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**Legislative Council Secretariat**

**新聞稿 Press Release**

The Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs began its duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea

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The Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs departed for Japan and the Republic of Korea today (August 4) to begin its eight-day overseas duty visit.

The purpose of the visit is for members to study the experience in the development of cultural software and the preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage in these two countries. During the visit, the delegation will obtain first-hand information on the development of the arts and culture (particularly in the areas of arts programme development, arts education and manpower training, and community-driven initiatives to promote cultural and artistic activities), as well as measures in safeguarding and promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage. The delegation will also exchange views with official agencies involved in the formulation and implementation of strategies and measures in these areas, and community organizations and social enterprises engaged in the advancement of the arts and culture.

During its stay in Japan, the delegation will meet with the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo, the Japan Arts Council, and non-profit community organizations devoted to promoting the arts and culture to the communities, as well as corporate support for the arts. The delegation will also visit a variety of public and private arts and cultural facilities to study their experience in the development of arts programmes and arts education, and nurturing of artists.

In the Republic of Korea, the delegation will meet with officials of the

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation, and the Korea Arts & Culture Education Service. The delegation will also visit the Insa-dong Cultural District to study the experience of transforming a heritage site into a cultural district and tourist attraction, public and private arts and cultural institutions and establishments, and a social enterprise specializing in promoting creative community culture/business.

The itinerary of the visit is as follows:

<b>4 August 2010 (Wednesday)</b>	
9:30 am	Departure from Hong Kong for Tokyo
2:55 pm	Arrival in Tokyo
<b>5 August 2010 (Thursday)</b>	
9:00 am	Meeting with the Japan Foundation for Regional Art Activities
10:30 am	Visit to the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
12:00 pm	Luncheon meeting with parliamentarians who are responsible or interested in the promotion of the arts and culture
2:30 pm	Visit to the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
4:45 pm	Visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo
<b>6 August 2010 (Friday)</b>	
9:45 am	Visit to the Japan Arts Council
11:00 am	Visit to the National Theatre
1:30 pm	Visit to the New National Theatre
3:30 pm	Visit to the National Art Center
5:30 pm	Visit to the Association for Corporate Support of the Arts Japan
<b>7 August 2010 (Saturday)</b>	
9:20 am	Departure from Tokyo for Kyoto
11:43 am	Arrival in Kyoto
2:30 pm	Visit to the Miho Museum
<b>8 August 2010 (Sunday)</b>	

9:00 am	Visit to the Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art
3:15 pm	Departure for Seoul
5:05 pm	Arrival in Seoul
<b>9 August 2010 (Monday)</b>	
10:00 am	Visit to the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation
2:00 pm	Visit to the Korea Arts and Culture Education Service
<b>10 August 2010 (Tuesday)</b>	
10:00 am	Visit to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
11:10 am	Visit to the Insa-dong Cultural District
2:20 pm	Visit to the Noridan & Haja Foundation
4:00 pm	Visit to the National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts and the Seoul Arts Centre
<b>11 August 2010 (Wednesday)</b>	
10:30 am	Visit to the National Folk Museum of Korea
3:30 pm	Visit to the Leeum, Samsung Museum of Arts
8:05 pm	Departure from Seoul for Hong Kong
10:45 pm	Arrival in Hong Kong

The delegation is led by Hon IP Kwok-him, Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs. Other members include Hon KAM Nai-wai, Hon James TO Kun-sun, Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, Hon Cyd HO, Hon WONG Sing-chi, Hon Tanya CHAN, Hon WONG Yuk-man, Hon WONG Ting-kwong, and Hon Starry LEE.

Ends/Wednesday, August 4, 2010

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