



## **Increase of Qualifying Examination Fees**

(14 March 2017) The Estate Agents Authority (“EAA”) held its Board meeting today and endorsed the increase of the qualifying examination fees. With effect from January 2018, the examination fee for the Estate Agents Qualifying Examination (“EAQE”) will be increased from \$700 to \$800, and that for the Salespersons Qualifying Examination (“SQE”) will be increased from \$450 to \$550.

The current level of examination fees for both the EAQE and the SQE has remained unchanged since 2011. Due to the rising costs of administering the examinations over the years, the Practice and Examination Committee recommended to the EAA Board at today’s meeting to increase the examination fees effective January 2018, which was duly approved by the EAA Board.

The EAA Board Chairman Mr William LEUNG Wing-cheung, SBS, JP, said, “The EAA has used its greatest efforts to absorb the rising costs of organising examinations over the last six years by administrative measures. However, the EAA inevitably needs to review its costs and overheads and finally has to adjust the examination fees in order to maintain a balanced budget. The increase is moderate in the EAA’s view and we set the effective date to be from January 2018 so as to allow potential candidates sufficient time for consideration and preparation.”

As a gatekeeper of the estate agency trade in Hong Kong, the EAA organises qualifying examinations to ensure that only qualified candidates can enter the trade. The EAQE and the SQE are held four times and six times a year respectively. There are still three EAQEs and five SQEs that interested candidates can apply for in 2017, before the examination fees



increase in January 2018.

The EAA Board meeting today also endorsed the EAA's action plan for the year 2017-18. According to the action plan, the EAA will continue to review the contents of the qualifying examinations; update the existing practice circulars or issue new ones in the light of the latest situation and laws; monitor the trade's compliance through regular inspections particularly in relation to the sale of first-hand residential properties; enhance the Continuing Professional Development Scheme; and enhance consumer public education for better protection of their interests.

The EAA Board meeting also discussed and endorsed other administrative matters, and also received progress reports from various EAA Committees and the Administration.

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