

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee meeting
on 20 June 2014**

**Proposed duty visit to Israel
by the Panel on Commerce and Industry**

Purpose

1. This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") to conduct a duty visit to Israel to study the country's experience in promoting the development of innovation and technology.

Background

2. Innovation and technology are drivers for economic development and competitiveness. They help improve the efficiency and performance of enterprises which in turn contribute to the sustainable growth of an economy. The Government attaches great importance to the development and nurturing of innovation and technology to develop Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy that thrives as an innovation and technology hub in the region.

3. In the light of the Administration's proposal for setting up a new Innovation and Technology Bureau, the Panel considers it an opportune time to conduct a duty visit to places outside Hong Kong to study other countries' experience in fostering the innovation and technology industries. After considering the relevant development and related strategies of three selected countries (namely, South Korea, Belgium and Israel), the Panel has agreed to visit Israel to obtain first-hand information on the Israeli Government's experience in promoting innovation and technology. Israel, though a small country with a population size comparable to that of Hong Kong, has developed into a world-recognized high-tech and innovation hub. Members of the Panel consider that the experience of Israel may provide useful reference for Hong Kong in furthering innovation and technology development.

Proposed duty visit by the Panel

Objectives of the proposed visit

4. The objectives of the proposed duty visit are -
 - (a) to study the experience of the Israeli Government and to obtain first-hand information on the relevant policies, initiatives and legislations to promote industrial research and development and facilitate the growth of innovation and technology industries; and
 - (b) to meet and exchange views with the relevant Israeli Government authorities involved in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies on innovation and technology as well as representatives of technology transfer companies affiliated with leading universities and research institutions, venture capital companies, multinational corporations, technology companies, industry association and technological incubators, etc.

Visit programme

5. The visit is tentatively scheduled for 3 to 8 August 2014, subject to confirmation with the receiving organizations. The tentative visit programme is in **Appendix I**. The detailed programme is being drawn up with the assistance of the Consul General of Israel in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macau SAR.

Participants of the visit

6. A circular has been issued to invite Panel members and other non-Panel Members to indicate interest in joining the visit. As at 17 June 2014, a total of 10 Members (including one non-Panel Member) have indicated interest in taking part in the visit.

7. In response to the Panel's invitation, the Innovation and Technology Commission has nominated two officials to join the visit to facilitate members' understanding of the applicability of Israeli Government's experience in Hong Kong and to advise the delegation on issues relating to the development of innovation and technology industries as and when necessary. The expenses incurred by the two officials for the visit will be borne by the Government.

8. A list of the participants of the visit is in **Appendix II**.

Funding arrangements

9. 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.

10. 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 \$29,500 (for economy class air passage), or about \$58,000 (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 of booking.

Advice sought

11. 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.

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

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Duty visit to Israel

Proposed timing 3 August (Sunday) to 8 August (Friday) 2014
#Tentative programme

Date	Programme
3 August (Sunday)	Departure Hong Kong 16:30 Arrival Tel Aviv* 23:20
4 August (Monday) to 7 August (Thursday)	<p><u>Israeli Parliament (Knesset)</u></p> <p>Visit to Knesset and meeting with members of the relevant committees.</p> <p><u>Government authorities</u></p> <p>Meeting with senior officials of Ministry of Economy, Chief Scientist of Office of the Chief Scientist, Ministry of Science, Technology and Space, Chief Information Officer and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p><u>Academic sector/research institutions</u></p> <p>Visits to and meeting with representatives of technology transfer companies affiliated with leading universities and research institutions, such as Weizmann Institute of Science, Yael Hanein Lab of Tel Aviv University and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, etc.</p> <p><u>Private sector</u></p> <p>Visits to and meeting with representatives of venture capital companies, multinational corporations, technology companies specialized in green technology or life science, industry association, and technological incubators.</p>
7 August (Thursday)	Departure Tel Aviv 21:45
8 August (Friday)	Arrival Hong Kong* 13:25

The detailed visit programme is being drawn up with the assistance of the Consul General of Israel in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macau SAR, subject to confirmation with the receiving organizations.

* Time difference: Hong Kong is 5 hours ahead of Israel
 EL AL Israel Airlines: Daily direct flight (around 12 hours) between Hong Kong and Israel except Friday (public holiday/rest day)

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Proposed duty visit to Israel

**List of participants
(as at 17 June 2014)**

Panel Members

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Non-Panel Member

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP

Representatives from the Innovation and Technology Commission

Mr Frank TSANG
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation & Technology(Funding Schemes)

Mr Rayson CHAN
Senior Manager (Innovation and Technology Fund)5

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
19 June 2014

Panel on Commerce and Industry
Proposed duty visit to Israel
Tentative estimate of expenditure

Duration of visit : 3 to 8 August 2014 (including flight time)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong/Tel Aviv/Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses (per person) HK\$	
	Economy Class	Business Class
1. Return air passage Hong Kong/Tel Aviv/Hong Kong	13,345 (Note 1)	41,895 (Note 1)
Sub-total	13,345	41,895
2. Hotel accommodation (60% of the subsistence allowance ^(Note 2)) Tel Aviv (4 nights) (3 to 6 August 2014)	9,306	
Sub-total	9,306	
3. Meals and sundries (35% of the subsistence allowance ^(Notes 2 and 3)) Tel Aviv (3 to 7 August 2014)	6,398	
Sub-total	6,398	
4. Travel insurance	220	
TOTAL (Items 1 to 4):	29,269 (say: 29,500)	57,819 (say: 58,000)

NOTE :

1. Airfare quotation obtained in mid-June 2014. Price inclusive of tax and surcharges.
2. Subsistence allowance for Tel Aviv: ILS 1,731
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 rate as at mid-June 2014
ILS 1 = HK\$2.24