

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)419/16-17

Ref. : CB1/PL/DEV

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 13 January 2017

**Proposed duty visit to the Dongjiang River Basin
by the Panel on Development**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Development ("the Panel") to conduct a duty visit to the Dongjiang River Basin to obtain first-hand information about the operation of the Dongjiang-Shenzhen Water Supply System and the measures taken by the Guangdong ("GD") Provincial authorities to safeguard the quality of Dongjiang water ("DJ water") supplied to Hong Kong.

Background

2. The Panel monitors and examines Government policies and issues of public concern relating to lands, buildings, planning, water supply, Public Works Programme and other works matters.

3. About 20% to 30% of Hong Kong's fresh water supply is from rainfall and the remaining 70% to 80% is DJ water imported from the GD Province. Under the "package deal lump sum" approach adopted since 2006, Hong Kong imports DJ water as needed up to an annual ceiling quantity of 820 million cubic metres¹ to ensure a 99% reliability² of water supply in Hong Kong.

¹ According to the Administration, the actual quantity of DJ water to be imported each year is dependent on the amount of local yield, reservoir storage level and water demand.

² According to the Administration, "99%" reliability means that water supply is maintained round-the-clock even under extreme drought condition with a return period of 1 in 100 years. "Return period" is the average number of years during which an event will occur once statistically. A longer return period means a rarer chance of occurrence.

Under the 2015-2017 DJ water supply agreement entered between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the GD Provincial Government, the annual lump sum water prices are \$4,222.79 million in 2015, \$4,491.52 million in 2016 and \$4,778.29 million in 2017.

Request for the Administration to arrange a visit to the Dongjiang River Basin

4. Given that DJ water is the major source of fresh water supply in Hong Kong, the quality of DJ water is always of public concern. Dr Hon Helena WONG wrote to the former Panel Chairman on 11 December 2015 expressing concern on some issues about the quality of DJ water³ and suggested that a visit by the Panel be made within the 2015-2016 legislative session to the DJ River Basin and pumping stations receiving DJ water to understand the operation of the DJ water supply system and the measures taken to protect DJ water from pollution. The Panel agreed to take forward Dr WONG's suggestion of conducting such a visit. Subsequently, the former Panel Chairman wrote to the Secretary for Development requesting the Administration to assist in lining up the visit.

5. In its correspondence with the Panel on the matter in April and May 2016,⁴ the Administration advised that the GD Provincial authorities welcomed the Panel's visit to the DJ River Basin and the facilities supporting the supply of DJ water to Hong Kong. However, the GD Provincial authorities would be heavily engaged in flood prevention in the following few months and considered the period before or after the tide season a better timing for conducting the visit. The GD Provincial authorities indicated that they would be pleased to arrange a visit for the Panel to the DJ River Basin in autumn or winter. At the Panel meeting on 21 June 2016, the former Panel Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel of the Sixth Legislative Council should follow up the matter.

6. At the Panel meeting on 8 November 2016, members agreed that the proposed duty visit to the DJ River Basin be pursued.

³ The Administration's response to Dr Hon Helena WONG's concern was given in a paper to the Panel on Development (LC Paper No. CB(1)442/15-16(01)) circulated on 14 January 2016.

⁴ LC Papers Nos. CB(1)798/15-16(01) and CB(1)1004/15-16(01)

Proposed duty visit by the Panel

Objectives of the proposed duty visit

7. The objectives of the proposed duty visit are as follows:
- (a) to obtain first-hand information on the measures taken by the GD Provincial authorities in safeguarding the quality of DJ water supplied to Hong Kong;
 - (b) to observe the quality of DJ water at various points of the Dongjiang-Shenzhen Water Supply System; and
 - (c) to exchange views with the GD Provincial authorities on issues of mutual concern related to the supply of DJ water to Hong Kong.

Visit programme

8. Having consulted the GD Provincial authorities, the Administration has suggested that the duty visit take place on 19 and 20 February 2017 (Sunday and Monday).⁵

9. A visit programme proposed by the Administration in consultation with the GD Provincial authorities and agreed by the Panel is in **Appendix I**.

Participants of the visit

10. Panel members and other Members have been invited to indicate whether they would join the visit. A total of 19 Members have indicated interest, while some Members have yet to reply. A list of confirmed participants as at 12 January is in **Appendix II**.

11. The Administration has indicated that about 10 officials from the Development Bureau and the Water Supplies Department will accompany Panel members during the visit to offer technical advice and assist in logistical arrangements. The expenses incurred by the government officials participating in the visit will be borne by the Administration.

⁵ The letter from the Administration about the dates and the visit programme was circulated to members of the Panel on 22 December 2016 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)359/16-17(01).

Funding arrangements

12. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account ("ODV") 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 one term in excess of the approved allocation has to be paid by the Member personally. If by the end of a term there are unused balances in Members' ODV accounts, the funds available will be used to pay those Members who have expended more than their allocation, in proportion to their excess qualifying expenditure.

13. An initial estimate of the expenditure for the duty visit (including transportation, hotel accommodation, meals, miscellaneous expenses, etc.) is about \$95,000.⁶ A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix III**. The amount to be charged to each participating Member's ODV account is estimated to be about \$3,100. The actual expenditure is subject to the final number of participants, the visit programme, transportation cost and hotel room rate at the time of confirmation.

Advice sought

14. Rule 22(v) of the House Rules provides that should any Panel consider it necessary to undertake any activities outside Hong Kong under the name of the Panel of the Council, the prior permission of the House Committee shall be sought.

15. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the duty visit as proposed in the foregoing paragraphs.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 January 2017

⁶ The calculation is based on the assumption that 25 Members and 4 Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit.

Panel on Development

**Proposed duty visit to the Dongjiang River Basin
from 19 (Sunday) to 20 (Monday) February 2017**

Visit programme[#]

Date	Time	Programme
19 February 2017 (Sunday)	AM	<p>Depart from the Legislative Council Complex at 7:00 am</p> <p>Visit —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A section of Dongjiang near Heyuan ➤ Xinfengjiang Reservoir
	PM	<p>Visit—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dongjiang River Basin Water Quantity and Quality Monitoring and Control Centre
20 February 2017 (Monday)	AM	<p>Visit —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Green Way in Huizhou ➤ Taiyuan Pumping Station
	PM	<p>Arrive in Shenzhen</p> <p>Visit —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work site of the Comprehensive Remediation Project for the Water Environment of the Shawan River Basin ➤ Wastewater Interception Schemes for Shawan River ➤ Bio-nitrification Plant at the Shenzhen Reservoir <p>Leave Shenzhen Reservoir for Hong Kong at 5:30 pm</p>

A detailed visit programme will be drawn up with the assistance of the Administration, subject to the confirmation of the receiving organizations.

Appendix II

Panel on Development

Proposed duty visit to the Dongjiang River Basin from 19 (Sunday) to 20 (Monday) February 2017

List of participants (as at 12 January 2017)

Panel members

Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH

Non-Panel Member

Hon IP Kin-yuen

Panel on Development

**Proposed duty visit to the Dongjiang River Basin
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Estimate of expenditure

Routing of visit: Hong Kong / Heyuan / Huizhou / Shenzhen / Hong Kong

Breakdown of estimated expenditure

Item	Expenditure chargeable to participating Members' Overseas Duty Visit Accounts (assuming 25 Members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)	Expenditure chargeable to the Secretariat's expenditure account (assuming four Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)
1. Transportation (coach service)	15,500 (620 per person)	2,480 (620 per person)
2. Hotel accommodation in Huizhou (1 night) <i>60% of the subsistence allowance for Huizhou</i> ^(Note 1)	28,400 (1,136 per person)	4,544 (1,136 per person)
3. Meals and sundries <i>19.2.2017 – 35% of the subsistence allowance for Huizhou</i> ^(Note 2) <i>20.2.2017 – 20% of the subsistence allowance for Shenzhen</i> ^(Note 3)	31,150 (1,246 per person)	4,984 (1,246 per person)
4. Travel insurance	2,500 (100 per person)	400 (100 per person)

Item	Expenditure chargeable to participating Members' Overseas Duty Visit Accounts (assuming 25 Members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)	Expenditure chargeable to the Secretariat's expenditure account (assuming four Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)
5. Miscellaneous supporting services (e.g. souvenirs, en route online/telephone communications for staff)	—	4,000
6. Contingency	—	1,000
Sub-total	77,550 <i>(Note 4)</i>	17,408
TOTAL		94,908(say 95,000)

NOTES:

1. Subsistence allowance for Huizhou: RMB1,646 per night per person (Exchange rate as at early January 2017: RMB1 = HK\$1.15)
2. As transportation in the Mainland will be arranged by the Secretariat or the Administration, the subsistence allowance payable is reduced by 5%.
3. Subsistence allowance for Shenzhen: RMB2,536 per night per person
4. Each participating Member will share about \$3,100 of the total expenditure. The amount will be charged to individual Members' Overseas Duty Visit accounts.
5. The actual expenditure is subject to the final number of participants, the visit programme, transportation cost and hotel room rate at the time of confirmation.