

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1103/09-10
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

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Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 December 2009, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Members absent : Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP

Public officers attending : Agenda Item IV

Mrs Rita LAU NG Wai-lan, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Mr Duncan PESCOD, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Miss Janet WONG Wing-chen, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Andrew LAI Chi-wah
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Davey CHUNG Pui-hong
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Agenda Item V

Mrs Rita LAU NG Wai-lan, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Mr Duncan PESCOD, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Communications and Technology)

Miss Janet WONG Wing-chen, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Andrew LAI Chi-wah
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Agenda Item VI

Mr Howard CHAN, JP
Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs (2)

Mr Victor NG
Expo Coordinator
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Mr Alan SIU, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economics
Development (Communications and Technology)

Mr Henry CHOI
Project Director 1
Architectural Services Department

Mrs Ella TAM
Deputy Director of Information Services (Shanghai
Expo)

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Culture)

- Attendance by invitation** : Agenda item V
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification
Mr John HUNG Leung-bun
Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms YUE Tin-po
Chief Council Secretary (1)3
- Staff in attendance** : Mr Joey LO
Council Secretary (1)3
Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

As the Chairman was out of town and the Deputy Chairman would only attend the later part of the meeting due to other commitments, the Panel elected Mr WONG Ting-kwong to chair the meeting in accordance with Rule 77(5) of the Rules of Procedure.

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(1)536/09-10 -- Minutes of meeting held on 20 October 2009)
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since last meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(1)499/09-10(01) -- Information on the financial position of the Applied Research Fund for the period of 1 June 2009 to 31 August 2009
- LC Paper No. CB(1)633/09-10(01) -- Information paper on the 2009 Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting)
3. Members noted that the above papers had been issued for the Panel's information. Ms Emily LAU requested and members agreed to include the issue of 2009 Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

4. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 19 January 2010 to discuss the item of copyright protection in the digital environment. 72 deputations and the 18 District Councils would be invited to present their views on the subject. A general notice inviting submissions from members of the public would also be posted on the LegCo website. Depending on the number of deputations attending, a four-hour time slot would be reserved for the meeting. In this connection, the item "promotion of inward investment", originally scheduled for the same meeting, would be deferred to a future meeting.

5. Mr WONG Ting-kwong, the presiding member, informed the meeting that in his capacity as the member of the Panel, he had issued a letter to the Panel Chairman on 7 December 2009 proposing to discuss the subject "establishing Hong Kong's own standard of patent registration regime". Members agreed to include the subject in the list of outstanding items for discussion.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the item "Promotion of inward investment" was subsequently included in the agenda of the meeting on 19 January 2010.)

IV. Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme

(LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(03) -- Administration's paper on Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme

LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(04) -- Paper on Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

6. At the Panel's invitation, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED) briefed members on the proposed implementation framework of the Research and Development (R&D) Cash Rebate Scheme (the Scheme), as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(03)).

Discussion*Grooming of talent*

7. Mr Jeffrey LAM expressed support for the R&D Cash Rebate Scheme which was well-received by the industry and would encourage the industry to step up investment in R&D. He opined that apart from providing direct financial support, the Administration should step up efforts in grooming talent and bringing in talent which was unavailable in Hong Kong. The Administration should also consider measures to encourage the commercialization of R&D deliverables in Hong Kong rather than allowing the technologies to be acquired by overseas companies, so as to create more job opportunities in Hong Kong. Moreover, the Administration should foster cooperation amongst the Government, the industry and the various stakeholders in this area, and formulate a forward-looking manpower plan for the R&D industry.

8. In response, SCED agreed that both the grooming of R&D talent and commercialization of R&D results were vital towards the development of Hong Kong's high value-added and high technology industries. She also agreed that the Administration should promote the commercialization of R&D deliverables in Hong Kong. On grooming of talent, SCED advised that Hong Kong provided many graduates in science and technology subjects annually, and it was important to retain such graduates in the field to contribute to the development of the local R&D industry. In this connection, the Administration launched an internship programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF). Over 300 university Bachelor degree and Master degree graduates were recruited in 2009, mainly in the field of engineering. The Administration also promoted the development of R&D at different levels, ranging from the technological cooperation projects undertaken by the Shenzhen/Hong Kong Innovation Circle, to the nurturing of an innovative culture through various non-government organizations by organizing events, such as the Innovation Festival held in November 2009 at Science Park, as well as other R&D competitions.

9. As regards the commercialization of R&D deliverables, SCED advised that the Innovation and Technology Commission had been promoting close dialogue between the industry and universities as well as R&D centres, and encouraging co-operation between enterprises and universities/R&D institutions. On a macro level, the acquisition of R&D deliverables by overseas companies would help enhance the status of Hong Kong internationally. Meanwhile, the Administration would continue to actively promote the commercialization of R&D deliverables in Hong Kong. She stressed that R&D was a long term pursuit and the Administration would render continued support to the sector.

Outlay for the Scheme

10. Mr Tommy CHEUNG opined that the commitment of \$200 million for the coming five years was too low vis-à-vis the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Hong Kong. He suggested that in addition to cash rebate, the Administration

should provide incentives for enterprises to set aside a certain percentage of their profits for R&D purpose by means of tax concessions.

11. In response, SCED advised that the estimate of the commitment for the Scheme was based on the expenditure statistics of both ITF projects and non-ITF projects. The estimated amount of cash rebate to be disbursed for the first financial year was set at a relatively conservative level to allow time for the industry to get accustomed to the Scheme. The estimated expenditure of cash rebate would rise with time during the next four years. The Administration would monitor the response to the Scheme and make suitable adjustments to the financial commitment as and when necessary.

12. SCED further advised that a 100% deduction for R&D expenditure from the business profits for the purpose of tax assessment was already provided under section 16B of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112). The Scheme was designed to provide added incentives on top of the existing tax concession to further stimulate private investment in R&D, which would contribute to the overall GDP. She added that private enterprises had increasingly recognized the necessity to invest in R&D in the face of tough competition. This was demonstrated by steady rise in the proportion of private investment in R&D over the past decade.

13. Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (CIT) supplemented that the total expenditure for both ITF projects and non-ITF projects in 2007-2008, which amounted to \$300 million, was used in estimating the total amount of cash rebate to be disbursed in the first year of the Scheme. Given a 10% cash rebate, the original figure was \$30 million. The final estimate was adjusted to \$20 million based on the factors as explained by SCED. CIT stressed that the estimate was only a cash flow projection and by no means a ceiling of commitment. Unlike tax rebate, the Scheme obviated the need for enterprises to generate a profit before becoming eligible for the cash rebate. In response to Mr Tommy CHEUNG's suggestion, she explained that the pre-registration requirement under the Scheme would in a way serve the purpose of encouraging enterprises to set aside a certain amount of their expenditure for R&D purpose.

14. Ms Emily LAU shared the view that the amount of commitment for the Scheme and the R&D investment by the Administration was low. She enquired about the statistics on R&D investment by the HKSAR Government and the private sector as compared to Hong Kong's neighbouring trade partners and the developed countries. She also enquired about the success rate of launching of the R&D deliverables in the market.

15. In response, SCED advised that Hong Kong had lagged behind its neighbouring trading partners and the developed countries in terms of R&D investment. In 2007, R&D investment accounted for 0.77% of the GDP in 2007, as compared to 1.49% for the Mainland, 2.52% for Singapore, 2.62% for Taiwan, 1.36% for Ireland and 2.66% for the United States. She however stressed that it was inappropriate to measure the success of R&D investment simply by looking at the number of R&D deliverables launched in the market. As she was aware,

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many patented deliverables with good market potentials were not directly launched in the market as they needed to be used in conjunction with others to achieve synergy. On examples of successful R&D deliverables, SCED quoted the Wi-Fi technology which was developed by the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI). At Ms LAU's request, the Administration undertook to provide relevant information on the subject after the meeting to facilitate members' consideration of the funding proposal for Scheme.

16. In response to Ms Emily LAU's further enquiry, SCED explained that unlike many other overseas jurisdictions, Hong Kong had a relatively low level of R&D investment as it did not have a need to invest in national defence. In addition, unlike other overseas jurisdictions with heavy private investment in R&D, Hong Kong had a relatively low level of private R&D investment. As such, it was imperative upon the Administration to promote the culture of private R&D investment through providing incentives to the industry.

Intellectual property rights arrangement

17. Mr WONG Ting-kwong, the presiding member, said that members of the Democratic Alliance for Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong generally supported the Scheme. He enquired about the intellectual property rights (IPRs) arrangement for R&D deliverables under the Scheme.

18. In response, CIT advised that there were two main funding modes of R&D projects under ITF. Under platform projects where ITF would fund 90% of the project expenditure, the private company concerned would not own the IPR. Under collaborative projects where the industry partners would be required to contribute up to 50% of the R&D project cost, the company concerned would be entitled to own the IPRs. In consultation with the industry, the Administration was currently reviewing the level of contribution under the two funding modes as well as the "distribution arrangement" for the IPRs, with a view to adopting a more flexible approach. The outcome of the review would be reported to the Panel when the Administration brief members on the annual work progress of the R&D Centres in 2010.

Summing up

19. In summing up, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, the presiding member, advised that the Panel supported in principle the Scheme and hoped that the funding proposal would be submitted to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

(The Deputy Chairman joined the meeting at this juncture.)

V. Work progress of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification
(LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(05) -- Administration's paper on work progress of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

LC Paper No. CB(1)341/09-10(07) -- Paper on promoting the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

20. At the Panel's invitation, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (SCED) briefed members on the work progress of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the proposed creation of a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2) post, designated as Secretary-General (Testing and Certification) (SG(TC)) in the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), as set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(05)).

Discussion

Public consultation

21. Noting that HKCTC organized a consultation forum with the stakeholders on 27 November 2009 with participants from about 90 organizations attending, Ms Emily LAU expressed concern whether sufficient time was provided for the participants to fully express their views on the subject. She enquired whether HKCTC would conduct a further round of consultation. In this connection, she echoed the concern expressed by some of the participants that HKCTC should in future refrain from competing with the private sector in the provision of direct services relating to testing and certification to avoid unfair competition as in the case of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC). The Deputy Chairman and Mr Wong Ting-kwong however opined that HKCTC should follow the example of HKTDC in serving as a platform for the promotion of the local industry without competing with the private sector.

22. In response, Secretary-General (Testing and Certification) Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (SGCTC) said that the consultation forum was originally scheduled for two hours. Owing to good response from the participants, the forum had been extended for about 30 minutes to allow all participants who wished to express their views to do so. SGCTC advised that the view that HKCTC should not in future provide direct services competing for business with the private sector was expressed by a small and medium enterprises association. He assured Members that HKCTC was mindful of its role. In fact, HKCTC'

would formulate a three-year market-driven development plan together with the testing and certification industry.'

23. Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (CIT) added that to facilitate further public engagement, HKCTC had set up a website where members of the public could put forward their views and suggestions relating to its work plan at any time. HKCTC had also written to the various parties including major chambers of commerce and relevant trade associations, establishments in the testing and certification sector, Government bureaux and departments, Research and Development (R&D) Centres under the Innovation and Technology Fund, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, universities, etc. As regards competition with the private sector, CIT clarified that HKCTC's role was to facilitate the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong, e.g. by working with different trades to explore the possibility of establishing a testing standard which would be acceptable to the respective trade, coordinating with the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) to ensure that it possessed the capability to give accreditation to laboratories which applied for accreditation for the new testing, etc. HKCTC would not provide any direct testing and certification services to the market.

Grooming of talent

24. Noting that there were only a few hundred graduates each year from the relevant Diploma courses offered by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education under the Vocational Training Council (VTC), the Deputy Chairman enquired about the interim measures and the long-term plan for grooming of talent for the testing and certification industry. He opined that the Administration should capitalize on its international status in testing and certification, by expediting the development of the industry in Hong Kong and helping local enterprises tap the Mainland domestic market in view of its strong demand for testing and certification service. In this connection, Mr WONG Ting-kwong opined that consideration should be given to recruiting hi-end professionals of the industry from overseas to cope with the demand.

25. In response, SCED advised that the priority task of HKCTC was to work with the industry to formulate a three-year market-driven development plan for submission to the Chief Executive (CE) within six months of its establishment, and the grooming of talent and manpower supply would definitely be a major component of the development plan. In order to provide a platform for in-depth discussion, HKCTC had set up two working groups, including the Working Group on Landscape of the Testing and Certification Industry to gain a better understanding of the current status of the industry. SCED added that the training courses offered by VTC would definitely contribute to the development of the industry. She said that whilst efforts would be put to developing the Mainland market, emphasis would be put on creating job opportunities in Hong Kong.

26. CIT supplemented that in order to get a clearer picture of the latest position of the industry, the Census and Statistics Department had been engaged to assist HKCTC in conducting a survey. As regards the grooming of talent, HKCTC would coordinate with the universities and VTC to enhance manpower training. This could be done by conveying the industry's needs and exploring with the institutes through organizing more courses and enhancing the course design to meet the demand. VTC was also willing to provide additional training courses/sessions if the situation and resources warranted. HKCTC could also organize seminars and workshops to allow students and university graduates in science-related subjects to gain more understanding about the industry and career opportunities, so that they would be attracted to join the industry. HKCTC would also review the adequacy of assessors to cope with the anticipated surge in demand for accreditation service.

Exploring opportunities on the Mainland

27. Noting that SCED had led a delegation to Beijing in November 2009 to establish contacts with the relevant authorities in the Mainland responsible for testing and certification, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the progress in seeking the mutual recognition of testing and certification results with the Mainland. In this connection, Mr WONG Ting-kwong opined that Hong Kong should leverage on its advantage as China's gateway to the world, and strive for the recognition of the testing reports from Hong Kong's accredited laboratories by all the Mainland cities and municipalities, so as to help Hong Kong's enterprises tap the Mainland market.

28. In response, SCED advised that the visit to Beijing was most useful for building links with the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China and the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment, introducing to them Hong Kong's potentials in the development of the testing and certification industry, and exploring possible areas of cooperation in future. Through its active involvement in international accreditation bodies, such as the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, Hong Kong had established a wide network for the development of its testing and certification industry.

Accreditation regime

29. Mr Albert CHAN declared that his daughter was engaged in chemical testing abroad. He enquired about the accreditation system of the industry in Hong Kong.

30. In response, CIT explained that apart from local laboratories, many internationally renowned testing laboratories were operating in Hong Kong and providing quality testing and certification service. The HKAS gave accreditation to establishments in the industry through a detailed process undertaken by professional assessors.

Other assistance given to the industry

31. Mr Albert CHAN enquired about other measures, such as the provision of land, which would be taken by the Administration to support the industry. Sharing a similar view, Mrs Regina IP opined that as the Administration was exploring the feasibility of developing the Lok Ma Chau Loop with higher education as the leading land use, complemented with hi-tech R&D development as well as cultural and creative industries, consideration should also be given to providing more land in the border area for the construction of laboratories for the testing of food and medicine from the Mainland to leverage on the locational advantage.

32. In response, CIT explained that different types of testing and certification might have different accommodation requirements. In fact most types of test could be conducted in ordinary industrial buildings. For those with special requirements such as very high ceiling height, they might apply to be located in industrial estates. SCED added that the Administration did not see the need at this stage to provide land for the construction of premises specifically for testing and certification purpose. Revitalization of industrial buildings might provide premises and contribute to the development of the testing and certification industry. In consultation with the industry, HKCTC would take such requirements into consideration. In response to Mr Albert CHAN's further enquiry, SCED supplemented that the direction of future development for the testing and certification industry of Hong Kong, including the particular fields of the industry to be developed and the issue of manpower supply, would be covered in the three-year development plan to be submitted to CE around April 2010. The Panel would be consulted on the development plan in due course.

Summing up

33. Members agreed in principle to the proposed creation of the AOSGC (D2) post and hoped that the proposal would be submitted to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

VI. Progress report on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

(LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(06) -- Administration's paper on HKSAR's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(07) -- Paper on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

LC Paper No. CB(1)685/09-10 -- Administration's paper on connect
(*tabled at the meeting and* to Hong Kong at Shanghai Expo
subsequently issued via email on (power-point presentation
16 December 2009) materials))

Presentation by the Administration

34. At the Panel's invitation, the Deputy Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (2) (DSCMA) briefed members on the progress on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China (Shanghai Expo) with the aid of power-point presentation, as set out in the Administration's papers (LC Paper No. CB(1)614/09-10(06) & CB(1)685/09-10).

Discussion

Hong Kong Pavilion

35. Noting that the innovative design concept of the Hong Kong Pavilion (HKP) of the Shanghai Expo was chosen from an open concept design competition, Mrs Regina IP referred to the criticisms about the design of the HKSAR float taking part in the 60th anniversary National Day parade, and opined that the design work for similar events should be chosen on a competitive basis in future, so that innovative concepts could be gathered. She commented that the theme of the HKP was good and opined that a futuristic and forward looking approach should be adopted for it. On the theme of "Intangible Connectivity", she was of the view that Hong Kong's connectivity to the world and its competitive strength in terms of sound regulatory systems should be showcased by the HKP as far as possible. In order to demonstrate the city's creative talents and different fields to the world, she suggested that Hong Kong's achievements in the latest technologies, such as the three-dimensional (3D) film-making technology and electronic certification (e-certification) should also be showcased at the HKP.

36. In response, DSCMA advised that the winning entry of the concept design competition for the HKP was chosen from among 80 entries submitted by architectural and design professionals in Hong Kong. The Deputy Director of Information Services (Shanghai Expo) supplemented that cultural diversity coupled with the free flow of money and information that defined Hong Kong would be showcased as the mid-level's theme. During the six-month Expo period, the Administration would adopt different themes for each month to promote green living (May), tourism (June), "One Country, Two Systems" (July), youth and cultural exchange (August), and creative industries (September and October). Hong Kong's strengths in the areas of film-making and fashion, etc., would be showcased during the period from September to October 2010. The Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) added that a 3D film would be shown in the HKP whilst a 360-degree screen would be set up inside the Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition of the Shanghai Expo with video projection to introduce to visitors the various contrasts

of Hong Kong. Besides, visitors would be able to watch a demonstration on how smart card and Radio Frequency Identification as well as e-certification technologies were being extensively used in Hong Kong to enhance quality of living and efficiency.

37. In response to Mr WONG Ting-kwong's enquiry on in-situ preservation of the HKP, DSCMA advised that in accordance with the existing plan of the Shanghai Expo, the HKP would have to be demolished after the conclusion of the Shanghai Expo. Nevertheless, the Administration would, as far as possible, negotiate with the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Co-ordination (SEB) for its possible preservation after the event. The Administration had proposed to SEB to preserve the HKP together with the China Pavilion, which was designated for permanent preservation. In the event that the HKP could not be preserved in situ, consideration would be given to reprovisioning the HKP, in whole or in part, in Hong Kong.

Economic benefits to Hong Kong

38. The Deputy Chairman asked if there were updated figures on quantifiable economic benefits to Hong Kong arising from HKSAR's participation in the Shanghai Expo in general, and to small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) in particular in terms of business opportunities.

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39. In response, DSCMA advised that Hong Kong's SMEs would participate in and benefit from the Shanghai Expo in various ways, such as through serving as its business partners, ticketing agents or sponsoring organizations. At the Deputy Chairman's request, the Administration undertook to provide the latest estimate of the number of additional visitors to be attracted to visit Hong Kong en route their trip to the Shanghai Expo, as well as the economic benefits brought to Hong Kong as a result.

Promotional activities

40. Noting that an exhibition to promote Hong Kong's participation in the Shanghai Expo was launched in the 44th Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo at Victoria Park, with a model of the HKP on display, the Deputy Chairman opined that promotional activities for the exhibition should be stepped up to attract more visitors. Sharing a similar view, Mr WONG Ting-kwong opined that publicity of Hong Kong's participation in the event should be enhanced in the face of fierce competition from other participating countries and cities.

41. In response, DSCMA advised that the Administration and relevant parties such as the Hong Kong Tourism Board would spare no efforts in promoting China's hosting of the Shanghai Expo through various promotional activities, including "single trip, multiple destinations" tours targeted for event participants to attract them to visit Hong Kong before or after the event. DSCMA added that the façade of the HKP would also be designed to capture the attention of the visitors to the China Pavilion.

Public participation

42. Noting that the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong had established a fund of \$250,000 to subsidize underprivileged groups in Hong Kong to visit the Shanghai Expo to broaden their horizons, Mr WONG Ting-kwong enquired whether the Administration had similar plans. In this connection, Mrs Regina IP sought information on the "Expert Talks on National Education" to enhance students' national identity.

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43. In response, DSCMA advised that the Education Bureau was organizing the "World Expo 2010 Shanghai China" National Education Activity Series to leverage on the Shanghai Expo. These included "Expert Talks on National Education" as well as "Hong Kong Schools Exchange Tour of Expo Shanghai China" which would provide first-hand experience for students to gain deeper understanding of the Shanghai Expo and the developments of the Mainland. A funding programme operated by the Commission on Youth under the Home Affairs Bureau was also available for sponsoring young people to the Shanghai Expo. At Mr WONG Ting-kwong's request, the Administration undertook to provide further information on the Administration's sponsorship programmes to subsidize different community sectors in Hong Kong to visit the Shanghai Expo after the meeting.

VII. Any other business

44. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 February 2010