

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 6 July 2007

Panel on Home Affairs

Proposal to undertake a duty visit to Macau

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(v) of the House Rules (HR) for the Panel on Home Affairs (the Panel) to undertake a one-day duty visit to Macau for the purpose of understanding the city's experience in built heritage conservation.

Background

2. The Panel held two meetings on 9 March and 20 April 2007 to discuss the progress of the built heritage conservation policy review. Members in general expressed concern that buildings or sites with unique heritage value, particularly those which had been included as redevelopment projects, would be damaged or even destroyed in the rapid progress of redevelopment. At the meeting on 11 May 2007, members agreed that the Panel should conduct a one-day duty visit to Macau to study the city's experience in built heritage conservation.

The proposed visit

3. The proposed scope of the duty visit is as follows -
- (a) to obtain first-hand information on the legislation, strategies and conservation measures designed specifically for preserving built heritage;
 - (b) to study Macau's experience in adapting historic buildings or sites to modern use as well as the integration of historic buildings or sites with new ones; and

- (c) to exchange views with staff members of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau Special Administrative Region and relevant parties involved in the conservation work of built heritage.
4. The one-day visit will be conducted around the end of July or early August 2007. The Legislative Council Secretariat is liaising with the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau Special Administrative Region Government on the arrangements.

Funding arrangements

5. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account (ODV account) of \$55,000 for the 2004-2008 term, for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees (other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee) of the Council. Any expenditure incurred in the 2004-2008 term in excess of \$55,000 has to be paid by the Member personally.

6. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit to Macau is about \$1,000.

Advice sought

7. HR22(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.

8. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to undertake the duty visit as proposed.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 July 2007