

立法會
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**Paper for House Committee meeting
on 10 July 2009**

**Proposed overseas duty visit to the United States and Canada
by the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning (the Subcommittee) under the Panel on Development to conduct an overseas duty visit to Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore to study the experience of these cities in waterfront planning and management.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Development in November 2008 and tasked to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. The major issues being studied by the Subcommittee include the following --

- (a) short-term and long-term initiatives to enhance the environment and accessibility of harbourfront areas for public enjoyment;
- (b) development of continuous promenades along the harbourfront;
- (c) planning control in respect of development projects at harbourfront sites; and
- (d) institutional arrangements for the planning and management of harbourfront areas.

3. In the course of the Subcommittee's study, the Subcommittee found it worthwhile to make reference to relevant overseas experience, and had asked the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) of the Legislative Council

Secretariat to gather information on the experience of New York, Singapore, Sydney and Vancouver in waterfront planning and management. The Subcommittee also requested the Administration to provide information on overseas harbour authorities covered by the Administration's relevant studies conducted in recent years.

4. Having regard to the research findings of RLSD and the Administration, the Subcommittee considered that it would be useful to conduct a duty visit to cities with successful experience in waterfront planning and management. The Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore. Specifically, the visit aims to --

- (a) obtain first-hand information on the cities' waterfront development/regeneration strategies and enhancement initiatives;
- (b) study the cities' institutional arrangements for waterfront planning and management, and the key challenges and opportunities in waterfront development/regeneration; and
- (c) exchange views with parties involved in the waterfront planning and management of the cities.

5. As waterfront planning and management is relevant to various policy areas such as town planning, tourism and environment protection, the Subcommittee has agreed that the duty visit should be open to all Legislative Council Members.

6. The proposal for the duty visit has been circulated to the Panel on Development and has obtained the Panel's support.

The visit

Duration

7. The visit is tentatively scheduled to last for 9 days from 25 September to 3 October 2009.

Visit programme

8. The delegation will meet with relevant government bodies and other organizations responsible for waterfront planning and management, and conduct visits to the cities' waterfront areas. Assistance will be sought from the Consulate General of Canada and the Consulate General of the United States in Hong Kong, as well as the relevant overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in drawing up the visit programmes and making preparation for the visit.

Participants of the visit

9. As at 8 July 2009, a total of seven Members, including six Subcommittee members and one non-Subcommittee Member, have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

10. 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 organized 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.

11. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$45,700 (economy class air passage) or \$89,700 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

12. 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.

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

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

Proposed overseas duty visit to the United States and Canada

List of participants
(Position as at 8 July 2009)

Subcommittee members

Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Tanya CHAN (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH

Non-Subcommittee Member

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP

(Total : 7 Members)

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 July 2009

Appendix II

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

Proposed overseas duty visit to the United States and Canada

Tentative schedule and estimate of expenditure

Duration of visit : 25 September to 3 October 2009 (9 days)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong/Vancouver/New York/Boston/Baltimore/Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>Business Class</u> (Note 1)
1. Return air passage (Cathay Pacific/American Airlines)	\$26,000	\$70,000
2. Hotel accommodation		
(a) Vancouver (2 nights)	2,700	
(b) New York (2 nights)	2,700	
(c) Boston (1 nights)	1,900	
(d) Baltimore (2 nights)	3,000	
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) Vancouver	1,800	
(b) New York	1,800	
(c) Boston	1,300	
(d) Baltimore	2,000	
4. Travel insurance	500	
5. Airport tax & fuel fee	2,000	
TOTAL:	\$45,700	\$89,700

NOTES:

1. Airfare quotations are obtained in late June 2009. For the business class fare, the long-haul flights between Hong Kong, Vancouver and New York are on business class, while the domestic flights are on economy class.

2. Other expenses including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat. Where the actual costs of in-town travelling expenses is separately paid by the Secretariat, 5% of the subsistence allowance will be deducted.
3. Exchange rates as at late June 2009:

HK\$7.77250 = USD1

HK\$6.77300 = CAD1

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