

立法會
Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 79th meeting
held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Tuesday, 28 June 2016, at 10:55 am

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Claudia MO
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu

Members absent:

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Public officers attending:

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-ye, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ¹
Mr Alfred ZHI Jian-hong	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Mr John LEE, PDSM, PMSM, JP	Under Secretary for Security
Mr Billy WOO	Principal Assistant Secretary for Security(D)
Mr CHOI Yue-ning, IMSM	Assistant Director of Immigration (Control)
Mr LOK Wai-man	Assistant Director of Immigration (Information Systems)
Miss Caroline FAN Mei-hing	Chief Systems Manager (Technology Services), Immigration Department
Mr Philip YUNG Wai-hung, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism)
Ms Carol YUEN Siu-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) ¹
Mrs Suzanna KONG	Principal Executive Officer (Administration), Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Derek LO
Mr Keith WONG
Mr Frankie WOO
Miss Yannes HO

Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Council Secretary (1)5
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Legislative Assistant (1)6

Action

Item No. 4 – FCR(2016-17)50
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND
HEAD 710 – COMPUTERISATION
Immigration Department
New Subhead "Computer Systems at Control Points"

The Committee continued its deliberation on the agenda item FCR(2016-17)50.

Technology adopted by the proposed computer systems

2. Mr Albert CHAN enquired whether the computer systems to be installed at the control point at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ("HZMB") Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities ("HKBCF") would be compatible with the computer systems at other control points commissioned at different times.

3. The Assistant Director of Immigration (Information Systems) ("AD of Imm(IS)") replied that various control points had adopted the same set of new computer system (i.e. the Immigration Control System ("ICONS")) to provide immigration clearance services for travellers since the start of 2016. The same computer system would be installed at the control point at the HZMB HKBCF. The Under Secretary for Security ("USS") added that the computer systems at control points had to link to the main computer system of ICONS. The Administration would ensure that the systems at various control points (including the control point at the HZMB HKBCF) would be compatible with the main computer system.

4. Mr Alvin YEUNG asked whether the computer systems proposed to be installed were existing system software that the Administration purchased from the market, or custom software specially developed by software developers. He urged the Administration to consider giving priority to the procurement of computer systems that were developed by local software developers.

5. AD of Imm(IS) replied that some computer systems (such as the ICONS) were specifically developed or adapted from existing software by software developers, and some computer systems (including the Government Office Automation System proposed to be acquired) originated from software that was readily available. The Administration would award the contracts for the proposed computer system project by way of open tender in accordance with the relevant procurement requirements.

6. Mr Albert CHAN asked whether the fingerprint data collected by law enforcement officers at control points in the course of their enforcement actions would be stored in ICONS or another computer system. AD of Imm(IS) replied that those fingerprint data would not be stored in ICONS.

7. Mr Albert CHAN enquired how ICONS would be protected against illegal hacking and data theft. AD of Imm(IS) replied that the system was a closed system which would not link to other computer systems and its data would be encrypted before transmission. The system had also adopted computer security measures in accordance with the Administration's relevant guidelines.

Installation schedule for the proposed computer systems

8. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was concerned whether the installation schedule and the coverage of the proposed computer systems would be affected if there were delays or variations in the works of the HZMB local projects. He also enquired whether the tender terms for the proposed project had taken into account the risk of delays in the HZMB local projects.

9. USS said that the project would be implemented in two stages. While the first stage of production roll-out would be implemented in the fourth quarter of 2017 to prepare for the opening of the Hong Kong section of HZMB at the end of 2017, the timing for the implementation of the second stage of production roll-out would depend on the actual vehicular and passenger traffic after the commissioning of the HZMB. Moreover, the tender terms for the proposed computer system project would stipulate that after the completion of system analysis and design in the first quarter of 2017, the Administration might determine within 24 months whether or not to take forward the remaining works. Should the Administration decide to take forward those works, the contractor would have to finish the installation of the systems within nine months. The Administration believed that such arrangements could dovetail with the progress of the HZMB project.

10. Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether the Administration would shelve the implementation of the second stage of the computer system project if traffic growth of the HZMB was lower than expected. He also called upon the Administration to update the Panel on Security in a timely manner on the progress of the second stage of the computer system project. USS confirmed that Mr Wu's understanding was correct and undertook to update the Panel on Security.

11. In the light of the rapid change of computer technology, Mr Albert CHAN suggested the Administration begin the tendering process for the computer systems after the HZMB project progressed to a mature stage.

12. USS said that a timeframe of at least 14 months would be required from the start of the tendering process for the proposed computer system project to its actual product roll-out. As the Government would need to be well prepared for the opening of the Hong Kong section of HZMB at the end of 2017, it was necessary for the Security Bureau ("SB") to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council at this juncture.

Equipment needed for immigration clearance services at the new control point

13. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung noted that if passenger and vehicular traffic were lower than estimated at the control point at the HZMB HKBCF, the Administration would transfer the surplus computer equipment to other control points as and when necessary. He was concerned whether the transfer arrangement was feasible and whether there was any such precedent. Mr LEUNG also enquired whether over or under-utilization had occurred at control points in Hong Kong and whether the Administration would redeploy the surplus staff of the Immigration Department ("ImmD") at underutilized border crossing facilities to other control points.

14. USS replied that ImmD's assessment of the equipment required for a control point was based on projections of the volume of passenger traffic that it had to cope with during peak periods. The Administration had in the past redeployed surplus computer equipment to the Lo Ma Chau Control Point from other control points.

15. Mr Albert CHAN noted that ImmD planned to set up a total of 73 e-Channels, 96 traditional immigration counters, and 72 vehicular kiosks at the HZMB HKBCF in the first 10 years after its commissioning. Mr CHAN and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung were concerned about the possible overestimation of passenger traffic at the HZMB. In this connection, Mr CHAN requested the Administration to explain its justifications for determining the number of the immigration service facilities required at the HKBCF.

16. USS said that according to projections made by the consultants commissioned by the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") to conduct the feasibility study of the HZMB project, the number of daily in and out-bound cross boundary vehicles and passengers using the HZMB upon its commissioning would be 9 200 to 14 000 and 55 850 to 69 200 respectively. ImmD's assessments on the number of e-Channels, traditional immigration counters and vehicular kiosks required were based on such traffic projections. Moreover, just as mentioned above, the Administration would adopt flexible measures, including implementing product roll-out of the proposed computer systems in two stages, allowing 24 months for the Administration to determine whether the second stage would be implemented, and deploying surplus computer equipment to other control points as and when necessary, so as to optimize the use of resources.

Feasibility study of the HZMB project

17. Mr Albert CHAN enquired whether the Administration could make public the feasibility study report of the HZMB project. He remarked that, as THB's past projections of traffic had differed greatly from actual situations, ImmD should make its own assessment on the traffic at the HZMB to determine the number of the immigration service facilities required at the HKBCF. USS said that he would relay the issue raised by Mr CHAN regarding the disclosure of the feasibility study report of the HZMB project to THB for follow-up.

18. Ms Claudia MO was dissatisfied with SB's perfunctory attitude as it had only tried to relay Members' request to THB. She opined that as an integral part of the Administration, SB should not adopt the mindset of merely taking care of issues within its own policy area.

19. USS reiterated that the feasibility study of the HZMB project was completed by consultants commissioned by THB. As the report was made by THB, it was up to THB to decide whether or not to make public the report.

Passenger traffic at ferry terminals

20. In response to the enquiries of Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr Albert CHAN, the Assistant Director of Immigration (Control) said that there were seven e-Channels and 15 traditional immigration counters at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal. The daily average passenger traffic of the three ferry terminals was as follows –

	Daily average passenger traffic	
	2014	2015
Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	3 848	4 563
Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal ("HKMFT")	48 500	47 700
China Ferry Terminal ("CFT")	25 100	23 300

21. Mr Albert CHAN said that passengers currently travelled to Macau and Zhuhai via HKMFT and CFT might not be willing to make a detour through the HZMB. Therefore, he had reservations about the projections of passenger traffic of the HZMB. On the other hand, Mr WONG Yuk-man was concerned about the impact of commuter traffic generated by the commissioning of the HZMB HKBCF on the passengers to and from the airport and other areas of Hong Kong.

Expenditures on the proposed computer systems

22. Referring to paragraph 14 of the discussion paper FCR(2016-17)50, Mr Alvin YEUNG requested the Administration to explain why the estimated expenditures on the proposed computer systems in 2019-2020 were much lower than those of other years.

23. AD of Imm(IS) explained that the proposed computer systems would be rolled out in two stages. The first stage would be implemented in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. Therefore, the expenditures in these two years would be higher. The second stage would be completed in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. As fewer items of equipment were needed in the second stage, the relevant expenditures would thus be lower.

Face recognition technology

24. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that while fingerprint recognition technology was currently used at e-Channels for verifying travellers' identities, ImmD planned to introduce a new face recognition technology in 2017. He requested the Administration to explain the details about the two technologies.

25. AD of Imm(IS) said that at present, both fingerprint and face recognition technologies were used at vehicular e-Channels to verify travellers' identities. As these two technologies had similar accuracy and face recognition technology was mature enough after years of development, ImmD planned to introduce the face recognition technology for e-Channels at various departure halls by mid-2017 to allow travellers holding electronic travel documents to perform self-service departure clearance through e-Channels. The underlying principle of the face recognition technology was to capture the photo image of the holder stored in the chip of his electronic travel document and compare it with the image of the holder captured in real-time to verify his identity.

26. Mr Gary FAN enquired whether, upon introduction of the face recognition technology, a passenger needed to go through both the fingerprint and face recognition processes in order to complete immigration clearance, and whether immigration officers would stand by the side to monitor travellers in order to spot suspicious persons. Mr FAN also asked in what way would the imposters be identified by the face recognition technology, the merits of the technology, and the overseas places that had adopted the technology.

27. AD of Imm(IS) said that the face recognition technology was already very mature after years of development, with an accuracy comparable to that of fingerprint recognition. The technology had been adopted in the United States and many European countries. He further advised that upon introduction of the face recognition technology, immigration officers would still monitor the use of e-Channels by travellers just as under the current arrangements. However, travellers no longer needed to go through fingerprint recognition process in order to complete departure clearance.

28. Mr Alvin YEUNG was concerned whether the Administration would store information about travellers' facial features collected in the course of facial recognition; if so, how the Administration would prevent data leakage.

29. AD of Imm(IS) responded that ImmD had all along attached great importance to the protection of personal data and already issued internal guidelines to require relevant staff to handle travellers' personal data with care. Moreover, when developing a new computer system, ImmD would carry out a privacy impact assessment to ensure compliance of the system with the relevant statutory requirements on protection of personal data privacy.

30. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

Item No. 5 – FCR(2016-17)53

HEAD 96 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: OVERSEAS ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES

Subhead 000 – Operational expenses

31. The Chairman advised that this item sought the Committee's approval of the pay scale and adjustment mechanism for locally-engaged ("LE") staff in the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office ("ETO") in Jakarta.

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Chairman of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("CI Panel"), reported that CI Panel supported in principle the proposed establishment of a new ETO in Jakarta and the related reorganization of the ETO in Washington DC. CI Panel members urged the Administration to enhance overseas ETO network of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSARG") in the Belt and Road region, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in and strengthening its trade ties with the economies of the Belt and Road region. In order to gain better access for goods and services of Hong Kong to the markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN"), some members urged the Administration to strive for early conclusion of the Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement ("FTA"). Some members were concerned about the possible overlapping of resources in some overseas cities where both ETOs and offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") were set up. These members considered that HKTDC should focus on trade promotion in emerging markets and suggested relocating HKTDC offices to other cities to expand Hong Kong's overseas network. Members also expressed concern about issues relating to foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs"). They were of the view that the proposed ETO in Jakarta should be tasked with handling issues relating to Indonesian FDHs in Hong Kong.

Determining the pay scale and adjustment mechanism for LE staff in the Jakarta ETO

33. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung enquired why the United Nation ("UN") pay scales were adopted as the basis of determining the pay scales and pay adjustment for LE staff of the Jakarta ETO, while those for LE staff of the Singapore ETO were adopted from that of the British High Commission and the Singapore civil service respectively. He also enquired about the differences between the remuneration package of Singaporean civil servants and that of the staff in Jakarta employed by the UN. Mr LEUNG was concerned whether the

remuneration package for LE staff of the Singapore ETO would be worse off due to the establishment of the Jakarta ETO.

34. The Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) ("PSCIT") replied that the remuneration package for LE staff of the Singapore ETO would remain unchanged and would not be worse off due to the establishment of the Jakarta ETO.

Strengthening Hong Kong's representation in ASEAN

35. Mr Albert CHAN asked the Administration to clarify whether the establishment of the Jakarta ETO was purely a response to the incumbent Chief Executive's proposal to facilitate the implementation of the Belt and Road national policy, or was it a result of the policy that had been implemented for years to promote economic ties between Hong Kong and overseas economies. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan requested the Administration to clarify whether the establishment of the Jakarta ETO was aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Belt and Road national policy and enquired about the advantages that it could bring to the Hong Kong economy.

36. PSCIT explained that ASEAN was an important trade partner of Hong Kong in goods and services. As a member country of ASEAN, Indonesia was in particular a huge potential market. However, the Singapore ETO was currently the sole agency tasked with strengthening ties with ASEAN countries. The Administration considered that it was necessary to set up a new ETO in Jakarta (i.e. the place where the ASEAN Secretariat was located and its being the capital of Indonesia), so as to enhance the ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN/Indonesia and provide support for the follow-up work on the FTA. He stressed that although ASEAN countries were the major economies along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road of the Belt and Road Initiative, the decision to set up the Jakarta ETO was made primarily with the aim of promoting trade activities between Hong Kong and ASEAN, which was a policy pursued by the Administration for many years.

Hong Kong-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement

37. Mr WONG Ting-kwong said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the proposal to establish a new ETO in Jakarta. He said that the trade sector had for years urged the Administration to strengthen the ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN, including the establishment of an ETO in Jakarta. The Belt and Road national policy could help Hong Kong explore that emerging market. Mr WONG also

called upon the Administration to strive for an early conclusion of an FTA with ASEAN.

38. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan enquired when Hong Kong and ASEAN would reach an agreement on the FTA. Given the growing number of Hong Kong businessmen making investment in Myanmar, Mr CHUNG also asked the progress on the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement ("IPPA") which Hong Kong and Myanmar had concluded the negotiations in 2013. Mr CHUNG urged the Administration to sign the agreement as soon as possible, so as to safeguard the interests of Hong Kong businessmen in Myanmar.

39. PSCIT said that Hong Kong and ASEAN had conducted seven rounds of negotiations on the FTA and the eighth round of negotiation would be held in the third quarter of 2016. The Administration expected to conclude the relevant negotiations within this year and sign the agreement after both sides completed their respective internal procedures. As regard the IPPA between Hong Kong and Myanmar, both sides had initialled the agreement and would formally sign it after certain terms and translated text of the agreement were approved. The Administration would continue to liaise closely with the authorities in Myanmar, and would urge them to endorse the contents of the agreement as soon as possible.

Division of work between ETOs in ASEAN member countries

40. Noting that the Head of the Jakarta ETO would oversee the work of the Singapore ETO and there would be a change in the geographical coverage of the Singapore ETO, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the impact of those changes on the work of the Singapore ETO, and whether those changes would affect the morale of staff in the Singapore ETO. Mr IP Kin-yuen asked about the details of the division of work between the Jakarta and Singapore ETOs. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung had reservation on the arrangement for the Head of the Jakarta ETO to oversee the work of the Singapore ETO, particularly in view of the fact that Singapore was Hong Kong's major competitor in the region.

41. PSCIT said that the Head of the Jakarta ETO would be the highest-ranking representative of HKSARG in ASEAN. Thus, it would be appropriate for the Head to oversee the work of the Singapore ETO. Under the new division of work, the country-coverage of the Jakarta ETO would include Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines while that of the Singapore ETO would include the remaining six ASEAN countries (i.e. Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam). The Administration believed that the above-mentioned arrangements could further improve Hong Kong's representation in ASEAN.

Establishment of overseas ETOs

42. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern about the Administration's continued practice of setting up overseas ETOs which led to an expansion of the bureaucratic structure. He suggested that the Administration should establish ETOs on a one-for-one basis in the future. That was to say that the Administration should close an ETO considered as less important at the same time when it opened a new one, so as to maintain the overall number of the ETOs.

43. PSCIT said that the Administration had all along adopted a prudent approach in considering the establishment of overseas ETOs, including assessing the economic benefits of setting up an ETO and how to effectively deploy manpower and resources. He then pointed out that the last time when a new ETO was set up was the establishment of the Berlin ETO in 2009. The Administration would also continue to adopt a prudent approach in pursuing the plan to establish a new ETO in Seoul. Moreover, it was necessary for the Administration to obtain funding approval from the Finance Committee ("FC") of the Legislative Council every time when it put up proposal to create an overseas ETO. FC members had ample opportunity to evaluate the suitability of the proposal.

44. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked whether the Administration had planned to set up new ETOs in countries along the Belt and Road (such as in Central Asia) apart from Jakarta.

45. PSCIT said that the Belt and Road countries scattered around Asia, Africa and Europe. In addition to the Jakarta ETO, ETOs in Europe were also tasked with maintaining liaison with countries along the Belt and Road. He reiterated that the Administration would adopt a prudent approach and assess a number of relevant factors before deciding whether or not to set up a new ETO.

Issues relating to FDHs

46. Mr SIN Chung-kai and Ms Claudia MO expressed support for the establishment of a new ETO in Jakarta. Given the large number of Indonesian FDHs working in Hong Kong, Mr SIN and Ms MO opined that the Jakarta ETO should also be tasked with handling issues relating to Indonesian FDHs, such as the exploitation of FDHs by agencies. Ms Emily LAU noted that the Philippines would be one of the countries covered by the Jakarta ETO, and that the other ASEAN countries covered by the Singapore ETO also had their nationals working as FDHs in Hong Kong. She was concerned how these two

ETOs would handle the issues relating to FDHs from the Philippines and other ASEAN countries.

47. PSCIT advised that issues relating to FDHs would fall within the scope of responsibilities of the Jakarta and Singapore ETOs. The two ETOs would collaborate with relevant policy bureaux/departments (such as the Labour Department) to disseminate information about working in Hong Kong to FDHs seeking to work here, and to assist handling of problems encountered by FDHs in coming to work in Hong Kong. Moreover, the two ETOs would maintain close liaison with the local governments to deal with FDH issues.

48. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan suggested that the Jakarta ETO should employ staff who were familiar with local labour situation to facilitate the handling of issues relating to FDHs. PSCIT agreed with Mr Lee's suggestion and said that the Jakarta ETO would employ staff who were familiar with local environment (including labour situation) as far as possible.

Name and work of ETOs

49. Ms Claudia MO queried why the Administration changed the Chinese translation of Jakarta from "耶加達" to "雅加達" while the former name had been used in Hong Kong for many years. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen also said that many official translations of names of foreign places were different from those commonly used in the community. He asked why there were differences between the official and commonly used translations.

50. PSCIT explained that in general, the Administration would adopt the most commonly used translation for names of foreign places.

51. Mr IP Kin-yuen was concerned whether using "Economic and Trade Offices" as the names for the representative offices of Hong Kong in overseas countries would restrict those offices from launching activities outside the scope of economic and trade affairs.

52. PSCIT replied that, apart from strengthening economic ties between Hong Kong and overseas countries, the work of overseas ETOs also included promoting cultural and educational exchanges.

53. There being no questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

54. At 12:51 pm, the Chairman declared that the meeting be adjourned.
55. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat
20 September 2016