

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 June 2007)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Progress and impact of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) - further liberalization measures

The Panel was briefed on the key findings of a study on the economic impact of CEPA I on Hong Kong's economy on 19 April 2005. The Panel also discussed issues relating to the implementation of CEPA III and the 2006 liberalization measures at its meetings on 15 November 2005 and 18 July 2006 respectively. Members have also agreed that the Administration should report the progress and impact of CEPA to the Panel periodically, say, on an annual basis. In this connection, the Administration has undertaken to brief the Panel on issues related to the implementation of CEPA from time to time, such as the liberalization measures.

17 July 2007

2. Progress in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation 2007

The Administration has been participating actively in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The major APEC meetings in 2007 in preparation for the APEC Economic Leaders meeting will be completed in late June/early July. The Administration will update members on the progress of the APEC meetings.

17 July 2007

3. New Strategic Framework for Innovation and Technology Development

At the Panel meeting held on 17 May 2005, the Administration undertook to report on the operation and performance of the Research and Development (R&D) Centres and the implementation of the new framework to the Panel annually.

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The Panel discussed the issue on the new framework at its meeting on 21 November 2006 and requested the Administration to inform the Panel of the estimated expenditure of the R&D Centres against the funding

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approved. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel in six months' time and thereafter annually the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres for members' information.

4. Consultation on the Review of Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment

The Administration launched a public consultation exercise in December 2006 on the review of copyright protection in the digital environment. The Administration has briefed the Panel on the consultation document on 16 January 2007. Upon completion of the consultation exercise by 30 April 2007, the Administration will carefully consider the views received with a view to reporting to the Panel the proposals formulated, if any, by the end of 2007.

End of 2007
[tentative]

5. Furthering of Trade Relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong

Following the implementation of various initiatives such as CEPA and PPRD Regional Cooperation, bilateral trade relation between the Mainland and Hong Kong has strengthened. The Administration will update the Panel on the latest position and explore areas that could be further enhanced.

To be confirmed

6. Operation of the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) since its last review

At the Panel meeting held on 18 July 2006, members requested the Administration to provide information on the number of applications received under the Scheme and the amount of funding granted (by nature of the applicant organizations) and a comparison between the applications before and after the changes to the application procedures were introduced. The Administration will provide the Panel with the relevant information in due course.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC)

At the Panel meeting held on 17 April 2007, the Panel supported in principle the Administration's funding proposal to provide \$100 million to support the operation of HKDC as it would be conducive to the development of local enterprises as well as the long-term economic development of Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel on a regular basis the progress of the work of HKDC and the relevant initiatives taken to promote design and innovation. Following consultation with the Panel, the above funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee on 25 May 2007.

To be confirmed

8. Frontier Closed Area (FCA)

At the Panel meeting on 15 November 2005, members urged the Administration to consider whether the land which would be released as a result of the reduction of FCA would be developed as a production base for Hong Kong manufacturing industries in the light of CEPA.

To be confirmed

As advised by the Administration, the ultimate use of the FCA would be subject to the outcome of the feasibility and planning study of the Administration and the subsequent public consultations. The Administration's information paper on the review of the FCA was circulated to members of the Panel on Security and Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on 7 September 2006. The Administration issued another information paper on the results of public consultation on the recommendations arising from the review of the coverage of the FCA to the Panel on Security, Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and Panel on Environmental Affairs in February 2007.

At the Panel meeting on 12 October 2006, members agreed that the Panel should revisit the issue with the Administration in due course. As arranged, C&I Panel members will be invited to take part in the discussion when relevant Panels discuss the issue.