

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 26 June 2009**

**Proposed overseas duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan
by the Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (the Subcommittee) to conduct an overseas duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan to study the experience of poverty alleviation and the development of social enterprises in these places.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Welfare Services on 12 January 2009 and tasked to study policies and measures relating to poverty alleviation. To address the poverty problem, the Subcommittee considers that the development of social enterprises would help provide job opportunities for the unemployed and disadvantaged. To enable members to have a better understanding of overseas experiences, the Subcommittee agreed at its meeting on 9 June 2009 that the Subcommittee should undertake a duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan to study their experiences in poverty alleviation and development of social enterprises. Specifically, the visit aims to –

- (a) obtain first-hand information on the poverty alleviation strategies and measures put in place to help the disadvantaged groups;
- (b) study the experience in the development of social enterprises to provide job opportunities for the unemployed and disadvantaged, in particular their financing, operation and management; and
- (c) exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of anti-poverty strategies, and the development and delivery of social enterprise projects.

3. The proposal was circulated to the Panel on Welfare Services for consideration, and was supported by the Panel.

Details of the visit

Visit programme

4. The Subcommittee has agreed that the visit will be from 19 July 2009 to 25 July 2009. During the stay in Korea and Taiwan, the delegation will hold meetings with relevant Ministries, government officials and authorities responsible for formulating and implementing poverty alleviation measures and social enterprise development, as well as conduct visits to some social enterprises.

5. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo and the Chung Hwa Travel Service are providing assistance in drawing up the visit programmes and making preparation for the visit.

Participants of the visit

6. A circular has been issued to invite Subcommittee members and other non-Subcommittee Members to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 24 June 2009, a total of 7 Members (including 2 non-Subcommittee Members) have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

7. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees of the Council. The fund in the account is for use by the Member in a four-year term. Any expenditure incurred in excess of the available balance in a four-year term has to be paid by the Member personally.

8. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$20,400 (economy class air passage) or \$29,700 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

9. Rule 22(v) of the House Rules (HR) 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. According to HR 26(f), this Rule applies, where appropriate, to subcommittees of the House Committee, Bills Committees and Panels.

10. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Subcommittee to conduct the overseas duty visit as proposed.

Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation

**Proposed overseas duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan
in July 2009**

**List of participants
(as at 24 June 2009)**

Subcommittee members

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi

Non-Subcommittee Members

Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation

Proposed overseas duty visit in July 2009

Tentative estimate of the expenditure

Duration of visit : 19 to 25 July 2009 (7 days)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong / Taipei / Seoul / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>Business Class</u>
1. Return air passage (Cathay Pacific Airlines) Hong Kong / Taipei / Seoul / Hong Kong	5,000*	14,300*
2. Hotel accommodation		
(a) Taipei (3 nights) (19 - 21 Jul)		4,200
(b) Seoul (3 nights) (22 - 24 Jul)		4,320
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) Taipei		2,800
(b) Seoul		2,880
4. Travel insurance		500
5. Airport tax & TIC fee	700	700
TOTAL :	20,400	29,700

NOTE :

* Airfare quotation obtained in early June 2009.

1. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat. Where the actual cost of in-town traveling expenses is separately paid for by the Secretariat, 5% of the subsistence allowance will be deducted.

2. Exchange rates as at early June 2009 –
 HK\$23.7850 = NT\$100
 HK\$0.61375 = 100 WON