

SFC Requires Retraction of Illegal Shares Offer

13 Apr 2007

The SFC has requested a foreign company to retract an illegal offer for shares made through an advertisement published in a Hong Kong daily newspaper.

On 13 November 2006, Empowernet International Limited, an Australian company, published an advertisement in the South China Morning Post offering its shares for sale to investors in Hong Kong.

No prospectus was registered with the SFC for the offer nor was the advertisement authorised by the SFC.

The SFC has investigated the matter and found that no Hong Kong investor has accepted the offer. Upon SFC's request, the company has withdrawn the offer and undertaken not to offer any shares to investors in Hong Kong. It has also published a correction in the South China Morning Post on 12 April 2007.

Mr Mark Steward, SFC's Executive Director of Enforcement, said: "Given the steps taken by the company to rectify the matter and that there was no harm or damage caused to investors, the SFC will take no further action. The SFC will continue to protect investors in Hong Kong from illegal offers."

Ends