

# 接連為會員開展不同項目 Project after project for members



**政**府最近向「旅行社資訊科技發展配對基金先導計劃」撥款港幣三千萬元，使兩年前推出的計劃在惠及一百多家中小型旅行社後，得以繼續發揮作用。新一輪撥款的條款與先前基本相同，但申請如與電子印花或網上保安有關，則可獲多批准一個項目(詳情見通告C1736)。

電子印花徵費系統已於六月一日全面推行，想瞭解電子印花的種種好處，可參考通告C1728。關於印花事宜，議會從政府得悉，《旅行代理商條例》其實並沒有禁止會員向顧客收回印花徵費的成本。理事會為此將於七月十三日發出指引，規範收回有關成本的做法；詳情將於七月十二日的簡介會上披露(見通告C1739)。

除了上述港幣三千萬元撥款外，政府還另外撥款給議會，以建立「一帶一路」和「大灣區」網上旅遊資源平台，以及組辦三個大規模的「大灣區」城市訪問團；首個訪問團已定於七月二十六日出發，為期三天。此外，議會已向中小企業發展支援基金申請了資助，快將推行新項目，藉以協助中小型外遊旅行社提升服務創新及價值創造的能力。

大概兩三年之後，旅遊業監管局就會接過議會的監管職能，議會因而必須應付自成立以來最嚴峻的考驗：無須負責行業的自律監管後，如何在轉型為商會後繼續日益壯大？這次轉型有不少難題，例如日後的職能、收入來源、與會員及各方的關係等等。為求全面諮詢會員及其他相關各方，並且務使最終的方案切實可行，議會已決定委聘專業顧問公司，可望明年有初步結果。☞

陳張樂怡

**W**ith a recent injection of government funding to the tune of HK\$30 million, the Pilot Information Technology Development Matching Fund Scheme for Travel Agents, which was rolled out two years ago and which has already benefited over 100 SME travel agents, is enabled to bring benefits to more such agents. Two projects will be eligible for approval if either one is about e-levy or cybersecurity in this new round of funding, whose requirements are basically the same as the last one (see Circular C1736 for details).

The e-levy system was fully launched on 1 June, with its many advantages given in Circular C1728. Regarding levy matters, the TIC has learnt from the Government that the Travel Agents Ordinance does not prohibit travel agents from recovering the cost of levy payments from customers. A directive governing how members may recover it will be issued on 13 July, and its details will be revealed at the briefing scheduled for 12 July (see Circular C1739).

Apart from the HK\$30 million funding, the Government has allocated extra funding to the TIC for the establishment of a web-based tourism resource platform covering countries and places along the Belt and Road and cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, and for the organisation of three large-scale delegations to Bay Area cities, the first one to depart on 26 July and return on 28 July. The TIC has successfully applied for subsidy from the SME Development Fund to implement a new project aimed at assisting SME outbound agents in enhancing service innovation and value creation.

Two or three years later, the Travel Industry Authority will take over the regulatory functions from the TIC, which then will have to tackle its greatest challenge since establishment: how to continue to develop and prosper in its changed roles as a trade association with no self-regulatory functions to perform? There are quite a number of difficulties awaiting the TIC, including its future functions, source of income, relations with members and other related parties, etc. To ensure that members and other stakeholders will be thoroughly consulted and the final plan practicable and feasible, the TIC has decided to commission a professional consultancy firm for the task. It is hoped that preliminary results will be available next year. ☞

Alice Chan