

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 9 January 2004

**Proposed overseas duty visit by the
Panel on Economic Services**

Purpose

This paper seeks the endorsement of the House Committee for the Panel on Economic Services (the Panel) to conduct an overseas duty visit to Europe in April 2004 for the purpose of studying port and airport management, logistics development, airport privatization, and theme park management and development.

Reasons for conducting an overseas duty visit

2. The Panel is tasked to monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to economic infrastructure and services, including, inter alia, airport and aviation services, port and logistic services, and tourism development. Tourism and logistics are two of the four pillars which the Chief Executive has identified in his Policy Address 2003 as the engines of growth for Hong Kong. During the past year, the Panel has particularly attached great importance to the planning and development of Hong Kong's tourism and logistics infrastructure, and their operation and management.
3. To maintain its position as the preferred international and regional transportation and logistics hub, Hong Kong should look beyond its own confines to acquire first-hand understanding of overseas experience in logistics development. The information is particularly important for examining ways to maximize the scope of cooperation and coordination with other parts of the Pearl River Delta in developing inter-modal transportation links to achieve synergy. The Panel therefore considers it necessary to examine the development strategies and operation of other international transportation and logistics hubs for both passenger and cargo.
4. Issues related to the privatization of airport are also of great interest to Panel members as the Administration has plan to introduce the Hong Kong International Airport Bill to enable the partial privatization of the Hong Kong Airport Authority. Overseas experiences in this respect will assist the Panel in

giving views to the Administration when the subject is brought before the Panel for discussion.

5. With the Hong Kong Disneyland to be opened in 2005, the Panel also finds it an opportune time to visit Disneyland Resort Paris with a view to understanding the difficulties faced by the operator during the initial period of operation, and how they overcome the problems and sustain the development of the theme park.

6. Against this background, the Panel proposes to conduct an overseas duty visit:

- (a) to study overseas experience in port and airport management, and logistics development;
- (b) to study overseas experience in privatizing airports; and
- (c) to study overseas experience in the development and management of theme park.

Details of the proposed overseas duty visit

7. The Panel proposes to conduct the duty visit for about a week during the Easter break from 3 to 9 April 2004. Subject to finalization of the programme and related arrangements, the visit will cover the following places:

- (a) London - to visit the Heathrow Airport
- (b) Paris - to visit the Disneyland Resort Paris
- (c) The Netherlands - to visit the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and the Port of Rotterdam

Membership of delegation

8. In considering the membership of the delegation, the Panel takes note of the House Committee's decision on 11 May 2001 about the participation of non-Panel Members. The Panel follows the principles that priority should have been given to members of the committee and that the delegation should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements. As findings of the visit would serve as useful references for Members in their consideration of future airport privatization proposal, and measures and plans on logistics/tourism development in Hong Kong, the Panel considers that the visit should be open to non-Panel Members.

9. In response to the circular calling for membership, ten Members including nine Panel members and one non-Panel Members have indicated interest in participating in the overseas duty visit. A list of the Members is in

Appendix I.

Funding arrangements

10. In accordance with the funding arrangement endorsed by the House Committee on 9 February 2001 and approved by The Legislative Council Commission on 20 February 2001, the expenditure of each Member for the visit will be deducted from his own account of \$61,000 for use in a 4-year term for overseas duty visits organized by committees (including Panels) of the Legislative Council. Any expenditure incurred in one term in excess of \$61,000 may have to be paid by the Member personally. A budget for the visit will be prepared based on standard expenditure level. Extra costs arising from the upgrading of the standard entitlement by individual Members will be borne by the Members themselves.

11. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the overseas duty visit is around \$61,300. A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

12. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the overseas duty visit as proposed.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 January 2004

Panel on Economic Services

**List of Members who have indicated interest in taking part
in the overseas duty visit in early April 2004**

(Position as at 7 January 2004)

Panel members

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP(Chairman)
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Dr Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

Non-Panel Member

Hon Frederick FUNG kin-kee

**Total: 9 Panel members and
1 non-Panel Member**

Panel on Economic Services
Estimated expenditure for the proposed overseas duty visit

Duration of visit

7 days in April 2004 (tentatively from 3 to 9 April 2004)

Routing

Hong Kong → London → Paris → Amsterdam & Rotterdam → London → Hong Kong

Breakdown of estimated expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)
1. Air passage (business class) a. Hong Kong - London - Hong Kong b. Paris - Amsterdam - London	45,500
2. Travelling from London to Paris and within the Netherlands	3,600
3. Hotel accommodation	6,700
4. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries	4,170
5. Travel insurance	270
6. Airport tax	1,100
Total :	61,340

Note :

1. The finalized budget has yet to be determined, pending advice from the Consulates and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices concerned on the visit programme.
2. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation and interpretation services will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
3. The following exchange rates (as at 3 January 2004) have been used in calculating the estimated expenditure-

1 GBP =	HK\$13.97
1 EUR =	HK\$9.79