

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

On 24 February 2000, Members were informed (vide LC Paper No. CB(1)991/99-00(03)) of the Administration's proposal to purchase permanent accommodation for the Beijing Office. Members raised no objection to the Administration's proceeding to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council. This note informs Members of the latest developments on the matter before we submit a formal funding submission to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC).

2. Members would recall that we had indicated earlier that we had identified a potential suitable site for the permanent office for the Beijing Office. However, the subsequent publicity given to the proposal has affected our negotiating position with the landlord. We are now also considering other alternatives which have come to our notice since then. We intend to shortly seek the approval of PWSC and the Finance Committee to set aside an amount of funds for us to make the purchase and to fit out the premises. We will take into account the projected accommodation requirements of the office and the prevailing market price in working out the required amount of funds, within which we shall negotiate with the landlords.

3. As requested by Members at the Panel meeting on 24 February, the Government Property Administrator has provided the schedules of accommodation of overseas Economic and Trade Offices at the Enclosure. We shall provide in detail the existing and the proposed schedules of accommodation of the Beijing Office for Members' reference in our funding submission to PWSC.

Beijing Office
March 2000

Schedules of Accommodation of Overseas Economic and Trade Offices
(net usable area)

	Washington	New York	San Francisco	Tokyo	Geneva	Singapore	Sydney	Toronto	Brussels
Staff entitlement (m ²)	326	258	163	248	237	168	238	133	333
Ancillary area (m ²)									
Reception counter/Waiting area	50	50	45	50	55	65	65	40	75
Conference/seminar facilities	160	145	135	150	165	190	200	65	115
Library	60	65	60	65	75	85	90	35	65
Storage	190	180	150	180	205	170	175	115	210
Miscellaneous uses (e.g. office equipment, computer room, pantry, etc.)	110	100	145	105	110	125	135	65	70
Total (m ²)	896	798	698	798	847	803	903	453	868