

For Information

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Latest Development of the Management and Operation of the
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Tin Sau Bazaar**

Purpose

This paper informs the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs of the latest development of the management and operation of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Tin Sau Bazaar (Tin Sau Bazaar).

Background

2. Tin Sau Bazaar is operated by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) on a non-profit-making basis. Its objective is to provide more shopping choices for local residents, develop the local economy and create local employment. There are 152 stalls in the bazaar for renting to individuals on a monthly basis (over 70% of the stall operators were referred by social workers, while over 60% were underprivileged individuals with low income or on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance), as well as 30 stalls for renting to organisations and four stalls operated by TWGHs. The stalls for individuals cover 27 specialty trades that meet the needs of the community, as well as those selling clothing and footwear, foodstuffs and grocery items, etc. The bazaar commenced operation on 1 February 2013.

3. TWGHs and the Government have been closely monitoring the operation of the bazaar, listening to the requests and views of stall operators, District Council members and other stakeholders. TWGHs, for example, collects the operators' opinions and assists them through the regular liaison meetings with the stall operators and TWGHs' staff, including social worker, stationed at the bazaar. The Government and TWGHs have implemented a series of enhancement measures in the bazaar, details of which can be found in the papers submitted by the Government to the Panel on Home Affairs on 10 June and 30 September 2013 respectively (Paper Nos. CB(2)1299/12-13(07) and CB(2)1831/12-13(01)).

4. At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on 14 June 2013 and in the papers issued on 10 June and 30 September, the Government and TWGHs reported that TWGHs will set up "The Advisory Committee on the Management of Tin Sau Bazaar" (the Committee) as a platform for thorough discussions on the management, operation and long-term development of the bazaar between the stall operators' representatives and other stakeholders including representatives of TWGHs, government departments and Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) as well as academics or members of the community. The Committee will gather stakeholders' experience in bazaar management and operation, study various measures to support stall operators and enhance the business developments of the bazaar. Some of the stall operators' representatives attending the aforesaid panel meeting supported the early establishment of the Committee and expected that stall operators of the bazaar

can join the Committee as members.

Progress of the Establishment of the Committee by TWGHs

5. In response to the views gathered at the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs and the suggestions of YLDC members as well as stall operators of the bazaar, TWGHs immediately proceeded to prepare for the establishment of the Committee taking into account the operating conditions and development needs of the bazaar. At the meeting of YLDC on 3 September, the representatives of TWGHs reported on the latest operation of the bazaar, exchanged views with YLDC members and invited YLDC to appoint representatives to the Committee. YLDC members offered advice on the operation and development of the bazaar, noted the views of local organisations¹ and urged TWGHs to further enhance the venue improvement measures and publicity efforts. YLDC members also generally supported the establishment of the Committee and suggested TWGHs to invite more representatives of YLDC and persons with practical business experience to join the Committee. TWGHs agreed to increase the number of YLDC representatives in the committee from two to three. YLDC endorsed the appointment of three District Council members with business experience or from Tin Shui Wai (including the District Council member whose constituency houses the bazaar) to the Committee².

6. In addition, TWGHs has been actively consulting the stall operators through its staff stationed at the bazaar, and listened to the views of 70 and 68 stall operators who attended the regular liaison meeting with stall operators on 26 August and 8 October respectively. At the meeting on 8 October, TWGHs presented to the stall operators its proposal of the establishment of the Committee and the views of the local organisations³ in detail. The stall operators discussed and agreed to the Committee's terms of reference, number and tenure of membership, as well as arrangements for the election of stall operators' representatives and meetings. The arrangements adopted pursuant to the discussions have addressed the requests of the stall operators, generally obtained the support of the stall operators and tallied with the results of the opinion survey

¹ "Tin Sau Market Stall Keepers' Union" (天秀墟檔主大聯盟) and "Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance" (天水圍社區發展陣線) submitted their comments on the establishment of the Committee to YLDC on 1 September.

² The three District Council representatives are Mr CHONG Kin-shing (Business and Professional Alliance for Hong Kong, appointed member) who possesses business experience; Mr YIU Kwok-wai (The Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, Wang Yat constituency), the member whose constituency houses the bazaar; and Mr KWOK Hing-ping (Democratic Party, Yat Chak constituency), member of the adjacent constituency.

³ "Tin Sau Market Stall Keepers' Union" (天秀墟檔主大聯盟) and "Tin Shui Wai Community Development Alliance" (天水圍社區發展陣線) submitted a report on an opinion survey report on the establishment of the Committee to TWGHs and Yuen Long District Office on 7 October with a copy of the report to the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs for its reference.

of the stall operators conducted by the local organisations in general. TWGHs will willingly continue to communicate with the stall operators and local organisations with a view to enhancing the operation and effectiveness of the Committee.

Functions and Composition of the Committee

Functions

7. The Committee advises TWGHs on the development of the bazaar, including the following aspects-

- (a) business development;
- (b) publicity and promotion;
- (c) facilities and environment;
- (d) support to stall operators;
- (e) district level and cross-sector collaboration; and
- (f) evaluation of performance.

Membership and Tenure

8. Members of the Committee appointed by TWGHs are as follows-

- (a) two representatives appointed by TWGHs (including the Community Services Secretary of TWGHs) (the Committee will be chaired by a representative of TWGHs);
- (b) one representative appointed by the Yuen Long District Office;
- (c) one representative appointed by the Yuen Long District Social Welfare Office;
- (d) three representatives appointed by YLDC;
- (e) five representatives appointed by stall operators of the bazaar; and
- (f) two academics or members of the community nominated by TWGHs.

The tenure of stall operators' representatives is one year and they may serve for one consecutive term at most, whereas the tenure of other members is two years. Where necessary, the Committee may fill a vacancy for the remaining tenure of the out-going member.

Meeting Arrangements

9. The meeting arrangements of the Committee are as follows-

- (a) About three meetings are expected to be held each year, and additional meetings will be held at the Committee's request or subject to actual needs;
- (b) The Committee may invite the representatives of government departments relevant to the agenda to attend its meetings;
- (c) TWGHs welcomes the stall operators' representatives to propose agenda items for the Committee's consideration and discussion;
- (d) The Committee will examine the feasibility of allowing other stall

- operators to observe the Committee meetings;
- (e) TWGHs will continue to hold regular liaison meetings with stall operators; and
- (f) The first Committee meeting will be held in November 2013.

Looking Ahead

10. TWGHs and the Government will continue to closely monitor the operation of the bazaar, and maintain close liaison with the stall operators, local stakeholders including YLDC and local organisations. TWGHs expects to listen to views at the Committee with a view to progressively enhancing the operating environment of the bazaar as well as the business skills of the stall operators in order to attract more visitors. TWGHs will also continue to communicate with the stakeholders to enhance the operation of the Committee.

Home Affairs Department
October 2013