

HK, Singapore enter into MOU on insurance regulatory co-operation

Hong Kong and Singapore have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding of Mutual Assistance and the Exchange of Information on insurance matters (MOU) to strengthen future cooperation of insurance regulators in the two places.

The MOU was signed in Singapore today (March 15) by Mr Benjamin Tang, the Commissioner of Insurance of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Mrs Hauw Soo Hoon, Executive Director (Insurance) of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

The MOU seeks to promote efficient, fair and stable insurance markets in both Hong Kong and Singapore for the benefit and protection of policyholders, by providing a framework for co-operation, the exchange of information and assistance.

Mutual assistance is provided in areas of administration and enforcement of the various requirements relating to the business of insurance. These include development of new regulatory requirements for the conduct of insurance business and the continuous monitoring of insurance companies to ensure compliance with relevant supervisory requirements.

"As prudential insurance regulators, we are committed to modernizing our insurance regulation to meet the challenges of an increasingly dynamic and competitive marketplace. International co-ordination in the area of supervision and surveillance is not just desirable, but necessary," said Mr Benjamin Tang.

"With the convergence of the financial services and the globalization of insurance business, it is essential for financial regulators to have enhanced cooperation and information sharing in order to improve their effectiveness in administering and enforcing the insurance laws of their respective jurisdictions.

"I am glad that Hong Kong and Singapore recognize the increasing international activity in insurance markets and the corresponding need for mutual cooperation between the relevant supervisory authorities. " he added.

Prior to the signing of MOU in Singapore, the Commissioner of Insurance attended the 2nd CEO Insurance Summit in Asia organized by Asia Insurance Review in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and delivered a speech on “Steering in an Ocean of Changes” on Wednesday (Mar 13).

He also took the chance to address two luncheons arranged by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore on Mar 14 and 15 respectively to promote Hong Kong as a quality insurance centre.

End/ Friday, March 15, 2002