

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 19 November 2007)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Promotion of Inward Investment

To consult members on the Administration's proposal on additional time-limited funding for Invest Hong Kong.

18 December 2007

2. SME Funding Schemes

At the meeting on 12 June 2007, the Administration briefed members on the position of the SME funding schemes, informed members that the Administration was conducting a review on the schemes, and undertook to consult members on the way forward. The Administration will seek members' views on certain changes to the schemes.

18 December 2007

3. Improvements to the University-Industry Collaboration Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund

At the meeting on 17 July 2007, some members expressed concern that the proposed relaxation of geographical requirement under UICP would create opportunities for foreign companies to abuse the Scheme. To address members' concerns, ITC undertook to consult concerned stakeholders and further deliberate on the proposal. To this end, ITC issued a consultation paper to 20 local academia, trade associations and professional bodies and invited their comments on the proposal. ITC had also posted the paper on ITC's website to collect views from the public. The consultation exercise ended on 4 November 2007. Some submissions from the local universities, trade associations and professional bodies were received. The Administration is considering the views received and will consult the policy bureau before reverting to the Panel.

15 January 2008

4. Follow-up to the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 – Proposals for the Regulation on Safe Harbour and First Exclusion Notice

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

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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

17 June 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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 Centre for each project, and the administrative cost involved for each project) in the future progress reports.

8. 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.

17 June 2008