

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Meeting on 17 June 2013**

**Proposed overseas duty visit to Taiwan and Japan**

**Purpose**

This paper invites members to consider a proposal for the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee") to conduct an overseas duty visit to Taiwan and Japan to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly in poverty and working poverty.

**Background**

2. It was suggested at the meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 January 2013 that members should conduct a duty visit to obtain first-hand information on the experience of combating poverty in places outside Hong Kong. The Subcommittee has considered the poverty alleviation strategies in nine selected places (namely, Australia, Guangzhou, Shanghai, South Korea, Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden). At its meeting on 24 May 2013, the Subcommittee has decided to visit Taiwan and Japan to enable members to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly in poverty and working poverty.

**Objectives of the proposed visit**

3. The objectives of the proposed visit are as follows –
- (a) to obtain first-hand information on the policies and initiatives put in place to alleviate poverty;
  - (b) to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly in poverty and working poverty; and

- (c) to exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies in this regard.

### **Proposed timing of the visit**

4. Taking into account the flight time required and in order to provide adequate time for the delegation to meet with the receiving organizations, it is suggested that the proposed visit last 10 days tentatively from 20 (Tuesday) to 29 (Thursday) August 2013.

### **Proposed budget of the visit**

5. 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.

6. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure of the proposed duty visit has been prepared in the **Appendix**. The estimated expenditure to be incurred by each participating member for the visit is about \$35,400 (for economy class air passage).

### **Advice sought**

7. Members are invited to advise whether the Subcommittee should conduct the visit as proposed above and if yes whether it should be open to non-Subcommittee Members. Subject to members' support for the Subcommittee to conduct the proposed duty visit with the objectives set out in paragraph 3 above, the Secretariat will work out the details of the proposed duty visit. Members are also invited to note that the endorsement of the House Committee will have to be sought on the proposed duty visit.

**Subcommittee on Poverty**  
**Proposed overseas duty visit in August 2013**  
**Tentative estimate of the expenditure**

**Duration of visit** : 20 to 29 August 2013 (10 days)  
**Routing of visit** : Hong Kong / Taipei / Tokyo / Kyoto (by bullet train) /  
 Hong Kong

**Breakdown of expenses**

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
1. Return air passage (Cathy Pacific Airlines) Hong Kong / Taipei / Tokyo / Osaka / Hong Kong	<b><u>Economy Class</u></b> 7,650*	<b><u>Business Class</u></b> 23,830*
2. Bullet train from Tokyo to Kyoto	1,350	
3. Hotel accommodation		
(a) Taipei (4 nights) (20 August (Tuesday) - 23 August (Friday))	6,034	
(b) Tokyo (3 nights) (24 August (Saturday) - 26 August (Monday))	5,369	
(c) Kyoto (2 nights) (27 August (Tuesday) - 28 August (Wednesday))	3,664	
4. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) Taipei	4,023	
(b) Tokyo	3,579	
(c) Kyoto	2,443	
5. Travel insurance	245	
6. Airport tax & TIC fee	1,039	
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>35,396</b>	<b>51,576</b>

**NOTE :**

\* Airfare quotation obtained in mid-June 2013.

- The delegation will leave Taipei for Tokyo on Saturday, 24 August 2013 and return to Hong Kong on Thursday, 29 August 2013.
- Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat. Where the actual cost of in-town traveling expenses is separately paid for by the Secretariat, 5% of the subsistence allowance will be deducted.
- Exchange rates as at mid-June 2013 -  
 HK\$25.9 = TWD100  
 HK\$7.68 = JPY100