

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1846/01-02

Ref : CB1/PL/ITB

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 31 May 2002

**Proposed overseas duty visit to South Korea by
the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

Purpose

This paper seeks the House Committee's permission for the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting to conduct an overseas duty visit to South Korea in September 2002.

Background

2. The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting has all along monitored closely policy measures and initiatives seeking to enhance Hong Kong's role as a leader in the development of an information economy. It has also noted a number of areas which are important for the information economy to thrive, including the availability of high capacity communications systems and the level of the community's information technology (IT) readiness. On the exploitation of technologies, members have taken an active interest in the growth of the digital entertainment industry, as well as the adoption of IT by the business sector, notably small and medium enterprises.

3. At its meeting on 8 April 2002, the Panel considered and endorsed a proposal to conduct an overseas duty visit to South Korea in September 2002 for the purpose of acquiring first-hand understanding of overseas experience. South Korea has been chosen for the visit in view of the fast growth in its IT sector in recent years. Members also agreed in principle that attention should be focused on the following areas:

- (a) broadband Internet services;
- (b) community IT user support services;
- (c) digital entertainment; and
- (d) government policy and support in encouraging the adoption of IT in the business sector.

Visit programme

4. The Panel has agreed that the visit will last for four days in the last week of September 2002. Subject to finalization of the programme and related arrangements, visit activities will take place from 24 to 27 September 2002. The assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hong Kong will be enlisted in drawing up a detailed programme which will include site visits, meeting with relevant government officials, regulatory authorities, industry players and relevant parliamentary committees.

Participants of the visit

5. So far, a total of six Panel members at **Appendix I** have indicated interest in taking part in the proposed visit.

Funding arrangements

6. Under the current arrangement approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visits account of \$61,000 in each four-year term for expenses arising from duty visits outside Hong Kong. Any expenditure incurred in one term in excess of \$61,000 will have to be paid by the Member personally. However, if by the end of a term there are unused balances in Members' accounts, the funds available will be used to pay those Members who have expended more than their allocation, in proportion to their excess qualifying expenditure.

7. A preliminary estimate of expenditure incurred by each participating Member in connection with the duty visit is at **Appendix II**. The estimated expenditure for each participating Member will be in the region of \$16,000.

Advice sought

8. Members' permission is sought pursuant to Rule 22(t) of the House Rules for the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting to undertake the proposed duty visit to South Korea.

Legislative Council Secretariat

May 2002

**Legislative Council
Panel on Information Technology & Broadcasting**

**List of Panel members who have indicated interest in taking part
in the overseas duty visit to South Korea**

Hon SIN Chung-kai (Chairman)

Hon Howard YOUNG, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP

Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Hon MA Fung-kwok

Total : 6 members

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Proposed overseas duty visit to South Korea

Duration of visit 4 days in the last week of September 2002
(tentatively from 24 to 27 September 2002)

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)
1. Return air passage (business class)	7,200
2. Hotel accommodation	5,200
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries	3,208
4. Travel insurance	200
5. Airport tax	293
Total:	16,101

Note: 1. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation and interpretation services will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.

2. Exchange rate as at 23 May 2002: 10,000 KRW = HK\$65.5