

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Expediently formulating long-term planning
for the tourism industry”
moved by Hon YIU Si-wing
at the Council meeting of 23 October 2013**

**Motion as amended by Hon Tony TSE, Hon SIN Chung-kai and
Hon Ronny TONG**

That, as the tourism industry generates substantial foreign exchange revenue for Hong Kong, and at the same time creates a large number of employment opportunities, its impact on the overall economy can be described as significant; given the year-on-year increase in the number of inbound tourists, Hong Kong’s ancillary facilities in respect of scenic spots, hotels, transport, shopping and control points, etc., have obviously become insufficient; in addition, in undertaking urban planning, the Government fails to consider it from the tourism perspective and formulate relevant measures; the Government must strike a balance between conservation and development, so as not to hinder the development of the tourism industry and Hong Kong as a whole and affect people’s daily lives; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to formulate diversified long-term planning and comprehensive industrial policies and measures for the tourism industry, including attracting more tourists to Hong Kong to enjoy the fruits of conservation with Hong Kong people and achieve economic benefits by the conservation and revitalization of buildings and the environment, strengthening the tourism industry-related manpower training, and formulating laws and regulations conducive to the healthy development of the tourism industry, so as to alleviate the pressure on traditionally popular tourism districts, raise the visitor carrying capacity, and promote the sustainable development of the tourism industry; the relevant proposals should also include:

- (1) to request the Government to expeditiously submit a bill on establishing a travel industry authority to strengthen the monitoring of travel agents and tourist guides;
- (2) to propose amendments to the Travel Agents Ordinance, put in place a demerit point system based on objective criteria, and require each travel agent to appoint two registered authorized representatives; when travel agents and tourist guides are found to be non-compliant, to deduct points from them, with possible temporary licence suspension for minor non-compliance and licence revocation for serious non-compliance;

when a travel agent is found to be non-compliant, to deduct points from both of its two authorized representatives; and after the persons concerned have incurred full demerit points, to forbid them to serve as authorized representatives of travel agents, so as to prevent travel agents from changing their names to evade penalty;

- (3) regarding licensing systems and handling of complaints, apart from making reference to the current accreditation system of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, to propose improvements to the licensing systems for tourist guides and tour escorts, so as to upgrade tourism practitioners' quality and service standard in the long run; and apart from conducting a preliminary inspection of consumer complaints about and claims against travel agents and/or their employees, to switch the existing mediation role of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to the purview of the Travel Industry Authority to be set up in the future;
- (4) dovetailing with the conservation policy, to protect Hong Kong's natural landscape, as well as conserve intangible cultural heritage, so as to attract tourists; and
- (5) to develop the Lantau Island into a leisure ecological park, so as to increase the number of scenic spots in Hong Kong;

this Council also urges the Government to enhance tourist spots, develop the countryside and green tourism projects, coupled with public education, to strengthen people's care for the countryside environment and their awareness of keeping it clean.