

Panel on Economic Development

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 23 March 2010)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Policy issues under Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

1. Proposals to strengthen consumer protection legislation

The Administration is reviewing the consumer protection legislation with a particular focus on tackling unfair trade practices. It will consult members on proposals to strengthen consumer protection legislation.

Early 2010

2. Review of the operation of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC)

At the meeting on 16 July 2009, the Panel passed a motion urging the Government to conduct a thorough review of the structure, functions, fees and relevant arrangements of TIC, including whether it should become a statutory organization and be subject to value-for-money audits, and to provide legal advice on whether the present licensing arrangements for travel agencies were in breach of the Basic Law. The Administration will present the outcome of the review to the Panel in the second quarter of 2010.

2nd Quarter of
2010

3. Competition Bill

When the Panel was briefed on the timing for the introduction of the Competition Bill at the meeting on 30 March 2009, the Administration indicated that it would need more time to prepare the details of the institutional framework and the exemptions provisions in the Bill and had to revise the schedule for the introduction of the Competition Bill from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. During the policy briefing at the meeting on 16 October 2009, the Administration reported that it was preparing the Bill and working closely with various bureaux/departments to address comments received during the last public consultation exercise. The Administration will brief members on the Bill before introducing it into the Legislative Council.

2nd Quarter of
2010

4. Manpower resources for overseeing consumer protection policies

The Administration intends to consult members on the manpower resources requirements for overseeing consumer protection policies.

To be confirmed

5. Lei Yue Mun Waterfront Enhancement Project

With a view to enhancing the attractiveness of Lei Yue Mun (LYM) as a popular tourism spot through further improving the facilities along the LYM waterfront area, the Administration will consult members on the LYM Waterfront Enhancement Project and seek the Panel's support for the proposal.

To be confirmed

6. Funding proposal for the construction of a station for the new weather radar of the Hong Kong Observatory

The Hong Kong Observatory is acquiring replacement weather radar that provides windshear alerts. The Administration intends to seek, in due course, funding approval for constructing a station housing the new radar.

To be confirmed

7. Mega Events Fund

At the meeting on 30 March 2009, members were briefed on the setting up of the Mega Events Fund (MEF) to provide financial support to non-profit-making organizations to host attractive mega events in the areas of arts, culture and sports in Hong Kong. A commitment of \$100 million for setting up the MEF was approved by FC at the meeting on 8 May 2009.

To be confirmed

The Government had invited the first round of applications in July 2009, with a total of six projects selected at a grant of \$25.2 million, whereas the second-round application has opened on 1 November 2009. The Administration will update the Panel in due course.

8. Aberdeen Tourism Project

At the meeting on 27 April 2009, the Administration proposed to undertake the beautification works of the Aberdeen promenade first, while other elements of the conceptual plan of the Aberdeen Tourism Project, including proposed restaurant facilities at the wholesale fish market, would be further studied. The Panel passed a motion urging the Government to re-consider its decision and implement the Project as soon as possible.

To be confirmed

The Administration would brief the Panel on the beautification works before seeking funding approval from FC, and update members on the development of other elements of the conceptual plan.

Policy issues under Transport and Housing Bureau**9. Midfield development of the Hong Kong International Airport**

With the progressive increase of the runway capacity to 68 movements per hour by 2015, the Airport Authority Hong Kong will carry out a midfield expansion to provide additional aircraft stands and apron facilities and a new passenger concourse. The Administration intends to brief members on the details of the project.

2nd Quarter of
2010

10. Development of a logistics cluster in Kwai Tsing area

During the policy briefing at the meeting on 16 October 2009, members noted that the Administration would make available permanent sites around the Kwai Tsing area for development of a logistics cluster, while keeping in view the development of the Lantau Logistics Park (LLP). The Administration is requested to update members on the progress of development of the logistics cluster and LLP in due course.

4th Quarter of
2010

11. Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme

The Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme was launched in July 2004 to encourage local school graduates to take up seafaring profession as their career, and to provide Hong Kong with home grown shipping talents. There is a need to secure funding for continuation of the scheme.

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 16 November 2009 when members were briefed on Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2009, some members urged the Government to deploy more resources to enhance the incentive measures for the training of seafaring personnel including licensed pilots.

12. Proposed provision of customs, immigration and quarantine facilities for SkyPier of the Hong Kong International Airport

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the proposal before seeking funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee and FC.

To be confirmed

13. Aviation services**"Co-location" of immigration and customs facilities at Hong Kong International Airport**

In order to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong International Airport, views had been expressed that the Government

To be confirmed

should liaise with the Central People's Government and the relevant authorities to implement "co-location" of immigration and customs facilities at Hong Kong International Airport.

At the Panel meeting on 24 January 2005, the Administration advised that co-location of immigration and customs facilities at cross-boundary control points involved complex legal and jurisdiction issues. There was no plan to provide co-location of immigration and customs facilities at SkyPlaza.

14. Collection of air passenger departure tax and fuel surcharge by travel agents

At the meeting on 23 February 2009, members urged the Administration to conduct a review on the current arrangement in respect of the collection of air passenger departure tax and fuel surcharge by the travel agents. The Administration has provided written responses to the issues raised at the meetings on 23 February and 30 March 2009. Hon Paul TSE requested the Panel to follow up the discussion in due course.

To be confirmed

15. Development of seaplane service and mooring areas for pleasure vessels

At the meeting on 15 October 2009, Hon Albert CHAN requested the Administration to explore and discuss with the Panel the development of seaplane service between Hong Kong and other cities in the region, as well as the provision of more mooring areas for pleasure vessels, having regard to the demand for the facilities and in the light of overseas experiences.

To be confirmed

Policy issues under the Environment Bureau

16. There is no outstanding item for discussion.