

From: John E Strickland [mailto:]

Sent: Monday, January 09, 2006 9:27 PM

To: CVW

Subject: Abolition of Requirement for Main Board Issuers to Publish Paid Announcements in Newspapers

Dear Sirs

I respond to your Exposure Paper on this subject dated November 2005.

I am a private investor who keeps his shareholdings with a bank custodian in the nominee name of the custodian. This is by far the most convenient way to buy, hold and sell shares on the Hong Kong market.

I do not require the custodian to send me copies of corporate announcements and distributions because a) I am unwilling to bear the expense involved in this and b) I would not have time to read them anyway.

None the less, I would like to be aware of such announcements or distributions because sometimes they are important or interesting from my perspective. If I am so interested, I wish to be able to go to a website to read the announcement or distribution.

I do not have time to surf the internet every day to look up whether there are any announcements or distributions of interest to me. I do however have time to skim through the pages of the SCMP Business News.

In the interests of economy and efficient lookup, what is required is for HKEx to publish every day in the SCMP Business News a simple list of company announcements or distributions

- by company name in alphabetical order
- with the topic of the announcement or distribution

This list should be repeated on an easily bookmarked HKEx website page which also, in addition to the above two fields, has the web address of the full announcement or distribution. This then saves me from having tediously to key in what is most likely a long and complex web address.

If I see an announcement or distribution in the newspaper that interests me, I can then

- click on the HKEx website page from my favourites list
- click on the web address of the full announcement or distribution
- read it
- if necessary make arrangements to vote my shares or to buy or sell shares

Whilst the arrangements being proposed by your consultation paper may be satisfactory for professional investors who can employ someone to surf the net every day, they are not for private investors who have other jobs or commitments making demands on their time.

The arrangements I am proposing are the most user friendly ones for private investors. You will note the difference from your proposed interim measure:

- the "short form" announcement in the newspaper is made by HKEx, not the listed company
- the wording of the "topic" can be under HKEx control to ensure that it is informative but not misleading
- all the announcements are conveniently grouped together in alphabetical order
- HKEx can afford to publish the list in multiple English and Chinese newspapers, thereby improving on the present arrangements where listed companies can use one of each only.
- if necessary the costs can be recovered from listed companies. This will be a tiny fraction of what they are paying to-day

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- the arrangements will send a strong signal that HKEx is interested in its primary customers, those who invest their own money in the stockmarket.

I hope you will be able to give attention to these views and not discontinue completely the requirement for newspaper announcements.

Yours faithfully

John E Strickland
Independent Non Executive Director HKEx