TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

Programme Areas

(1) Commercial Relations

Aim

The aim is to secure and preserve maximum access and fair treatment for export of goods and services from Hong Kong to the Mainland and international markets.

Brief Description

- The Department, through its Multilateral Trade Division, Regional Cooperation Division, Europe Division and Commercial Relations Branches of respective geographical Divisions, is responsible for Hong Kong’s commercial relations. It seeks to protect Hong Kong’s trade interests and rights by monitoring and responding to trade policies and measures of other trading partners through multilateral and bilateral negotiations and other channels. To this end, Hong Kong relies on the rule-based multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the cornerstone of its external trade policy. The Department pursues free trade agreements and investment promotion and protection agreements with our trading partners to secure access with favourable conditions to overseas markets and to facilitate two-way investment flows and economic growth. The Department also engages actively in the discussions with the Mainland on further liberalisation of trade and investment under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) and the effective implementation of respective liberalisation measures.
(2) **Trade Support and Facilitation**

*Aim*

The aim is to:

- fulfil Hong Kong’s obligations under international, multilateral and bilateral trade agreements/arrangements and optimise the benefits to Hong Kong flowing from such agreements;

- provide origin certification services, supervise and monitor similar services provided by Government Approved Certification Organisations (GACOs);

- safeguard the interests of Hong Kong’s textiles trade through maintenance of a voluntary registration scheme for textiles traders; and

- ensure the efficient operation of control or surveillance measures on import and export of strategic commodities, reserved commodities and rough diamonds, and export of powdered formula for infants and young children, facilitate local importers of Mainland cereals and grain flour to conform to the export administrative measures of the Mainland, facilitate local exporters of wine to make use of the Mainland’s customs facilitation measures for wine entering the Mainland through Hong Kong, and provide a licensing service to supplement control on import and export of ozone depleting substances operated by the Environmental Protection Department for protection of the environment.

*Brief Description*

- The Department serves the trade/community by providing various licensing/registration facilities in respect of certain commodities. The Department also provides origin certification services including preferential tariff certification, Certificate of Hong Kong Origin – CEPA (CO(CEPA)) and Certificate of Hong Kong Origin – New Zealand (CO(NZ)); and

- The Department provides a one-stop Hong Kong Service Supplier (HKSS) certification service to support the implementation of CEPA.
(3) **Industries Support**

**Aim**

The aim is to:

- support and facilitate the development of Hong Kong’s manufacturing and service industries, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs). To this end, we will:

  - facilitate access to information and services needed by industries for their further development;

  - monitor the views and needs of manufacturing industry stakeholders on industrial land and manpower training;

  - promote excellence in the manufacturing and service industries by providing secretariat support to the organisation of the “Hong Kong Awards for Industries”; and

  - provide and co-ordinate programmes in support of SMEs in Hong Kong.

**Brief Description**

- The Industries Support Division of the Department supports the development of Hong Kong’s manufacturing and service industries and the development of SMEs. It maintains liaison with local trade and industrial organisations, and compiles the Directory of Hong Kong Trade and Industrial Organisations, which serves as a quick reference on these organisations.

- The Division participates actively in the formulation and implementation of policies by other government bureaux and departments which impinge on industrial development in Hong Kong. It takes part in the policy formulation processes of various support organisations whose work have an impact on industrial and SMEs development. These organisations include the Hong Kong Productivity Council and the Vocational Training Council.

- With regards to SMEs, the Division develops policy initiatives and implements programmes of services to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and their long term developments. It co-ordinates the efforts of the public sector and industrial
support organisations in supporting the development of SMEs and meeting their needs.

- The Division provides information and advisory services to SMEs through its Support and Consultation Centre for SMEs (SUCCESS). SUCCESS provides SMEs including business start-ups with free and practical information and consultation services. On information service, the SUCCESS dedicated website (www.success.tid.gov.hk) contains a comprehensive range of business information, including government licences and permits, etc. SUCCESS also keeps SMEs abreast of the latest business information through publishing E-newsletters and “SME Pulse”, business start-up information service, a number of electronic business databases and a reference library. On consultation service, SUCCESS operates the “Meet-the-Advisors” Business Advisory Service and the SME Mentorship Programme which line up accomplished businessmen and experts to provide free business advisory services for SMEs. SUCCESS also organises seminars and workshops to help broaden SMEs’ business knowledge and enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

- The Division administers three SME funding schemes to help SMEs raise capital, expand markets outside Hong Kong and enhance overall competitiveness. The funding schemes are the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme, the SME Export Marketing Fund, and the SME Development Fund.

- The Division administers the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales to assist Hong Kong enterprises in exploring and developing the Mainland market through developing brands, upgrading and restructuring operations, and promoting domestic sales in the Mainland.

- The Division provides secretariat support to the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee, which advises the Government on issues affecting the development of SMEs in Hong Kong and suggest measures to support and facilitate their development and growth.

- The Division provides secretariat support to the Trade and Industry Advisory Board, which advises the Government on matters affecting Hong Kong's trade and industry.
The Division provides secretariat support to the organisation of the “Hong Kong Awards for Industries”. The Awards aim at recognising the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong enterprises, in both the manufacturing and service industries, in their move towards high technology and high value-added activities.

The Division provides secretariat support to the Working Group on Industrial, Commercial and Professional Sectors (Working Group) under the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee. The Working Group aims to promote the Basic Law among the industrial, commercial and professional sectors.

The Division provides secretariat support to the SME Customer Liaison Group which makes suggestions to the Department on its SME services.

The Division provides support to Hong Kong enterprises on the development and promotion of Hong Kong brands to enable them to better compete in the Mainland and overseas markets.

On the regional front, the Division participates in the SME-related activities of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.