

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 15 February 2012)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Concessionary measures under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme

The Financial Secretary proposed in the 2012-13 Budget to introduce time-limited concessionary measures under the existing SME Financing Guarantee Scheme to help enterprises tide over financing difficulties under a possible credit crunch in the face of fluctuations in the external economic environment in the coming year. The Administration will brief members on the proposal.

20 March 2012

2. Budget-related initiatives to promote the development of innovation and technology and testing and certification in Hong Kong

The Administration will brief the Panel on the budget initiatives on innovation and technology and testing and certification. Enhancement measures of the Research and Development Cash Rebate Scheme and the Innovation and Technology Fund will be covered.

20 March 2012

3. Support for Hong Kong enterprises in branding, upgrading and domestic sales

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposal to set up a dedicated fund to support Hong Kong enterprises in developing their brands, upgrading their operation in the Mainland and promoting domestic sales, so as to help them capture the opportunities arising from the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

March/April 2012

4. Funding Proposals for the Research and Development (R&D) Centres

The Administration will brief members on the funding proposals for extending the operation of the R&D Centres before submission to the Finance Committee.

17 April 2012

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Annual progress report of the R&D Centres

The Administration will update the Panel on the operation of the R&D Centres for 2011-2012.

19 June 2012

6. Review of the patent system in Hong Kong

The Administration will brief the Panel on the results of the public consultation on the review of the Hong Kong patent registration system and the Administration's proposed way forward.

Second quarter of
2012

7. Trade relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong

The Administration will update members on the latest developments of trade relations between Hong Kong and the Mainland (including Hong Kong/Guangdong, Hong Kong/Shenzhen, Hong Kong/Beijing, Hong Kong/Shanghai Economic and Trade Co-operation).

Second quarter of
2012

8. Research and development of Chinese medicines

The Administration will update members on the latest initiatives in promoting research and development of Chinese medicines in Hong Kong.

December 2012

9. Relocation of the information technology facilities to the Trade and Industry Tower for the Trade and Industry Department

The Administration will brief members on the project of relocation of information technology facilities to the Trade and Industry Tower (formerly known as Kai Tak Government Offices) to tie in with TID's relocation tentatively in 2015.

To be confirmed

10. Progress of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda Negotiations

The Administration will update members on the latest round of multilateral trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization, as and when there are significant developments.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

11. Promoting wider application of intellectual property rights through tax reduction

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2011 (the Bill) was passed by the Legislative Council on 7 December 2011. The main object of the Bill was to extend the scope of specified intellectual property rights (IPRs) of profit tax deduction to cover capital expenditure for purchase of three types of IPRs, namely registered trade marks, copyrights and registered designs.

To be confirmed

Taking into consideration that the objective of the proposed tax deduction was to promote the wider application of IPRs, the Bills Committee had requested the Administration to relay to the Financial Secretary for future consideration outside the context of the Bill the suggestion of extending the proposed tax deduction scheme to more types of IPRs. At the request of the Bills Committee, the issue had been referred to the Panel for consideration to follow up. Panel members agreed that the issue should be discussed at a future Panel meeting.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 February 2012