

立法會

Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 13 October 2000

Formation of Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

Purpose

This paper invites Members to determine the size of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee of the House Committee and the procedure for electing Members to sit on it.

Background

2. Rule 34 of the House Rules provides for the formation of a Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee under the House Committee. The Subcommittee co-ordinates all parliamentary liaison activities between the Council and other parliamentary organizations outside Hong Kong, considers proposals for setting up friendship groups with such organizations, and makes recommendations to the House Committee. In addition, members of the Subcommittee participate, on a regular basis, in receiving parliamentarians and delegations visiting Hong Kong. The Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee of the first term of the Legislative Council consisted of a chairman, a deputy chairman and seven members. Its terms of reference are in the **Appendix**.

3. The need for the Hong Kong legislature to establish and maintain contacts with legislatures outside Hong Kong has always been recognised. On the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee in the first term of the Legislative Council, friendship groups with members of the legislatures of Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan and Singapore have been established.

4. All Members of the Council are entitled to participate in the activities of these friendship groups. Such activities are mainly social in nature and provide opportunities for the exchange of views among parliamentarians. During the first term of the Legislative Council, visits to Japan and three European cities i.e. London, Strasbourg and Berlin were organized. Members of the Singapore-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group and the Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group were invited to visit Hong Kong in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

Decisions sought

5. Members are invited to:
- (a) determine the size of the Subcommittee (there were nine Members in the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee of the first term of the Legislative Council); and
 - (b) consider adopting the previous procedure whereby the election of Members to the Subcommittee was by way of nominations made orally at a meeting of the House Committee. In making the nominations, Members of the previous Council had regard for the need to ensure that the Subcommittee's membership is broadly balanced and representative of the groupings in the Council. It was also agreed that if there were more nominations than places available, an election by a show of hands should be conducted.

Election of Members to the Subcommittee

6. If the House Committee endorses the election procedure in paragraph 5 above, it is recommended that the election of Members to the Subcommittee be conducted at the House Committee meeting to be held on 20 October 2000.

Terms of Reference of

Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

- 1) To promote liaison and develop good relationship with parliamentary bodies in various territories;
- 2) To consider proposals for the formation of friendship groups with legislatures outside Hong Kong;
- 3) To deal with all matters pertaining to the activities of parliamentary friendship groups, including sending delegations on visits outside Hong Kong and hosting activities with delegations visiting Hong Kong; and
- 4) To make recommendations to the House Committee in respect of the above.