

**Notes of the 19th Meeting of
Business Liaison Group (Theme Parks and Attractions)**

Date : 29 July 2015 (Wednesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room 2, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar
Chairman : Mr CHAN Wah Chan, Head, Business Facilitation Division,
Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit

Trade attendees:

Hong Kong Disneyland

Ms Catherine CHUI	Manager, Government Relations
Mr Tommy FUNG	Manager, Development & Integration
Mr John KWONG	Manager, Facility Asset Management

Ocean Park Corporation

Mr Arthur WONG	Project Development Director
Mr Kenneth LAU	Operations Director
Mr Joseph LEUNG	Executive Director, Revenue
Ms Celine CHEUNG	Executive Director, Design & Planning
Ms Anna YEE	Senior Corporate Services Manager
Ms Gillian CHO	Assistant Corporate Services Manager

Ngong Ping 360 Limited

Mr William CHEUNG	Head of Services Operations
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Jockey Club Central Police Station

Ms Kitty WONG	Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Patrick SIU	Project Manager
Mr Kenneth LEE	Project Manager

Madame Tussauds

Mr Andrew LAM	Facility Manager
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Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

Mr Ryan LI	Deputy General Manager
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Hong Kong Sky Deck

Mr Ivan LAW	Assistant Operations Manager
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Hong Kong Observation Wheel

Mr Kenneth MAK	Senior Architect
Mr Cedric TAM	Senior Construction Manager
Mr Chris WONG	Consultant

Government representatives:

Buildings Department (BD)

Mr Kelvin WONG Building Surveyor/Licensing

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

Ms WONG Yi Mui Superintendent(Licensing)1

Mr HUI Fai Wing Superintendent(Licensing)2

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit (EABFU)

Ms Christie LAM Chief Management Services Officer (Secretary)

Mr Robert CHU Management Services Officer

In attendance:

Mr Victor LAM Member, Business Liaison Group Task Force

Ms Yolanda NG Member, Business Liaison Group Task Force

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1. **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the trade participants from Jockey Club Central Police Station and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, who attended the meeting for the first time. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the following -
 - ♦ The Business Liaison Group (BLG) meetings were open for participation by any member of the trade. There were no appointed BLG members from the trade.
 - ♦ It was not appropriate to discuss individual cases at BLG meetings.
 - ♦ The Task Force on BLGs (BLGTF) under the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee was tasked to oversee and monitor the work of BLGs. As such, BLGTF members attended BLG meetings as observers.
 - ♦ Smoking in meeting venues (including corridor and toilet) was strictly prohibited.
2. **The Chairman** informed the meeting that with the BLGTF's endorsement, the scope of the BLG for theme parks had been expanded to cover attraction points as well. The name of the BLG had also been revised as "BLG for Theme Parks and Attractions".

Agenda 1 – Confirmation of notes of the last meeting

3. The notes of the last meeting posted at the Business Facilitation Initiatives website (http://www.gov.hk/en/theme/bf/pdf/TP_BLG_18_Notes.pdf) were confirmed

without amendments.

Agenda 2 – Briefing by Departments

Business facilitation measures to improve the liquor licence regulatory regime

4. **Mr HUI Fai Wing** of FEHD briefed the trade on the subject with the presentation slides at **Annex 1**. The Government had amended the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulations (Cap. 109B) and Dutiable Commodities (liquor Licences) (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 109H) to improve the liquor licence regulatory regime. The amendments would come into effect on 3 August 2015. The business facilitation measures introduced under the improved liquor licence regulatory regime included :
 - ♦ extending the maximum validity period of liquor licence to two years;
 - ♦ provision of licence fee payable when the validity period of a liquor licence exceeds one year;
 - ♦ provision of temporary absence for extended maximum validity period of liquor licence; and
 - ♦ allowing electronic submission of applications by a password assigned or approved by the Liquor Licensing Board (LLB).

5. As regards the business facilitation measure on electronic submission of applications, **Mr HUI** supplemented that FEHD was studying the data privacy issues and the online submission procedures. The measure was expected to be rolled out in early 2016.

6. **Mr HUI** said that only cases with a good track record for at least two consecutive years immediately before the liquor licence renewal application might be considered by LLB for licence renewal by two years. The trade was reminded to indicate in the reply slip of renewal notice whether they would choose to renew the licence for one year or two years.

Business facilitation measures for application for outside seating accommodation permission of restaurants

7. **Ms WONG Yi Mui** of FEHD briefed the trade on the subject with the presentation slides at **Annex 2**. Ms WONG said that in October 2013, the Outside Seating Accommodation (OSA) Working Group, which was comprised of representatives from eight departments, completed a review on the application for OSA permission of restaurants and put forward 10 recommendations to facilitate business.

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8. On the requirement that an area intended for OSA should normally be attached to the restaurant concerned, **Mr Kenneth MAK** of Hong Kong Observation Wheel enquired on the spread level allowed between the restaurant and the OSA. **Ms WONG** replied that in general the OSA area should be on the same level of the restaurant.
9. **Mr Kenneth LEE** of Jockey Club Central Police Station enquired whether a means of escape with no physical barrier could be used for attaching the OSA area to the restaurant. **Ms WONG** explained that the attachment requirement was meant to safeguard food safety against contamination during food delivery. For exceptional case applications, FEHD would consider the applications on a case-by-case basis and, subject to comments from other departments, might impose additional licensing conditions as appropriate.
10. **Mr Arthur WONG** of Ocean Park enquired on the processing time for an OSA application. In response, **Ms WONG** replied that for the OSA applications received in 2014, the processing time ranged from three to 23 months. The length of processing time for an application was contingent upon the time spent by the applicant in complying with the relevant licensing requirements, settling objections raised by the public and/or by the departments concerned and addressing relevant land issues, if any.
11. **Ms WONG** supplemented that “A Guide to Application for Outside Seating Accommodation” had been updated and was available at FEHD’s website <http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/howtoseries/forms/new/OSA_Guide.pdf>. The trades were advised to make reference to the Guide in making OSA applications.

Agenda 3 – New Items***Short-term waiver of licence fees for restaurants and fees for restricted food permits***

12. **The Secretary** said that in his 2015-16 Budget, the Financial Secretary announced some short-term measures to support food business. The trade would like to know about the implementation details of the measures.
13. **Ms WONG** of FEHD advised the trade on the short-term measures to support food business with the presentation slides at **Annex 3**. The licences fees for restaurants and fees for restricted food permits would be waived for six months. The measures were applicable to new issue or renewal of restaurant licences and restricted food

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permits commencing during the concession period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (both dates inclusive).

Minor layout changes in food and liquor licences without submission of alteration and addition applications

14. **The Secretary** reported that the trade enquired on the circumstances under which minor layout changes in food and liquor licence would be allowed without submission of alteration and addition (A&A) application to BD and FEHD.
15. **Ms WONG** of FEHD replied that application for a food business licence had to be accompanied by three copies of a layout plan including the particulars specifically required under individual licence. After approval of the licence, any change to the approved layout plan had to seek prior approval from FEHD. For movable appliances or facilities/furniture not of a substantial and permanent nature, they were not required to be shown on the layout plans. Any change in location of these items did not require the approval from FEHD. The details could be found at “A Guide on Drawing of Proposed Layout Plan for Food Business Licence Application” available at FEHD’s website <http://www.fehd.gov.hk/english/licensing/license_businessLayout.html>.
16. **Mr Patrick SIU** of Jockey Club Central Police Station enquired if an A&A submission would be required for turning an enclosed kitchen into an open one. **Ms WONG** replied in the affirmative. **Mr Kelvin WONG** of BD explained that for any proposed alterations affecting the provisions of means of escape, means of access for firefighting and rescue, fire resisting construction, structural safety and unauthorized building works, FEHD would refer the application to BD for comment. BD would provide relevant building safety requirements through FEHD to the applicants.
17. **Mr HUI** of FEHD supplemented that in respect of liquor-licensed premises, the licensee had to submit an amendment application of liquor licence to the Liquor Licensing Board if the alteration involved a change in the area of licensed premises.

Administrative burden in renewing temporary food factory licences

18. **The Secretary** said that given the short validity period (at most 7 days) of a temporary food factory licence (TFFL), the trade would like to enquire on how FEHD would facilitate them to reduce the administrative efforts in repeated licence

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renewal for an event lasting for several months.

19. **Ms WONG** of FEHD said that under the law, the validity period of a TFFL could not exceed seven days. To facilitate the trade, FEHD might issue multiple consecutive TFFLs in one-go for a span of period not more than six months. An applicant only needed to submit one application for TFFL and specify in the application form the consecutive period of time.
20. In response to the enquiry of **Mr Kenneth MAK** of Observation Wheel, **Ms WONG** explained that if a TFFL holder would like to change the approved food items, the holder needed to provide the necessary details including the food supplier's certificate and seek FEHD's endorsement.

Submission of several layout plans for different types of activities under one Places of Public Entertainment Licence (PPEL)

21. **The Secretary** said that it was not uncommon for some theme park/attraction operators to arrange different types of activities at the same venue throughout the day such as exhibition in daytime and performance in the evening. As there would be several sets of layout plans for the venue to cater for different activities, the trade would like to know whether the several sets of layout plans could be incorporated in a single PPEL application.
22. **Ms WONG** of FEHD replied that an applicant applying for a PPEL other than cinema and theatre should submit one set of layout plan with the required copies in the application. The applicant should specify in the layout plan the venue intended for multi-purpose uses, the kind of public entertainment activities to be held, any permanent structure such as stage, and the audience arrangement for each type of activity, etc. in the venue, to facilitate comments/assessment by the departments concerned.

Agenda 4 – Date of the next BLG meeting

23. **The Chairman** thanked all for their attendance and active participation. The Secretary would inform trade members of the date of the next meeting in due course.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
August 2015