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**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Meeting on 17 February 2009**

**Background brief on  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in  
the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China**

**Purpose**

This paper provides the background to the participation of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China (Shanghai Expo) and also a summary of views and concerns expressed by Members on related arrangements.

**Background**

2. The Shanghai Expo will be held in Shanghai from 1 May to 31 October 2010, with the theme of "Better City Better Life"<sup>1</sup>. So far, 172 countries and 33 international organizations have confirmed their participation in the event, which is expected to attract more than 70 million visitors.

3. In August 2007, the Government received a proposal from the organizer of the Expo (the Organizer) inviting the participation of the HKSAR in the event in its capacity as a Special Administrative Region of the host country. The Government intended to make full use of this opportunity to publicize Hong Kong's quality city life and position as a creative capital, by constructing a stand-alone Hong Kong Pavilion (HKP), participating in the "Urban Best Practices Area" (UBPA) Exhibition, and organizing a series of related activities such as Hong Kong week, parades and cultural performances.

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<sup>1</sup> The five sub-themes are: blending of diverse cultures in the city; economic prosperity in the city; innovation of science and technology in the city; remodeling of urban communities; and rural-urban interaction.

4. Following consultation with the Panel on Commerce and Industry, the financial implications of \$380 million supporting HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo and the HKP project were approved by the Finance Committee (FC) at its meetings on 9 May, 6 June and 4 July 2008.

## **Views and concerns raised by Members**

### Discussion by the Panel

5. The Panel followed up closely the preparations of HKSAR for participating in the Shanghai Expo at its meetings on 18 December 2007, 15 April and 17 June 2008. Members supported in principle the project and the overall funding as they considered the participation in the Shanghai Expo an excellent opportunity to exhibit Hong Kong's quality city life and position itself as a creative capital, as well as to emphasize Hong Kong's role as an important city connecting the Mainland and the rest of the world. Moreover, the local creative talents, particularly those in the fields of design, architecture, software and performing arts, would have a good opportunity to showcase their talent and creativity to the Mainland and international audiences.

6. The Panel noted that HKSAR would participate in the UBPA Exhibition with smartcard applications as the main theme. Given that there would be 18 months' lead-time for preparing HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo, members urged the Administration to take this opportunity to promote the wider use of smartcard systems and application of new technology by various bureaux and departments to improve efficiency and promote connectivity. Members suggested that consideration should be given to leveraging on the successful cases of the private sector in integrating technology and design in the city life with a view to enriching the content of Hong Kong's UBPA Exhibition. The Administration explained that the objective of the UBPA Exhibition was to demonstrate best practice cases in the world which were worth studying and for other cities to model on. Distinguished cases from both the public and private sectors alike would be included to showcase Hong Kong's strengths. The Administration would make continuous efforts to further explore the wider use of smartcard applications in various community areas in the coming period.

7. Panel members urged the Administration to reach out to the private sector to secure sponsorships to cover some of the planned activities of the Shanghai Expo and to offset some of the financial commitments earmarked for the project. They requested that some of the exhibits, especially the HKP, would be retained for continuous exhibition after the Shanghai Expo. The Administration advised that it would explore the possibility of retaining the exhibits in Shanghai after the conclusion of the Expo, if mutual agreement could be reached with the relevant Mainland authorities, or retaining the key features of the HKP and UBPA Exhibition and re-assembling them in Hong Kong for further exhibition to the

local public, if possible.

#### Concerns raised at the Finance Committee meetings

8. At the FC meetings on 9 May and 4 July 2008, members in general supported HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo. They considered that various sectors in the creative industry would benefit from additional employment opportunities arising from engagement in exhibitions and other related activities for the event. While it would be difficult to quantify the benefits in terms of job creation, members noted that according to a preliminary assessment by the Government Economist, the quantifiable economic benefit to Hong Kong was likely to be found mainly in the inbound tourism industry, roughly generating an additional income of \$288 million to \$432 million to the economy. In this connection, members called for the Administration to examine the possible benefit in terms of job creation for the local workforce.

9. Members noted that the new application of smart card technologies to be included in the UBPA Exhibition (such as the use of smart cards to facilitate the rollout of elderly health care voucher and to provide reliable access to electronic health records of patients) had not been implemented in Hong Kong. Members therefore requested the Administration to report to the Panel the progress of HKSAR Government's preparations for participation in the Shanghai Expo and the UBPA Exhibition.

#### **Latest position**

10. The Administration will report to the Panel at its meeting on 17 February 2009 the progress of the current phase of HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo.

#### **References**

11. A list of relevant papers is in the **Appendix**.

## Appendix

### List of relevant papers

Committee	Paper	LC Paper No.
Meeting of CI Panel on 18 December 2007	Administration's paper : "HKSAR's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China"	CB(1)435/07-08(08)
	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)780/07-08
Meeting of CI Panel on 15 April 2008	Administration's paper : "HKSAR's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China" (progress updates)	CB(1)1211/07-08(06)
	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)1534/07-08
	Administration's follow-up paper : "HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo – Supplementary information on the breakdown of the preliminary estimated expenditure"	CB(1)1431/07-08(01)
	Administration's follow-up paper : "HKSAR's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China" (detailed description of HKSAR's proposal for participation in the Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition)	CB(1)1446/07-08(01)
Meeting of Finance Committee on 9 May 2008	Administration's paper : HEAD 144 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU Subhead 700 General non-recurrent HEAD 703 – BUILDINGS Support – Commerce and Industry 6GA – HKSAR's Participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China – Hong Kong Pavilion	FCR(2008-09)8
	Minutes of meeting	FC12/08-09

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>LC Paper No.</b>
Meeting of Public Works Subcommittee on 21 May 2008	Administration's paper : HEAD 703 – BUILDINGS Support – Commerce and Industry 6GA – HKSAR’s Participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China – Hong Kong Pavilion  Minutes of meeting	PWSC(2008-09)12  PWSC112/07-08
Meeting of Finance Committee on 6 June 2008	Administration's paper : RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 21 MAY 2008 6GA PWSC(2008-09)12 HEAD 703 – HKSAR’s Participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China – Hong Kong Pavilion  Minutes of meeting	FCR(2008-09)19  FC13/08-09
Meeting of CI Panel on 17 June 2008	Administration's paper : "Progress report on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China"  Minutes of meeting	CB(1)1865/07-08(05)  CB(1)2257/07-08
Meeting of Finance Committee on 4 July 2008	Administration's paper : HEAD 144 - GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU Subhead 700 General non-recurrent New Item "HKSAR's Participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China"  Minutes of meeting	FCR(2008-09)38  FC33/08-09