

CAD seminar for securities houses

It aims to raise awareness of issues facing trading reps

By **WONG WEI KONG**

AT A time when Singapore shares are scaling record heights, the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) — the white-collar crime unit of the police — is keen to remind broking houses and traders to trade within the law.

To drive home this message, the CAD is organising a seminar titled "Securities Trading — Avoiding Pitfalls" for securities houses in Singapore next month.

The seminar aims to raise awareness of some of the issues facing trading representatives (TRs) in the course of their work, with speakers from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore Exchange (SGX) and CAD addressing a range of regulatory, enforcement and prosecution issues relating to securities trading.

"We strongly encourage those in the industry to at-



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Message to traders: *Trading representatives need to always act in the best interest of their clients and they must do so within the ambit of the law, says Mr Tan*

tend," said CAD director Tan Siong Thye. "Trading representatives need to always act in the best interest of their clients and they must do so within the ambit of the law."

Mr Tan noted that in recent years, CAD has prosecuted a number of people for securities market offences, ranging from fraud to insider trading and mar-

ket rigging.

A number of the offenders were trading representatives — who are at the frontline of the securities industry.

In one pending case, a former Kay Hian proprietary trader, Eddie Thong Soon Seng, was charged with 15 counts of share rigging, fraud and insider trading, including rigging

the shares of Citiraya Industries, Qian Hu Corporation, Arianecorp and NTI International. The trader was fined previously in 2001 for stock market manipulation.

In another pending case, two former dealers of CIMB-GK Securities, Siow It Loong and Chua Siew Lian, were charged with conspiring to rig share prices to profit from the trades in two derivatives linked to the Straits Times Index.

"To support the growth of our financial services industry and to inspire confidence among investors, it is important to preserve the integrity of our capital market and to ensure that market forces operate freely and fairly and on a level playing field without anyone taking undue advantage," Mr Tan said.

The half-day seminar will be held on Feb 7 at the Police Cantonment Complex. A fee of \$73 per participant will be imposed to cover costs.

More details can be found on www.cad.gov.sg.