

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting on
24 June 2005**

**Proposed overseas duty visit by the
Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(t) of the House Rules (HR) for the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty to conduct an overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland to better understand the anti-poverty measures in these countries.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was formed under the House Committee on 12 November 2004 to study the subject of combating poverty.

3. The Subcommittee has noted that UK and Ireland have effectively implemented anti-poverty strategies to cope with the impact of economic restructuring. The Subcommittee is interested in understanding these strategies, the process for formulating these strategies, and their effectiveness in reducing poverty at different levels. The visit aims specifically to study the following areas –

- (a) the institutional arrangements at both the central and local levels to facilitate the participation of key stakeholders to design and implement anti-poverty strategies;
- (b) the employment strategies specifically designed for people of working age and the social protection system conducive to participation in employment;

- (c) the economic and investment policies which increase the employment rate and reduce the proportion of population living in consistent poverty; and
- (d) other measures adopted to help various social groups, e.g. giving financial support to families with low income, addressing educational disadvantage of those from low-income families, and providing elderly benefits and social welfare pension for the elderly.

4. A circular was issued on 23 May 2005 to invite members' views on the proposed overseas duty visit. Of the 17 members who replied, ten members agreed to the proposed overseas duty visit, four members disagreed and three members made no comment.

Details of the visit

Visit programme

5. The Subcommittee has proposed that the visit should be from Sunday, 18 September 2005 to Saturday, 24 September 2005.
6. The Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat will enlist the assistance of the British Consulate-General and Honorary Consul of Ireland in Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in London and Brussels, in drawing up the visit programmes and making logistical arrangements.

Members of the delegation

7. As at 17 June 2005, three Members have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

8. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account (ODV account) of \$55,000 for the 2004-2008 term, for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees (other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee) of the Council. Any expenditure incurred in the 2004-2008 term in excess of \$55,000 has to be paid by the Member personally.

9. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the overseas duty visit is about \$24,500 (economy class air passage) or \$51,700 (business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

10. HR 22(t) provides that should any Panel consider it necessary to undertake any activities outside Hong Kong under the name of the Panel of LegCo, the prior permission of the House Committee shall be sought. According to HR 26, this Rule applies, where appropriate, to subcommittees of the House Committee, Bills Committees and Panels.

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 June 2005

Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty

**Proposed overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland
in September 2005**

**Tentative list
(as at 17 June 2005)**

Subcommittee members

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP (Chairman)

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 June 2005

Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty

Proposed overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland
in September 2005

Duration of visit 18 to 24 September 2005

Routing of visit Hong Kong / London / Dublin (Ireland) / London / Hong
Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Business class</u>
1. Return air ticket Hong Kong / London / Dublin / London / Hong Kong	12,400*	39,600*
2. Hotel accommodation		
(a) London (2 nights) (19 & 20 September)		2,922
(b) Dublin (3 nights) (21 – 23 September)		3,248
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) London		1,948
(b) Dublin		2,165
4. Travel insurance		400
5. Airport tax & TIC fee		1,400
	TOTAL :	
	24,483	51,683
	SAY :	
	24,500	51,700

NOTE :

- * The quotations are normal fares. Special fares subject to specified terms and conditions are available.
- Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
 - Exchange rate as at 31 May 2005 -
1 GBP = HK\$14.243
1 EUR = HK\$9.8055