



今年的五一黃金週期間，內地旅客的人數雖然比去年有所增加，但卻遠遜預期，令會員和其他相關行業的業者大感失望。內地旅客在黃金週的增長之所以放緩，主因大抵有兩個，一是內地旅客的選擇比以前多得很，

所以未必會擠在黃金週來港旅遊；二是在黃金週期間，酒店房間的價錢比平日高出不少，因而令內地旅客不大願意在這段時間來港。

香港濕地公園、昂坪的懸空纜車等新景點相繼落成，相信會令香港的吸引力更多元化，也會令旅客人數持續上升。可是，內地旅客今後未必會集中在黃金週前來香港，這點希望會員能有切實的期望，也希望酒店業在訂定價錢時，能充份考慮到內地旅客不住改變的旅遊習慣。

議會曾經收到外遊旅客的投訴，說旅行團的服務費比團費更高，這種收費安排並不合理。議會經詳細研究後，也認為這些投訴有一定道理，於是發出指引，規定由六月一日起，倘若服務費高於團費的話，會員必須在廣告中列明服務費的金額(見第一百四十八號指引)。

早前有外遊旅客在返港時，由於在目的地購買的東西在香港屬於違禁品，因此被警方檢控(見通告 C977)。希望會員記得提醒旅客，千萬別把違禁品攜帶入境。

議會已訂於七月十九日舉行特別會員大會，以審議多項對會章的重要修訂。這次提出修訂的目的，是希望鼓勵會員參與議會的事務，以及進一步提高業界的水平(見「主題故事」)。希望會員屆時出席大會，並投票支持有關修訂。TIC

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The small year-on-year increase in mainland visitors' arrivals recorded during this year's Labour Day "golden week" holiday period fell far short of expectations and thus greatly disappointed members and people of other relevant trades. That may be due to two reasons: (1) mainland visitors now have much more choices than before, and as such they may have chosen not to come to Hong Kong during the golden week to avoid the rush; (2) room rates during the golden week were much higher than ones in ordinary days, thus making mainland visitors have second thoughts about travelling to Hong Kong during the weeklong holiday.

With such new attractions as the Hong Kong Wetland Park and the cable car system at Ngong Ping opening one by one, Hong Kong's attractiveness will certainly become more diversified, which is expected to push arrival numbers further up. However, members are reminded to recognise that mainland visitor arrivals may spread to days beyond the golden weeks in future, and hoteliers are also reminded to take account of the changing travelling habits of mainland visitors when setting room rates.

There were outbound travellers who complained that it was unreasonable for service charges to be higher than tour fares. After careful consideration of the matter, the TIC found the complaints not without reason and therefore issued a directive to require members to specify the amount of service charges in their advertisements if it is higher than that of tour fares with effect from 1 June (see Directive No. 148).

An outbound traveller was recently prosecuted by the police for bringing into Hong Kong a prohibited item bought in the destination (see Circular C977). Members are therefore urged to remind travellers not to bring any prohibited items into Hong Kong.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is scheduled for 19 July to scrutinise the many important amendments to be made to the M&A, which are aimed at encouraging greater participation in Council affairs on the part of members and further raising the standards of the industry (see "Cover Story"). It is hoped that members will show up at the meeting and cast their votes for the proposed amendments. TIC

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