

**Launch Ceremony of the Anti-Money Laundering and  
Counter-Terrorist Financing Charter of  
the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries  
on 17 May 2016 at 2 p.m.**

**Speech by Miss Salina Yan, JP, Deputy Secretary for  
Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services)**

Mr. (Ivan) Tam (*President of HKICS*), Ms. (Samantha) Suen (*CEO of HKICS*), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am pleased to join you all this afternoon for the launch of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (“AML/CFT”) Charter.

2. I would like to thank the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries (“the Institute”) for inviting me to speak here today, and more importantly, for their tireless efforts in promoting the awareness of, and enhancing, the AML/CFT standard among its members.

3. Money laundering and terrorist financing are global concerns. Being an open economy and a major international trade and financial centre, Hong Kong is inevitably exposed to such risks.

4. We are determined to uphold the integrity of our financial system. Our success in this regard is dependent on a close partnership between the public and private sectors.

5. Corporate service providers, or CSPs, play an important role in supporting business activities in Hong Kong. Your professional services in preparing documents and keeping records, and handling other corporate-related transactions are highly relevant to our efforts in protecting Hong Kong’s financial system from illicit financial activities, and mitigating money laundering and terrorist financing risks. The last thing we want to see is such professional services being used, wittingly or unwittingly, by criminals in concealing the origins of criminal funds or moving criminal proceeds overseas.

6. Since 2012, through the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance, we have increased financial institutions' capacity to identify suspicious transactions as the requirement of customer due diligence and record keeping is now embedded in law. CSPs play a key role in assisting companies in satisfying the know-your customer ("KYC") requirements implemented by financial institutions.

7. We are therefore very pleased to note that the Institute has been working very hard in the past two years to enhance the AML/CFT standards and promote best practices among its members and within the CSP sector.

8. Welcoming the signing of the AML/CFT Charter and the launch of the AML/CFT Guideline, I also note that the Institute will establish an Advisory Board, represented by Dr P M Kam today, to advise on AML/CFT matters and liaise with stakeholders, including the Government, on the latest developments of AML/CFT issues.

9. This is definitely a good starting point for upgrading the AML/CFT standards for CSPs, and building a stronger line of defence.

10. We could not afford a standstill in face of the evolving international standards and circumstances. The Government stands ready to continue working with the Institute and the CSP profession as we take further steps to improve our AML/CFT regime. Complementary efforts are crucial to safeguarding our financial system and Hong Kong's international reputation. That is the vital work that we are pursuing today and I want to thank everyone for their contributions.

11. On this note, we look forward to having the support of the Institute and its members in charting the way forward.

12. Thank you.

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