

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)103/06-07
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref: CB1/PL/ES/1

Panel on Economic Services

**Minutes of meeting held on
Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 10:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon KWONG Chi-kin

Members absent: Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon TAM Heung-man

Clerk in attendance : Ms Connie SZETO
Chief Council Secretary (1)6

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Debbie YAU
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Ms Sarah YUEN
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Mr Justin TAM
Council Secretary (1)3

Miss Queenie LAM
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2

Ms Michelle NIEN
Legislative Assistant (1)9

Action

I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Mr James TIEN, Chairman of the Panel for the 2005-2006 session, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session and invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Mr Jeffrey LAM was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Ir Dr Raymond HO and Mr CHAN Kam-lam. Mr LAM accepted the nomination.

3. There being no other nominations, Mr James TIEN declared that Mr Jeffrey LAM was elected Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session. Mr LAM then took over the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr Abraham SHEK was nominated by Mr LAU Chin-shek and the nomination was seconded by Ir Dr Raymond HO. Mr SHEK accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared that Mr Abraham SHEK was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

Action

II Schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session

5. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 10:45 am. As the fourth Monday of December 2006 was a public holiday, members agreed to reschedule the meeting to Thursday, 21 December 2006 at 4:30 pm. Mr Howard YOUNG noted that for the 2006-07 session, the last Panel meeting (scheduled for 23 July 2007) was far beyond the last Council meeting (to be held on 11 July 2007), and suggested that the July 2007 meeting be advanced to an earlier date to facilitate members. Members agreed.

(Post-meeting note: The July 2007 meeting has been advanced to Wednesday 18 July 2007. The schedule of regular meetings for the 2006-2007 session has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)54/06-07 on 13 October 2006.)

III Items for discussion at next meeting

Appendix V to LC Paper No.— List of outstanding items for discussion
CB(1)8/06-07

Appendix VI to LC Paper No.— List of follow-up actions
CB(1)8/06-07

LC Paper No. CB(1)8/06-07(01) — Letter dated 22 September 2006 from Hon KWONG Chi-kin

LC Paper No. CB(1)8/06-07(02) — Letter dated 4 October 2006 from Hon SIN Chung-kai

LC Paper No. CB(1)8/06-07(03) — Letter dated 14 September 2006 from Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Regular meeting on 23 October 2006

6. Members noted that the Administration had proposed the following two discussion items for the next regular meeting to be held on 23 October 2006:

(a) Briefing by the Secretary for Economic Development and Labour on relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2006-2007; and

(b) A tourism item.

7. Members agreed to place the above two items on the agenda of the meeting on Monday, 23 October 2006, from 10:45am to 12:45pm.

Items proposed for discussion by members

8. The Chairman invited members to consider the three items proposed by members for discussion at Panel meetings.

Action

Ngong Ping 360 (proposed by Hon KWONG Chi-kin, LC Paper No CB(1)8/06-07(01))

9. Members noted that according to the Administration, it would provide an update by next week to address the concern raised by Hon KWONG Chi-kin about a crack discovered at the Tung Chung Terminal of the Tung Chung Cable Car System (TTCCS). The Administration would also respond to an oral question on Ngong Ping 360 at the Legislative Council meeting on 18 October 2006. Members further noted that the MTR Corporation Limited/Skyrail had invited Panel members to visit Ngong Ping 360 in the morning of 3 November 2006.

10. After discussion, members agreed to accept the invitation to visit Ngong Ping 360 on 3 November 2006. To facilitate members in attending other meetings or activities after the visit, the Administration would be requested to curtail the duration of the visit as far as possible. Members also agreed to consider appropriate follow-up action for the subject after the visit.

(Post-meeting note: At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the item has subsequently been scheduled for discussion at the Panel meeting on 23 October 2006.)

Regulation of travel agents (proposed by Hon SIN Chung-kai, LC Paper No CB(1)8/06-07(02))

11. Arising from recent complaints by visitors against some travel agents' malpractice of charging unreasonable fees and forcing visitors to purchase goods during arranged shopping activities, Mr SIN Chung-kai raised concern about the regulatory regime for agents and tour guides. He suggested inviting the Administration and the trade travel industry to brief members on relevant complaints, follow-up actions taken and proposed measures to deal with the problem.

12. Mr Howard YOUNG said that the Liberal Party was equally concerned about the problem and he had discussed related issues with the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TICHK). He suggested that the item be scheduled for discussion at the regular meeting in November 2006 and representatives from the TICHK be invited to join the discussion.

13. Mr Vincent FANG expressed concern about the surge in number of complaints from Mainland visitors about being cheated during shopping in Hong Kong. In this connection, Mr Howard YOUNG opined that representative from trade associations in the retail sector as well as the Consumer Council should also be invited to join the discussion on the subject.

14. Members agreed that the item on regulation of travel agents be scheduled for discussion on 27 November 2006.

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Operation of Hong Kong Disneyland (Hon Fred LI, LC Paper No CB(1)8/06-07(03))

15. Given that Hong Kong Disneyland (HKD) had commenced operation for over a year, Mr Fred LI considered it timely for the Administration to conduct an overall review on the theme park's operation and performance with a view to facilitating its future development. In view that the Panel had been briefed on the operation of HKD in February 2006, the Chairman suggested and members agreed to schedule the item for discussion at the meeting on 21 December 2006.

Operation and development of the Ocean Park

16. Appreciating the good performance of the Ocean Park, Mr WONG Ting-kwong suggested that the Panel should continue to monitor the future development of the theme park. Members agreed to include the item in the Panel's "List of outstanding items for discussion".

Economic development of Hong Kong

17. Pointing out that economic development was a major theme of the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2006-07, the Deputy Chairman opined that the Panel should discuss issues related to the overall economic development of Hong Kong. The Assistant Secretary General 1 advised that as agreed by the House Committee, the Panel on Financial Affairs (FA Panel) had been tasked to take the lead in discussing issues related to this subject, and where appropriate, members of the Panel on Economic Services and Panel on Commerce and Industry would be invited to join the discussion. The Chairman invited the Deputy Chairman to raise the matter at the meeting of the FA Panel.

Future development of the electricity market in Hong Kong

18. Members noted that the Panel had held a number of special meetings during the 2005-2006 session to deliberate on issues relating to the future development of the electricity market in Hong Kong, including the outcome of the Stage II Public Consultation, the arrangements to cater for new supply sources, and environmental regulation in the future electricity market.

19. The Clerk reported that, as follow-up to the special meeting on 25 September 2006, the Administration would provide information on measures adopted by overseas regulatory regimes for reducing emissions from power plants. The information would be available by mid October 2006.

20. The Chairman said that the Panel could consider inviting the Administration to brief members on the progress of the discussion with the two power companies at the regular meeting in November 2006. Mr CHAN Kam-lam and Mr James TIEN however pointed out that as the Administration was still negotiating with the two power companies on the post-2008 bilateral agreements, it might not be appropriate for the Administration to disclose the details on the matter at this stage. Members agreed

Action

to seek the Administration's advice on its readiness to discuss the item at the regular meeting in November 2006. Otherwise, the item would be discussed at the regular meeting in December 2006.

IV Any other business

21. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:50 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
19 October 2006