

Press Release

SEDL to attend WTO General Assembly in Beijing

The Secretary for Economic Development and Labour, Mr Stephen Ip, is in Beijing attending the 15th World Tourism Organisation (WTO) General Assembly.

WTO is an intergovernmental tourism organisation for promoting the development of tourism and serves as a global forum for tourism policy. Hong Kong has been an associate member of WTO since 1999.

The General Assembly will be attended by some 800 senior tourism officials from governments, national tourism organisations, educational institutions and representatives from the travel and tourism-related sectors. As the Secretary in charge of tourism in Hong Kong, Mr Ip will take the opportunity to brief tourism Ministers and leaders in the tourism sector that Hong Kong is steadily recovering from the impact of SARS.

On Tuesday (October 21), Mr Ip will host a lunch for WTO delegates as part of the General Assembly official programme. He will deliver a keynote address setting out the latest tourism developments and new initiatives being taken to revive the tourism industry in Hong Kong.

Also attending the WTO General Assembly is the Commissioner for Tourism, Ms Eva Cheng. Mr Ip will return to Hong Kong on October 21.

End/ Monday, October 20, 2003