

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)261/05-06  
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**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Tuesday, 18 October 2005, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

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

**Members attending** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

**Public officers attending** : Agenda Item III  
  
Miss Janet WONG Wing-chen  
Head, Ministerial Conference Co-ordination Office  
Trade and Industry Department  
  
Ms Carolina YIP Lai-ching  
Deputy Commissioner for Transport/ Transport  
Services & Management  
  
Mr Bill SUEN Kwai-leung  
Commandant (Police Tactical Unit)  
Hong Kong Police Force

Agenda Item IV

Mr John C TSANG, JP  
Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Miss Denise YUE, GBS, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Commerce,  
Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry)

Mr Philip YUNG  
Deputy Secretary for Commerce, Industry and  
Technology (Commerce & Industry)

Mr Gordon LEUNG  
Acting Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

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

**Staff in attendance :** Ms Pauline NG  
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Paul WOO  
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Sharon CHAN  
Legislative Assistant (1)6

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Action

**I. Papers issued since last meeting**

LC Paper No. CB(1)2303/04-05(01) -- Information on the financial position of the Applied Research Fund for the period of 1 June 2005 to 31 August 2005

Members noted that the above paper had been issued for the Panel's information.

## **II. Date and items for discussion for next meeting**

LC Paper No. CB(1)48/05-06(01) -- List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)48/05-06(02) -- List of follow-up actions

2. Members agreed that the Panel would discuss the following items at the next meeting to be held on 15 November 2005 –

- (a) Proposals on various copyright-related issues; and
- (b) Implementation of the third phase of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA III)

*(Post-meeting note : At the proposal of the Administration and with the agreement of the Chairman, the item "Strengthening HKSAR's representation in the Mainland" is added to the agenda for the meeting on 15 November 2005).*

## **III. Progress report on the Sixth Ministerial Conference (MC6) of the World Trade Organization**

LC Paper No. CB(1)48/05-06(03) -- Information paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(1)50/05-06 -- Background brief on Hong Kong's hosting of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization prepared by the Secretariat

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Head, Ministerial Conference Co-ordination Office (Head, MCO) briefed members on the Administration's paper which set out the latest progress of logistics preparation for the Sixth Ministerial Conference (MC6) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) from 13 to 18 December 2005.

### Issues raised

*Roundtable forum on 16 October 2005 to meet with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)*

4. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan expressed disappointment that the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (SCIT) had declined to meet with

representatives of NGOs to discuss WTO-related issues, despite repeated requests from NGOs for a dialogue with SCIT in the past year. He said that at the Roundtable held on 16 October 2005, chaired by SCIT as a forum for exchange of views between NGOs and representatives from WTO, SCIT had refused discussion with the NGOs on the ground that he would not accede to their demand under duress. Mr LEE added that SCIT had left the venue without even receiving the NGOs' petitions. Mr LEE considered that this demonstrated a lack of sincerity on the part of SCIT to fulfil his undertaking to discuss matters of concern with the NGOs, in sharp contrast to the Director General of WTO, Mr Pascal LAMY, who was the key-note speaker at the Roundtable, and who had been much more receptive towards the NGO representatives and had received their petition letters.

5. Head, MCO disagreed that SCIT had ignored the request of NGOs to communicate and pointed out that the Roundtable on 16 October had been proactively organized by the Government to provide a platform for face-to-face exchange of views. Referring to the event on 16 October, she informed members that a press area had in fact been set up at the venue for the purpose of holding a stand-up briefing by SCIT and Mr Pascal LAMY and to enable them to receive petitions. However, towards the close of the meeting, some representatives of the NGOs had turned rowdy and the situation had become so chaotic that it was impossible for any discussion to take place in an orderly manner. Head, MCO also recalled that some people started to behave in an unruly manner, and one of them even tried to force his way through and to climb onto Mr LAMY's car.

6. On communication with NGOs, Head, MCO confirmed that liaison with NGOs on MC6 had taken place before the forum on 16 October. She had held meetings with the Hong Kong People's Alliance on WTO (HKPAWTO) for about five times and the meetings had also been attended by directorate officers of the Trade and Industry Department. She assured members that communication with NGOs would continue in the run-up to MC6.

7. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan considered that had SCIT acceded to the NGOs' request and met with them, the disorderly scenes on 16 October could have been avoided. He therefore highlighted that it was not fair to put the blame on the NGOs. In his view, communication at the forum on 16 October was only between Mr Pascal LAMY and the NGO representatives, without any role taken by SCIT. Head, MCO explained that the original intention was for SCIT and Mr LAMY to speak to the press and to receive the petitions. However, the situation had turned so chaotic and this could just not materialize. She said that communication was important and should not stop despite this unfortunate incident. However, she pointed out that communication had to be done in a rational and orderly manner and with substance in order to be productive.

8. Mr Andrew LEUNG asked whether the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) would tolerate disorders similar to those on 16 October 2005 where protesters were trying to block the traffic flow of WTO delegates attending the meeting.

In response, the Commandant (Police Tactical Unit) (C/PTU) considered that what had happened on 16 October was an isolated incident. As the Roundtable was held at a private venue, the security personnel at the venue, instead of the HKPF, were the operational staff responsible for maintaining order at the scene. He stressed that as its baseline, HKPF would not tolerate any act of violence which would jeopardize public order, safety and property.

*Measures to facilitate demonstrations*

9. Mr Jeffrey LAM pointed out that large-scale international events like WTO Ministerial Conferences were focal points for protesters. Past WTO Ministerial Conferences had witnessed rigorous demonstrations staged by anti-globalization activists, some of which had turned into violent acts and resulted in injuries to people and damage to properties. Both Mr LAM and Mr Andrew LEUNG were concerned about the plans devised by the HKPF to ensure public security and safety and the peaceful conduct of MC6, as well as the HKPF's level of tolerance in the face of radical actions by hostile protesters.

10. Head, MCO and C/PTU re-affirmed the Administration's objective to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of MC6 and maintain public order and safety, whilst facilitating the freedom of expression of demonstrators. C/PTU said that given the scale and nature of MC6, the HKPF together with other enforcement agencies had formulated comprehensive emergency plans to prepare for all potential contingencies. In assessing the potential risks of an outbreak of violence and devising the security strategies most suitable for MC6, HKPF had drawn on the experience of overseas host countries of past WTO Ministerial Conferences and other large-scale events such as the G8 Summit. He assured members that the HKPF would continue to refine and update its contingency plans in the run-up to the event in conjunction with other enforcement authorities and emergency services units. With its professionalism and elaborate planning, the HKPF had full confidence in its capability to maintain law and order to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of MC6.

11. C/PTU recapped the position of the HKPF that it would not tolerate the conduct of demonstrators if their actions –

- (a) had the effect of disrupting or derailing the conduct of MC6, or posing a genuine threat to the personal safety of participants in the MC6;
- (b) would seriously endanger public safety and property; and
- (c) would paralyse traffic flow and cause serious disruptions to the community (e.g. forming "human chains" to block public traffic).

12. On the assurance given by the HKPF, Mr SIN Chung-kai pointed out that Hong Kong had not had the experience of handling mass violence since the riots in 1967. He therefore cautioned that the HKPF should not under-estimate the

scale of the demonstration activities and the possible outbreak of violence likely to take place during MC6, and must be extremely tactful in dealing with demonstrators. He opined that the hosting of an international event of such a scale would inevitably create some inconvenience to the community and the HKPF should be as accommodating as possible to avoid confrontation. Mr Vincent FANG also considered that despite being confident in its ability to deal with chaos, HKPF should also be well-prepared for the worst-case scenario.

13. In this connection, Mr Ronny TONG highlighted the need to respect the right of demonstrators to express their views. To maintain Hong Kong's image as an international business and financial centre where freedom and the rule of law prevailed, he urged HKPF to adopt a tolerant attitude as far as possible, and refrain from resorting to high-handed action lightly when dealing with demonstrations during MC6.

14. Noting members' views, C/PTU re-affirmed that freedom of expression was most respected in Hong Kong. In line with established policy, the HKPF had always tried to facilitate lawful and peaceful demonstrations, yet without losing sight of the need to maintain law and order in the interest of the community at large. The HKPF and MCO will continue to maintain dialogue with NGOs and other concern groups who might wish to organize demonstration activities with a view to facilitating the conduct of such activities in an orderly manner and keeping inconveniences to the public to the minimum.

15. Mr CHAN Kam-lam was concerned that while it was important to safeguard freedom of expression, it was also incumbent upon the HKPF to make every effort to uphold law and order to ensure that the normal activities of the public would not be disrupted. As the successful hosting of MC6 would help raise Hong Kong's international profile, Mr CHAN was keen to ensure that effective measures should be taken to safeguard the smooth running of MC6 and to eliminate the threat of violence. He reiterated that any action by demonstrators which would jeopardize public safety and order should not be tolerated.

16. Mr WONG Ting-kwong asked whether the Administration would agree to the proposal of HKPAWTO to make Hung Hing Road, which traversed between the Convention Avenue and the Victoria Park Road leading to the HKCEC, a designated public activity area (DPAA) to provide more space for protesters to hold demonstrations. Mr Jeffrey LAM expressed the view that while it was necessary to make available areas for demonstration activities, such areas should not be set up at busy locations so as not to create safety hazards and inconvenience to the public.

17. In response, Head, MCO explained that one of the major concerns of NGOs about the locations for staging protests was that they should be as close to the conference venue as possible. The MCO and HKPF had met with HKPAWTO and other concerned NGOs on a number of occasions to identify suitable sites for DPAA's, and good progress had been made. As announced

earlier, the Wan Chai Sports Ground and Wan Chai Public Cargo Working Area had been identified as possible DPAAAs. It was estimated that the two sites together could accommodate about 10 000 protesters and demonstrators. The sites were in the vicinity of HKCEC and within sight and sound of the targets of the protesters attending MC6. Head, MCO said that the NGOs were generally satisfied with the two sites. Regarding the proposed use of Hung Hing Road as a DPAA, C/PTU said that the HKPF had not received any such formal request from NGOs. However, taking into account that a Closed Area around the vicinity of HKCEC would be set up during the MC6 period, the HKPF was of the view that it would not be advisable to designate Hung Hing Road as a DPAA. The reason was that if the road were also used as DPAA, it would cause serious disruption to road traffic in the vicinity and undermine swift response actions by emergency units in the event of emergency.

18. To follow up, Mr WONG Ting-kwong made further enquiries as follows –

- (a) Whether the running track and the spectators stands at the Wan Chai Sports Ground would be made available for use by demonstrators;
- (b) whether the Victoria Park and the Southorn Playground could provide sufficient space for holding MC6-related public activities; and
- (c) the present position on the applications from NGOs to use the venues.

19. In response, Head, MCO and C/PTU advised as follows –

- (a) Given the large number of demonstrators who might be present at the Wan Chai Sports Ground and the potential risk of disorder, it was not advisable to open the spectators stands for demonstrators for safety reasons.
- (b) The running track in Wan Chai Sports Ground was only recently refurbished and its conditions would need to be protected. Otherwise, many scheduled school sports days and other sports events to be held after MC6 would be affected. The suggestion to cover the track surface by wood boarding was being considered but even if this was implemented, it might not offer sufficient protection if the track were stepped upon by many demonstrators. The opening of the entire grass lawn of Wan Chai Sports Ground should provide enough space for the demonstrators.
- (c) The Victoria Park and the Southorn Playground were reserved for holding MC6-related public activities including cultural programme, discussion forums, etc. Conditional approval had been given by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(LSCD) to the HKPAWTO for use of two soccer pitches, the bandstand and half of the central lawn at Victoria Park. A few applications for use of other facilities were being considered.

- (d) Having consulted the Wan Chai District Council on the proposed use of the Southorn Playground, it was decided that the playground would not be used for holding demonstrations, but might be used for other public activities such as discussion forums and cultural performances.
- (e) Further applications for use of the Victoria Park and the Southorn Playground would be considered by LSCD, having regard to public order and safety considerations and competing demands for use of the venues.

*WTO negotiations*

20. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that to those who were concerned about WTO-related issues, the logistical preparation for the hosting of MC6 was of secondary importance when compared to the content of the multilateral negotiations taking place in the WTO. He pointed out that so far, the community had not been informed of the Administration's stance, if any, on such contentious issues as the impact of globalization, trade liberalization and abolition of agricultural subsidy on the world economies etc. He urged the Administration to improve transparency by making known the content and progress of discussion in these negotiation areas and explaining the Government's position.

Admin

21. In responses, Head, MCO clarified that as MCO was only responsible for the logistical arrangements for the hosting of MC6, she would convey Mr LEE's views to the subject officers for consideration.

*Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on the WTO*

22. Referring to the API currently being broadcast, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan commented that the API was misleading as it had depicted only the positive side of trade liberalization (e.g. consumers being able to get cheaper products) while omitting the downside of globalization. Mr LEE suggested that the API should be withdrawn as it had failed to present a full picture on the issue.

23. Noting Mr LEE's view, Head, MCO said that the API was just one of the many means to publicize MC6. With a short duration of about 30 seconds, the API could only highlight a selected aspect instead of conveying all the information. She added that many other publicity activities, including workshops and discussion forums targeted at people from different sectors and concerned groups had been planned.

Way forward

24. The Chairman requested the Administration to report to the Panel on further progress of the hosting of MC6, where necessary.

Admin 25. Mr SIN Chung-kai suggested that the Administration should revert to the Panel in early 2006 after reviewing the hosting of MC6.

*(Post-meeting note : With the concurrence of the Chairman, Mr SIN Chung Kai's suggestion has been added to the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion)*

**IV Briefing by Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology on relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2005/2006**

LC Paper No CB(1)48/05-06(04) --- Policy agenda of Commerce and Industry Branch and Innovation and Technology Commission, Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau

***Other relevant documents***

Two booklets provided by the Administration

- (a) Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 12 October 2005 -- "Strong Governance for the People "; and
- (b) The 2005-06 Policy Address -- "Policy Agenda".

26. At the invitation of the Chairman, SCIT gave an opening speech on the major initiatives related to the Commerce and Industry Branch and Technology Commission of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB) under the 2005-2006 Policy Agenda (copy of SCIT's speaking note had been issued to members of the Panel after the meeting vide LC Paper No. CB(1)89/05-06(01)).

Regional economic co-operation and development

27. Referring to the rapid development in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, Mr Jeffrey LAM enquired about the progress on measures to enhance cross-border movement of people and goods between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

28. SCIT highlighted that Hong Kong attached great importance to capitalising on the vast economic potential of the Pan-PRD region by

strengthening the logistics industry and taking forward major infrastructural developments to provide people with more convenient cross-border transport links. He advised that the governments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Guangdong and Macau were actively pursuing advance work on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge linking the western side of the PRD. The three governments hoped to seek approval from the Central Authorities and proceed with construction as soon as possible. Moreover, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor would be commissioned next year when the control point at Shekou was completed. Separately, preliminary studies on possible measures to develop links with the eastern side of the PRD were underway. The Administration would report progress to the relevant Panels in due course.

29. Mr Jeffrey LAM said that apart from infrastructural developments, Hong Kong should also strengthen the development of exhibition and conference services to showcase Hong Kong's strength as Asia's world city and its competitive edge in being a key international business, financial and information hub. SCIT shared Mr LAM's views.

30. The Chairman noted that the Chief Executive (CE) had placed great emphasis in his Policy Address on helping Hong Kong's economy to power ahead at full steam. She referred to paragraph 73 of the booklet on "Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 12 October 2005 -- Strong Governance for the People", where it was stated, among others, that Hong Kong should respond promptly to the demands of the business sector in new growth areas, and open up new business opportunities by providing the necessary policy support, regulatory control and infrastructure. She considered that while Hong Kong was on its path to economic recovery, the foundation on which Hong Kong was building its strengths was not solid enough. On the other hand, developments in certain areas in the Mainland such as the Pan-PRD region had out-performed Hong Kong in terms of both software and hardware support. As such, the Chairman called on the Government not to lose sight of the direction in fostering economic development.

#### Establishment of new Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs)

31. Mr Jeffrey LAM welcomed the Government's initiatives to set up additional ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu and a new ETO in Europe. In his view, this would broaden the coverage of Hong Kong's overseas representation and strengthen economic co-operation with the Mainland and the international community, thereby boosting business and trade opportunities for Hong Kong.

32. Noting that the CE had announced in his Policy Address that a Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) would be established within the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) to oversee the work of HKSAR offices in the Mainland, Mr Andrew LEUNG was concerned about the division of roles and responsibilities between the MALO and the CITB in future.

33. In response, SCIT explained that the CAB was responsible for, among other things, developing and maintaining a constructive working relationship between the HKSAR Government and the relevant departments of the Central Authorities. The MALO to be set up in CAB would co-ordinate the efforts of the Beijing Office and other ETOs of the HKSAR in the Mainland to liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities. The CITB would continue to oversee the functions of individual Mainland offices regarding economic and trade relations and investment promotion. The provision of assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress would continue to be overseen by the Security Bureau.

34. Mr SIN Chung-kai recalled that suggestions had been made in the past to merge the work of the ETOs, the overseas offices of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) and the Hong Kong Tourism Board (TB) to achieve savings and enhance cost-effectiveness. He asked whether the Administration would be prepared to further consider the proposal.

35. In response, the Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (Commerce and Industry) (PSCI) highlighted that the offices concerned had their respective missions and tasks. The ETOs were primarily responsible for developing and maintaining liaison with the governments and legislative bodies as well as with the business leaders and the media of those countries/places under their purview. Working in close collaboration with InvestHK, they were also responsible for promoting inward direct investment to Hong Kong. The activities of the external offices of TDC focused primarily on export and services promotion, targeting mainly at the business sector of the concerned host countries. The TB was responsible for promoting Hong Kong as a tourism attraction. The Government's ETOs and the external offices of the TDC and TB complemented each other and the synergy of their combined efforts had significant multiplier effect on the local economy. The Administration did not consider that there was any duplication of functions and resources among these offices. PSCI further advised that for the time being, the Administration had no plan to merge the various external offices. Nevertheless, she assured members that the existing set-up of ETOs was subject to ongoing review.

36. Mr Vincent FANG asked whether the Administration had considered the feasibility of co-locating the external offices of the SAR Government (SARG), the TDC and the TB set up in the same overseas or Mainland city so as to provide greater convenience to the people visiting and using the services of these offices. In reply, PSCI said that the Administration would actively consider the proposal. However, she also pointed out that there might be practical difficulties in certain circumstances. For example, TDC might have already purchased office accommodation in an overseas city, choosing the location best suited for the work performed by TDC. This location might not be suitable for the work performed by the SARG's ETO or by the TB's overseas office. Alternatively, where the location was suitable, there might not be any available accommodation in the building housing the TDC's overseas office for take up by the SARG's ETO or the TB. She added that as TDC had already established their offices in Shanghai and Chengdu, CITB would liaise with CAB to explore the possibility of setting

up the new ETOs in close proximity to the TDC offices. The same approach would also be considered with regard to the new ETO to be established in Europe.

Admin

37. Mr Vincent FANG considered that the Administration should prepare and disseminate informational material to publicize the services provided by the three different kinds of external offices, namely ETOs, TDC's external offices and TB's external offices. Noting Mr FANG's concern, PSCI said that the Administration would consider producing concise information leaflets to explain the work and services offered by the various offices for reference by the public at large and the business sector.

Admin

38. In response to Mr SIN Chung-kai on the cost of setting up the proposed ETOs, PSCI advised that the estimated annual recurrent cost for the new ETO in Europe would be about HK\$17 million. She undertook to invite CAB to provide the relevant estimates for the ETOs to be set up in Shanghai and Chengdu. She further informed members that the target date for opening the planned new ETO in Europe was the third quarter of 2006, while the two ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu were targeted to come into operation before end 2006.

39. The Chairman said that where necessary, the Panel might invite the CAB to explain its co-ordination role in relation to the operation of the HKSAR offices in the Mainland.

*(Post-meeting note : The CAB would brief the Panel on Commerce and Industry on the proposed establishment of the two ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu and the work of the Guangdong ETO at the meeting on 15 November 2005 under the item "Strengthening HKSAR's representation in the Mainland". All other LegCo Members have been invited to participate in the discussion. The CAB would brief the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on the work of the MALO on 21 November 2005. The Panel on Commerce and Industry and the Panel on Security have been invited to take part in the meeting).*

#### Innovation and technology development

40. Mr Andrew LEUNG expressed support for the establishment of research and development (R&D) centres to take forward the new strategy of innovation and technology development and technology transfer. He expressed the view that to foster the development of innovation and technology development, the Government should take appropriate measures to retain talents in R&D in Hong Kong.

41. SCIT said that the Government attached great importance to increasing Hong Kong's competitiveness by nurturing technology-based enterprises and spearheading the drive to make Hong Kong a knowledge-based economy. He advised that in addition to the approval given by the Finance Committee for the

establishment of four R&D centres with funding support from the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute would be funded to set up an R&D centre for information and communications technologies. These centres would come into operation by the end 2005 or early 2006. On the issue of attracting and retaining expertise, SCIT recapped that as stated by the CE in his Policy Address, the Government was considering the introduction of a new admission scheme in 2006 under which a certain number of talented people from the Mainland and overseas who met specific eligibility criteria would be allowed to stay in Hong Kong for a certain period of time, without the requirement of securing an offer of local employment beforehand. During their stay, they could decide whether they wanted to develop their career in Hong Kong on a long-term basis. The Administration believed that the new scheme could provide a larger pool of talent, thereby increasing Hong Kong's competitiveness.

#### Designated close area along the border

42. Referring to the decision reached between Hong Kong and the Mainland to redraw the limits of the closed area along the border and to significantly reduce its size, Mr CHAN Kam-lam said that the use of the land thereby released should be carefully studied to optimize its development potential. The Chairman and Mr CHAN Kam-lam considered that public consultation on how the land could be put to optimal use should be conducted at an early stage. The Chairman further urged the Administration to formulate preliminary proposals as early as practicable so as to provide useful input in the planning stage.

43. Acknowledging the members' concern, SCIT advised that the Planning Department would proceed with the necessary planning procedures and conduct consultation as required. During the process, the CITB would offer its views from the perspectives of trade and economic development. He further pointed out that a considerable part of the closed area was not levelled land. This constraint, together with other considerations such as accessibility, private land holdings and the availability of support infrastructure, would need to be taken into account in the land use planning.

#### Third phase of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA III)

44. In response to Mr Andrew LEUNG's enquiry on the present position on discussions with the Mainland on CEPA III, PSCI informed members that the Mainland and the HKSAR would sign the legal text of CEPA III in the afternoon of 18 October 2005. Members would be informed of the detailed content in due course.

**V. Any other business**

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:05 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
11 November 2005