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入境事務處

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IMM/QA 2395 Pt 13

Immigration Department
The Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administrative Region

28 May 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Business Travel Card

Further to our letter of 31 January 2007 updating you of the facilitation granted by the US Government to the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) holders, we are pleased to provide you with recent updates.

The Consulate General of Mexico, Hong Kong recently informed us that since 15 March 2007, the holders of ABTC have been able to use the specific immigration lanes (currently used by diplomats and aircrew) for passenger clearance at the major international airports in Mexico upon entry. However, holders of ABTC are still subject to the usual immigration clearance process as applicable to other travellers, such as presenting valid passports and where applicable, valid visas for Mexico. Moreover, the Mexican Consular Officers will also expedite and give priority to the holders of ABTC applying for business visa to enter Mexico.

At present, there are 17 economies participating in the ABTC Scheme, namely, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam. Holders of ABTC will enjoy streamlined immigration clearance at these economies upon presentation of the ABTC and their valid travel documents.

香港灣仔告士打道七號入境事務大樓 Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

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A bona fide business person residing in Hong Kong may apply for an ABTC if he holds a Hong Kong permanent identity card and a valid national passport; has not previously been denied entry to any of the participating economies; has never been convicted of a criminal offence; and needs to travel frequently on short term visits within the APEC region to fulfill business commitments. A bona fide business person is taken to mean a person who is engaged in the trade of goods, the provision of services or the conduct of investment activities. It does not include entertainers, musicians, artists or persons engaged in similar occupations.

You may wish to inform your members about the facilities provided by Mexico. Details of the ABTC including eligibility criteria, application forms, application procedure, etc. are available on the Immigration Department homepage at <http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hktraveldoc 4.htm>. Enquiries on the matter can also be made on telephone number 2824 6111 or by fax 2877 7711.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C F Au Yeung', written in a cursive style.

C F Au Yeung
for Director of Immigration