

Panel on Economic Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 21 March 2006)

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

Aviation, Logistics and Port development

1. The work of the Hong Kong Logistics Council and measures taken to promote logistics development in Hong Kong

With the advice and support of the Hong Kong Logistics Council, the Administration has adopted a range of measures to promote logistics development of Hong Kong. Progress has been made in the following aspects –

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Information connectivity

- The Digital Trade and Transportation Network (DTTN) system was launched in December 2005 to provide a neutral and secure platform for more efficient, reliable and cost-effective data exchange along the supply chain.

Cross boundary logistics cooperation

- Good progress has been made in the Administration's discussion with the Guangdong authorities in respect of licensing, regulation and customs clearance to enhance efficiency of freight flow and to reduce cross-boundary trucking cost.

Marketing

- LOGSCOUNCIL organized a delegation to the Pan-Pearl River Delta Modern Logistics Development Forum in Chengdu in July 2005, and two promotion visits in September 2005 and January 2006 respectively to reach out to industry players in Europe and USA to attract them to use the premium logistics services of Hong Kong. The preparation of a LOGSCOUNCIL report to cover its development since its formation in December 2001 is also underway.

Physical infrastructure

- A detailed feasibility study for the Lantau Logistics Park (LLP) is being conducted for completion in 2006 to pave

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the way for fulfilling the statutory requirements for subsequent reclamation and zoning of the LLP site. The LLP is intended to provide a designated facility for logistics services so as to foster service integration and enhance Hong Kong's logistics competitiveness.

- The Administration plans to put out suitable sites for short and medium term logistics facility use shortly.

Port Competitiveness

- Separately, the Administration has implemented a series of measures including streamlining the port entry procedures by introducing a multiple entry permit, reducing the port fees and charges, enhancing the mid-stream cargo handling capacity by establishing more services anchorages and introducing a six-month annual tonnage fee reduction for Hong Kong registered ships. Some of these measures came into operation on 1 February 2006; the rest will be in place later this year after the necessary legislative procedures are completed.

Looking ahead, various initiatives will be implemented in 2006-2007; these include a pilot study on on-board trucking information system to enhance trucking efficiency, seminars and workshops to promote e-logistics awareness and capability of the logistics industry in particular the SMEs; a user survey-cum-strategic forum to map out the strategy for the future development of Hong Kong's logistics industry and further promotional efforts targeting the Mainland audience.

2. Aviation services

- (a) Extension of aviation network to the Mainland To be confirmed

The Panel would like to be briefed on the programme for further opening up of the Hong Kong/Mainland aviation market.

- (b) "Co-location" of immigration and customs facilities at Hong Kong International Airport 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

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view to implementing “co-location” of immigration and customs facilities at Hong Kong International Airport.

At the Panel meeting on 24 January 2005, the Administration advised that co-location of immigration and customs facilities at cross-boundary control points involved complex legal and jurisdiction issues. There was no plan to provide co-location of immigration and customs facilities at SkyPlaza.

Tourism

3. Progress of the Ngong Ping 360 project, the preparatory work for commencement of the service as well as the progress of the development of other supporting infrastructure and facilities in Ngong Ping

The Ngong Ping 360 project comprises the Ngong Ping Skyrail and the Ngong Ping Village. The project is expected to be completed in mid 2006 and progress is on schedule. All cabins have been delivered to the site and are ready for testing and commissioning. The MTR Corporation Ltd. is working closely with relevant Government departments to ensure operational readiness for the opening.

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Works on supporting infrastructure in Ngong Ping, including the water supply system, the sewage system, the new Public Transport Interchange (PTI) and road modification works on Ngong Ping Road have been completed. The Transport Department is working closely with the franchised bus operator to provide bus services for passengers between Ngong Ping and other major attractions on Lantau Island, such as Tai O and Mui Wo.

The Government also has plans to enhance other public facilities at Ngong Ping, including the landscaped piazza between Ngong Ping 360 and Po Lin Monastery (PLM). The Government has been in discussion with PLM on the associated land matters. The Administration will proceed with the construction of the piazza enhancement works as soon as the land issues are resolved.

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4. Development of new cruise terminal facilities in Hong Kong

The Government received six suggestions in response to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) exercise. An inter-departmental working group is carefully examining the suggestions, based on the requirements set out in the Invitation Document.

To be confirmed

If no suggested location can meet the requirements as set out in the EOI exercise, the Government will proceed with the development of the second cruise terminal at Kai Tak, and see how the process can be expedited. If there is a location which can meet the requirements, the Government will conduct in-depth study on the location following the normal planning procedures and put the site out for competitive bidding after public consultation. The Government will brief the Panel on the result of the EOI exercise and the progress of the development of new cruise terminal facilities as soon as practicable after completion of the EOI evaluation.

5. 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 has commissioned a consultancy study on spa and resort facilities.

6. Operation and funding for the Hong Kong Tourism Board

At the special meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14 March 2006, Members expressed concern about the operation and funding for the Hong Kong Tourism Board in 2006-07. The Administration has been requested to provide the relevant information for the consideration of the Panel in due course.

To be confirmed

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Others

7. Findings and recommendations of the consultancy study on the auto-fuel retail market in Hong Kong

The consultant has yet to complete its work in full. The Administration will inform the public and LegCo of the consultant's findings after the full completion of the assignment.

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8. Tackling malpractices by unscrupulous traders

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

To be confirmed

9. Conditions for bulk airmail to Japan

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

To be confirmed

10. Review of branch post offices

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

To be confirmed