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19 May 2003

Clerk to Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

(Attn : Ms Debbie Yau)

Dear Ms Yau,

Legislative Council
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Meeting held on 4 March 2003

At the Panel meeting held on 4 March 2003, the Chairman suggested that the Administration should introduce and promote the adoption of internationally recognized benchmark assessment or professional examination to help ensure the competency and quality of the IT workforce in Hong Kong, apart from the work of the Vocational Training Council (VTC) in respect of its operation of the Hong Kong IT Skills Assessment Centre and the International Computer Driving Licence Programme administered by the Hong Kong Computer Society.

On this issue, we would like to report that in order to upgrade the skills of the work force and to meet the training needs of industries, the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) will set up a qualifications

framework (QF) which will cover the main stream, vocational and continuing education sectors. Under the QF, Industrial Training Specifications (ITSs) will be drawn up for the individual industries. The ITS will set out the skills and knowledge applied at work, their aggregation into the qualifications for jobs in the industry and assessment guidelines. EMB has recently commissioned a pilot study on developing the ITS for the IT industry, which will take into account internationally recognized benchmark assessments as well as professional examinations. Relevant stakeholders including VTC and the Hong Kong Computer Society will be invited to join the pilot study.

Separately, you may also wish to know that we have already relayed the Chairman's request of including IT courses under programmes which are eligible to benefit from the Continuing Education Fund to EMB for its consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

(Miss Helen Tang)
for Secretary for Commerce, Industry
and Technology