

**立法會**  
*Legislative Council*

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting on 7 July 2006**

**Proposed duty visit outside Hong Kong by  
the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(u) of the House Rules for the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene to visit Singapore on 25 and 26 July 2006 and Kuala Lumpur on 29 July 2006.

**Background**

2. Given the recent development of avian influenza outbreaks across different regions, the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene has urged the Administration to take extra precautionary measures against avian influenza. At its meetings in March and April 2006, the Panel discussed with the Administration its plan to develop a poultry slaughtering plant in Sheung Shui. The Administration has advised that upon the operation of the slaughtering plant around 2009, the sale of live poultry at retail outlets will be prohibited. Legislative amendments will be required to put in place a licensing regime for the operation of the poultry slaughtering plant, and to ban the sale of live poultry at retail outlets.

3. Members have divergent views on the viability of the proposed slaughtering plant, given the community's preference for freshly slaughtered chickens and the competition from Mainland chilled chickens. Members have also expressed concern about monopoly by the slaughtering plant operation.

**Details of proposed visit**

4. To assist the Panel in further discussing with the Administration the operation of the proposed poultry slaughtering plant, the Panel plans to visit Singapore on 25 and 26 July 2006 and Kuala Lumpur on 29 July 2006 to obtain first-hand information about the operation of poultry slaughtering plants in

these places and discuss with the authorities/organisations concerned. While in Singapore, visits will also be paid to chicken retail outlets and wet markets.

5. The Panel is seeking the assistance of the Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Singapore in drawing up a visit programme.

### **Membership of delegation**

6. The Panel has agreed that the proposed visit will also be open to non-Panel Members. A list of the Members who have indicated interest in participating in the visit is in **Appendix I**.

### **Visit of the Panel on Health Services**

7. While in Singapore, the five Members who have indicated interest in participating in the visit will join the delegation of the Panel on Health Services which will be in Singapore on 27 and 28 July 2006 to study the country's financing models for health care services.

### **Funding arrangement for the visit**

8. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account of HK\$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organized by committees, other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee, of the Council during the 2004-08 term. Any expenditure incurred in one term in excess of HK\$55,000 has to be paid by the Member personally. However, if by the end of a term, there are unused balances in Members' overseas duty visit accounts, the funds available will be used to pay those Members who have expended more than their allocation, in proportion to their excess qualifying expenditure.

9. A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

### **Advice sought**

10. The House Committee's permission is sought for the proposed visit.

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**List of members who have indicated interest in taking part in  
the visit to Singapore on 25 and 26 July 2006 and  
Kuala Lumpur on 29 July 2006**

(Position as at 5 July 2006)

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman)

Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP

Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

(Total : 5 members)

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
Proposed duty visit outside Hong Kong**

**Estimate of expenditure**

**Estimated expenses for participating in the visits of the  
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene  
and the Panel on Health Services  
(Hong Kong — Singapore — Kuala Lumpur — Hong Kong)**

| Air ticket<br>(Economy class)<br>(HK\$) | Hotel accommodation<br>allowance<br>(HK\$) |                     | Duty visit expenses<br>reimbursement<br>(HK\$) |                     | Travel insurance<br>(HK\$) | Total<br>(HK\$) |
|---|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|   | <i>Singapore</i>                           | <i>Kuala Lumpur</i> | <i>Singapore</i>                               | <i>Kuala Lumpur</i> |                            |                 |
| 5,740                                   | 2,825                                      | 518                 | 1,884  | 414                 | 120                        | <b>11,501</b>   |

Remarks :

- Exchange rates adopted -  
SGD1 = HKD4.89    RM1 = HKD2.29
- Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services (if required), souvenirs and incidental expenses will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.