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Editor's Note

- The 2nd CEPA Senior Official Meeting in 2008 was held in Macao in May. During the meeting, representatives from the Mainland and Macao engaged in consultation on the new market opening measures for the sixth round of CEPA.
- To safeguard the health of the public, officials from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and Macao Economic Services visited the Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety of General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of PRC, with an objective to enhancing management on food safety through further cooperation.
- The General Administration of Customs of PRC and Macao Economic Services exchanged visits to promote the effective implementation of Trade in Goods of CEPA.
- The Mainland has amended the related laws and regulations in a number of service sectors to ensure the smooth implementation of the Supplement IV to CEPA.

1. The Second Senior Official Meeting in 2008 under CEPA Joint Steering Committee was held in Macao

In accordance with the stipulations in CEPA on the establishment of the Joint Steering Committee, the second Senior Official Meeting in 2008 was held on May 8 at Macao Business Support Center. Delegations of the Mainland and Macao engaged in consultation on the new measures to be unfurled in CEPA 6.

In the Meeting, the Macao delegation, which was represented by Ms. Lok Kit Sim, Chief of Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, and the Mainland delegation, which was led by Mr. Sun Tong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong & Macao of the Ministry of Commerce, exchanged views about the current situation on the industries of convention and exhibition, banking, social services, job referral agency and intermediary, accounting and medical services, etc.



Mainland and Macao representatives exchanged views on the implementation and new measures of CEPA in the Senior Official Meeting.

CEPA was signed in October 2003 and came into effect on January 1, 2004. From 2004 to 2007, the Mainland and Macao strived to explore further cooperation in the areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Trade and Investment Facilitation through the Joint Steering

Committee. Against this background, a new Supplement to CEPA was signed every year from then on. Since the implementation of CEPA, a cumulative total of 667 products under Trade in Goods can enjoy zero tariff exporting to the Mainland from July 1, 2008. On the front of Trade in Services, the Mainland has relaxed market access thresholds to 38 service sectors. With regard to Trade and Investment Facilitation, facilitation measures in 8 areas are in place to create an enabling environment for the movement of goods between the two places and to provide complementary cooperation opportunities for Macao's promising industries.

2. Macao Officials visited the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of PRC in Beijing for consultation on food safety

The Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety of General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of PRC held a “Meeting on Food Safety” with the officials from IACM and Macao Economic Services on April 16 in Beijing. During the meeting, both sides discussed measures to further enhancing and deepening the cooperation on food safety. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Wang Daning, Director of the Bureau of Import and Export Food Safety, Mr. Ng Peng In, member of the Management Committee of the IACM, Mr. Sou Tim Peng, Acting Director of Macao Economic Services.

Since the signing of CEPA in 2003, economic and trading ties, as well as those on social and cultural front, between the Mainland and Macao have become closer. To intensify the cooperation of the two sides under the CEPA framework, Macao Economic Services, IACM and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine therefore convoked the meeting to exchange views on food safety management.

During the meeting, delegates from Macao Economic Services briefed on the measures pertinent to licenses issuance to food manufacturers, the implementation of Food Label Law on packaged foods, and the relevant monitoring policies. Also, representatives from IACM were concerned about the



Mainland and Macao officials took photos after the Food Safety Meeting

administration and monitoring of the exports of fresh and live products, frozen meats and vegetables delivered to Macao. To conclude the meeting, the Mainland completely agreed to enhance communications and cooperation with Macao on issues in relation to food safety as it plays a pivotal role in public health.

3. Exchange activities between China Customs and Macao Economic Services to facilitate the implementation of CEPA

A working meeting on the implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods was convened on April 1, 2008 in Chongqing. Officials from Macao Economic Services, the General Administration of Customs of PRC, Ministry of Commerce, Hong Kong & Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Secretariat Bureau of the General Office of the



The CEPA Trade in Goods Working Meeting was held in Chongqing

State Council, the Central Government Liaison Office, the Country of Origin Office of Gongbei Customs attended the meeting. During the meeting, Mainland and Macao delegates reported the progress on the implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods in 2007 and the amount of

total CEPA exports, which reached MOP25 million, in 2007. In addition, both sides engaged in extensive discussion and consultation on the problems encountered in the course of implementing CEPA and laid out the work plan for 2008. In conclusion, both side reached a consensus on strengthening cooperation in the future.

Also, on May 28, Macao Economic Services and the General Administration of Customs of PRC jointly held a “Consultation on the Rules of Origins of CEPA Goods for the Second Half of 2008”, in which rules of origins of newly-added CEPA products were determined. It was agreed in the meeting that from July 1, 2008, two new products would be added to the CEPA zero tariff product list, i.e. crude glycerol and glycerine. The relevant Mainland tariff code and rules of origins of these products are available at the website of Macao Economic Services :

http://www.economia.gov.mo/public/docs/CEPA_TIG/index/tc/blist-c.doc

Since CEPA came into effect in 2004, the rules of origins for a cumulative total of 667 products have been settled.

4. National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents will be held in Guangzhou in November

2008 National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents will be held from November 1 to 2 in Guangzhou, and Macao Economic Services is charged of coordinating the enrollment for Macao examinees. Two examinees were reported to have signed up for the Examination so far. The Examination includes three major subjects, which are Patent Laws, practices of Patent Agents and other relevant legal issues. Since 2004, Macao Economic Service has been working alongside with State Intellectual Property Office of PRC to organize examination enrollment for Macao examinees ; until now, 12 examinees were recorded to have enrolled for the Examination in Macao.

In accordance with CEPA, “qualified Macao permanent residents with Chinese citizenship are allowed to sit the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents. A “Patent Agent Qualification Certificate” will be issued to those who pass the examination. Also, Macao permanent residents with Chinese citizenship who have obtained the “Patent Agent Qualification Certificate” may practise in patent agencies that are approved for establishment in the Mainland. Those who meet the prescribed requirements may join to become partners or shareholders of patent agencies that are approved for establishment in the Mainland.”

5. Enrollments for 2008 PRC CPA Uniform Examination and National Judicial Examination are underway

Macao Society of Certified Practising Accountants has been commissioned by the Chinese Institute of CPAs as the enrollment center of 2008 PRC CPA Uniform Examination for Macao residents. Enrollment for the 2008 Examination was scheduled for May 5 to 10. According to the statistics provided by the MSCPA, 4 examinees have signed up for the 2008 Examination, which will be held from September 19 to 21 in Hong Kong. The Examination covers topics of accounting, auditing, financial and cost management, economic laws, taxation laws, etc. For details of the enrollment, please visit the website of MSCPAs at www.mscca.org.mo or contact Ms. Mok at 28373261. The examination arrangement, rules and regulations are also available at the website of the Chinese Institute of CPAs at www.cicpa.org.cn.

In accordance with the notice issued by the National Judicial Examination Institution and relevant requirements of the Ministry of Justice, the 2008 National Judicial Examination will be held from September 20 to 21. Macao residents who intend to sit the Examination may enroll with Macao Legal Affairs Bureau (Rua do Campo, n° 162, Edifício Administração Pública, 19° andar). For enrollment details, please contact the Legal Affairs Bureau at 89872333 during office hours, or refer to the websites of Ministry of Justice, (www.legalinfo.gov.cn), Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange of Ministry of Education (www.cscse.edu.cn), or Macau Legal Affairs Bureau (www.dsaj.gov.mo).

6. New laws and regulations for CEPA implementation have been promulgated by

the Mainland

To facilitate the implementation of the Supplement IV to CEPA, the Mainland have amended and promulgated relevant laws and regulations in the areas of legal services, information technology services, air transport sales agencies, convention and exhibition, etc. Detailed information is available at the following websites:

1. Decision by the Ministry of Justice on Amending the Measures for the Management of Associations Formed by Law Firms of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region with Mainland Law Firms
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200805/20080505511856.html>
2. Notice Concerning the Implementation of the Supplement IV to CEPA Hong Kong and the Supplement IV to CEPA Macao by the Ministry of Information Industry
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200802/20080205378906.html>
3. Supplement to the Measures for the Accreditation of China Civil Aviation Transport Agencies
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200802/20080205378901.html>
4. Amendments to the Management Measures for the Examination and Approval of Applications for Holding Economic and Trade Exhibitions Abroad for the Implementation of the Supplement IV to CEPA Hong Kong and the Supplement IV to CEPA Macao
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200802/20080205378893.html>
5. Notice Concerning Allowing the Individually Stores Owned by Hong Kong and Macao Residents to Provide Services Including Computer Services and Software Services
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200802/20080205378885.html>
6. Supplementary Provisions to the Interim Measures for the Administration of Chinese-foreign Equity Joint and Cooperative Joint Medical Institutions
<http://tga.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/a/b/200801/20080105360614.html>