



To: taxreform@fstb.gov.hk
cc:
Subject: Use Numbers to Talk

28/07/2006 20:41
Please respond to Jason
Cheung
 Urgent
 Return Receipt

Dear sir,

I am writing to share my view of how to further facilitate the discussions of the tax reform.

In short, I think it is more effective for the public to discuss the subject if more data can be provided. For instance, simulations or estimations (number crunching or analytics) could be run to illustrate the impact to the government revenue if General Sales Tax (GST), say at 5%, was implemented between 1997 and 2006. During the period, HK has undergone economic cycles of upswing and downturn. The results from the simulations/estimations will provide the government and the public with insights to the effect of the introduction of GST. The numbers will tell whether or not GST will be favorable to HK as a whole. As a result, more resources and the focus can be devoted to sorting out the balance among various parties (interest groups) instead of wasting time (scarce public resources) in debating if GST should be introduced at all.

The government has all the necessary data to perform the required analytics. The results will be very powerful!

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,
Jason

P.S. If you need more information on how the analytics can be done, please feel free to contact me.