

Back Tien's call, say garment men

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Legislative Councillor Francis Tien's call for garment experts to be appointed to the Trade Development Council was welcomed by garment manufacturers yesterday.

Five major garment manufacturers associations issued a joint statement in support of Mr Tien's view.

The manufacturers said they were indeed puzzled by the fact that the garment industry was not represented in the TDC.

They claimed they appreciate the efforts of the TDC in promoting Hongkong made ready-to-wear garment such as the RTW Festival and participation in overseas fashion fairs but said "it is difficult to understand why no one from the garment industry has been appointed by the Governor to the council."

The associations also supported Mr Tien's suggestion to relax immigration laws so that Hongkong can get necessary manpower from neighbouring countries.

"Though the Clothing Industry Training Centre was established recently with Government assistance, the number of people enrolled will not be enough to eventually fill all the vacancies in garment factories," the statement said.

The associations urged Government to "take Mr Tien's suggestion seriously and to allow overseas workers to come to work in Hongkong."

The five associations which issued the statement were the Federation of Hongkong Garment Manufacturers, the Hongkong Garment Manufacturers' Association, the Hongkong Chinese Textile Mills Association, the Hongkong Knitwear Exporters and Manufacturers Association and the Hongkong Woollen and Synthetic Knitting Manufacturers Association.