

First Meeting of the EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation

Agenda Item 3 : Helping Business Awards Scheme 2004-05

This paper outlines the proposed plan for launching the Helping Business Awards Scheme (the Scheme) 2004-05 and seek members' comments.

Background

2. The first Scheme was launched in 1999 with the aim of encouraging government departments and individual civil servants to propose practical measures to make government operations more business friendly. Following the success of the first Scheme, another Scheme was held in 2001. Not only have we received enthusiastic responses from departments and individual civil servants in both Schemes, very positive results have been achieved in the implementation of many of the helping business proposals received. In view of these, we propose to continue with the momentum by organizing the third Scheme 2004-05 with the following objectives –

- (a) encourage government agencies to generate initiatives in helping business and removing obstacles to businesses;
- (b) nurture a helping business culture and mindset in the civil service; and
- (c) promote the awareness and appreciation of the business sector regarding helping business initiatives undertaken by the Government.

Awards

3. The awards will be adjudicated under two broad categories -
- ☐ 'Today' Awards for outstanding helping business initiatives that have been implemented within a fixed time-frame recently or those still being implemented by bureaux/departments.

- ☐ 'Tomorrow' Awards for outstanding and practical helping business initiatives proposed or planned by bureaux/departments.

4. We will invite sponsorship from the business sector for the Scheme, through the EEC and Subgroup mechanism as necessary. To invite feedback, particularly from a 'users' perspective, on the effectiveness of Government's helping business initiatives, chambers of commerce and trade associations will also be invited to nominate entries under the 'Today' category.

Work Programme

5. Planning and preparation will start with the aim of launching the Scheme later this year. Upon the closing of submission, judging panels will be formed to assess and select entries for award. The judging panels will be made up of EEC members and representatives from sponsoring organisations.

6. The results of the Scheme 2004-05 are expected to be announced in early 2005.

Commerce and Industry Branch
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau
April 2004