

Public Workshop and Collection of Public Views on the Initial Findings of the Consultancy Study on the Development of Spa and Resort Facilities

The Tourism Commission will conduct a public workshop on April 7, 2005 on the initial findings of the Consultancy Study on the Development of Spa and Resort Facilities. The Consultant will take into account the discussion at the workshop and other views collected in finalising the consultancy study.

An Information Note on the consultancy study has been uploaded to the website of the Tourism Commission (www.tourism.gov.hk) and public views are welcome on the initial findings by May 7, 2005.

A spokesman for the Tourism Commission said today (March 11), “There is a well developed market for spa and resort facilities in Asia. In recognition of the potential of this niche market, and the need to broaden the range of tourism products in Hong Kong, we have commissioned a Consultancy Study on the Development of Spa and Resort Facilities in July 2004 to study the market demand, the positioning of Hong Kong as well as to make recommendations on the provision of such facilities of international standard in Hong Kong.”

The initial findings of the consultancy study have ascertained the potential for resort developments in Hong Kong. Such development may take the direction of Chinese medicine spa, medical/clinical based spa and eco-tourism spa that leverage on Hong Kong’s advantages and unique situation. There are potential sites in Hong Kong suitable for spa and resort development.

“The Government is open-minded as to the way forward and will take into account the final recommendations of the Consultant and the views collected. However, in developing such facilities, there would be a need to ensure sustainable development and take due account of environmental concerns,” the spokesman stressed.

The public workshop is going to be conducted by an independent moderator. The Consultant for the consultancy study, Urbis Limited, will brief the participants on the initial findings of the study, and then followed by group discussion.

The spokesman indicated that relevant stakeholders including academics, professional bodies, green groups and community leaders have been invited to the workshop. Interested parties are also welcome to register for the workshop by March 22, 2005 (subject to availability of seats), or send their views on the subject to the Tourism Commission by May 7, 2005 via any of the following channels:

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