

Ref: CB2/PL/FE

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1260/02-03 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 28 January 2003 at 10:45 am in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present	Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Chairman) Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP (Deputy Chairman) Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP Hon WONG Yung-kan Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP Dr Hon LO Wing-lok	
Member attending	Hon LEE Cheuk-yan	
Members absent	Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP Hon James TO Kun-sun Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung Hon WONG Sing-chi	
Public Officers Attending	Items II to IV Mr Eddy CHAN Deputy Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene) Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Miss Vivian KO Principal Assistant Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygien Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Mr Gary YEUNG Principal Assistant Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1 Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	ie) 1

Mr C W LAI Assistant Director (Inspection and Quarantine) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Jimmy WOO Chief Estate Surveyor (Acquisition) Lands Department

Mr K S LEE Chief Housing Manager Housing Department

<u>Item V</u>

Mr Eddy CHAN Deputy Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene) Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Mr Edward LAW Principal Assistant Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene) 2 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Dr Y Y HO Consultant (Community Medicine) (Risk Assessment and Communication) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

<u>Item VI</u>

Mr Eddy CHAN Deputy Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene) Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Mr Edward LAW Principal Assistant Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene) 2 Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Ms Rhonda LO Acting Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)

Mr Kevin CHOI Head (Clean Hong Kong Office) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Clerk in	:	Mrs Constance LI
Attendance		Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5

Staff in	:	Ms Joanne MAK
Attendance		Senior Assistant Secretary (2)2

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I. Confirmation of minutes of meetings

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)767/02-03, CB(2)940/02-03 and CB(2)994/02-03]

The minutes of the regular meetings held on 20 November 2002 and 19 December 2002 and the special meeting on 28 December 2002 were confirmed.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1004/02-03(01) and (02)]

2. <u>Members</u> agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for 25 February 2003 at 10:45 am -

- (a) Enforcement of new licensing requirements and conditions for the sale of chilled meat imposed on fresh provision shops and market stalls; and
- (b) 2003 Anti-mosquito campaign.

3. In response to the Chairman, <u>Deputy Secretary (Food and Environmental Hygiene)</u> (DS(FEH)) said that the Administration planned to submit a revised proposal on the regulatory control of "private kitchens" in April/May 2003. <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u> said that the Panel should listen to the trade's views before discussing the Administration's revised proposal. He suggested that representatives of the catering industry and operators of "private kitchens" be invited to the next regular meeting. <u>Members agreed</u>.

4. <u>Members</u> noted that the Administration has proposed to discuss the labelling of genetically modified (GM) food at the regular meeting in March, instead of February 2003 as originally scheduled. Moreover, nutrition labelling and labelling of food additives would also be discussed at the regular meeting in March.

5. <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> expressed concern about the progress of the review on the regulatory control of the use of drugs and chemicals for feeding of fish under item 13 in the list of outstanding items for discussion. In response to Mr WONG, <u>DS(FEH)</u> said that later he would inform the Clerk of the proposed date for discussion of control of drugs and chemicals for food animals and fish.

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III. Information paper(s) issued since last meeting

[LC Paper No. CB(2)938/02-03(01)]

6. Members noted that the Administration had provided an information paper on the policy initiatives for food safety, environmental hygiene and agriculture and fisheries in the next 18 months.

IV. Ex-gratia allowance to pig and poultry farmers affected by land resumption and clearance

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(03)]

7. DS(FEH) said that the Administration proposed to extend the eligibility criteria of the ex-gratia allowance (EGA) to pig and poultry farmers who were legitimately operating on private agricultural land and were affected by land resumption and clearance exercises. DS(FEH) briefed members on the proposal and the background to the proposed change in eligibility criteria, as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 7 in the Administration's paper.

In response to the Chairman, <u>DS(FEH)</u> said that the new eligibility criteria did 8. not apply to pig and poultry farmers illegally operating on Government land and whose structures were not covered in the Housing Department (HD)'s 1982 squatter control survey. The new eligibility criteria also did not apply to pig and poultry farmers operating on Government land under Government land licences or short term tenancies but not covered in HD's 1982 squatter control survey.

Mr LEE Cheuk-van said that he welcomed the Administration's current 9. proposal. He informed Members that the pigeon farmers affected by the Deep Bay Link had lodged a complaint to the Complaints Division of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat, and LegCo Members handling the case had requested the Administration to consider extending the eligibility criteria of the EGA for pig and poultry farmers to the pigeons farmers in question. Mr LEE pointed out that as the operation of these pigeon farms was under valid licences, the Administration should grant the pigeon farmers the EGA to compensate their loss caused by land resumption. He believed that the current proposal would reduce conflicts which might arise from land resumption and clearance for the Deep Bay Link project.

10. In response to Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, DS(FEH) said that the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau would work closely with relevant bureaux/departments in the land resumption and clearance in connection with the Deep Bay Link project. Principal Assistant Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1 (PAS(P&L)1) explained that the Lands Department (LD) and HD were the main departments responsible for the land resumption and clearance and they would explain to the clearees concerned about the compensation and clearance matters. He added that other departments, such as the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), would also be involved to deal with crop compensation matters.

11. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> requested the Administration to explain how a farmer would be compensated if the area of his farm to be resumed was only a small part of the farm (e.g. the feeding ground) but was crucial to the farm's operation. He said that in the circumstances, the business loss of the farm concerned might be one hundred percent although the land resumed was only a fraction of the farm's total area.

12. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> said that in the course of setting the alignment for an infrastructural development project, there were mechanisms in place for people to raise objections to the alignment. He explained that after the relevant policy bureau had set the alignment, it had to be published in the Gazette and members of the public could raise objections to the Administration regarding the alignment. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> said that the Administration would carefully examine the objections received and see whether any changes to the alignment could be made to accommodate the objections. He said that the objections received and the grounds for objections had to be submitted to the Executive Council (ExCo), which made the decisions on the alignment and the land resumption limit. LD was responsible for resuming land in accordance with the road alignment and the land resumption limit as approved by ExCo.

13. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> further said that people whose legal interests in land were affected by Government's land resumption or clearance could make statutory claims for compensation under the relevant Ordinance. If they did not accept Government's offer of compensation, if any, they might lodge a statutory claim with the Government. He said that some clearees accepted Government's offer of compensation as they considered that the amount was enough to compensate for their loss.

14. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> said that in the case of the Deep Bay Link project, the clearees were only tenants who had leased the land for operating farms and they might not be eligible for statutory compensation since they had no legal interest in the land. Moreover, the process of making statutory claims was time-consuming. He asked whether the Administration would exercise discretion and take into account the actual business loss of the pigeon farmers in calculating the amount of EGA, instead of merely relying on physical measurement of the farm area resumed by the Administration.

15. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> said that in land resumption exercises, the Administration had already offered not only compensation to the land owners concerned but had also made ex-gratia payments to affected eligible tenants as a kind of assistance to them. He explained that ex-gratia payment was not a kind of statutory compensation, and was not intended to cover fully the loss suffered by the affected clearees.

16. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> asked if it was true that a person who had accepted the offer of ex-gratia compensation could no longer lodge a statutory claim with the Lands Tribunal. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> responded that a person had to prove that he had a legal interest in the land resumed or cleared, or else he was not eligible for statutory compensation and in that case, he could only accept the offer of ex-gratia compensation.

17. Mr LEUNG Fu-wah expressed concern as to whether the proposed change in eligibility criteria would attract people to pretend to be eligible clearees in future land resumption and clearance exercises and seek ex-gratia compensation. He asked whether the Administration had information of other farm land which would be affected by the proposed change in eligibility criteria. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> responded that the amount of ex-gratia compensation for pig and poultry farmers was not large enough to attract people to do so since they would have to evade Government's enforcement actions and to spend money to erect farm structures to pretend to be pig or poultry farmers. LD and HD would take land and squatter control actions against such attempts. Moreover, these departments had information on licensed farms and their structures. Assistant Director (Inspection and Quarantine) (AD(I&Q)) added that the Deep Bay Link project was the only on-going land resumption and clearance exercise involving pig and poultry farmers legitimately operating on private agricultural land and whose structures were not covered in HD's 1982 squatter control survey.

18. In response to Mr LEUNG Fu-wah's further enquiry, DS(FEH) said that the Deep Bay Link project required the clearance of 12 licensed and active pigeon farms operating on private agricultural land. <u>AD(I&Q)</u> said that the amount of EGA for these farmers was not known until HD had measured the area of the land to be resumed.

19. <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> welcomed the Administration's current proposal. He also noted that in some cases the Administration only resumed the land where a part of a farm was located but the resumption had serious impact on the farm's operation. He suggested that in such cases, the Administration should resume the land of the whole farm instead. <u>PAS(P&L)1</u> responded that the Government's policy was to resume the minimum land required for an infrastructural development project. He said that in the design of the boundary or alignment of an infrastructural development project, Government staff would first conduct on-site visits and would try to minimise the effects of land resumption on the clearees' operations as far as possible.

20. <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> urged the Administration to offer assistance to the pigeon farmers affected by the land resumption, such as by identifying other suitable sites for them to continue with their farm operation. <u>AD(I&Q)</u> said that if the farmers had identified another suitable place for operation and met the required licensing conditions, AFCD would issue the licences and provide necessary technical assistance to them.

21. <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> said that farmers had practical difficulties in identifying suitable agricultural land for farm operation themselves. He considered that the Administration should be more active in providing assistance to them in this regard. <u>DS(FEH)</u> responded that a majority of the existing pig and poultry farms were on private agricultural land, and it would be inappropriate for the Administration to intervene and find another piece of private agricultural land for them to continue operation, if the land concerned had to be resumed for development purposes. He

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added that there was limited land suitable for farm operations. He said that if the affected farmers wished to continue their operation, they should identify other suitable places having regard to their own needs.

22. <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> suggested that the Administration should explore the feasibility of allocating part of the country parks for agricultural operation. <u>The Chairman</u> also considered that the Administration should offer more active assistance to the pigeon farmers concerned. He suggested that the Administration could let them operate on Government land under short term tenancies.

23. <u>DS(FEH)</u> responded that it would not be appropriate for the Administration to intervene in a free market situation. If the affected farmers were able to identify alternative sites for their continued operations, AFCD would be pleased to provide technical assistance.

24. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> said that even though the farmers could identify other suitable places to continue their operation, they still needed financial assistance for their relocation and for re-establishing their business in the new farm. He said that the Administration should offer more EGA to the farmers so that they could make use of the compensation to cover their relocation cost. He asked whether AFCD would provide any assistance to the farmers for their reprovisioning.

25. $\underline{AD(I\&Q)}$ said that the EGA in question did not include an element of relocation cost. He explained that the formula of the EGA comprised the following two components -

- (a) the loss of profit during the period required to re-establish their business; and
- (b) half of the average replacement cost of fixtures required for production, excluding farm building element.

<u>AD(I&Q)</u> added that farmers in need of assistance could, for example, apply for loans from the loan fund of AFCD to meet relocation costs.

26. <u>The Chairman</u> asked whether the Administration would apply the proposed eligibility criteria to vegetable/flower farmers and fish pond operators who were also affected by land resumption and clearance. <u>DS(FEH)</u> responded that the current proposal was for pig and poultry farmers. He added that there were 29 types of EGAs approved over the years targetted at different recipients, and each type of EGAs had different eligibility criteria and calculation formulae.

27. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> asked whether any EGA would be granted to the vegetable farmers who would also be affected by land resumption for the Deep Bay Link project. <u>DS(FEH)</u> responded that EGA was also payable to vegetable farmers affected by land resumption and clearance under the existing ex-gratia compensation system.

28. <u>The Chairman</u> said that there might be some pig and poultry farmers legitimately operating on private agricultural land who had changed to use the land for operating pig and poultry farms only after 1982. During the 1982 survey, their structures might not be recorded as for the use of pig and poultry farm operations. He asked whether these farmers would be eligible for the EGA under the Administration's proposal.

29. <u>Chief Housing Manager</u> responded that if the changed land use had been reported to HD, the farmers would also be eligible for the EGA. If the changed land use had not been reported to HD, HD staff would, during clearance of the farm, check whether the land use was in line with that recorded in the 1982 survey. He said that if it was not significantly different from that recorded in the 1982 survey, HD would exercise some flexibility in handling the case.

30. <u>The Chairman</u> concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's proposal.

V. Anti-rodent campaign 2003

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(04)]

31. At the Chairman's invitation, <u>Consultant (Community Medicine)</u> (C(CM)) briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's paper. He said that housing estates and private residential buildings had been identified as the target areas for the Anti-rodent campaign 2003. Intensive anti-rodent operations would be carried out in these areas and other district rodent blackspots. Publicity and educational programmes would also be launched to promote public awareness of the importance of rodent prevention and control.

32. The Chairman asked how the Administration would assess the effectiveness of the anti-rodent campaigns, and whether there were statistics on the number of rodents killed during the past campaigns. $\underline{C(CM)}$ responded that before and after launching a campaign, the Administration would measure the extent of rodent infestation in the target areas and conduct surveys on the public awareness of the importance of rodent prevention and control. The Administration then compared the findings of these surveys to assess the effectiveness of a campaign. He said that for example, it was found that the awareness of the targeted population on the importance of rodent prevention had increased from some 50% before the 2002 campaign to some 90% afterwards.

33. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> stressed that the Administration should tackle the rodent infestation at the root of the problem and seek to enhance environmental hygiene at the district level. <u>Miss CHAN</u> asked how the Administration had cooperated with respective District Councils (DCs) in carrying out anti-rodent operations in areas such as markets, garbage chambers and rear lanes. <u>C(CM)</u> responded that it would require sustained efforts to eliminate rodent infestation and reduce harbourages for rodents. He said that the Administration had also enlisted the

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assistance and support from DCs in the control of rodent infestation and improving environmental hygiene in the district. For example, DCs had strengthened antirodent work in rear lanes and repaired defects in these lanes to reduce harbourages for rodents.

34. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> commented that the environmental hygiene of Hong Kong still had much room for improvement, particularly in the vicinity of markets. She also urged the Administration to improve the poor garbage management in public housing estates as soon as possible. She expressed disappointment that little progress had been made by HD in this regard. <u>DS(FEH)</u> agreed to convey Miss CHAN's views to HD through a relevant inter-departmental meeting. <u>Miss CHAN</u> further said that representatives of departments who attended DC meetings should seriously take into consideration suggestions made by DC members on how to resolve hygiene problems in their districts. She said that, for example, the design of refuse chutes in public housing estates should be improved.

> (*Post-meeting note* : <u>DS(FEH)</u> subsequently advised that he had drawn HD representative's attention to the issues raised by Miss CHAN at an interdepartmental meeting held on 13 February 2003.)

35. <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u> shared the view that there should be better cooperation among Government departments and DCs in enhancing the environmental hygiene of Hong Kong. He also commented that the Administration should step up anti-rodent management in old districts (such as Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin and Kwun Tong) where many food premises and markets were found. He said that the Administration should take more effective measures to eliminate rodents and tackle rodent blackspots including rear lanes and drainages. He suggested that the Administration should consider providing large, wheeled and covered refuse bins in the rear lanes in districts such as Kowloon City for rodent prevention. <u>C(CM)</u> agreed to consider Mr CHEUNG's suggestion.

36. Dr LO Wing-lok asked about the trend of contraction of rodent-borne diseases, including leptospirosis, hantaviral diseases and typhus fevers in Hong Kong. C(CM) said that the Department of Health (DH) had put in place a notification system keeping numbers of notified cases of these diseases. He said that the numbers of such cases had remained small in the past few years.

37. <u>Dr LO Wing-lok</u> asked what measures the Administration would take to prevent cross-border rodents from entering Hong Kong. <u>C(CM)</u> said that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), DH and Marine Department (MD) had made concerted efforts to tackle this problem. He explained that DH was responsible for port health and preventing rodents from being brought into Hong Kong via ships or aeroplanes, whereas FEHD and MD took rodent prevention and control measures in public cargo working areas.

38. <u>Dr LO Wing-lok</u> further asked whether there were representatives from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in working groups on logistics development so that health considerations would be taken into account in mapping out logistics development strategies for Hong Kong. <u>DS(FEH)</u> replied that he could provide the information later. <u>C(CM)</u> supplemented that the Port Health Office of DH had put in place surveillance and inspection systems at the seaport, airport and borders of Hong Kong. He said that the relevant Government departments would also strengthen monitoring of the anti-rodent work of the management companies of the cargo-handling areas.

(*Post-meeting note* : The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau subsequently confirmed that it was not represented in the Steering Committee on Logistics Development.)

39. The Chairman considered that the Administration should further promote the awareness of operators of food premises and market stalls of the importance of rodent prevention and control. He asked if it was possible for food premises or markets to be rodent-free. C(CM) said that the Administration would promote community awareness of rodent problems and rodent prevention measures through long-term public education. He said that rodents proliferated fast in suitable environment and hence the Administration had to make sustained efforts in anti-rodent work.

40. The Chairman asked whether the anti-rodent tools used by the Administration, such as traps and poisonous baits, were really effective. $\underline{C(CM)}$ said that the Administration had conducted regular tests for the poisonous baits used for killing rodents and they were found effective. In response to the Chairman, $\underline{C(CM)}$ agreed to provide information on the number of rodents caught by traps placed by FEHD in different districts.

(*Post-meeting note* : $\underline{C(CM)}$ subsequently confirmed that 2 371 and 45 926 rodents were trapped and poisoned respectively by FEHD staff in 2002.)

41. The Chairman further asked whether Hong Kong had serious rodent problems compared to other places in the world. C(CM) responded that FEHD carried out studies on rat flea and rodent infestation survey to monitor the situation of rodent infestation in 18 districts. He explained that the Administration assessed the degree of rodent infestation by making reference to the Rat-flea Index, the Rodent Infestation Rate and the number of rodents caught. He said that overall speaking, the situation of rodent infestation in Hong Kong was not serious.

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VI. Progress report on the Clean Hong Kong Programme

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(05)]

42. Referring to paragraph 12 of the Administration's paper, <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u> requested the Administration to provide a breakdown on the numbers of fixed penalty notices issued by the seven enforcement departments. <u>Head (Clean Hong Kong Office)</u> (H(CHKO) responded that as at mid-January 2003, the numbers of fixed penalty notices issued by various enforcement departments were as follows -

FEHD	9 863
Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	76
HD	204
AFCD	336
Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	10
MD	54
Police	40

<u>H(CHKO)</u> added that the enforcement departments were responsible for implementing the fixed penalty system in venues/sites under their jurisdictions and FEHD was responsible for implementing the system in most public areas. He said that the seven departments had held regular meetings to review their enforcement experience and to ensure consistency in the enforcement standard.

43. <u>Mr Tommy CHEUNG</u> expressed concern that except for FEHD and AFCD, the other enforcement departments had issued relatively small numbers of fixed penalty notices. He questioned whether these departments had made efforts to enforce the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance. He commented that, for example, LCSD and HD were responsible for the management of parks and public housing estates respectively, and the cleanliness of these areas was not very satisfactory. <u>Mr CHEUNG</u> also expressed concern that the Police had issued only a small number of fixed penalty notices.

44. <u>H(CHKO)</u> said that he would convey members' views to the departments concerned. He further said that FEHD would continue to maintain close liaison with the departments on the enforcement work. He added that as the Administration had explained to the Bills Committee on the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Bill, the Police would mainly provide support to the other six enforcement departments in issuing fixed penalty notices. The Police would also issue fixed penalty notices in conducting joint operations with other departments. He also explained that EPD issued fixed penalty notices mainly to offenders who committed minor cleanliness offences during its operations against flytipping.

45. <u>The Chairman</u> said that as he had pointed out during the scrutiny of the relevant Bill, it would be a problem for HD to authorise only staff of the Housing Manager, Assistant Housing Manager and Housing Officer grades to enforce the fixed penalty system. He said that given the fact that half of the population in Hong Kong lived in public housing estates, the HD staff empowered under the Bill to issue fixed penalty notices might not be sufficient to carry out effective enforcement in public housing estates. He agreed with Mr Tommy CHEUNG that LCSD and HD should have issued more fixed penalty notices since many public areas and sites were under their jurisdictions. He suggested that the departments concerned should look into whether their frontline staff had any enforcement difficulties. <u>DS(FEH)</u> said that he would convey members' views and suggestions to the departments concerned and request them to follow up.

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(*Post-meeting note* : <u>DS(FEH)</u> subsequently advised that the enforcement issues raised by Panel members had been brought to HD's and LCSD's attention at an inter-departmental meeting held on 18 February 2003. Both departments undertook to review if there was room to step up enforcement.)

46. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> said that the overall cleanliness of Hong Kong had improved recently, after much efforts made by FEHD staff in enforcing the fixed penalty system. However, she considered that the six other enforcement departments should also step up their enforcement of the fixed penalty system. She said that there was still much room for improvement in tackling the problem of marine refuse. She suggested that the enforcement departments should strengthen their coordination in the enforcement work and render more support to their frontline staff to ensure effective implementation of the fixed penalty system. She said that Shenzhen had also made much improvement in environmental cleanliness in recent years and Hong Kong must not lag behind in this respect.

47. <u>H(CHKO)</u> said that according to the preliminary results of a household survey conducted by FEHD, it was found that over 80% of the respondents considered that implementation of the fixed penalty system had proven useful in improving the cleanliness of Hong Kong. He said that the Administration would make sustained efforts in implementing the system and take into account members' views and suggestions in improving the implementation. He added that FEHD was responsible for coordinating with other enforcement departments in enforcing the fixed penalty system and it would seek to make improvements where necessary.

48. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> said that while there were general improvements in community awareness of the need to maintain cleanliness of public places, the progress made was slow as compared with some of other places (e.g. Wang Fu Jing in Beijing). She considered that the Administration should strengthen the sense of self-discipline of the public through public education. <u>H(CHKO)</u> responded that the Administration had attached great importance to school education and FEHD had collaborated with the Education and Manpower Bureau to incorporate "Clean Hong Kong" messages in primary and secondary school curricula.

49. <u>Dr LO Wing-lok</u> said that the Administration should disseminate the message that people should take their garbage back to home for disposal. He considered that teaching people about this would be a more effective way than providing additional refuse bins in tackling the problem of littering. The Administration noted the suggestion.

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VII. Any other business

(a) <u>Proposed overseas duty visit to Australia and Japan</u> [LC Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(06)]

50. <u>Members</u> supported the proposed overseas duty visit to Australia and Japan to be conducted from 17 to 22 April 2003 and they endorsed the paper prepared by the Secretariat on the subject.

51. <u>Dr LO Wing-lok</u> said that he had yet to confirm whether he would be available to join the duty visit. <u>The Chairman</u> said that interested Members could still sign up to join the visit.

(b) <u>Proposed research study on GM food labelling</u> [LC Paper No. CB(2) 1004/02-03(07)]

52. <u>Members</u> agreed that the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) should be requested to conduct a research study on GM food labelling in overseas jurisdictions. The study should be completed by March 2003. <u>Members</u> also endorsed the proposed outline of the study prepared by RLSD.

53. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:55 am.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 24 February 2003