

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 14 January 2008)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Follow-up to the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2007

Following the enactment of the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2007, the Administration launched promotional and civic education activities to enhance stakeholders' awareness of new provisions in the amendment ordinance. In parallel, the Administration has also engaged relevant stakeholders in the discussion of the subsidiary legislation on "Safe Harbour" and the First Exclusion Notice. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the promotional activities and brief members on the preliminary proposals relating to the subsidiary legislations.

19 February 2008

2. Copyright protection in the digital environment

The Administration launched a public consultation exercise in December 2006 on how best to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment. The Administration briefed the Panel on 16 January 2007. The consultation exercise ended in April 2007. Some 600 submissions were received. The Administration is consolidating and analyzing the views received and intends to release preliminary proposal in the first quarter of 2008 for further consultation.

18 March 2008

3. Progress report on 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.

15 April 2008

4. 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 (including CEPA implementation) that could be further enhanced.

20 May 2008

At the Panel meeting held on 18 December 2007, Panel members agreed that a public hearing for Hong Kong businessmen to exchange views with the Panel on difficulties they encountered in operating in the Mainland be held at the May meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the implications of the Mainland's laws and regulations and its policies on Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland instead of dealing with particular cases.

5. Progress report on Research and Development (R&D) Centres

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 approved. The Administration reported to the Panel on 17 July 2007 the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres and updated members of their progress achieved since their establishment in April 2006 to June 2007. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres on an annual basis and to provide the requisite information (i.e. the total cost of each project, the actual level of industry contribution secured by the Centres for each project, and the administrative cost involved for each project) in the future progress reports.

17 June 2008

6. Promotion of Inward Investment

At the Panel meeting held on 18 December 2007, Panel members considered that resources of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) should be pooled together with other bodies which were also promoting Hong Kong. Since a follow-up study on the comprehensive review on Hong

Second quarter of 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Kong's investment promotion policy was being commissioned by the Administration, the outcome of which was expected to be available in the second quarter of 2008, the Panel requested the Administration to report to the Panel on the key findings of the study to facilitate discussion on the future development of InvestHK.

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14 January 2008