

NOTE FOR ESTABLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Work Schedule of the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit

Introduction

At the Establishment Subcommittee meeting held on 21 November 2001 when EC(2001-02)22 was considered, the Administration undertook to provide information on the programme of work to be carried out by the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU).

2. The purpose of this note is to inform Members of the work schedule of the HKGCCU in the coming months.

Work Schedule of the HKGCCU

3. The work schedule of the HKGCCU in the next six to nine months is as follows -

- (a) Perform as a multi-disciplinary team to review the current cross boundary policies and arrangements for passengers and freight on different transport modes and to explore short, medium and long-term measures targeted at raising the levels of throughput at these crossings that will adequately meet growing traffic demands.

The HKGCCU will work with Bureaux/Departments concerned to -

- (i) explore ways to further facilitate inter-modal passenger and cargo traffic in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region;
- (ii) review the transshipment clearance procedures to see if they can be further simplified or streamlined to facilitate cargo movement;

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- (iii) monitor the impact of extension of operation hours at Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Control Points and to recommend the way forward;
 - (iv) explore the scope of further enhancing the passenger flow at Lo Wu Control Point;
 - (v) devise a comprehensive improvement plan to enhance the passenger and cargo flows of Lok Ma Chau Control Point;
 - (vi) assess the customer service environment of the boundary control points and to recommend improvement measures;
 - (vii) review the cross-boundary coach quota system; and
 - (viii) examine if the clearance procedures for river trade vessels can be further streamlined.
- (b) To coordinate and expedite efforts by different Bureaux and Departments in the implementation of agreements reached at the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference.

Following the fourth meeting of the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference held on 25 July 2001, the HKGCCU is actively coordinating the following items, in particular -

- (i) Nansha development – The Administration is exploring the possibility of cooperating with the Guangdong authorities to jointly develop Nansha on the hi-tech and logistics fronts. The HKGCCU is represented on the expert groups related to Nansha development; and
- (ii) Boundary cooperation – The HKGCCU will oversee various cooperation items with the Mainland on security and transport fronts and coordinate cross-Bureaux issues such as the feasibility of co-locating the immigration and customs facilities of HKSAR and those of Shenzhen to enhance the efficiency of cross-boundary clearance.

The HKGCCU is also monitoring the progress of the other items including the development of the Shenzhen Western Corridor, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Regional Express Line, the feasibility of cooperation between the Hong Kong International Airport and other airports in the PRD Region and the cooperation on environmental protection etc.

- (c) In consultation with Bureaux, to map out a long-term action agenda, at both policy and operational levels, for Hong Kong and the PRD Region to cooperate with each other.

Within the next six to nine months, subject to the work particularly in paragraph 3(a) above, the HKGCCU will reach out to different sectors of the community to tap their views on Hong Kong-Guangdong cooperation. This will lay the ground work for mapping out a long-term action agenda with Bureaux. To date the HKGCCU has outreached to a number of sectors which include the chambers of commerce, the accounting profession, the legal profession, the engineering profession, the logistics sector and related transport industries, the private medical profession and social service organisations etc. Dialogues with the academia have also been established. The HKGCCU has sought their views on the outlook of Hong Kong-Mainland cooperation and on ways to establish closer ties with our Mainland counterparts. The HKGCCU will continue with this outreaching exercise and will commence work on crystallising the long-term cooperation agenda after it has completed the work on the facilitation of people and cargo flows as listed in paragraph 3(a) above.

Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit
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