

**Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development**  
**Motion passed under Agenda Item I on**  
**“Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on**  
**the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address”**  
**at the Meeting on 30 October 2017**  
**Government’s Response**

**Purpose**

At the Panel meeting held on 30 October 2017, a motion moved by Hon Holden Chow was passed under Agenda Item I on “Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address” (see Annex). This paper sets out the Government’s response.

2. The “144-hour Facilitation Visa” measure has been implemented in Guangdong Province since November 2000. It offers simplified immigration procedures to foreign visitors arriving at Hong Kong and travelling to Guangdong Province in tour groups for no more than 144 hours (i.e. 6 days), facilitates the collaborated development of “multi-destination” travel itineraries between travel trades in Hong Kong and the Mainland, as well as attracts foreign travelers to visit Guangdong Province by transiting through Hong Kong.

3. Hong Kong is an international transport hub with well-established sea, land and air connections. The upcoming commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link will result in considerable reductions in the travel time between Hong Kong and various Mainland cities, thereby encouraging inter-city travelling. The development of the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area” also presents enormous development opportunities for Hong Kong. We will maintain close liaison and collaboration with Mainland authorities (including tourism authorities in Guangdong Province), including exploring the optimisation of arrangements under the “144-hour Facilitation Visa” measure, so as to attract more foreign visitors to travel to Hong Kong and Guangdong Province on a “multi-destination” basis, consolidate Hong Kong’s position as an “International City cum Tourism Hub” and further promote tourism development within the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area”.

**Tourism Commission**  
**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**  
**November 2017**

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This Panel urges the SAR Government to actively discuss with the Mainland authorities on and strive for the relaxation of the “144-hour facilitation visa” arrangement currently imposed on overseas visitors who travel to Guangdong province via Hong Kong. The relaxation of this 144-hour requirement would attract more international visitors to Hong Kong for experiencing multi-destination travel.