

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 338/02-03

Ref: CB(3)/SC/PL(02-03)

**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 14 February 2003**

Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee

Proposed parliamentary visit to Singapore and Thailand

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee to endorse the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee on organizing a parliamentary visit to Singapore and Thailand in April 2003.

Background

2. The Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee is responsible for promoting liaison and developing good relationship with parliamentary bodies in various territories and for dealing with all matters pertaining to the activities of parliamentary friendship groups.

3. It has been the practice of the Subcommittee to organize visits by Legislative Council (LegCo) delegations to parliamentary organizations in other jurisdictions. In the 2001-02 session, on the recommendation of the Subcommittee and with the endorsement of the House Committee, a delegation of LegCo Members visited Ottawa and Toronto in Canada from 16 to 24 February 2002. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with parliamentarians, senior government officials and representatives of business organizations and a think-tank. It also visited major overseas Chinese social, health care and cultural organizations.

4. When considering the parliamentary liaison activities to be organized in the current session at its meeting on 24 October 2002, the Subcommittee was in favour of paying a visit to Singapore because while various liaison activities had been held with the respective friendship groups of Australia, Japan, European Parliament and Canada in the past few years, five years have elapsed

since Members of the Provisional LegCo last visited Singapore in 1998. A list of the previous liaison activities with the various friendship groups is in **Appendix I**.

5. In addition, the Subcommittee considered that the opportunity should be taken to visit Thailand as well, since during a meeting with LegCo Members on 2 October 2002, Mr Chanchai Chairungruang, Chairman of the Committee on House of Representatives Affairs of the House of Representatives of Thailand, invited LegCo to visit the Thai National Assembly to foster closer relationship between the two legislatures.

The Subcommittee's recommendations

6. The Subcommittee recommends that a visit to Singapore and Thailand should be held to enhance the Council's ties with the Singapore-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, foster liaison with members of the Thai National Assembly, and to update these legislatures on the latest developments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

7. The Subcommittee proposes that the visit should last for seven days from 23 to 29 April 2003 during the Council's Easter holiday break, and the programme should include meetings with parliament members and committees dealing with economic development, trade and commerce, heritage preservation and housing matters, as well as senior officials of the Singaporean and Thai Governments, and other non-government organizations. The assistance of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore and the Consulates General of Singapore and Thailand will be enlisted in drawing up a programme for the visit.

8. A draft budget for the proposed visit and a proposed flight and boarding schedule are attached in **Appendices II and III** respectively. Funds are available to cover the expenses of the visit.

The delegation

9. As determined by The Legislative Council Commission at its meeting on 20 February 2001, there will be eight fully-sponsored Members on a parliamentary visit. The House Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2001, after studying LC Paper CB(3) 339/00-01, has also agreed on a mechanism for selecting Members for joining the delegation, i.e. Members are divided into six defined groups and the eight places are allocated among these groups on a pro-rata basis; each group of Members will decide its own way to nominate the participating Members.

Decision sought

10. Members are invited to endorse the proposals in paragraphs 6 to 8 above.

11. Subject to Members' endorsement of the proposals, the Secretariat will make detailed arrangements, including liaison with the Consulates General and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office concerned, as well as inviting applications from Members for joining the delegation.

Legislative Council Secretariat

11 February 2003

Previous liaison activities with the friendship groups

Japan

- ❖ The Hong Kong-Japan Parliamentarians Committee was formed in January 1991
- ❖ A delegation of the former Legislative Council visited Japan from 19 to 22 February 1995
- ❖ A reception was held in honour of a delegation from the Japan Hong Kong Parliamentarian League in May 1996
- ❖ A Legislative Council delegation visited Japan from 23 to 27 February 1999
- ❖ A delegation of the Japan Hong Kong Parliamentarian League visited Hong Kong in May 1999

Canada

- ❖ The Hong Kong-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in July 1992
- ❖ A delegation of the former Legislative Council visited Canada from 25 September to 3 October 1992
- ❖ The Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group consisting of 28 Canadian MPs was reconstituted in May 1999
- ❖ Meetings were held with Mrs Sophia LEUNG, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, during her visits to Hong Kong on 28 April 2000, 16 February 2001 and 10 April 2001 respectively
- ❖ A Legislative Council delegation visited Ottawa and Toronto from 16 to 24 February 2002 and met some members of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group
- ❖ A meeting was held with Mr Bryon Wilfert, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, on 5 March 2002 during his visit to Hong Kong

Australia

- ❖ The Hong Kong-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in July 1993
- ❖ Hon Vincent CHENG, a member of the Friendship Group, visited the Australian Parliament in October 1993
- ❖ A delegation of the former Legislative Council visited Australia from 8 to 15 September 1996
- ❖ The Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group consisting of 34 members was reconstituted in February 1999
- ❖ A delegation of the Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Hong Kong from 27 February to 2 March 2000

The European Parliament

- ❖ The Hong Kong-European Parliament Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in September 1993
- ❖ Hon Ronald ARCULLI, Convenor of the Friendship Group, visited Paris, Strasbourg and Brussels from 20 to 22 April 1994, and attended a meeting of the European Parliament-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group on 21 April 1994
- ❖ A delegation of the former Legislative Council visited London and Brussels from 26 February to 1 March 1996
- ❖ The European Parliament-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group was reconstituted in November 1999
- ❖ A Legislative Council delegation visited London, Strasbourg and Berlin from 13 to 20 February 2000

Singapore

- ❖ The Hong Kong-Singapore Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in September 1998
- ❖ A delegation of the Provisional Legislative Council visited Singapore from 12 to 15 February 1998
- ❖ A meeting was held with Dr WANG Kai Yuen, Chairman of the Singapore-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, during his visit to Hong Kong on 12 October 1998
- ❖ A delegation of the Singapore-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Hong Kong from 27 to 30 January 1999

Draft budget for the visit to Singapore and Thailand

Date of visit : 23 (Wednesday) to 29 (Tuesday) April 2003

Size of delegation : 8 Members

EXPENSES

<u>Items</u>	<u>Amount (HK\$)</u>
(1) Passage Hong Kong - Singapore - Bangkok - Hong Kong Economy class airfare (approx. HK\$4,940 x 8 persons)	39,520
(2) Hotel accommodation Singapore: (approx. HK\$1,168 x 4 nights x 8 persons = HK\$37,376) Thailand: (approx. HK\$615 x 2 nights x 8 persons = HK\$9,840)	47,216
(3) Overseas subsistence allowance (HK\$3,936 x 8 persons)	31,488
(4) Travel insurance (approx. HK\$230 x 8 persons)	1,840
(5) Hired car service - coach (15 passengers)	21,000
(6) Official entertainment	12,000
(7) Souvenirs	3,000
(8) Sundries	5,000
TOTAL	161,064
Say	162,000

Exchange rates as at 4 February 2003

SGD 1 = HKD 4.55

THB 5.45 = HKD 1

**Proposed flight and boarding schedule
for the visit to Singapore and Thailand
(23 - 29 April 2003)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	<u>No. of nights</u>
23 April (Wed)	Hong Kong	→	Singapore	4 nights
27 April (Sun)	Singapore	→	Thailand	2 nights
29 April (Tue)	Thailand	→	Hong Kong	

