

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)48/04-05
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref: CB1/PL/CI/1

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, at 12:20 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, SBS, JP
(Chairman)
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

Clerk in attendance : Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Debbie YAU
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Ms Rosalind MA
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Ms Sharon CHAN
Legislative Assistant (1)6

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Dr LUI Ming-wah, the member who had the highest precedence in the Council among all Panel members, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel for the 2004-2005 session. He invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel.

2. Mrs Sophie LEUNG was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and seconded by Mr CHAN Kam-lam. Mrs LEUNG accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Mrs Sophie LEUNG was declared Chairman of the Panel for the 2004-2005 session.

3. Mrs LEUNG took over the chair of the meeting and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr WONG Ting-kwong was nominated by Mr CHAN Kam-lam and seconded by Mr Jeffrey LAM. Mr CHAN confirmed that he had secured Mr WONG's acceptance of the nomination before the meeting. Mr TONG Ka-wah nominated himself for the deputy chairmanship and Mr SIN Chung-kai seconded his nomination.

4. As there were two nominations for the deputy chairmanship, the Chairman announced a vote by secret ballot. Nine ballot papers were collected from members present at the meeting. One was ruled invalid by the Chairman as no name of candidate was provided. Six members voted for Mr WONG Ting-kwong and two members voted for Mr TONG Ka-wah. The Chairman declared that Mr WONG was elected as deputy chairman of the Panel for the 2004-2005 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2004-2005 session

5. The Chairman invited members to consider two proposed schedules of regular meetings for the 2004-05 session (namely, the third Tuesday each month at 2:30 pm or the third Friday each month at 10:45 am). Mr SIN Chung-kai commented that very often, Tuesday afternoons were reserved for holding inquiries by Select Committees. He said that he would prefer to hold regular Panel meetings on the third Friday morning each month. The Chairman then sought the views of other Panel members. As the majority of members present preferred the other proposed schedule, i.e. to hold the regular meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm, the Chairman concluded that the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2004-2005 session would be scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month at 2:30pm.

III. Discussion items for next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)21/04-05(01) – List of issues suggested to be considered

LC Paper No. CB(1)21/04-05(02) – List of follow-up actions)

Regular meeting on 19 October 2004

6. Referring to the "List of issues suggested to be considered" tabled at the meeting, the Chairman informed members that the Administration had proposed to brief the Panel about the Hong Kong Trade Development Council's application for the Tamar Site for temporary exhibition use and the proposal of atrium link extension to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre at the Panel's next regular meeting. Mr Jeffrey LAM and Mr Andrew LEUNG expressed concern about the shortage of convention and exhibition facilities in Hong Kong and supported early discussion of the proposed item. Members agreed that the proposed item be included on the agenda of the Panel meeting to be held on 19 October 2004.

7. At the suggestion of Mr Andrew LEUNG, members agreed to invite the Administration to brief the Panel, at the meeting scheduled for 19 October 2004, on the progress of the "Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement" (CEPA), notably the outcome of the discussion on the rules of origin for the products covered under CEPA II and the plans under CEPA III.

Other items for consideration in due course

8. Referring to the on-going restructuring of Hong Kong's economy, the Chairman suggested that the Panel should examine issues relating to the restructuring from different perspectives and the impact on different sectors of the economy. While sharing the Chairman's concern about the subject, Mr SIN Chung-kai pointed out that under the present arrangements, the Panel on Financial Affairs (FA Panel) was tasked to examine issues relating to the macro economy and the concern raised by the Chairman might also be addressed at the FA Panel. The Chairman appreciated Mr SIN's view and pointed out that the Panel on Commerce and Industry could focus the discussion on the impact of economic restructuring on specific trades and industries, such as the transformation of Hong Kong's manufacturing industries.

9. The Chairman recapped her concern about the importance of an enabling business environment which was conducive to the development of various trades and industries. She also expressed concern about the procedures and formalities in place which might deter entrepreneurs from setting up businesses in Hong Kong. The Chairman suggested that, in due course, the Panel might consider inviting the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat to conduct some research and prepare a paper on the business environment, in particular measures implemented to facilitate the business sector and/or obstacles confronting entrepreneurs, in Hong Kong and in other

jurisdictions.

10. The Chairman asked Panel members to note her suggestions in paragraphs 8 and 9 for consideration.

IV. Any other business

11. There being on other business and the Panel was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 October 2004