

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Environmental Affairs

Meeting on 16 December 2013

**Arrangements for undertaking overseas duty visits by
committees of the Legislative Council**

Purpose

To facilitate members' consideration of whether to conduct a duty visit to Europe, details of which are set out separately in the Administration's paper on "Visit to Europe on thermal waste treatment facilities" (LC Paper No. CB(1)500/13-14(05)), this paper informs members of the arrangements for undertaking overseas duty visits by committees of the Legislative Council.

Relevant provisions in the House Rules

2. Rule 29A of the House Rules provides the rules concerning visits outside Hong Kong. Under this rule, a committee may consider it necessary to undertake a visit to places outside Hong Kong under the name of the committee for purposes such as obtaining first-hand information on certain subject matters and practices in those places. The prior permission of the House Committee is required before a visit is conducted. A report on the visit is required to be submitted to the House Committee after the visit.

3. Members of the committee joining the visit should participate in the entire programme. The committee may invite other Members who are not members of the committee to take part in the visit provided that these Members are also able to participate in the entire programme.

Composition of a delegation on a visit

4. The broad guidelines for determining the size and membership of a delegation are that members of the committee should have priority in participating in the visit, and the delegation should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements.

Funding arrangements

5. 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.

6. Assuming that the Panel will undertake a duty visit to Europe, covering the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, from 2 to 8 March 2014 (including flight time), the preliminary estimate of the expenditure (including airfare, hotel accommodation, meals, in-town travelling and sundry expenses) to be incurred by each participating member is about \$40,000 (for economy class air passage), or about \$86,000 (for business class air passage). Members may wish to note that the actual expenditure will vary subject to the airfare and hotel room rates at the time of confirmation.

Advice sought

7. Members are invited to note the arrangements for undertaking overseas duty visits by committees of the Legislative Council as set out above. Subject to the Panel's decision, the Secretariat will work out the details of the proposed duty visit, and arrange to submit the proposal to the House Committee for consideration.