

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development

Pilot scheme on cross-boundary sailing for pleasure vessels

Purpose

This note informs Members that Hong Kong has received proposals from Guangdong authorities to explore the feasibility of a pilot scheme on cross-boundary pleasure vessel sailing.

Background

2. At the first meeting of the Hong Kong - Guangzhou Co-operation Working Group held at Nansha in December 2011, the Mainland representatives proposed to engage the Hong Kong side in exploratory discussions on a pilot scheme for cross-boundary sailing for pleasure vessels. The Hong Kong side was represented by the Marine Department (MD). It was agreed that the working level of the relevant departments of both sides would first conduct preliminary exchanges through the established channels.

3. At the 17th Working Meeting of the Hong Kong Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in Hong Kong on 9 January 2012, both governments endorsed the 2012 Work Plan under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation, which included the study of a pilot scheme for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao sailing by pleasure vessels. The Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration

(GDMSA) and MD met on 28 February 2012 to follow up on the Hong Kong - Guangzhou Co-operation Working Group Meeting. The Guangdong authorities proposed a pilot study be conducted using Nansha as the experimental point for sailing by Hong Kong pleasure vessels. In view of the significantly different regimes adopted by Mainland and Hong Kong in the regulation and management of pleasure vessels, both sides agreed to first identify the technical and maritime administration related issues that need to be addressed.

Considerations

4. Insofar as Hong Kong is concerned, apart from technical considerations, we are mindful of the possible and potential impact of the proposal for cross-boundary sailing of pleasure vessels, such as that on marine traffic safety, port management, emissions control, other social and security concerns and the need for supporting arrangements.

Next Steps

5. Exchanges between MD and their Mainland counterparts to date have been preliminary and technical and the experts will continue to meet from time to time to examine the issues involved. Before policy formulation, the Administration will listen to views from stakeholders and legislators.

6. Members are invited to note the above progress.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
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