# Fifty-first Meeting of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee

## Agenda Item 3(c): Report on the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups

#### **Purpose**

This paper reports the work of the Task Force on Business Liaison Groups (BLGTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting on 23 February 2023.

#### Work progress of the BLGTF

#### Overall progress of Business Liaison Groups

- 2. Since the last meeting, we have conducted three Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings and proactively liaised with the trade of six BLGs. A total of 18 issues were satisfactorily resolved or clarified, and seven information dissemination sessions on business facilitation measures, relaxation of regulatory requirements and e-services for licence applications were conducted by the relevant departments as arranged by the BLG Secretariat.
- 3. To enhance communication with the trade, we continue to provide various channels including an online form for the trade to share their views on licensing and regulatory regime. Summaries of the views collected and the Government responses are uploaded onto the Business Facilitation Initiatives website on a regular basis. Salient issues and examples have been presented in the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the BLGTF.

## E-services for Permit to Use and Operate Amusement Ride

4. Pursuant to the Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance (ARSO) (Cap. 449), the owner of an amusement ride shall obtain from the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) a design approval before equipment installation and a permit to use and operate upon installation completion, as well as employ a competent person before he/she could operate the amusement ride for use by members of the public. Since October 2021, EMSD has provided electronic services including e-submission, e-payment, e-tracking and e-licence for eight applications (including the application for Permit to Use and Operate

Amusement Ride) under the ARSO. In the BLGTF meeting on 25 April 2023, the EMSD briefed the BLGTF on the above e-services.

5. BLGTF thanked EMSD for implementing the e-licensing services which facilitate the trade in licence applications.

Requirements, procedures and facilitation measures for application for Feedin Tariff Scheme and installation of solar photovoltaic system by the private sector

- 6. To combat climate change, the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme was introduced in 2018 by the Government in collaboration with the two power companies for the private sector to sell the renewable energy (RE) generated to the power companies at a rate higher than the normal electricity tariff rate. To provide sufficient incentives to potential RE developers, the Government has implemented a number of measures, such as FiT is paid for all units of electricity generated by the RE systems, allowing tax concessions and providing technical guidelines for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Furthermore, for the installation of solar PV systems in open car parks by the private sector, upon meeting the specified requirements and obtaining the policy support of the Environment and Ecology Bureau, business facilitation measures such as fasttrack processing and 100% gross floor area concessions for the area covered by the solar PV system etc. will be provided by the Buildings Department (BD) for the application for the installation of such systems. EMSD and BD briefed the BLGTF at the same meeting the details of the FiT Scheme and the abovementioned business facilitation measures.
- 7. BLGTF appreciated the efforts of EMSD and BD for the clear explanation of the FiT Scheme and the relevant facilitation measures which help encourage the private sector to consider investing in RE.

### Way forward

8. Members are invited to note the work progress of the BLGTF. BLGTF will continue to oversee and monitor the work progress of the BLGs.

Business Facilitation Team Efficiency Office Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau June 2023