

**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 14 March 2005)

**Proposed timing**  
**for discussion**

**1. Impact of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)**

Members were updated on the progress of the implementation of CEPA at the meetings on 10 May and 19 October 2004. Some members suggested that the Administration should consider setting up a high-level committee comprising representatives from the Government and business leaders to explore innovative ways to leverage on the opportunities brought about by CEPA. The Administration advised that a quantitative survey and analysis of the economic impact, including that on local employment would be conducted 9 to 12 months after CEPA's implementation; and that the Administration would revert to the Panel in due course.

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At the meeting held on 16 November 2004 when the Panel was briefed on the subsidiary legislation relating to the implementation of CEPA, Hon CHAN Yuen-han was concerned whether the Administration could provide an evaluation on the impact of CEPA on Hong Kong's economy expeditiously. The Panel agreed that the Administration should report to the Panel at the earliest possible date.

The Administration has submitted a preliminary report to the Panel on 15 February 2005 based on the available outcome of the analysis which should cover the impact of the Individual Visit Scheme and the zero tariff benefit for trade in goods, to be followed by a full report in April 2005.

**2. Progress Report on SME Funding Schemes**

The SME Loan Guarantee Scheme, the SME Export Marketing Fund, the SME Development Fund, and the SME Training Fund were launched in December 2001/January 2002. The Administration intends to submit a report to the Panel in April on the latest position of the four Scheme/Funds after about three years of operation.

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**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

**3. Impact of economic restructuring**

Mrs Sophie LEUNG, Panel Chairman, suggested in October 2004 that the Panel may wish to examine in conjunction with the Administration the impact of economic restructuring on individual trades and industries, such as the transformation of Hong Kong's manufacturing industries. In early December, the Panel Chairman exchanged views with the Government Economist and it was agreed that the Panel should take a forward-looking approach to analyse where Hong Kong's economic future lies. The Government Economist will follow up with Mrs LEUNG further on the format and substance of how this subject should be discussed in the Panel and members will be posted of further development.

19 April 2005

**4. Consultancy study on the supply and demand for exhibition facilities in Hong Kong**

At the Panel meeting on 19 October 2004 when members discussed the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC)'s atrium link extension proposal, the Administration advised that it was examining TDC's proposal and it would conduct a consultancy study on the supply and demand for exhibition facilities in Hong Kong in the coming five to ten years. The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the findings of the consultancy study.

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**5. New Strategic Framework for Innovation and Technology Development**

At the Panel meeting on 18 January 2005, members were informed of the Administration's plan to –

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- (1) set up four R&D centres in automotive parts and accessory systems, logistics/supply chain management enabling technologies, nanotechnology and advanced materials, and textile and clothing; and
- (2) subsume R&D centres in five technology areas (namely communications technologies, consumer electronics, IC design, opto-electronics and Chinese medicine) under ASTRI's existing operation infrastructure.

The Administration will consider the R&D center proposals in April and, depending on the amount of funding required, seek the

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Finance Committee's approval in the current legislative session. The Administration would like to brief the Panel on the details of the R&D Centre proposals and the way forward.

**6. Review of end-user liability, fair use and other provisions in the Copyright Ordinance**

The review arises from the deliberation of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003, after which the Administration undertook to discuss further with copyright owners and users on the end-user piracy liability, fair use provisions and other aspects of the Copyright Ordinance (Cap.528).

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The Administration issued a public consultation document on "Review of Certain Provisions of Copyright Ordinance" in December 2004 to solicit public views before formulating any proposals. The Administration has briefed the Panel on the consultation document in January 2005. It plans to report to the Panel on the outcome of the consultation exercise and consult the Panel on the Administration's proposals before mid-2005.

**7. Review of the effectiveness of the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS)**

The PSDAS was established in February 2002. By January 2005, about one-third of the projects approved up to 2004 will have been completed. The Administration intends to conduct a review on the effectiveness of the Scheme and report findings to the Panel in May 2005.

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**8. Briefing on the work of Invest Hong Kong**

The Administration will update the Panel on the work of Invest Hong Kong in promoting inward investment in 2004.

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**9. Reports by Heads of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs)**

The Heads of ETOs will meet in Hong Kong in the week commencing 20 June 2005. They will report their work to the Panel in June 2005.

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**10. Draft Copyright (Prescription of Copyright Registers) Regulation**

At the Panel meeting on 12 May 2003, members noted the Administration's proposal of prescribing the copyright registers maintained by the United States, Canada and India with a view to simplifying the proof of copyright ownership in legal proceedings under section 121(2) of the Copyright Ordinance (Cap.528). Members asked the Administration to consider the setting up of a copyright register in Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to consider members' views and revert to the Panel in due course.

To be confirmed

**11. Measures for monitoring the operation of the AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE)**

At the Panel meeting on 12 July 2004, it was proposed that the Panel might consider exploring the subject further with the Administration in the next term having regard to members' concern about the measures in place for monitoring and ensuring the effective operation of the AsiaWorld-Expo.

To be confirmed

**12. Improving the business environment**

Issues relating to improving the business environment were last discussed at the Panel meeting on 10 June 2002 and on 10 May 2004.

To be confirmed

The same subject was covered in paragraphs 16 to 18 and paragraph 61 of the Chief Executive's 2004 and 2005 Policy Address respectively. Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed the view that the Government should strive to provide the business and industrial sectors with an "enabling environment".

The Subgroup on Business Facilitation under the Economic and Employment Council (EEC) has now been studying ways to remove outdated or unnecessary regulations on business sectors that have significant impact on the economy and employment. It is expected that solid recommendations will be available before the end of 2005.

At the Panel meeting held on 12 October 2004, Mrs Sophie LEUNG recapped her concern about the importance of an "enabling" business environment. She said that the Panel might wish to explore the subject further with the Administration and

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that in due course, the Panel might consider requesting the Research and Library Services Division of the Secretariat to conduct some research on the subject.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
14 March 2005