

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 137/00-01

Ref : CB2/PL/EA

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

**Minutes of Meeting
held on Tuesday, 10 October 2000 at 2:15 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members Present : Prof Hon NG Ching-fai (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok
Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Members Absent : Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Clerk in Attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

Staff in Attendance : Mrs Justina LAM
Assistant Secretary General 2

Miss Betty MA
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)1

Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)2

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2000 - 2001 session

Election of Chairman

Ms Cyd HO, Member of the highest precedence among those who had joined the Panel, presided over the election of Chairman of the Panel. Ms HO called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel, in accordance with the election procedures set out in rule 20 and Appendix IV of the House Rules.

2. Prof NG Ching-fai was nominated by Miss CHOY So-yuk and the nomination was seconded by Mr Martin LEE. Prof NG Ching-fai accepted the nomination. There being no other nomination, Ms Cyd HO declared Prof NG Ching-fai elected as Chairman of the Panel. Prof NG then took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

3. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel.

4. Ms Cyd HO was nominated by Mr LAW Chi-kwong and the nomination was seconded by Mrs Miriam LAU. Ms Cyd HO accepted the nomination. There being no other nomination, the Chairman declared Ms Cyd HO elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2000-2001 session

5. Members agreed to hold regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm. With the agreement of the Chairman, the Clerk would issue the schedule of meetings for the 2000-2001 session.

(Post-meeting note : The meeting schedule was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 31/00-01.)

Action

6. Members noted that a briefing on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2000 by the Secretary for the Environment and Food would be held on 17 October 2000 at 11:30 am.

III. Discussion items for the next meeting

(The " List of issues to be considered " and the "List of follow-up actions")

7. Members noted the "List of issues to be considered" and the "List of follow-up actions" tabled at the meeting and the Administration's proposed timing for discussion of some of the items.

Special meeting on 25 October 2000

8. Members suggested that a special meeting should be held on Wednesday, 25 October 2000 to discuss the following issues -

- (a) The proposed Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line railway and its environmental impacts; and
- (b) The Administration's proposal to increase the approved project estimate of "Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) Stage I: completion of sewer tunnel system from Kwai Chung to Stonecutters Island".

9. On item (a), Mrs Miriam LAU, Chairman of the Panel on Transport, informed the meeting that members of the Panel on Transport were also concerned about the issue as implementation of the Spur Line project might be affected by its environmental assessment. Mrs LAU proposed that a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport be held to discuss the item. Members agreed.

10. On item (b), the Chairman informed the meeting that the Administration proposed to seek the Finance Committee's approval for increasing the approved project estimate of "SSDS Stage I: completion of sewer tunnel system from Kwai Chung to Stonecutters Island". The Administration would like to seek members' views before submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee in November.

11. Miss CHOY So-yuk took the view that the findings of the investigation of the Tseung Kwan O site settlement would have a bearing on members' consideration of the future direction of the SSDS. She considered that the Administration should provide information on the investigation findings to facilitate Members' deliberations of the SSDS projects. Miss Emily LAU suggested that as the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (PLW) had been following up the Tseung Kwan O site settlement, members of the PLW Panel could be invited to join the discussion.

Action

12. The Chairman was informed by the Clerk that the international review panel on SSDS was expected to finalize their recommendations at the end of November. The Chairman expressed doubt as to whether the funding proposal for SSDS Stage I should be discussed on 25 October 2000 before the Panel had the opportunity of discussing the report of the international review panel. Miss Emily LAU shared the view, pointing out that the international review panel might make comments on the feasibility of the SSDS Stage I. She therefore suggested the Chairman to raise this with the Administration before finalizing the agenda for the special meeting. The Chairman agreed.

(Post-meeting note : It was announced on 16 October 2000 that the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) had decided not to approve the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the proposed alignment of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and not to issue an Environmental Permit for the project. As the Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation had indicated that it would appeal against DEP's decision under the statutory EIA process and since the statutory appeal process would take some time to complete, the Chairmen of the Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Transport decided on 17 October 2000 that the joint-Panel meeting scheduled for 25 October 2000 be cancelled.

With the concurrence of the Chairman, the Administration's proposal to increase the approved project estimate of "SSDS Stage I: completion of sewer tunnel system from Kwai Chung to Stonecutters Island" would be discussed at the special meetings of the Panel on 25 October and 1 November 2000.)

Regular meeting scheduled for 7 November 2000

13. Miss Emily LAU suggested the Panel to conduct a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport to follow up the progress on the implementation of measures to control vehicle emissions, for example, the effectiveness in encouraging taxi owners to switch to the use of liquified petroleum gas.

14. The Chairman suggested that the Administration might also be invited to brief Members on the measures to control noise pollution, in particular, the traffic noise on roads.

15. Miss CHOY So-yuk proposed discussion of the disposal of highly contaminated dredged mud by Container Terminal 9 contractor to Mainland waters. She also requested information from the Administration regarding recent press reports on the proposed artificial islands in Hong Kong waters near Cheung Chau for the disposal of contaminated mud.

Action

(*Post-meeting note:* Following discussion with the Administration and the Chairman of the Panel on Transport, the meeting arrangements were revised as follows -

- (a) The regular meeting on 7 November 2000 was advanced to start at 2:15 pm to discuss the disposal of highly contaminated dredged mud by Container Terminal 9 contractor to Mainland waters; and
- (b) A joint meeting with the Panel on Transport would be held at 3:30 pm in the same afternoon to discuss the progress of measures to control vehicle emissions.)

Suggestions of items for discussion at future meetings

16. Mr Wong Yung-kan proposed to discuss the monitoring of consultancy studies commissioned to undertake environmental assessments for reclamation projects in Hong Kong. He said that there were noticeable discrepancies between the findings of the consultancy study commissioned by the Government and the findings of the study undertaken by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in monitoring water quality for the reclamation project in Penny Bay.

17. Mrs Miriam LAU expressed concern about the "greenhouse" effect and suggested discussion of the measures to reduce the level of carbon dioxide in Hong Kong.

18. Mr LAU Ping-cheung considered that there should be a central authority for developing a long-term landscaping policy for Hong Kong. He suggested to conduct a joint meeting with the PLW Panel to discuss the subject.

19. At the suggestion of Ms Cyd HO, the Chairman advised that members could forward their suggestions on discussion items to him for further consideration.

20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:45 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

25 October 2000