

Panel on Economic Development

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 22 June 2010)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Policy issues under Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

1. Proposals to strengthen consumer protection legislation

At the meeting on 24 May 2010 when the Panel was briefed on the proposals to strengthen consumer protection legislation, the Administration had indicated that it would launch a public consultation on the proposals in the third quarter of 2010. The Panel agreed to consider meeting with deputations to gauge their views on the consultation paper.

To be confirmed

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. The Administration had presented the outcome of the review to the Panel at the meeting on 24 May 2010. In response to the suggestion from the Panel to hold a public hearing to gauge the views of travel agents, their frontline staff as well as general consumers on TIC's operation, Panel members agreed that the detailed arrangements should be decided by the Panel in the new legislative session.

To be confirmed

3. 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

4. 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion****5. 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

6. 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

As at 31 May 2010, a total of seven projects have been selected and an amount of \$27.2 million has been granted. The Administration will update the Panel as appropriate.

7. 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**8. 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 has provided an information paper on the project, which was circulated for members' consideration on 31 May 2010 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2086/09-10(01).

9. 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

10. 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

11. 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 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.

To be confirmed

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.

12. 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion****13. 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**14. Introduction of petrol of lower octane level by oil companies**

At the meeting on 26 April 2010, Hon Ronny TONG expressed concern that vehicle owners had to pay more as local oil companies only sold the more costly 98-octane petrol, whereas their vehicles did not require petrol of such a high octane level. The Panel agreed to invite the oil companies to discuss issues relating to the introduction of petrol of lower octane level to provide more choices to vehicle owners.

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