

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 317/00-01

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 15 December 2000**

Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs

Proposed overseas duty visit to London and New York

Purpose

This paper seeks members' support for an overseas duty visit to New York and London to be conducted by the Panel on Financial Affairs in April 2001.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Panel on Financial Affairs (the Panel) on 4 December 2000, members reviewed the scope of subjects which required reference to overseas practices with a view to ascertaining the need for overseas duty visit. Referring a paper prepared by the Secretariat (LC Paper No. CB(1)225/00-01(01)), members noted that since the 1998-99 session, over 95% of the time of the Panel on Financial Affairs has been spent on the study of issues and legislative proposals relating to financial infrastructure and practices of the banking, securities and futures industries. A number of important legislative proposals have been or will shortly be introduced to the Council aiming at modernizing the legal and regulatory framework for the markets and making Hong Kong a first class international financial centre. These proposals will have far-reaching impact on Hong Kong's financial infrastructure. Reference to practices in overseas economies, especially those in world-leading financial centres such as New York, Chicago and London, is often required. At present, Members have no first-hand information on these practices except the information provided through the Administration.

3. Members of the Panel therefore considered that the Panel should conduct an overseas duty visit to some of the most leading international financial centres to enhance members' understanding of the financial infrastructure of these centres and to establish direct links with their regulatory bodies and major market players. Members endorsed the paper presented to the Panel and agreed that an overseas duty visit to London and New York should be conducted.

Details of proposed visit

Timing for the visit

4. Having regard to the need for planning the logistics and avoiding any clash with Council meetings and the Budget, the Panel considered that the most suitable period for conducting the visit is from the late evening of 4 April 2001 (Wednesday) after Council meeting to 13 April 2001 (Good Friday). This will provide at least seven working days for the visit with travelling to be done during the intervening weekend.

Participants of the visit

5. Nine members of the Panel have indicated interest in participating in the visit, as given in **Appendix I**. Two staff members of the Secretariat including Assistant Secretary General 1 and a research officer from the Research and Library Services Division will assist in the visit.

Funding arrangements

6. According to the decision made by The Legislative Council Commission in 1997, Members going on an overseas duty visit should be fully sponsored for their trip. For the purpose of budget control, the Commission has agreed that, under normal circumstances, the number of delegates sponsored for each overseas trip should be limited to no more than six for a parliamentary visit and four for other overseas duty visits. Members not selected to participate may join the delegation on a self-financing basis.

7. However, in view of the need for Members from different political parties/groupings in the Council and those with heavy involvement in the finance-related legislative work to have the chance to take part in this visit, it is proposed that the quota of fully-sponsored members be extended to seven. The estimated expenditure for the seven Panel members for the visit will be in the region of \$520,000. A breakdown of the expenses is at **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to advise whether they recommend the above-mentioned overseas duty visit to the Commission for allocation of funds, and whether the number of fully-sponsored members be extended to seven.

Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs

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**List of Members who have indicated their interest
in participating in the visit
(as at 11 December 2000)**

Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP (Chairman)

Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS (Deputy Chairman)

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, JP

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon Bernard CHAN

Hon CHAN Kam-lam

Hon SIN Chung-kai

Appendix II

Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs

Breakdown of the cost per member for the overseas duty visit to London and New York

Items

	<u>Estimated Amount</u> (HK\$)/person
1. Air passage (business class) - Special round the world fare	38,000
2. Hotel accommodation	20,000
3. Overseas subsistence allowance	9,800
4. Travel insurance	400
5. Airport tax	700
6. Local transportation	4,500
7. Miscellaneous	800
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Total	74,200
Total for 7 Members: \$74,200 x 7	= 519,400
Say,	520,000

(Note: Other expenditure including cost for two staff members and expenses on souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.)