(Translation)

Motion on "Giving full play to the edges of local tourism resources" moved by Hon YIU Si-wing at the Council meeting of 22 March 2017

That benefiting from the expansion of the Individual Visit Scheme by the Mainland, the number of visitor arrivals to Hong Kong had been increasing continuously over the 10 years from 2004 to 2014, driving the development of Hong Kong industries such as retail, hotel, food and beverages and transport; however, the number of visitor arrivals to Hong Kong has been decreasing since 2015, which not only affects the revenues of some sectors of the tourism industry, but also produces ripple effect, causing adverse impact on many related industries, and further affecting the economic development and employment situation of Hong Kong; currently, while a number of tourist attractions which have been operated for years in Hong Kong are becoming less attractive, new tourist attractions with high development costs, such as Kai Tak Fantasy, the West Kowloon Cultural District and the expansion of the Hong Kong Disneyland, are all under planning and construction and some time is needed for their commissioning; the Government should make optimal use of local tourism resources, and integrate the features of traditional and new tourist attractions, so as to highlight the competitive edges of the tourism industry of Hong Kong, thereby attracting tourists with different consumption levels to come to Hong Kong for leisure travel and investors for investment, thus bringing a comprehensive recovery of the tourism industry; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to give full play to the edges of local tourism resources and promote a diversified culture with Hong Kong characteristics to boost the tourism industry; specific measures include:

- (1) comprehensively collating resources with tourism values, including country parks, geoparks, museums, cycle tracks, historic buildings, intangible cultural heritage items and various events; and, based on the collation results, studying the establishment of an inter-departmental body to enhance the tourism-related facilities in various districts;
- (2) after consulting District Councils and various local stakeholders, providing support in the light of the actual situation of tourism resources in local districts, so as to drive local economic development and increase employment opportunities; and
- (3) allocating additional funding to formulate tourism promotion programmes with characteristics of Hong Kong local community, encouraging the relevant industries to join hands in developing new tourism products, and stepping up training for tourism industry practitioners, so as to promote the development of the tourism industry.