

# **International Trade and Business Centre**

**(formerly under the then Commerce and  
Industry Bureau)**

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## **Detailed Progress**

# I 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 †
To negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with New Zealand  (Trade and Industry Department (TID))	To conclude the negotiation  (2001)	(Action in Progress : On Schedule)
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  (TID)	<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> (1999)	(Action in Progress : On Schedule)

\* 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 Cooperation 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>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau)</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>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</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</p> <p><i>(TID)</i></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</li> </ul> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>(Action Completed)</i></li> <li>● <i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></li> <li>● <i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></li> </ul>

## 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 enhance Hong Kong's trading and economic relations with Guangdong  <i>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i>	To consider the establishment of an Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To introduce market competition in the provision of electronic data interchange services for processing Government trade-related documents from 2004  <i>(CIB)</i>	To appoint additional service providers in 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To further promote the use of intelligence and risk management in operations conducted by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED)  <i>(Customs and Excise Department)</i>	To establish an intelligence branch in C&ED in 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To review the import and export licensing requirements with a view to streamlining the licensing processes  <i>(CIB)</i>	To launch the review in 2001-2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To introduce electronic data interchange (EDI) service for dutiable commodities permits</p> <p>(CIB)</p>	<p>Pilot run and launch of service in 2001</p> <p>(2000)</p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To introduce EDI service for cargo manifests</p> <p>(CIB)</p>	<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> <p>(2000)</p>	<p>It has taken more time than expected to resolve industry's concerns about service charges and some operational issues. We plan to launch EDI services for cargo manifests formally in the first quarter of 2003.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To help our industries and businesses enjoy a better operating environment in the Mainland, particularly the Pearl River Delta</p> <p>(CIB)</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 Mainland, particularly the Pearl River Delta</p> <p>(1998)</p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</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
To review the Copyright Ordinance <i>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB))</i>	To formulate a long-term solution to address the issues arising from the implementation of the Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 2000 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To liberalise parallel importation of computer software <i>(CIB)</i>	To enact the necessary legislative amendments in 2001-2002 <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
To strengthen public education on intellectual property rights <i>(Intellectual Property Department (IPD))</i>	To carry out public education activities on an on-going basis <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>
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 <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To offer to host an APEC Intellectual Property Expert Group Meeting/Conference in Hong Kong  <i>(IPD)</i>	To play host in 2001-2002  <i>(2000)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>



## 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
<p>To commission helping business studies and regulatory impact assessments</p> <p><i>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau(CIB))</i></p>	<p>To complete ten studies/ assessments within 2002, including —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a feasibility study on a proposed integrated e-trade system</li> <li>● a study on the feasibility of bulk billing functionality for rates and government rent</li> <li>● departmental business studies for the Environmental Protection Department and the Transport Department</li> </ul> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<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><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 (HKPF))</i></p>	<p>To implement the relevant improvements before the end of 2001</p> <p><i>(1999)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To conduct research into existing regulatory regimes</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To consider 25 areas of potential study at each quarterly meeting of the relevant Business Advisory Group sub-group</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<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. Action to improve the licensing procedures and requirements for Mah-jong/Tin Kau Establishments has been completed. Implementation of other items requiring legislative amendments are being considered, taking into consideration public views received.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To improve the application procedures for waivers to temporarily relax restrictions contained in leases of land</p> <p><i>(Lands Department (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 by 2001. Lands D is still considering the feasibility of contracting out the processing of such applications and associated lease enforcement work.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind 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. Due to the complexity of the legislative amendments, MD expects to complete action by mid-2003.</p> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Behind Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To streamline the management of public cargo working areas</p> <p><i>(MD)</i></p>	<p>To complete action by 2001</p> <p><i>(1998)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</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
To collaborate with the Airport Authority in developing a new International Exhibition Centre at Chek Lap Kok  <i>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau (CIB)/ Invest Hong Kong)</i>	To support the Airport Authority in inviting expressions of interest within 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To set up a \$100 million funding scheme to help raise the standard of Hong Kong's professional services  <i>(CIB)</i>	To seek within 2001-02 the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the scheme  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To collaborate with professional services bodies to set up a website to help promote Hong Kong's professional services  <i>(CIB)</i>	To launch the website within 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To organise promotional activities to help Hong Kong's professional services sector develop business in the Mainland</p> <p><i>(CIB/The Office of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Beijing/Hong Kong Trade Development Council)</i></p>	<p>To organise in 2002 promotional activities in a number of major cities in the Mainland</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i></p>
<p>To organise an economic forum bringing businessmen, academics, officials, politicians and media editors together</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To organise the forum in early 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>
<p>To devise and launch a publicity campaign to build up youngsters' confidence in Hong Kong's economic future and promote their understanding of a knowledge-based services economy</p> <p><i>(CIB)</i></p>	<p>To launch the campaign within 2002</p> <p><i>(2001)</i></p>	<p><i>(Action Completed)</i></p>

Initiative	Target	Present Position
<p>To implement the 2000-2001 Action Agenda which comprises the following initiative —</p> <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>(the then Economic Services Bureau/ Tourism Commission)</i></p>	<p>To complete the initiative within 2001-2002 —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To conclude the exercise and submit recommendations within 2001</li> </ul> <p><i>(2000)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau needs more time to review the nature conservation policy as complicated issues such as land use and planning matters are involved.</li> <li>● The Home Affairs Bureau is now reviewing policy on heritage preservation.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Action in Progress : Under Review)</i></p>

## 6 Attract external direct investment

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

Initiative	Target	Present Position
To promote to potential investors Hong Kong's image as the leading international business centre in Asia, through organising large-scale general and sector-specific business events  <i>(Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK))</i>	To successfully organise the East Asia Economic Summit of the World Economic Forum and host the Forbes Global CEO Conference in 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To boost investment promotion in the Mainland  <i>(InvestHK)</i>	To establish an Investment Promotion Unit in the Mainland  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action Completed)</i>
To negotiate new Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements  <i>(the then Commerce and Industry Bureau/Trade and Industry Department)</i>	To commence negotiations in 2002  <i>(2001)</i>	<i>(Action in Progress : On Schedule)</i>