

Panel on Economic Services

List of issues suggested to be considered
(position as at 12 October 2004)

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

1. Competitiveness of Hong Kong's container freight industry

In view of the competition in the region, the Panel urged the Administration to promptly address the problem of Hong Kong's container terminals rapidly losing their competitive edge, seriously examine the reasons for the decline in the competitiveness of the local container freight industry, and expeditiously take corresponding measures so as to reclaim Hong Kong's leading position as a maritime and logistics centre.

To be confirmed

The Panel noted that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on "Hong Kong Port – Master Plan 2020". The study covered the feasibility of constructing Container Terminal 10 and site identification. The study would also propose a competitive and sustainable strategy as well as a master plan for Hong Kong's port development over a 20-year planning period. The Panel would like to be briefed on the findings and recommendations of the study.

2. Logistics services

The Panel would like to be briefed on the work of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and measures taken to promote logistics development in Hong Kong.

To be confirmed

In order to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport, views had been expressed that the Government should liaise with the Central People's Government and the relevant authorities with a view to implementing "co-location" of immigration and customs facilities at Hong Kong International Airport.

3. Aviation services

The latest review of the Mainland/The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Air Services Arrangement was concluded on 8 September 2004.

To be confirmed

According to the Administration, the new Arrangement provided a clear timetable for opening the Hong Kong/Mainland aviation market to more airlines and for expansion of capacity limits on individual routes. The limit on the total number of airlines allowed to participate in the market had been lifted immediately, while the number of routes that allowed "dual designation" by each side would be increased in phases, eventually covering all routes by winter 2006.

4. Privatization of Airport Authority

Last discussed at the meetings on 23 February and 2 March 2004.

To be confirmed

On 6 August 2003, the Administration announced that it would commence work in preparation for the proposed privatization of the Airport Authority. In early 2004, the Administration conducted informal consultation on the proposed privatization with many stakeholders to gauge their views on the matter. The Administration advised that it was mindful of the concerns over certain issues relating to the proposed privatization, and therefore had decided to take more time to further consult stakeholders before putting a privatization bill to the Legislative Council.

5. Post 2008 regulatory regime for the electricity supply sector

The Panel noted that the Administration was conducting an electricity market review with a view to mapping out the broad framework for the development of the electricity market upon the expiry of the Scheme of Control Agreements with the two power companies in 2008. In this regard, a 2-stage public consultation would be conducted by the Administration. The first stage of consultation aimed at seeking views on possible options for the development of the post-2008 electricity market. This would be followed by a second stage which aimed at mapping out the direction and framework for the future electricity market in Hong Kong so as to enable the Administration to finalize, in good time, firm proposals for the way ahead.

To be confirmed

The Panel would consider the options to be drawn up by the Administration for the development of the post-2008 electricity market in due course.

6. Development of new cruise terminal facilities in Hong Kong

Last discussed at the meeting on 28 June 2004.

To be confirmed

The Panel noted that the Administration was considering an open invitation for proposals from interested parties. The objective of the exercise would be to solicit innovative proposals which would enable the timely development of a cruise terminal, preferably in the core Harbour area, to meet the medium-term need. The Administration intended to launch the invitation of proposals exercise in the latter half of 2004 with a view to signing a provisional agreement with the selected proponent in 2005/2006.

7. Hong Kong Disneyland

Last discussed at the meeting on 28 June 2004.

Next regular meeting

In December 1999, the Government entered into an agreement with The Walt Disney Company to build Hong Kong Disneyland (Phase 1) at Penny's Bay. A joint venture company, the Hongkong International Theme Parks Limited, had been set up for this purpose. According to the Administration, the project is on schedule and within budget. Judging from the progress achieved so far, it was expected that the theme park would likely be opened by end-2005 as scheduled.

In previous discussion, the Administration was requested to provide an update on the forecast number of attendees of the theme park.

The Administration undertook to report the progress of the project on a regular basis.

8. Development of golf courses and spa facilities

The Administration was requested to brief the Panel on the development of golf courses and spa facilities in Hong Kong.

To be confirmed

The Administration advised that it was already working on the initiative and would conduct a consultancy study on such resort facilities.

9. Enhancement of public facilities at Ngong Ping

The item was proposed by the Administration in the 2003-04 session.

To be confirmed

The Administration would brief the Panel of the progress of the enhancement programme to improve public facilities at Ngong Ping.

10. Reconstruction of Sham Chung and Lai Chi Chong public piers

The item was proposed by the Administration in the 2003-04 session.

To be confirmed

The Administration would brief the Panel on the funding proposal relating to the reconstruction of Sham Chung and Lai Chi Chong public piers.

11. Amendment to Civil Aviation Ordinance to release passive aircraft owners from strict liability

The item was proposed by the Administration in the 2003-04 session..

To be confirmed

The Administration would brief the Panel on the proposed amendment to Civil Aviation Ordinance to release passive aircraft owners from strict liability.

12. Submission of Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited on planned use of natural gas as a feedstock for production of Towngas

The item was proposed by the Administration in the 2004-05 session.

Next regular meeting

13. Amendment to the Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations

The item was proposed by the Administration in the 2004-05 session. Amendment to the Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) Regulation was proposed to empower the Air Transport Licensing Authority to establish its own procedures.

Next regular meeting