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 Urgent Return Receipt

To: &lt;taxreform@fstb.gov.hk&gt;

cc:

Subject: Comments on GST and other tax issues

In my opinion, GST is inevitable in our society when bahose who are earning moderately are subsidising those who do not wish to work as the welfare system has tipped the balance, but that would be another issue for another time. For now let's concentrate on hoe to make GST work and try to minimise it's adverse effects on those who are spending in HK and still have the ability to spend.

May I propose the following:

1. GST ONLY for those transection net amount over \$1000 (Eg New York state), those who can afford dinner or clothes at this price would not mind about the extra 5%(arbitrary)
2. GST must not be on basic needs: e.g. food and essential items: Medicine and medical equipment or consultation (Eg in the UK, prescriptions are not taxed)
3. Consider the impact of GST on the economy: Eg UK and Australia, people DO NOT go out to eat as often as we do in HK, because everything is expensive, therefore only expensive restaurants can survive. Plus, some may want to spend their money in Mainland China even more as the difference in price is more marked, ther certain business in hK will go down.
4. Alternatively, consider higher tax on cigarettes and alcohol. Lung Cancer is still the number one cause of cancer deaths in HK. Cirrhosis is also major cause of chronic disease.
5. Open the door for pregnant ladies to give birth in HK. With the condition that they pay a higher premium for hospital care and charges, afterall they have not paid any taxes in the past and have not contributed to our society and therefore reasonable to pay extra to enjoy our benefits. In adition, since the rate of failure to pay is at least 20%, either raise the fee to cover this cost or make it a rule that the child has to provide proof of payment at any hospital to be eligible for their HK birth certificate. This can also control illegal clinics.
6. Welfare system needs to be revised. Everyone has the ability to work, it's a matter of willingness and not ability. e.g. Anybody can go to the beach and pick up rubbish. Except that now it is more comfortable to sit at their subsided home and receive the same or more money even if they had worked....there is definitely something wrong with this! Luckily most HK people are more proud to be employed than be jobless. But what about the next generation? Education is a flop! It doesn't amtter if you fail all your exams, the society will take care of you! Don't give them any pressure... Education is the worse of the reforms and this is still bearing the consequences of Mr Tung and Mr Leung Kam Chung's era!!! WORSE IS PROPBABLY YET TO COME!

The above is just a few of my humble views, as a tax payer, I have been very disappointed with what the government has been spending our money on and now asking for more, they better do it properly and cut spending!!

Regards,  
Dr. B. Tam