

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 29 March 2019

**Proposal of the Panel on Commerce and Industry
to nominate a Member to attend
the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and
the World Trade Organization
Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2019**

Purpose

This paper seeks the approval of the House Committee ("HC") for the recommendation by the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") to nominate Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT to attend the Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2019 ("the Workshop") organized by the Centre for Multilateralism Studies ("CMS") of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies ("RSIS") and the World Trade Organization ("WTO"). The Workshop is co-sponsored by the Temasek Foundation International and the WTO secretariat and will be held from 11 to 13 June 2019 in Singapore.

The organizers and co-sponsors

2 RSIS was established in 2007 as an autonomous school within the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Its mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. CMS is one of the five centres of RSIS and is dedicated to facilitating policy dialogue and academic debate on regional cooperation and integration through the conduct of scholarly and policy research, teaching/training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region.

3 Established in 1995, WTO is an international organization dealing with the rules of trade among states and separate customs territories. WTO provides a forum for negotiating agreements which aim at reducing obstacles to international trade and ensuring a level playing field for all. It also provides a legal and institutional framework for the implementation and

monitoring of trade agreements, as well as for settling disputes arising from their interpretation and application. As of March 2019, WTO has 164 members. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995.

4 Temasek Foundation International is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organization that funds and supports programmes which aim to build capabilities in communities in Asia and beyond. These programmes enable human and social capital development, contributing to a more vibrant and connected global community.

The Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2019

5 The Workshop has been an annual event held in Singapore since 2009 for members of parliaments across Asia. The aim of the Workshop is to increase the capacity of regional legislators to engage in international trade issues. The programme includes topics on fostering a deeper understanding of WTO, and current and future negotiating issues in international trade. Participants will include up to 40 members of parliaments from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asia and the Pacific Islands. This is the eighth year that the Legislative Council ("LegCo") has been invited to make nomination for attending the Workshop. The invitation letter and the tentative agenda of the Workshop provided by RSIS are in **Appendix I** (English version only).

Recommendation of the Panel on Commerce and Industry

6 As the theme of the Workshop falls within the terms of reference of the Panel, President of LegCo has referred the invitation to the Panel for consideration on whether to accept the invitation. At the Panel meeting on 19 February 2019, members agreed to accept the invitation and extend the invitation to all other Members for participation, with priority given to Panel members.

7 A circular enclosing the Workshop's details was issued to all Members on 20 February 2019 for their indication of interest to the Workshop. Members were also informed that participating Members would be requested to submit a report to HC after returning to Hong Kong. Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT is the only Member having indicated interest in joining the Workshop. Members were subsequently informed that the Panel would nominate Dr QUAT to attend the Workshop.

Funding arrangements

8 As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit ("ODV") account of HK\$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 over the standard or the available balance in the ODV account has to be borne by the Members concerned.

9 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 Workshop is about HK\$13,000 (for economy class air passage). Registration fees for the Workshop are not required. A breakdown of the estimated expenditure is in **Appendix II**. The actual expenditure will vary subject to the airfare and hotel room rates at the time of confirmation of booking.

Advice sought

10 Under rule 29A(d) of the House Rules, approval of HC is required for any visit conducted under the name of LegCo or its committees outside Hong Kong in response to an invitation and the funding of which is to be charged to individual Members' ODV accounts.

11 HC's approval is sought for Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT to attend the Workshop in Singapore from 11 to 13 June 2019 and the expenditure of which to be charged to her ODV account.

22 January 2019

Honourable Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
President
Legislative Council of the Hong Kong SAR of the People's Republic of China
Room 101, Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Honourable

RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop on International Trade 2019

I would like to extend an invitation to you to nominate two colleagues in your Parliament to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS), S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in a 3-day workshop for regional parliamentarians on international trade. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Temasek Foundation International and the WTO secretariat. The workshop will take place in Singapore from 11-13 June 2019. Participants will include up to 40 MPs from ASEAN, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The programme is intended to increase the capacity of regional legislators to engage in international trade issues. This includes a deeper understanding of the WTO and current and future negotiating issues in international trade.

Each of these components is important, as parliamentarians have an important role to play in facilitating trade. Legislators must consider and ratify international agreements as well as ensure domestic implementation of all agreements reached at the international level. They also serve as a bridge between domestic audiences like business or consumer interests, and intergovernmental trade organizations like the WTO. Since the workshop includes individuals from around the region, it also provides participants with new opportunities for networking.

This is the tenth year that we have been able to offer this workshop for regional members of parliament in Asia. Our inaugural event was held in June 2009. We have also attached the list of past participants for your reference as well.

We are still setting up the agenda for the 2019 programme, but the attached draft document gives you a sense of what we intend to cover. We will send you a revised agenda soon, when our speakers and time slots are confirmed. All activities will take place in Singapore.

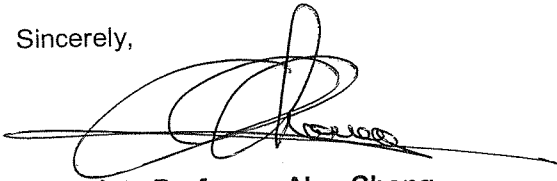
I do hope that you or your colleagues can attend. I have enclosed two nomination forms for your use. Perhaps the best candidates for these nominations can be found in the Trade Committees of your Parliament. We do hope that you will rotate this opportunity among your staff. Please note that all sessions will be conducted in English and no translation will be provided.

We will be in touch with you again shortly with this year's agenda and further details on the hotel and logistical arrangements for Singapore.

The cost of participating in the workshop will be covered by Temasek Foundation International and the World Trade Organisation. However, participants from your country will be required to bear their own airfare, airport transfer and accommodation.

I do hope we will be seeing you or your colleagues here soon.

Sincerely,



Associate Professor Alan Chong
Head, Centre for Multilateralism Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Encl

1. Agenda
2. Nomination Form
3. Past Participants List

Temasek Foundation International Series on Trade & Negotiations:
RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop 2019
Agenda (as of 17 Jan 2019)

11 – 13 June 2019
Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore

Tuesday, 11 June 2019	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Speakers: Ambassador Roberto Carvalho de Azevêdo, Director-General, WTO (TBC) Mr Benedict Cheong, CEO Temasek Foundation International (TBC) Mr Keith Rockwell, Head of Information and External Relations, WTO A representative, RSIS (TBC)</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker, Singapore Parliament (TBC)</p>
09:30 – 09:45	Photo-taking session
09:45 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:30	<p>SESSION I: State of Play at the WTO</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</p> <p>Speakers: Mr Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO Ms Eunice Huang, Adjunct Fellow RSIS, Singapore (TBC)</p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p>SESSION II: How does the WTO function and make decisions?</p> <p>Speaker: Mr Said El Hachimi, Counsellor, External Relations, WTO</p>
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch

Tuesday, 11 June 2019	
13:45 – 15:15	<p>SESSION III: Evolution of International Trade and current Trade Tension</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Julie Bishop, former Foreign Affairs Minister, Australia (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers: Mr Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO Dr Henry Gao, Associate Professor, School of Law, Singapore Management University (TBC)</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:30	<p>SESSION IV: Reforming the WTO: What does it mean? Would it happen?</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, WTO</p> <p>Speakers: Mr Evan Rogerson, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RSIS Dr Michael Ewing-Chow, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (TBC) H.E. Lynn McDonald, High Commissioner of Canada (TBC) H.E. Barbara Plinkert, Ambassador and Head of Delegation, European Union A Singaporean government person (TBC)</p>
17:00 – 20:00	<p>Tour of Asian Civilisation Museum (ACM) followed by Dinner (TBC) <i>Participants to gather at 1st floor lobby at 1700</i></p>

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

09:00 – 10:15	SESSION V: Fisheries subsidies: Would the WTO deliver a deal by 2019? Moderator: Mr Said El Hachimi , Counsellor, External Relations, WTO Speaker: Mr Audun Lem , Deputy Director, Fisheries Division, FAO Rome (TBC) Mr Rémi Parmentier , Varda Group (TBC)
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:45	SESSION VI: Digital Economy and Trade Moderator: A representative , RSIS (TBC) Speakers: Mr Said El Hachimi , Counsellor, External Relations, WTO Mr Joseph Jacob , Regional Customs Manager, Hewlett Packard Inc Singapore (TBC) Dr Locknie Hsu , Professor of Law, Singapore Management University (TBC) A representative , MATERIALISE (TBC)
11:45 – 13:00	SESSION VII: Trade Connectivity and Sustainable Development Moderator: Mr Said El Hachimi , Counsellor, External Relations, WTO Speakers: Mr Gerard McLinden , Lead Customs and Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank (TBC) Dr Tomoo Kikuchi , Research Fellow RSIS Dr Kaewkamol Karen Pitakdumrongkit , Deputy Head, Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
15:00 – 17:30	Study Mission Visit – PSA Port of Singapore Tour (TBC) Participants to gather at 1st floor lobby at 1500

Thursday, 13 June 2018	
09:00 – 10:00	<p>SESSION VIII: Trade issues for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)</p> <p>Moderator: A representative, RSIS (TBC)</p> <p>Speakers: Ms Elizabeth Chelliah, Deputy Director, International Trade Cluster, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (TBC) Mr Marcus Bartley Johns, Senior Private Sector Specialist, World Bank (TBC) A young entrepreneur (TBC) Ms. Joanne Guo, Assistant Executive Director for Strategy and Development, Singapore Business Federation (TBC)</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:30	<p>SESSION IX: Regional Trade Agreements Vs Multilateralism Debate</p> <p>Moderator: A representative, RSIS (TBC)</p> <p>Ms Elizabeth Chelliah, Deputy Director, International Trade Cluster, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (TBC) Tan Sri Datuk Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat (TBC) Dr. Lee Chia-yi, Assistant Professor, RSIS</p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p>SESSION X: MANAGING DISPUTES OVER TRADE</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Said El Hachimi, Counsellor, External Relations, WTO</p> <p>Speakers: Ms Margaret Liang, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RSIS (TBC) Dr Lee Su-Hyun, Assistant Professor, RSIS</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Tour of Singapore's Parliament Building (TBC)</p> <p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Participants to gather at 1st floor lobby at 1345</p>

Please note

That all sessions will be conducted in English and no translation will be provided.
The agenda and speakers are subject to changes.

-END-

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Preliminary estimate of expenditure

Duration of workshop: 11 to 13 June 2019

Workshop venue: Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses (per person) HK\$
1. Return air passage on Economy Class Hong Kong/Singapore	2,390 (Note 1)
2. Hotel accommodation Singapore (3 nights) (10 to 13 June 2019) ^(Note 2) (60% of the subsistence allowance ^(Note 3)) i.e. SGD 331.8/night x 3 nights	5,793 (Note 5)
3. Meals, in-town travelling and sundries (a) Singapore (10 to 12 June 2019) ^(Note 2) (40% of the subsistence allowance ^(Note 3)) i.e. SGD 221.2/night x 3 nights	3,862 (Note 5)
(b) Singapore (13 June 2019) ^(Note 4) (25% of the subsistence allowance ^(Note 3)) i.e. SGD 138.25	805 (Note 5)
4. Travel insurance (10 to 13 June 2019)	141
TOTAL (Items 1 to 4):	12,991 (say: 13,000)

NOTE:

1. Airfare quotation obtained in March 2019. Price inclusive of tax and surcharges.
2. The Workshop starts at 9:00 am on 11 June 2019 and ends at 4:00 pm on 13 June 2019.
3. Subsistence allowance for Singapore: SGD 553 a day (up to 31 March 2019).
Exchange rate as at March 2019: SGD 1= HK\$5.82.
4. For the departure day, reimbursement of actual expenses can be claimed for breakfast, lunch, in-town travelling and sundries, which is budgeted at 25% of the subsistence allowance.
5. Figures are rounded to the last digit before the decimal point.