

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 19 November 1999**

Proposed activities for parliamentary friendship groups

Purpose

This paper invites Members to endorse the recommendations of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee on the activities to be organised for the 1999-2000 session to foster and strengthen the ties with various legislatures outside Hong Kong.

Background

2. During the 1998-1999 session, the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee renewed the liaison with the friendship groups of Japan, Canada, Australia, the European Parliament and Singapore. The following activities were organised:

(a) **Singapore**

A delegation of the Singapore-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Hong Kong from 27 to 30 January 1999 at our invitation.

(b) **Japan**

A Legislative Council delegation visited Japan from 23 to 27 February 1999. During the return visit of the Japan Hong Kong Parliamentarian League to Hong Kong in early May 1999, Members had a meeting with the visitors.

(c) **Australia**

The new Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group consisting of 34 members was formed in April 1999.

(d) **Canada**

A meeting was held with Senator Jack Austin and Mr Reg Alcock, MP, Co-Chairs of Canada-China Legislative Association, on 29 March 1999 to discuss ways to renew the ties with the Parliament of Canada. The new Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group consisting of 28 members was formed in May 1999.

(e) **European Parliament**

A meeting was held with Mr Michael Hindley, Member of European Parliament and Chairman of the EP-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, on 29 March 1999.

3. At the meetings of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee held on 19 October 1999 and 12 November 1999, members discussed the activities to be organised during the 1999-2000 session. It was proposed that a visit to Europe from 6 to 13 February 2000 (i.e. during the Chinese New Year break) should be organised to foster and strengthen the ties with various legislatures in Europe i.e. the European, the United Kingdom and the German Parliaments, to update them on latest developments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and to seek their support on issues such as visa-free access for holders of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passports. The destinations suggested were London, Brussels and Berlin.

4. The Subcommittee also discussed the possibility of inviting members of the Australian-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, who were elected to parliament in late 1998, to visit Hong Kong in 2000 to rekindle friendship.

Proposals

5. Having regard to previous liaison activities with the friendship groups, the interest expressed by Members and the resources available for organizing liaison activities, the Subcommittee recommends that:

- (a) a Legislative Council delegation comprising eight members visit the European, the United Kingdom and the German Parliaments from 6 to 13 February 2000; and
- (b) members of the Australian-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group be invited to visit Hong Kong in March 2000.

6. A tentative itinerary and a draft budget for the proposed visit to Europe are in **Appendices I and II** for Members' consideration.

Decisions Sought

7. Members are invited to endorse the recommendations of the Subcommittee in paragraph 5 above.

Legislative Council Secretariat

17 November 1999

**Tentative itinerary for the visit to Europe
(6 - 13 February 2000)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	<u>No. of nights</u>
6 Feb (Sun) (Evening)	Hong Kong	→	London <i>(arrive on 7 Feb)</i>	1 night
8 Feb (Tue) (Evening)	London	→ <i>(by EuroStar)</i>	Brussels	2 nights
10 Feb (Thu) (Evening)	Brussels	→	Berlin	2 nights
12 Feb (Sat) (am/evening)	Berlin	→	Hong Kong <i>(arrive on 13 Feb)</i>	

Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

**Draft budget for the visit to Europe
(6 - 13 February 2000)**

Date of visit : 6 - 13 February 2000 (Sunday - Sunday)
 Size of delegation : 8 Members (to be accompanied by one Secretariat staff)
 Budget : HK\$400,000 (Members)

Expenses

<u>Items</u>	<u>Amount (HK\$)</u>
A. Members	
(1) Passage	
Airfare	
Special business class (approx. HK\$25,100 x 8 persons)	200,800
EuroStar (approx. HK\$1,708 x 8 persons)	13,664
Sub-total	214,464
(2) Hotel accommodation	
London: (approx. HK\$1,550 x 1 night x 8 persons)	12,400
Brussels: (approx. HK\$1,420 x 2 nights x 8 persons)	22,720
Berlin: (approx. HK\$1,415 x 2 nights x 8 persons)	22,640
Sub-total	57,760
(3) Meals	
London: 2 breakfasts + 2 lunches + 1 dinner (HK\$2,913 x 30% + HK\$2,913 x 15%) x 8 persons	10,487
Brussels: 2 breakfasts + 2 lunches + 2 dinners (HK\$2,477 x 30% x 2) x 8 persons	11,890
Berlin: 2 breakfasts + 2 lunches + 2 dinners (HK\$1,968 x 30% x 2) x 8 persons	9,446
Sub-total	31,823

<u>Items</u>	<u>Amount (HK\$)</u>
(4) Overseas subsistence allowance	
London: (HK\$2,913 x 5% x 1 night x 8 persons)	1,165
Brussels: (HK\$2,477 x 5% x 2 nights x 8 persons)	1,982
Berlin: (HK\$1,968 x 5% x 2 nights x 8 persons)	1,574
	Sub-total
	4,721
(5) Travel insurance (HK\$300 x 8 persons)	2,400
(6) Airport tax (HK\$50 x 8 persons)	400
(7) Interpretation service (assuming 6 whole days' service and within 8 hrs/day) (approx. HK\$6,900 x 6)	41,400
(8) Hired car service - mini bus (15 passengers) (assuming 8 hrs/day)	
London: (approx. HK\$5,650/day x 2)	11,300
Brussels: (approx. HK\$5,300/day x 2)	10,600
Berlin: (approx. HK\$5,030/day x 2)	10,060
	Sub-total
	31,960
B. Souvenirs	1,000
C. Sundries	5,000
TOTAL FOR MEMBERS	390,928

Exchange rates as at 29.10.99:

1 BEF = HK\$0.204
1 FRF = HK\$1.2545
1 DEM = HK\$4.196
1 GBP = HK\$12.775

