

立法會
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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 4 June 2010

**Proposed overseas duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea
by the Panel on Home Affairs**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") to conduct an overseas duty visit to study the experience relating to the development of cultural software in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Background

2. The commencement of the \$21.6 billion West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project to meet the long-term infrastructure needs of the arts and cultural sector in late 2008, together with the designation of the cultural and creative industries as one of the six economic areas earmarked for further development by the Task Force on Economic Challenges in mid 2009, have set the scene for the transformation of Hong Kong into a world-class city and a cultural metropolis. In the light of these developments, the promotion of arts and cultural software has been high on the agenda of the Panel on Home Affairs.

3. In the deliberation of the subject, the Panel has called for more Government efforts in the promotion of cultural software, such as encouraging diversified and balanced development in the arts and culture, enriching the arts programmes, bringing the arts and culture to the community, promoting the development of artistic talents and arts administrators, widening the audience base for the arts and culture, and fostering a social culture conducive to the development of cultural and creative industries. The Panel has also urged the Administration to devise long-term strategies and measures for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") with a view to promoting cultural development in the community.

4. To enable members to grasp the latest development on the subject and facilitate their deliberations on the issues concerned, the Panel found it worthwhile to make reference to overseas experience. The Panel had asked the Research and Library Services Division ("RLSD") of the Legislative Council Secretariat to gather

information on the policies in the development of cultural software and preservation of ICH in four selected places in Asia (namely, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Beijing and Shanghai), and requested the Administration to provide information on cultural facilities/establishments covered by the Administration's relevant studies conducted in recent years.

5. Having regard to the research findings of RLSD and the information provided by Administration, as well as members' views expressed in a questionnaire on the proposed duty visit, the Panel decided on 14 May 2010 to conduct a duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea in early August 2010. Specifically, the visit aims to -

- (a) obtain first-hand information on and study the experience in the development of the arts and culture (particularly in the areas of arts programme development, arts education and manpower training), and the preservation and promotion of ICH; and
- (b) exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the formulation and implementation of strategies and measures for the promotion of cultural software and preservation of ICH.

6. The Panel considered that the visit should focus particularly on the following areas of interest -

- (a) development of arts programmes (such as community-driven initiatives in the development of the arts and culture; collaboration among official agencies, the arts community, private and commercial sector, and the public in the promotion of the arts and culture);
- (b) arts education and manpower training (such as nurturing and training of artistic talents and arts administrators; promotion of arts education in the community and schools; platforms to bring people together for exchanges in the arts and culture); and
- (c) preservation and promotion of ICH (such as strategies and efforts in safeguarding and development of ICH, and initiatives in promoting public interest in and awareness of ICH).

7. The Panel's support has been obtained on the proposals for the duty visit set out in this paper.

The visit

Visit programme

8. The Panel has agreed that subject to the confirmation of the receiving organizations, the visit should be tentatively scheduled for eight days from 4 to 11 August 2010 (i.e. a four-day programme in Tokyo and Kyoto from 4 to 7 August 2010 followed by a four-day programme in Seoul from 8 to 11 August 2010). During the stay in these cities, the delegation will meet with relevant officials and agencies responsible for formulating and implementing policy for the development of cultural software and preservation of ICH, and where feasible, non-governmental arts and cultural agencies and organizations showcasing community-driven initiatives in the development of the arts and culture. Arrangements will also be made for the delegation to visit cultural facilities/establishments presenting different forms of arts, as well as those dedicated to the promotion of ICH.

9. Assistance will be sought from the Consulate General of Japan and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hong Kong, as well as the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo in drawing up the visit programmes and making preparation for the visit.

Participants of the visit

10. With the approval of the Panel, a circular has been issued to invite Panel members and other non-Panel Members to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 2 June 2010, a total of eight Panel members have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in the **Appendix**.

Funding arrangements

11. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organized by committees of the Council. The fund in the account is for use by the Member in a four-year term. Any expenditure incurred in excess of the available balance in a four-year term has to be paid by the Member personally.

12. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure (including airfare, hotel accommodation, meals, in-town travelling and miscellaneous expenses etc.) to be incurred by each participating member for the proposed duty visit is about \$34,870 (for economy class air passage) or \$46,600 (for business class air passage).

Advice sought

13. Rule 22(v) of the House Rules ("HR") 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. According to HR 26(f), this Rule applies, where appropriate, to subcommittees of House Committee, Bills Committees and Panels.

14. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the oversea duty visit as proposed.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 June 2010

Panel on Home Affairs

**Proposed overseas duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea
in August 2010**

**List of participants
(as at 2 June 2010)**

Panel members

Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP

Hon WONG Sing-chi

Hon Tanya CHAN

Hon WONG Yuk-man