

**Legislative Council of the  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**Report on the Visit of the Delegation  
of the Legislative Council  
to the World Exposition 2010  
Shanghai China**

**8 - 10 May 2010**

# Table of Contents

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<b>Chapter</b>		<b>Page</b>
	Acknowledgements	1
1	Introduction	3 - 7
2	Wuhan-Guangzhou Express Rail Link	8 - 19
3	Shanghai World Expo	20 - 50
4	Observations	51 - 60
<b>Annex</b>	Lists of Members of the Delegation and major hosting officers of the Mainland authorities and the HKSAR Government	

## **Acknowledgements**

The Delegation of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the Delegation") to the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China ("Shanghai Expo") would like to express its heartfelt gratitude for the generous hospitality and tremendous support from Mr Hu Wei, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, and the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government during the Delegation's visit from 8 to 10 May 2010. The Delegation especially thanks the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination for the full support and lavish hospitality it provided when the Delegation visited the China Pavilion and the Pavilions of some other countries.

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Last but not least, the Delegation expresses its wholehearted appreciation to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai and the HKSAR Expo Affairs Office of the HKSAR Government for their assistance in drawing up the visit programme, in particular the visits to the Hong Kong Pavilion and Hong Kong's Urban Best Practices Area, and the assistance in logistical arrangements.

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### **The Report**

- 1.1 This Report presents the major findings and observations of the duty visit of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Legislative Council Delegation to the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China ("Shanghai Expo") from 8 to 10 May 2010.

### **Background**

- 1.2 The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR consulted the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Panel on Commerce and Industry on 18 December 2007 and 15 April 2008 respectively regarding Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo, and the Panel gave its support in principle. On 9 May 2008, the LegCo Finance Committee ("FC") accepted in principle the financial implications of supporting Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo. On 6 June 2008, FC approved a commitment of \$145.40 million for the design and construction of the Hong Kong Pavilion ("HK Pavilion"). On 14 July 2008, FC further approved a non-recurrent commitment of \$201 million to meet the expenditure required for operating the HK Pavilion, the design and implementation of Hong Kong's Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition ("HK UBPA") and for organizing various activities and events associated with Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo.
- 1.3 To enable Members to gain a first-hand experience of the Shanghai Expo and observe the use of the funding approved by the FC for the construction and operation of the HK Pavilion and HK UBPA, the President of LegCo initiated a duty visit to the Shanghai Expo in March 2010. The Panel on Commerce and Industry and the House Committee subsequently discussed the proposed visit. Members supported the duty visit and proposed taking the XRL on the Mainland en route to experience the operation of the XRL.

- 1.4 On 31 March 2010, the LegCo President received a letter from the Shanghai Municipal People's Government indicating that the President was welcomed to lead all LegCo Members to visit the Shanghai Expo from 8 to 10 May 2010. At the same time, the Ministry of Railways also welcomed the LegCo Delegation to take the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL to experience the development of the XRL on the Mainland.

### **Composition of the Delegation**

- 1.5 This was the first time for all LegCo Members of the current term to be arranged a visit on the Mainland. The Delegation comprised the following 42 members:

Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP (President of LegCo and leader of the Delegation)

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman of the House Committee and deputy leader of the Delegation)

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP

Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP

Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Hon LEE Wing-tat

Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP

Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP

Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

- 1.6 Twelve staff members, including the Secretary General of the LegCo Secretariat, Legal Adviser, Assistant Secretary General, Chief Public Information Officer, Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry and Deputy Head (Research and Library Services), accompanied the Delegation.
- 1.7 Lists of members of the Delegation and major hosting officers of the Mainland authorities and the HKSAR Government are set out in the **Annex**.

### **Purpose of the visit**

- 1.8 The purposes of the visit included:
  - (i) Supervising the use of the funding approved by the LegCo FC for the construction and operation of the HK Pavilion and HK UBPA;

- (ii) Visiting the Shanghai Expo to learn from the successful experience of various participating countries in such aspects as innovative ideas in urban development, environmentally friendly lifestyle in the future and sustainable development etc., and
- (iii) Taking the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL en route to observe the operation of the XRL on the Mainland and receive briefings from Mainland railway experts to enhance the understanding about the development and planning of the XRL on the Mainland.

## **Visit programme**

- 1.9 The Delegation started the three-day visit in the morning of 8 May 2010 and returned to Hong Kong in the evening of 10 May 2010. Details of the programme were as follows:

Date/Time	Programme
<b>8 May 2010 (Saturday)</b>	
Morning	Board the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL in Guangzhou South Railway Station
Afternoon	Briefed by Mr Zheng Jian, Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railways on the latest development of the XRL on the Mainland
	Briefed by Mr Lam Sai-hung, Chief Engineer of Railway Development Office of the Highways Department of the HKSAR on the working progress of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL
	Take the flight to Shanghai
<b>9 May 2010 (Sunday)</b>	
Morning	Visit the China Pavilion
	Visit the HK Pavilion
	Visit the Pavilion of Urban Planet
	Visit the Pavilion of City Being
Noon	Lunch hosted by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai
Afternoon	Visit the Japan Pavilion
	Visit the Saudi Arabia Pavilion
	Visit the African Joint Pavilion
Evening	Dinner hosted by Mr Hu Wei, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress
	Night cruise along Pujiang
<b>10 May 2010 (Monday)</b>	
Morning	Visit the HK UBPA
	Visit the Macao UBPA
	Visit the SAIC-GM Pavilion
	Visit the Vanke Pavilion
Noon	Lunch hosted by the LegCo Delegation for the hosting units
Afternoon	Visit the EU Pavilion
	Visit the UK Pavilion
	Visit the USA Pavilion
	Conclusion by leader of the Delegation
Evening	Departure for Hong Kong

## **Chapter 2: Wuhan-Guangzhou Express Rail Link**

- 2.1 To understand how the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("XRL") will connect with the high-speed railway network on the Mainland in future, the Delegation included in its visit programme a ride on the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL en route to give the Delegation a first-hand experience of the actual operation of high-speed railways on the Mainland. In the morning of 8 May 2010, the Delegation went to Guangzhou by ferry and then boarded the XRL to Wuhan.
  
- 2.2 The Ministry of Railways especially arranged for Mr Zheng Jian, (Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railways) to accompany the Delegation on the XRL journey to Wuhan, which started at the Guangzhou South Railway Station. Mr Zheng briefed the delegation on the development of China's XRL, in particular the Wuhan-Guangzhou section. The HKSAR Government also assigned Mr LAM Sai Hung (Chief Engineer of the Railway Development Division) to accompany the Delegation on the XRL journey, during which he gave a briefing on the construction progress of the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL.



Mr Zheng Jian, Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railways, greeting the Delegation at the Guangzhou South Railway Station and shaking hands with the leader and deputy leader of the Delegation at the entrance.



Some Delegation members on the platform before boarding the train.

2.3 With its grand appearance and excellent planning, the Guangzhou South Railway Station was currently the biggest railway station in Asia. After getting on the platform, the Delegation boarded the latest CRH3 model of the "Hexie" Express Train and took the second-class to gain a first-hand experience of the speed and stability of the high-speed train. The Delegation members also had a look at the facilities of the carriage and observed the communication functions of the train along the journey. After lunch, the Delegation members received briefings from Mr Zheng Jian, Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railways, and Mr LAM Sai Hung, Chief Engineer of the Railway Development Division of the Hong Kong Government.



Delegation members in the compartment of the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL train.

## **Express Rail Link in China**

### Overall Planning

2.4 When outlining the overall planning of high-speed railways in China, Mr Zheng Jian said that in order to meet the requirements of its economic and social developments, China formulated the

development blueprint of its nation-wide railway network in the context of national strategic planning. With "Four South-North Lines and Four East-West lines" as its backbone, the national high-speed passenger rail network would criss-cross the whole country. The "Four South-North Lines" are (a) Beijing-Harbin; (b) Beijing-Guangzhou (which connects Hong Kong); (c) Beijing-Shanghai; and (d) Shanghai-Shenzhen coastal areas. The "Four East-West lines" refers to (a) Qingdao-Taiyuan; (b) Xuzhou-Lanzhou; (c) Shanghai-Chengdu; and (d) Shanghai-Kunming.



Mr Zheng Jian briefing the Delegation on the route planning of China's high-speed railways.

- 2.5 Mr Zheng Jian told the Delegation that the total length of China's railways in operation at present reached 86 000 km, ranking second place in the world. Of these railways, 3 676 km were newly-built high-speed lines, which allowed trains to travel at 250-350 km per hour. Another 2 876 km had been upgraded from existing railways for trains travelling at 200-250 km per hour. The total length of high-speed railways currently under construction on the Mainland extended some 13 000 km, the longest in the world.
- 2.6 Mr Zheng Jian said that the total length of the country's railway network in operation was estimated to exceed 120 000 km by 2020, with high-speed railways accounting for 18 000 km.

According to the Medium-to-Long-Term Railway Network Plan, the total length of railways in operation in the country would increase to 110 000 km by 2012 while high-speed railways, including intercity railways, would account for 13 000 km and a total of 804 new passenger terminals would be put into operation. By that time, the country-wide high-speed railway network will start to take shape. The situation in which “a railway ticket is hard to get” would be basically eased.

## **Wuhan-Guangzhou Express Rail Link**

- 2.7 Mr Zheng Jian then briefed the Delegation on the development of the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL in route planning, construction technologies, station design, etc.

### Route Planning

- 2.8 The Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL commenced operation on 26 December 2009. As the world's longest railway allowing trains to run at the highest speed, it cost over RMB 130 billion to build. With a total length of 1 068 km, the railway line would run through the provinces of Hubei, Hunan and Guangdong with trains running at a speed of up to 350 km per hour. The 28 daily train pairs of the railway line would provide a passenger capacity of more than 80 000 every day.
- 2.9 There would be 15 stations along the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL, starting from Wuhan at the northern end, running through the cities of Xianning, Yueyang, Changsha, Zhuzhou, Hengyang, Binzhou, Shaoguan, Qingyuan, etc, with the Guangzhou South Railway Station as its southern end. The railway line was hitherto the world's longest with the highest train operating speed (350 km per hour) built under one single construction project.

## Construction Technologies

- 2.10 Mr Zheng Jian explained to the Delegation the technology requirements for the construction of the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL. Firstly, to achieve riding comfort, the track-laying had to be highly accurate. To ensure stability and comfort, the track-laying work of the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL required a high degree of accuracy, with an allowable error under 1 to 2 mm for each indicator. Secondly, the entire railway line adopted a ballastless track structure with the tracks lying on concrete sleepers and stone-free track beds. The merits of this structure were that it was stable, durable, easy to maintain and conducive to alignment selection on topographical grounds.
- 2.11 In regard to construction works, the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL consisted of totally 648 bridges and 226 tunnels, the total length of which accounted for 66.7% of the total length of the XRL. In the process of construction, it was necessary to surmount numerous difficulties, such as continuous and undulating mountain ridges and the need for tunnels to cut through different geological structures covering layers of limestone, slate or sandstone. Such construction works were formidable tasks indeed. In order to meet the aerodynamic and passenger comfort requirements for a train passing through a tunnel at speed, the tunnel face excavation area had to be as large as 160 square metres, far wider than that for conventional railway tunnels, which is 70 square metres only.
- 2.12 With all these difficulties to surmount, some of the bridge construction technologies adopted for the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL ranked first in the world. They included the 504-metre span of the Wuhan Tianxingzhou Yangtze River Bridge and its operating speed of 250 kilometres per hour, both of which ranked first in the world. The bridge was the first four-tracked cable stayed road/rail bridge in China and it ranked first in the world in terms of span, loading capacity, speed accommodation and width. The Ting Si Super Bridge, with its main span of 140 metres flying over the Beijing-Zhuhai Expressway, was a steel box tied arch bridge of the longest span in the world to date. The 4 380 metre Zhuzhou Super Bridge, with its main span supported by 140 steel arch tied-bar beams, was also unique in the world. The Delegation was delighted and proud to learn that the development of the country's XRL technologies was abreast with the best in the world.

## Designs of the stations along the Express Rail Link

- 2.13 On the station design of the XRL, Mr ZHENG Jian explained that the prominent innovations of the stations were multifarious, including technologies, energy conservation, environmental protection and brand new construction concepts. Central to the design of the stations were two principles. The first was the people-based principle, which aimed to satisfy passengers' need for comfortable travelling, so that they could swiftly interchange to other transportation means within station premises, thus achieving the seamless linkage of highways, the national railway, inter-city tracks, underground trains and hired vehicles, as well as bringing forth zero-distance interchange. The second principle was sustainable development, which aimed to lengthen the life cycles of all the stations.
- 2.14 Besides, the architectural styles of the stations along the XRL could generally integrate organically with the local cultures. All the stations bore unique characteristics of their own, with many of them having become local landmarks.

## **Concerns Raised by the Delegation**

### Economic effectiveness

- 2.15 Some members of the Delegation were especially concerned about the cost-effectiveness of the XRL. According to Mr ZHENG Jian, the total mileage of all railways presently under construction (including the XRL) was about 30 000 kilometres, at a total investment of some RMB 2 000 billion. It was estimated that by 2020, the amount of investment would reach some RMB 5 000 billion. As to economic efficiency, Mr ZHENG Jian said that since the XRL was a major transport infrastructure of the country, its economic effectiveness should be assessed from two perspectives. On the one hand, we had to look at the financial benefit it would bring about. On the other hand, the benefits brought to the national economy should be taken into account. In the case of the Qinghai-Xizang Line, for example, it incurred losses every year, but owing to its strategic social and political significance, its economic value should not be adopted as the sole indicator.

- 2.16 Mr ZHENG Jian also cited the Beijing-Tianjin Inter-city Railway as an example. Following the inauguration of the Inter-city Railway in 2008, the journey between downtown Beijing and the heart of Tianjin would take only half an hour now. The resultant "one-city effect" made it possible for people to work, purchase properties and spend money away from their home cities. Mr ZHENG Jian remarked that when the construction of the Beijing-Tianjin Inter-city Railway was proposed in 2003, the proposal was met with strong scepticism. However, he said, as evidenced by facts, the railway had brought immense benefits to promoting the tourism industries and economic development of the two cities. Tianjin was even planning to extend the XRL to its Binhai Development Area. He was therefore of the view that the economic impacts of shortened temporal and spatial distances on boosting economic development could not be quantified by statistical data alone.
- 2.17 Regarding the competition posed by the XRL to the passenger aviation industry, Mr ZHENG Jian said that the journey from Wuhan to Guangzhou on the Wuhan-Guangzhou XRL would take about three hours, and the corresponding air journey was about one hour. He remarked that passengers would surely be benefited with more options. Besides, under special circumstances, such as frosts and snowstorms, when roads and air traffic were brought to a halt, the XRL could play a crucial role.

### Construction Technologies

- 2.18 Members of the Delegation were concerned about whether the technologies adopted by the Mainland for the construction of the XRL were indigenous or introduced from abroad. In reply, Mr ZHENG Jian said that the technologies adopted for the construction of the XRL could be categorized into three types. One was indigenous innovation. Another involved innovation after the process of ingestion, digestion and absorption. The remaining one was integrated innovation, which meant turning the most advanced technologies into our own after the process of integration. During the construction process of the XRL, different approaches were adopted for various types of works in the light of the actual construction conditions and existing technologies. For instance, in the case of infrastructure facilities, such as track structures, bridges,

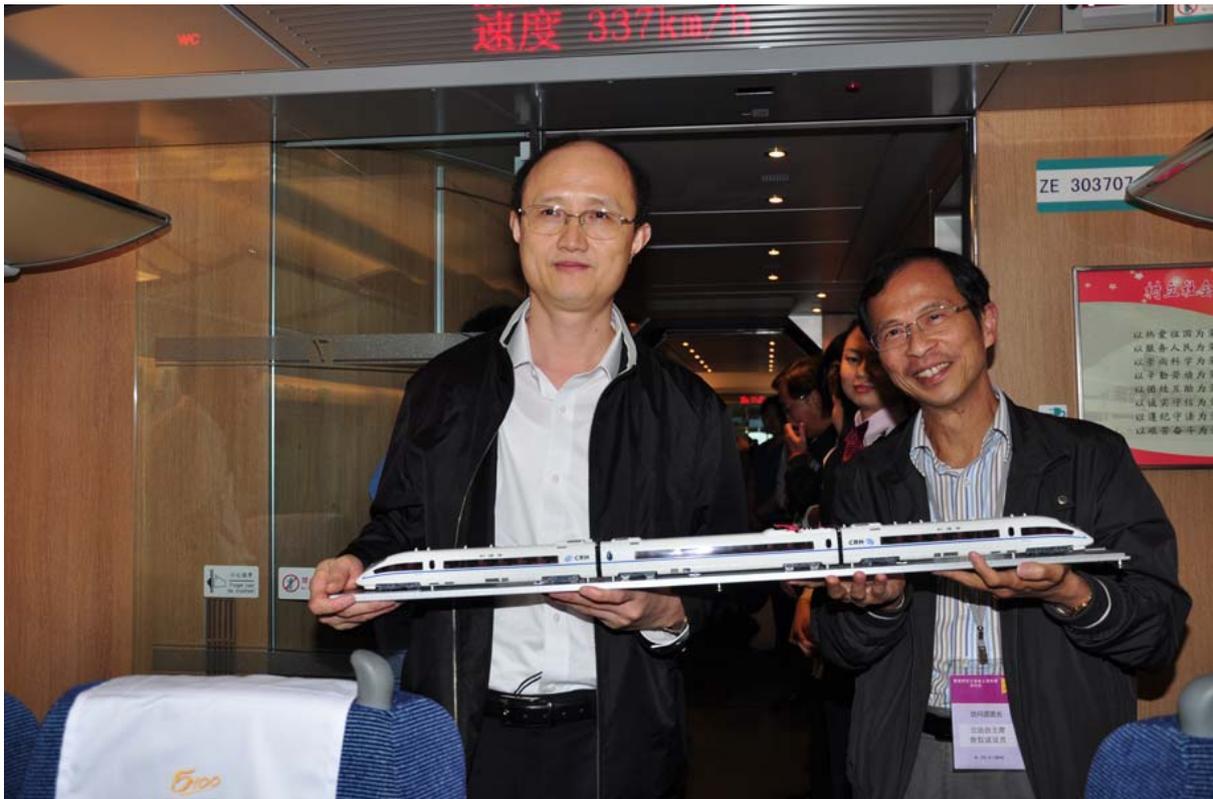
tunnels and embankments, the approach was mainly indigenous innovation. The reason was that other countries did not encounter any geographical and geological conditions as complex as those found at the sites along the XRL. Besides, bridges and tunnels were seldom used in European railways, so there was very little to learn from. As a result, the technologies adopted for this part of the construction process were mainly indigenous innovation.

- 2.19 Regarding track structure, the Shinkansen of Japan already adopted the ballastless track when it was inaugurated in 1964. China also started to explore this structure in the 1970s. However, only the XRL of China had so far adopted this technology on such an extensive scale. In this regard, although our nation drew on some foreign experience, it mainly relied on indigenous innovation.
- 2.20 XRL technologies started in the West, flourished in Japan and developed on a massive scale in Europe. The control systems of China's XRL, such as the technologies of their power supply, signalling and rolling stock (i.e. locomotive trains) were based on the advanced technologies of Japan, France and Germany. This was followed by innovation after the process of digestion and absorption. Mr ZHENG Jian told the Delegation that a high-speed train developed entirely by our country would come on line soon, and the maximum speed would be 380 km per hour.

### Construction Costs

- 2.21 In reply to the questions asked by members of the Delegation on the construction costs of the XRL on the Mainland, Mr ZHENG Jian said that they were about RMB100 million to RMB160 million per kilometre. However, construction costs would be affected by factors such as land acquisition and removal, station distribution density and rising prices of materials. They would therefore vary greatly from one line to another. The current trend was that the costs of railway construction were soaring all the time, and the prices became increasingly high. However, in order to meet the needs of the national economy and social construction, it would still be necessary to construct railways.
- 2.22 Members of the Delegation also expressed concern about the fares and occupancy rate of the XRL. Mr ZHENG Jian replied that following the inauguration of the XRL, concerns were indeed

expressed in society about its profitability and occupancy rate. However, it was very difficult to predict the passenger turnover of a railway. During the peak season at Spring Festival, for example, it was very difficult to buy a ticket for the XRL. In Europe, an occupancy rate of 40% would be considered very high. In contrast, the Beijing-Tianjin Inter-city Railway, which was completed just two years ago, had already seen a two-fold increase in passenger turnover. As to fares, Mr ZHENG Jian considered that they should be determined by the market.



Mr ZHENG Jian presenting a one-metre model of an XRL train to the Delegation for commemoration.

## **The Construction Progress of the Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL**

### Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL

2.23 The Delegation then listened to the briefing given by Mr. LAM Sai Hung (Chief Engineer of Railway Development of the HKSAR Government) on the construction progress of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL. Mr LAM started by explaining the alignment of the

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL to the Delegation. He said that the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL would start from the West Kowloon Terminus and end at Guangzhou South Railway Station, routing via Futian Station, Longhua Station and Humen Station. The Hong Kong section was part of the 13 000-km XRL network being developed by the State at full speed. It would link to the Beijing-Guangzhou Passenger Line and the Hangzhou-Fuzhou-Shenzhen Passenger Line. He was very confident that following the inauguration of the Hong Kong section, it would only take 50 minutes, or even 45 minutes, to travel from the West Kowloon Terminus to Guangzhou.

- 2.24 Another significance of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL was that it could effectively strengthen the connections between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta or even places outside the Pearl River Delta. Upon completion of the Hong Kong section, it would take only four hours to travel from Hong Kong to Wuhan.

#### Design of the West Kowloon Terminus

- 2.25 Under the existing railway scheme, the West Kowloon Terminus would be located next to Austin Station and the West Kowloon Cultural District. The land outside the station concourse of the West Kowloon Terminus would be designed as a landscaped plaza providing ample space to the public so that passengers exiting the Terminus could enjoy views of the West Kowloon Cultural District and the Victoria Harbour.
- 2.26 The West Kowloon Terminus would be designed as an underground station, with space within it for cross-border connection with the Mainland. Mr LAM Sai-hung also gave a briefing on an artistic view of the arrival and departure levels inside the West Kowloon Terminus. He showed the Delegation a route map for arriving and departing passengers.



Mr LAM Sai-hung, Chief Engineer of Railway Development, briefing the Delegation.

### Construction Progress

2.27 Mr LAM Sai-hung told the Delegation that following LegCo's funding approval for the XRL in January 2010, the Administration immediately granted the required works contracts. The contracts that had been granted were valued at roughly one quarter of the total construction costs. In February, the construction of a launching shaft for tunnel boring at Mai Po commenced. The piling works at West Kowloon West Terminus also started. The works were expected to take a year to complete. Superstructure works would commence afterwards.

### **Concerns Expressed by the Delegation**

2.28 The Delegation then held discussions with Mr LAM Sai-hung on railway development in Hong Kong and the Mainland. The topics covered during the frank exchanges included network connections, construction technologies and economic benefits.

2.29 The train arrived at Wuhan in the afternoon of the same day. The Delegation then took a flight to Shanghai.

## **Chapter 3: Shanghai World Expo**

- 3.1 The World Exposition, renowned as the "Olympics of the economic, technological and cultural fields", is a comprehensive exhibition of the highest level in the world. The Shanghai Expo, with the participation of 189 nations and 57 international organizations, is the largest exposition in terms of scale and scope throughout the Expo history of 159 years. Under the theme of "Better City, Better Life", the Shanghai Expo has transcended the boundary of previous Expos, which involved mainly presentations of advancement in technology and innovation, by providing the world with a platform for collective evaluation of issues arising from urban development. The Expo carries five sub-themes, namely "Blending of diverse cultures in the city", "Economic prosperity in the city", "Innovations of science and technology in the city", "Remodelling of communities in the city" and "Interactions between urban and rural areas".
- 3.2 The Shanghai Expo has made a breakthrough in the practice of previous Expos where nations and international organizations formed units of participation. The "Urban Best Practices Area" ("UBPA") has been introduced to show, through live cases, the bottlenecks in development encountered by all cities around the world, as well as possible solutions for such problems, for collective studies and exploration.
- 3.3 The Delegation visited the Shanghai Expo on 9 and 10 May 2010, and toured the China Pavilion, HK Pavilion, the Theme Pavilions, including the Pavilion of Urban Planet and the Pavilion of City Being, Pavilions of some other countries such as the Japan Pavilion, the Saudi Arabia Pavilion, the African Joint Pavilion, the EU Pavilion, the UK Pavilion and the USA Pavilion, as well as UBPA, including those of Hong Kong and Macao, and some Corporate Pavilions such as the SAIC-GM Pavilion and the Vanke Pavilion.



All Members of the Delegation posed in front of the China Pavilion.

## **9 May 2010 Morning – Expo Site in Pudong**

### China Pavilion: "Chinese Wisdom in Urban Development"

- 3.4 The Delegation visited the China Pavilion in the morning of 9 May 2010. The China Pavilion covered an area of 46 457 square meters. The exhibition areas were divided into three floors, with "Oriental Footprint" on the top floor, "Experience Trip" on the second and "Focus on low-carbon future" on the first. The exhibits displayed a diversified array of exciting contents from ancient, modern, to future China which are both concentration of a 5 000-year civilization and vision of urban development in China.
- 3.5 The contour design of the China Pavilion as a huge red crown in "Dougong" style featuring an interlocking layer of wooden brackets finely expressed the grandeur of the hosting country. It earned unanimous appreciation from the Delegation members. Guided by docents from the Pavilion, the Delegation started the tour from Highlight 1 on the top floor. An eight-minute thematic video titled "The Journey" was shown on a semi-circular screen,

showcasing Chinese efforts and achievements in urban development over the past 30 years. A one-minute clip in montage-styled images reconstructed the scene of courageous relief operations by the army and civilians after the earthquake at Wenchuan. The combination of intense images and a creative film making technique left a deep impression on members of the Delegation.

- 3.6 The northern section of the top floor exhibitions showcased an electronically enlarged and animated version of the famous Chinese painting "Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival" created by Zhang Zeduan in Northern Sung Dynasty. The Delegation was fascinated by the enormous visual artwork, which was 128 meters in length and 6.5 meters in height, presenting a detailed collection of delicate drawings of moving characters, horses and carriages, with sounds and even an alternate scene of day and night. Members unanimously commended that the "Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival", which was regarded as the most essential piece of display item of the Pavilion, illustrated the charm of urban landscape in ancient China, and had perfectly blended traditional Chinese arts with modern multimedia technology.
- 3.7 In Highlight 2 on the second floor, Members took an excursion train to observe the featured constructions at different stages of Chinese history, such as arch bridges, gardens, courtyards and corbel brackets, experiencing the intelligence behind the construction and maintenance of a traditional Chinese city.
- 3.8 After touring the second floor, the Delegation walked down to the Highlight of "Focus on low-carbon future", which demonstrated the latest technologies in environmental protection and energy efficiencies in China. An LED (light emitting diode) light converted from used beer bottles was displayed in the area. Models of wind energy and solar thermal energy devices, plus a new energy concept car that collected solar energy and absorbed carbon dioxide, were also shown. Through these exhibitions, the Delegation experienced the manner in which Chinese people would tackle future challenges brought by urbanization to achieve sustainable development globally.



Delegation members showing keen interest in a new energy concept car on display in the China Pavilion.

### Hong Kong Pavilion: "Hong Kong – Potential Unlimited"

3.9 The Delegation proceeded to the Hong Kong Pavilion on foot after touring the China Pavilion. Named "Pavilion of Infinity", the Hong Kong Pavilion was situated to the southwest of the China Pavilion, adjacent to the Macao Pavilion. The location was an obvious prime site geographically. It occupied an area of 637 square metres, consisting of three levels of exhibition areas. Its total floor area amounted to 1 390 square metres, with an actual exhibition area of 800 square metres. The Delegation was first given a briefing by Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong (Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs) on the design concept of the Hong Kong Pavilion. According to Mr LAW, the Hong Kong Pavilion had a contemporary outlook, and the transparent mid-level reflected the connectivity of Hong Kong within the city and to other parts of the world, and at the same time symbolized the high degree of transparency, diversity, compatibility and creativity of the Hong Kong society. All these showed that Hong Kong was rich in development potential.



The entire Delegation taking a group photo in front of the Hong Kong Pavilion.



The Delegation briefed by Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong, Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs.

3.10 Accompanied by Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong, Mr Patrick CHAN Chi-king (Commissioner of HKSAR Expo Affairs Office) and Mr Victor NG Hon-wing (Director of the Hong Kong Pavilion), the Delegation visited the exhibition areas on various levels. First of all, Members saw many Hong Kong icons and faces of Hong Kong people on four LCD/Plasma screens on the wall. After entering the exhibition area of "Connected to the Global Village" on the lower level, the Delegation visited an exhibition named "Green life in Hong Kong" and watched a 3D movie entitled "Hong Kong – Potential Unlimited". Produced with the latest 3D techniques, the movie presented Hong Kong as a vibrant metropolis brimming with creativity and contrasts. The Delegation noted that the 3D movie was produced with advanced technologies which enabled the audience to view and enjoy brilliant 3D effects from any angle. However, the Delegation was disappointed that the movie failed to deliver the message that environmental protection and quality life were promoted in Hong Kong.



Delegation members enjoying a 3D movie on Hong Kong with their 3D glasses on.

3.11 The Delegation proceeded to the mid-level exhibition area of "Connected: Ideas, Information and Diversity" after leaving the 3D cinema area. On the way, they passed through a mirror tunnel that would provide infinite reflections of the images of visitors, thus enabling them to experience multi-media interactive technologies. The area mainly showcased application technologies in our daily life. Through multi-media interactive games, visitors were guided to learn about things in Hong Kong. Members of the Delegation took turns to try their hands at the interactive portals, including interactive games that introduced the economic, financial, cultural and social conditions of Hong Kong, such as a game to design bank notes. Several Members also had fun with Hong Kong Happy Snap installed at the entrance of the Pavilion, in which they took a snap of themselves in one of the three Hong Kong scenarios as the background. The snaps were e-mailed to specified mail boxes or mobile phones via an interactive keyboard.



Delegation members experiencing interactive technologies of touch screens in the Mirror Tunnel of the Hong Kong Pavilion.



Hon IP Wai-ming examining the effects of a photomontage in front of an electronic camera.

3.12 Having tried their hands at the various interactive portals, some Delegation members found the designs of the games too simple and lacking special characteristics, and therefore unable to showcase the latest technologies in Hong Kong. Some members were also concerned that in the absence of creativity and substantial ideas, the exhibits in the Pavilion failed to reflect the unique culture of Hong Kong. Nevertheless, some members commended the Hong Kong Pavilion for its mode of presentation that emphasized interactive exchange with visitors.



President Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing having his hand on a multi-media interactive game in the Hong Kong Pavilion.



Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun trying out a multi-media interactive portal in the Hong Kong Pavilion.

3.13 Finally, the Delegation walked past the viewing gallery to reach the rooftop of the Pavilion – the exhibition area of "Connected: Nature". The area was designed to feature a wetland ecological area and woodland to highlight the greening outlook of Hong Kong and showcase Hong Kong as a sustainable city. Photovoltaic panels were installed on the rooftop to provide electricity for illumination. After visiting the rooftop, members of the Delegation hoped that more green items on environmental protection and sustainable development could be included in the contents on display in the Hong Kong Pavilion so as to promote Hong Kong as a green city.



Delegation members posing with Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong at the mini-wetland park on the rooftop of the Hong Kong Pavilion.

3.14 In conclusion, some Delegation members were disappointed as they found the technologies on display rather out-dated, the contents not forward-looking enough, and worse still, visions on our future city development lacking. However, some other members recognized that despite the space constraint which had rendered it impossible to compare the Hong Kong Pavilion with national pavilions of other countries in terms of scale, ours had already made the most out of the limited space under the existing conditions. Moreover, some members thought that many of the exhibits in the Pavilion did possess certain attraction and interactivity, which enabled visitors to feel the vitality of Hong Kong.

The Pavilion of Urban Planet: "Humanity in Symbiosis with City and Planet"

3.15 The Delegation arrived at the Theme Pavilions on a sightseeing bus of the Expo Site. Mr Zhang Keqin (Head of the Theme Pavilions Department) showed Members around the Pavilions of City Being and Urban Planet. The Pavilion of Urban Planet presented the crises facing the world today, such as energy shortage, water pollution, greenhouse effect, etc. Its series of specific and vivid displays encouraged visitors to reflect on these issues, thus recognizing that cities were both the sources and problem-resolvers of pollution. After seeing the exhibitions, some members of the Delegation recognized profoundly that the efforts to alter the existing state of the planet should begin with individual endeavours and enhanced public awareness of environmental protection, instead of relying solely on science and technology.



The Delegation listening to the briefing by Mr Zhang Keqin, Head of the Theme Pavilions Department.

*The Pavilion of City Being: "The City, Like a Living Being, Needs the Protection of Humanity to Remain Healthy"*

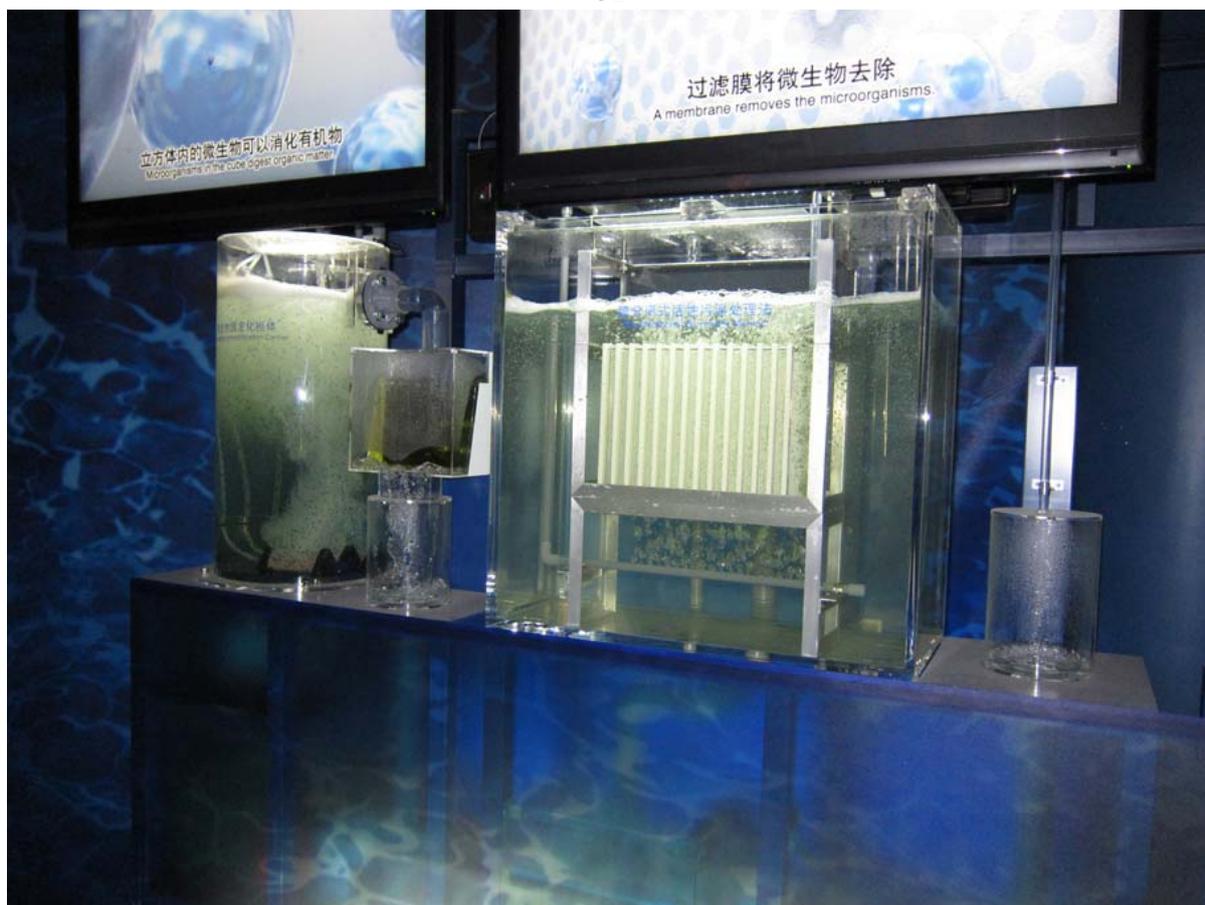
3.16 The Delegation proceeded to visit the Pavilion of City Being, which featured the characteristics of major cities in the world. The Pavilion encompassed many interactive features to highlight the vitality and vulnerability of cities which, like a living being, need to be treasured by people in order to sustain their development. During the visit, the Delegation understood deeply that vitality, which is essential for urban development, needs to be fostered by all mankind in a way that would maintain a lasting, harmonious and balanced relationship with nature so as to ensure sustainable growth and perpetual prosperity of cities.

**9 May 2010 afternoon ——— the Expo Site in Pudong**

The Japan Pavilion: "Harmony of the Hearts, Harmony of the Skills"

3.17 The Delegation arrived at the Japan Pavilion in the afternoon. The Pavilion, dubbed the "Purple Silkworm Island", adopted environmental control technologies to become a "green structure that breathes like a living organism". It was divided into three exhibition zones ——— past, present, and future.

3.18 Firstly, the Delegation watched a series of displays showcasing a historical case which highlighted the endeavours of Jianzhen, a Chinese monk who sailed to Japan to disseminate Buddhism at the invitation of an emissary from Japan in the Tang Dynasty. It showed the long history of the cultural inheritance between Japan and China. In the second exhibition zone, the Delegation experienced the four alternating seasons in Japan, and the Japanese life that attaches great importance to the four seasons and coexistence with nature. The Delegation also experienced the environmental technologies for combating global warming, e.g. eco cars, power-generating floor, organic EL lights, CO2 capture and storage technology, etc, which are exploited by the Japanese to realize the dream of establishing a futuristic "zero-emission city".



The latest technology for purifying and converting sewage into drinking water on display in the Japan Pavilion.

- 3.19 The Delegation proceeded to the third exhibition zone to see a show which told the story of how China and Japan have been making joint efforts to protect the crested ibis for the last three decades. Members of the Delegation then saw the exhibition of the "Wonder Camera" with its ultra-high definition and effectively infinite zoom, the "Partner Robot" which could play the violin, as well as a "Life Wall", an integration of a television and a wall in a living room. Being the fruits of research and development, the "Partner Robot", was designed to provide nursing and medical care support, as well as domestic assistance, for the Japanese society, whose population is ageing.
- 3.20 The Delegation was deeply impressed by the exhibition of the Pavilion as it set an example of combining high technology with humanistic spirit and encouraged reflection on how to address the issues of environment and resources by means of technology. In the Delegation's view, it was important for man to cherish traditions and protect the nature while seeking a high-tech city life of the future.

The Saudi Arabia Pavilion: "Vitality of life"

3.21 In the Saudi Arabia Pavilion, which was shaped like a "moon boat" hanging in the air, the Delegation reviewed a thriving scene reminiscent of the maritime Silk Road between China and the Arab world over one thousand years ago. Members of the Delegation particularly expressed appreciation to the world's largest 3D IMAX Theatre boasted by the Pavilion, as well as the high modern technology used to display on the walls and floors of the Pavilion the calligraphies of both Chinese and Saudi Arabia via water curtain. The 1 600 square-meter screen in the Theatre enabled visitors to experience the treasures of Saudi Arabia, such as its ancient handicrafts, in a brand-new way.



The Delegation touring the Saudi Arabia Pavilion.

The African Joint Pavilion: "The Great Ballad of Africa"

3.22 The Delegation then visited the African Joint Pavilion, the largest joint pavilion in the Shanghai Expo. It housed 43 individual pavilions for 42 African countries and the Africa Union, and represented the biggest number of countries in the history of World Expositions. The attention of the Delegation was first drawn by the painted façade of the Pavilion which showed intensely distinctive African features, and members of the Delegation took great interests in the giant wall sculpture at the entrance of the Pavilion, its various exhibits such as Tanzanian ebony sculptures, African musical instruments, etc. What particularly won the Delegation's admiration was that each individual pavilion contained its own characteristics that fully featured each African country's notions and manifested the unique humanistic nature of Africa, hence enabled visitors to experience the rich diversity of African culture.



Delegation members posing for photos in front of the giant wall sculpture at the African Joint Pavilion.

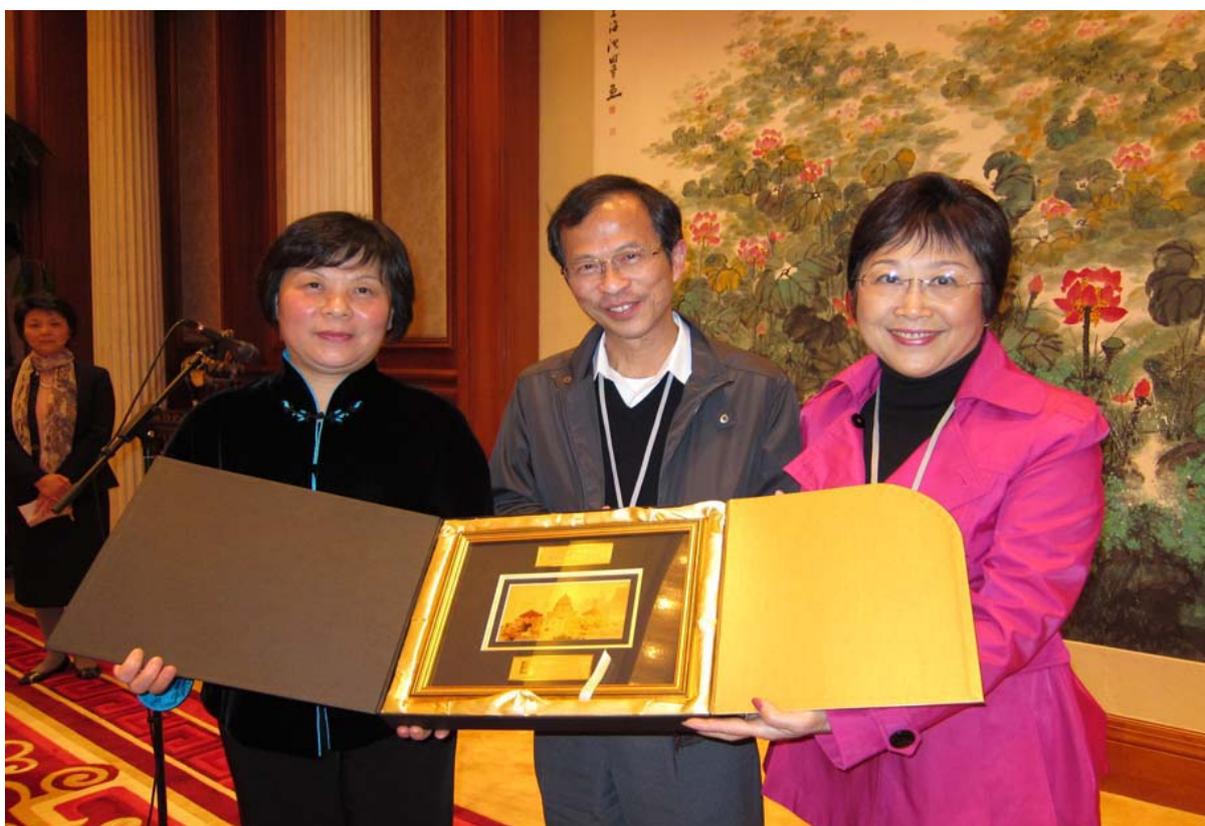
**In the evening of 9 May 2010 — a dinner hosted by Hu Wei, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress in honour of the Delegation and a Pujiang night cruise**

- 3.23 Mr Hu Wei (Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress) hosted a dinner in honour of the Delegation in the evening of 9 May 2010, and Ms Lin Yinmao (Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress), Ms Zhang Yixing (Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government) and Mr Cai Fangming (Deputy Director General of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination) were invited to help entertain the Delegation. In his speech at the dinner party, Mr Hu said that it was an irreversible trend of economic development for Hong Kong to enhance economic integration with the Mainland. While the development of Shanghai called for Hong Kong's experience, Hong Kong also needed additional space for development. There were unprecedented new opportunities open to Shanghai and Hong Kong, both of which must seize such opportunities for cooperation and make joint efforts to strive for development, so as to create a win-win situation for both places.
- 3.24 Mr Hu also said that last year, apart from facing the dual challenges posed by the impacts of the financial crisis and restructuring of its own development, Shanghai was charged with the hectic and onerous task of hosting the World Exposition. Thanks to the efforts made in the past year, Shanghai's economy entered a steady rebound. In his opinion, there was relatively strong similarity between Shanghai and Hong Kong, both of which had their own edges and special features, and the economic complementation between Shanghai and Hong Kong could bring considerable benefits to both sides. In recent years, the scope of cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong had been expanding constantly, with the mutual trade volume increasing and the levels of cooperation elevating.
- 3.25 In his address, the leader of the Delegation thanked the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and the

Shanghai Municipal Government for their hospitality, and said that the Delegation was inspired and thrilled when they saw the remarkable and brilliant achievement of the Shanghai Expo during the visit. The leader of the Delegation pointed out that when members of the Delegation were not touring around the Shanghai Expo, they saw for themselves the economic condition of Shanghai and experienced its latest city profile with upgraded local infrastructural facilities. He remarked that there were a broad outlook and excellent opportunities for cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong, and he believed that the government officials of Shanghai and Hong Kong could strengthen exchange and cooperation along with increasingly close cooperation between the two places. He wished sincerely the Shanghai Expo an outstanding and magnificent achievement, and that they would see a great many more successes in the future economic and social development of Shanghai.



Hu Wei (centre), Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, presenting a crystal China Pavillion model as a souvenir to Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, President of LegCo and leader of the Delegation and Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, deputy leader of the Delegation.



Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, President of LegCo and leader of the Delegation and Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, deputy leader of the Delegation, presenting a gilded picture frame showing the LegCo Building as a souvenir to Ms Zhang Yixing, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

- 3.26 When the dinner party came to an end, the Delegation took a night cruise along Pujiang at the invitation of the Shanghai Municipal Government, enjoying the night scenes along the coastal areas of Pujiang and experiencing in person the latest development in the coastal areas there.
- 3.27 To tie in with the Shanghai Expo, the comprehensive renovation project of the Bund in Shanghai was initiated in April 2007, and the Bund area that had been under painstaking reconstruction for 33 months, reopened on 28 March 2010 upon the full completion of the renovation project. The huge Bund renovation project entailed six major works projects, namely provision of passageways in the Bund area, riverfront improvement works, provision of cut-off walls, conversion works of the sewage system, development of the public transport hub and exploitation of the underground space.
- 3.28 The length of the riverfront site, a scenic spot in the Bund area, was increased from 1.8 km to 2.6 km. The former 11-lane carriageway on the ground level of the Bund was narrowed to a dual 4-lane one to make way for the extension of the new Bund's four theme squares which constituted a leisure and sightseeing promenade with scenic value. Moreover, 70% of the traffic flow passing through the Bund area would be rerouted to the underground roadway there, rendering the ground level of the Bund a space mainly for people. Witnessing the rapid development of the Bund for themselves, the Delegation was particularly impressed by the glamour and prosperity of Shanghai. Members of the Delegation were of the view that the overall development of the Bund had adopted a people-based approach to successfully combine culture, leisure, entertainment and tourism with particular emphasis on conservation of historical buildings and cultural heritage. It had high value of reference for the development of the waterfront sites in Hong Kong.



Members of the Delegation taking a night cruise along Pujiang to enjoy the night view on both sides.

### **In the morning of 10 May 2010 – Expo Site in Puxi**

3.29 The Delegation visited the Hong Kong Urban Best Practices Area (UBPA) and the Macao Case Pavilion in the morning of 10 May 2010.

#### **HK UBPA: "Smart Card. Smart City. Smart Life"**

3.30 Hong Kong, with its proposal to highlight the extensive use of smart card technology in our daily city life, was chosen by the selection committee among the 59 cities approved to participate in the UBPA exhibition. Apart from monitoring the utilization of public funds in the implementation of the UBPA exhibition, one of the important missions of the Delegation in this visit was to inspect how the applications of smart card technology were showcased.

3.31 At the entrance to HK UBPA, the Delegation received a briefing by Ms Elizabeth Tse (Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)) on the theme of the exhibition - "Smart Card. Smart City. Smart Life". Then the members toured around to see the facilities in two groups, respectively guided by Ms Elizabeth Tse and Mr Alan SIU (Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology)).



Ms Elizabeth Tse, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology), who made a special trip to Shanghai to brief the Delegation on the facilities and design concepts of the HK UBPA.

- 3.32 The Delegation found the design of the exhibition façade unique and special. The façade was installed with LCD panels which turned the patterns of visitor flow into pixels constituting video graphics on the surface, making the exterior of the exhibition chic and dynamic. The façade was also installed with four interactive portals. By using a wristband with an embedded Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip, Members activated the exhibition content. Apart from using the portals to access information about Hong Kong events during the Shanghai Expo period, they also tried various interactive activities, such as taking e-photos, sending e-postcards and playing mini-games. Through these portals, the leader and deputy leader of the Delegation also took part in real-time video chats on the spot with volunteers at the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong International Airport.
- 3.33 After entering the exhibition, members of the Delegation first watched "Faces of Hong Kong", a 360-degree movie. The video was shown on a 360-degree circular screen that interacted with 14 vertical LED panels, displaying in an impressionistic vision the different and contrasting aspects of life in Hong Kong: urban and nature; tradition and modernism; east and west; development and conservation; hence portraying the diversity of Hong Kong society. After the end of the video, the Delegation members went to the back of the vertical panels. Guided by 14 virtual hosts who played different roles as members of the public in Hong Kong, they experienced how smart cards and RFID technology applied in everyday life, such as shopping, public transport systems and immigration clearance, making city life easier and more efficient. In addition, the exhibition showcased future applications of smart cards in other areas such as electronic patient records and electronic school certificates.



Members of the Delegation watching an interactive video on a 360-degree circular screen at the HK UBPA.



Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye using an interactive portal on the façade of the HK UBPA to have a video chat with volunteers at the Hong Kong International Airport.



Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong using an interactive portal on the façade under the guidance of the staff at the HK UBPA

3.34 Having had a close look at various exhibition items, the Delegation members were satisfied that the exhibition had successfully featured the advanced development of information and technology in Hong Kong. Members of the Delegation were of the view that smart cards and REID technology would become the focus of development worldwide in the future. This time the HK UBPA had made very good demonstrations of applications of smart cards and REID technology, which were highly attractive to those visitors who were not familiar with such technology. Depicting the integration of technology in our daily lives as the theme of the exhibition also made it more amiable to visitors.



The whole Delegation taking a group photo in front of the façade of the HK UBPA.

### The Macao Case Pavilion: "Restoration and Use of the Historical 'Tak Seng On' Pawnshop in Macao"

3.35 The Delegation then visited another UBPA, the Macao Case Pavilion. On the ground floor of the three-storey Macao Case Pavilion was "Tak Seng On", a century-old pawnshop in Macao. The first floor was occupied by "Jin Yong Library" and the second floor housed a gallery which introduced Macao's creative and cultural industries. What particularly won Members' praises was "Tak Seng On" on the ground floor, which was a replica made on a 1:1 basis. Each and every detail fully reflected Macao's determination in preserving its cultural heritage.

3.36 The Delegation members were of the view that the Macao Case Pavilion, under the theme of cultural conservation, manifested how highly the matter was regarded by Macao. They were concerned that compared with Macao, Hong Kong's progress in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage was relatively slow. The government should adopt an active and more targeted approach to commence conservation work and promote Hong Kong's unique cultural heritage overseas.



The leader and deputy leader of the Delegation receiving a souvenir from the person-in-charge of the Macao Case Pavilion on behalf of the Delegation.

### SAIC-GM Pavilion: "Take a Drive to 2030"

3.37 The Delegation then visited SAIC-GM Pavilion. The Pavilion presented unlimited possibilities of how advancement in motor technologies could make life easier and more convenient in the future and outlined the bright vision for the motor industry through sustainable development to realize zero emissions, zero traffic accidents, less dependence on petroleum and less traffic congestion in the next 20 years. Not only was the Delegation deeply impressed by the complete consistency of the design of the pavilion with cars and amazed by the creative illustrations of concepts of future transport, they also highly commended the sophisticated facilities in the pavilion, the first type ever introduced in the world, which gave visitors top-notch visual and physical experience.



SAIC-GM Pavilion showcasing the intelligent, high-tech EN-V concept vehicle which stresses zero emissions in the future.

### Vanke Pavilion: "Possibility by Respect"

3.38 The Delegation then visited Vanke Pavilion, which displayed the efforts made by some cities in development and conservation. One of the messages delivered through the pavilion was how to unite the efforts of individuals and society to protect the ecological environment and carve out a bright future of harmonious co-existence of humans, nature and city. The Delegation noted that the ecological impact brought by urban development had been increasingly conspicuous. As a result, the sustainability of future urban development really needed focused attention of our society. In particular, it was necessary to promote green concepts more actively so that more people would learn to integrate such concepts in their daily life.



Members of the Delegation posing in front of the distinctive-looking Vanke Pavilion.

## **In the afternoon of 10 May 2010 – Expo Site in Pudong**

### **Belgium-EU Pavilion: "Intelligent Europe"**

3.39 The Delegation took a coach in the afternoon to visit the EU Pavilion, which was situated in the Belgium Pavilion. They were received by Mr Oliver RASSAT, Director of the Belgium-EU Pavilion, who briefed them on the history and present status of EU's development as well as the rich artistic background of Europe. The exhibition in the pavilion also presented EU's environmental policy in addition to the various intelligent and environmentally friendly technologies and solutions adopted by EU in dealing with climatic change. The Delegation also visited a "chocolate plant" in the Belgium Pavilion to watch the chocolate making process and tasted the globally famous Belgian chocolate on the spot.



Members of the Delegation watching the exhibition on green concepts in the EU Pavilion.

### United Kingdom Pavilion: "Building on the Past, Shaping Our Future"

3.40 The United Kingdom Pavilion was one of the pavilions highly praised by the Delegation. The UK Pavilion adopted the design of an open city park. The Delegation considered that the "Seed Cathedral", which looked like a blooming dandelion, was a remarkable manifestation of creativity. The design of natural lighting was also very environmentally friendly and energy efficient. Its design concept matched with the Expo theme perfectly. The exterior of the "Seed Cathedral" was formed by more than 60 000 transparent acrylic rods. Embedded in these "filaments" were some 260 000 seeds of different species in a variety of shapes, thus showcasing the importance of conserving the diversity of living things.

3.41 In great admiration of the open space outside the pavilion, the Delegation found that the open space, providing both a cosy open area and a venue for art performance, fully exhibited the green theme and cultural atmosphere of the United Kingdom.

3.42 Some members of the Delegation were of the view that the exhibition content of the UK Pavilion was very thought-provoking. Having experienced large-scale urbanization, Britain had been striving for better town planning in order to provide a living environment of higher quality. Members of the Delegation considered that the Administration could draw on the British experience and provide more sitting-out areas as major venues for art exhibitions and performances through effective urban design so as to encourage members of the public to enjoy life and upgrade their living standard.



Members of the Delegation taking a photo with Ms ZHANG Yixing, Deputy Director, Shanghai Municipal Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, outside the UK Pavilion.

USA Pavilion: "Rise to the Challenge"

- 3.43 The last stop of the tour of the Delegation was the USA Pavilion. Through its multi-dimensional and hi-tech presentation, the pavilion manifested the American spirit of perseverance, boldness in innovation and building a pluralistic society. The Delegation first saw a group of Americans greeting visitors warmly in Putonghua. The presentation then highlighted America as a society of diversity. Americans, regardless of races, joined hands to build their own community in pursuit of their desire for better lives.
- 3.44 Members of the Delegation pointed out that the exhibition in the USA Pavilion, which sketched a future American city in miniature, including the use of clean energy, extension of green spaces and expansion of rooftop gardens, could serve as Hong Kong's reference. The USA Pavilion also demonstrated to visitors important American values, which were equality, boldness in innovation and joint efforts for the betterment of the community. Members of the Delegation generally agreed that enhancement of social cohesion and promotion of social harmony were the cornerstones of urban development in the future.
- 3.45 After visiting the USA Pavilion, the Delegation left the site of the Shanghai Expo and officially concluded the two-day visit to the Shanghai Expo. They then departed for Hong Kong from Shanghai in the evening.

## Chapter 4: Observations

### Introduction

- 4.1 The duty visit to the Shanghai Expo was the first of such visits on the Mainland arranged for all Members of Legislative Council ("LegCo") of the current term. In merely three days, the Delegation comprising 41 Members of LegCo and led by the President witnessed the mega event of the Shanghai Expo and visited en route the Wuhan-Guangzhou Express Rail Link ("XRL").
- 4.2 As the Finance Committee approved a total commitment of \$346.4 million for the participation of HKSAR in the Shanghai Expo, an important task of the Delegation during the visit was to monitor the use of public funds by understanding fully how this participation would help promote Hong Kong. The visit also provided Members with an opportunity to learn from other participating countries about their innovative ideas on urban and city development, their new approaches to eco-friendly lifestyles and working conditions, as well as their successful experience in sustainable development. At the same time, it was hoped that the visit would attract the interest of Hong Kong people in visiting the Shanghai Expo.
- 4.3 The Delegation also took the opportunity to take a ride on the XRL in China during which it received from a Mainland railway expert a briefing on the development of the XRL on the Mainland and exchanged views with the expert on issues relating to the economic benefits, construction technology and safety of the XRL. The Delegation considers that the experience of riding on the XRL has enabled Members to better understand the urgency for the early integration of transport network between Hong Kong and the Mainland. All in all, the Delegation considers the Shanghai Expo visit very eventful and fruitful. The observations of the Delegation on specific areas are elaborated below.

## **Development of the Express Rail Link**

- 4.4 The Delegation was briefed by Mr ZHENG Jian, Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railways on the development of the XRL on the Mainland. They also exchanged views on the financial, technical, safety and other aspects of the XRL. Members of the Delegation experienced the convenience and high efficiency of this modern means of public transport and gained a direct understanding of China's vision of developing the XRL network consisting of "Four South-North Lines and Four East-West Lines".
- 4.5 The Delegation notes that the XRL can indeed facilitate the flow of people, goods and capital within the economic circulation sphere covered by the railway lines and believes that the construction of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong XRL, which will connect the railway network of Hong Kong with the transport network of the XRL on the Mainland, would reduce travel time and cost for commuters and bring huge economic benefits to both Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- 4.6 The Delegation also notes that the value and benefits of the XRL have been greatly affirmed by China. Although some railway lines still fail to break even at the moment, China will keep allocating sufficient resources to build the lines in view of the overall benefits that they would bring to the country. Hence, the planning of the transport network of the XRL on the Mainland is highly comprehensive. The Delegation believes that expediting the linkage of the railway network of Hong Kong with the network of the XRL on the Mainland would promote interflow among the people in Hong Kong and those in various provinces of the country; shorten the distance from one place to another; broaden the scope of Hong Kong's future development; and effectively facilitate the social and economic development of both Hong Kong and the Mainland.
- 4.7 The Delegation highly commends the XRL on the Mainland for its speed, stability, comfort and modern design, as well as its capability of providing service even in inclement weather, making it no inferior to any other means of public transport in terms of competitiveness. Furthermore, since the XRL is more eco-friendly than aeroplanes and motor vehicles, it is in line with

the global trend of development for Hong Kong to construct the XRL. While the Delegation greatly affirms the advantages of the XRL, it is concerned about the noise generated during the operation of the XRL and the telephone signal reception along the railway line and hopes that during the construction of the Hong Kong Section of XRL, the SAR Government would do its best to reduce the noise impact and strengthen the reception of the communication signals along the railway line.

### **Hong Kong's participation in mega international events**

- 4.8 The Shanghai Expo was held in Shanghai from 1 May to 31 October 2010 under the theme of "Better City Better Life". A total of 246 countries, cities and international organizations took part in the event, expecting to attract more than 70 million visitors. Hong Kong's participation in mega international events in the past was limited to exhibitions on specialized themes<sup>1</sup>. The last time for Hong Kong to participate in an integrated international exhibition similar to the Shanghai Expo was back in 1986, when Expo 86 was held in Vancouver, Canada.
- 4.9 The Delegation is of the view that participating in this kind of international mega event helps Hong Kong show its forte to the world, which would play a positive role in promoting its tourism, technology, economy, trade, arts and culture. The Delegation also considers that HKSAR should participate actively in the Shanghai Expo and take the opportunity to showcase Hong Kong's strength as Asia's creative capital, sharpen its edge as a city most suitable for living and highlight its achievements in communications, tourism and extensive use of smart technology so as to leave a good and unforgettable impression to the visitors.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples include Marineteq China 2009, Frankfurt Book Fair 2009, Yokohama Asian Cultural Wave 2008, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) TELECOM WORLD 2006 and the ITU TELECOM Asia 2002. Hong Kong has also hosted a number of international conferences including the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization 2005, the United Nations Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum 2004 and the Fortune Global Forum 2001.

## **Hong Kong Pavilion**

- 4.10 One important task of the Delegation is to monitor public expenditure on constructing and operating the Hong Kong Pavilion. The Delegation's observations on the location, design, theme and contents of the exhibits of the Hong Kong Pavilion are elaborated in the ensuing paragraphs.

### *Geographical location and design*

- 4.11 The Delegation notes that the Hong Kong Pavilion is built on a stand-alone location, setting itself apart from the pavilions of other Mainland cities, which display their exhibits collectively in the China's Joint Provincial Pavilion. The fact that HKSAR has its own pavilion on the Shanghai Expo site demonstrates the special status of Hong Kong and highlights its role as a window of China. Furthermore, the location of the Hong Kong Pavilion, which is adjacent to the China Pavilion, is absolutely advantageous in attracting visitors and conducive to promoting Hong Kong.
- 4.12 The Delegation also finds that despite its small exhibition area, the Hong Kong Pavilion has a unique design. In particular, the designer has created a transparent chamber in the middle level which provides visitors with an unrestricted view within a limited space and demonstrated Hong Kong's creativity in the area of architecture and design. It is indeed an excellent piece of work.

### *Theme*

- 4.13 The Hong Kong Pavilion has adopted the theme of "Hong Kong – Potential Unlimited" with the purpose of showcasing the city's unique connectivity with the Mainland and the world. However, the Delegation considers that this theme fails to dovetail with the Shanghai Expo's theme of "Better City, Better Life".
- 4.14 The Delegation notes that the theme of the Shanghai Expo enables participating countries, cities and organizations to present new ideas and thoughts on future cities and explore new directions for eco-friendly lifestyles and working conditions as well as sustainable city development. However, the emphasis of the Hong Kong Pavilion lies in showcasing Hong Kong's financial and technological achievements. In this respect, the Delegation

considers that the theme adopted by the Hong Kong Pavilion does not represent Hong Kong's long-term vision on the development of future cities.

- 4.15 The Delegation notes that the themes of the China Pavilion, the theme pavilions and the pavilions of many overseas countries have placed great emphasis on the development of future cities. The Delegation also notes that the development of future cities as envisaged by these pavilions is shaped not just by the advancement of technology, but also continuity of traditional values and cultural heritage, as well as the philosophy that promotes inter-personal relationship and a harmonious co-existence of people and nature. The Hong Kong Pavilion, however, has not presented any ideas in these areas. Some members of the Delegation have expressed their disappointment in this regard.

#### *Exhibition contents*

- 4.16 The Delegation notes that many pavilions of foreign countries promote their themes with special technologies and means of presentation. For example, the Saudi Arabia Pavilion has set up the world's largest three-dimensional (3D) cinema with a 1 600-square-metre screen for visitors to experience Saudi Arabia's ancient handicraft culture in a novel way. Another example is the United Kingdom Pavilion. Most members of the Delegation praise the United Kingdom Pavilion for its presentation of rich cultural traditions and ideas on the future cities in a genteel manner. The Delegation considers that these pavilions are remarkable in that they provide visitors with either an awesome, amazing or impressive experience to savour the special local flavours. In comparison, the Hong Kong Pavilion fails to impress visitors with anything that is characteristic of Hong Kong.

4.17 The Delegation appreciates the extensive use of 3D technologies and interactive games in the Hong Kong Pavilion to promote positive interaction with visitors. Unfortunately, the exhibits in the Pavilion do not include the latest facilities, services and technologies. Some members of the Delegation are disappointed at the absence of more forward-looking technologies and exhibits in the Hong Kong Pavilion. However, the Delegation commends the staff of the Hong Kong Pavilion for being friendly, knowledgeable of the contents of the exhibits and able to give a clear explanation of their operation, giving visitors a good impression of the Pavilion.

### *Recommendations*

4.18 The Delegation recommends that the theme of the Hong Kong Pavilion should present the intrinsic features of Hong Kong to highlight the attractive qualities of Hong Kong people and the metropolis as Asia's world city. It is also recommended that the exhibits should showcase the characteristics of East meeting West and the core values of Hong Kong, and in particular, how Hong Kong people strive for progress and development in a versatile manner within the constraints of limited resources with the Hong Kong spirit of diligence, perseverance and pursuit for excellence. The Delegation recommends that the Hong Kong Pavilion should enrich the contents of its exhibits. One member of the Delegation also recommends that a laser light show be held at the Hong Kong Pavilion during night time, so that the glamour of the Pearl of the Orient can be unveiled within the geographical constraints and give visitors an intense experience of Hong Kong's creativity and vibrancy.

4.19 On the whole, the Delegation affirms the efforts made by the SAR Government in participating in the Shanghai Expo with the use of public funds, but acknowledges that there is room for improvement. The Delegation hopes that the SAR Government will double its efforts in enriching the contents of the exhibits in the remaining time of the event by introducing more forward-looking and innovative exhibits of high technology to be presented as achievements which are characteristic of Hong Kong.

4.20 The Delegation also affirms the importance of approving funds for the HKSAR Government to participate in the Shanghai Expo. With regard to the permanent preservation of the Hong Kong Pavilion, however, the Delegation is of the view that it would depend on the resources required and the purpose of keeping the Pavilion, and it is not opportune to make an immediate decision now. Nevertheless, the Delegation recommends that considerations be made for the software facilities and exhibits to be brought back and displayed in Hong Kong. A member of the Delegation suggests that if the latter recommendation is adopted, the Government should update the software facilities and exhibits of the Pavilion on a regular basis so that both Hong Kong people and overseas visitors can increase their awareness and have a better understanding of Hong Kong.

#### Urban Best Practices Area – Hong Kong Case Pavilion

4.21 The Shanghai Expo is the first registered exhibition under the theme of "Cities", with the "Urban Best Practices Area" (UBPA) specially created for the theme. UBPA exhibits have been screened and selected by a committee with members from United Nations agencies, international organizations and Mainland authorities. The Delegation is proud to see that Hong Kong's smart card and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies have been chosen from 106 applications and approved for UBPA exhibition. Observations of the Delegation in respect of the design, theme and contents of the UBPA – Hong Kong Case Pavilion are presented in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### *Design of the pavilion*

4.22 The Delegation notes that the Hong Kong Case Pavilion is located at the Case Joint Pavilion together with other case pavilions on a joint exhibition basis. The Delegation considers that although Hong Kong cannot have its own pavilion to demonstrate the use of smart card technology, the overall design is good, as visitors are provided with sufficient space to experience the technologies showcased. In this regard, the Delegation is satisfied with the arrangement.

### *Theme*

4.23 The Delegation concurs that the Hong Kong Case Pavilion, with a clear and focused theme, successfully demonstrates how smart card integrates with our daily life, as well as highlighting the prominence of Hong Kong as a smart city. The smart card and RFID technologies showcased have great potential for further development and have found their application in a number of areas. For visitors with little idea about such technologies, the Hong Kong Case Pavilion offers them a good chance to gain first-hand experience in the application of the latest technologies. It also demonstrates successfully Hong Kong's achievements in the application of high and new technologies.

### *Exhibition contents*

4.24 The Delegation appreciates the Hong Kong Case Pavilion in respect of its interactive video show presented on the 360-degree circular screen and demonstration of the use of RFID technology on 14 vertical LED panels. In addition, the exhibition showcases perfectly the extensive use of Hong Kong's smart card and RFID technologies, especially their possible application in areas of food safety tracking and protection against anti-counterfeit. The Delegation considers that the Hong Kong Case Pavilion may act as reference for the Mainland and other cities in the world.

### *Recommendations*

4.25 The Delegation thinks that it will definitely bring about more business opportunities and higher demand from worldwide for relevant guidance about the technologies if visitors are given hands-on experience to feel the convenience of our smart card and RFID technologies in the Hong Kong Case Pavilion. In view of the rapid development of smart card and RFID technologies, the Delegation suggests that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government should make good use of the remaining Expo period to enrich the contents of the exhibits with more high technology elements to promote future ways of development of the relevant technologies.

## **Conclusions**

- 4.26 The Shanghai Expo, a global economic, technological and cultural event as well as a grand occasion where the international world shows off national power and local achievements, provides great chances for international exchange and brings about considerable business opportunities. The Delegation considers that the HKSAR Government should seize this opportunity to further enhance publicity of Hong Kong and present to the world the advantages of cultural diversity, vitality and creativity of this distinguished city.
- 4.27 During the visit, the Delegation has witnessed and experienced the rapid changes and development of China. It is proud to see that China is among the top nations of the world in terms of scientific and technological development. The Delegation also recognizes the importance of Hong Kong's integration with the Mainland. The Delegation suggests that the Administration should play a more active role in facilitating full cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland to bring about complementary effects and work for a win-win situation. The Administration should also enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong to avoid lagging behind.
- 4.28 After visiting the Shanghai Expo and the Bund in Shanghai, every member of the Delegation is impressed by the development and prosperity of Shanghai. They have also experienced the positive and aggressive manners of the Shanghai people. These characteristics have in turn brought greater vitality to the city. The China Pavilion is marvellous and spectacular, from which the Delegation has had a better understanding about the new technological development in China. Through the visit of the Theme Pavilions and pavilions of different countries, the Delegation has gained first-hand experience about how to design and reform cities through new ideas, technologies, materials and management systems to make better city life and realize the concept of sustainable development.

- 4.29 The Delegation has also learnt about the new energy-saving and low-emission technologies of various countries, including a ride in an electric car with "no noise, zero pollution" in the Expo Park during the visit to experience the green goal of zero carbon emission in the Expo Park. The use of solar energy and renewable construction materials by various pavilions illustrates comprehensively the strategies and methods to fight climate change in the area of building and construction. The Delegation considers that its members have gained from the visit a more comprehensive and clear idea about the importance of promoting environmental protection, energy conservation, preservation of historical relics in cities and healthy urban development. The Delegation also suggests that the Government should enhance public awareness about environmental protection and energy conservation in Hong Kong, and should also give priorities to the introduction and demonstration of energy-saving and emission-reducing technologies in Hong Kong, and provide incentives to encourage the relevant service sectors to provide green transportation services.
- 4.30 Although the Delegation cannot enjoy the cultural performances organized by Hong Kong at the Shanghai Expo due to time constraints, the members expect the HKSAR Government to put more efforts in promotion and ensure that the activities highlight the special features of Hong Kong. The Shanghai Expo can be taken as a platform through which visitors can get closer to and learn more about Hong Kong. The Government is expected to take this opportunity to show visitors from the Mainland and the world the creativity and talent of Hong Kong professionals in areas such as design, architecture, software engineering and art performances.
- 4.31 On the whole, the Delegation concurs that the three-day visit, despite its short duration, is fruitful and rewarding. The Delegation considers that the visit has not only fulfilled the purpose of monitoring how government funding has been used in Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo, but also allowed members to learn about the success of different countries in encouraging low carbon lifestyle, environmental protection and energy conservation, as well as their directions in future urban development. The Delegation therefore considers that the visit is both enlightening and rewarding.

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Legislative Council  
Delegation to the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China**

**8 to 10 May 2010**

**I Members of the Delegation**

Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP (President of LegCo and leader of the Delegation)

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman of the House Committee and deputy leader of the Delegation)

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP

Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP

Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Hon LEE Wing-tat

Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP

Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP

Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP

Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

(Total: 42 Members)

## **II Major hosting officers of the Mainland Authorities**

Mr HU Wei	(Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress)
Ms LIN Yin-mao	(Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress)
Ms ZHANG Yi-xing	(Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government)
Mr CAI Fang-ming	(Deputy Director General of the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination)
Mr ZHENG Jian	(Chief Planner of the Ministry of Railway)

## **III Major hosting officers of the HKSAR Government**

Mr Joshua LAW Chi-kong	(Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)
Miss Elizabeth TSE Man-ye	(Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology))

Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun	(Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology))
Mr Patrick CHAN Chi-king	(Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai and Commissioner of the HKSAR Expo Affairs Office)
Mr Victor NG Hon-wing	(Deputy Commissioner of HKSAR Expo Affairs Office and Director of the Hong Kong Pavilion)
Miss Pamela LAM Nga-man	(Deputy Commissioner of HKSAR Expo Affairs Office)

#### **IV Staff members of the LegCo Secretariat**

Ms Pauline NG	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA	Legal Adviser
Mrs Percy MA	Assistant Secretary General
Mr Simon WONG	Chief Public Information Officer
Mr Timothy TSO	Assistant Legal Adviser
Ms YUE Tin-po	Clerk to Panel on Commerce and Industry
Ms Elyssa WONG	Deputy Head (Research and Library Services)
Mr Kelvin LI	Senior Public Information Officer
Miss Tammy LEUNG	Senior Translation Officer
Ms Cammy FONG	Public Information Officer
Mr Ken WOO	Council Secretary
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant