

Advisers' role not defined says legislator

BY S L LAW

A PROMINENT member of China's newly-appointed group of 44 advisers yesterday expressed reservations over his expected role.

Appointee David Li, who is also chief executive of the Bank of East Asia and a legislator, said the advisers' role was not well defined.

"Beijing has not given us detailed definitions about our role and operation," he said.

Mr Li said he had reservations about the role of the adviser in explaining China's policy to Hongkong residents.

"To be clear, we were just asked to explain China's ideas, but not its policy, to Hongkong residents," he said.

"To me, reflecting Hongkong people's ideas on China's policy . . . is more important."

Mr Li was encouraged by Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin's assurance of a capitalist system in Hongkong after 1997.