NEWS RELEASE

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Stock Exchange Establishes Committee to Advise on Creation of a "Venture Board"

The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong is considering the feasibility of establishing a "Venture Board", to satisfy an apparent demand for access to public capital through equity listing by small to medium companies, including high technology companies.

Dr Edgar Cheng, chairman of the Exchange, said it had set up an Advisory Committee, comprising Messrs Raymond Ch'ien, Victor Fung, Gordon Kwong, Victor Lo, Henry Tang, James Tien, Kenneth Ting and David Wong.

"The expertise represented by the members of the Advisory Committee will assist the Exchange Working Group on New Market Development in its strategic direction on the establishment of the Venture Board, by providing specialist advice, and access to resources and support as may be required," Dr Cheng said.

The Exchange Working Group, under the chairmanship of Alan Smith, represents a cross section of the major constituencies within the securities industry, and includes representatives from merchant banks, fund managers, stockbrokers, the Securities and Futures Commission and the Exchange. Its composition has been widened to include representation from industry and venture capital specialists.

The objective of the Exchange Working Group is to consolidate Hong Kong's position as a leading regional financial centre by providing investors with access to regional underlying investment products; and ensuring that the Hong Kong market continues to respond to developments in international finance.

"As chairman of the Exchange, I warmly welcome the members of the Advisory Committee, whose standing within the community is well known, and thank them for giving their valuable time to assist the Exchange," Dr Cheng said.

Corporate Communications Department