

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for House Committee meeting
on 9 July 2010**

**Rescheduling of the duty visit to the United States and Canada
by the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning
under the Panel on Development**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning (the Subcommittee) under the Panel on Development to reschedule its duty visit to the United States and Canada to late September 2010.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Development in November 2008 and tasked to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. In the course of the Subcommittee's study, the Subcommittee considered it useful to conduct a duty visit to selected cities with successful experience in waterfront planning and management, viz. Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore. The Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to these cities, tentatively from 25 September to 3 October 2009, to obtain first-hand information on the cities' waterfront development and regeneration strategies, enhancement initiatives; institutional arrangements for waterfront planning and management, and the key challenges and opportunities. The proposed overseas duty visit was endorsed by the House Committee on 10 July 2009.

3. In planning for the overseas duty visit, the Subcommittee noted that the Administration was conducting studies on the waterfront management and operation models in certain overseas places. The Subcommittee considered that it would be useful to make reference to the findings of the Administration's studies and decided to postpone the duty visit to a later date.

Rescheduling of the visit

4. On 2 July 2010, the Administration briefed the Subcommittee on, among others, overseas experience in waterfront developments collated from relevant visits conducted previously. The Subcommittee considered the information and decided to undertake the duty visit in late September 2010. The Subcommittee plans to visit Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore. Subject to further arrangements to be made with the receiving organizations, the visit will last for about nine days, and will take place from 27 September to 5 October 2010.

5. During the visit, the delegation plans to meet with relevant government bodies and other agencies responsible for waterfront planning and management, and conduct visits to the waterfront areas of Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore.

6. The overseas duty visit is open to all Legislative Council Members. As at 7 July 2010, a total of five Members have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

7. 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 organized 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.

8. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$46,000 (economy class air passage) or \$90,000 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

9. Rule 22(v) of the House Rules (HR) provides that should any Panel consider it necessary to undertake any activities outside Hong Kong under the name of the Panel of the Council, the prior permission of the House Committee shall be sought. According to HR 26(f), this Rule applies, where appropriate, to subcommittees of the House Committee, Bills Committees and Panels.

10. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Subcommittee to reschedule the duty visit as proposed.

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

Proposed duty visit to the United States and Canada

List of participants

(Position as at 7 July 2010)

Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (*may join part of the visit*)
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

(Total: 5 Members)

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 July 2010

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning
Proposed duty visit to the United States and Canada
Tentative schedule and estimate of expenditure

Duration of visit : 27 September to 5 October 2010 (9 days)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong/Vancouver/Boston/New York/Baltimore/Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>Business Class</u>
Return air passage (Cathay Pacific/Air Canada/American Airlines)	26,000	70,000
Hotel accommodation		
(a) Vancouver (3 nights)	4,200	
(b) Boston (1 night)	1,800	
(c) New York (2 nights)	2,800	
(d) Baltimore (1 night)	1,500	
Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) Vancouver	2,800	
(b) Boston	1,200	
(c) New York	1,800	
(d) Baltimore	1,000	
Travel insurance	500	
Airport tax and fuel surcharge	2,400	
TOTAL:	46,000	90,000

NOTES:

1. Airfare quotations are obtained in June 2010. For the business class fare, the long-haul flights between Hong Kong and Vancouver are on business class, while the other flights are on economy class.

2. Other expenses including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat. Where the actual costs of in-town travelling expenses is separately paid by the Secretariat, 5% of the subsistence allowance will be deducted.

3. Exchange rates as at June 2010:

HK\$7.78950 = USD1

HK\$7.43025 = CAD1

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