

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)902/15-16
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/CI

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 March 2016, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Members absent : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP

Public officers attending : Agenda item IV

Mr Gregory SO, GBS, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Mr David WONG, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Commerce and Industry) 2

Miss Fabia TAM
Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and
Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) 3

Mr Bryan HA
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
(Funding Schemes)

Ms Ada LEUNG, JP
Director of Intellectual Property

Ms Maria Kaiser NG
Assistant Director of Intellectual Property (Advisory)

Mr Jerry LIU
Head of Create Hong Kong

Agenda item V

Mr Philip YUNG, JP
Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism)

Ms Carol YUEN, JP
Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic
Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) 1

Mrs Suzanna KONG
Principal Executive Officer (Administration),
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Clerk in attendance : Mr Desmond LAM
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Connie HO
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Miss Rita YUNG
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)665/15-16 -- Minutes of policy briefing cum meeting held on 19 January 2016)

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 16 February 2016.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 19 April 2016 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration :

- (a) Setting up of a trade single window; and
- (b) Trade relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

IV. Progress on the promotion of intellectual property trading

(LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(03) -- Administration's paper on "Progress on the promotion of intellectual property trading in Hong Kong"

Action

LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(04) -- Paper on promotion of intellectual property trading in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development ("SCED") briefed members on the latest progress of various measures to position and promote Hong Kong as a premier intellectual property ("IP") trading hub in the region. Details of the latest progress on the promotion of IP trading in Hong Kong were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(03)).

5. Members were also shown three short video presentations promoting IP commercialization in Hong Kong.

Discussion

Potential benefits of intellectual property trading

6. Mr Jeffrey LAM was pleased to note that the Administration had made substantive progress in promoting IP trading in Hong Kong. He enquired about the statistics of IP trading activities, and the economic benefits to be brought about to the business sector, in particular the small and medium enterprises ("SMEs") and to Hong Kong as a whole, by IP trading.

7. SCED responded that there had been intensified use of the IP system over the last two decades. The trend of the use and creation of IP had also shifted towards Asia, particularly in view of the rapid development on the Mainland. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization, in 2014, the Mainland had accounted for the largest percentages of global applications filed for patent, trade marks and industrial designs respectively. SCED said that the rise of the Mainland as a major IP creator and consumer had created tremendous opportunities for IP professionals in Hong Kong to provide intermediary services for the Mainland's expanding IP market.

8. SCED advised that IP trading could contribute to the upgrading of Hong Kong's economy. IP trading would create an increasing need for high value-added intermediary services, including IP agency, IP management and consulting, legal services, dispute resolution such as arbitration and mediation, accounting, valuation, financing, insurance, etc., thereby boosting the

Action

development of these various service sectors. Hong Kong businesses might, in turn, grasp the opportunities brought about by IP trading to increase their competitiveness by branding and upgrading. Businesses might look for innovative ways to build, manage, and leverage on IP assets strategically to drive growth and tap new markets.

9. SCED further advised that according to statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, the value of exports of services related to the use of IP increased from about \$2.8 billion in 2007 to around \$4.8 billion in 2014, with an average annual growth rate of 8%. During the same period, the value of imports of services related to the use of IP increased from about \$11.7 billion to around \$15.0 billion, with the average annual growth rate of 4%.

10. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok enquired about Hong Kong's position in the international IP trading community. SCED responded that Hong Kong was an international business and financial centre with the Mainland as its hinterland. Hong Kong had been positioned as the business, trading and services hub for the Mainland and the region as a whole, as well as a springboard for foreign investors seeking to tap the Mainland market. In addition, Hong Kong had a long tradition of upholding the rule of law, a sound IP rights protection system, a simple and low tax regime, as well as a pool of professionals with Mainland and international perspectives. Given also Hong Kong's experience in areas such as research and development ("R&D"), design, trading and business services in support of industrial production, Hong Kong had the potential to develop into a regional IP trading hub.

11. Mr Charles MOK enquired about the Administration's latest initiatives to promote IP trading in Hong Kong. He was keen to ensure that promotion of IP trading could enhance Hong Kong's local R&D capacity and facilitate technology transfer, and complement the efforts of Hong Kong to become an innovation and technology hub. He suggested that the Administration should include statistics on IP trading in Hong Kong in future reports to the Panel.

12. In response, SCED advised that the Administration had been implementing the 28 measures recommended by the Working Group on IP Trading to position and promote Hong Kong as premier IP trading hub in the region. The recommended measures fell under four strategic areas of an action framework, namely, enhancing the IP protection regime; supporting IP creation and exploitation; fostering IP intermediary services and manpower capacity; and pursuing promotion, education and external collaboration efforts. SCED highlighted that the Intellectual Property Department ("IPD") launched the dedicated website "Hong Kong — The IP Trading Hub", which provided a one-stop shop for disseminating information relating to Hong Kong as an IP

Action

trading hub for different target audience. IPD also launched promotion and public education campaigns, and reached out to different industries to publicize IPD's new support services relating to IP trading. IPD had also been collaborating with or supporting different stakeholders, including the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Law Society of Hong Kong and other professional bodies to provide IP consultation services to local SMEs, promote the development of IP arbitration and mediation, as well as IP valuation in Hong Kong, and sponsor training courses to facilitate the development of IP related services among professionals and nurture talents.

Intellectual property protection regime

13. Ms Emily LAU, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan and Mr Charles MOK expressed concern that the legislative exercise of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2014 ("Copyright Bill") could not conclude, and the fact that the Administration might not pursue it further. The Chairman, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan and Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok were concerned that if Hong Kong's copyright law could not keep pace with technological and international developments to enhance copyright protection in the digital environment, it would affect the Administration's objective to promote Hong Kong as a premier IP trading hub in the region.

14. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan considered that under the proposed Copyright Bill, the balance of interests was tilted in favour of copyright owners, and they had expressed strong objection to the Committee stage amendments on contract override, user-generated content and fair use proposed by Members. Ms Emily LAU questioned the Administration's efforts in liaising with various stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus. She asked about the way forward for reviewing and updating the copyright law. The Chairman called on the Administration to continue to liaise with various stakeholders.

15. SCED reiterated Hong Kong's advantages in developing into a regional IP trading hub, and advised that while the legislative exercise of the Copyright Bill could not conclude, the Administration would continue to liaise with stakeholders and carefully consider the way forward. He emphasized that the Administration would have to ensure a fair balance between protecting the legitimate interests of copyright owners and other public interests, such as fair and reasonable use of copyright works and freedom of expression.

16. Referring to a seminar on "Innovation and Copyright Reform in the Digital Age" conducted by Professor Ian HARGREAVES earlier in The University of Hong Kong, Mr Charles MOK said that he had met with Professor HARGREAVES who had shared his insights into fair use and contract override in respect of copyright exceptions. Mr MOK considered that open-ended exception

Action

in respect of copyright works, such as the fair use approach would be more conducive to the promotion and development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong. He urged the Administration to continue to liaise with various stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on copyright exceptions.

17. Director of Intellectual Property responded that the Administration had also attended the seminar and met with Professor Ian HARGREAVES. The Administration's view was in line with that of Professor HARGREAVES in that in considering whether a fair use exception should be adopted in Hong Kong, many issues would require careful study. It was noted that Australia had studied the fair use exception for 20 years and was still in the course of conducting a cost-and-benefit analysis. As regards contract override, Professor HARGREAVES mentioned that there was evidence in the United Kingdom ("UK") showing that the copyright exceptions for libraries and the educational sector were excluded by contract terms before the contract override provision was introduced in 2014. The UK Government would conduct an evaluation of the impact on the content industry and the overall economy as well as the IP protection regime within five years after the introduction of the legislation in 2014. The Administration would keep in view the future developments in the UK.

18. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan expressed concern about whether the legislative exercise of the Patents (Amendment) Bill 2015, which aimed to introduce the new "original grant" patent system in Hong Kong, could be concluded by the end of this legislative session. SCED responded that the Administration had been assisting the Bills Committee in scrutinizing the Patents (Amendment) Bill 2015. Members generally supported the establishment of an "original grant" patent system in view of the benefits it would bring to Hong Kong, such as facilitating the development of Hong Kong into a regional innovation and technology hub. SCED called for members' support for the early passage of the Bill.

19. Mr Jeffrey LAM enquired about the arrangements for IP protection following cross-border IP trading. SCED responded that IP protection was territorial in nature and that IP rights were granted in each jurisdiction independently according to its own IP laws and practice. He advised that Hong Kong had a pool of professionals with international perspectives and extensive experience in connecting overseas buyers and sellers to partners on the Mainland and across Asia. Hong Kong's legal professionals and IP practitioners could effectively assist their clients in managing their IP assets across the world.

Intellectual property consultation service scheme

20. The Chairman noted that IPD, in collaboration with the IP Committee of

Action

the Law Society of Hong Kong, had launched a pilot scheme to provide free initial IP consultation services to SMEs in December 2014. Referring to the 71 consultation sessions conducted by end-February 2016, the Chairman enquired about the issues of concern raised by SMEs during the consultation sessions.

21. In response, Director of Intellectual Property advised that SMEs had sought advice on various types of IP rights including trade marks, patents and copyright. In particular, they were interested in developing effective IP management and commercialization strategies. The pilot scheme would arrange experts in relevant subject areas to provide consultation services to the SMEs according to their needs.

V. Establishment of a new Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta

(LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(05) -- Administration's paper on "Establishment of a New Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta"

LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(06) -- Paper on the establishment of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Jakarta prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

22. At the invitation of the Chairman, Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) ("PSCIT") briefed members on the proposed establishment of a new Economic and Trade Office ("ETO") in Jakarta and the related reorganization of the ETO in Washington DC. Members' support was sought on the following arrangements –

- (a) the creation of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3) post to head the new ETO, to be offset by the deletion of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (AOSGB1) (D4) post from the ETO in Washington DC;
- (b) the proposed pay scales for locally-engaged staff and the corresponding increase in the establishment ceiling of non-directorate posts for the expenditure head of the Overseas Economic and Trade Offices in 2016-2017; and

Action

- (c) the re-structuring of the directorate establishment of the Washington ETO after deletion of the AOSGB1 post.

Details of the proposal were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(05)). Members noted that subject to members' agreement, the Administration would submit the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee for recommendation and the Finance Committee for approval as appropriate.

23. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure, they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the subjects under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the subject.

Discussion

Enhancing the network of overseas Economic and Trade Offices in the Belt and Road region

24. In response to members' views expressed at the last Panel meeting on 16 February 2016 that the Administration should enhance Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") Government's overseas ETO network in the Belt and Road region, including the suggestion of setting up a "Hong Kong Desk" in overseas offices of Government-related organizations, such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, and the overseas offices of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China to promote Hong Kong's trade interests in and strengthen its trade ties with the Belt and Road economies, PSCIT advised that given the large number of countries in the Belt and Road region, the Administration would need to consider priorities in setting up new overseas ETOs with a view to utilizing resources effectively.

25. PSCIT pointed out that apart from the Geneva ETO, the HKSAR Government had already set up three ETOs in Europe. In respect of Asia, taking in view that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN") was Hong Kong's 2nd largest partner in merchandise trade, the Administration considered it a top priority to set up the proposed new ETO in Jakarta to enhance liaison and exchanges between Hong Kong and ASEAN. He assured members that the Administration would keep in view the regional economic developments and consider setting up new ETOs in other Belt and Road countries in the future having regard to demand from time to time.

26. PSCIT added that HKTDC would also engage local consultants in other emerging economies. The geographical coverage of overseas ETOs and HKTDC

Action

offices was broadly comparable and despite their different roles and functions, they cooperated with and complemented the work of each other. PSCIT said that overseas ETOs of HKSAR Government would continue to cooperate with HKTDC overseas offices in promoting Hong Kong's unique strengths and the roles that could be played by Hong Kong in the Belt and Road Initiative to help the Hong Kong business sector tap the business opportunities in Belt and Road countries. PSCIT also advised that the overseas offices of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China were normally set up within the local Chinese Embassy.

27. PSCIT said that the Administration considered it effective to leverage on the overseas ETO network in promoting Hong Kong economic and trade interests in overseas countries and to engage local consultants to perform relevant functions in countries not covered by the ETO network. He said that the Administration had no plan to set up a "Hong Kong Desk" in overseas offices of Government-related organizations, such as HKTDC, and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China as suggested by some Panel members.

28. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan expressed support for the proposed establishment of a new ETO in Jakarta. However, Mr CHUNG was concerned that there might be overlapping of resources in some overseas cities where both ETOs and HKTDC offices were set up. Opining that HKTDC should focus on trade promotion work in emerging markets, Mr CHUNG suggested relocating HKTDC offices in cities where ETOs had been set up to other cities to expand the overseas network of HKSAR. The Chairman concurred with Mr CHUNG's views.

29. PSCIT advised that overseas ETOs and HKTDC offices had different functions despite their broadly comparable geographical coverage. Being the official representative of the HKSAR Government, overseas ETOs sought to establish close relationships between Hong Kong and their host countries at a Government-to-Government level. They were tasked to promote Hong Kong's economic and trade interests by monitoring regularly developments that might affect Hong Kong, and handled all bilateral matters relating to, for example, political, economic and cultural issues between Hong Kong and the respective countries under their purview. On the other hand, overseas HKTDC offices mainly dealt with trade-related matters, such as promotion of commercial relations and assisting Hong Kong enterprises to tap the business opportunities in overseas markets. PSCIT reiterated that overseas ETOs and HKTDC offices cooperated with and complemented the work of each other, and the Administration would closely monitor the latest developments and their division of work to maximize their effectiveness.

Action

Structure of ETOs in ASEAN countries

30. Expressing support for the setting up of a new ETO in Jakarta and the proposed creation of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (AOSGB) (D3) post to head the new ETO, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired about the rationale for putting the Head of Singapore ETO under the supervision of that of the Jakarta ETO.

31. PSCIT advised that there would be a change in the geographical coverage of the ETOs in ASEAN countries upon the establishment of the new ETO in Jakarta. Under the proposed arrangement, the country-coverage of Jakarta ETO would include Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines while that of the Singapore ETO would include Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Moreover, of all the ASEAN economies, Indonesia was the most populated which accounted for about 40% of the total ASEAN population as well as the total ASEAN gross domestic product. The ASEAN Secretariat was located in Jakarta, and the Permanent Representatives of the 10 ASEAN countries were also based there. The proposed new ETO in Jakarta would enhance Hong Kong's bilateral relations with Indonesia, facilitate HKSAR Government liaison with the ASEAN Secretariat, and support the follow-up work of the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement ("FTA"). The Jakarta ETO would also complement the existing Singapore ETO in increasing Hong Kong's presence in Southeast Asia.

32. PSCIT further said that to ensure alignment of priorities between the Jakarta and Singapore ETOs, Head of Jakarta ETO, designated as "Director-General, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Jakarta" ("DGJ") would oversee the work of the latter, which was headed by Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Singapore currently pitched at the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC) (D2). Given the scope of responsibilities attached to DGJ and the level of liaison work required of the post, the Administration considered it appropriate for the ETO in Jakarta to be headed by an AOSGB (D3) officer. Relevant arrangement also reflected the level of importance that the HKSAR Government attached to the relationship between Hong Kong and ASEAN in the future.

ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement

33. Given that Hong Kong was a free port which did not impose tariff on imports, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired whether the goods manufactured in Hong Kong received the same treatment in entering the ASEAN market at present. Pointing out that member countries of the ASEAN+3 currently enjoyed tariff reduction in respect of trade in goods in the relevant markets, Dr CHIANG urged

Action

the Administration to strive for early conclusion of the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA to secure better access for Hong Kong's goods and services to the ASEAN market.

34. In response, PSCIT advised that the negotiation of the FTA between HKSAR and ASEAN was in progress. The ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA would enable goods and services of HKSAR to access the ASEAN market under more favourable conditions. The Administration would endeavour to conclude the negotiation by 2016. PSCIT added that a new ETO was proposed to be set up in Jakarta in view of the enhanced economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and ASEAN. He remarked that on the basis of the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA and with the establishment of the new ETO in Jakarta in addition to the Singapore ETO in Southeast Asia, the trade ties between Hong Kong and ASEAN would be further strengthened. The Administration would update the Panel of the progress of the negotiation of the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA as appropriate.

35. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan further enquired whether Hong Kong would become a contracting party to the China-ASEAN FTA upon the successful conclusion of the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA being negotiated. PSCIT advised that the HKSAR was negotiating the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA in its own capacity as a separate customs territory, and that the said FTA was independent from the China-ASEAN FTA. He advised that the ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA, if successfully concluded, could facilitate the overall trade among ASEAN, the Mainland and HKSAR. Moreover, being a connector between the Mainland and overseas countries, the position of Hong Kong as an intermediary or a trade and commercial centre would be further strengthened.

Re-structuring of the directorate establishment of Washington ETO

36. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan enquired about the reason for the deletion of the Director-General, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, Washington ("DGW") post. PSCIT advised that at present, the Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs, USA ("C,USA") of Washington ETO, ranked at Administrative Officer Staff Grade A (AOSGA) (D6) level, was responsible for overseeing Hong Kong's representation and interest in the whole of the United States ("US") and promoting bilateral cooperation between the two economies, through the work of the three ETOs in the US, namely Washington, San Francisco and New York ETOs. The Washington ETO closely monitored the political and economic development in the US and reported on legislative proposals, government policies as well as executive and regulatory actions that might affect Hong Kong. C,USA was supported by DGW ranked at AOSGB1 (D4) level who assisted him to oversee and co-ordinate the public relations and lobbying activities in the entire US, and there was inevitably certain degree of overlapping in the scopes of job duties of C,USA and DGW. Taking into account the increasing focus on Asia and ASEAN countries

Action

with respect to trade and investment in particular, the Administration proposed to delete the DGW post to achieve savings for the creation of the AOSGB post to head the new ETO in Jakarta. PSCIT stressed that the Administration would continue to attach great importance to the work of ETOs in the US notwithstanding the proposed deletion of the DGW post.

Issues relating to foreign domestic helpers

37. Ms Emily LAU indicated that she had no objection to the proposed establishment of a new ETO in Jakarta and the creation of the DGJ post. However, Ms LAU expressed concern about the issues relating to foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs"), such as human trafficking, forced labour and exploitation of FDHs by employment agencies, including overcharging of agency fees and withholding of the helpers' passports. Pointing out that there were some 160 000 Indonesian FDHs employed in Hong Kong and these helpers had made substantial contribution to the economy, Ms LAU considered that the proposed new ETO in Jakarta should also be tasked to deal with issues relating to Indonesian FDHs in Hong Kong.

38. To better protect the rights and interests of Indonesian FDHs, Ms Emily LAU referred to an earlier suggestion made by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare that the helpers should be briefed, prior to their departure for Hong Kong, during relevant training courses conducted in Indonesia on their statutory labour rights and benefits, as well as information on channels for seeking assistance in Hong Kong. Ms LAU called on the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to discuss with the related Government policy bureaux and departments, namely the Security Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Immigration Department and the Labour Department how the ETO in Jakarta could help take forward the matter with the Indonesian Government. The Administration was requested to incorporate in the proposed job description ("JD") of DGJ the duties in relation to enhancing cooperation between the Government of HKSAR and the Government of Indonesia in respect of issues relating to Indonesian FDHs in Hong Kong, and that the updated JD for DGJ should be included in its paper on the proposal for the establishment of the Jakarta ETO to be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee for further consideration.

Admin

Action

39. PSCIT responded that the ETO in Jakarta would be responsible for deepening and widening the scope of bilateral ties between Hong Kong and Indonesia, which would include FDH issues if they were brought up. The Jakarta ETO would serve as a bridge between the HKSAR Government and the Government of Indonesia to facilitate discussion on relevant issues. PSCIT undertook to discuss Ms LAU's views with the concerned Government bureaux/departments and explore how to incorporate duties about Indonesian FDHs in the paper for the Establishment Subcommittee.

Summing up

40. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported in principle the Administration's proposal for the establishment of a new ETO in Jakarta and the related reorganization of the ETO in Washington DC, as well as the arrangements set out in paragraphs 22(a) to (c) above in relation to the proposal.

VI. Any other business

(LC Paper No. CB(1)642/15-16(07) -- Invitation from S Rajaratnam School of International Studies ("RSIS") inviting nominations of two Legislative Council Members to join RSIS-World Trade Organization Parliamentary Workshop on International Trade 2016 to be held in Singapore from 17 to 19 May 2016 (Restricted to Members only))
(*English version only*)

41. The Panel noted the invitation from the Centre for Multilateralism Studies of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies ("RSIS") to the LegCo for the nomination of two Members to join the RSIS and World Trade Organization Parliamentary Workshop on International Trade 2016 ("the Workshop") to be held in Singapore from 17 to 19 May 2016. As the contents of the Workshop programme fell within the terms of reference of the Panel, members agreed to accept the invitation to nominate two Members to participate in the Workshop and to open the invitation to all other LegCo Members. It was also agreed that if more than two Members had indicated interest in joining the Workshop, a ballot would be conducted by the Panel Chairman for determining the two nominations to join the workshop. Otherwise, Members would be informed of the nominations by circulation.

Action

42. Members noted that the nominations required the endorsement of the House Committee ("HC") and the expenses incurred by Members nominated to attend the Workshop would be charged to individual Members' overseas duty visit accounts. Participating Members were required to provide a report to HC after their return to Hong Kong. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to issue a circular inviting expression of interest from Panel members and all other Members.

(Post-meeting note: A circular was issued to Panel members and copied to all other Members on 18 March 2016 inviting them to indicate their interest in the Workshop. As no Member had indicated interest in joining the Workshop, the organizer was subsequently informed that Members of LegCo would not participate in the Workshop.)

43. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:08 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 May 2016