

**立法會**  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)2576/05-06

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting on 7 July 2006**

**Proposed duty visit outside Hong Kong by  
the Panel on Health Services**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(u) of the House Rules for the Panel on Health Services to visit Singapore on 27 and 28 July 2006 to study the country's financing models for health care services.

**Background**

2. Various consultation documents on health care reform, including options for financing health care, had been published by the Government. In his Policy Address delivered on 12 January 2005, the Chief Executive announced that the advisory framework for health services would be reformed to facilitate the tendering of advice to the Government on long-term health care policies and financial viability. Pursuant to the announcement, the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee (HMDAC) was reconstituted in March 2005 and tasked to review and develop the service model for health care in both the private and public sectors and propose long-term health care financing options. The aim is to ensure that Hong Kong's health care system would be sustainable in the face of challenges, such as an ageing population and rising medical costs.

3. On 19 July 2005, HMDAC issued a discussion paper entitled "Building a Healthy Tomorrow" which set out its recommendations on the future service delivery model for health care in Hong Kong for public consultation. It was stated in the concluding chapter of the paper that as a next step, HMDAC would proceed with discussions on the possible financing options and would put forth recommendations in this regard by end of 2005/early 2006. The Administration has yet to set a date for reporting to the Panel on Health Services on the subject, and members have urged the Government to conduct

studies on financing options without delay and work out a clear timetable as soon as possible.

### **Details of proposed visit**

4. To facilitate members' consideration of the health care financing options, the Panel on Health Services considers it useful to visit Singapore from 27 to 28 July 2006 to learn about the operation of the country's Medical Savings Accounts, visit some public and private hospitals and hold discussions with the relevant organisations.

5. The Panel is seeking the assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Singapore in drawing up the visit programme.

### **Membership of delegation**

6. The Panel has agreed that the proposed visit will also be open to non-Panel Members. A list of the Members who have indicated interest in participating in the visit is in **Appendix I**.

### **Visit of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

7. The five Members who have indicated interest in participating in the visit will join the delegation of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene which will be in Singapore on 25 and 26 July 2006 and in Kuala Lumpur on 29 July 2006 to study the poultry slaughtering system in these places.

### **Funding arrangement for the visit**

8. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account of HK\$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organized by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee, of the Council during the 2004-08 term. Any expenditure incurred in one term in excess of HK\$55,000 has to be paid by the Member personally. However, if by the end of a term, there are unused balances in Members' overseas duty visit 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.

9. A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

**Advice sought**

10. The House Committee's permission is sought for the proposed visit.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
5 July 2006

**Panel on Health Services**

**List of members who have indicated interest in taking part in  
the visit to Singapore on 27 and 28 July 2006**

(Position as at 5 July 2006)

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Chairman)

Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP

Non-Panel Member

Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP

(Total : 5 members)

**Panel on Health Services  
Proposed duty visit outside Hong Kong**

**Estimate of expenditure**

**Estimated expenses for participating in the visits of the  
Panel on Health Services  
and the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
(Hong Kong — Singapore — Kuala Lumpur — Hong Kong)**

Air ticket (Economy class) (HK\$)	Hotel accommodation allowance (HK\$)		Duty visit expenses reimbursement (HK\$)		Travel insurance (HK\$)	Total (HK\$)
	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Kuala Lumpur</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Kuala Lumpur</i>		
5,740	2,825	518	1,884	414	120	<b>11,501</b>

Remarks :

1. Exchange rates adopted -  
SGD1 = HKD4.89    RM1 = HKD2.29
2. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services (if required), souvenirs and incidental expenses will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.