

Convention and Exhibition Services (5)

1. What are the liberalization and facilitation measures for the convention and exhibition sector under CEPA?

Liberalization and facilitation measures for the convention and exhibition sector under CEPA are as follows:

- (a) Hong Kong service suppliers are allowed to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, convention and exhibition services in the Mainland;
- (b) Hong Kong service suppliers are allowed to set up wholly-owned enterprises or enterprises in the form of equity joint venture or contractual joint venture in the Mainland to provide services for organising exhibitions in Hong Kong and Macao;
- (c) Hong Kong service suppliers are allowed to organise exhibitions, in the form of cross-border supply, in the Guangdong Province, Shanghai Municipality, Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality, Chongqing Municipality, Zhejiang Province, Jiangsu Province and Fujian Province on a pilot basis ^(Note 1);
- (d) Enterprises set up by Hong Kong service suppliers on a wholly-owned, equity joint venture or contractual joint venture basis in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions of Guangdong, Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Chongqing, Zhejiang, Guangxi, Hunan, Hainan, Fujian, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan are allowed to organise overseas exhibitions on a pilot basis ^(Note 2). Participating enterprises should be registered enterprises in that province, municipality or autonomous region; and
- (e) The Guangdong Province is entrusted with the authority to approve applications submitted by Hong Kong service suppliers for organising foreign economic and technical exhibitions with an exhibition area exceeding 1 000 square

¹ Subject to the approval of the Ministry of Commerce according to relevant laws and regulations in the Mainland.

² Subject to the approval of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade according to relevant laws and regulations in the Mainland.

metres in Guangdong Province ^(Note 3). (This is one of the measures for “early and pilot implementation” in Guangdong Province.)

Supplement VII to CEPA affirms the importance of strengthening co-operation in the convention and exhibition industry between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Under Supplement VII to CEPA, upon request of the HKSAR Government and subject to the agreement of relevant authorities of the Central People’s Government, the relevant Mainland departments will facilitate the processing of applications made by Mainland enterprises and individuals for travel documents and endorsements required for visiting Hong Kong to participate in conventions and exhibitions held there.

2. What should exhibition organisers do if they wish to request the relevant Mainland departments to facilitate the processing of applications made by Mainland participants in their exhibitions for travel documents and endorsements required for visiting Hong Kong?

If exhibition organisers wish to request the relevant Mainland departments to facilitate the processing of applications made by Mainland participants in their exhibitions for travel documents and endorsements required for visiting Hong Kong, they may contact the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Tourism Commission or the Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong Office of the Hong Kong Tourism Board. The HKSAR Government will actively consider their requests and provide assistance as appropriate.

3. Some of the liberalization measures for the convention and exhibition sector under CEPA only cover certain provinces and municipalities (e.g. organising exhibitions in the form of cross-border supply on a pilot basis is only applicable in eight provinces and municipalities). Will the measures be extended to other places?

The liberalization measures are usually applicable to places which have closer economic exchanges with Hong Kong. Hong Kong

³ Exhibitions using the word "China/Chinese" at the beginning of their titles shall be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Commerce upon notification by the relevant authorities in charge of commerce in Guangdong Province.

and the Mainland will continue to work closely together, including considering the need to extend the coverage of the existing liberalization measures.

4. How to obtain Mainland's approval for organising exhibitions in the form of cross-border supply?

Relevant laws and regulations for practical implementation will be promulgated. At present, Hong Kong service suppliers may organise exhibitions in the form of wholly-owned operation, equity joint venture or contractual joint venture.

5. What is meant by "cross border supply"?

Cross border supply means the supply of a service from a service supplier from one place to a customer in another place. The service supplier does not need to establish itself in the place where the customer is located.