

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1013/01-02  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/BC/26/00

**Bills Committee on Travel Agents (Amendment) Bill 2001**

**Minutes of the second meeting  
held on Monday, 7 January 2002 at 4:30 pm  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members Present** : Hon SIN Chung-kai (Chairman)  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP  
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam  
Hon Howard YOUNG, JP  
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP  
Hon CHOY So-yuk  
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

**Public Officers Attending** : Mrs Rebecca LAI  
Commissioner for Tourism

Mr WU Kam-yin  
Assistant Commissioner for Tourism

Mr Eric HO  
Registrar of Travel Agents

Miss Bella MUI  
Assistant Secretary (Tourism) for Economic Services

**Attendance by Invitation** : Hong Kong Taiwan Tourist Operators Association Ltd

Mr KAI Chuen-kam  
Chairman

Consumer Council

Mrs CHAN WONG Shui  
Chief Executive

Mr CHAN Wing-kai  
Head, Complaints & Advice Division

Hong Kong Outbound Tour Operators' Association Ltd

Mr Jackson WONG  
Member, Executive Committee

Hong Kong Inbound Travel Association Ltd

Mr David WONG  
Member, Executive Committee

Pacific Asia Travel Association (Hong Kong Chapter)

Mr Edmund TSANG  
Chairman

The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners

Mr Michael LI  
Executive Director

Ms CHAN Shuk-fong  
Assistant Executive Director

Hong Kong Association of Registered Tour Co-ordinators Ltd (HARTCO)

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Mr WONG Wai-wing  
Chairman

Miss Emily FUNG  
Manager

Hongkong Japanese Tour Operators Association

Mr CHOI Pat-tai  
Chairman

Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Ltd

Mr Freddy YIP  
Chairman

Mr S L LAM  
Vice Chairman

Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) Hong Kong Chapter

Ms Carmen LAM  
Education Committee Member

Hong Kong Tourism Board

Mrs Grace LEE  
Director, Corporate Support

Hong Kong Inbound Tour Operators Association Ltd

Mr Patrick YEUNG  
Executive Committee

Tiglion Travel Services Company Limited

Mr HUNG Yun-yuen  
Managing Director

Hong Kong Tourist Industry Employees' General Union

Mr CHAU Kam-piu  
Chairman

Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong

Mr Ronnie YUEN  
Chairman

Mr Ken CHANG  
Inbound Committee Convenor

Mr Joseph TUNG  
Executive Director

**Clerk in Attendance** : Ms Doris CHAN  
Chief Assistant Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in Attendance** : Miss Anita HO  
Assistant Legal Adviser 2

Ms Dora WAI  
Senior Assistant Secretary (2) 4

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Action

**I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 6 December 2001**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)768/01-02)

The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed.

**II. Meeting with Deputations and the Administration**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)797/01-02(02) to (13))

2. The Bills Committee received views from 15 deputations on the Bill. The deputations were generally in support of the introduction of a licensing scheme for inbound travel agents as soon as possible in order to protect and upgrade the image of the travel industry in Hong Kong. They shared the view that the certification scheme for inbound tour guides could be put in place after the implementation of the licensing scheme as it was expected that it would take two years to complete the training of about 8 000 tour guides. In addition, they generally agreed that the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC) should be responsible for the self-regulation of both inbound and outbound travel agents having regard to its expertise and past performance in regulating outbound travel agents. Other major views expressed were as follows -

- (a) the transparency of the operation of the self-regulatory scheme by TIC should be increased and the public accountability of TIC should be enhanced to boost public confidence in TIC;
- (b) the number of non-industry members on the TIC Board should be increased with a view to safeguarding public interest and protecting industry members of the Board who might be facing pressure to put the

interest of the industry ahead of public interest;

- (c) guidelines to be followed by the Board of Directors and senior management of TIC in conducting TIC business should be introduced to avoid conflict of interest;
  - (d) a clear definition of "inbound travel agent" should be introduced to remove the ambiguity as to whether tour-related services provided by non-travel agents, e.g. conference or exhibition organisers, would be covered under the Bill; and
  - (e) the Government should provide resources to TIC for the regulation of inbound travel agents.
3. The Bills Committee discussed the issues raised with the deputations and the Administration provided a preliminary response (index of proceedings at **Annex**).
4. The Administration undertook to provide a written response to the views expressed by the deputations and those set out in other submissions received by the Bills Committee. As requested by the Chairman, it would also provide a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the eight Association Members of TIC for members' reference.
5. The Bills Committee agreed to hold the next meeting on 17 January 2002 at 4:30 pm to continue discussion with the Administration.
6. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
28 January 2002

**Proceedings of the second meeting of the  
Bills Committee on Travel Agents (Amendment) Bill 2001  
on Monday, 7 January 2002 at 4:30 pm  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
0000-0323	Chairman	(a) Confirmation of minutes of last meeting; and (b) Welcoming remarks and inviting deputations to present views	
0324-0353	Hong Kong Taiwan Tourist Operators Association Ltd	Presentation of views	
0354-0356	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
0357-0832	Consumer Council	Presentation of views	
0833-0841	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
0842-1142	Hong Kong Outbound Tour Operators' Association Ltd	Presentation of views	
1143-1150	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
1151-1547	Hong Kong Inbound Travel Association Ltd	Presentation of views	
1548-1557	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
1558-1757	Pacific Asia Travel Association (Hong Kong Chapter)	Presentation of views	
1758-1804	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
1805-1854	The Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners	Presentation of views	
1855-1900	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
1901-2138	Hong Kong Association of Registered Tour Co-ordinators Ltd (HARTCO)	Presentation of views	
2139-2149	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
2150--2517	Hongkong Japanese Tour Operators Association	Presentation of views	
2518-2522	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
2523-2743	Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Ltd	Presentation of views	
2744-2752	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	

2753-2930	Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) Hong Kong Chapter	Presentation of views	
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<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
2931-2935	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
2936-3221	Hong Kong Tourism Board	Presentation of views	
3222-3228	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
3229-3343	Hong Kong Inbound Tour Operators Association Ltd	Presentation of views	
3344-3354	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
3355-3755	Tiglion Travel Services Company Limited	Presentation of views	
3756-3808	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
3809-3850	Hong Kong Tourist Industry Employees' General Union	Presentation of views	
3851-3858	Chairman	Inviting the next deputation to present views	
3859-4439	TIC	Presentation of views	
4440-4459	Chairman	Inviting questions from members	
4500-4734	Ms Audrey EU	(a) Scope of the Bill; (b) Effective date of the Bill; and (c) Need to introduce a clear definition of "inbound travel agent" to remove the ambiguity as to whether tour-related services provided by non-travel agents would be covered under the Bill	
4735-4754	Chairman	Inviting response to the above	
4755-4907	Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Ltd	Expressing support for the implementation of a licensing scheme for inbound travel agents before the introduction of a certification scheme for inbound tour guides	
4908-5119	TIC	(a) Restructuring of TIC to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents; and (b) Need to introduce a clear definition of "inbound travel agent" to remove the ambiguity as to whether tour-related services provided by non-travel agents would be covered under the Bill	
5120-5136	Chairman	Effective date of the Bill	
5137-5252	Hongkong Japanese Tour Operators Association	Expressing support for the implementation of a licensing scheme for inbound travel agents before the introduction of a certification scheme for inbound tour guides	
5253-5301	Chairman	Scope of the Bill	



5302-5331	ALA	Ditto	
5332-5441	Ms Audrey EU	Implications on tour guides	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
5442-5751	Admin	(a) Existing mechanism for regulating outbound travel agents; (b) Training for inbound tour guides; and (c) Effective date of the Bill	
5752-5824	Hong Kong Outbound Tour Operators' Association Ltd	Training for inbound tour guides	
5825-5833	Chairman	Need to introduce a clear definition of "inbound travel agent" to remove the ambiguity as to whether tour-related services provided by non-travel agents would be covered under the Bill	
5834-010011	Society of Incentive Travel Executives (SITE) Hong Kong Chapter	Ditto	
010012-010013	Mr LEUNG Fu-wah	(a) Difference in the contents of training for inbound and outbound tour guides and the minimum entry requirements for receiving training provided by Hong Kong Association of Registered Tour Co-ordinators Ltd (HARTCO); and (b) Views of Hong Kong Tourist Industry Employees' General Union on the proposed introduction of a licensing scheme for inbound travel agents modelling on that for outbound travel agents	
010014-010225	Hong Kong Association of Registered Tour Co-ordinators Ltd (HARTCO)	Response to (a) above	
010226-010256	Hong Kong Tourist Industry Employees' General Union	Response to (b) above	
010257-010313	Mr LEUNG Fu-wah	Other body, besides TIC, which would also be suitable to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents	
010314-010613	TIC	(a) Response to the above; (b) Resources required for TIC to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents; and (c) Training for tour guides	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
010614-010807	Miss CHOY So-yuk	(a) Ways of monitoring advertisements for inbound tours; (b) Compensation for inbound tourists; and (c) Seeking confirmation that conference or exhibition organisers would not be subject to the new licensing scheme	
010808-010815	Chairman	Inviting response to the above	
010816-011209	TIC	(a) Existing mechanism for monitoring outbound travel agents; and (b) Compensation for consumers against default or malpractice of travel agents	
011210-011625	Hongkong Japanese Tour Operators Association	(a) Expressing support for TIC to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents; and (b) Need to upgrade the quality of tour guides	
011626-011732	Mr Howard YOUNG	Proposed increase in the transparency of TIC	
011733-012055	Consumer Council	Response to the above	
012056-012138	Mr Howard YOUNG	Proposed increase in the number of non-industry members on the TIC Board	
012139-012223	Consumer Council	Response to the above	
012224-012424	Ms Cyd HO	(a) Remuneration scheme for tour guides; (b) Costs to be incurred by inbound travel agents in complying with the new licensing requirement; and (c) Readiness of the trade to comply with the new licensing requirement, in particular those inbound travel agents currently organising "zero cost" tours, and the impact on the competitiveness of local inbound tours after the implementation of the new licensing scheme	
012425-012651	TIC	Response to (b) and (c) above	
012652-012802	Hong Kong Taiwan Tourist Operators Association Ltd	Response to (c) above	
012803-012814	Chairman	Reminding members and deputations to focus discussion on the Bill	

012815-013109	Mr Fred LI	(a) Cause for travel agents organising "zero cost" tours; (b) Reputation of the 200 travel agents who were not yet TIC members; and (c) Need to introduce a certification scheme as well as a registration scheme for tour guides	
013110-013444	TIC	Response to the above	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
013445-013825	Mrs Selina CHOW	(a) Expressing support for the Bill and for TIC to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents; and (b) Appeal to Admin to provide resources to TIC for the regulation of inbound travel agents	
013826-014048	TIC	Appeal to Admin to provide resources to TIC for the regulation of inbound travel agents	
014049-014248	Hongkong Japanese Tour Operators Association	(a) Expressing support for the Bill and for TIC to assume the regulatory role in respect of inbound travel agents; and (b) Appeal to Admin to provide resources to TIC for the regulation of inbound travel agents	
014249-014437	Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Ltd	Ditto	
014438-014554	Hong Kong Outbound Tour Operators' Association Ltd	Travel insurance for the tourist industry	
014555-014603	Chairman	Reminding members and deputations to focus discussion on the Bill	
014604-014758	Hong Kong Travel Agent Owners Association Ltd	Appeal to Admin to provide resources to TIC for the regulation of inbound travel agents	
014759-014808	Chairman	Inviting Admin to respond to views expressed by deputations	
014809-015149	Admin	(a) Preliminary response to views expressed by deputations; and (b) Admin to provide a written response after the meeting	✓
015150-015303	Chairman	Admin to provide a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the eight Association Members of TIC	✓
015304-015831	Chairman and members	Date of next meeting	

**Note : The audio records of the above proceedings are kept at the LegCo Library**

Legislative Council Secretariat  
28 January 2002