

立法會
Legislative Council

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seen by the Administration)

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 13th meeting
held in the Chamber of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 3 April 2002, at 10:45 am**

Members present :

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam
Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yea, JP
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon IP Kwok-him, JP
Hon LAU Ping-cheung
Hon MA Fung-kwok

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Members absent:

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Public officers attending:

Miss Elizabeth TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Treasury (3)
Mr S S LEE, JP	Secretary for Works
Mr John C TSANG, JP	Secretary for Planning and Lands
Mr Rob LAW, JP	Director of Environmental Protection
Miss Janice TSE	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Treasury (Works)
Ms Alice LAU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Economic Services (D)
Dr LAU Ching-kwong, JP	Director of Civil Engineering
Mr Anthony LOO	Chief Engineer/Technical Services Civil Engineering Department
Mrs Erika HUI	Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (2)
Mr YUE Chi-hang	Director of Architectural Services
Mr LAI Ching-wai	Assistant Director (Conservation) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mrs Elizabeth CHENG	Assistant Director (Architectural) Architectural Services Department
Ms Eva TO	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)
Mr S K WONG	Project Director (3) Architectural Services Department
Mr Johnny WOO	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 2 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Pamela CHAN	Principal Executive Officer (Planning) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr John LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower (9)
Mr S L MA	Principal Education Officer (Infrastructure) Education Department
Dr FUNG Hong	Director (Professional Services and Planning) Hospital Authority
Miss Joanna CHOI	Principal Assistant Secretary

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Mr Clement LEUNG	(Health & Welfare) Medical 2 Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower (1)
Mr Jeff LEUNG	Deputy Secretary-General (1) University Grants Committee
Mr CHAN Chiu-ming	Chief Technical Advisor/Subvented Projects Architectural Services Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT	Chief Assistant Secretary (1)6
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Anthony WONG	Senior Assistant Secretary (1)8
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Specification of proprietary materials in tender documents

Referring to a recent press report about the specification of proprietary materials in Government's tender documents, Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip sought clarification on Government's policy and practices in this regard. He was concerned that by specifying brand names or company names in the tender documents, the relevant suppliers of the proprietary materials might be given an unfair advantage over other suppliers and thus the fairness of the tendering process might be compromised.

2. The Secretary for Works (S for W) affirmed that there was clear Government policy on the specification of proprietary materials in Government's tender documents. Under the policy, proprietary materials should not be specified unless there was a very particular reason. For example, the materials required were highly sophisticated and thus specifying the brand names of such materials could help to convey a clearer idea of the precise requirements. In these exceptional cases where proprietary materials were specified in the tender documents, the specification should be followed by the phrase "or an approved equivalent" to make it clear that any materials providing the same performance would be accepted. S for W said that the policy and relevant guidelines had been clearly communicated to departments concerned.

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3. The Chairman said that he had come across cases where the accompanying phrase "or an approved equivalent" was present when the proprietary material concerned was first mentioned in a tender document, but the phrase was absent when the same proprietary material was mentioned again in other parts of the tender document. He urged the Administration to rectify this practice to avoid causing unnecessary misunderstanding.

4. Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip queried whether the guidelines had been effectively communicated to the departments concerned. He recalled that in the Science Park project two years ago, many brand names were mentioned in the relevant tender documents but there were no accompanying statements to the effect that other materials with equivalent performance would be accepted.

5. Mr CHAN Kam-lam and Mr IP Kwok-him commented that mentioning brand names in Government's tender documents might compromise the fairness of the tendering process. The mentioning of brand names should be avoided as far as possible, and if such was necessary, it must be made absolutely clear in the tender documents that other materials providing the same performance would be accepted. They urged the Administration to remind all departments of the Government's policy and the proper practices in this regard.

6. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that he had received complaints against the mentioning of brand names in Government's tender documents, especially in regard to specialised professional products.

7. Mr LAU Ping-cheung opined that specifications in tender documents should be performance-based, and a product's characteristics that were immaterial to its performance should not be included as specifications.

8. S for W expressed concurrence with members' views and took note of their concern that the aforesaid policy and the relevant proper practices might not have been adequately impressed upon relevant staff of the Administration. He undertook to remind departments concerned of the policy and the proper practices.

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HEAD 705 – CIVIL ENGINEERING

**PWSC(2002-03)2 38TF Reconstruction of public piers at Kat O
Chau, Peng Chau, Cheung Chau and Wu
Kai Sha**

9. Members noted that this proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Economic Services Panel on 20 March 2002.

10. Regarding the comment on the stereotyped design of most of the existing public piers, the Director of Civil Engineering (DCE) assured members that the four new piers to be constructed under the present proposal would not have the similar appearance. Landscaping would be provided at the piers to create a more pleasant environment.

11. In response to Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip's enquiry on the cost implication of providing an open café at the rooftop of the public piers, DCE advised that the provision of sitting out area at the rooftop of the Cheung Chau Pier had been explored. Taking into account the cost of providing access facilities including those for the disabled, the additional project cost was estimated to be \$8 million. In view of the significant cost implication, the Cheung Chau Area Committee had decided to drop the idea. As to whether the idea of constructing an open café at the Cheung Chau Pier could be pursued, DCE said that it was unlikely that the current project estimate could accommodate the additional cost required. Besides, adding an open café at the Cheung Chau Pier would require a new design for the pier and might delay the whole project. Mr Albert CHAN urged the Administration to actively consider the provision of open cafés in future pier construction/reconstruction projects.

12. In view of the popularity of the existing embankments of the four piers in question, Mr LAU Kong-wah suggested that seating facilities be provided along the embankments under this project. DCE agreed to consider Mr LAU's suggestion in consultation with the local residents, taking into account the availability of sufficient space at the embankments for such provision.

13. Mr WONG Yung-kan enquired why the District Council was consulted on the proposed reconstruction of the Wu Kai Sha pier, while the respective Rural Committee were consulted for the reconstruction of the other three piers. DCE advised that as in the case of other public works projects, the bodies to be consulted for the purpose of public consultation were arranged based on the advice of the relevant District Offices.

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14. Mr WONG said that the reconstruction of the public pier at Sai Kung in 1999 had caused serious death of fish during the works period. As the Kat O Chau pier was in the proximity of two marine culture zones, he was concerned that fish and other marine lives might be destroyed during the pier reconstruction works. He asked if the Administration had examined the possible impact of the pier reconstruction works on the marine environment. He also sought assurance from the Administration that implementation of environmental mitigation measures would be strictly monitored during the works period.

15. DCE replied that while this project was not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, the Administration had undertaken a Preliminary Environmental Review for the project, and the review report had been approved by the Director of Environmental Protection. The marine culture zones near Kat O Chau had been taken into consideration when planning this project. This project would not require any seabed dredging, and the piling works to be carried out would have minimal impact on the marine environment. To ensure that the Administration's proposed environmental mitigation measures would be properly implemented, the contractor would be required to hire an independent company to monitor and record the condition of the nearby seawaters during the works period. If adverse effects were detected, the works would be put on hold and necessary actions would be taken to rectify the situation. He assured members that with proper implementation of the recommended environmental mitigation measures including the installation of a silt curtain around the project site and water spraying during demolition of existing piers, there should not be any major adverse impact on the environment.

16. Mr MA Fung-Kwok and Mr Henry WU noted that of the four piers to be reconstructed, three required the construction of temporary berthing and mooring facilities. These temporary facilities would then have to be demolished when construction of the permanent new piers had been completed. They queried why it would be necessary to build the temporary facilities, and was concerned that the construction and demolition of the temporary facilities would result in wastage. Mr Henry WU recalled that during the discussion at the Economic Services Panel, the Administration had advised that for the Wu Kai Sha pier the seabed of the site for the temporary pier was not deep enough to provide a firm foundation for a permanent new pier. He asked if it would be more cost-effective to construct the permanent new pier at the site of the temporary pier but extend the pier further out to where the seabed was deep enough for building a permanent pier.

17. DCE explained that the objective of reconstructing the piers was to improve safety and the standard of mooring and berthing facilities. Provision of the temporary piers could avoid causing inconvenience and danger to the public boarding and disembarking from ferries during the construction of the proposed new

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piers. DCE further explained that the main reason for building the permanent new piers at the sites of the existing piers where possible was to avoid having to build new roads and public access facilities, which would add costs and complications to the project. In the case of the Cheung Chau pier, in order to minimize disturbance of the construction works to the public, the Administration had consciously planned to build the temporary pier at a location some distance away from the existing pier, where the permanent new pier would be constructed.

18. As regards the Wu Kai Sha pier, the Chief Engineer/Technical Services, Civil Engineering Department (CE/TS, CED) advised that the required depth of the seabed was different for a temporary pier and a permanent pier, as the foundation for the latter was subject to more stringent requirements. It was technically feasible to use the site of the temporary pier to build the permanent new pier by extending the berthing and mooring facilities further out to the sea, but this arrangement would result in higher costs.

19. Mr LAU Kong-wah considered that the temporary mooring and berthing facilities would be necessary during the construction of the new piers. In reply to his enquiry, DCE confirmed that in terms of safety standard and capacity, the berthing facilities of the temporary piers would be adequate.

Admin.

20. At Mr Henry WU's request, the Administration agreed to provide separate cost estimates for constructing the four proposed replacement piers and for providing temporary berthing and mooring facilities during construction of the new piers.

21. In reply to Mr Henry WU's enquiry, CE/TS, CED advised that the variation in the construction costs for the four replacement piers was mainly attributed to their different sizes and number of berthing spaces. There would be four berthing spaces at the Cheung Chau replacement pier, three at the Peng Chau replacement pier, two at the Kat O Chau replacement pier and one at the Wu Kai Sha pier.

22. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that when the Sha Tau Kok replacement pier was being reconstructed, boulders from the demolition of the old pier were dumped into the sea, and this had aroused much concern from the local residents. He sought assurance from the Administration that the construction and demolition (C&D) materials generated from this project would be properly disposed of. DCE assured members that the Administration would exercise stringent control over the generation and management of C&D materials during the works period. He informed members that some demolished pier elements, accounting for 19% of the C&D materials generated under the project, would be reused as artificial reefs.

23. In reply to Mr Abraham SHEK's enquiry about the construction schedule, DCE advised that the reconstruction of the four piers would be implemented under

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two works contracts. The works were scheduled to commence in May 2002 for completion in July 2004.

24. Mr Abraham SHEK noted that \$220,000 would be charged by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) for the services associated with the lighting of the roof covers of the piers. He asked why the works would be awarded to EMSTF without competitive bidding.

25. The Deputy Secretary for the Treasury (DS/Tsy) explained that under the phased "untying programme" for the EMSTF, client departments would, over four phases in three years, be given the freedom to choose to continue using all or part of the services provided by the Trading Fund or to select a service provider through tendering. As the untying of the Civil Engineering Department (CED) to the services of EMSTF would take effect in August 2002, the department would still use the services of EMSTF for this project.

26. The item was voted on and endorsed.

HEAD 703 – BUILDINGS

PWSC(2002-03)1 313RO International Wetland Park and visitor centre in Tin Shui Wai – phase 2 works

27. Members noted that the present proposal had been discussed by the Economic Services Panel at its meeting on 25 February 2002.

28. Mr Albert CHAN said that while he supported the proposed project, he noted from the site plan at Enclosure 2 of the discussion paper that two sites adjacent to the ecological mitigation area (EMA) were currently designated as comprehensive development areas (CDAs). He also noted that the various facilities of the proposed International Wetland Park (IWP), including parking spaces, exhibition galleries, visitor centre, café etc. would be built within the EMA. He expressed concern that the future developments within the CDAs would not be compatible with the EMA, which was constructed to serve the ecological mitigation function. He also suggested that the facilities of the IWP should be built outside the EMA since the presence of these concrete structures might undermine the EMA's ecological mitigation function. Mr Henry WU shared Mr Albert CHAN's concerns.

29. The Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (AC/T) supplemented that while the objective of the EMA was to act as a buffer between the densely populated Tin Shui Wai New Town and the internationally renowned Ramar Site, it was hoped that through the IWP project, the EMA would also serve to meet the demand for visits to

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Hong Kong's wetlands, serving tourism as well as educational and conservation purposes. She stressed that the design of the project had taken into account the need to minimize the ecological impact of the developments on the EMA, and the facilities of the IWP would only take up some 10 000 square metres (m²).

Admin.

30. With regard to Mr Albert CHAN's concern about the two CDAs, the Administration agreed to provide information on the details of the future developments at the two CDAs, and the measures to ensure that the future developments would be compatible with the the ecological mitigation function of the EMA.

31. Mr Henry WU expressed support for the IWP project. He noted that there would be three bird hides in the EMA with a total visitor capacity of 240 persons. Crowd control might be difficult for such a large number of visitors. He was also concerned about the effect of increased human presence on the EMA. In response to Mr WU's enquiry, the Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department advised that the three bird hides would have a gross floor area of 20 m², 80 m² and 120 m² respectively. He assured members that the management of the IWP would control the number of visitors accessing the bird hides to ensure the safety of visitors and contain the adverse effect of human presence to the environment of the EMA. AC/T supplemented that those visiting the bird hides would be guided by IWP's sight-seeing tours. IWP management would closely monitor the situation to ensure that the outdoor park areas would not become overcrowded.

32. Mr Henry WU noted that the visitor centre of the IWP was located at some distance away from the two nearest light rail transit stations. He asked if any measure could be taken to facilitate access to the visitor centre from the light rail transit stations. Director of Architectural Services Department advised that the Administration would be prepared to consider the construction of covered walkways to facilitate access from the stations to the visitor centre, if there was such a need. However, it was anticipated the majority of the visitors to the IWP would come by coaches, and as such, the positioning of the visitor centre and the parking spaces of the IWP was appropriate.

33. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2002-03)3 368RO Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground

34. Members noted that the present proposal had been discussed at the meetings of the Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the

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former municipal councils at its meetings on 1 March 2001, 3 May 2001, 15 November 2001 and 7 March 2002.

35. Mr Fred LI noted that according to the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, an additional 57 hectares of open space should be provided in the Kwun Tong District, which currently had a population of around 570 000. The Kowloon Bay Recreation Ground (KBRG) under the present proposal together with three other capital works projects under construction/planning would provide a total of 16.1 hectares of additional open space in the district. As there would still be a shortfall of 40.9 hectares of open space for the district according to the Guidelines, he enquired whether there were further plans to provide additional open space in the district. The Administration agreed to provide relevant information in response to Mr LI's enquiry after the meeting.

36. Mr MA Fung-kwok said that he had put forward the idea of flexible use of school facilities and public sports and recreational facilities for community and cultural activities a number of times to this Subcommittee as well as on some other occasions. He was disappointed that the Administration had so far not made any substantive response to his suggestion. He considered that the current arrangement where sports facilities located in schools, at public playgrounds and other public institutions were planned and managed by different authorities, without proper co-ordination among these authorities, was highly undesirable and had resulted in inefficient use of resources. He noted that in the vicinity of the KBRG, three school projects were under construction, and enquired if the proposed playground facilities and the future school facilities would be flexibly used for community and cultural activities.

37. The Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs advised that the Administration was undertaking a review on Government's policy on sports promotion. One of the objectives of the review was to formulate a co-ordinated approach for the utilization of sports facilities managed by LCSD, schools, and other public institutions. The review was at the final stage and the Administration had recently reported the progress of the review to the Home Affairs Panel. She suggested that Mr MA's concerns could be taken up at the Panel when the findings of the review were discussed.

38. The Chairman concurred with Mr MA that there was a need to critically review the provision and utilization of sports facilities from a holistic perspective. In view of the policy issues involved, he suggested that the matter should be pursued at the relevant Panel.

39. As to whether the facilities to be provided at the KBRG could also cater for cultural activities, Assistant Director (Leisure Services)² of Leisure and Cultural

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Services Department (AD(LS)2) confirmed that the 11-a-side grass pitch with spectator stands could be used for cultural activities, and in fact this use had been taken into account in the design of the grass pitch. Principal Executive Officer (Planning) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (PEO(P), LCSD) also advised that schools would have priority in booking the facilities of the KBRG for their uses during school hours.

40. In reply to members' enquiries, AD(LS)2 and PEO(P) confirmed that the cycling ground at KBRG could accommodate a maximum of 70 to 100 bicycles at any one time. Members of the public could bring their own bicycles to the cycling ground. LCSD staff stationing at the KBRG would control the number of people using the cycling ground. The cycling ground, which was designed for recreational rather than for competition or training purposes, would not have space to cater for the training of athlete cyclists. A cycling ground tailored for the purposes of competition and training would require a special design and would not be suitable for recreational use by the general public.

41. In reply to Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry, AD(LS)2 advised that if it was found that skate-boarding was popular in the district, LCSD would consider designating the cycling ground for skate-boarding for some sessions within a day or certain days within a week. For safety reasons, it would not be appropriate to allow both cycling and skate-boarding to be performed concurrently at the cycling ground.

42. Noting that only \$6 million (accounting for about 5.4% of the total project estimate) had been earmarked for soft landscaping works under this project, Mr Henry WU enquired about the feasibility of providing more soft landscaping at the proposed KBRG to enhance the greening effect of the project. AD(LS)2 assured members that the design of KBRG had already maximized the opportunities for provision of soft landscaping works. He added that the 11-a-side natural grass soccer-cum-rugby pitch to be provided at KBRG would help enhance the greening effect.

43. Addressing Mr Henry WU's concern about the adequacy of the provision of tennis courts in Kwun Tong District, AD(LS)2 advised that there was a total of 21 tennis courts in the district and the average usage rates ranged from 25% to 41% in 2000-01. As regards the change made to the original project scope by providing spectator standards at the 11-a-side soccer-cum-ruby pitch in lieu of two tennis courts, AD(LS)2 advised that in making the change, the Administration had taken into account the provision and usage rates of tennis courts in the district and the strong demand for an additional soccer pitch on Kowloon side with spectator accommodation. The Administration had obtained the endorsement of Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) for this change in project scope.

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44. In reply to Mr Henry WU's further enquiries, AD(LS)2 advised that the peak-hour usage rate for the four tennis courts of the Jordan Valley Playground, which were the most popular tennis courts in Kwun Tong, was about 70%. Hence, it was considered that the current provision of public tennis courts in the district was adequate to meet the demand. There was currently no plan to re-instate the provision of tennis courts at the KBRG on an elevated deck over other facilities.

45. In reply to Mr IP Kwok-him's enquiry, AD(LS)2 confirmed that while the proposed 11-a-side natural grass soccer pitch could also be used for other sports, it would be a standard soccer pitch suitable for holding soccer competitions.

46. Mr Albert CHAN said that there was already a natural grass soccer pitch provided at the Kowloon Bay Sport Ground, which was adjacent to the KBRG. He pointed out that while most soccer players would prefer natural grass pitches to artificial turf pitches, for maintenance reasons, natural grass pitches could only be used for a limited number of days within a year while artificial turf pitches could be used on all days. In anticipation of a very high demand from nearby schools and the public for the two soccer pitches at KBSG, he suggested that a 11-a-side artificial turf soccer pitch should be provided in lieu of the proposed 11-a-side natural grass soccer pitch, so that the availability of the soccer pitch could be substantially increased to cater for the high demand.

47. AD(LS)2 advised that the 11-a-side grass pitch had been planned having regard to the following factors -

- (a) the very high demand for natural grass soccer pitches in the Kwun Tong District as indicated by the 100% utilisation rate of the existing two grass pitches in the district;
- (b) since there would be a seven-a-side artificial turf mini-soccer pitch provided at KBRG, providing a 11-a-side natural grass pitch could achieve a balanced provision of natural/artificial turf soccer pitches at KBRG; and
- (c) the 11-a-side grass pitch at KBRG would serve as a major venue for soccer competitions at territory or district levels.

48. Mr Albert CHAN did not subscribe to the explanation. He said that as there was already one natural grass soccer pitch available at the Kowloon Bay Sport Ground, there was no strong justification to provide an additional natural grass soccer pitch at KBRG. He considered that given the restrictive usage of natural grass pitches, providing a natural grass pitch at the KBRG was a lavish arrangement failing to satisfy the high demand for soccer pitches of the residents in the district.

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He also pointed out that artificial turf soccer pitches were also good for training and competition purposes.

49. PEO(P), LCSD advised that on average, a natural grass soccer pitch could be used for slightly over 40 weeks each year. AD(LS)2 said that the main consideration was to maintain a suitable balance between the provision of natural grass pitches and artificial turf pitches in the community. In fact, there were plans to convert some existing natural grass pitches in other parts of the territory to artificial turf pitches to achieve this balance. In this case, the Administration had consulted the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA), which had expressed their preference for a natural grass pitch for training and competition purposes. Having also regard to the aforesaid factors, the Administration's considered that the proposed provision of a seven-a-side artificial turf mini-soccer pitch and a 11-a-side natural grass soccer pitch at KBRG could strike an appropriate balance.

50. Mr Albert CHAN commented that the Administration should not rely on the views of HKFA in deciding which type of soccer pitches should be provided in public playgrounds as the facility was provided for use by the general public rather than for the exclusive use of the association. AD(LS)2 clarified that apart from HKFA, the Administration had also consulted the education sector and the Kwun Tong District Council on the composition of the facilities to be provided at the KBRG.

51. Mr CHAN Kam-lam said that the Kwun Tong District Council supported the provision of a natural grass soccer pitch as currently proposed on account of the very high demand among local residents for this kind of soccer pitches. He did not consider that natural soccer pitches were a lavish facility. He considered it appropriate for the Administration to consult HKFA and other relevant organizations in the sports community on the proposed sports facilities.

52. In response to members' requests, the Administration agreed to provide the following information-

- (a) the number of days and hours that a natural grass soccer pitch was available for use in a year;
- (b) the probability of making a successful booking of public natural grass soccer pitches by the general public;
- (c) utilization situation in respect of artificial turf soccer pitches; and
- (d) how the provision of the proposed natural grass soccer pitch could improve the availability of this type of facility to the general public.

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53. The item was voted on and endorsed.

HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

PWSC(2002-03)4 30EC Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme

54. Mr MA Fung-kwok enquired about the basis of the price adjustment factors for deriving the money-of-the-day estimates and the timing of the last review of the price adjustment factors. In reply, DS/Tsy advised that the Administration updated the Government's forecast of price changes for construction works and accordingly adjust the price adjustment factors on a half-yearly basis. The latest price adjustment factors had been adopted in April 2002, and a relevant information note, PWSCI(2001-02)54, had been provided for the Subcommittee.

55. In reply to Mr Albert CHAN's enquiry about the size of the works contracts to be awarded under this project, D Arch S advised that in line with the practice for the school improvement works carried out under phases 1 to 4 of the School Improvement Programme, majority of the works contracts for the final phase of the programme would each cover three to seven schools and the value of each contract would range from \$100 million to \$150 million.

56. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2002-03)5 47MM Remodelling of Tang Shiu Kin Hospital into an Ambulatory Care Centre

57. Members noted that this proposal had been discussed at the meeting of the Health Service Panel on 11 March 2002.

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58. The item was voted on and endorsed.

PWSC(2002-03)6 37EF Extension facilities for the clinical departments of the Faculty of Medicine at Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

59. Mr LAU Kong-wah recapulated that when this project was previously considered by the Subcommittee at the meeting on 28 November 2001, he had expressed concern about the lack of consultation with Sha Tin District Council on the project and the apparently mismatching of resources within the Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH). He noted that the Administration had consulted Sha Tin District Council on the project in March 2002, but his concern about the necessity of constructing a new clinical building within the already congested central hospital area had not yet been fully addressed. He pointed out that the vacant quarters had not been fully utilized and enquired whether there was any redevelopment plan in respect of the vacant quarters.

60. In response, the Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower explained that it would not be cost-effective to convert the vacant quarters in PWH to non-residential uses. These vacant quarters were currently used either as an ancillary accommodation to support hospital operations or were let out for welfare purposes and residential use. According to the Health and Welfare Bureau, a detailed redevelopment proposal in respect of the vacant quarters had not been drawn up. He cautioned that as the Faculty of Medicine of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was facing serious shortfall in accommodation provision, further delay of this project would be highly undesirable.

61. Mr LAU Kong-wah said that according to his understanding, the Hospital Authority had submitted a proposal to redevelop certain sites within PWH from non-clinical uses to clinical uses. He sought clarification from the Finance Bureau. Admin. DS/Tsy undertook to provide relevant information after the meeting.

62. The item was voted on and endorsed.

63. The meeting ended at 12:30 pm.