

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 April 2008)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Furthering of trade relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong

Following the implementation of various initiatives such as CEPA and PPRD Regional Cooperation, bilateral trade relation between the Mainland and Hong Kong has strengthened. The Administration will update the Panel on the latest position and explore areas (including CEPA implementation) that could be further enhanced.

20 May 2008

At the Panel meeting held on 18 December 2007, Panel members agreed that a public hearing for Hong Kong businessmen to exchange views with the Panel on difficulties they encountered in operating in the Mainland be held at the May meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the implications of the Mainland's laws and regulations and its policies on Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland instead of dealing with particular cases.

2. Progress report on Research and Development (R&D) Centres

The Panel discussed the issue on the new framework at its meeting on 21 November 2006 and requested the Administration to inform the Panel of the estimated expenditure of the R&D Centres against the funding approved. The Administration reported to the Panel on 17 July 2007 the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres and updated members of their progress achieved since their establishment in April 2006 to June 2007. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres on an annual basis and to provide the requisite information (i.e. the total cost of each project, the actual level of industry contribution secured by the Centres for each project, and the administrative cost involved for each project) in the future progress reports.

17 June 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Reports on the work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices and Beijing Office

The Heads of the Economic and Trade Offices and the Director, Beijing Office will brief the Panel on their work during the forthcoming annual meeting in Hong Kong. They last briefed the Panel on 20 November 2007.

17 June 2008

4. Promotion of Inward Investment

At the Panel meeting held on 18 December 2007, Panel members considered that resources of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) should be pooled together with other bodies which were also promoting Hong Kong. Since a follow-up study on the comprehensive review on Hong Kong's investment promotion policy was being commissioned by the Administration, the outcome of which was expected to be available in the second quarter of 2008, the Panel requested the Administration to report to the Panel on the key findings of the study to facilitate discussion on the future development of InvestHK.

Second quarter of 2008