

**Situation économique à Hong Kong,
UPDATE automne 2003**

1 Situation générale

1.1 Généralités

C'est avec optimisme que Hong Kong (HK) aborde la fin de l'année. En effet, forte d'un taux de croissance de 4% enregistré pour le 3ème trimestre (par rapport au même trimestre de l'an passé) **la ville renoue avec l'espoir de voir l'année sanctionnée par un taux de croissance de 3%**, tel qu'il avait été prévu avant la crise du syndrome aigu respiratoire sévère (SRAS). Cette crise avait limité la croissance du second trimestre à 0,5% en rythme annuel et la prévision pour 2003 avait été revue à la baisse en mai (1,5%). Les effets de l'épidémie se déployaient alors particulièrement sur le tourisme, la consommation des ménages, les investissements et le chômage. Ce sur fond morose de déficit budgétaire et de déflation ou encore de «negative Equity¹». Ces éléments continuent d'ailleurs de gripper le rouage économique de la ville. Le bon résultat du 3ème trimestre est notamment attribué à un retour de la confiance des milieux d'affaires, des consommateurs et des investisseurs. Cette confiance a été stimulée par un **appui marqué du gouvernement central à l'économie hongkongaise**. Si les exportations ont constitué huit mois durant le moteur de l'économie, les dépenses de consommation et un secteur du tourisme particulièrement revitalisé participent aujourd'hui à la relance de l'économie, ce à quoi s'ajoutent les signes du retour à la santé de l'environnement économique global.

1.2 L'économie se dote de nouveaux ministres

L'année 2003 a été marquée par la décision du Chief Executive (CE) , M. Tung Chee hwa, de mettre en veilleuse, début septembre, l'examen de la législation sur la sécurité nationale prévue par l'art. 23 de la loi fondamentale (Basic Law), avec l'idée de se consacrer à la revitalisation de l'économie. La manifestation qui a rassemblé 500'000 personnes dignement descendues dans la rue le 1er juillet a entraîné cette cette décision et la démission du Secrétaires aux Finances M. Antony Leung qui a été remplacé par MM. Henry Tang, l'ancien Secrétaire au Commerce à l'Industrie et à la Technologie, à qui M. John Tsang a succédé.

1.3 Confiance et relance stimulées par l'appui du gouvernement central

Cet appui a pris la forme d'un accord de rapprochement économique(**CEPA**), d'une mesure visant à favoriser le **tourisme** vers HK et d'un aval à la construction d'un pont à l'embouchure du Delta de la rivière des perles. Le président Hu Jintao vient de rappeler son soutien au Chief Executive (M. Tung Chee-haw, qu'il a reçu après l'échec des partis pro-Pékin aux élections du Conseil de district du 23 novembre 2003 à HK) en annonçant que la santé économique de la ville dépend d'une coopération étroite avec la Chine continentale (mainland). Ceci ne fait que confirmer le propos de HK de renforcer son intégration avec l'économie de chine continentale.

1.31 CEPA / Closer Economic Partnership arrangement : le **CEPA** a été signé le 29.06.03 entre HK et la Chine continentale. Il vise – dès le 1.1.04 - à faciliter l'échange de **marchandises** (les droits de douanes seront supprimés sur 273 catégories de biens fabriqués à HK), à faciliter l'accès à la Chine continentale à 18 catégories de **services** hongkongais et enfin à simplifier les procédures douanières et à renforcer la coopération dans divers domaines. Cet accord a été complété par six annexes signées le 29 septembre 2003. Selon une enquête récente de la HK Chamber of Commerce, 60% des entreprises interrogées auraient l'intention de profiter des avantages offerts par cet accord. On notera encore que dans la foulée du CEPA, Hong Kong et Shanghai ont signé un accord de coopération sur le développement économique bilatéral le 28.10.03. **Pour plus de précisions sur l'ensemble de ces éléments , on consultera l'annexe 1 à ce rapport.**

¹ ce phénomène qui fait que quelque 100'000 propriétaires se trouvent dans l'obligation de rembourser des hypothèques plus élevées que la valeur de leur patrimoine

1.32 Le tourisme, moteur essentiel du rebondissement économique actuel : la relance du tourisme provient principalement du fait que le gouvernement central a autorisé les touristes de Beijing, Shanghai et de huit villes de la province du Guangdong à voyager à HK individuellement et non plus uniquement en groupes. Cette disposition sera étendue à l'ensemble de la province précitée (86 millions d'habitants) en mai 2004². Victime de l'épidémie du SRAS le tourisme a régressé jusqu'à 68% en mai. La reprise s'est faite sentir en juin alors que la baisse du tourisme n'a plus régressé que de 38%. En août, mois pendant lequel on a compté 1,64 millions de visiteurs (+ 9,6% par rapport à août 2002) le taux d'occupation des hôtels a été de 83% contre 15% atteint pendant la crise. De janvier à octobre 2003 le nombre de touristes de Chine continentale a augmenté de 21,2% par rapport à la même période de l'an passé, pour s'établir à plus de 6'500'000 voyageurs (ou 54% du nombre total de touristes). Le prévisions tablent sur 10 millions de touristes par an. Ces touristes, avant tout intéressés par le shopping, dépensent allègrement une moyenne quelque HK\$ 5'200.—par voyage. A noter que cette reprise se répercute sur la construction: 50'000 chambres d'hôtels seront construites d'ici 2005 en générant 10'900 emplois. Quant **au tourisme des affaires**³, on mentionnera que HK souhaite d'une part recevoir l'édition 2006 de l'exposition ITU Telecom World et qu'elle sera l'hôte de la sixième ministérielle de l'OMC.

1.33 Aval pour la construction d'un pont qui reliera HK, Macao et Zhuhai (ville du Guangdong). L'étude de faisabilité devrait être menée à terme en octobre 2004. Au-delà de son importance pour des questions de logistique, ce pont contribuera à décongestionner les trois passages aux frontières entre HK et la Chine continentale (Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To et Sha Tau Kok) qui absorbent actuellement un flux quotidien de 45'000 véhicules (65 000 en 2006). D'autres projets d'infrastructure viendront faciliter la circulation des personnes tout en participant au **développement de la région du delta de la rivière des Perles qui constitue le jalon essentiel de l'intégration de HK à l'économie de la Chine continentale.**⁴

1.34 Hong Kong comme future centre offshore pour les opérations en yuans.

Ces diverses mesures viennent d'être complétées par un nouveau coup de pouce à la relance de l'économie hongkongaise par le biais de l'accord donné par la Chine à HK d'offrir des services bancaires en Yuans à partir du 1.1.2004 dans quatre domaines (dépôts, opérations de change, transferts et cartes de crédit). HK renforcera ainsi sa position de place financière internationale et Beijing se donne un instrument pour mieux contrôler les flux du yuan. On trouvera des précisions sur cette question dans l'annexe 2

2 Autres développements

2.1 Rescuse package

En pleine crise de SRAS, le gouvernement a présenté un rescue package d'une valeur globale de HK\$ 11,8 milliards⁵, dont 1 milliard devait permettre à HK de s'engager, dès jugulation de l'épidémie, dans un vaste programme visant à redorer son image par le biais de manifestations ou de campagnes publicitaires destinées à focaliser l'attention internationale sur la ville. Ainsi les équipes de football de Liverpool et du Real Madrid se sont-elles données

² Selon une enquête récente, 30% des résidents des villes et province précitée envisagent de se rendre à Hong Kong dans les deux années à venir.

³ Dans ce contexte, on peut aussi signaler le projet de construction, fin 2004, d'un nouveau centre d'expositions (International Exhibition Centre) près de l'aéroport d'une surface de 66'000 m² dans une première phase, avec une capacité d'agrandissement de 100'000m². Cette construction générera 2000 emplois.

⁴ Il s'y ajoutera encore une voie express (avec pont enjambant la mer) connue sous le nom de Honk Kong – Shenzhen Corridor, appelée pour sa part à gérer 80'000 véhicules supplémentaires. A cela s'ajoute le projet de construction d'une voie ferrée « express » pour train à grande vitesse entre Guangzhou, Shenzhen et Hong Kong.

⁵ Il prévoyait notamment : un allégement fiscal (remboursement de 50% de l'impôt 2001/2002 jusqu'à un maximum de HK\$ 3'000.-). Un engagement de l'état visant à garantir les emprunts à bas taux d'intérêt (3%) que pouvaient contracter, les commerçants des secteurs les plus touchés pour le paiement des salaires du personnel. Nombre de taxes sur les services d'utilité publique ont été réduites. Abolition des taxes sur les licences commerciales pendant une année pour l'hôtellerie, la restauration, les agences de voyage. Réduction des loyers commerciaux pour les commerces situés dans des immeubles du domaine public pendant un trimestre. Création de 21500 places de formation et emplois temporaires (dont 3000 pour le nettoyage et l'entretien de la ville). Dégagement d'un montant de HK\$ 1,5 milliard pour la recherche et la formation médicale. HK\$ 1 milliard a été prévu pour des actions de relation publiques au niveau national et international.

en spectacle sur les pelouses de HK et la ville a reçu nombre de stars de niveau international dans le cadre d'un festival de musique «Harbour Fest» controversé dans la mesure où il vaudra au contribuable une facture de quelque HK\$ 100 millions.

2.2 Consommation, investissements

Le SRAS n'aura finalement pas eu les effets désastreux que l'on a pu craindre en début de crise. **La consommation privée** a reculé de 2% au premier trimestre et de 2,2% au second trimestre. Pour l'ensemble de la période janvier à août 2003, **les ventes au détail** (marchandises) ont décliné de 5,3% en valeur et de 2,8% en volume par rapport à l'an passé, toutefois, le mois d'août a connu la première augmentation de ces ventes depuis le mois de janvier (+1,2% en valeur, + 3% en volume). En octobre, la valeur des ventes au détail a augmenté de 3,8% en valeur et de 4,6% en volume par rapport à octobre 2002, Ces augmentations ont été attribuées à celle du flux de touristes de Chine continentale. La vente des appareils électriques et de matériel photographique a représenté la part la plus importante de ces augmentations (32,2% en volume). Par contre, la vente de véhicules et d'essence a baissé de 25,8% et de 2,8% en volume en octobre (par rapport à cot. 02), ce qui indiquerait que la consommation privée n'a pas complètement repris. Pour les dix mois de janvier à octobre, les ventes au détail ont baissé de 3,9% en valeur et de 1,8% en volume par rapport à la même période de l'an passé. **Les investissements** (immobilier et biens d'équipement) ont décliné de 5,3% au second trimestre après une augmentation de 3,5 % au premier trimestre, en raison surtout de la baisse de l'investissement du logement. Les ventes ont cependant repris en août, avec celle de 7'947 unités, soit une augmentation de 3,8% par rapport à juillet 2003 et de 31,3% par rapport à août 2002. Si elles ont à nouveau baissé en septembre, les milieux de l'immobilier semblent toutefois confiants et des voix demandent à ce que la mesure de gel des ventes aux enchères publiques de terrains (propriétés du gouvernement) jusqu'à la fin de l'année, prise en novembre passé pour stabiliser le marché de l'immobilier⁶, ne soit pas reconduite. En octobre 2003, 11'219 unités ont été enregistrées au registre foncier, soit une augmentation de 63,4% par rapport à sept. 2003 et de 64,8% en comparaison avec octobre 2002.

2.3 Les exportations sont restées le moteur de l'économie

Les exportations de marchandises, l'un des moteurs de la croissance, ont poursuivi leur progression pendant toute l'année et augmenté de 9,4 % (en valeur ; soit HK\$ 164,8 milliards) pour la période de janvier à octobre 2003 (par rapport à la même période en 2002). La valeur des réexportations a augmenté de 10,7% (HK\$ 154 milliards). Les exportations indigènes (produits fabriqués ou contenant de la valeur ajoutée à HK) ont baissé de 5,8% (HK\$ 10,8milliards), ce qui confirme la poursuite du phénomène de délocalisation des bases de production de HK en Chine continentale. Pendant cette période, les importations ont augmenté de 10,2% (HK\$ 169 milliards) et la balance commerciale présente donc un solde déficitaire de HK\$ 4,2 milliards pour les premiers 10 mois de l'année.

2.4 Augmentation des implantations régionales

Il sied encore de relever que selon des statistiques publiées fin octobre, le nombre d'implantations régionales a augmenté. Ainsi, au 2.6.2003 HK comptait 966 sièges régionaux et 2241 bureaux régionaux (contre 948 et 2171 respectivement au 1.6.2002). Parmi les avantages comparatifs relevés par les entreprises, 71% ont mentionné le système fiscal, 68% le libre circulation de l'information, 68% l'absence de contrôle des changes, 67% la qualité des infrastructures et 65% la position géographique de HK. Autres facteurs relevés : la stabilité politique et la sécurité, l'absence de corruption dans le gouvernement, l'état de droit et l'indépendance du système judiciaire.

3 Problèmes : chômage, déficit budgétaire et déflation

3.1 Chômage

Le **taux de chômage** qui s'était établi à 7,2% en décembre 2002 a atteint le record de 8,7% pendant la période de mai à juillet pour baisser à 8,6% et 8,3% à fin août et fin septembre respectivement et à 8% fin octobre 2003 (soit 282'000 chômeurs sur une force de travail totalisant 3,435 millions de personnes). Le nombre de chômeurs entre 15 et 19 ans reste

⁶ Dont les prix ont connu une baisse ininterrompue depuis 1997 (env.70%).

élevé ; il est passé du chiffre record de 26'400 personnes en août à 22'400 personnes en octobre. Cette baisse progressive du chômage est essentiellement attribuée à la reprise du tourisme.

3.2 Déficit budgétaire

Prévu initialement à hauteur de HK\$ 68 milliards **le déficit budgétaire de l'exercice 2003/04 (avril-mars)** s'élevait à HK\$ 81,1 milliards à fin octobre. Néanmoins, compte tenu des rentrées budgétaires (impôts, droit de timbre) le déficit final devrait être inférieur à ce montant en fin d'exercice (des estimations font état de HK\$ 78 millions). Alors que l'on visait l'équilibre budgétaire à l'horizon 2006/2007, ce délai a été reporté à 2008/2009, ce que le nouveau secrétaire aux finances a indiqué fin octobre, dans ce que d'aucuns ont appelé un « mini-budget ». Il en est par ailleurs ressorti que les dépenses du gouvernement devraient être réduites de 11% sur cinq ans. La réduction des dépenses d'investissements entraînera l'abandon de certains projets, comme celui de la construction de bureaux gouvernementaux sur le site Tamar (qui auraient du notamment accueillir celui du Chief Executive). La recherche de nouvelles sources de revenus est à l'ordre du jour, mais l'on ne s'attend pas à l'introduction d'une «sales tax» (taxe à la valeur ajoutée), dans l'immédiat. Une hausse de la taxe d'aéroport (Airport Air Passenger Departure Tax) de HK\$ 80.—à HK\$ 120.— entrera en vigueur en janvier 2004. La privatisation de l'Aiport Authority est à l'ordre du jour ; la législation en l'espèce sera introduite courant 2004. M. Tang présentera son premier budget le 10 mars 2004.

3.3 Déflation

La déflation continue de sévir depuis novembre 1998, soit depuis cinq ans. On s'attend toutefois à ce que ce cycle s'interrompe dans les 12 à 18 mois à venir. En 5 ans, l'indice des prix à la consommation (composite consumer price index) a baissé de 16%. C'est en juillet 2003 que la déflation a atteint le maximum avec un baisse des prix à la consommation de 4%. Elle aura été 3,2% en septembre et de 2,7% en octobre 2003 par rapport à octobre 2002.

4 Accord internationaux et régionaux économiques

Après avoir signé un accord pour éviter la double imposition sur les services de transports maritimes et aériens⁷ avec Singapour le 28 novembre, HK signera un accord pour éviter la double imposition avec la Belgique le 10.12.2004.

5 Relations bilatérales

5.1 Echanges commerciaux

HK reste le second partenaire commercial de la Suisse en Asie. De janvier à juillet 2003, les exportations suisses vers HK se sont élevées à CHF 2'228'173 milliards (-14,1% par rapport à la même période de l'an passé). Les bijoux et métaux précieux (35%) et montres (36,6%) ont constitué l'essentiel de nos exportations en enregistrant toutefois des reculs de -26,5% et -4,7% respectivement. Nos importations ont également reculé (CHF 406'424.— millions ; -26,8%). Bijoux, métaux précieux (41,6%) et montres (29,3%) ont aussi constitué les postes principaux et enregistré un recul de -42,3% et -20,4% respectivement.

5.2 L'affaire Baselworld : dénouement heureux sanctionné par deux visites officielles

Cette année a été marquée par l'épisode de **BASELWORLD**. Suite à l'explosion de l'épidémie de SRAS, une décision de l'Office fédéral de la santé publique (OFSP) a fait obstacle à la participation des exposants de HK à Baselworld. Il en a découlé une crise qui a nui à l'image de la Suisse, ponctuée par une action de réconciliation et soutenue par la visite du **Secrétaire d'état F. von Däniken** venu assister, le 3.9.03 et en présence du Secrétaire aux finances, M. H. Tang, à la cérémonie de signature de l'accord «*Hong Kong returns to Basel*» entre MCH Messe Schweiz AG et le Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Cet accord fixe, pour six ans, les conditions de participation de HK à Baselworld. M. von Däniken s'est adressé aux exposants ayant subi les conséquences de la décision précitée dans le cadre d'une réception «*Switzerland welcomes Hong Kong back to Basel*». Cette visite

⁷ Hong Kong a signé des accords de non double taxation en matière maritime avec la Chine continentale, les USA, les Pays-Bas, la Nouvelle Zélande, la Corée, l'Allemagne et la Norvège. Quant aux services aériens, Hong Kong a signé de tels accords avec 16 partenaires, notamment la Chine continentale, les Pays-Bas et le Canada.

officielle a été suivie de celle du **Conseiller fédéral Joseph Deiss** qui a séjourné à HK les 9 et 10 novembre 2003 à la tête d'une délégation mixte, avec pour objectif principal celui de renforcer le retour à la normalité marqué par celui de HK à Bâle.

5.3 Instruments de la promotion commerciale et économique suisse à HK

En date du 22 octobre, le Swiss Business Council (SBC) a lancé une plaquette commémorative pour marquer son vingtième anniversaire. La centaine de page de cet ouvrage « Festschrift-Commemorative Book » propose un témoignage vivant de la présence suisse à HK - sous forme d'un regard se déplaçant dans le temps (passé, présent et futur) - et de la participation de nos compatriotes à l'essor économique de la ville dans nombre de secteurs d'activité. Cette plaquette peut être obtenue à via le site internet du SBC www.swissbiz.org. Ce site a également été lancé le 22 octobre et le SBC le met à disposition des PME recherchant des partenaires à HK.

6 Perspectives

HK poursuit son intégration avec l'économie de Chine continentale. Elle passera en premier lieu par la région du Delta de la Rivière des Perles que d'aucuns décrivent comme la région économique la plus riche et la plus ouverte de Chine continentale. HK y jouerait un rôle de base opérationnelle (centre d'affaires et de décisions) pour les entreprises qui utiliserait la région du delta pour leur production (à un coût bien moindre qu'à HK). Début septembre, le Chief Executive, M. Tung Chee-hwa, s'adressant à un forum d'investisseurs a rappelé l'intention de HK de **se renforcer d'une part en tant que place financière**, d'autre part en tant que **centre d'affaires** (elle accueille déjà 3200 entreprises de caractère international et la Banque Mondiale vient de lui attribuer le 8ème rang des pays où les entreprises peuvent s'installer facilement). On notera ici que selon le « World Investment Report 2003 » de l'UNCTAD, HK est la seconde destination asiatique des investissements directs étrangers (FDI) avec US\$ 13.7 milliards en 2002 (en déclin par rapport à 2001/US\$ 23,7 milliards, déclin qui a prévalu dans toute la région) après la Chine continentale (US\$ 52,7 milliards)⁸. Enfin, forte du CEPA, HK envisage de **compléter ses atouts (hub de services professionnels, centre de logistique, destination touristique) en attirant des industries à «haute valeur ajoutée»**. C'est « en remontant la chaîne des valeurs » (moving up the value added chain) que HK poursuit sa **restructuration**, dans l'optique de reprendre le chemin d'une croissance soutenue. On ajoutera que les milieux d'affaires affichent un certain optimisme. En effet, il ressort d'une récente enquête de la Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce auprès de ses quelque 4000 membres, que les milieux d'affaires s'attendent à ce que les conditions d'affaires et économiques s'améliorent pendant les deux années à venir (20% s'attendent à des conditions bonnes à très bonnes pour 2004 – contre 3,1% l'an passé – et 43,6% voient 2005 de la même manière). Elles ont aussi affiché leur optimisme en termes d'emploi, de déflation et d'investissements. Interrogées pour la première fois en matière de politique ces entreprises ont indiqué attendre des réformes politiques à court terme. Nombre d'observateurs prévoient que sauf incident, tel qu'une nouvelle flambée épidémique de SRAS, et pour autant que la conjoncture soit clément, le taux de croissance de 2004 devrait atteindre de 4% à 5%⁹ avec pour corollaire une baisse du chômage à 6,5%.

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Annexes :

- 1 An update on the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) between Mainland China and Hong Kong
- 2 Note Services bancaires en yuans.

⁸ Divers experts ont revu leurs prévisions pour 2004 à la hausse, comme Goldmann Sachs (de 5% à 6%) ou Merrill Lynch (de 5,4% à 6,3%). Morgan Stanley s'avance plus prudemment en annonçant un taux de 4,5%.
⁹ suivent le Japon (US\$ 9,3 milliards) Singapour (US\$ 7,7 milliards), la Malaisie et la Corée du Sud.

Services bancaires en yuans à Hong Kong

Le 18 novembre 2004, le Chief Executive, M. Tung Chee-hwa annonçait que la Banque Populaire de Chine (People's Bank of China /PBoC) avait donné son accord à la création d'un instrument de clearing qui permettra aux banques de Hong Kong de conduire des affaires en yuans. Le lendemain, un accord en l'espèce était signé entre le la PBoC et la Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Il permettra aux banques honkongaises habilitées (licensed banks) d'offrir des services en yuans dans quatre domaines (comptes individuels, opérations de change, transferts et cartes de crédit). Cet accord qui permettra à Beijing de mieux contrôler les flux du yuan (encore connu sous le nom de renminbi) représente par ailleurs un nouveau coup de pouce du gouvernement central à la relance économique de Hong Kong qui trouve par ce biais un nouvel instrument d'intégration à l'économie de la Chine continentale.

Les services bancaires suivants seront introduits progressivement dès le 1.1.2004, à titre d'essai :

Comptes personnels : les résidents de Hong Kong pourront ouvrir des comptes privés en yuans auprès des banques honkongaises habilitées qui pourront notamment fixer les taux d'intérêts applicables.

Opérations de change : les titulaires de tels comptes pourront convertir des yuans en HK\$ (et en US\$) jusqu'à concurrence de 20'000.- yuans par jour, la limite pour les personnes non détentrices de comptes étant fixée à 6'000.-yuans. Cette possibilité de changer des yuans auprès des banques sera aussi offerte aux détaillants engagés dans le commerce de la consommation privée pour la conversion de leurs recettes en HK\$.

Transferts : les détenteurs de comptes en yuans pourront transférer des fonds de leur compte honkongais sur des comptes ouverts à leur nom en Chine continentale. Ce à raison de HK\$ 50'000.-- par jour et par personne.

Cartes de Crédit : les banques honkongaises pourront établir des cartes de crédit en yuans pour les titulaires de comptes en yuans. Par ailleurs les banques de Chine continentale pourront délivrer de telles cartes à leurs clients pour leurs dépenses à Hong Kong.

L'introduction de ces mesures **permettra à Beijing de mieux contrôler les mouvements de sa monnaie** et à la rapatrier de Hong Kong par le biais d'un canal officiel jusqu'ici non existant. On estime officieusement que quelque 50 à 80 (sinon 100) milliards de yuans circulent à Hong Kong entre matelas, bas de laine et autres zones grises. Ces mesures qui stimuleront l'activité bancaire de Hong Kong s'inscrivent d'autre part en **nouveau soutien du gouvernement central à la revitalisation de l'économie de Hong Kong** après, notamment, la signature de l'accord de libre échange CEPA/Closer économique partnership arrangement. Le rôle de Hong Kong en tant que place financière internationale sera d'autant plus renforcé que d'aucuns voient dans ce nouvel accord un premier pas vers la pleine convertibilité du yuan et vers la création à Hong Kong d'un **centre offshore pour les opérations en renminbi**.

Ces mesures participent par ailleurs au propos de la ville de renforcer son intégration avec la Chine continentale. Elle passera en l'occurrence par un rapprochement des systèmes financiers par le biais d'un **institut de clearing** qui sera l'un des principaux bénéficiaires du système vu que la PBoC lui versera des intérêts sur les dépôts qu'il gérera. Ce rôle pourrait être dévolu à la Bank of China (Hong Kong), favorite alors que la HSBC et la Standard Chartered semblent aussi le viser.

Les services en yuans seront donc limités aux transactions individuelles. Les revenus des banques se limiteront aux commissions perçues sur les opérations de change, de transferts, ou

aux commissions et intérêts en rapport avec les cartes de crédits. Si les banques devront servir des intérêts sur les comptes en yuans, elles ne pourront cependant pas bénéficier du retour d'intérêts sur prêts en yuan, prêts qu'elles ne seront pas habilitées à octroyer. La flexibilité dont bénéficieront les touristes du continent devenus détenteurs de cartes de crédit libellées en yuans représentera une source de profit substantielle pour les commerçants hongkongais. En effet, la récente relance du tourisme ne cesse de se consolider (grâce notamment à l'autorisation donnée par Beijing aux touristes de Beijing, Shanghai et de certaines villes de la province du Guangdong de voyager à titre individuel et non plus en groupes). De janvier à octobre 2003 le nombre de touristes de Chine continentale a augmenté de 21,2% par rapport à la même période de l'an passé, pour s'établir à plus de 6'500'000 voyageurs. On ignore toutefois si l'usage de la carte de crédit permettra des dépenses supérieures à 6'000.-yuans par voyage, montant auquel les voyageurs en provenance de Chine continentale doivent actuellement limiter leurs dépenses. Quant à la possibilité offerte aux détenteurs de comptes en yuans de transférer des fonds en Chine continentale ou d'utiliser leurs cartes de crédit en yuans elle profitera par exemple aux hommes d'affaires hongkongais voyageant régulièrement en Chine continentale ou encore aux hongkongais y disposant d'une résidence secondaire. En tout état de cause, l'ensemble de ces mesures contribuera à faciliter la circulation transfrontalière.

Pour certains observateurs, l'ouverture de comptes en renminbi générateurs d'intérêts pourrait contribuer à une relance de l'inflation bienvenue alors que la déflation fragilise l'économie hongkongaise depuis cinq ans. D'autres s'attendent à ce que la gestion de ces comptes permette de créer de nouveaux emplois.

L'association des banques de Hong Kong a d'ores et déjà souhaité que des comptes en yuans puissent être ouverts par des entreprises et que l'on ne se limite pas à une seule banque de règlements. A en croire un commentaire du gouverneur de la PBoC, M. Zhou Xiaochuan ce pourrait être le cas lorsque le volume des affaires aura atteint un certain niveau. Pour lui, ces mesures représentent par ailleurs le début d'une coopération à long terme qui laissera peut-être place à d'autres opportunités.

Le Consul général de Suisse
p.o. J.-F. Lichtenstern

An update on the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) between Mainland China and Hong Kong

Introduction

The Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) was signed between the Central People's Government (CPG) and the HKSAR Government on 29th June 2003. This paper is an update on the recent development characterised by the signature of the above mentioned parties on the six CEPA Annexes on 29th September 2003.

The CEPA covers three broad areas, namely **trade in goods**, **trade in services**, and **trade and investment facilitation**. The Trade and Industry Department (TID) of the HKSAR Government is competent for binding information and full text of CEPA, including its Annexes, can be found at their website (<http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa>). Interested parties are advised to consult the TID of the HKSAR Government before taking any decision.

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Trade in Goods (Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of CEPA)

a) Import tariffs

Mainland China agrees to apply **zero import tariff** from 1st January 2004 for exports from Hong Kong meeting the rules of origin requirement in **273 types** of products. They include electrical and electronic products, plastic and paper articles, textiles and clothing, chemical and pharmaceutical products, clocks and watches, jewellery, cosmetics and metal products. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the 2003 product code list (the 273 categories). According to the TID, the 2004 product code list should be published before the end of 2003.

For other products not covered in the initial phase, the Mainland will apply zero tariff latest by 1st January 2006 upon applications by local manufacturers and upon CEPA rules of origin being agreed and met.

b) CEPA Rules of Origin

In respect of the 273 Mainland product codes covered in the initial phase:

- **Hong Kong's existing origin rules** for 187 (68%) product codes such as textiles and clothing, jewellery, cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, and plastic and paper articles;
- "**Change in Tariff Heading approach**" ¹for 46 (17%) product codes, such as chemical products, metal products, and some electronic products and electronic components; and
- **30% value-added requirement** for 40 (15%) product codes, such as some electronic and optical components, watches and clocks, and watch movements. Product development costs (e.g. design, development, intellectual property rights, etc.) incurred in Hong Kong shall be taken into account in calculating the value-added percentage.

To enjoy tariff preference, products importing into the Mainland must be accompanied by a Certificate of Hong Kong Origin-CEPA (CO(CEPA)) issued by the TID or one of the Government Approved Certification Organizations².

¹ A "CTH" origin rule means that the products have been manufactured to the extent that their classification in the World Customs Organization Harmonized System falls in a different four-digit heading from the classification of the non-originating constituent materials used. It is widely used by most of WTO members.

² There are five Government Approved Certification Organizations (GACOs) designated to issue certificates of origin: Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce; Federation of Hong Kong Industries; Indian Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong; Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong; Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

Trade in Services (Annex 4 of CEPA)

The two sides agreed the liberalization of 17 service sectors on 29th June 2003 and recently telecommunication service sector was also included (18 in total) :

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| management consulting services | convention and exhibition services | advertising services |
| accounting services | real estate and construction services | medical and dental services |
| distribution services | freight forwarding agency services | logistics services |
| transport services | storage and warehousing services | tourism services |
| audiovisual services | legal services | banking services |
| securities services | telecommunications services | insurance services |

Please see Appendix 2 for the details of the liberalization measures of the 18 services sectors granted to Hong Kong service suppliers.

"Hong Kong Service Suppliers" (HKSS) (Annex 5 of CEPA)

Generally speaking, "juridical persons" including companies, partnerships, sole proprietorships, as well as "natural persons" of Hong Kong will be able to enjoy preferential treatment granted by the Mainland in CEPA Annex 4 provided that they fulfil the definition and related requirements of Hong Kong service suppliers stipulated in CEPA Annex 5. A "natural person" means a Hong Kong permanent resident whereas a "juridical person" means any legal entity duly constituted or otherwise organized under the applicable laws of Hong Kong and has engaged in substantive business operations in Hong Kong for three to five years.

Hong Kong service supplier as a juridical person should apply to the TID for a Certificate of Hong Kong Service Supplier before it can obtain the preferential treatment under CEPA. It should submit to TID an application form, a copy of statutory declaration attested by an attesting officer recognized by the Mainland, as well as relevant documents to substantiate that -

- it has been incorporated or established according to the applicable laws of Hong Kong. In this regard, the service supplier should provide as appropriate certified true copies of its Certificate of Incorporation, Business Registration Certificate and Extract of Information on the Register of Businesses; and
- it has engaged in substantive business operations in Hong Kong. The criteria for determination include -
 - i) the nature and scope of its business in Hong Kong (it should include the services it intends to provide in Mainland);
 - ii) the **years of operations** in Hong Kong. For **most services**, it should **at least** be **3 years**. For **construction, banking and insurance services**, the years of operation should **at least** be **5 years** while there is no limitation on the years of operation for real estate services;
 - iii) paying profit tax in accordance with the law of Hong Kong;
 - iv) owning or renting premises for business operations in Hong Kong which commensurate with the scope and the scale of the enterprise's business; and
 - v) at least 50% of employees engaged in the substantive business operations in Hong Kong are residents staying in Hong Kong without limit of stay and people from the Mainland staying in Hong Kong on One Way Permit.

After obtaining the Certificate of Hong Kong Service Supplier, the service supplier can apply to the relevant Mainland authorities for the provision of relevant services in the Mainland under CEPA.

A Hong Kong service supplier who wants to obtain CEPA treatment as a natural person should provide to the relevant Mainland authorities identification of his or her Hong Kong permanent resident status. He or she should also provide his/her Home Visit Permit or HKSAR passport if he or she is a Chinese citizen. Copies of the identification documents should be attested by an attesting officer recognized by the Mainland.

Trade and Investment Facilitation (Annex 6 of CEPA)

Both sides have reached agreement on enhancing co-operation in the following seven areas:

- (i). trade and investment promotion;
- (ii). customs clearance facilitation;
- (iii). commodity inspection and quarantine, food safety, quality and standardization;
- (iv). electronic business;
- (v). transparency in laws and regulations;
- (vi). co-operation of small and medium enterprises; and
- (vii). co-operation in Chinese medicine industry.

The two sides agreed on the contents and modalities of co-operation for each of the seven areas above, and that new areas of trade and investment facilitation might be added in future.

How can foreign companies take advantage

As far as trade in goods is concerned, should foreign companies produce products (under the 273 categories of goods) in Hong Kong and meeting the rules of origin requirement, they can enjoy zero tariffs when exporting to Mainland China from 1st January 2004.

For other products than the 273 categories of goods, zero tariff will also be granted latest by 1st January 2006. In this case, foreign companies who wish to include their products (**made in Hong Kong**) in the second phase of tariff elimination may make their requests to the TID starting from 1st January 2004,. They are required to produce relevant **information regarding their manufacturing of the products in Hong Kong**.

To be eligible as a " Hong Kong Service Supplier ", there are some criteria to meet as mentioned in previous paragraphs. Nevertheless, if a foreign company completes a merger or acquisition of an enterprise (more than 50% of the enterprise's equity interest) which fulfils the eligibility criteria as a " Hong Kong Service Supplier " before the day CEPA comes into effect (i.e. June 29, 2003), the company in question will be treated as a " Hong Kong Service Supplier ". However, if the **merger and acquisition** in question is **completed on and after 29th June, 2003**, the company will **enjoy the status of a " Hong Kong Service Supplier " after one year of merger and acquisition**.

Impact of CEPA

The zero import tariff preference may attract to Hong Kong manufacturing of **brand name products** and manufacturing process with **high value-added content** as well as development of **high intellectual property value industries** that target the Mainland market (since Hong Kong excels Mainland China in the issue of intellectual property rights protection). Industries that are more likely to be benefited include fashion, jewellery and hi-end watches. However, since the operation cost in Hong Kong is still much higher than the Mainland, low-end and labour intensive manufacturing is likely to stay in Mainland

The **real significance** of the CEPA is in the **trade in services**. Services sectors is accounting for only 34% of China's GDP and have become a constraint on the Mainland's economic development. In case of Hong Kong, services representing 86.5% of GDP are well developed and will be able to contribute more to the modernization of Mainland under CEPA.

CEPA lowers the thresholds for Hong Kong companies, allowing them have an "effective" market access to the Mainland's services sector, though they have to face keen competition from Mainland Chinese and multinational companies.

Hong Kong **professionals** and residents will also **benefit** from CEPA. Hong Kong professionals in **the securities and insurance industries** can **apply to practise** on the Mainland and **Hong Kong permanent residents** are permitted to **sit the legal qualifying examination** on the Mainland. Moreover, Hong Kong permanent residents are formally permitted to **engage in retail activity in Guangdong**. All this suggests that in future more Hong Kong people in the services sectors are likely to seek employment and business opportunities on the Mainland.

CEPA does provide a " feel-good " factor much needed in Hong Kong which is encountering consecutive 60-month deflation, high unemployment rate (8% Aug-Oct. 2003, already dropped from 8.6% April-June 2003 and 8.3% July-Sept 2003) and property slump (to its 1/3 valuation since 1997).

The immediate benefits can be seen from the early implementation of tourism services under CEPA. Mainland residents from 7 cities in Guangdong Province, Shanghai and Beijing can now visit Hong Kong under the individual travel scheme (it had to be organised in groups in the past). The increased inflow of these visitors and their spending has brought impetus to tourism-related sectors such as retailing. Retail sales volume grew by 8.3% in the third quarter of 2003 compared with the preceding quarter. October 2003 saw 878,581 Mainland arrivals (+31%, year-on-year basis) which included 147,594 visitors travelling under the individual travel scheme. However, since tourist spending accounted for only about 6% of GDP in 2002, Hang Seng Bank therefore estimated an additional 1 million Mainland visitors would only directly add about 0.27% in extra GDP growth.

More importantly, CEPA provides a framework to remove or reduce barriers and restrictions which will permit freer bilateral flows in goods, funds, people and services. It offers an excellent opportunity for Hong Kong companies and people to participate in fast-growing Chinese economy which sustained 7-8% GDP growth in the past 6 years.

It is true that Hong Kong has been increasingly integrated into mainland economy, with or without CEPA. Nevertheless, CEPA has laid a formalised framework to further strengthen Hong Kong partnership with the Pearl River Delta and promote high value-added financial and business services to the Delta area and even the whole country.

The latest development saw the **agreement between Hong Kong and Shanghai to co-operate in 8 sectors** under the framework of CEPA on 27th October, 2003. It included airport infrastructure and management, port infrastructure and management, 2010 Shanghai World Expo, tourism, conventions and exhibitions, trade and investment, education, public health and sports, financial services and human resources exchange. It is another example for Hong Kong to cement economic and trade ties with Mainland. Hong Kong and Shanghai, two cities from the Pearl River Delta and Yangtze Delta respectively, China's two strongest regions, will still compete with each other inevitably but they will also work and co-operate more closely for mutual benefits. Shanghai is keen to tap the strength of Hong Kong to enhance its competitiveness while the opening of Shanghai's economy, particularly its service sectors, will provide new opportunities for Hong Kong.

Conclusion

CEPA will not be a magic cure for all the economic plight. Nevertheless, the pace of Hong Kong's economic restructuring will accelerate under CEPA which provides a WTO-plus framework for Hong Kong's economic development to be connected more concretely to China's economic progress. It will reinforce Hong Kong as an international financial, commercial, logistics and communication hub. It is noteworthy that CEPA is not an one-off arrangement. Some proposed measures to further increase flows of funds and people to Hong Kong such as the Qualified Domestic Institutional Investors scheme, offshore renminbi financial transactions in Hong Kong are currently under consideration. As it touches capital control of China, China has to assess the risks involved. Should they be materialised, it would undoubtedly further strengthen the status of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

Wing Kai, Chan
Trade Section
The Consulate General of Switzerland
Hong Kong, 2nd December 2003

Appendix 1 List of Hong Kong origin products for zero import tariff

Appendix 2 liberalization measures of the 18 services sectors granted to HK service suppliers

Sources :

HKSAR Government, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Hang Seng Bank, SCMP (press), Standard (press)

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Appendix 1

List of Hong Kong Origin Products for Implementation of Zero Import Tariff by the Mainland

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 21050000 | Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa | 24.2 | 0 |
| 2 | 27100054 | Lubricating oils | 6.0 | 0 |
| 3 | 28433000 | Gold compounds | 5.5 | 0 |
| 4 | 30041011 | Ampicillin | 6.0 | 0 |
| 5 | 30041012 | Amoxycillin | 6.0 | 0 |
| 6 | 30041013 | Penicillin V | 6.0 | 0 |
| 7 | 30041019 | Other medicaments containing penicillins | 6.0 | 0 |
| 8 | 30041090 | Other medicaments put up in measured doses, with penicillin or | 6.0 | 0 |
| 9 | 30049054 | Essential balm | 3.0 | 0 |
| 10 | 30049059 | Other medicaments of Chinese type | 3.0 | 0 |
| 11 | 30049090 | Other medicaments put up in measured doses | 4.0 | 0 |
| 12 | 32041600 | Reactive dyes and preparations based thereon | 9.6 | 0 |
| 13 | 32041700 | Pigments and preparations based thereon | 6.5 | 0 |
| 14 | 32064900 | Other inorganic colouring matter and other preparations | 6.5 | 0 |
| 15 | 32081000 | Paints and varnishes etc., based on polyesters, and dissolved in a non- | 10.0 | 0 |
| 16 | 32089090 | Other paints and varnish solutions, dissolved in a nonaqueous medium | 10.0 | 0 |
| 17 | 32100000 | Other paints and varnishes; prepared water pigments of a kind used for | 10.0 | 0 |
| 18 | 32151900 | Other printing ink | 8.2 | 0 |
| 19 | 33029000 | Other mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures with a basis of one or more of these substances, of a kind used as raw materials in industry | 21.7 | 0 |
| 20 | 33030000 | Perfumes and toilet waters | 18.3 | 0 |
| 21 | 33041000 | Lip make-up preparations | 18.3 | 0 |
| 22 | 33042000 | Eye make-up preparations | 18.3 | 0 |
| 23 | 33043000 | Manicure or pedicure preparations | 21.7 | 0 |
| 24 | 33049900 | Other beauty or make-up preparations | 22.3 | 0 |
| 25 | 35069900 | Other prepared glues and other prepared adhesives, not specified elsewhere | 15.0 | 0 |
| 26 | 38099100 | Other products and preparations, not specified elsewhere, of a kind used in the textile industry | 6.5 | 0 |
| 27 | 38249090 | Other chemical products, not elsewhere specified | 6.5 | 0 |
| 28 | 39031900 | Other polystyrene in primary forms | 11.8 | 0 |
| 29 | 39042200 | Plasticized polyvinyl chloride, in primary forms | 11.8 | 0 |
| 30 | 39151000 | Waste, parings and scrap, of polymers of ethylene | 11.8 | 0 |
| 31 | 39152000 | Waste, parings and scrap, of polymers of styrene | 11.8 | 0 |
| 32 | 39153000 | Waste, parings and scrap, of polymers of vinyl chloride | 11.8 | 0 |
| 33 | 39159000 | Waste, parings and scrap, of other plastics | 11.8 | 0 |
| 34 | 39204100 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of rigid polymers of vinyl chloride | 10.4 | 0 |
| 35 | 39204200 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of flexible polymers of vinyl chloride | 10.4 | 0 |
| 36 | 39209990 | Other non-cellular plates and sheets, of other plastics | 8.4 | 0 |
| 37 | 39211210 | Cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, combined with textile fabrics | 12.7 | 0 |
| 38 | 39231000 | Boxes, cases and similar articles, of plastics | 12.0 | 0 |
| 39 | 39232900 | Sacks and bags, of other plastics | 12.0 | 0 |
| 40 | 39239000 | Other articles for the conveyance or packing of goods, of plastics | 12.0 | 0 |
| 41 | 39269010 | Parts of machines or instruments, of plastics | 10.0 | 0 |
| 42 | 39269090 | Other articles of plastics | 12.0 | 0 |
| 43 | 41041000 | Whole bovine skin leather, of a unit surface area not exceeding 2.6 square | 6.4 | 0 |
| 44 | 41043990 | Other leather of bovine or equine animals | 7.2 | 0 |
| 45 | 48051000 | Semi-chemical fluting paper (corrugating medium) | 10.4 | 0 |
| 46 | 48056000 | Other thin uncoated paper and paperboard | 6.3 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 47 | 48058000 | Other thick uncoated paper and paperboard | 10.4 | 0 |
| 48 | 48101200 | Thick writing and printing paper and paperboard, coated with inorganic | 7.0 | 0 |
| 49 | 48102900 | Other writing and printing paper and paperboard, coated with inorganic | 7.0 | 0 |
| 50 | 48109100 | Multi-ply paper and paperboard, coated with inorganic substance | 7.0 | 0 |
| 51 | 48119000 | Other coated, impregnated or covered paper and paperboard | 7.5 | 0 |
| 52 | 48191000 | Cartons, boxes and cases, of corrugated paper or paperboard | 11.7 | 0 |
| 53 | 48192000 | Folding cartons, boxes and cases, of non-corrugated paper or paperboard | 11.7 | 0 |
| 54 | 48211000 | Printed paper or paperboard labels of all kinds | 10.0 | 0 |
| 55 | 48239090 | Other paper and articles of paper | 13.3 | 0 |
| 56 | 49111090 | Other trade advertising material and the like | 7.5 | 0 |
| 57 | 49119900 | Other printed matters | 7.5 | 0 |
| 58 | 50072019 | Other fabrics of bombyx mori silk | 13.4 | 0 |
| 59 | 51071000 | Yarn of combed wool, not put up for retail sale | 8.0 | 0 |
| 60 | 51121900 | Fabrics of combed wool, of a weight exceeding 200g/square meter | 16.7 | 0 |
| 61 | 52051100 | Cotton single yarn, measuring high decitex, carded, not put up for retail sale | 5.0 | 0 |
| 62 | 52051200 | Cotton single yarn, measuring medium decitex, carded, not put up for retail | 5.0 | 0 |
| 63 | 52052200 | Cotton single yarn, measuring medium decitex, combed, not put up for retail | 5.0 | 0 |
| 64 | 52053200 | Cotton multiple or cabled yarn, measuring medium decitex, carded, not put | 5.0 | 0 |
| 65 | 52054200 | Cotton multiple or cabled yarn, measuring medium decitex, combed, not put up for retail sale | 5.0 | 0 |
| 66 | 52083200 | Lighter weight plain weave cotton fabric, dyed | 10.0 | 0 |
| 67 | 52083300 | Light weight 3-thread or 4-thread twill cotton fabric, dyed | 10.0 | 0 |
| 68 | 52083900 | Other light weight cotton fabrics, dyed | 10.0 | 0 |
| 69 | 52084200 | Light weight plain weave cotton fabric, of yarns of different colours | 10.0 | 0 |
| 70 | 52084900 | Other light weight cotton fabrics, of yarns of different colours | 10.0 | 0 |
| 71 | 52091200 | Heavy weight 3-thread or 4-thread twill cotton fabric, unbleached | 11.8 | 0 |
| 72 | 52093100 | Heavy weight plain weave cotton fabric, dyed | 11.8 | 0 |
| 73 | 52093200 | Heavy weight 3-thread or 4-thread twill cotton fabric, dyed | 11.8 | 0 |
| 74 | 52093900 | Other heavy weight cotton fabrics, dyed | 11.8 | 0 |
| 75 | 52094100 | Heavy weight plain weave cotton fabric, of yarns of different colours | 11.8 | 0 |
| 76 | 52094200 | Heavy weight twill cotton fabric (denim), of yarns of different colours | 10.0 | 0 |
| 77 | 52094300 | Heavy weight 3-thread or 4-thread twill cotton fabric, of yarns of different | 11.8 | 0 |
| 78 | 52103100 | Light weight plain weave cotton fabric mixed with man-made fibres, dyed | 12.6 | 0 |
| 79 | 53091900 | Other fabrics of mainly flax | 12.4 | 0 |
| 80 | 53092900 | Other fabrics of flax, mixed with other textile materials | 12.4 | 0 |
| 81 | 54011010 | Sewing thread of synthetic filaments, not put up for retail sale | 8.2 | 0 |
| 82 | 54074200 | Fabrics of mainly nylon, dyed | 18.7 | 0 |
| 83 | 54074300 | Fabrics of mainly nylon, of yarns of different colours | 18.7 | 0 |
| 84 | 54075200 | Fabrics of mainly textured polyester filaments, dyed | 18.7 | 0 |
| 85 | 54076100 | Other fabrics, of mainly non-textured polyester filaments | 18.7 | 0 |
| 86 | 54077200 | Other fabrics, of mainly synthetic filaments, dyed | 18.7 | 0 |
| 87 | 54079200 | Other fabrics of synthetic filaments mixed with other textile materials, dyed | 18.7 | 0 |
| 88 | 55081000 | Sewing thread of synthetic staple fibres | 11.0 | 0 |
| 89 | 55093200 | Multiple or cabled yarn, of mainly acrylic or modacrylic staple fibres, not put up for retail sale | 11.0 | 0 |
| 90 | 55121900 | Other fabrics, of mainly polyester | 18.7 | 0 |
| 91 | 55129900 | Other fabrics, of mainly synthetic fibres | 18.7 | 0 |
| 92 | 55132100 | Light weight plain weave fabric of polyester fibres, mixed with cotton, dyed | 18.7 | 0 |
| 93 | 55161200 | Fabrics, of mainly artificial staple fibres, dyed | 17.3 | 0 |
| 94 | 58012200 | Cut corduroy, of cotton | 12.5 | 0 |
| 95 | 58042100 | Mechanically made lace of man-made fibres | 17.3 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 96 | 58062000 | Narrow fabrics, containing by weight 5% or more of elastomeric yarn or | 16.7 | 0 |
| 97 | 58071000 | Woven labels, badges and similar articles of textile materials, not | 16.7 | 0 |
| 98 | 59031020 | Imitation leather impregnated, coated, with polyvinyl chloride | 13.0 | 0 |
| 99 | 59031090 | Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, with polyvinyl chloride | 13.2 | 0 |
| 100 | 59032090 | Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, with polyurethane | 13.2 | 0 |
| 101 | 59039090 | Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, with other plastics | 13.2 | 0 |
| 102 | 60019200 | Knitted or crocheted pile fabrics, of man-made fibres | 16.0 | 0 |
| 103 | 60023010 | Cotton knitted or crocheted fabric of a width exceeding 30cm | 12.5 | 0 |
| 104 | 60023090 | Other knitted or crocheted fabrics of a width exceeding 30cm | 16.0 | 0 |
| 105 | 60024200 | Warp knit fabric of cotton | 12.5 | 0 |
| 106 | 60029200 | Other knitted or crocheted fabrics of cotton | 12.5 | 0 |
| 107 | 60029300 | Other knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres | 16.0 | 0 |
| 108 | 61046200 | Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls etc., knitted or crocheted | 17.7 | 0 |
| 109 | 61051000 | Men's or boys' shirts, knitted or crocheted and of cotton | 17.7 | 0 |
| 110 | 61052000 | Men's or boys' shirts, knitted or crocheted and of man-made fibres | 21.3 | 0 |
| 111 | 61059000 | Men's or boys' shirts, knitted or crocheted and of other textile materials | 20.5 | 0 |
| 112 | 61061000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, knitted or crocheted and | 17.7 | 0 |
| 113 | 61062000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, knitted or crocheted and of man-made fibres | 21.3 | 0 |
| 114 | 61069000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, knitted or crocheted and of other textile materials | 20.5 | 0 |
| 115 | 61071100 | Men's or boys' underpants, briefs, knitted or crocheted and of cotton | 16.3 | 0 |
| 116 | 61083100 | Women's or girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, knitted or crocheted and of | 16.3 | 0 |
| 117 | 61091000 | T-shirts, singlets, etc., knitted or crocheted and of cotton | 16.3 | 0 |
| 118 | 61099090 | T-shirts, singlets, etc., knitted or crocheted and of other textile materials | 19.5 | 0 |
| 119 | 61101010 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of Angora, Tibetan, Kashmir or similar goats wool | 19.5 | 0 |
| 120 | 61101020 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of wool | 19.5 | 0 |
| 121 | 61101030 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of rabbit or hare hair | 19.5 | 0 |
| 122 | 61101090 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of other animal hair | 19.5 | 0 |
| 123 | 61102000 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of cotton | 14.0 | 0 |
| 124 | 61103000 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of man-made fibres | 19.0 | 0 |
| 125 | 61109010 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of silk or silk waste | 19.5 | 0 |
| 126 | 61109090 | Jerseys, pullovers etc., knitted or crocheted and of other textile materials | 19.5 | 0 |
| 127 | 61112000 | Babies' garments and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted and of | 16.3 | 0 |
| 128 | 61179000 | Parts of garments or of clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted and of other textile material | 19.5 | 0 |
| 129 | 62034210 | Men's or boys' Arabian trousers, of cotton | 18.5 | 0 |
| 130 | 62034290 | Men's or boys' trousers, bib and brace overalls, etc., of cotton | 18.5 | 0 |
| 131 | 62043200 | Women's or girls' jackets, of cotton | 17.7 | 0 |
| 132 | 62043300 | Women's or girls' jackets, of synthetic fibres | 21.3 | 0 |
| 133 | 62045200 | Skirts and divided skirts, of cotton | 16.3 | 0 |
| 134 | 62046200 | Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, etc., of cotton | 17.7 | 0 |
| 135 | 62046300 | Women's or girls' trousers, bib and brace overalls, etc., of synthetic fibres | 21.3 | 0 |
| 136 | 62052000 | Men's or boys' shirts, of cotton | 17.7 | 0 |
| 137 | 62053000 | Men's or boys' shirts, of man-made fibres | 20.5 | 0 |
| 138 | 62059090 | Men's or boys' shirts, of other textile materials | 20.5 | 0 |
| 139 | 62063000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, of cotton | 17.7 | 0 |
| 140 | 62064000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, of man-made fibres | 21.3 | 0 |
| 141 | 62069000 | Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt-blouses, of other textile materials | 20.5 | 0 |
| 142 | 62082200 | Women's or girls' nightdresses and pyjamas, of man-made fibres | 19.0 | 0 |
| 143 | 62179000 | Parts of garments or of clothing accessories, non-knitted or crocheted | 19.5 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 144 | 63025190 | Other table linen, of cotton | 16.3 | 0 |
| 145 | 64069900 | Parts of footwear, gaiters etc., of other materials | 17.0 | 0 |
| 146 | 70195900 | Other woven fabrics of glass fibres | 12.0 | 0 |
| 147 | 70200011 | Conductivity glass | 10.5 | 0 |
| 148 | 71023100 | Unworked or simply worked non-industrial diamonds | 3.0 | 0 |
| 149 | 71131100 | Articles of jewellery and parts, of silver | 26.7 | 0 |
| 150 | 71131910 | Articles of jewellery and parts, of gold | 26.7 | 0 |
| 151 | 71131990 | Articles of jewellery and parts, of other precious metal | 35.0 | 0 |
| 152 | 71132000 | Articles of jewellery and parts, of base metal clad with precious metal | 35.0 | 0 |
| 153 | 71141100 | Articles of silversmiths' wares and parts | 35.0 | 0 |
| 154 | 71141900 | Articles of goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares and parts, of precious metal | 35.0 | 0 |
| 155 | 71142000 | Articles of goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares and parts, of base metal clad with precious metal | 35.0 | 0 |
| 156 | 71151000 | Catalysts in the form of wire cloth or grill, of platinum | 3.0 | 0 |
| 157 | 71159010 | Articles of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal, for technical or laboratory use | 3.0 | 0 |
| 158 | 71159090 | Articles of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal, for other use | 35.0 | 0 |
| 159 | 71161000 | Articles of natural or cultured pearls | 35.0 | 0 |
| 160 | 71162000 | Articles of precious or semi-precious stones | 35.0 | 0 |
| 161 | 71171100 | Cuff-links and studs of base metal | 35.0 | 0 |
| 162 | 71171900 | Other imitation jewellery of base metal | 24.7 | 0 |
| 163 | 71179000 | Other imitation jewellery of materials not specified elsewhere | 35.0 | 0 |
| 164 | 73181500 | Other screws and bolts | 8.0 | 0 |
| 165 | 73269090 | Other articles of iron or steel, not for technical use | 10.4 | 0 |
| 166 | 74040000 | Copper waste and scrap | 1.5 | 0 |
| 167 | 74081900 | Other refined copper wire, of which the maximum cross-sectional dimension not exceeding 6mm | 4.0 | 0 |
| 168 | 74092100 | Brass plates, sheets and strip, in coils | 7.0 | 0 |
| 169 | 74092900 | Other brass plates, sheets and strip | 7.0 | 0 |
| 170 | 74099000 | Other copper alloy plates, sheets and strips | 7.0 | 0 |
| 171 | 74101100 | Refined copper foil, not backed | 4.0 | 0 |
| 172 | 74102100 | Refined copper foil, backed | 4.0 | 0 |
| 173 | 76011000 | Unwrought aluminum | 5.0 | 0 |
| 174 | 76020000 | Aluminum waste and scrap | 1.5 | 0 |
| 175 | 76061190 | Other rectangular aluminum plates, sheets and strip | 6.0 | 0 |
| 176 | 76061240 | Rectangular aluminum alloy plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness | 6.0 | 0 |
| 177 | 76069100 | Aluminum plates, sheets and strip, not rectangular | 6.0 | 0 |
| 178 | 76069200 | Aluminum alloy plates, sheets and strip, not rectangular | 10.0 | 0 |
| 179 | 80030000 | Bars, rods, profiles and wire, of tin and tin alloys | 8.0 | 0 |
| 180 | 83089000 | Beads and spangles of base metal | 10.5 | 0 |
| 181 | 84159010 | Parts of air-conditioning machines of a refrigerating effect not exceeding | 10.0 | 0 |
| 182 | 84435990 | Other printing machinery | 8.0 | 0 |
| 183 | 84514000 | Washing, bleaching or dyeing machines | 8.4 | 0 |
| 184 | 84518000 | Other machinery within HS heading 84.51, not specified elsewhere | 12.0 | 0 |
| 185 | 84798962 | Automatic coreslice adhering machines | 3.6 | 0 |
| 186 | 84804100 | Moulds for metal or metal carbides, injection or compression types | 8.0 | 0 |
| 187 | 84807900 | Other moulds for rubber or plastics | 5.0 | 0 |
| 188 | 84818019 | Other valves, not specified elsewhere | 7.0 | 0 |
| 189 | 84821000 | Ball bearings | 8.0 | 0 |
| 190 | 85011010 | Electric motors for use in toys, of an output not exceeding 37.5W | 24.5 | 0 |
| 191 | 85011091 | Micromotors with a housing diameter of 20mm or more but not exceeding | 11.2 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 192 | 85011099 | Other micromotors, of an output not exceeding 37.5W | 9.0 | 0 |
| 193 | 85013100 | DC electric motors and generators, of an output not exceeding 750W | 12.0 | 0 |
| 194 | 85030010 | Parts for micromotors for use in toys | 12.0 | 0 |
| 195 | 85030020 | Parts for AC generators, of an output exceeding 350 MVA | 3.0 | 0 |
| 196 | 85030030 | Parts for wind-powered electric generating sets | 3.0 | 0 |
| 197 | 85030090 | Parts for other electric motors, electric generating machine (sets) | 8.0 | 0 |
| 198 | 85043190 | Other electrical transformers, having a power handling capacity not | 7.2 | 0 |
| 199 | 85044090 | Other static converters, not specified elsewhere | 10.0 | 0 |
| 200 | 85049019 | Parts of other transformers | 8.0 | 0 |
| 201 | 85049090 | Parts of other static converters and inductors | 8.0 | 0 |
| 202 | 85051190 | Other permanent magnets. of metal | 7.0 | 0 |
| 203 | 85051900 | Permanent magnets, of non metal | 7.0 | 0 |
| 204 | 85061000 | Primary cells and primary batteries of manganese dioxide | 20.0 | 0 |
| 205 | 85068000 | Other primary cells and primary batteries | 14.0 | 0 |
| 206 | 85073000 | Nickel-cadmium electric accumulators | 10.0 | 0 |
| 207 | 85078010 | Nickel-hydrogen accumulators | 12.0 | 0 |
| 208 | 85079010 | Parts of lead-acid accumulators | 10.0 | 0 |
| 209 | 85079090 | Parts of other electric accumulators | 8.0 | 0 |
| 210 | 85089000 | Parts of electro-mechanical tools for working in the hand, with self-contained electric motors | 6.6 | 0 |
| 211 | 85099000 | Parts of electro-mechanical domestic appliances | 12.0 | 0 |
| 212 | 85139010 | Parts of torches | 14.0 | 0 |
| 213 | 85139090 | Parts of other portable electric lamps designed to function by their own | 14.0 | 0 |
| 214 | 85152110 | Aligning tube welding machines | 10.0 | 0 |
| 215 | 85152190 | Other fully or partly automatic machines for resistance welding of metal | 10.0 | 0 |
| 216 | 85158000 | Other welding machines and apparatus | 8.0 | 0 |
| 217 | 85169010 | Parts for electric soil heating apparatus and electric heating resistors | 8.0 | 0 |
| 218 | 85169090 | Other parts of products within HS heading 85.16 | 14.6 | 0 |
| 219 | 85181000 | Microphones and stands | 10.0 | 0 |
| 220 | 85189000 | Parts of products within HS heading 85.18 | 10.5 | 0 |
| 221 | 85221000 | Pick-up cartridges | 35.0 | 0 |
| 222 | 85229010 | Parts and accessories for turntables (record decks) or record-players | 27.0 | 0 |
| 223 | 85229021 | Transport mechanisms of cassette recorders | 27.0 | 0 |
| 224 | 85229030 | Other parts and accessories for video recording or reproducing apparatus | 30.0 | 0 |
| 225 | 85229090 | Other parts of products within HS headings 85.19 to 85.21 | 20.0 | 0 |
| 226 | 85239000 | Other prepared unrecorded media for sound recording or similar recording of other phenomena | 8.3 | 0 |
| 227 | 85291010 | Aerials and parts for radar apparatus and radio navigational aid apparatus | 1.5 | 0 |
| 228 | 85299030 | Parts of walkie-talkie | 8.0 | 0 |
| 229 | 85299049 | Parts of television cameras of other use | 12.0 | 0 |
| 230 | 85299060 | Parts for radio-broadcast receivers and their combinations | 15.0 | 0 |
| 231 | 85299090 | Parts of products within HS headings 85.25 to 85.28 | 4.0 | 0 |
| 232 | 85318010 | Buzzers | 15.0 | 0 |
| 233 | 85361000 | Fuses, for a voltage not exceeding 1000 V | 10.0 | 0 |
| 234 | 85364900 | Relays, for a voltage exceeding 60 V | 10.0 | 0 |
| 235 | 85371010 | Other numerical control panels | 5.0 | 0 |
| 236 | 85371090 | Other apparatus for electric control or the distribution of electricity | 8.4 | 0 |
| 237 | 85372090 | Other apparatus for electric control or the distribution of electricity | 8.4 | 0 |
| 238 | 85389000 | Parts of products within HS headings 85.35, 85.36 or 85.37 | 7.0 | 0 |
| 239 | 85392991 | Electric filament lamps, not specified elsewhere, of a voltage 12 V or less | 12.0 | 0 |
| 240 | 85404000 | Data/graphic display tubes, colour, with a phosphor dot screen pitch smaller | 8.0 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Mainland 2001 Tariff Codes | Product Description | Mainland 2003 MFN Tariff Rates | Mainland 2004 Tariff Rates Under CEPA |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 241 | 85441100 | Copper winding wire | 10.0 | 0 |
| 242 | 85444190 | Other electric conductors, fitted with connectors, for a voltage not exceeding | 4.0 | 0 |
| 243 | 85445190 | Other electric conductors, fitted with connectors, for a voltage exceeding 80 V but not exceeding 1000 V | 7.0 | 0 |
| 244 | 85445990 | Other electric conductors, for a voltage exceeding 80 V but not exceeding | 13.8 | 0 |
| 245 | 90011000 | Optical fibre bundles and cables | 7.0 | 0 |
| 246 | 90012000 | Sheets and plates of polarizing material | 8.0 | 0 |
| 247 | 90019000 | Other optical elements, not specified elsewhere, within HS heading 90.01 | 8.0 | 0 |
| 248 | 90021990 | Other objective lenses, not specified elsewhere, within HS heading 90.02 | 15.0 | 0 |
| 249 | 90069110 | Parts and accessories for cameras specially designed | 8.0 | 0 |
| 250 | 90069120 | Parts and accessories for instant print cameras | 5.0 | 0 |
| 251 | 90069191 | Automatic focal setting units for cameras | 10.0 | 0 |
| 252 | 90069192 | Shutter units for cameras | 10.0 | 0 |
| 253 | 90069199 | Other parts and accessories for other cameras | 10.0 | 0 |
| 254 | 90138010 | Hand magnifying glasses | 12.0 | 0 |
| 255 | 90138090 | Other liquid crystal devices and optical appliances | 5.0 | 0 |
| 256 | 90139010 | Parts and accessories for lasers and telescopes | 6.0 | 0 |
| 257 | 90139090 | Other parts and accessories of products within HS heading 90.13 | 8.0 | 0 |
| 258 | 90318090 | Other measuring or checking instruments, appliances and machines, not specified elsewhere | 5.0 | 0 |
| 259 | 91021100 | Other electrically operated wrist-watches, with mechanical display | 15.0 | 0 |
| 260 | 91021200 | Other electrically operated wrist-watches, with opto-electronic display | 23.0 | 0 |
| 261 | 91031000 | Electrically operated clocks with watch movements | 23.0 | 0 |
| 262 | 91051100 | Electrically operated alarm clocks | 23.0 | 0 |
| 263 | 91081100 | Complete and assembled electrically operated watch movements, with | 16.0 | 0 |
| 264 | 91081200 | Complete and assembled electrically operated watch movements, with opto-electronic display | 16.0 | 0 |
| 265 | 91081900 | Other complete and assembled electrically operated watch movements | 16.0 | 0 |
| 266 | 91089900 | Other complete and assembled mechanically operated watch movements | 16.0 | 0 |
| 267 | 91112000 | Cases of base metal | 14.0 | 0 |
| 268 | 91132000 | Watch straps, watch bands and watch bracelets, and parts of base metal | 14.0 | 0 |
| 269 | 91149000 | Other clock or watch parts | 14.0 | 0 |
| 270 | 95039000 | Other toys, not specified elsewhere | 7.0 | 0 |
| 271 | 96062200 | Buttons of base metal | 17.0 | 0 |
| 272 | 96071100 | Slide fasteners fitted with chain scoops of base metal | 21.0 | 0 |
| 273 | 96071900 | Other slide fasteners | 21.0 | 0 |

Appendix 2 Summary of commitments on trade in services under CEPA

| Sector | Summary of Commitments |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Management Consulting Services | To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, management consulting services, including general management consulting services, financial management consulting services (except business tax), marketing management consulting services, human resources management consulting services, production management consulting services, public relations services and other management consulting services in the Mainland. The minimum registered capital requirement for Hong Kong service suppliers providing management consulting services in the Mainland follows the requirements in the "Company Law of the People's Republic of China". |
| Convention and Exhibition Services | On top of China's WTO commitments as Hong Kong companies are permitted to supply convention services on a wholly-owned basis. |
| Advertising Services | To allow Hong Kong service suppliers ¹ to set up wholly-owned advertising firms in the Mainland. |
| Accounting Services | Hong Kong accountants who have already qualified as Chinese Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and practised in the Mainland (including partnership) are treated on par with Chinese CPAs in respect of the requirement for annual residency in the Mainland. The validity period of the "Temporary Auditing Business Permit" applied by Hong Kong accounting firms to conduct temporary auditing services in the Mainland is 1 year. |
| Construction and Real Estate | For construction enterprises set up in the Mainland by Hong Kong service suppliers, the performance of both the enterprises in Hong Kong and in the Mainland is taken into account in assessing the qualification of the construction enterprises in the Mainland. However, the number of managerial and technical staff in the construction enterprises in the Mainland will be the actual number of staff working there. To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to wholly acquire construction enterprises in the Mainland. Construction enterprises in the Mainland set up and invested by Hong Kong service suppliers are exempted from foreign investment restrictions when undertaking Chinese-foreign joint construction projects. Construction enterprises in the Mainland invested by Hong Kong service suppliers will follow the relevant laws and regulations in the Mainland for application of construction qualification certificates. Those which have acquired such certification are permitted in accordance with laws to bid for construction projects in all parts of the Mainland. |
| Medical and Dental Services | The majority of medical personnel employed by Hong Kong-Mainland joint venture hospitals or clinics can be Hong Kong permanent residents. Qualified Hong Kong doctors can provide short-term medical services in the Mainland for a maximum of 3 years, 2 years more than the current practice. Hong Kong permanent residents who have satisfied certain professional qualifications or conditions for practising are permitted to sit the Mainland's qualification examination and will be granted a "medical practitioner's qualification certificate" upon passing the examination. |
| Distribution Services | Hong Kong enterprises are permitted to supply distribution services (including commission agents, wholesale, retail and franchising) in the Mainland on a wholly-owned basis, and to set up wholly-owned external trading companies. To apply for the setting up of wholesale commercial enterprises in the Mainland on a wholly-owned, equity joint venture, or contractual joint venture basis, Hong Kong service suppliers must fulfill the following conditions: |

¹ In this sector, a Hong Kong service supplier must be an enterprise juridical person engaging in advertising services (but not necessarily as its principal business).

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| | <p>The average annual sales value of a Hong Kong service supplier in the preceding 3 years is not less than US\$30 million; the asset in the preceding year is not less than US\$10 million; the minimum registered capital for setting up an enterprise in the Mainland is RMB 50 million. For setting up a wholesale commercial enterprise in the Central and Western Region², the average annual sales value of a Hong Kong service supplier in the preceding 3 years is not less than US\$20 million; the minimum registered capital is RMB 30 million.</p> <p>To apply for the setting up of external trading companies in the Mainland on a wholly-owned, equity joint venture or contractual joint venture basis, the Hong Kong service suppliers must fulfill the following conditions:</p> <p>The average annual trade value with the Mainland of a Hong Kong service supplier in the preceding 3 years is not less than US\$10 million; for setting up an external trading company in the Central and Western Region, the average annual trade value with the Mainland of a Hong Kong service supplier in the preceding 3 years is not less than US\$5 million; the minimum registered capital for setting up a company in the Mainland is RMB 20 million; for setting up an external trading company in the Central and Western Region, the minimum registered capital is RMB 10 million.</p> <p>There are no geographic restrictions for Hong Kong service suppliers to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, commission agents' services and wholesale trade services in the Mainland.</p> <p>To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to set up wholly-owned retail commercial enterprises in the Mainland.</p> <p>To apply for the setting up of retail commercial enterprises in the Mainland on a wholly-owned, equity joint venture or contractual joint venture basis, Hong Kong service suppliers must fulfill the following conditions:</p> <p>The average annual sales value of a Hong Kong service supplier in the preceding 3 years is not less than US\$100 million; the minimum asset in the previous year is US\$10 million; the minimum registered capital for setting up an enterprise in the Mainland is RMB 10 million. For setting up a retail commercial enterprise in the Central and Western Region, the minimum registered capital is RMB 6 million.</p> <p>To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to set up retailing enterprises in all cities at the prefectural level in the Mainland, and cities at the county level in Guangdong Province.</p> <p>To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to set up wholly owned retailing enterprises in the Mainland for sale of motor vehicles.</p> <p>To allow Hong Kong permanent residents with Chinese citizenship to set up, in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, and administrative regulations, individually owned stores in Guangdong to provide retailing services excluding franchising operation, without being subject to the approval procedures applicable to foreign investments. The sales area of such stores should not exceed 300 square metres.</p> |
| Logistics Services | To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, logistics services in the Mainland, which include road transport, storage and warehousing, loading and unloading, value adding processing, packaging, delivery and related information and consultancy services for ordinary road freight; freight transport agency services within the Mainland; and the management and operation of logistics services through computing network. |
| Freight Forwarding | To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, freight forwarding agency services in the Mainland. |

² In this Annex, the Central and Western Region include Central Region and Western Region. Western Region refers to 12 provinces/autonomous regions/municipality including Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and Guangxi; and Xianxi Tugia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Hunan Province, Enshi Tugia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Hubei Province and Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Jilin Province. Central Region refers to 8 provinces including Heilongjiang, Jilin, Shanxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Anhui and Jiangxi.

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| Agency Services | The minimum registered capital requirement for international freight forwarding agency enterprises in the Mainland set up and invested by Hong Kong service suppliers will be the same as that for Mainland enterprises. |
| Storage and Warehousing Services | To allow Hong Kong service suppliers to provide, in the form of wholly-owned operations, storage and warehousing services in the Mainland. The minimum registered capital requirement for storage and warehousing enterprises in the Mainland set up and invested by Hong Kong service suppliers will be the same as that for Mainland enterprises. |
| Transport Services | Road transport services - Hong Kong companies are permitted to operate in the Mainland on a wholly-owned basis 1 year ahead of China's WTO timetable. Furthermore, Hong Kong companies are permitted to provide direct non-stop road freight transport services between Hong Kong and each province in the Mainland. They can also set up wholly-owned enterprises in the Western Region of the Mainland to provide road passenger transport services. Maritime transport services - Hong Kong companies are no longer subject to joint venture requirement as inscribed in China's WTO commitments. They are permitted to set up wholly-owned enterprises in the Mainland to operate international ship management services, storage and warehousing for international maritime freight, container station and depot services, non-vessel operating common carrying services and general services for vessels that they own or operate. They can also use liner vessels serving main routes to freely arrange empty containers. |
| Tourism Services | Hong Kong companies are permitted to construct, renovate and operate hotel and restaurant establishments in the Mainland on a wholly-owned basis 2 years ahead of China's WTO timetable. Geographical restrictions will be lifted for joint venture travel agencies formed by Hong Kong travel agencies in the Mainland. To allow residents of Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Foshan and Huizhou of the Guangdong Province to visit Hong Kong individually for tourism, and to allow the same in respect of the whole of Guangdong Province not later than 1 July 2004. |
| Audiovisual Services | Hong Kong companies are permitted to establish in the Mainland joint ventures with majority ownership (not exceeding 70%) to engage in the distribution of audiovisual products (including products on motion pictures which are not covered in China's WTO commitments). Chinese language motion pictures produced by Hong Kong companies can be imported for distribution in the Mainland, and exempted from the quota of 20 foreign films per year as inscribed in China's WTO commitments. Motion pictures co-produced with the Mainland will be treated as Mainland movies for distribution in the Mainland. For motion pictures jointly produced by Hong Kong and the Mainland, there is no restriction on the percentage of principal creative personnel from Hong Kong, but at least one-third of the leading artistes must be from the Mainland; there is no restriction on where the story takes place, but the plots or the leading characters must be related to the Mainland. Hong Kong companies are also permitted to construct and/or renovate cinema theatres on a majority joint venture or co-operation basis instead of minority investment as inscribed in China's WTO commitments. |
| Legal Services | Minimum residency requirement for all Hong Kong representatives in the Mainland representative offices of Hong Kong law firms is 2 months each year (4 months shorter than China's WTO commitments). This requirement is further waived for Hong Kong representatives stationed in representative offices located in Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Hong Kong practitioners are permitted to work for Mainland's law firms. The 15 Hong Kong lawyers who have acquired Mainland legal professional qualifications are permitted to intern and practise on non-litigation legal work. Such requirements are more lenient than those set out in China's WTO commitments. Hong Kong permanent residents of Chinese nationality are permitted to sit the legal qualifying examination in the Mainland and, once qualified, are permitted to |

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| | engage in non-litigation legal work in Mainland's law firms. Hong Kong law firms which have representative offices in the Mainland can run business jointly with Mainland law firms, except in the form of partnership (but Hong Kong lawyers in the Mainland cannot engage in Chinese law practice). |
| Banking | Hong Kong banks and finance companies will be subject to a relaxed asset requirement (US\$6 billion) in the establishment of branches/body corporates. The existing requirement for a Hong Kong bank or finance company to set up a representative office before establishing a joint venture bank or joint venture finance company is removed. For Mainland branches of Hong Kong banks to apply to conduct RMB business: - they should have been operating in the Mainland for more than 2 years; - in conducting profitability assessment, the relevant authorities will base their assessment on the overall profitability position of all branches of the bank in the Mainland instead of the profitability position of its individual branches. |
| Securities | The Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited is permitted to set up a representative office in Beijing. Hong Kong professionals can apply to practise in the Mainland according to relevant procedures. |
| Insurance | To allow groups formed by Hong Kong insurance companies through re-grouping and strategic mergers to enter the Mainland insurance market subject to established market access conditions (total assets held by the group of over US\$ 5 billion; more than 30 years of establishment experience attributable to one of the Hong Kong insurance companies in the group; and a representative office established in the Mainland for over 2 years by one of the Hong Kong insurance companies in the group). The maximum limit of capital participation by a Hong Kong insurance company in a Mainland insurance company is 24.9%. To allow Hong Kong residents with Chinese citizenship, after obtaining the Mainland's professional qualifications in actuarial science, to practise in the Mainland without prior approval. To allow Hong Kong residents, after obtaining the Mainland's insurance qualifications and being employed or appointed by a Mainland insurance institution, to engage in the relevant insurance business. |
| Telecom services | As from 1 October 2003, to allow Hong Kong service suppliers to set up joint venture enterprises in the Mainland to provide the following five types of value-added telecommunication services: a) internet data centre services; b) store and forward services; c) call centre services; d) internet access services; e) content services Hong Kong service suppliers' shareholding in the joint venture enterprises engaging in the value-added telecommunication services mentioned in item 1 above should not exceed 50%. There will be no geographic restriction for the joint venture enterprises formed by Hong Kong service suppliers and the Mainland to provide value-added telecommunication services mentioned in item 1 above. |