

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1968/02-03

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Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs and
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works**

**Minutes of joint meeting held on
Wednesday, 14 May 2003, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs

*Hon CHOY So-yuk (Chairman)
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
*Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
*Hon WONG Yung-kan
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Dr Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP
Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Members absent : Members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs

Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Dr Hon LO Wing-lok

Members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

#Hon LAU Ping-cheung (Deputy Chairman)

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon WONG Sing-chi

Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

(* Also members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works)

(# Also members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs)

**Public officers
attending**

: For item II

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office,
Administration Wing

Ms CHANG King-yiu, JP

Deputy Director of Administration

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY

Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable
Development)²

For item III

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office,
Administration Wing

Ms CHANG King-yiu, JP

Deputy Director of Administration

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY

Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable
Development)²

Council for Sustainable Development

Dr Edgar CHENG, GBS, JP

Vice-chairman and Chair of the Council's Strategy Sub-
committee

Ms Christine FANG

Member and Chair of the Council's Education & Publicity
Sub-committee

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Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN
Member

Professor LAM Kin-che, JP
Member

Mr Otto POON
Member

Mr TIK Chi-yuen, JP
Member

**Attendance by
invitation**

: For Item III

The Conservancy Association

Miss Lister CHEUNG
Chief Executive

Miss Kate CHOY
Senior Campaign Officer

Friends of the Earth

Mrs Mei NG
Director

Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development

Mr Albert LAI
Convenor

Mr CHONG Chan-yau
Member

Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden Corporation

Mr Manab CHAKRABORTY
Executive Director

World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong

Miss Sam LEE
Director — Programme Development

Miss Karen WOO
Conservation Officer

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Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)2

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant 4

I. Election of Chairman

Miss CHOY So-yuk was elected Chairman of the joint meeting.

2. Before commencing discussion, the Chairman declared interest as a member of the Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) and its Education and Publicity Subcommittee. Mr Henry WU also declared interest as a member of the Environment Campaign Committee and the Convenor of the Environmental Education and Community Action Projects Vetting Subcommittee responsible for vetting of applications for grants under the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF).

II. Establishment of the Sustainable Development Fund

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1645/02-03(01) — Paper provided by the Administration)

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Deputy Director of Administration (DDA) explained the proposal to establish the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) by highlighting the salient points in the information paper.

4. Given that it had taken four years for the Administration to take forward the pledge in the Chief Executive (CE)'s Policy Address 1999 to promote sustainable development, Mr James TIEN expressed disappointment at the limited information provided in the Administration's paper. Noting that there were many ongoing activities similar to that proposed under SDF, he questioned the need for the allocation of \$100 million to establish SDF, which in his view was aimed at delivering the pledge made by CE. Having regard to the present economic situation, Members of the Liberal Party held the view that unless the stated objectives of sustainable development could be fulfilled, it might not be worthwhile to establish the Fund. Besides, there might not be many applications for SDF according to past experience. Mr TIEN considered that efforts should be made to co-ordinate the use of existing resources to achieve the stated objectives. Expressing similar concerns, Mr Henry WU pointed out that there might be possible duplication between ECF and SDF given that they both were aimed at funding environmental and social-related

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projects. As such, clear funding guidelines are essential to differentiate the grants under ECF and SDF. His view was shared by Mr WONG Yung-kan.

5. DDA said that the Administration had endeavoured to include the necessary information in its paper and it was prepared to provide further information as required by members. While efforts would be made to prevent duplication between SDF and other funds, DDA stressed the need to avoid stringent eligibility criteria and overly complicated procedures which would deter applications. Funding guidelines would be worked out in consultation with other funding management committees, including ECF Committee. Mr WU reiterated the need for co-ordination to better utilize the existing funding resources on the one hand and to avoid duplication of efforts by both funding management committees and applicants on the other. This should not be difficult as the day-to-day administration of SDF was carried out by the Sustainable Development Unit under the Administration Wing of the Office of the Chief Secretary for the Administration.

6. Apart from educational and promotional projects, Dr LAW Chi-kwong opined that researches on sustainable developments should also be eligible for SDF. Ms Cyd HO echoed that SDF should not be limited to environmental projects but should apply to projects with broader perspectives, such as those relating to population policy. She added that applicants under SDF should not be confined to organizations but should be extended to individuals in the form of scholarships to students in pursuit of further studies on sustainable development overseas so that they could contribute to the sustainability of Hong Kong in the long run. If possible, these scholarships should also be offered to students in the Mainland having regard to the proposed integration of Hong Kong into the Pearl River Delta Region. Mr James TIEN however held the view that resources should be used to support Hong Kong's own development.

7. In response, DDA explained that SDF was meant to support community initiatives to promote public awareness of sustainability and its integration with everyday practices. She stressed that allocation of grants under SDF would not be confined to certain types of activities/initiatives so long as they met the stated objectives, and that both organizations and individuals could apply for SDF. Dr LAW however pointed out that the funding guidelines for SDF set out in the Annex to the Administration's paper did not seem to include research studies. DDA said that the guidelines would not specify or preclude any particular types of activities to be funded under SDF. In vetting funding applications, consideration would be given to the nature and objectives of the activities. She nevertheless agreed to review the funding guidelines with a view to clarifying the scope of SDF. She also noted Ms HO's suggestion of including graduating students in the scope of SDF.

8. Mr WONG Yung-kan opined that vetting of SDF applications would be a difficult process in the absence of a clear definition for sustainable development and a set of objective assessment criteria. He asked whether commercial and industrial activities which were not able to sustain themselves without financial assistance from the Government could apply for SDF. DDA explained that the concept of sustainable

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development involved integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of development. Hence, projects failing to clearly demonstrate full integration of at least two of these aspects would not be supported. Mr WONG expressed concern that some organizations such as the fishery trade which did not have the experience nor the resources in the preparation of proposals might be at a disadvantage. DDA said that reference would be made to the practices of other funding management committees in formulating the funding guidelines and the means to assist application by project proponents. It was expected that applicants would only be required to provide basic information on the projects.

9. Dr TANG Siu-tong asked if applicants who had received funding from other sources were allowed to apply for SDF and whether there was restriction on the use of SDF by applicants. DDA advised that the funded projects should meet the objective of promoting awareness of the concept of sustainable development and putting it into everyday practice. In vetting a SDF application, consideration would be given to its source of funding, including the amount of grant which the project had already received from other funds, before deciding on whether and how much funding would be granted. As funded projects should be non-profit making in nature, any income derived from a project, which should be set out in the application in the first instance, should be used to further the project's objectives. On the monitoring mechanism to ensure that the objectives of a project were delivered as pledged, DDA advised that apart from regular progress reports, the project proponent would be required to submit a report setting out the income and expenditure of the project as well as details on how the stated objectives had been achieved. Action against the project proponent might be considered if there were deviations from the stated objectives and funding arrangements in his approved application.

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10. The Chairman sought members' views on the funding proposal on SDF. Mr WONG Yung-kan remarked that the Administration should provide additional information on the disbursement of SDF, particularly on whether there was an upper limit for each funded project and the arrangements to be made in the event of depletion of the Fund, before submitting the proposal to the Finance Committee for approval at its meeting on 13 June 2003.

III. Vision and mission of the Council for Sustainable Development

Meeting with Conservancy Association (CA)

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1663/02-03(01) — Submission from CA)

11. Miss Lister CHEUNG highlighted the salient points in the submission from CA. She said that CA welcomed the establishment of the long-awaited Council for Sustainable Development (CSD). The immediate task for CSD was the formulation of a sustainable development strategy, to be supplemented by an action plan with concrete targets and time table. Effort should also be made to develop a community-based Hong Kong Local Agenda 21, introduce a Sustainable Development Bill to enshrine the principle of sustainable development and set up an independent committee

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to oversee Sustainability Assessments. It was hoped that CSD would take up the role in coordinating the work of different bureaux and departments as well as developing partnership with different sectors of the community.

Meeting with Friends of the Earth (FoE)

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1663/02-03(02) — Submission from FoE)

12. Mrs Mei NG stressed that a holistic approach for sustainable development was essential as it straddled a wide spectrum of policy areas. FoE held the view that CSD should assume a coordinating role in integrating policy formulation, including strategic planning and crisis management, and promoting community involvement by enhancing the public consultation process. Demonstration projects should also be made available to show how SDF should be used.

Meeting with Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden

13. Mr Manab CHAKRABORTY said that the sustainability concept should apply to the population policy and the public finance policy as well. As sustainable development was a part of every policy, he supported that policies should be integrated as was the practice of the Norwegian Government. He said that the Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden believed in the concept of sustainable development and it had initiated an ecological footprint study within the farm.

Meeting with World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWF)

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1645/02-03(02) — Submission from the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong)

14. Miss Karen WOO highlighted the salient points in the submission from WWF. She said that WWF applauded the recent establishment of CSD and supported its terms of reference to promote sustainability in Hong Kong, in particular on the formulation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong within 12 to 18 months. The sustainable development strategy should set out a clear vision based on the community's aspirations and consensus without compromising environmental sustainability and social equity. It should have clear objectives and goals for the long-term future of Hong Kong and should also recommend frameworks and institutions for integrated development and conservation, and ways to create a regional and global alliance for sustainability. To put sustainable development into practice, there should be standards against which proposed development and investment were checked for acceptability. Participation and support of the public were also required. WWF would appeal for commitment and input from all sectors of the society, including government, business and industry, academics and the public, in the formulation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong.

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Meeting with Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development (HKPCSD)
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1663/02-03(03) — Submission from the HKPCSD)

15. Mr Albert LAI said that HKPCSD was a non-government organization dedicated to the pursuit of sustainable development in Hong Kong. It aimed to work in partnership with CSD in formulating a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong. Apart from clear vision and mission as well as explicit budgetary priorities, a people-centered approach with broad and effective participation of the general public, expert groups and multi-stakeholders should be adopted in the strategic development process. Organization of demonstration projects for sustainable development was also required.

16. Mr CHONG Chan-yau supplemented that there was a need to reach a consensus on the definition of sustainable development which involved economic and social development as well as environmental protection. Corporate responsibility, public participation and transparency of government operation were all part of sustainable development. A sustainable development strategy should be able to cater for the basic needs of the community. It should also form the framework to meet future challenges, such as those brought about by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and help to integrate developments within the Pearl River Delta Region. He stressed that as a developed city, Hong Kong should shoulder its responsibility in ensuring the sustainability of development.

Meeting with the Administration and members of the Council for Sustainable Development

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1645/02-03(03) — Paper provided by the Administration)

17. DDA said that following its establishment in March 2003, CSD held its first meeting in April 2003 and had begun work on the preliminary task of gathering information and working out a practical timetable for involving the public in the formulation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong, which was expected to be completed within 12 to 18 months. It would welcome views in this respect.

Discussion session

18. Ir Dr Raymond HO hoped that with the establishment of the long-awaited CSD, more concrete proposals on sustainable development could be put forward without further delay. DDA said that at its first meeting, CSD decided that it would initially focus on the two key areas under its terms of reference, namely advising on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that would integrate social, economic and environmental perspectives, and promoting public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development in partnership with stakeholders. In this connection, the Strategy Sub-committee and the Education & Publicity Sub-committee had been set up to take forward these tasks. They would work out a practical timetable for the formulation of the strategy for consideration by CSD.

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19. As the focus of discussion was on the principles and objectives of sustainable development rather than its application, Ms Audrey EU sought Dr Edgar CHENG's advice on how CSD could put the concept into practice, encourage public participation, prioritize its work and add value to existing policies/projects through integration and coordination. Dr CHENG/CSD said that he was aware of the high public expectations on CSD and the current meeting had given an early opportunity for CSD to receive views. As CSD had just been established, it would not be able to set out all its objectives and the way forward at the present stage. He nevertheless assured members that CSD would work on these issues as soon as practicable. He also agreed with HKPCSD on the need for a clear definition on sustainable development and public participation in the strategic development process and promoting the concept of sustainability. Mr WONG Yung-kan said that CSD should assume a coordinating role in resolving the conflicting interests of different Government departments.

20. Noting that many of the objectives set in the consultancy study conducted by the Planning Department in 1997 had not been given due consideration, Dr LAW Chi-kwong considered it a waste of resources. He opined that apart from the use of indicators, CSD should set up panels to discuss major policies/projects such as population policy from the sustainability point of view. Data from local and surrounding areas would also be required for assessing sustainable development. Mr Albert LAI/HKPCSD remarked that the consultation study conducted in 1997 was not effective because it was executive-led with minimal public participation and constrained by its scope. As such, a people-oriented approach was essential to foster co-operation among the Government, corporations and the community at large. Through the chair, DDA confirmed that CSD would consider the practicability of using indicators in the context of the sustainable development strategy, particularly for monitoring the progress of implementation to ensure compliance with sustainable development objectives. As regards population policy, DDA advised that this fell under the remit of the Chief Secretary for the Administration (CS). As population policy formed an integral part of sustainable development, this should be one of the subjects that CSD could look into. Miss Lister CHEUNG/CA however pointed out that it was difficult to assess whether the objectives set by CSD had been achieved in the absence of indicators and baseline studies.

21. Dr LAW considered it necessary for CSD to perform policy audit to ensure that sustainable development objectives were met. Mrs Mei NG/FoE agreed to the need for policy audit to assess the cost benefits of developments. The establishment of a Water Authority would be a step forward in this direction. Expressing similar concern, Ms Audrey EU asked if CSD would consider assuming an auditing role by reporting annually on policies/projects which were not conducive to sustainable development and identifying areas for improvement. Ms Christine FANG/CSD said that the proposed auditing function did not appear to fall within the terms of reference of CSD. Nevertheless, the Education and Publicity Sub-committee of CSD would work closely with its "co-opted" members in facilitating community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means such as funding of relevant projects by SDF. Mr CHONG Chan-yau/HKPCSD remarked that HKPCSD would attempt to perform sustainability audit.

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22. Mrs Mei NG/FoE remarked that in addition to social and environmental impact assessments, health impact assessments should be conducted, particularly after the outbreak of SARS. She said that under the chairmanship of CS, CSD should be able to assume a steering role in promoting sustainable development. Consideration should be given to integrating the concept of sustainable development in the existing public education programmes as in the case of environmental and consumer protection as well as occupational safety. It was hoped that with the concerted efforts of the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Central Policy Unit, the Commission on Strategic Development and the Guangdong Hong Kong Joint Liaison Group, CSD could also co-ordinate cross-border sustainable developments. Mr CHONG Chan-yau/HKPCSD supported the need to enhance public education, particularly for the younger generation. Noting that students from Singapore had participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, Mr CHONG hoped that students in Hong Kong would be made aware of the importance of sustainability so that they could participate in international conferences to share their views. Professor LAM Kin-che/CSD stressed the importance of integration and immersion of policies and principles of sustainability in everyday life. He said that CSD would assess, appraise and review existing policies in formulating the sustainable development strategy.

23. Given that sustainable development straddled a wide spectrum of policies, Mr CHONG Chan-yau/HKPCSD remarked that a joint meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) and the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (PLW Panel) might not be a proper forum for discussing issues relating to sustainability. Consideration should be given to setting up a separate committee under the Legislature in parallel with the establishment of CSD. The Chairman said that during the motion debate on sustainable development, Members agreed that the subject should be further pursued but they had yet to identify a suitable discussion forum given the extensive scope of the subject. The current meeting was convened in the light of request from green groups.

IV. Any other business

24. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:50 pm.