

Workshop on Consultancy Study on Development of Spa and Resort Facilities

The Tourism Commission conducted a public workshop on the initial findings of the Consultancy Study on the Development of Spa and Resort Facilities today (April 7). Over 120 participants including members of District Councils; representatives from green groups, relevant trades (such as tourism, hotel, spa and resort operators), business sector, universities, professional bodies, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, and Government departments etc. have joined the workshop.

There was constructive discussion and exchange of views among participants during the workshop. The Consultant will take into account the discussion at the workshop and other views collected until May 7, 2005 in finalising the consultancy study.

A spokesman for the Tourism Commission said today, "The Government has commissioned a consultancy study in July 2004 to explore the market demand for spa and resort facilities, and to make recommendations on the provision of such facilities at international standard in Hong Kong. The study is still in progress and we are collecting views on the initial findings of the study. The workshop organised today is one of the means to collect views."

The spokesman said, "The Government has no pre-conceived plan on the way forward, how to develop the facilities and where they should be located. At the workshop, organisations concerned and parties interested held constructive discussions and exchanged views on issues such as complementary facilities, supporting infrastructure, design, impact on the environment, sustainability, as well as market demand and supply of the development. We will consider carefully the recommendations of the consultancy report and the views collected before deciding how to take this further. Any development will take into account environmental implications and ensure sustainability. We will consult the public again upon the availability of concrete proposals."

The spokesman added that the Tourism Commission had uploaded an Information Note on the consultancy study onto its website (www.tourism.gov.hk) and public views are welcome on the initial findings by May 7, 2005 via any of the following channels:

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Ends/Thursday, April 7, 2005