



7 October, 2002

Mr James E. Thompson
Chairman
The American Chamber of Commerce
in Hong Kong
1904 Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road
Hong Kong

Dear James,

**Arrangements for Foreign Media
to visit the Mainland**

Please refer to your letter of 29 August 2002 to the Chief Executive and my letter of 13 September 2002 on the above captioned subject.

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will now put in place simplified procedures for Hong Kong-based foreign correspondents on duty visits to the Mainland.

As advised by MFAO, the new measures will be as follows -

- For foreign correspondents wishing to conduct interviews with embassies/consulates and foreign-owned enterprises, or to cover international conferences and some major events, the MFAO will simplify their visa applications, depending on the circumstances;
- Foreign correspondents who wish to cover assignments in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong Province and whose organisations have their own local bureau in these places, may ask the latter to make arrangements on their behalf. In other words, the correspondents are no longer required to have a host organisation in the Mainland as their receiving unit.

抱負：為香港特別行政區政府提供高水平的專業公關支援，
在本港和海外建立正面，真確的形象。

Vision: To serve the Hong Kong SAR by providing PR service of
the highest professional standard and to project an
accurate image of Hong Kong, both locally and overseas.

- The MFAO and the departments concerned are prepared to organise visits to the Mainland for foreign correspondents if necessary. The Foreign Affairs Department of Guangdong Province welcomes foreign correspondents to visit the Province and would render more facilitation. The Department will also issue invitations to Hong Kong-based correspondents from time to time.

In addition, both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MFAO stand ready to further strengthen liaison and co-operation with foreign correspondents based in Hong Kong.

I hope that these new arrangements will be welcomed by the US journalists based in Hong Kong. Mr W K Lam, Director of the Chief Executive's Office has also advised Mr Thomas Crampton, President of the FCC of the above arrangements.

I would be most grateful if you could inform the Governors of the AmCham of these new measures.

Yours &c,
Yvonne

(Miss Yvonne Choi)

Director of Information Services