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Panel on Welfare Services

Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation

Proposed overseas duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan

Purpose

This paper invites members to consider a proposal 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. At the meeting on 6 April 2009, a suggestion was made for the Subcommittee to conduct a duty visit to obtain first-hand information on the successful experience of combating poverty and developing social enterprises in Asia.

3. After considering the policies and measures on poverty alleviation and social enterprises in four selected places in Asia (namely, Japan, Singapore, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan), the Subcommittee agreed in principle at the meeting on 15 May 2009 that it would conduct a duty visit to the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, with a view to facilitating members' study on the subject of poverty alleviation and development of social enterprises in Hong Kong in helping the unemployed and disadvantaged.

Objectives of the proposed visit

4. The objectives of the proposed visit are as follows –

- (a) to obtain first-hand information on the poverty alleviation strategies and measures put in place to help the disadvantaged groups;

- (b) to 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) to 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.

Proposed timing of the visit

5. To tie in with the Subcommittee's work plan, the proposed visit is tentatively proposed for mid to late July 2009. Taking into account the flight time and the schedule for visiting the organisations concerned and exchanging views with the relevant parties, it is suggested that the proposed visit lasts seven days from 19 to 25 July 2009.

Proposed budget of the visit

6. 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.

7. A rough estimate of costs of the proposed duty visit has been prepared in the **Appendix**, on the assumption that the Subcommittee will visit the Republic of Korea and Taiwan for seven days in July 2009.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to advise whether the Subcommittee should open the membership of the delegation to non-Subcommittee members. Subject to members' support for the Subcommittee to conduct the proposed duty visit with the objectives set out in paragraph 4 above, the Secretariat will work out the details of the proposed duty visit. Members are also invited to note that the endorsement of the Panel on Welfare Services and the House Committee will have to be sought on the proposed duty visit.

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