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HKITF response to Protecting Consumers Against Unfair Trade Practices

Hong Kong IT Federation (HKITF) supports on the Legislation to Enhance Protection for Consumers Against Unfair Trade Practices. However, we would like to express our concern on the impact of local SMEs' marketing capability if TDC is being monitored under the Protecting Consumers Against the Unfair Trade Practices. It will certainly lay constraints on its support to the local SMEs, indirectly reduce our SMEs' competitiveness rather than protecting them.

TDC has been our long-term partner and supported many HKITF members to promote their business in local exhibitions, overseas exhibitions and business matching with overseas buyers/partners. This has been a very successful model.

Therefore we would appreciate CITB takes into consideration on the following potential risks:

1. TDC by itself is important to maintain HK's leading exhibition role in Asia Pacific region. Singapore, even Macau is trying to get a share of the profit, if not taking over us. We will easily lose our number 1 position if TDC cannot fully perform under the Against Unfair Trade Practices.
2. If TDC cannot subsidize SME anymore, many vertical industries i.e. information technology, toys, watches, clothing will suffer higher exhibition fees in promoting overseas market. They may call off future participation due to limited marketing budget, indirectly cutting their business opportunity.
3. Reducing local exhibitions also indirectly cut our income from the overseas exhibitors, which will impact on the retail and hotel industries.

Hong Kong is proud to be a World's City, TDC did a great job promoting us. In consider of the above impacts among others, we look forward to CITB's sensible judgment and let TDC continuous to support the local SMEs in all industries particular the IT companies that have been going through tough survival.