

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW to ask on 05/01/05: (Translation)

The application forms for The Link Real Estate Investment Trust ("The Link REIT"), which was offered for sale to the public last month, specified that except for the Chinese names, applicants should complete the forms in English; otherwise their applications might be rejected. Such a practice has caused inconvenience to some members of the public who intended to subscribe for The Link REIT. According to the Administration's reply to a relevant question raised in this Council in April 2001, the Securities and Futures Commission would discuss with members of the Federation of Share Registrars and market participants to explore possible means to allow investors to complete subscription forms in Chinese in the future. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

1. given that it has been more than three and a half years since the Administration replied to the above question in April 2001, of the reasons for the failure of the authorities concerned to make arrangements to allow investors to complete the subscription forms in Chinese;
2. given that stakeholders of the securities sector expected a large number of retail subscribers of The Link REIT, whether the authorities concerned had considered allowing such retail subscribers to complete the application forms for The Link REIT in Chinese; and
3. given that the authorities concerned announced last month that the listing of The Link REIT had been put on hold, whether they will consider adopting measures to allow members of the public to complete subscription forms in Chinese when they arrange for the listing of The Link REIT and other public assets in the future?

Public Officer to reply : **Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury**