

**Updates on the Implementation of
the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 2015**

A. Overall progress

- As reported at the last meeting of the Working Group, the independent Insurance Authority (“IIA”) would adopt a phased approach to staff recruitment.
- Job advertisements have been placed on local newspapers in mid-April 2016 for the recruitment of a team of in-house staff to assist in taking forward some urgent legal and administrative work such as staff recruitment, finance, information technology, general administration and public relations matters. It is anticipated that the first batch of IIA staff members will report duty in the second half of 2016.
- In the next phase, IIA will commence the recruitment of the top two-tier executives i.e. the Chief Executive Officer and other directorate officers, and officers with direct regulatory duties in around mid-2016.
- IIA held its second meeting in March 2016. Among other things discussed, IIA took a review of the existing guidance notes and guidelines promulgated by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (“OCI”) and agreed that, to facilitate a smooth transition, the guidance notes and guidelines would be carried forward to IIA with minor technical changes or updates. The amendments are technical in nature which would not affect the substantive effect of the guidance notes and guidelines. OCI/IIA will engage the industry as appropriate on the promulgation of the amended guidance notes and guidelines nearer the time.
- The meeting also discussed the transitional arrangement of the Working Group. The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau will update IIA on discussions at the Working Group. Representatives of IIA may sit in future meetings of the Working Group on a need basis. IIA would take up the work of the Working Group after it has recruited sufficient staff.

B. Next step

- We will liaise closely with IIA on transitional issues and will keep the Working Group informed of the progress.

**Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
21 April 2016**