

## 監管內地團需要更多資源


### More resources needed to regulate mainland tours



**今**年一至四月的外遊印花費，本來和去年同期相比大約有百分之二的溫和增長，但因為保安局在五月對泰國和越南發出紅色外遊警示，結果今年頭五個月的印花費反而變成輕微下挫。不過，由六月中開始，有些會員認為兩國局勢已轉趨平靜，於是決定復辦泰國和越南旅行團。我希望提醒會員，復辦旅行團的話，在行程安排上必須事事以旅客的安全為先；至於有意前往兩國的旅客，則應該小心衡量風險，瞭解旅遊保險的保障範圍。

理事會在六月的會議上，通過了出外旅遊委員會的建議，把有關旅行團小冊子的多項規例整合成一個指引，即第二百一十七號指引(見「議會簡報」)。這次修訂的重點之一，是再次簡化小冊子的登記程序，由登記團費的上下限變成只須登記下限，使會員訂價時更為靈活。此外，對於小冊子所包含的資料，這次也加強了披露的規定，使旅客更清楚知道旅行團的詳情。

除了上述指引，理事會還通過了第二百一十八號指引，首次增加內地入境團的團隊確認書登記費，即每個四十人的團隊由港幣二十元增至三十元(見「議會簡報」)。由二零零七年八月起，議會開始規定所有團隊確認書都必須登記。在這七年間，不僅通脹持續上升，而且旅行團的登記數目激增，令議會監管內地入境團的成本大幅上升，因此這次增加登記費非常合理。


由於近來外地的傳染病個案有增加趨勢，食物及衛生局長高永文醫生特別約見議會代表，藉以提醒旅行社和旅客，安排外遊行程和出外旅遊時必須採取適當的預防措施。詳情請瀏覽衛生防護中心的網站([www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk))。 

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**W**hat was a moderate year-on-year increase of 2% in the outbound levy between January and April this year, thanks to the red outbound travel alerts issued by the Security Bureau for both Thailand and Vietnam in May, became a slight dip for the first five months of this year. The situation in both countries, as some members saw it, has turned for the better since mid-June, and they therefore decided to resume Thailand and Vietnam tours. **I wish to remind those members who have begun to organise such tours that the safety of travellers must always come first as far as itinerary arrangements are concerned. As for those who plan to travel to Thailand and Vietnam, they should carefully assess the risks involved and fully understand the cover of their travel insurance policies.**

At its meeting in June, the Board approved the Outbound Committee's suggestion of consolidating various rules governing package tour brochures into one directive, namely Directive No. 217 (see "Council Bulletin"). One of the major amendments was to further simplify the registration procedures so that instead of registering the lower and upper limits of tour fares, members need only to register the lower limits, thus allowing greater flexibility in setting tour fares. Besides, the disclosure requirements for information contained in brochures were made stricter, thus enabling the travellers to know the details of their tours clearly.

Apart from the above directive, the Board also decided to issue Directive No. 218, thereby increasing for the first time the registration fee for tour confirmation agreements of inbound tours from the mainland from HK\$20 for each 40-people tour group to HK\$30 (see "Council Bulletin"). **Members were first required to register all such tours in August 2007. During these seven years, not only has inflation steadily risen, the number of registered mainland tours has also drastically surged, with the result that the cost of regulating these tour groups has substantially increased. The fee rise, therefore, is most reasonable.**

In view of a recent increase in the number of infectious diseases overseas, Secretary for Food and Health Dr Ko Wing Man specially arranged a meeting with representatives from the TIC in order to remind travel agents and travellers to take suitable preventive measures for outbound itineraries and outbound trips. For details, please visit the website of the Centre for Health Protection at [www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk). 

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