

**Fifty-sixth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 5 : Report on the progress of the
“Be the Smart Regulator” Programme
– February 2025 update***

Purpose

This paper provides updates on the progress of the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme (the Programme) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held on 15 October 2024.

Latest progress

Overview

2. The 28 participating bureaux and departments (B/Ds) strive to sustain their momentum in enhancing their licensing services. Good progress has been made on various fronts to further improve the business facilitation and regulatory environment in Hong Kong with a view to boosting the long-term competitiveness. Major progress is highlighted below.

Major progress in various departments

3. Participating B/Ds continue to improve the efficiency and transparency of licensing services and reducing compliance costs to trades, through streamlined procedures, effective use of innovation and technology, enhanced regulatory requirements, as well as strengthened support and guidance to the trades. Examples of the measures implemented in recent months are highlighted as follows –

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has provided Dairy Licence applicants with “iAM Smart” form-filling service as well as e-reminders for licence renewal, thus saving administrative efforts and time of applicants and minimising the chance of missing the renewal period.
- (b) The Home Affairs Department has enhanced the Licensing Information System for five entertainment licences (such as Trade Promotion Competition Licence and Lottery Licence) and migrated it

to the Government Cloud Infrastructure Services to shorten processing time and enhance efficiency in processing applications.

- (c) The Transport Department has streamlined the procedures for Vehicle Licence renewal by obviating the need for applicants to provide the Certificate of Roadworthiness, and the need to submit the policy of insurance during online applications should the insurance record be successfully verified by the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers, thus saving administrative efforts of applicants and enhancing efficiency of application process.

World Bank Group's Business Ready project

4. The World Bank Group (WBG) has commenced the data collection exercise for the Business Ready 2025 and invited private and public sector experts of Hong Kong to provide responses to the questionnaires since October 2024. We have already submitted the public sector experts' response to the WBG. To raise the trades' awareness, we have been promoting B-READY to about 400 trade associations in Hong Kong through briefings, feature articles and e-mails. The data collection exercise will last until May 2025. We sincerely appeal to the trades to actively respond to the questionnaires if invited by the WBG.

Way forward

- 5. Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme.

**Digitalisation and Business Facilitation Division
Digital Policy Office
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau
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