November 9, 2011

The Hon Edward Yau Secretary for the Environment 46/F Revenue Tower Wanchai, Hong Kong

Dear Edward,

Re: Restriction of Sale of Energy-inefficient Incandescent Light Bulbs

The Chamber would like to response to the above public consultation, as follows:

There are significant benefits for businesses and individuals alike in transitioning to a low carbon economy. As lighting on average accounts for about 15% of total electricity consumption in Hong Kong, the Chamber supports a wider use of energy-efficient lighting device to enhance energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Given the compatibility concern of the existing lighting fixtures, as well as the initial cost of replacing energy-efficient lighting products, we would recommend the Government to mandate the restrictions on the imports and sales of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs (ILB) over an appropriate and defined phase-out period. The phase-out period should allow sufficient time to eliminate ILB by market force, and help the SMEs to gradually cease replenishing stocks and supply of ILB within a specified timeframe.

To encourage the use of more energy-efficient lighting device and to facilitate technological development during the transition period, new buildings should be required to comply with the new requirements on lighting device, while older buildings are given flexibility to switch to energy-efficient lighting alternatives in phases.

Concerning the disposal of compact fluorescent lamps with mercury content, a fluorescent lamp disposal scheme should be put in place to encourage users to return obsolete lamps for proper treatment.

I hope you will find our recommendations useful.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

Shirley Yuen CEO