

Government extends two incentive schemes for travel industry

The Government announced today (March 4) that the application deadlines of the Travel Agents Incentive Scheme (TAIS) and the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme (GLIS) would be extended for one year to March 31, 2022. The funding commitment for the TAIS would also be increased by \$50 million to about \$150 million so as to further enhance the support for the travel industry.

A Government spokesman said that, with the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 epidemic for more than a year, cross-border/boundary and local tourism activities have nearly come to a complete halt. The two incentive schemes were unable to fully perform their role on providing support to the trade. Extension of the application deadlines of the two schemes and the increase in the funding commitment for the TAIS will benefit the trade more, enabling the trade to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the gradual resumption of tourism activities in future, thereby providing stimulus for the revival of the travel industry.

The TAIS provides travel agents with cash incentives of \$100 or \$120 for each outbound or inbound overnight traveller they serve, with the number of eligible travellers for each travel agent capped at 1 000. The GLIS provides travel agents with cash incentives based on the number of green lifestyle local tour participants they serve, with \$200 for each participant and the number of participants that each travel agent can claim capped at 1 000. Details of the two schemes are available at the website of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (www.tichk.org/public/website/en/index.html).