

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1131/16-17

Ref. : CB1/PL/CI/ODV

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 16 June 2017**

**Proposed overseas duty visit to Israel
by the Panel on Commerce and Industry**

Purpose

This paper seeks the approval of the House Committee ("HC") for the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") to conduct an overseas duty visit to Israel to study the country's experience in promoting the development of innovation and technology ("I&T") industry and re-industrialization.

Background

Proposed duty visit in 2013-2014 session

2. In the 2013-2014 session, Panel members discussed whether to conduct a duty visit to study the experience of other countries in the development of related strategies of I&T. Of the three countries selected for discussion, namely, South Korea, Belgium and Israel, members considered that Israel, though a small country with a population size comparable to that of Hong Kong, had developed into a world-recognized high-tech and innovation hub. Given the similarities between Hong Kong and Israel in terms of population size and the lack of natural resources, members considered that the experience of Israel might provide useful reference for Hong Kong in furthering I&T development, and agreed at its meeting on 18 March 2014 to conduct a duty visit to Israel from 3 to 8 August 2014. The proposed duty visit was approved by HC on 20 June 2014. However, in view of the then security concerns, the delegation decided on 11 July 2014 not to proceed with the proposed duty visit.

Proposed duty visit in 2016-2017 session

3. The Consul General of Israel in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macau Special Administrative Region ("Consul General of Israel") has invited the Panel to re-consider conducting a duty visit to Israel. At the Panel meeting on 21 March 2017, members agreed to accept the invitation and undertake the subject duty visit. Members also agreed that the visit be open to non-Panel Members for participation and the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB") should be invited to nominate officials from relevant departments, such as the Innovation and Technology Commission ("ITC"), to join the visit to facilitate members' understanding of the applicability of Israeli Government's experience in Hong Kong, and advise the delegation on issues relating to the development of I&T industry as and when necessary.

Proposed duty visit by the Panel

Objectives of the proposed duty visit

4. The objectives of the proposed duty visit are as follows –

- (a) to study the experience of the Israeli Government and obtain first-hand information on the policies, initiatives and legislations relevant to the promotion of industrial research and development and facilitation of the growth of I&T industry and re-industrialization; and
- (b) to meet and exchange views with the relevant Israeli Government authorities involved in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies on I&T, as well as representatives of technology transfer companies affiliated with leading universities and research institutions, venture capital companies, multinational corporations, technology companies, industry association and technological incubators, etc.

Visit programme

5. The visit is tentatively scheduled for 22 to 28 July 2017, subject to confirmation with the receiving organizations. The tentative visit programme is in **Appendix I**. The detailed visit programme is being drawn up with the assistance of the Consul General of Israel.

Participants of the visit

6. Panel members and other Members have been invited to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 15 June 2017, a total of 11 Members (including eight Panel members and three non-Panel Members) have indicated interest in taking part in the visit. A list of participants is in **Appendix II**.

7. ITB has nominated two officers from ITC, i.e. Prof YUE On-ching, Science Advisor, and Dr Cecilia PANG Wai-bing, Biotechnology Director, to join the visit. The expenses incurred by the two officers for the visit will be borne by the Administration.

Funding arrangements

8. 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. Members who have not served out their terms will not be entitled to such reimbursements.

9. An initial estimate of the expenditure for the duty visit (including air fares, hotel accommodation, in-town transportation, meals and miscellaneous expenses, etc.) is about \$608,000.¹ A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix III**. The estimated amount to be charged to each participating Member's ODV account is about \$29,600 (for economy class air passage), \$31,400 (for economy seat plus air passage) and \$53,500 (for business class air passage²). 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.

¹ The calculation is based on the assumption that 11 Members and three Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit.

² According to the decision of The Legislative Council Commission at its meeting on 10 July 2012, Members on duty visits should travel on economy class for short-haul flights of less than four hours, and on business class for long-haul flights of four hours or more.

Advice sought

10. 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 HC shall be sought.

11. The HC's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the overseas duty visit as proposed in the foregoing paragraphs.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 June 2017

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Proposed overseas duty visit to Israel
22 July (Saturday) to 28 July (Friday) 2017

Tentative visit programme#

Date	Programme
22 July (Saturday)	Departure: Hong Kong 9:00 pm
23 July (Sunday)	Arrival: Tel Aviv* 3:55 am
23 July (Sunday) to 27 July (Thursday)	<p><u>Israeli Parliament / Government authorities</u></p> <p><i>Israeli Parliament (Knesset)</i></p> <p>(a) A meeting between the delegation and members of the Knesset has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 25 July 2017 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am</p> <p>(b) Meeting with the relevant Knesset Committee(s) overseeing policies on innovation and technology and the related issues</p> <p><i>Government authorities</i></p> <p>(a) Meeting with Government officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>(b) Meeting with Government officials of the Ministry of Economy (Innovation Authority), and Ministry of Science, Technology and Space</p> <p><u>Quasi-public / industry organizations</u></p> <p>(a) Meeting with representatives of the Israel Export & International Cooperation Institute</p> <p>(b) Meeting with representatives of the Manufacturers Association of Israel</p> <p><u>Universities or higher education institutions</u></p> <p>Visits to and meetings with representatives of laboratories and technology transfer offices of leading universities, such as the Innovation Centre of Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology</p>

Date	Programme
	<p><u>Investors</u></p> <p>Meetings with venture capitalists, such as representatives of Jerusalem Venture Partners (a Venture Capital Fund in Israel)</p> <p><u>Technology companies / Multinational corporations</u></p> <p>(a) Visits to and meetings with representatives of Brainsway and Mobileye</p> <p>(b) Meetings with representatives of multinational corporations ("MNC"), such as Intel, IBM, Google</p> <p><u>Others</u></p> <p>(a) Meeting with leading personalities in Israel hi-tech community, such as the author of "Start Up Nation"</p> <p>(b) Visit to and meeting with representatives of large-scale seawater desalination plants</p> <p>(c) Meeting with companies/institutes dedicated to developing and providing modern farming technology, such as Netafim</p>
27 July (Thursday)	Departure: Tel Aviv 10:00 pm
28 July (Friday)	Arrival: Hong Kong* 1:50 pm

The detailed visit programme is being drawn up with the assistance of the Consul General of Israel, subject to confirmation with the receiving organizations.

* Time difference: Hong Kong is 5 hours ahead of Israel.
EL AL Israel Airlines: Daily direct flight (around 12 hours) between Hong Kong and Israel except Friday (public holiday/rest day).

Panel on Commerce and Industry

**Proposed overseas duty visit to Israel
(22 to 28 July 2017)**

**Membership list of the delegation
(as at 15 June 2017)**

Delegation members

1. Hon WU Chi-wai, MH (Delegation leader)
2. Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
3. Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
4. Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
5. Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
6. Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Non-Panel Member)
7. Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
8. Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
9. Hon Alvin YEUNG (Non-Panel Member)
10. Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP (Non-Panel Member)
11. Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Proposed overseas duty visit to Israel
22 July (Saturday) to 28 July (Friday) 2017

Estimate of expenditure

Breakdown of estimated expenditure

Item	Expenditure chargeable to participating Members' Overseas Duty Visit Accounts (assuming 11 Members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)	Expenditure chargeable to the Secretariat's expenditure account (assuming three Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)
1. Return air passage Hong Kong/ Tel Aviv / Hong Kong	216,200 ^(Note 1) (Business class: 32,200 x 5 persons = 161,000) (Economy Seat PLUS: 10,100 x 3 persons = 30,300) (Economy class: 8,300 x 3 persons = 24,900)	30,300 ^(Note 1) (Economy Seat PLUS: 10,100 x 3 persons = 30,300)
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>216,200</i>	<i>30,300</i>
2. Hotel accommodation <i>60% of the subsistence allowance</i> (a) Jerusalem (3 nights) (22 to 24 July 2017) ^(Note 2) (b) Tel Aviv (2 nights) (25 & 26 July 2017) ^(Note 3)	84,209.07 (7,655.37 per person) 61,892.05 (5,626.55 per person)	22,966.11 (7,655.37 per person) 16,879.65 (5,626.55 per person)
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>146,101</i> ^(Note 9)	<i>39,846</i> ^(Note 9)

Item	Expenditure chargeable to participating Members' Overseas Duty Visit Accounts (assuming 11 Members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)	Expenditure chargeable to the Secretariat's expenditure account (assuming three Secretariat staff members will join the duty visit) (HK\$)
3. Meals and sundries <i>35% of the subsistence allowance</i> (Note 4) (a) Jerusalem (23 & 24 July 2017) (Note 2) (b) Tel Aviv (25 & 26 July 2017) (Note 3) <i>30% of the subsistence allowance</i> (Note 5) (c) Tel Aviv (27 July 2017) (Note 3)	32,747.88 (2,977.08 per person) 36,103.65 (3,282.15 per person) 15,473.04 (1,406.64 per person)	8,931.24 (2,977.08 per person) 9,846.45 (3,282.15 per person) 4,219.92 (1,406.64 per person)
Sub-total	84,325 (Note 9)	22,998 (Note 9)
4. Travelling insurance	3,630 (330 per person)	990 (330 per person)
5. In-town transportation	—	40,000
6. Miscellaneous supporting services and others (e.g. Exhibition of the visit, souvenirs, en route online/telephone communications for staff)	—	20,000
7. Contingency (5% of items 5 and 6)	—	3,000
Sub-total	3,630	63,990
TOTAL	450,256 (Note 7)	157,134
Grand-total	607,390 (say 608,000)	

NOTE :

1. Airfare quotation obtained in early June 2017. Price inclusive of tax and surcharges.
2. Subsistence allowance for Jerusalem: ILS 1,942 per night per person.
3. Subsistence allowance for Tel Aviv: ILS 2,141 per night per person.
4. As in-town transport will be provided by the Secretariat, the subsistence allowance payable is reduced by 5%.
5. Subsistence allowance for departure from Tel Aviv to Hong Kong on 27 July 2017: 30% only (lunch (10%), dinner (15%) and sundry expenses (5%)).
6. Exchange rate as at early June 2017
ILS 1 = HK\$2.19
7. Each participating Member will share about \$29,600 (for economy class air passage), \$31,400 (for economy seat plus air passage) and \$53,500 (for business class air passage) of the total expenditure. The amount will be charged to individual Members' Overseas Duty Visit accounts.
8. 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.
9. Figures are rounded to the last digit before the decimal point.