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

Paper for special joint meeting on 5 May 2009

**Proposed duty visit to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai from
15 to 18 May 2009**

Purpose

This paper invites members to note the invitation of the People's Government of Guangdong Province extended to members of the Panel on Economic Development and the Panel on Environmental Affairs to undertake a duty visit to the Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai from 15 to 18 May 2009. This paper also provides the logistical arrangements for the duty visit.

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 PRD area 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. The objective is to develop 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 the goal, both Panels have written to the Guangdong People's Congress exploring the opportunity of exchanging views with the relevant Mainland authorities and visiting some relevant facilities.

4. In response to the Panels' request, the People's Government of Guangdong Province has extended an invitation to members of the two Panels to undertake a duty visit to Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai.

Proposed logistical arrangements for the duty visit

5. The duty visit will take place from 15 to 18 May 2009. The President of the Legislative Council has accepted the invitation of the Guangdong authorities to lead the delegation which comprises Members who are members of the two Panels. The Guangdong authorities will be making arrangements for the delegation to visit facilities related to logistics, tourism and environmental protection. These facilities will include:

- Logistics : South China International Logistics Centre in Shenzhen
Overview of the development of Yantian International Container Terminals in Shenzhen
Shenzhen Baoan International Airport
Nansha Port
- Tourism : OCT East Resort
Zhu Jiang waterfront in Guangzhou
a tourism spot in Zhuhai
- Environmental Protection : household waste incineration-cum-power generation facilities in Guangzhou
Nansha Wetland Park
an environmental project in Shenzhen

There will also be a meeting with officials of the Guangdong authorities to discuss issues of mutual concern. Details of the programme have yet to be worked out with the relevant Guangdong authorities.

6. Expenditure arising from this duty visit will be charged to individual Members' overseas duty visit account of HK\$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organized by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee, of the Council during the 2008-2012 term. It is estimated that the cost of this trip per person is in the region of \$6,500.

7. Transportation will be centrally arranged by the Secretariat. Members will be travelling on a 45-seater coach departing from the Legislative Council Building around 3:30 pm after the meeting of the House Committee on 15 May 2009, and returning to Hong Kong from Zhuhai by ferry at 1:00 pm on 18 May 2009.

8. Arrangement will also be made to enable press members to accompany the delegation throughout the entire visit. The Public Information Division will liaise directly with media organizations on the detailed arrangements. Transportation for the press will be provided by the Secretariat.

Advice sought

9. Subject to members' views, a paper on the duty visit would be submitted to the House Committee meeting on 8 May 2009. A circular will also be issued to invite Panel members to indicate interest in joining the duty visit.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 May 2009