

15th September 2021

(By Email)

Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP

Member of Legislative Council of the HKSAR

Dear Hon LAU,

**Call for Support to HKECIA's Urgent Appeals to the HKSAR Government
to Provide Immediate Assistance and a Roadmap of International Travel Resumptions**

I am writing on behalf of the Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention Industry Association ("HKECIA"). We are the authoritative organisation of the Hong Kong exhibition and convention industry. As the Meeting of Panel on Commerce and Industry on 21 September will discuss on the convention and exhibition industry in Hong Kong, I would like to provide you with more information on HKECIA's urgent appeal for immediate financial assistance and a roadmap of international travel resumptions from HKSAR Government.

Please find attached the press release issued in early September on the findings of our recent survey of the HKECIA members. I would like to draw your attention to the headline figure that 45% of exhibition-related businesses may close down in 12 months unless quarantine restrictions are removed or there is government support to keep them afloat.

In our last meeting with the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Mr. Edward Yau on 9th August 2021, we urged the government to:

- Provide a roadmap for opening quarantine travel for fully vaccinated Covid-safe business travellers
- Review on how the Convention and Exhibition Industry Subsidy Scheme ("CEISS") can be adjusted to provide much-needed cash flow to:
 - o Organisers of events that cannot take place without international participants and therefore cannot benefit from the scheme as it is currently structured.
 - o Suppliers (contractors and other service providers in the C&E industry)

As of today, we are still waiting for the government's response to the above requests. Without urgent action on these issues, I am afraid that Hong Kong's leading position as a global meeting place and international business event city will be lost forever.

I've also attached an article written by a global exhibition industry expert Mr Paul Woodward recently on how Hong Kong's position as one of the best exhibition cities is in jeopardy due to the strict zero Covid Policy.

We call for your support to our Association's urgent appeals by voicing out our concerns and suggestions at the upcoming Meeting of Panel on Commerce and Industry next week.

We look forward to your support, and I am more than happy to provide further information if needed.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Bailey
Chairman
Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention Industry Association