

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 19 March 2004

Proposed overseas duty visit by the Panel on Manpower

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Manpower to undertake an overseas duty visit to the Republic of Korea for the purpose of studying the country's experience in creating employment opportunities and providing training/retraining for its workforce.

Background

2. The Panel on Manpower is tasked to monitor and examine Government policies and issues of public concern relating to labour and manpower planning matters. The problem of high unemployment in Hong Kong is one of the major areas of concern of the Panel. To address the problem, some Panel members consider that the Government should adopt policies and measures to create employment opportunities. To enable members to have a better understanding of overseas experience, the Panel agreed at its meeting on 18 December 2003 that the Panel should undertake a duty visit to Korea to study the country's experience in creating employment opportunities and providing training/retraining for its workforce. Specifically, the visit aims to study -

- (a) Korea's policies and initiatives to create employment opportunities;
- (b) training and manpower development strategies and programmes of Korea to support its employment policies/initiatives; and
- (c) Government's involvement in and funding for training/retraining of the Korea workforce.

Details of the visit

Visit programme

3. The Panel has agreed that the visit will be from Sunday, 9 May 2004 to Wednesday, 12 May 2004. To avoid clashing with the Council meeting, the delegation will leave Seoul in the morning of 12 May 2004. During the stay in Korea, Members will hold meetings with the Ministry of Labour and other relevant Ministries, as well as conduct visits to training and manpower development authorities and training institutes. A detailed visit programme is being drawn up by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hong Kong.

4. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo has agreed to provide assistance in making preparation for the visit.

Participants of the visit

5. A circular has been issued to invite Panel members and other Members to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 16 March 2004, a total of nine Members (including two non-Panel Members) have indicated interest in joining the visit. The names of these Members are in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

6. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission on 20 February 2001, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$61,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Committee, 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 \$61,000 has to be paid by the Member personally.

7. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$9,700 (economy class air passage) or \$16,730 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

8. Rule 22(t) 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 the House Committee shall be sought.

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 March 2004

Panel on Manpower

**Members who have indicated interest to join
the duty visit to the Republic of Korea**

(9 to 12 May 2004)

(position as at 16.3.2004)

Panel members

Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP (Chairman)

Hon CHAN Kwok-keung, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP

Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Hon LI Fung-ying, JP

Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

Non-Panel Members

Hon WONG Yung-kan

Hon CHOY So-yuk

Total: 9 Members

Panel on Manpower

**Estimated expenses for the duty visit to
the Republic of Korea from 9 to 12 May 2004**

Breakdown of the estimated expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Business class</u>
1. Return air ticket Hong Kong / Seoul / Hong Kong	4,350	11,380
2. Hotel accommodation (3 nights)	2,900	
3. Meal / In-town travelling / Sundries	1,930	
4. Travel insurance	205	
5. Airport tax and charges	HK	180
	Korea	130
TOTAL :	9,695	16,725

NOTE :

1. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
2. Exchange rate as at 1 March 2004 -
100 Won = HK\$0.7