

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 12 February 2009)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Replacement of Air Cargo Clearance System for the Customs and Excise Department

The Administration will consult members on the funding proposal to replace the ageing Air Cargo Clearance System (ACCS) of the Customs and Excise Department. Subject to the Panel's views, the Administration plans to submit the funding proposal to the Finance Committee in May 2009.

March 2009

2. Subsidiary legislation for implementing the electronic Road Cargo System (ROCARS)

At the Panel meeting held on 16 January 2007, members noted the proposal to introduce an electronic advance cargo information system for customs clearance of road cargoes. The Import and Export (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 was enacted on 23 May 2007, providing enabling provisions for the making of regulations necessary for implementing the system. Following the voting of funds by the Finance Committee in November 2007, the Customs and Excise Department called tenders for developing the required IT and related infrastructure. The tender has been awarded.

March 2009

The Administration will brief members on the proposed subsidiary legislation before introducing it into LegCo, in keeping with the plan to roll out the ROCARS in the fourth quarter of 2009.

3. Converting a Chief Electronics Engineer (CEE) Post to a Bi-disciplinary Post in Innovation and Technology Commission

The Administration would like to invite members to note and comment on a proposal to convert one CEE post (D1) from a single-disciplinary post to a bi-disciplinary post open to the Electronics Engineer grade and Electrical and Mechanical Engineer grade in Innovation and Technology Commission. The Administration will seek the endorsement of the Establishment Subcommittee on the

March 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

proposal in April 2009.

4. Update on Government's efforts in the promotion and development of MICE industry

With the additional funding of \$150 million earmarked by FS in his 2008-09 Budget, the Hong Kong Tourism Board has officially launched its dedicated office, "Meetings and Exhibitions Hong Kong" (MEHK), on 13 November 2008 to provide one-stop support for organizers of MICE events, step up overseas promotion of Hong Kong as a preferred MICE destination in the region, and enrich the travel experience of MICE participants in Hong Kong. The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of this MICE promotion initiative.

April 2009

On MICE facilities, the Government will keep in view the demand for additional exhibition facilities, and is examining the feasibility of developing a Phase 3 expansion of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre at a nearby site. The Administration will brief the Panel on the way forward.

5. Copyright protection in the digital environment

At the Panel meeting held on 15 April 2008, members noted the Administration's preliminary proposals for strengthening copyright protection in the digital environment. The Administration will report to the Panel the results of the ensuing public engagement exercise, including deliberations among stakeholders on a voluntary code of practice for internet service providers to help combat on-line infringements. The Administration will also brief members on the proposed way forward.

April 2009

6. Promoting an innovation and technology culture in Hong Kong

To help foster an innovation and technology culture in the community, particularly among the young generation, the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) launches a wide variety of publicity and promotional activities. The Administration will brief members on the work done by the ITC in this area.

April 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Mid-term review of Research and Development Centres (R&D Centres)

At the Panel meeting on 17 June 2008, members noted that the Administration would conduct a mid-term review on the operation and financial situation of the five R&D Centres by the end of 2008 and the outcome would be ready in mid-2009. The Administration undertook to brief the Panel the outcome of the review in due course.

April 2009
(tentative)

8. Progress of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda Negotiations

The Administration will update members on the latest state of play of the current round of multilateral trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization.

May 2009

9. Further development of wine-related business in Hong Kong

The Administration will brief members on the various measures introduced to fortify Hong Kong's position as a regional hub for wine trading and distribution, since the removal of wine duty in the 2008-09 Budget.

May 2009

10. Trade relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong

The Administration will update members on the latest developments, including Mainland policies and legislation that will affect HK-owned enterprises.

May 2009

11. Mainland-Hong Kong technology co-operation

The Administration will update members on the collaboration between Hong Kong and various levels of government in the Mainland on promoting technological developments.

May 2009

12. Reports on the work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices and Beijing Office

The Heads of Economic and Trade Offices and the Office of the HKSAR Government in Beijing will brief members on their work between July 2008 and June 2009.

June 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

13. Review on industrial estates policy

At the Panel meeting on 6 July 2004, the Administration was requested to conduct a review on the policy and procedures concerning the admission of industries into the industrial estates and the measures to ensure a level playing field and equitable treatment for interested parties seeking entry into the industrial estates. Members requested the Administration to report the outcome of the review to the Panel in due course. The Administration advised in June 2008 that the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC), which managed the industrial estates, was progressing with a strategic study on the revitalization of the industrial estates. The study would review, amongst other things, the admission criteria to the industrial estates and the admission mechanism. The study would be completed in mid 2009. The Administration would revisit relevant issues and provide a comprehensive report to the Panel in October 2009 after HKSTPC's consultancy study had been completed.

October 2009
(tentative)

14 Consultancy study on investment promotion

At the Panel meeting held on 18 December 2007, Panel members considered that resources of Invest Hong Kong should be pooled together with other bodies which were also promoting Hong Kong. The Panel noted that a follow-up study on the comprehensive review on Hong Kong's investment promotion policy was being commissioned. The Administration is updating the consultancy study in the light of the latest global economic and investment environment, taking into account the impact of the financial crisis. The Administration will report to the Panel on the key findings of the study in due course.

To be confirmed