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**Paper for House Committee meeting
on 11 March 2011**

**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 April 2011.

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, including Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore.

3. The Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to the above mentioned cities from 25 September to 3 October 2009 with a view to obtaining first-hand information on the cities' waterfront development and regeneration strategies, and enhancement initiatives; studying their institutional arrangements for waterfront planning and management, and the key challenges and opportunities; and exchange views with parties involved in the waterfront planning and management of the cities. The proposed overseas duty visit was endorsed by the House Committee on 10 July 2009.

Rescheduling of the visit

4. The Subcommittee subsequently decided to postpone the overseas duty visit as the Administration was then 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 before undertaking the duty visit.

5. In July 2010, the Subcommittee received a briefing from the Administration on, among other things, overseas experience in waterfront developments collated from relevant visits conducted previously. The Subcommittee considered the information and decided to conduct the duty visit from 27 September to 5 October 2010 covering Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore. At the meeting on 9 July 2010, the House Committee gave permission for the Subcommittee to reschedule the duty visit.

6. During the planning for the overseas duty visit, there have been changes in circumstances. Some organizations which the delegation would like to meet with had indicated unavailability in receiving the delegation, and some interested members were unable to participate in the visit due to other commitments. After consultation with delegation members, it was decided in August 2010 that the duty visit scheduled for late September 2010 should not proceed for the time being.

7. At the meeting held on 24 September 2010, the Subcommittee decided that it should pursue the overseas duty visit and continue its work in the 2010-2011 session. The Panel on Development agreed with the Subcommittee's proposal at the meeting on 14 October 2010. The House Committee endorsed on 22 October 2010 the continuation of work of the Subcommittee in the 2010-2011 session.

The visit to be held in April 2011

8. The visit is scheduled to last for nine days from 24 April to 2 May 2011. The visit is open to all Legislative Council Members. As at 10 March 2011, a total of eight Members have indicated that they will participate in the visit. A list of the participants is in the **Appendix**.

9. 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 Boston, New York, and Vancouver. Subject to final confirmation with the receiving parties, the delegation will meet with organizations including The Boston Harbour Association, Hudson River Park Trust, and Port Metro Vancouver, as well as conduct site visits to harbour areas of the three cities. To facilitate the study of waterfront management and operation models in the three cities, upon invitation of the delegation, an Assistant Director from the Planning Department in the relevant field will accompany the delegation in the duty visit to act as the adviser. The government official will join the delegation in an official capacity and at government expenses.

Funding arrangements

10. 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.

11. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$49,000 (economy class air passage) or \$80,000 (business class air passage).

Advice sought

12. 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.

13. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Subcommittee to reschedule the duty visit as proposed in paragraph 8 above.

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

**Duty visit to Boston, New York and Vancouver
(from 24 April to 2 May 2011)**

List of participants
(Position as at 10 March 2011)

Subcommittee members

Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Non-Subcommittee Member

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP

(Total: 8 Members)

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 March 2011