

立法會
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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 21 June 2002**

**Proposed overseas duty visit by the
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (the Panel) to conduct an overseas duty visit in early September 2002 to London, Berlin, Prague and Singapore to study their experiences on town planning, urban renewal and heritage preservation.

The Panel

2. The Panel is tasked to monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to lands, buildings and planning matters, works and water supply, and Public Works Programme.

3. In view of the scarcity of land resources, population growth and the changes in economic and social environment of Hong Kong, the Panel has attached great importance to the long-term and medium-term planning and development strategies to promote sustainable development of Hong Kong to balance social, economic, environmental needs for present and future generations. Since the start of the current term in October 2000, the Panel has deliberated on a number of development strategies and planning proposals, which may be broadly categorized as follows:

- (a) Long-term and medium-term planning and development strategies, e.g. "*Study on Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy*" which aims to provide a long-term land use-transport-environmental planning framework to guide the development of Hong Kong over the next 30 years, "*Study on Review of Metroplan*" which aims to formulate an up-to-date development strategy for the Metro Area for the period up to 2016;

- (b) Planning and development proposals for the waterfront areas, e.g. "*Planning Study on the Harbour and its Waterfront Areas*" which aims to make the Victoria Harbour more attractive, vibrant and symbolic of Hong Kong; and
- (c) Planning and development proposals for specific areas, e.g. Wanchai, Western District, South East Kowloon and South East New Territories, etc.

4. As a whole, the Panel considers that the planning proposals for specific areas should be compatible with the long-term planning strategy for the sustainable development of Hong Kong. The Panel also considers that as the Victoria Harbour and its waterfront areas are famous for their skyline, landmark buildings and night views, physical and visual intrusion into the Harbour should be minimized, and that no further reclamation works should be carried out in the areas. To capitalize on the leisure, recreation and economic potential of the Harbour to make it more attractive not only to tourists but also to local people, the Panel has suggested beautification and landscape improvement to waterfront promenades and open spaces.

5. Apart from town planning, urban renewal is another major area of concern of the Panel. To address the problem of urban decay and to improve the living conditions of residents in dilapidated urban areas, the Panel has called for the early implementation of urban renewal projects. Following the enactment of the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance (Cap. 563) in July 2000, the Panel has closely monitored the situation and has had extensive discussions with the Administration and parties concerned on issues relating to urban renewal, such as the draft Urban Renewal Strategy (URS), proposed compensation package for owners affected by land resumption for urban renewal projects, and work plans of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA). The Panel supports the people-oriented approach of the URS finalized in November 2001 and that URA should pursue the task of urban renewal in Hong Kong through a combination of four directions, namely, redevelopment, rehabilitation, revitalization and heritage preservation. The Panel will continue to monitor the implementation of the URA's 20-year urban renewal programme.

Proposed overseas duty visit

Objectives of the visit

6. To facilitate members' consideration of town planning and urban renewal proposals in Hong Kong, the Panel considers that an overseas duty visit should be conducted to study the following three aspects:

- (a) To study overseas experience on long-term town planning for the sustainable development of the cities concerned;

- (b) To study overseas experience on the planning and development of waterfront areas, i.e. alongside a harbour or a river, and specific areas of the cities concerned; and
- (c) To study overseas experience on people-oriented urban renewal programmes for the redevelopment of dilapidated urban areas to benefit the residents and the local community concerned, while preserving the heritage during the redevelopment process.

Places to be visited and timing for the visit

7. Having considered the findings of the background research conducted by the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat on a number of overseas places, the Panel observes that *London, Berlin, Prague and Singapore* have more relevant experiences on town planning, urban renewal and heritage preservation as a whole. The Panel therefore proposes to visit these four places.

8. To avoid any clash with Council meetings and Panel meetings, the Panel proposes that the visit be conducted in early September 2002 for around ten days.

Participants of the visit

9. Eight of the 12 members of the Panel and four non-Panel Members have indicated interest in participating in the overseas duty visit. A list of the Members is in **Appendix I**.

10. As agreed by the House Committee on 11 May 2001, a non-Panel Member may join an overseas duty visit of a Panel with the consent of the Panel and the Member may use the allocation in the Member's overseas duty visit account to finance the visit. The House Committee also endorsed the following two guidelines to assist committees in determining the size and composition of a delegation for an overseas duty visit:

- (a) Members of a committee should have priority in participating in an overseas duty visit undertaken by the committee; and
- (b) A delegation undertaking an overseas duty visit should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements.

11. As findings in the overseas duty visit would serve as useful references for Members in their consideration of future town planning and urban renewal proposals in Hong Kong, the Panel considers that the visit should be open to all non-Panel Members.

Funding arrangements

12. In accordance with the funding arrangement endorsed by the House Committee on 9 February 2001 and approved by the The LegCo Commission on 20 February 2001, the expenditure of each Member for the visit will be deducted from his own account of \$61,000 for use in a 4-year term for overseas duty visits organized by committees (including Panels) of LegCo. 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.

13. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the overseas duty visit is around \$61,000. A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

14. House Rule 22(t) provides that should any Panel consider it necessary to undertake any activities outside Hong Kong under the name of the Panel of LegCo, the prior permission of the House Committee shall be sought.

15. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the overseas duty visit as proposed.

LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

**List of members who have indicated interest in participating in
the proposed overseas duty visit
(Position as at 17 June 2002)**

Panel members

Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP (Chairman)

Hon LAU Ping-cheung (Deputy Chairman)

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Hon WONG Sing-chi

Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

Non-Panel Members

Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP

Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP

Hon LAU Kong-wah

Hon CHOY So-yuk

**Total: 8 Panel members and
4 non-Panel Members**

Remarks:

Hon LAU Ping-cheung has indicated that he may join the Singapore leg only.

LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Estimated expenditure for the proposed overseas duty visit

Duration of visit

10 days in September 2002
(tentatively from 5 to 14 September 2002)

Routing

Hong Kong — *Singapore* — *Prague* — *Berlin* — *London* — Hong Kong

Breakdown of estimated expenses

| Items | Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person) |
|---|---|
| 1. Return air passage (business class) | 45,440 |
| 2. Hotel accommodation | 7,960 |
| 3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries | 6,108 |
| 4. Travel insurance | 310 |
| 5. Airport tax | 1,400 |
| Total : | 61,218 |

Note :

- Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation and interpretation services will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
- The following exchange rates have been used in calculating the estimated expenditure-

| | | |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1 GBP | = | HK\$11.5 |
| 1 SGD | = | HK\$4.4 |
| 1 EUR | = | HK\$7.4 |
| 1 Zloty | = | HK\$1.94 |
| 1 Koruna | = | HK\$0.24 |