Group Meeting/Conference in Hong Kong <i>(Intellectual Property Department)</i>	To play host in 2001-2002



Launched by the Financial Secretary in March 1996, the Helping Business Programme aims to create a more business friendly environment and maintain Hong Kong's position as the best place in the world for business. Under this programme, we regularly conduct studies on government operations to remove obstacles and constraints to business development, so as to give the private sector freedom to set its own direction and to explore and seize opportunities. The studies cover deregulation, cutting red tape, impact assessment of regulatory proposals, transfer of public services and introduction of new or improved services. Work relating to the transfer of public services is under the charge of the Efficiency Unit of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office.

The Business Advisory Group chaired by the Financial Secretary provides a forum for identifying problems encountered by the business sector in the Government's operations and for recommending solutions. The Group comprises 13 leading members of the business community and six senior government officials. The Business Advisory Group and its three subgroups meet regularly to discuss specific helping business initiatives and receive reports from government departments on progress of projects.

To achieve the goal of making government operations truly business-friendly, we need to engender throughout the Government a helping business culture and cultivate the right mindset in the civil service. We organise regular Helping Business Symposiums and give talks to civil servants to enhance their awareness of the need to help business.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- Percentage of priority areas of improvement identified being proactively pursued. Our target is to proactively pursue 90% of priority areas identified.
- Number of studies commissioned in line with the rolling plan. Our target is to have all studies commissioned in line with the rolling plan.

- The exploration of improvement opportunities and implementation of recommendations. Our target is to have 80% of recommendations accepted for implementation and 75% of recommendations implemented within agreed time scales.
- Changing the mindset of the civil servants. Our target is to organise at least six sessions to inculcate the helping business message.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	Target
<p>To commission helping business studies with a view to streamlining government procedures, reducing government regulations or improving services, including the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● review of the licensing of food premises other than general restaurants</li> <li>● pilot project on electronic retrieval of approved building plans</li> <li>● study on the approval of general building plan submissions</li> <li>● pilot project to allow advertisements on government slopes</li> </ul> <p><i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i></p>	<p>To complete ten studies within 2001</p>
<p>To implement a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) framework to assess the costs and benefits of proposed regulatory regimes to the Government, the business sector, and the community at large</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To conduct four RIAs in 2000-2001</p>

Business does not flourish in a vacuum. We must ensure that we put in place institutional and infrastructural arrangements that will assist business operations and economic activities. We also need to put Hong Kong on the world's economic map by promoting international awareness of Hong Kong's strengths as a global and regional services centre. Just as important is the need to enhance local understanding of the importance of the services sector to our economy, to nurture a culture of quality service and to help people prepare themselves for the challenge of the knowledge economy.

Launched in 1997 by the Financial Secretary, the Services Promotion Programme aims to promote the development of Hong Kong's services industry and enhance Hong Kong's position as a pre-eminent services centre in the region. The Programme consists of the following four areas of work –

- Spearhead strategic thinking on the future development of our services economy
- Strengthen institutional support for the services sector
- Enhance international recognition and local understanding of our services economy
- Identify and implement worthy industry-specific initiatives

The Services Promotion Strategy Group chaired by the Financial Secretary provides a forum for identifying and implementing initiatives in the above four areas. The Group comprises 15 non-official members from the business and academic sectors, and seven senior government officials. The Group develops annually an Action Agenda which sets out specific initiatives to be advanced in that year.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicators –

- Timely identification and launch of specific initiatives to strengthen the provision of institutional support. Our targets are to implement all the initiatives in the 2000-2001 Action Agenda by 2001-2002, and to formulate next year’s Action Agenda in April 2001 and launch the initiatives identified by mid-2001.
- Degree of business sector recognition of Hong Kong’s position as a services centre in the region. Our target is to maintain the current favourable opinion of Hong Kong by both local and international businesses.

We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

Initiative	Target
<p>To implement the 2000-2001 Action Agenda which comprises the following 12 initiatives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To identify and implement measures to promote Hong Kong as a regional arts and cultural centre <i>(Home Affairs Bureau)</i></li> <li>● To promote and accelerate the development of a local credit rating agency with a view to helping the long-term development of the domestic bond market and emerging industries <i>(Financial Services Bureau)</i></li> </ul>	<p>To complete all the initiatives within 2001-2002 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To start implementing measures within 2001-2002</li> <li>● To formulate a strategic plan and start implementation within 2001</li> </ul>

Initiative	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To review training programmes and sub-degree courses, particularly in IT and IT-related support services, for non-degree and sub-degree holders, with a view to offering suitable training for employment in value-added jobs</li> </ul> <p><i>(Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete the review within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conduct an overall review of existing curricula of primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational schools with a view to further strengthening the teaching of IT and IT-related knowledge at all levels of schooling</li> </ul> <p><i>(EMB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete the review within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To facilitate visits to Hong Kong by bona-fide business people by discussing with the Mainland authorities the establishment of a special business travel permit system similar to the APEC system</li> </ul> <p><i>(Security Bureau)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To complete discussion within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To continue working with the Airport Authority (AA) to secure additional convention facilities with a view to facilitating the development of Hong Kong as a regional convention centre</li> </ul> <p><i>(Economic Services Bureau (ESB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conclude discussion and negotiation with AA within 2001</li> </ul>

Initiative	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To examine the case for establishing Economic and Trade Offices and more Trade Development Council offices in different major cities in China to promote Hong Kong and to provide general support and assistance to Hong Kong business in China</li> </ul> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conclude the review within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To identify and implement measures to support and expedite the development of Hong Kong into a logistics hub</li> </ul> <p><i>(ESB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To commission and complete the study and to begin implementing measures within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To promote eco-tourism and improve the quality of life in Hong Kong by devising an aggressive programme for both heritage conservation and nature conservation, using bold initiatives like bonus plot ratio, lower or waived premium, transfer of development rights, etc.</li> </ul> <p><i>(ESB/Tourism Commission)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conclude the exercise and submit recommendations within 2001</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To set up a special team to organise regularly strong delegations led by senior government officials and business leaders for business missions and promotional activities in the Mainland</li> </ul> <p><i>(Information Services Department)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To have the team devise a strategic plan by early 2001</li> </ul>

Initiative	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To consider hosting a major international conference on services in 2001 to raise the international profile of Hong Kong as a global and regional services centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To confirm hosting of the event by the end of 2000</li> </ul>
<p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To anchor Hong Kong's position as China's window to the world</li> </ul>	
<p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To devise a strategy to market Hong Kong to Mainland companies, including State-owned Enterprises, and to recruit them to set up headquarters in Hong Kong. Begin implementation within 2001</li> </ul>

External direct investment contributes significantly to Hong Kong's economic development by creating new jobs and bringing in new ideas, know-how and technologies. In our bid to strengthen our economic vitality in the aftermath of the Asian financial turmoil and to remain a leading business centre in the region, we have overhauled our institutions and strategy for promoting inward investment, with a view to enhancing our competitiveness in attracting global mobile investment. Specifically, we set up a new, dedicated Invest Hong Kong agency on 1 July 2000 to take over the responsibility for promoting inward investment from the now disestablished Industry Department.

To fulfil our mission, we will work hard to ensure that we have the right policies and strategic focus, that we develop the appropriate branding for Hong Kong and put it noticeably on the investment world-map of multinational enterprises, that we target the multinational enterprises most relevant to Hong Kong and access them at the correct level, that we provide good aftercare services to clients, and that we have an effective system to evaluate our performance.

We will assess our performance in respect of this KRA against the following indicator –

- The number of inward investment projects completed. Our target is to complete 70 projects by September 2001.



We will pursue the following initiatives and targets to deliver results in this area –

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>
To formulate an aggressive investment promotion programme which focuses on foreign multinational enterprises <i>(Invest Hong Kong)</i>	To formulate the programme and start implementation in 2001
To build a brand name for Invest Hong Kong and raise both its and Hong Kong's profile among foreign multinational enterprises <i>(Invest Hong Kong)</i>	To launch a high-profile brand-building programme
To host the Fortune Global Forum in 2001 <i>(Invest Hong Kong)</i>	To successfully host the Forum



**International Trade and Business Centre**

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**Detailed Progress**

# 1

## Promote global free trade

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative *	Target #	Present Position +
<p>To achieve progressive liberalisation of trade in a wide range of services sectors and to seek the best possible market access for our services industries in the next round of services negotiations which will commence no later than the year 2000</p> <p><i>(Trade and Industry Department (TID))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conduct more than 20 seminars, meetings and working sessions with policy bureaux and departments concerned, and with the relevant trade and professional associations, for the purpose of formulating Hong Kong's negotiating strategies and action plans</li> <li>● To participate in more than 80 meetings and negotiating sessions in the WTO</li> </ul> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The services negotiations were launched in February 2000.</li> <li>● Over 25 discussion sessions and meetings have been held so far.</li> <li>● A wishlist from the trade for multilateral negotiation on services was received in July 2000.</li> <li>● Hong Kong attended over 60 formal and informal meetings with representatives of WTO Members.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

\* the bracketed information denotes the agency with lead responsibility for the initiative

# the bracketed information denotes the year in which the target was set

+ the bracketed information denotes the status of the target

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To assume the chairmanship of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council (PECC) from October 1999 to late 2001 to further promote economic co-operation in the Pacific region through its various activities, including hosting the Fourteenth General Meeting (PECC XIV) in late 2001</p> <p><i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To lead PECC into the 21st century and help set the scene for PECC activities in the next millennium</li> <li>● To actively participate and contribute in PECC task forces/forums/project groups covering different areas, including trade policy, Pacific economic outlook and financial market development</li> </ul> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hong Kong assumed the PECC chairmanship and the co-ordinatorship of PECC Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in October 1999.</li> <li>● We chaired the Standing Committee Meeting in April 2000 in Dalian City, China, which discussed, among other issues, PECC priorities in the new millennium.</li> <li>● We also organised the PECC TPF Meeting in May 2000 in Brunei Darussalam which discussed various trade issues of strategic importance to the region.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To prepare for and actively participate in the preparatory work for the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in the WTO by the turn of the century (TID)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conduct three to five seminars and roundtable discussions for the purpose of promoting the WTO and consulting the trade on their wishlists for broad-based multilateral trade negotiations</li>   <li>● To conduct 20 to 30 expert group meetings and working sessions to collate and analyse input from the trade, policy bureaux and departments for the purpose of formulating negotiating strategy and action plan</li>   <li>● To participate in more than 100 negotiating meetings/sessions (1998)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A conference on the WTO was held in March 2000. Action is in hand to plan for another conference in 2001.</li>   <li>● Regular contacts were made with various major trade bodies and services sectors to keep the trade posted of developments in the WTO and to solicit their input in the formulation of Hong Kong's negotiating position.</li>   <li>● In addition, a homepage on Hong Kong's objectives for the new round has been launched.</li>   <li>● Over 20 meetings have been conducted so far.</li>   <li>● On top of the over 150 regular meetings with representatives of WTO Members, Hong Kong attended over 30 formal and informal meetings (including meetings at the ministerial level).</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

# 2

## Facilitate trade

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To strengthen liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities on trade and commerce matters <sup>1</sup> <i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i>	To set up a liaison mechanism with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation (MOFTEC) in 1999-2000 <i>(1999)</i>	The Mainland and HKSAR Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JC) was established and held its first meeting in November 1999. Four working groups were set up under the JC in the areas of (i) trade; (ii) investment; (iii) technology trade and treaty law; and (iv) contract works and labour management. All working groups have held meetings and made progress on relevant issues. <i>(Action Completed)</i>

<sup>1</sup> This initiative was put under the KRA “Promote free trade and investment” under the Policy Objective “International Trade Centre” in 1999.

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To remove licensing requirement on products which are no longer regarded as items of strategic concern and which are decontrolled by the relevant international regimes</p> <p><i>(Trade and Industry Department)</i></p>	<p>To amend the relevant schedules under the Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Regulations within 1999 to reflect the changes</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Schedule 1 of the Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Regulations was amended in February 2000 to reflect the relaxation implemented by the Wassenaar Arrangement in December 1999 in respect of microprocessors and computers. The Amendment Order exempts most of the commonly available microprocessors and computers at the time from import and export licensing control.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To help our industries and businesses enjoy a better operating environment in the Pearl River Delta<sup>2</sup></p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To help our industries and businesses by pursuing, through our regular contacts with Mainland authorities, measures aimed at improving the environment for businesses operating in the Pearl River Delta</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have continued to maintain close contacts with the relevant Mainland authorities to collect and disseminate to Hong Kong businessmen information on trade and investment policies and measures in the Mainland.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> This initiative was put under the KRA “Promote innovation and improved technology in manufacturing and service industries” under the Policy Objective “High Value-added and Competitive Industries” in 1999. It has been moved here as it is related to trade and economic relations with the Mainland.



Initiative	Target	Present Position
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Mainland and HKSAR Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade has also provided a useful channel to enhance communication between the HKSARG and the Mainland authorities on economic and trade matters, which is conducive to creating a better environment for business operations.</li> <li>● We shall continue to explore other effective channels to reflect the views of Hong Kong businessmen to the Mainland authorities on matters which have a general impact on Hong Kong-related business operations in the Mainland.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To replace paper-based procedures by electronic ones for the following Government trade-related documents through the implementation of electronic data interchange (EDI) –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To withdraw paper-based procedures by the following dates : RTEL – 1 January 1999 TDEC – 1 April 2000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EDI has become the only means for processing RTEL in January 1999, and for TDEC in April 2000.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● restrained textiles export licences (RTEL)</li> <li>● import or export declarations (commonly known as trade declarations or TDEC)</li> <li>● cargo manifests</li> <li>● dutiable commodities permits (DCP)</li> </ul> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To establish the feasibility of introducing EDI service for cargo manifests and DCP. If feasible, to introduce EDI service by 2000</li> </ul> <p><i>(1998 and 1997)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have established the feasibility of the service. The project is now being implemented.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

# 3

## Protect intellectual property rights

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To strengthen the community's awareness of the importance of the protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs)</p> <p><i>(Intellectual Property Department (IPD))</i></p>	<p>To organise advertising campaigns, surveys on public awareness of IPR and school visits in 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Two TV advertisements and a series of printed advertisements on copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting were launched in the year. A benchmarking survey on public awareness of IPR was conducted in August 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To promote international understanding of the intellectual property regime of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(IPD)</i></p>	<p>To submit our intellectual property laws to the WTO Council for TRIPS (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) in 2000 for a review on their compliance with the TRIPS Agreement</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Our intellectual property laws are in full compliance with the TRIPS Agreement. They have been notified to the WTO TRIPS Council and the TRIPS Council reviewed them in June 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To further enhance Hong Kong's legal regime for the protection of IPRs <i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i></p>	<p>To prepare draft legislation to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● include certain copyright piracy and trade mark counterfeiting offences under the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance</li> <li>● prevent bootlegging</li> <li>● clarify the IPR offences provisions to facilitate prosecution of end-user corporate IPR offenders</li> <li>● facilitate enforcement</li> </ul> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 1) Order 1999 was approved by the Legislative Council in January 2000. <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> <li>● The Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2000 was enacted by the Legislative Council in June 2000. The Ordinance will commence after wide and sufficient publicity to better prepare the general public and business community about the new offences. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></li> </ul>
<p>To step up enforcement action against copyright and trade mark infringements at all levels <i>(Customs and Excise Department)</i></p>	<p>To maintain a high level of surveillance at the distribution and production levels by conducting not less than 300 inspections or verifications of licensed optical disc manufacturers a year <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>303 inspections were conducted in 1999. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To provide a more efficient and user-friendly trade marks, patents and designs registration service (IPD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To computerise over 70% of the manual functions of the Trade Marks, Patents, and Design Registries in three years</li> <li>● To reduce the existing outstanding caseload of applications for trade mark registration of about 9 000 to 6 000 by the year 2000 (1998)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An average of over 55% of the manual functions of the three registries were computerised in 1999. Further enhancements will follow after the forthcoming outsourcing of IPD's computer services. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></li> <li>● Despite the dramatic increase in the number of new applications for trade mark registrations in the past two years (64%), the outstanding caseload was reduced to 6 000 in April 2000. <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> </ul>
<p>To mount a major publicity campaign to discourage use of counterfeit and pirated goods and promote respect for intellectual property rights (IPD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conduct 80 school visits to explain the importance of intellectual property rights to students in 1999</li> <li>● To secure the involvement of copyright industries in a joint promotional campaign against piracy in 1999</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 83 school visits were conducted in 1999.</li> <li>● The copyright industry has completed production of a 13-episode series on intellectual property rights for release in late 2000.</li> </ul>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To produce different types of publicity materials such as posters, pamphlets, Announcements in the Public Interest, radio broadcast and special events with the intellectual property rights theme</li> </ul> <p><i>(1998 and 1997)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have produced and distributed new publications and publicity materials targeting various sectors, including civil servants, journalists and teachers.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

# 4

## Maintain a business-friendly environment

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To organise business fora with selected business sectors <i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i>	To organise two business fora in 2000 <i>(1999)</i>	We have had one forum with the restaurant group and we shall organise another forum before the end of the year.  <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>
To review the registration procedures of kindergartens and tutorial schools <i>(Education Department)</i>	To complete the review within 2000 <i>(1999)</i>	The review was completed in March 2000 with 17 recommendations. Subsequent to the review, a revised guide for processing applications for school registration was promulgated in August and a streamlined registration process has been put in place.  <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To review the customs cargo clearance service to facilitate legitimate trade <i>(Customs &amp; Excise Department)</i>	To complete the review within 2000 <i>(1999)</i>	The review was completed in August 2000. Implementation groups have been formed to implement the recommendations.  <i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To review the procedures for water supply applications <i>(Water Supplies Department)</i></p>	<p>To complete the review in 2000 <i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The review was completed in March 2000 and the recommendations are being implemented. By streamlining the procedures, the average time taken to effect water supply is shortened by two days to 26 days for various types of water supply applications. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment on the proposal to regulate inbound travel agents <i>(Economic Services Bureau/Tourism Commission)</i></p>	<p>To complete the study in 2000 <i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The Regulatory Impact Assessment on the proposal to regulate inbound travel agents was completed in July 2000. The Administration plans to introduce new legislation in early 2001. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To conduct a feasibility study on options to speed up the retrieval time for approved building plans <i>(Buildings Department)</i></p>	<p>To complete the study in 2000 <i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The study was completed in January 2000. The Buildings Department has embarked on a pilot project to test out the concept of converting building records in a selected district into electronic format for speedy retrieval. <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>



Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To improve the licensing procedures and requirements for lotteries, tombola, amusements with prizes and trade promotion competitions</p> <p><i>(Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA))</i></p>	<p>To implement within 2000 the improvements identified in an earlier study</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Recommendations involving procedural changes were implemented administratively in 1999. Other items require legislative amendments. Draft drafting instructions have been prepared.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To review and consider the outcome of the consultancy study on restaurant licensing</p> <p><i>(Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD))</i></p>	<p>To complete the review and decide on the strategy in 1999</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The licensing procedures have been streamlined with new performance pledges promulgated. Useful information and user-friendly guidelines are now disseminated to potential restaurateurs/operators through FEHD's website, booklets and regular seminars. For each application, a case manager is appointed to act as a coordinator between the applicants and the departments. As a further measure to assist applicants, a resource centre on restaurant licensing has been set up. The licensing process will be further expedited with wider use of computer technology by end-2000.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To improve the licensing requirements for massage establishments</p> <p><i>(Hong Kong Police Force)</i></p>	<p>To implement the relevant improvements before the end of 2001</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Implementation work is in progress. The licensing process has been streamlined and a guide to Licence Application (also in braille and sound tape versions) has been produced to help potential operators understand the requirements.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To refine the Regulatory Impact Assessment framework</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To complete the refined framework within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The framework is being refined in the light of experience gained from completed and on-going Regulatory Impact Assessments and overseas best practice. It will be completed before end-2000.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To publicise improvement measures achieved under the “Helping Business Programme” to the business sectors concerned</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To publicise outcome within three months of the completion of the study</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Improvement achieved in specific areas have been publicised through newsletters, speeches at conference or on the Internet within three months.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To organise the first Helping Business Awards Scheme to help instil a helping business culture in the civil service</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To complete the organisation of the Scheme in 1999</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The Scheme was successfully organised with very encouraging response. There were 116 proposals from 40 departments.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Present Position</b>
To organise a seminar for middle and senior managers on deregulation <i>(CIB)</i>	To conduct the seminar within 2000 <i>(1999)</i>	Arrangement is being made for a seminar later this year. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>
To publish information leaflets about cutting red tape and regulatory impact assessment <i>(CIB)</i>	To publish the leaflets in 2000 <i>(1999)</i>	Leaflets are being prepared. They will be published before end-2000. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>
To visit department heads and their directorate to invite suggestions for improvement opportunities <i>(CIB)</i>	A minimum of one departmental visit per month from October 1998 onwards <i>(1998)</i>	Since October 1998, we have made 30 visits to departments to brief them on the work of the Helping Business Programme and to invite helping business initiatives. <i>(Action Completed)</i>
To conduct research into existing regulatory regimes <i>(CIB)</i>	To consider 25 areas of potential study at each quarterly meeting of the relevant Business Advisory Group sub-group <i>(1998)</i>	25 areas of potential study are tabled at each quarterly meeting for discussion. <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To review regulations administered by the Transport Department <i>(Transport Department)</i></p>	<p>To complete action within 2000 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The review of the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations and the Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations has been completed. The Transport Department and the Transport Bureau will follow up on the recommendation to introduce a new set of type approval regulations in line with international standards and practice.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To study the feasibility of developing a copyright rights management database <i>(Intellectual Property Department)</i></p>	<p>To complete action within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>In the light of the work already undertaken in Europe on intellectual property rights management database, we shall consider whether it is applicable to Hong Kong.  <i>(Action in Progress: Under Review)</i></p>
<p>To streamline licensing procedures for hotels and guesthouses <i>(Home Affairs Department)</i></p>	<p>To complete action by 2001 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>We have implemented all the pursuable initiatives previously recommended for streamlining the licensing process. The average processing time for licence applications has been substantially reduced. We will continue to consider measures to streamline the licensing regime in order to sustain the business-friendly environment.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To improve the licensing procedures and requirements of Amusement Games Centres, Public Dance Halls, Dancing Schools and Mah-jong/Tin Kau Establishments</p> <p><i>(TELA)</i></p>	<p>To complete action within 1999</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Recommendations involving procedural changes were implemented administratively in 1998. Other items require legislative amendments and/or public consultation. Draft drafting instructions have been prepared.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To improve the application procedures for consent to sales of units in uncompleted developments</p> <p><i>(Lands Department (Lands D))</i></p>	<p>To complete action within 1999</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The Department has shortened the average processing time from 5.9 months to 3.9 months through successful implementation of streamlined procedures</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To improve the application procedures for waivers to temporarily relax restrictions contained in leases of land</p> <p><i>(Lands D)</i></p>	<p>To complete action by 2001</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Most of the recommendations of an earlier study have been implemented. Lands D is considering the feasibility of contracting out the processing of such applications and associated lease enforcement work in 2001.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To streamline the licensing requirements for local vessels</p> <p><i>(Marine Department (MD))</i></p>	<p>To complete action by 2001</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Work is in hand to amend the related legislation so as to streamline the licensing requirements.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To streamline the management of public cargo working areas <i>(MD)</i></p>	<p>To complete action by 2001 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Measures for streamlining the operation procedures have been implemented. Installation of automatic car parking systems at public cargo working areas is scheduled for completion in early 2001.  <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To improve the legislation governing leisure or home brewing <i>(Finance Bureau)</i></p>	<p>To complete action within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The legislative amendments to exempt home-brewed alcoholic liquor from licensing controls and duty payment have been implemented.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To build a Chinese language index page for public forms on the Internet <i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To complete implementation within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The Chinese language index page has been successfully launched together with over 1 000 public forms now available on the Internet.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To devise a comprehensive and coherent programme to publicise the Helping Business Programme <i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To produce annual programmes from 1998 onwards <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>This is an on-going initiative. Drafting of the publicity programme for 2001 will commence shortly.  <i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>

## 5

## Enhance Hong Kong's position as a pre-eminent services centre in the region

To achieve results in this area, various initiatives have been undertaken in the past years. Details are set out below –

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To review and clarify our economic policy and articulate a clear, concise economic blueprint</p> <p><i>(Financial Services Bureau (FSB))</i></p>	<p>To complete the review within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The review was completed and the Financial Secretary re-affirmed the Government's economic and fiscal principles in his 2000-2001 Budget.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To organise an economic forum bringing businessmen, academics, officials and politicians together</p> <p><i>(Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries (HKCSI))</i></p>	<p>To organise the forum by end-1999</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The Quad Forum was successfully held in November 1999. We will organise another forum in late 2000.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To conduct a stock-taking survey of all continuing and professional education courses available to the working population in Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB))</i></p>	<p>To complete the stock-taking exercise within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The survey has been completed. EMB has set up a homepage to facilitate the public in obtaining information on these courses.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To critically evaluate how to turn Hong Kong into a world-class visitor/resort/ convention/gaming destination with all the related facilities this may entail</p> <p><i>(Home Affairs Bureau)</i></p>	<p>To conclude the evaluation exercise within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>The Tourism Commission has drawn up a vision statement and is implementing various initiatives to consolidate Hong Kong's position as a premier tourist destination. The proposal to introduce new forms of gaming facilities will not be considered at the moment, in view of the complexity of the issues involved.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To develop a comprehensive harbour plan to exploit the potential of the harbour for tourism and leisure purposes</p> <p><i>(Planning and Lands Bureau)</i></p>	<p>To formulate the plan within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>A consultancy study has been commissioned. Public consultation on the proposed harbour plan will be conducted. The recommendations will be considered in the context of the overall Metroplan study.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress: On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To formulate and market a strategic plan to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre for the region</p> <p><i>(FSB)</i></p>	<p>To finalise the strategic plan within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>A strategic plan has been formulated. A Working Group on Promotion of Financial Services led by the Trade Development Council has identified and organised a number of promotional activities in the Mainland and overseas. More are being planned in the coming years.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>



Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To take systematic measures to enhance influential credit rating agencies and international economic organisations' (such as the Heritage Foundation and the World Economic Forum) understanding of Hong Kong</p> <p><i>(FSB)</i></p>	<p>To implement the measures within 2000</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>Systematic measures have been identified. They have been and will continue to be implemented as planned.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To organise a Hong Kong delegation to the World Services Congress in Atlanta in late 1999</p> <p><i>(HKCSI)</i></p>	<p>Delegation to attend the Congress scheduled for 1-3 November 1999</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>A Hong Kong delegation attended the Congress in November 1999. Subsequently, it has been decided that Hong Kong should host a similar international conference on services in 2001.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To devise and implement a dedicated publicity programme to address specific issues making full use of electronic and other media slots available to the Government</p> <p><i>(Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To devise a programme in collaboration with the Information Services Department in 1999</li> <li>● To implement the programme within 2000</li> </ul> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p>A publicity programme targeting both the local community as well as overseas business communities has been devised and implemented.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To commission an economic study of Hong Kong's producer services <i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To commission and complete the study within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The University of Hong Kong completed the study in early 2000 and had put a paper on the findings and recommendations to the Services Promotion Strategy Group. The full report is available on the Internet homepage of the University.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To develop a strategy to improve dissemination of government information relevant to the business sector through the Internet  <i>(Information Services Department (ISD))</i></p>	<p>Completion within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>Based on the findings and recommendations of the two studies conducted in 1999, ISD revamped and strengthened the "Doing Business in Hong Kong" homepage.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To improve the "after-sales" service for overseas businesses established in Hong Kong  <i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>Completion within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>All identified improvement measures have been and will continue to be implemented.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To examine the case for promoting Hong Kong as Asia's wine trading centre by improving the bonded warehouse system and taking other necessary measures  <i>(Finance Bureau/CIB)</i></p>	<p>Completion within 1999 <i>(1998)</i></p>	<p>The consultancy study was completed in June 2000. We are implementing the recommendations of the study as appropriate.  <i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To co-ordinate a government response to “The Hong Kong Economic Policy Studies”</p> <p><i>(Government Economist (G Econ))</i></p>	<p>To monitor publication of new study reports and take action once a report is available</p> <p><i>(1997)</i></p>	<p>G Econ has consolidated government responses to all the 18 studies published so far. The responses can be viewed on the Internet homepage of the Business and Services Promotion Unit.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To continue to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the services promotion initiatives kick-started by the former Government Task Force on Services Promotion</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To continue in 1998</p> <p><i>(1997)</i></p>	<p>The Services Promotion Strategy Group has reviewed the progress of all the 125 initiatives identified by the Task Force. We have compiled a progress summary to facilitate future tracking of progress.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To consider the case for providing additional convention facilities</p> <p><i>(Economic Services Bureau (ESB))</i></p>	<p>Conclusion within 1999</p> <p><i>(1997)</i></p>	<p>ESB has completed the consultancy study on the subject. The Airport Authority is considering the feasibility of constructing a convention and exhibition facility on the Airport Island in the context of their North Commercial District land use study.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To establish a mechanism to obtain key information on measures taken by other major economies to enhance competitiveness</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To establish the mechanism in 1998</p> <p><i>(1997)</i></p>	<p>A database for storing and collecting such information has been published.</p> <p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>