

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 29 June 2007

**Proposed overseas duty visit by the
Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(v) of the House Rules (HR) for the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty (the Subcommittee) to conduct an overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom (UK) and Spain to study the experience of the development of social enterprise in these countries.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was formed under the House Committee on 12 November 2004 to study the subject of combating poverty.
3. The Chief Executive pledged in his election platform in February 2007 to further promote the development of social enterprise by promoting tri-partite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community. On the other hand, the Financial Secretary stated in his 2006-2007 Budget speech that the Administration would assist further in the development of social enterprise, such as by setting up seed funds to assist the formation of social enterprises and facilitating participation by social enterprises in tenders of Government contracts.
4. Whilst expressing support for the policy initiatives to promote social enterprise development, the Subcommittee is concerned about the administrative and legal barriers to the development of social enterprise, in particular, the lack of personnel in the non-governmental organisations/welfare sector with professional business experience to operate social enterprises. Some members have pointed out that according to overseas experience, government policies and measures play a vital role in facilitating the development and survival of social enterprises.

5. To enable members to have a better understanding of overseas experience, the Subcommittee agreed at its meeting on 8 March 2007 that the Subcommittee should undertake a duty visit to UK and Spain to study the two countries' experience in promoting the development of social enterprise. Specifically, the visit aims to –

- (a) obtain first-hand information on the strategies and measures designed for promoting the development of social enterprise to provide opportunities for the unemployed and disadvantaged to integrate into the job market;
- (b) study the experience in the development of social enterprise, in particular their financing, operation and management; and
- (c) exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the development and operation of social enterprises.

Details of the visit

Visit programme

6. The Subcommittee has agreed that the visit will be from Sunday, 16 September 2007, to Saturday, 22 September 2007. During the stay in UK and Spain, the delegation will hold meetings with relevant Ministries, government officials and authorities, institutions/agencies operating social enterprises and other relevant organisations.

7. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in London and Brussels are providing assistance in drawing up the visit programmes and making preparation for the visit.

Members of the delegation

8. Ten Members (including two non-Subcommittee Members) have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

9. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee, of the Council during the 2004-2008

term. Any expenditure incurred in excess of the available balance in a four-year term has to be paid by the Member personally. However, if by the end of the 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.

10. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the overseas duty visit is about \$ 29,100 (economy class air passage) or \$56,500 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

11. HR 22(v) provides that should any Panel consider it necessary to undertake any activities outside Hong Kong under the name of the Panel of the Council, the prior permission of the House Committee shall be sought. According to HR 26(f), this Rule applies, where appropriate, to subcommittees of the House Committee, Bills Committees and Panels.

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 June 2007

Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty

**Proposed overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom and Spain
in September 2007**

**List of participants
(as at 26 June 2007)**

Subcommittee members

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Non-Subcommittee Members

Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty

Proposed overseas duty visit in September 2007

Tentative estimate of the expenditure

Duration of visit : 16 to 22 September 2007 (7 days)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong / London / Madrid / London / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)		
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>World Traveller Plus</u>	<u>Business Class</u>
1. Return air passage (British Airways) Hong Kong / London / Madrid / London / Hong Kong	8,200*	13,900*	35,000*
2. Hotel accommodation			
(a) Madrid (3 nights) (16 - 18 Sept)		5,700	
(b) London (2 nights) (19 - 20 Sept)		4,700	
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries			
(a) Madrid		3,800	
(b) London		3,200	
4. Travel insurance		1,000	
5. Airport tax & TIC fee	2,500	3,100	3,100
TOTAL :	29,100	35,400	56,500

NOTE :

* Airfare quotation obtained in mid-May 2007.

- Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
- Updated rates of overseas subsistence allowance are adopted.
- Exchange rates as at June 2007 –
 HK\$15.4325 = 1 GBP
 HK\$10.52975 = 1 EUR