

PROPOSED RESEARCH OUTLINE

The Economic and Social Impacts of Hosting Selected International Games

1. Background

1.1 The Panel on Home Affairs (Panel), at its meeting on 12 December 2003, requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research study on the possible impacts for Hong Kong to host the 2009 East Asian (EA) Games based on the experience of the previous EA Games.

2. Proposed international games to be studied

2.1 RLSD originally intended to study the EA Games held in 1997 and 2001¹. For comparison, the Asian Games held in 1998 and 2002 were also considered for the study². Apart from thorough in-house and Internet research, enquiries have been made to the relevant organizing committees and government departments in the host countries for providing the required information. However, only scanty information from official sources has so far been successfully collected on the impacts of hosting the EA Games and the Asian Games. As such, the research will study the 2002 Asian Games and make use of information available from newspapers, magazines and other secondary sources where appropriate. In addition, the 2000 Olympic Games³ and the 2002 Commonwealth Games⁴ will be included in the study for a better understanding of the impacts of hosting international sports events.

2.2 The study of the 2000 Olympic Games should help reflect the extent of the economic and social impacts that hosting an international sports event could have on a host country, although the scale of a mega sports event such as the Olympic Games is larger than that of the EA Games. The 2002 Commonwealth Games are chosen because they are similar to the EA Games in that both are regional sports events, albeit of different scale.

¹ The 1997 EA Games were held in Busan of South Korea where nine countries/regions participated in 15 sports. The 2001 EA Games were staged in Osaka of Japan where 12 countries/regions competed in 17 sports.

² The 1998 Asian Games were hosted in Bangkok of Thailand where 42 countries/regions participated in 38 sports. The 2002 Asian Games were hosted in Busan of South Korea where 44 countries/regions competed in 38 sports.

³ The 2000 Olympic Games were hosted in Sydney of Australia where 199 countries/regions participated in 28 sports.

⁴ The 2002 Commonwealth Games were hosted in Manchester of the United Kingdom where 72 countries competed in 17 sports.

3. Proposed research outline

3.1 RLSD proposes the following outline for the research:

Part 1 — Introduction

This part provides the background information of the research.

Part 2 — Profiles of international games studied

This part presents the background information on the international games studied.

Part 3 — Economic impacts of hosting international games

This part discusses the financing of the international games, as well as the economic and business benefits brought to the host countries, such as infrastructure investment and inflow of tourists.

Part 4 — Social impacts of hosting international games

This part studies the social impacts of hosting international games, including enhanced image of the host country resulting from worldwide publicity during and after the games.

Part 5 — Analysis

This part compares the economic and social impacts of the selected international games, to which Hong Kong may refer when assessing the impacts of hosting the 2009 EA Games.

4. Proposed completion date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research project in May 2004.

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