

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

Ref : CB2/PL/SE/1

LC Paper No. CB(2)2582/05-06  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

**Panel on Security**

**Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 2 May 2006  
at 2:30 pm in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon James TO Kun-sun (Chairman)  
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung

**Members absent** : Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Item IV

Mr WONG Wai-lun  
Deputy Secretary for Security 3

Mr LO Ying-ki, Alan  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr CHOW Kwok-chuen  
Deputy Director of Immigration

Mr WONG Wai-man  
Assistant Director of Immigration (Information Systems)

Item V

Ms Carol YUEN  
Deputy Secretary for Security 2

Mr Charles WONG  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr CHEUNG Yin-chiu  
Chief Fire Officer (Headquarters)  
Fire Services Department

Mr NG Kuen-chi  
Senior Divisional Officer (Planning Group)  
Fire Services Department

Mr TANG Man-bun, Stephen  
Project Director  
Architectural Services Department

Item VI

Miss CHEUNG Siu-hing  
Deputy Secretary for Security 1

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG  
Assistant Secretary for Security

Mr NG Sek-hon  
Director of Finance, Administration and Planning  
Hong Kong Police Force

Mr Paul HUNG  
Regional Commander (Hong Kong Island)  
Hong Kong Police Force

Ms Barbara R. WILLISON  
Chief Superintendent of Police (Planning and  
Development Branch)

Mr Stephen TANG  
Project Director  
Architectural Services Department

**Clerk in attendance** : Mrs Sharon TONG  
Chief Council Secretary (2)1

**Staff in attendance** : Mr LEE Yu-sung  
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Raymond LAM  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Helen DIN  
Legislative Assistant (2) 1

Ms Sandy HAU  
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

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**I. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1828/05-06)

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2006 were confirmed.

**II. Information papers issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1618/05-06(01), CB(2)1737/05-06(01) and  
CB(2)1826/05-06(01))

2. Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting –

- (a) submission dated 29 March 2006 from the Society for Community Organization on the welfare of asylum seekers;
- (b) Administration's paper entitled "Welfare Assistance for Asylum Seekers"; and
- (c) letter from Hon SIN Chung-kai regarding the discussion of the procedures of law enforcement officers in searching communication service companies.

3. Regarding the paper referred to in paragraph 2(c) above, members agreed that the Administration should be requested to provide information relating to searches conducted by law enforcement officers on communication service companies.

**III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

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(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1827/05-06(01) and (02))

4. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next meeting to be held on 6 June 2006 at 2:30 pm -

- (a) Progress Report on the Implementation of the Drug Dependent Persons Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres (Licensing) Ordinance;
- (b) Junior Police Officers' Married Quarters at Area 44, Tuen Mun; and
- (c) Administration's proposal to establish the Independent Police Complaints Council as a statutory body.

5. Members agreed that the item "Security Arrangements for the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Hong Kong from 13 to 18 December 2005" proposed by the Administration should be discussed at the Panel meeting in July 2006. They also agreed that the Administration should be requested to provide a report of the Police's review of its operations during the conference period before the meeting on 6 June 2006.

6. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for 4 May 2006 at 4:30 pm to discuss the Report on Leakage of Personal Data issued by the Independent Police Complaints Council on 8 April 2006.

**IV. Proposed creation of one permanent post of Chief Systems Manager in the Immigration Department**

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1827/05-06(03))

7. Deputy Secretary for Security 3 (DS for S3) briefed members on the Administration's proposal to make permanent an existing supernumerary post of Chief Systems Manager (CSM) in the Immigration Department (ImmD), which would lapse on 1 November 2006.

8. Mr Howard YOUNG said that the Liberal Party had always examined proposals to create posts in a cautious manner. It had examined the Administration's proposal and noted that there was a need to make the supernumerary CSM post permanent. He asked whether the proposed CSM post had been included in the forecast of civil service directorate proposals in the 2005-06 legislative session for the Establishment Subcommittee. He also asked whether the supernumerary posts created for the smart identity card replacement exercise would continue to exist after the exercise was completed.

9. DS for S3 responded that the proposed CSM post had been included in the

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forecast of civil service directorate proposals in the 2005-06 legislative session, which had been submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee. He said that the posts created for the identity card replacement exercise were all time-limited and would lapse after the exercise was completed.

10. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that proposals for the conversion of supernumerary posts to permanent ones were examined cautiously by the Democratic Party. It noted that there was a genuine need for the CSM post and thus supported the Administration's proposal to make the supernumerary CSM post permanent.

11. Ms Margaret NG asked why there was a need for making the supernumerary CSM post permanent, given that there were mainly increases in the number of passengers cleared at immigration control points.

12. DS for S3 responded that there were eight core information systems in ImmD. In the latter part of the year, the department would implement the Application and Investigation Easy System and the Electronic Records Programme, and introduce more e-channels. The electronic Hong Kong Special Administrative Region passport would also be launched next year. Deputy Director of Immigration (DD of Imm) added that the information technology (IT) systems of ImmD were under continuous development. After implementation of the Information Systems Strategy (ISS) and the updated ISS, ImmD would conduct a review and examine the need to conduct the next round of ISS study to examine how IT could help further enhance the department's productivity, efficiency and quality of service to the public.

13. Ms Margaret NG asked whether permanent posts similar to the proposed one were found in many other government departments.

14. DS for S3 responded that the Hong Kong Police Force, the Education and Manpower Bureau, the Inland Revenue Department and the Hongkong Post each had their own IT Management Unit headed by a permanent CSM post.

15. The Chairman said that ImmD had been successful in its development of various IT systems. He asked whether the systems of ImmD had developed to such a stage where further investment of resources would only bring about diminishing improvement. He asked whether there was a need for an increase in the number of frontline staff instead of a permanent CSM post.

16. DS for S3 responded that the development of IT systems in ImmD had not reached the stage of diminishing return. He said that the number of passengers using immigration control points had been growing rapidly. The supernumerary CSM post was created in 2001. When the supernumerary post was extended in 2003 alongside the deletion of a permanent directorate post in the Police, the Administration had cautiously decided to allow more time for studying the need for a permanent CSM post and thus had not proposed making the supernumerary post permanent at that time.

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After study, the Administration had come to the conclusion that there was a genuine need for a permanent CSM post in ImmD. He pointed out that the wide application of IT systems of the department had brought about significant savings in staff costs. The updated ISS, which was originally expected to bring about savings of 425 posts, would eventually result in savings of 530 posts upon full implementation in 2007. These 530 posts represented a saving of \$172 million per year on top of the \$200 million per annum savings already brought about by the first ISS. He added that IT systems had a certain shelf-life. Enhancement and replacement of the system required careful planning.

17. Assistant Director of Immigration added that experienced and professional personnel were needed for the continuous enhancement of system security and the capability of the IT systems of ImmD.

18. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung questioned why there was a need for ImmD to create a CSM post. He said that the benefits generated from the enhancement of IT systems would gradually diminish, if the systems were continuously enhanced. He had been informed by some personnel of ImmD that the frequent congestion of passenger traffic at the control point in Lok Ma Chau was due to a mismatch between the arrangement of Hong Kong and the Mainland rather than inadequacies in ImmD's facilities or IT systems. He added that ImmD should not seek to upgrade its systems merely for the purpose of reducing the number of frontline personnel.

19. DS for S3 responded that the Administration's proposal only involved making permanent an existing supernumerary CSM post which would lapse on 1 November 2006. The proposal did not involve the creation of any additional post and would not result in the redundancy of any frontline ImmD staff because the manpower released from savings of the updated ISS could be absorbed by the new control points coming on stream. He said that the Administration was examining how congestion at boundary control points could be relieved, for example, through expanding the use of e-channels to visitors.

20. Dr LUI Ming-wah said that the introduction of smart identity cards and e-channels had proved useful in facilitating passenger traffic at boundary control points. According to his experience in using e-channels, there was still room for improvement and upgrading of the e-channels. He expressed support for the Administration's proposal.

21. The Deputy Chairman said that, in view of the rapid technological development and demand of the public for high quality services, he supported the Administration's proposal.

**V. Fire Services Department Diving Training Centre in the Government**

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**Dockyard at Stonecutters Island**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1827/05-06(04))

22. Deputy Secretary for Security 2 (DS for S2) briefed members on the Administration's proposal to construct a diving training centre for the Fire Services Department (FSD) at the northwest corner of the Government Dockyard at Stonecutters Island.

23. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that since the FSD Diving Unit had an existing establishment of about 112 divers, there would be about 10 to 20 divers undergoing training in each year to replenish staff wastage, if the average span of service of a diver was 10 years. He questioned whether such a number of divers undergoing training justified the construction of the proposed diving training centre.

24. DS for S2 responded that besides the 112 divers of FSD's Diving Unit, there were more than 30 divers under the establishment of the FSD Airport Fire Contingent. Besides training for new divers, regular training and refresher courses would also be provided for divers. In future, the proposed Centre could also provide training for ambulancemen and the staff of other government departments, such as the Customs and Excise Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide information on the annual savings to be generated from the use of the proposed diving training centre by FSD and other government departments.

25. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed concern that the utilisation rate of the proposed diving training centre would be low. He asked whether some facilities of the Seaman's Training Centre could be modified and used for training FSD divers. He queried why a canteen would be needed for the proposed diver training centre, given that the number of persons who undergo training at one time would be very small. Mr LAU Kong-wah shared Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong's concerns about the low utilisation rate of the proposed diving training centre. The Chairman asked about the projected usage, in terms of average number of hours per day, of the proposed diving training centre.

26. Chief Fire Officer (Headquarters), Fire Service Department (CFO) responded that the diving training centre would be used between 9 am and 5 pm each day for about 48 weeks in a year. Apart from providing training for divers, the proposed diving training centre would serve as a base for marine rescue operations. A diving tender and three diving support vessels would be stationed at the centre daily to respond to emergencies in the sea. The canteen would be used for providing meals, including dinners, to about 23 staff daily. This was particularly necessary when frontline officers had to stay inside the centre and respond to emergencies during typhoons and bad weather.

27. Referring to paragraph 2 of the Administration's paper, Mr LAU Kong-wah

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asked about the type of operations involved in some 470 diving operations performed by FSD divers in a year. CFO responded that such operations involved rescue operations in water and on land where divers were needed. The Chairman and Ms Audrey EU requested the Administration to provide a breakdown of the diving operations performed by FSD divers.

Adm

28. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked about the locations where divers were currently trained and how undesirable the conditions at such locations were for diving training.

29. CFO responded that diving training in deep waters was currently conducted at the waters outside Fat Tong Mun, Tung Lung Chau and Lamma Island. Such training had to be conducted in waters far away from marine traffic, resulting in a long travelling time for divers. The deep sea simulator in the proposed diving training centre would provide training under simulated deep sea diving conditions equivalent to a depth of about 60 to 70 metres.

30. Mr LAU Kong-wah asked whether it would be more desirable for divers to undergo training under the sea rather than under simulated conditions only. He asked whether the proposed construction of a diving training centre was the only solution that met the training needs of divers.

31. DS for S2 responded that the unfavourable sea conditions in Hong Kong were undesirable for initial diving training. The limited underwater visibility made it difficult for instructors to observe and monitor the trainees' performance.

32. CFO said that the proposed training centre would enable diving training to be conducted efficiently and safely under controlled environments. There was no other suitable location in Hong Kong where training in underwater thermal cutting could be provided.

33. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the Administration's proposal. He said that he had observed training for divers and noted that such training had long been hindered by poor weather conditions and a lack of suitable locations in the busy waters of Hong Kong. He said that the Administration should promote the diving training centre among other government departments to achieve better utilisation. He hoped that the location of the proposed diving training centre would not affect marine traffic.

34. DS for S2 said that the proposed diving training centre would facilitate better coordination among FSD's Diving Unit, the diving tender and diving vessels in rescue operations. She undertook to provide the Panel with information on the number of training hours to be provided by the proposed training centre to divers of FSD and other disciplined services.

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35. The Chairman said that if the service life of the proposed diving training centre



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was about 20 years, the capital costs of the training centre would be about \$7 million per year. He asked whether the Administration had examined the viability of procuring the required training for divers.

36. DS for S2 responded that advanced diving training could only be provided comprehensively by overseas countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Besides cost considerations, FSD had to maintain a sufficient number of divers in Hong Kong to meet daily operational needs. CFO added that similar diving training facilities were not available in nearby places such as Shenzhen and Guangzhou. The Chairman said that the Administration should explore whether the proposed diving training centre could provide training for divers from other places to increase its utilisation and income.

37. Ms Audrey EU said that the training of FSD divers should be undertaken by FSD. She asked why the Administration had not set out in its paper the savings in overseas training expenses after the proposed diving training centre came into use.

38. DS for S2 responded that, owing to the shortage of financial resources and the small establishment of FSD's Diving Unit, about 30 divers had undergone overseas training at a total cost of about \$2.75 million in the past five years. After the proposed diving training centre came into operation, most diving training would be conducted in Hong Kong. Overseas training would be considered only when there was a need to acquire professional diving qualifications or knowledge about operation of latest equipment.

39. Ms Audrey EU asked why the Administration's proposal had not been submitted until many years after consultation with the relevant District Council (DC) in 1999 and 2002.

40. DS for S2 responded that after consultation with the relevant DC in 1999, time was needed for studying overseas practices and working out the detailed design of the diving training centre before the relevant DC was consulted on the detailed design in 2002. Owing to the financial situation of the Administration in 2003 and 2004, the proposed project was not classified under Category B until 2005.

41. Ms Audrey EU said that as the estimated capital cost of the proposed diving training centre was \$144.1 million and the recurrent cost arising from the project was about \$3.746 million, the Administration should provide full justifications for the construction of the proposed diving training centre.

42. DS for S2 responded that training for FSD divers had always been inadequate, which was undesirable. This was due to the financial difficulties faced by the Administration in the past few years and the small establishment of FSD's Diving Unit that very few divers could attend overseas training each year. She said that there was an average of 470 diving operations per year in the past three years and the

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number of operations had exceeded 800 in 2001. Besides, each diving operation had to be undertaken by a team of divers. The Administration hoped that all divers could undergo various diving training after the proposed diving training centre came into operation so that more divers would be capable of performing different types of diving operations.

43. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed concern whether the workload of FSD divers would increase after undergoing training. He considered that there should be a comparison between the length of working hours of FSD divers and the rescue divers of other countries.

44. CFO responded that there were stringent requirements on the length of time when a diver could work under water. He said that training in rough sea imposed danger on diving trainees. The proposed diving training centre would enable diving training to be efficiently and safely conducted under controlled environments. The provision of various diving training to divers would enable all divers to acquire the necessary skills to perform different types of diving operations, thus more relief divers with the required competency would be available for prolonged operations.

45. The Chairman said that as members had expressed various concerns about the Administration's proposal, the Administration should consider providing more information and justifications when submitting the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.

**VI. Central Police District Headquarters and Central Police Division at Chung Kong Road, Sheung Wan**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1827/05-06(05))

46. Deputy Secretary for Security 1 (DS for S1) briefed members on the Administration's proposed reprovisioning of the Central District Headquarters (CDIST HQs) and Central Divisional (CDIV) Station of the Police.

47. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the Administration's proposal. He asked about the benefits to be generated from the proposed reprovisioning.

48. DS for S1 responded that the proposed reprovisioning would enhance the operational efficiency of CDIST HQs and CDIV Station. The current location of CDIST HQs and CDIV Station in the Arsenal House Complex was undesirable in that it was located at one end of the Central Police District. The proposed location at Chung Kong Road in Sheung Wan was a suitable site located at the centre of the Central Police District.

49. Director of Finance, Administration and Planning, Hong Kong Police Force

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(DFAP) said that upon the completion of the proposed reprovisioning, the Wan Chai District Headquarters and Wan Chai Divisional Station of the Police, which was currently located at Gloucester Road, could be relocated to the Arsenal House Complex, thus releasing the Gloucester Road site for redevelopment.

50. Ms Audrey EU asked about the use of the Gloucester Road site after the Wan Chai District Headquarters and Wan Chai Divisional Station of the Police were relocated to the Arsenal House Complex.

51. DS for S1 responded that as the Gloucester Road site would not be relinquished until 2010, the after-use of the site had yet to be decided. The Chairman said that as the future use of the Gloucester Road site might influence some Members' decision as to whether the proposal should be supported, the Administration should consider providing more information on the future use of the Gloucester Road site.

52. Ms Audrey EU asked about the existing land use of the Gloucester Road site. Project Director, Architectural Services Department responded that the existing land use of the site was "government, institutions or community facilities".

53. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung asked about the proposed use of the Annex Block referred to in paragraph 11 of the Administration's paper. He asked whether the facilities referred to in the paragraph were strictly necessary.

54. DFAP responded that the proposed Annex Block would be occupied by CDIST HQs and CDIV Station, and the facilities/accommodation sought were properly justified in accordance with Government's requirements. To better utilise resources, some facilities currently provided in the existing Waterfront Divisional Station, such as the canteen, would be used for the amalgamated division after suitable modification or expansion.

Adm 55. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a comparison between the offices and facilities of CDIST HQs as well as CDIV in the Central Police Station Compound and at the proposed Annex Block at Chung Kong Road. He also asked the Administration to advise whether the office areas in the proposed site were in compliance with the accommodation regulations of the Administration.

56. The meeting ended at 4:35 pm.