

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)192/05-06

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/FA/1

Panel on Financial Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 13 October 2005 at 5:10 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Bernard CHAN, JP (Chairman)
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG
- Members absent** : Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon TAM Heung-man
- Clerk in attendance** : Miss Salumi CHAN
Chief Council Secretary (1)5

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Connie SZETO
Senior Council Secretary (1)4

Ms Rosalind MA
Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr Bernard CHAN, Chairman of the Panel for the 2004-2005 session, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session. He invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Mr Bernard CHAN was nominated by Mr Albert CHENG and the nomination was seconded by Mr James TIEN. Mr CHAN accepted the nomination. As Mr CHAN was nominated, Mr James TIEN, the member who had the highest precedence in the Council, presided over the election.

3. There being no other nominations, Mr James TIEN declared that Mr Bernard CHAN was elected Chairman of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session. Mr CHAN then took over the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr Ronny TONG was nominated by Mr Albert CHENG and the nomination was seconded by Ms Emily LAU. Mr CHENG indicated that Mr TONG had accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared that Mr Ronny TONG was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session.

5. The Chairman informed members that Dr Raymond HO had joined the Panel from the 2005-2006 session. He welcomed Dr HO to join the Panel.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2005-2006 session

6. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session be held on the first Monday of each month at 10:45 am. As the first Monday of January 2006 was a public holiday for the New Year, and the first Monday of May 2006 was a public holiday for the Labour Day, members agreed that the regular meetings for January and May 2006 be rescheduled to Thursday, 5 January 2006 at 10:45 am, and Thursday, 4 May 2006 at 10:45 am respectively. Members also endorsed the proposed schedule of regular meetings tabled at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of regular meetings for the 2005-2006 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)53/05-06 on 14 October 2005.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendix V to LC Paper No. — List of outstanding items for
CB(1)5/05-06 discussion)

Appendix VI to LC Paper No. — List of follow-up actions)
CB(1)5/05-06

Special meeting on 19 October 2005

7. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday, 19 October 2005 from 8:30 am to 9:30 am for the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (SFST) to brief Members on the relevant policy initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive (CE)'s 2005-2006 Policy Address.

(Post-meeting note: Mr Ronny TONG joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Regular meeting on 7 November 2005

8. The Chairman referred members to the "List of outstanding items for discussion". Members noted that the Administration had proposed that the following three items be discussed at the regular meeting to be held on Monday, 7 November 2005:

- (a) Briefing on the work of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority;
- (b) Rewrite of the Companies Ordinance; and
- (c) The 2006-07 Budget consultation.

9. On item (a) above, members noted that in accordance with established practice, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) would brief the Panel on the work of HKMA on a regular basis. The briefings would be held in February, May and November each year. On item (b), members noted that at the Panel meeting held on 4 July 2005, the Administration had briefed members on the latest thinking on the possible framework for taking forward the rewrite exercise of the Companies Ordinance. The Administration proposed to brief the Panel further in November 2005 on the proposal, including the timetable and staff requirements of the exercise. The Administration planned to seek the approval of the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee on the proposal at their meetings in December 2005 and January 2006 respectively. Regarding item (c), members noted that the Financial Secretary would conduct a briefing for Members to kickstart the consultation process for the 2006-07 Budget. Members agreed that the three items be placed on the agenda for the meeting on 7 November 2005 and that the meeting be held from 8:30 am to 12:45 pm.

IV. Any other business

Proposed discussion items for the 2005-2006 session

10. The Chairman said that he would be meeting with the SFST in November to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session. He invited members who would like to propose items for discussion by the Panel during the session to forward the details of the items in writing to the Clerk by 28 October 2005.

11. In view of recent public concerns about the risks associated with warrants trading in Hong Kong and the regulation of such trading activities, Mr CHAN Kam-lam suggested that the Administration, Securities and Futures Commission and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited should be invited to discuss the subject with the Panel. Mr Albert CHENG supported Mr CHAN's suggestion. He remarked that he would raise two written questions on warrants trading at the Council meeting to be held on 19 October 2005, including a question on regulation of media programmes on warrants trading.

12. Referring to the initiative in the CE's 2005-2006 Policy Address to further expand Renminbi business in Hong Kong, Mr James TO suggested that the Administration be invited to brief the Panel on the details.

13. The Chairman advised that members' suggestions would be conveyed to the Administration.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:20 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
1 November 2005