

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting on 6 July 2007**

**Proposed overseas duty visit  
by the Panel on Commerce and Industry and  
the Panel on Economic Services**

**Purpose**

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(v) of the House Rules (HR) for the Panel on Commerce and Industry (CI Panel) and the Panel on Economic Services (ES Panel) to conduct an overseas duty visit to Dubai, Europe and the United States (US) to obtain first-hand information on the development of convention and exhibition facilities and cruise terminal facilities in these countries.

**Background**

2. As announced by the Chief Executive in his 2006-2007 Policy Address, the Government will anchor economic development as its focus and help the economy power ahead at full steam. Since Hong Kong is a highly externally oriented economy, infrastructural development of world-class quality is pivotal to maintaining Hong Kong's vitality as Asia's world city, as well as an international business centre, thereby attracting foreign investment, creating local job opportunities and boosting further economic development.

Convention and exhibition facilities

3. Recognizing that the convention and exhibition industry has a key role to play in maintaining Hong Kong's leading position as an international business centre and the hosting of conventions and exhibitions can bring about significant direct economic benefits to the local economy, the CI Panel considers that every endeavour should be made to develop Hong Kong as the world's event capital by improving on the existing infrastructure, as well as providing brand-new world-class convention and exhibition facilities for the continuous development of the industry. Nevertheless, the rise in the number of exhibition facilities in the neighbouring regions in recent years has intensified competition, making it necessary for Hong Kong to look for new measures to enhance its advantages

continuously as an international convention and exhibition centre. Overseas experiences, in particular those relating to developments to confront little or no growth in the trade exhibition industry, as in the case of US, or even negative growth in the case of Germany, will provide useful reference for Members in their discussion with the Administration on the development of new exhibition venues in Hong Kong. Panel members are particularly interested in the experience of places such as Las Vegas, which has emerged as the leading exhibition city in the US through the offer of state-of-the-art exhibition facilities, accommodation and entertainment in one package.

#### Cruise terminals

4. The shortage of berthing places for high-tonnage ocean liners in Hong Kong has seriously hampered its developing into a regional cruise hub to capture the growth of the cruise industry, which is becoming one of the fastest growing and popular segments of the worldwide travel and leisure industry. In October 2006, the Government announced its plan for the development of a new cruise terminal at Kai Tak through an open land tender. It intends to invite tender in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007 after completion of the necessary town planning procedures. The successful bidder will be expected to form the site as well as design, build, operate and maintain the berthing, supporting and commercial facilities in and adjacent to the cruise terminal building. The ES Panel has found it necessary to obtain first-hand information on how major cruise ports overseas were developed and on their latest development. The information will provide useful reference for monitoring the development of the new cruise terminal in Hong Kong.

#### **Proposed overseas duty visit**

5. Following the discussions by the CI Panel and the ES Panel at their respective meetings on the need for undertaking an overseas duty visit in this summer, it was suggested and subsequently agreed that the two duty visits could be combined in view of the high overlapping membership of the two Panels and members' common interests in the facilities to be studied. On 25 June 2007, after considering the locations of the world's most efficiently designed, modern and technologically advanced convention and exhibition facilities and cruise ports, in particular those commissioned in recent years, the two Panels agreed to visit Dubai, Europe and US. It was also agreed that the duty visit should be conducted in late August 2007 before the exhibition season was over, and all Members should be invited to participate in the joint visit. In the meantime, the Legislative Council Secretariat was requested to assist the two Panels in conducting a research on the facilities to be visited, and to invite Members to indicate interest in participating in the duty visit. A working meeting was held on 29 June 2007 to decide on the details of the visit.

### Visit programme

6. The duty visit will last for a total of 10 days from Wednesday, 22 August 2007, to Friday, 31 August 2007. The delegation will visit Dubai, Barcelona of Spain, Frankfurt of Germany, and Los Angeles and Las Vegas of the US. Apart from visiting the convention and exhibition facilities and cruise terminal facilities in these places, the delegation will meet with the government officials and authorities, as well as the management of the relevant organizations.

### Members of the delegation

7. 13 Members (including four non-Panel Members) have indicated interest in joining the visit. A tentative list of the members of the delegation is in the **Appendix**.

### **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 \$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 2004-2008 term. Any expenditure incurred in excess of the available balance in a four-year term has to be paid by the Member personally. However, if by the end of the 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 preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the overseas duty visit is about \$51,000 (economy class air passage) or \$74,000 (business class air passage).

### **Advice sought**

10. HR22(v) 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.

11. The House Committee's permission is sought for the two Panels to undertake the overseas duty visit as proposed.

**Panel on Commerce and Industry and  
Panel on Economic Services**

**Members who have tentatively indicated interest in joining  
the duty visit to Dubai, Europe and United States from 22 to 31 August 2007  
(Position as at 5 July 2007)**

Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry

- \* Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP (Chairman)
- \* Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS (Deputy Chairman)
- \* Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
- \* Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
- Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
- \* Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP

Members of the Panel on Economic Services

- # Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP (Chairman)
- Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
- Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP

Non-Panel Members

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

(Total : 13 Members)

- \* Also member of the Panel on Economic Services
- # Also member of the Panel on Commerce and Industry