

## *Accounting Services – 2008 Liberalization Measures*

### **1. What are the new liberalization measures for the accountancy sector under Supplement V to CEPA?**

The following liberalization measures for the accountancy sector will be introduced with effect from 1 January 2009 under Supplement V to CEPA –

- Exploring mutual recognition of Accounting Professional Technicians' qualifications;
- Extending the validity period of temporary audit permits from 2 to 5 years;
- Setting up an examination centre in Hong Kong for Mainland's Accounting Professional Technician Qualification Examination; and
- Setting up examination centres in Shenzhen and Dongguan for Hong Kong residents to sit the Mainland's accounting qualification examination.

### Supplementary agreements on accounting under CEPA

Under the CEPA framework, and further to the agreement signed in 2004 on mutual exemption, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Ministry of Finance signed two supplementary agreements on 29 July 2008 with effect from that day to –

- Extend the mutual exemption of two examination subjects between members of the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CICPA) and Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) Qualification Programme graduates to cover exemption of a third subject (“financial reporting” in Hong Kong and “accounting” in the Mainland); and
- Extend the scope of beneficiaries to all HKICPA members who were not qualified solely through the Qualification Programme.

**2. What relevant Mainland rules/regulations governing the accountancy sector are currently available for reference?**

Links to the relevant Mainland rules and regulations governing the accountancy sector in the Mainland can be found in the “Easy Guide to Investment in the Accounting Service Sector” available at TID’s website.

**3. What are the detailed arrangements to implement the new liberalization measures?**

The SAR Government and the HKICPA will work closely with the Ministry of Finance and CICPA to discuss the implementation arrangements for the new liberalisation measures, with a view to firming up the details as soon as possible.