

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development Hong Kong Tourism Board Work Plan for 2008-09

This note sets out the background for the work plan for 2008-09 put forward by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) at the Annex.

2. HKTB is a statutory body established in 2001 under the Hong Kong Tourism Board Ordinance (Cap. 302) to replace the former Hong Kong Tourism Association. As provided under the Ordinance, HKTB's objects are -

- (a) to endeavour to increase the contribution of tourism to Hong Kong;
- (b) to promote Hong Kong globally as a leading international city in Asia and a world class tourist destination;
- (c) to promote the improvement of facilities for visitors;
- (d) to support the Government in promoting to the community the importance of tourism;
- (e) to support as appropriate, the activities of persons providing services for visitors to Hong Kong; and
- (f) to make recommendations to and advise the Chief Executive in relation to any measures which may be taken to further any of the foregoing matters.

3. HKTB's activities are primarily funded by the Government. In 2007-08, the total Government subvention to HKTB amounts to \$541.8 million, comprising recurrent subvention of \$467.75 million, \$70.55 million additional funds carried forward from 2005-06 and 2006-07 and \$3.5 million for HKTB's website revamp project. As at the end of March 2008, HKTB projects to have accumulated a reserve of about \$185 million.

4. In drawing up the work plan, HKTB conducted a series of consultation sessions with various tourism-related sectors, including hotel and tour operators, travel agents, retailers, food and beverage caterers and the academia in the past months. The work plan at the Annex has incorporated the views gathered from these stakeholder groups.

5. The work plan set out at the Annex is being examined and has yet to be approved by the Government. Under the Ordinance, HKTB is required to submit a programme of its proposed activities and estimates on its income and expenditure for the next financial year to the Secretary for

Commerce and Economic Development before a date appointed by him (now set at 28 February) for his approval. The subvention for HKTB will form part of the Appropriation Bill, the passage of which is subject to the Legislative Council's approval.

6. Members are invited to note the Annex.

Tourism Commission
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
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