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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 8 May 2009

**Duty visit to Guangdong Province by members of the
Panel on Economic Development and the
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

Purpose

This paper reports on the duty visit to the Guangdong Province from 15 to 18 May 2009 by a delegation, comprising members of the Panel on Economic Development and the Panel on Environmental Affairs, to be led by the President in response to an invitation of the People's Government of Guangdong Province (PGGP).

Background

2. In December 2008, the National Development and Reform Commission promulgated the "Framework for Development and Reform Planning for Pearl River Delta Region (2008-2020)" (the Framework). Under the Framework, the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region would continue to take a leading role to expand reforms and deepen opening-up through measures, such as developing PRD Region into a green and quality living area, accelerating economic restructuring and enhancing cross-boundary cooperation with Hong Kong. One of the objectives of the Framework is to develop the PRD Region into a "globally competitive" and the "most vigorous area in the Asia-Pacific region" by 2020.

3. To facilitate better understanding of the objectives, specific measures and co-operation mechanism between Hong Kong and Guangdong in achieving these objectives, the Panel on Economic Development and the Panel on Environmental Affairs had separately written to the Guangdong authorities exploring the opportunity of exchanging views with the relevant Mainland authorities and visiting some related facilities.

4. In response, PGGP has extended an invitation to the President and members of the two Panels to visit facilities which have an impact on the economic development and environmental protection of PRD Region in

Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai from 15 to 18 May 2009. After consulting the Chairmen of the two Panels, the President announced to the public on 29 April 2009 about his acceptance of PGGP's invitation.

The duty visit

5. In the light of PGGP's invitation, the two Panels held a special joint meeting on 5 May 2009 to consider the facilities suggested by PGGP to be included in the duty visit as well as the related logistical arrangements.

6. Panel members agreed that the duty visit would undoubtedly facilitate a better understanding of the overall future development of the PRD Region in the areas of logistics, tourism and environmental protection, as well as the challenges and opportunities for Hong Kong in the long run. The visit to the suggested facilities would also enable Panel members to have an in-depth knowledge of the operational side. Apart from site visits, Panel members also emphasized the need for the delegation to exchange views with the Guangdong authorities and related parties, including Hong Kong entrepreneurs operating in the PRD Region.

7. To allow fruitful discussions, Panel members requested the Secretariat to obtain from the Guangdong authorities background information on the facilities to be visited. In parallel, the Research and Library Service Division should also conduct its own research on the related subjects. With the benefit of background information prior to the visit, it would save much time for the Guangdong authorities in briefing the delegation on the facilities, thereby allowing more time for the delegation to exchange views with the senior officials of PGGP on the policies regarding the future planning and development of the PRD Region, particularly the role of Hong Kong in this respect.

8. Panel members noted that the following facilities have been included in the tentative programme for the delegation –

- South China International Logistic Centre in Shenzhen;
- Yantian International Container Terminals in Shenzhen;
- Shenzhen Baoan International Airport;
- Nansha Port;
- OCT East Resort in Shenzhen;
- Zhu Jiang waterfront in Guangzhou;
- Household waste incineration-cum-power generation facilities in Guangzhou; and
- Nansha Wetland Park.

In addition to the above, Panel members also suggested to include facilities relating to the following –

- ◇ Renewable energy, recycling and improving air quality;

- ✧ Economic infrastructure;
- ✧ Xia Ping Landfill;
- ✧ Greening in Zhuhai; and
- ✧ Heng Qin

They also proposed to invite one to two representatives from HKSAR Government to join the delegation to provide technical advice on certain facilities as and when necessary. The Secretariat was requested to liaise with the Guangdong authorities on the feasibility of including the proposed additional items in the programme for the delegation.

9. On logistical arrangements, members noted that transportation would be centrally arranged by the Secretariat. The delegation would be travelling on a 45-seater coach departing from the Legislative Council Building after the House Committee meeting on 15 May 2009, and returning to Hong Kong from Zhuhai by ferry after lunch on 18 May 2009. Arrangement would also be made to enable press members to accompany the delegation throughout the duty visit. The Public Information Division would liaise directly with media organizations on the detailed arrangements. Transportation for the press would be provided by the Secretariat.

10. As regards the budget for the duty visit, members noted that the estimated expenditure arising from this duty visit would be around \$6,500 per person, which was calculated according to the standard rates of subsistence allowance applicable to civil servants on duty visits to the cities concerned. Members were assured that the usual moderate and conservative principles in making expenditure decisions on duty visits would be applied in the present case.

Membership of the delegation

11. Following the special joint meeting, the Secretariat has issued a circular to invite Panel members to join the duty visit. By the deadline on 6 May 2009, a total of 29 members have indicated their wish to join the duty visit. The membership list is in the **Appendix**.

Advice sought

12. The House Committee is requested to note the duty visit of the delegation to Guangdong from 15 to 18 May 2009.

**Panel on Economic Development and
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**List of members who have indicated interest in taking part
in the duty visit to Guangdong Province from 15 to 18 May 2009**

(Position as at 6 May 2009)

Delegation Leader : Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP (President)

Members : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Total : 29 Members