

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)770/13-14

Ref. : CB1/PL/EA/4

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 24 January 2014

Proposed overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden by the Panel on Environmental Affairs

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Environmental Affairs ("the Panel") to conduct an overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom ("UK"), the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden to study these countries' experience on the development and operation of thermal waste treatment facilities.

Background

Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022

2. To tackle Hong Kong's imminent waste challenge, the Environment Bureau released the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" ("the Action Blueprint") on 20 May 2013. The Action Blueprint maps out a waste management strategy, with targets, policies and action plans for the coming 10 years. It has set a target to reduce Hong Kong's per capita disposal rate of municipal solid waste ("MSW") by 40% by 2022.

3. The Action Blueprint also sets out the goal of transforming Hong Kong's waste management structure to 55% recycling, 23% incineration and 22% landfilling by 2022. The integrated waste management facilities ("IWMF") Phase 1, which can significantly reduce the volume of 3 000 tonnes MSW each day, is an essential infrastructure set out in the Action Blueprint for achieving this transformation. It is an essential tool to help Hong Kong reduce reliance on landfills.

Administration's plan to visit Europe in March 2014

4. At its meeting on 16 December 2013, the Panel was advised that the Administration planned to visit Europe, including UK, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden in early March 2014 to keep abreast of the latest development and operation of the following thermal waste treatment technologies –

- (a) Moving-grate incineration technology;
- (b) Plasma gasification technology; and
- (c) Gasification and Pyrolysis technologies.

5. It is expected that relevant knowledge and updates could benefit the planning for waste management in Hong Kong beyond 2022. The Administration invited the Panel to consider whether to conduct a similar visit.

Proposed duty visit by the Panel

The visit

6. Taking into consideration the importance of IWMF in the Administration's waste management strategy and in achieving the goal of transforming Hong Kong's waste management structure by 2022, the Panel agreed to undertake a duty visit from 2 to 8 March 2014 (including flight time) to the four countries to obtain first-hand information on their experience in planning and operating thermal waste treatment facilities. It is expected that the visit will enable members to grasp the latest development on the subject and facilitate their deliberations on the issues concerned in examining the waste management infrastructure projects to be proposed by the Administration.

7. The objectives of the duty visit are to study –

- (a) the development of mainstream incineration technology in Europe over the past decades, in terms of technology reliability, emission control, environmental impacts, public acceptance, etc;
- (b) the advantages and disadvantages of the above thermal waste treatment technologies and their potential of application in Hong Kong;
- (c) the four countries' policies and measures on waste management and their experience in developing waste management infrastructure as well as their plans for the future;
- (d) response of non-governmental organizations and the public to waste treatment facilities, with focus on thermal waste treatment facilities; and
- (e) the latest development and experience of alternative MSW treatment technologies and their potential of application in Hong Kong in future.

8. The Panel agreed that it would have the same visit programme as the Administration. The tentative outline programme of the visit is in **Appendix I**.

Participants of the visit

9. Both Panel members and non-Panel Members have been invited to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 10 January 2014, a total of nine Members (including two non-Panel Members) have indicated interest in taking part in the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix II**.

Funding arrangements

10. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account ("ODV") 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 one term in excess of the approved allocation has to be paid by the Member personally. If by the end of a term there are unused balances in Members' ODV 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. Members who have not served out their terms will not be entitled to such reimbursements.

11. A preliminary estimate of the expenditure (including airfare, hotel accommodation, meals, in-town travelling and sundry expenses) to be incurred by each participating Member for the proposed duty visit is about \$40,000 (for economy class air passage), or about \$87,000 (for business class air passage). A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix III**. The actual expenditure will vary subject to the final visit programme, and the airfare and hotel room rates at the time of confirmation.




Advice sought

12. Rule 22(v) of the House Rules 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.

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

Visit to Europe on Thermal Waste Treatment Facilities
(2 to 8 March 2014)

Tentative Outline Programme

Item	Features	Photos
2 March 2014: Hong Kong → UK		
Day 1 3 March 2014 (Monday) UK		
1	Visit New Earth Avonmouth Facilities ● Technology: Gasification & pyrolysis	
2.	Visit Swindon Gasification Plant ● Technology: Plasma Gasification	
Day 2 4 March 2014 (Tuesday) UK, evening flight to Amsterdam, the Netherlands		
3	Visit Lakeside Waste from Energy Facility ● Technology: Moving grate	
4	Meet with UK authority overseeing waste management	

Day 3

5 March 2014 (Wednesday)



The Netherlands, evening flight to Copenhagen, Denmark

5	<p>Visit Afval Energie Dedrijf Waste Fired Power Plant in the Netherlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology: Moving grate 	
---	---	--

Day 4

6 March 2014 (Thursday)

Denmark

6	<p>Visit Roskilde Waste-to-Energy Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology: Moving grate ● Commissioning schedule: 2013 	
7	<p>Visit to learn about the on-going project of Amager Bakke Waste-to-Energy Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology: Moving grate ● Expected commissioning schedule: 2016-2017 	

Day 5

7 March 2014 (Friday)

Denmark-Sweden-Denmark, evening flight back to Hong Kong

8	<p>Visit Malmö of Sweden, and meet its environmental authority, to understand their experience of engaging the community regarding waste infrastructure</p>	
---	---	--

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Proposed duty visit to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands,
Denmark and Sweden**

**List of participants
(as at 10 January 2014)**

Panel members

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

Non-Panel Members

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon TANG Ka-piu

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 January 2014

Appendix III

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Proposed overseas duty visit to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands,
Denmark and Sweden
Tentative estimate of expenditure

Duration of visit : 2 to 8 March 2014 (including flight time)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong / London / Amsterdam / Copenhagen / Malmö /
Copenhagen / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses (per person) HK\$	
	Economy Class	Business Class
1. Return air passage Hong Kong / London / Amsterdam / London / Hong Kong	9,630 ^(Note 1)	56,010 ^(Note 1)
Amsterdam / Copenhagen / London (<i>Economy class</i>)	5,200 ^(Note 1)	
<i>Sub-total</i>	14,830	61,210
2. Taxes and surcharges	5,858 ^(Note 1)	7,109 ^(Note 1)
3. Hotel accommodation (<i>60% of the subsistence allowance</i> ^(Note 2))		
(a) London (2 nights) (2 & 3 March 2014)	4649.54	
(b) Amsterdam (1 night) (4 March 2014)	2,145.23	
(c) Copenhagen (2 nights) (5 & 6 March 2014)	4,080.84	
<i>Sub-total</i>	10,875.61	
4. Meals and sundries (<i>35% of the subsistence allowance</i> (Notes 2 and 3))		
(a) London (2 & 3 March 2014)	2,712.23	
(b) Amsterdam (4 March 2014)	1,251.39	
(c) Copenhagen (5 & 6 March 2014)	2,380.49	
(d) Malmö / Copenhagen (7 March 2014)	880.46	
<i>Sub-total</i>	7,224.57	
5. Travel insurance	212	
TOTAL (Items 1 to 5):	39,000.18	86,631.18

NOTE :

1. Airfare quotation obtained in Jan 2014.
2. Subsistence allowance for the following cities:

London	–	GBP303
Amsterdam	–	EUR334
Copenhagen	–	DKK2,369
Malmö	–	SEK3,042
3. As in-town transport will be provided by the Secretariat, the subsistence allowance payable is reduced by 5%. Other expenditure including hospitality, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.
4. Exchange rates as at Jan 2014

GBP1	=	HK\$12.78750
EUR1	=	HK\$10.7047500
DKK1	=	HK\$1.4355
SEK1	=	HK\$1.2175

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 January 2014