

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1172/13-14

Ref : CB2/T/23

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 28 March 2014

Legislative Council delegation to conduct a duty visit to Shanghai

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee to consider the proposal for a Legislative Council ("LegCo") delegation to be led by the President to conduct a duty visit to Shanghai.

Background

2. In his letter dated 19 March 2014 to the President of LegCo¹, the Chief Executive ("CE") stated that in the light of the wish expressed by LegCo Members to visit the Mainland, the Central Authorities had agreed that arrangements be made for all LegCo Members to visit Shanghai on 12 and 13 April 2014, and that Members' views on the visit were invited.

3. At the House Committee meeting on 21 March 2014, Members' views were sought on the programme and arrangements for the proposed visit to Shanghai. Members noted that two groups of Members had written separately to the President to put forward their views². Subsequent to the House Committee meeting, the President wrote to CE to convey Members' views on the proposed visit³. The letter was also copied to the Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("the Liaison Office"). A reply was received from CE on 27 March 2014, which was issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1189/13-14 on 27 March 2014.

¹ The letter was issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1118/13-14 on 19 March 2014.

² The letters from the two groups of Members were issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1123/13-14 on 20 March 2014.

³ The letter was issued to Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1150/13-14 on 24 March 2014.

Arrangements for the proposed visit

Flight arrangements

4. The delegation will travel in two groups from Hong Kong to Shanghai at 6:00 pm and 7:05 pm respectively after the House Committee meeting on Friday, 11 April 2014. The delegation will also return in two groups from Shanghai to Hong Kong at 7:40 pm and 8:30 pm respectively on Sunday, 13 April 2014.

Visit programme

5. Members have indicated that the visit should aim to enhance their understanding of Shanghai's latest facilities and developments; and provide an opportunity for Members to meet with the Central Government officials responsible for Hong Kong's political development.

6. Members will have two full days in Shanghai. Senior officials of Shanghai Municipality will meet with and host a meal for the delegation. Arrangements will be made for the delegation to visit the Shanghai Hongqiao Central Business District and Integrated Transportation Hub, the Chinese commercial aircraft manufacturing site and the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre. Seminars will be held on the subjects of "International developments and foreign policies" and "Comprehensively deepening and enhancing the nation's reform". The Shanghai Municipal People's Government will also brief the delegation on the policy arrangements in respect of the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone and discuss with Members on the developments of the nation and Shanghai.

7. Half a day will be set aside for the delegation to meet with Mr WANG Guangya, Director of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr LI Fei, Chairman of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Basic Law Committee under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Mr ZHANG Xiaoming, Director of the Liaison Office, for discussions on issues of mutual concern, including Hong Kong's political development. Furthermore, arrangements will be made for the delegation to dine with the Hong Kong business community in order for Members to gain an understanding of their lives in Shanghai, and to exchange views on the development of the two cities.

8. The Secretariat is liaising with the CE's Office to work out the detailed itinerary, including the sequence and timing of the various meetings, briefings and other activities. Members will be informed of the detailed arrangements as soon as possible.

Media arrangements for the visit

9. Arrangement will be made to facilitate media representatives on a self-paying basis to accompany the delegation throughout the visit. The Public Information Division will liaise directly with media organizations on the detailed arrangements and provide marshalling service during the visit.

Financial arrangement

10. A tentative estimate of the expenditure for the visit is about \$7,800 per person, which is calculated according to the standard rates of subsistence allowance applicable to civil servants on duty visit to the city concerned and airfare at economy class rate. In accordance with the mechanism for handling Members' visits outside Hong Kong in response to invitations as set out in rule 29A of and Appendix VI to the House Rules and subject to the House Committee's endorsement, expenditure for the proposed visit to Shanghai will be charged to individual Members' Overseas Duty Visit accounts.

Advice sought

11. Members are invited to endorse the proposal for a LegCo delegation to be led by the President to conduct a duty visit to Shanghai and the financial arrangement for the visit as set out in paragraph 10 above.

Legislative Council Secretariat

27 March 2014