

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1515/12-13

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 5 July 2013

**Proposed duty visit to Taiwan and Japan
by the Subcommittee on Poverty**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Subcommittee on Poverty ("the Subcommittee") to conduct a duty visit to Taiwan and Japan to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly poverty and working poverty.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the House Committee in October 2012 to, among other things, study policies and measures relating to poverty alleviation. The Subcommittee considers that a duty visit should be conducted to study the experience of combating poverty in places outside Hong Kong. After considering the poverty alleviation strategies in 10 selected places (namely, Australia, Guangzhou, Japan, Shanghai, South Korea, Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), the Subcommittee has agreed to visit Taiwan and Japan to enable members to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly poverty and working poverty.

Proposed duty visit by the Subcommittee

Objectives of the proposed visit

3. The objectives of the proposed visit to Taiwan and Japan are as follows –
- (a) to study their experience in alleviating poverty, particularly elderly poverty and working poverty;
 - (b) to exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of strategies in this regard; and

- (c) to obtain first-hand information on the policies and initiatives put in place to alleviate poverty.

Visit programme

4. The Subcommittee has agreed that the visit will be from 20 to 29 August 2013. During the stay in Taiwan and Japan, the delegation will visit places and organizations providing services relating to alleviation of poverty, particularly elderly poverty and working poverty. The delegation will also hold meetings with relevant ministries, government officials and authorities responsible for formulating and implementing poverty alleviation measures.

5. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (Taiwan) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) are providing assistance in drawing up the visit programme and making preparation for the visit.

Participants of the visit

6. A circular has been issued to invite Subcommittee members and other non-Subcommittee Members to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 12:30 pm on 4 July 2013, a total of nine Members (including one non-Subcommittee Member) have indicated interest in joining the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

7. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with a 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.

8. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure to be incurred by each participating Member for the duty visit is about \$34,100 (for economy class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

9. In accordance with Rules 22(v) and 26(f) of the House Rules, the House Committee's permission is sought for the Subcommittee to conduct the duty visit as proposed.

Subcommittee on Poverty

**Proposed duty visit to Taiwan and Japan
in August 2013**

**List of participants
(as at 12:30 pm on 4 July 2013)**

Subcommittee members

Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

Non-Subcommittee Member

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS

Subcommittee on Poverty
Proposed duty visit in August 2013
Tentative estimate of the expenditure

Duration of visit : 20 to 29 August 2013 (10 days)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong / Taipei / Tokyo / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses (per person) HK\$	
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>Business Class</u>
1. Return air passage (Cathay Pacific Airlines) Hong Kong / Taipei / Tokyo / Hong Kong	7,790*	23,830*
2. Hotel accommodation		
(a) Taipei (4 nights) (20 August (Tuesday) - 23 August (Friday))		6,034
(b) Tokyo (5 nights) (24 August (Saturday) - 28 August (Wednesday))		8,948
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries		
(a) Taipei		4,023
(b) Tokyo		5,965
4. Travel insurance		245
5. Airport tax & TIC fee		1,081
TOTAL :	34,086	50,126

NOTE :

* Airfare quotation obtained in late-June 2013.

1. The delegation will leave Taipei for Tokyo on Saturday, 24 August 2013 and return to Hong Kong on Thursday, 29 August 2013.
2. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat. Where the actual cost of in-town traveling expenses is separately paid for by the Secretariat, 5% of the subsistence allowance will be deducted.
3. Exchange rates as at late-June 2013 -
 HK\$25.9 = TWD100
 HK\$7.68 = JPY100