

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 28 June 2019

**Proposed duty visit to Finland
by the Panel on Education**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee for the Panel on Education ("the Panel") to conduct a duty visit to Finland.

Background

2. In the light of the widespread public concern about students' academic pressure, Panel members have long been calling on the Administration to take concrete measures including a review of the education system to alleviate students' academic pressure. Noting from many experts that Finland has one of the best education systems in the world, some members suggested that a duty visit to Finland should be conducted to gain an insight into its renowned education system. A majority of members agreed to the suggestion. Apart from the overall education system, members are also interested in areas such as pre-school and kindergarten education, primary education, vocational education, integrated and special needs education, STEM education, innovative pedagogies, teacher education and parent education, etc.

Objectives of the proposed duty visit

3. The principal objectives of the proposed duty visit are:
- (a) to obtain first-hand understanding on the education system in Finland;
 - (b) to study how the Finnish approach to education facilitates happy learning and multiple articulation pathways for students; and

- (c) to exchange views with the Finnish Government and relevant parties involved in the formulation and implementation of education policies.

Tentative visit programme

4. The proposed visit will take place from 8 to 14 September 2019. The tentative visit programme is in **Appendix I**. The detailed programme is being drawn up with the assistance of the Consulate-General of Finland in Hong Kong and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland.

Participants of the visit

5. Panel members and non-Panel members have been invited to indicate whether they would join the visit. As at the deadline of 10 June 2019, a total of 10 Members have indicated interest in participating in the visit. A list of the participants is in **Appendix II**.

Funding arrangements

6. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit ("ODV") 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 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.

7. 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 \$29,100 (for economy class air passage) and \$54,000 (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.

Advice sought

8. 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.

9. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to conduct the overseas duty visit as proposed in the foregoing paragraphs.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 June 2019

Panel on Education

Proposed overseas duty visit to Finland

Proposed timing 8 September (Sunday) to 14 September (Saturday) 2019

Tentative programme
(As at 25 June 2019)

Date	Time	Destination	Programme
8 September 2019 (Sun)	AM	On flight	→ Depart for Helsinki
	PM		→ Arrival at Helsinki
9 September 2019 (Mon)	AM	Helsinki	- The Finnish National Agency for Education - School visit
	PM		- Oodi Library
10 September 2019 (Tue)	AM	Helsinki	- Me and My City - Vocational School
	PM		- Ministry of Education and Culture
11 September 2019 (Wed)	AM	Helsinki/	- Meeting with Education and Culture Committee
	PM	Oulu	- Parliament of Finland → Depart for Oulu
12 September 2019 (Thu)	Whole day	Oulu	- Meeting with Oulu City representatives - School visit - Daycare centre
13 September 2019 (Fri)	AM	Oulu	- University of Oulu - Oulu University Teacher Training School
	PM	On flight	→ Depart for Helsinki in the evening
14 September 2019 (Sat)	PM		→ Depart for Hong Kong at night
			→ Arrival at Hong Kong

Panel on Education

Proposed overseas duty visit to Finland

List of participants

Panel members

Hon IP Kin-yuen (Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Non-Panel members

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Panel on Education

Proposed overseas duty visit to Finland

Tentative estimate of expenditure

Proposed timing : 8 to 14 September 2019 (including flight time)

Routing of visit : Hong Kong / Helsinki / Oulu / Helsinki / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses (per person) HK\$	
	<u>Economy Class</u>	<u>Business Class</u>
1. Return air passage Hong Kong / Helsinki / Oulu / Helsinki / Hong Kong	12,220 ^(Note 1)	35,630 ^(Note 1)
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>12,220</i>	<i>35,630</i>
2. Hotel accommodation (60% of the subsistence allowance ^(Note 2)) Helsinki (3 nights) Oulu (2 nights)	6,030 3,550	
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>9,580</i>	
3. Meals and sundries (35% of the subsistence allowance ^(Notes 2 and 3))	<i>5,590</i>	
4. Travel insurance	<i>300</i>	
5. Contingency (5% of items 1 to 4)	<i>1,390</i>	<i>2,560</i>
Total (Items 1 to 5) ^(Note 4):	<i>29,080</i>	<i>53,660</i>

NOTE:

1. Airfare quotation obtained in end May 2019. Price inclusive of tax and surcharges.
2. Subsistence allowance for the cities:

Helsinki – EUR 376
Oulu – EUR 332
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. The actual expenditure is subject to the final visit programme, and the airfare and hotel room rates at the time of confirmation. The exchange rate as at June 2019 is Euro 1 = HK\$8.90.