

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1486/00-01

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Paper for House Committee Meeting on 11 May 2001

**Third Report of Subcommittee on overseas duty visits undertaken
by Panels and other committees concerning
participation of non-committee Members in
overseas duty visits and related funding arrangements**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on overseas duty visits undertaken by Panels and other committees concerning participation of non-committee Members in overseas duty visits and related funding arrangements.

Background

2. At its meeting on 9 February 2001, the House Committee endorsed a recommendation of the subcommittee that the membership of a delegation of a committee undertaking an overseas duty visit should be restricted to members of the committee and that, in normal circumstances, it should be as broadly representative as possible.

3. In a further report to the House Committee on 9 March 2001, the subcommittee recommends, inter alia, that if a non-committee Member is interested in a particular issue covered by a committee's overseas duty visit, the Member may join the visit with the consent of the committee and on a self-financing basis.

4. As diverse views on the subcommittee's recommendation were expressed at the House Committee meeting, it was agreed that the subcommittee should further discuss the matter, and that Members should be consulted.

Consultation Paper

5. A consultation paper (LC Paper No. CB(2) 1102/00-01) was issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1134/00-01 on 21 March 2001. The consultation paper sets out the relevant issues and arguments for Members'

consideration and seeks Members' views on the following proposals -

- a. No change should be made to the existing guideline that the membership of a delegation for an overseas duty visit undertaken by a committee should be restricted to members of that committee; or
- b. A non-committee Member may join an overseas duty visit of the committee with the consent of the committee and on a self-financing basis; or
- c. A non-committee Member may join an overseas duty visit of the committee with the consent of the committee and the Member may use the allocation in the Member's overseas duty visit account to finance the visit.

Outcome of Consultation

6. As at 17 April 2001, 46 Members responded to the consultation paper. A majority of these Members, 37 in total, prefer the proposal detailed in paragraph 5(c) above. The views of the remaining nine Members are summarised below -

- a. Four Members prefer the proposal in paragraph 5(b) above;
- b. Three Members prefer the proposal in paragraph 5(a) above;
- c. One Member prefers the proposals in paragraph 5(a) and (b) above; and
- d. One Member has no comment.

Deliberations and Recommendations of Subcommittee

7. The subcommittee met on 4 May 2001 to further discuss the issue of participation of non-committee Members in overseas duty visits and related funding arrangements.

8. In accordance with the outcome of consultation with Members, the subcommittee recommends that a non-committee Member may join an overseas duty visit of a committee with the consent of the committee and the Member may use the allocation in the Member's overseas duty visit account to finance the visit.

9. The subcommittee has also considered the question of whether there should be some criteria for determining the membership of a delegation of a

committee undertaking an overseas duty visit. The subcommittee is of the view that it is not necessary to lay down such criteria but wishes to recommend two general guidelines to assist committees in determining the size and composition of a delegation for an overseas duty visit. Firstly, members of a committee should have priority in participating in an overseas duty visit undertaken by the committee. Secondly, a delegation undertaking an overseas duty visit should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements.

Members' Advice

10. Members' views are sought on the recommendations of the subcommittee in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.

11. Subject to Members' endorsement of the recommendations, they will be submitted to The Legislative Council Commission for approval.
