

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2617/07-08
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 15 February 2008, at 9:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man
- Members attending** : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
- Members absent** : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP

Public Officers : Item IV
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mrs Carrie YAU
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss Janet WONG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport)

Financial Secretary's Office

Miss Elley MAO
Principal Economist (3)

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

Mr PANG Chung
Honourable Secretary General

Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Esther LEUNG Yuet-yin
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Ms Winnie SO Chui-ying
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)1

Mr Vincent FUNG Hao-yin
Principal Assistant Secretary (West Kowloon Cultural District)1

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Mr Louis YU
Executive Director

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Professor Kevin Thompson
Director

Dr Herbert HUEY
Associate Director (Administration) and Registrar

Mr John Williams
Dean of Theatre and Entertainment Arts

Attendance by invitation : Item V

Mr Oscar HO Hing-kay
Department of Cultural & Religious Studies,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of
Hong Kong

Mr Stanley HUNG
Home Affairs Policy Deputy Spokesperson

The Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong

Mr YUEN Siu-fai
Deputy Chairman

Mr LUNG Kung-tin
Member

Zuni Icosahedron

Mr Mathias WOO

The Composers & Authors Society of Hong Kong

Professor CHAN Wing-wah
Chairman
(also Head of The Centre for Creative & Performing
Arts, SPACE - The University of Hong Kong)

The Hong Kong Philharmonic Society Ltd

Mr Edward HO
Chairman, Board of Governors

Mr Timothy Calnin
Chief Executive

Hong Kong Fringe Club and
Hong Kong Arts Administrations' Association

Mr Benny CHIA
Director/Founder
and Vice Chairman - Hong Kong Arts Administrations'
Association

Civic Party

Mr NG Gene-bond
District Developer

Hong Kong Arts Centre

Mr Francis YU
Acting Head of Hong Kong Art School

Ms Josephine NG
Research Officer

The International Association of Art Critics, Hong Kong

Mr Gerard Henry
President

Mr John Batten
Member

Hong Kong Arts Festival Society

Ms Tisa HO
Executive Director

Spring-time Stage Productions Ltd

Mr KO Chi-sum
Chief Executive Office & Producer

Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture

Ms Ada WONG
Chairman

Islands District Council

Mr LEUNG Siu-tong
Chairman of Community Affairs, Culture and
Recreation Committee

The Association of Managers, Cultural Services

Miss Irene LAM
Chairlady

Miss Shirley WONG
Vice Chairlady

Professional Commons

Mr Jeffrey AU Tsan-nien
Chief Development Officer

Ms PON Yuen-yee
Member

The Ink Society Ltd

Mrs Nancy LEE
Director

Museum of Site

Mr Andrew LAM Hon-kin
Curator

Clerk in attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Joanne MAK
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)2

I. Confirmation of minutes
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1051/07-08]

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The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2007 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)825/07-08(01) and CB(2)906/07-08(01)]

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

- (a) a letter dated 9 January 2008 from the Administration in reply to Hong Kong Christian Institute on matters relating to the Human Rights Education Working Group under the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education [LC Paper No. CB(2)825/07-08(01)]; and
- (b) a letter dated 11 December 2007 from a property management company regarding entertainment licensing and the Administration's reply letter dated 18 January 2008 [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)906/07-08(01) and CB(2)699/07-08(01)].

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1053/07-08]

Items for discussion at the next regular meeting

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Friday, 14 March 2008, at 10:45 am -

- (a) national education and human rights education;
- (b) promotion of Cantonese opera and other Xiqu; and
- (c) redevelopment of the Hong Kong Sports Institute.

(Post-meeting note: at the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, discussion on the item referred to in (c) was subsequently deferred to the regular meeting scheduled for 11 April 2008.)

Regular meeting in July 2008

4. The Chairman said that the last Council meeting of the 2007-2008 legislative session was scheduled for 9 July 2008, the duration of which was expected to be long and the Panel would have already submitted a report of its work to the Council by then. She suggested that the Panel should cancel the regular meeting scheduled for 11 July 2008 and might consider holding a

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Clerk

special meeting around end of June/early July should the need arise. Members agreed.

Visit to Hong Kong Art School

Clerk

5. The Chairman informed members that the Hong Kong Arts Centre had written to invite the Panel to visit the Hong Kong Art School to understand their work in promoting culture and the arts. Members agreed to accept the invitation. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to issue a circular inviting members' participation.

Visit to the site of the former police married quarters at Hollywood Road

Clerk

6. Members agreed that, as the excavated site had been filled and the cornerstone of the former Central School as reported by the press could no longer be seen, the visit of the Subcommittee on Heritage Conservation for the afternoon on 21 February 2008 to the site of the former police married quarters at Hollywood Road should be cancelled.

IV. Estimated financial implications to support the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China in hosting the 2011 International Olympic Committee Session

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1053/07-08 (01) and (02)]

7. Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PSHA) briefed members on the salient points of the Administration's discussion paper on its proposal to seek the Finance Committee (FC)'s acceptance in principle of the estimated financial implications to support the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) in hosting the 123rd International Olympic Committee Session in 2011 (2011 IOC Session) if the bid for the right to host the event was successful. She said that the estimated total expenditure for hosting the 2011 IOC Session would be around \$135 million at current (January 2008) prices. The Administration planned to seek FC's approval in principle of the estimated financial implications on 22 February 2008, so that SF&OC could submit its formal document to IOC to bid for the hosting right of the event by 28 February 2008.

8. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1053/07-08(01)], Honourable Secretary General (Hon SG) of SF&OC briefed members on a tentative cost breakdown of the total expenditure under the current proposal.

Discussion

9. Mr Andrew CHENG was of the view that in raising Hong Kong's profile in the international sports arena, strengthening support and training for

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elite athletes was more important than strengthening investment in the "hardware" in sports. The Administration should not be only interested in devoting large amounts of resources to hosting high-profile sports events but neglected the need for enhancing support and training for elite athletes. Miss TAM Heung-man also raised doubt as to whether the hosting of the 2011 IOC Session would be able to contribute to promoting interest in sports in the community.

10. Dr Fernando CHEUNG took the view that, as the estimated total expenditure was a large amount of money, the Administration should seize the opportunity of hosting the 2011 IOC Session to promote sports development and provide opportunities for elite athletes to participate in the 2011 IOC Session.

11. PSHA responded that successful promotion of sports development relied on the sustained efforts made by the Administration on a long-term basis instead of a one-off event. She considered that the hosting of the 2011 IOC Session would contribute to the promotion of sports and raise general interest in international sports events. Mrs Sophie LEUNG also considered that hosting the event could raise general awareness of international sports events and the community's interest in sports.

12. Mr Albert CHAN and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong both considered that the hosting of the 2011 IOC Session could, at most, enable Hong Kong to gain more experience in organising international conventions but it had nothing to do with raising "Hong Kong's prestige and profile in the international sports arena". Mr CHAN further criticised that sports development in Hong Kong had long been hindered by the unfair allocation of resources within the sector as demonstrated by the large gap between the remuneration received by senior management staff of sports organisations and that by elite athletes. He said that sports development would have benefited more if the funding to be sought under the current proposal were to be spent on enhancing the support to elite athletes and on reforming the management of the national sports associations. He therefore opposed to the current proposal.

13. Mr Andrew CHENG was of the view that the Administration should cap the total expenditure and undertake not to seek additional funding in the future. Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Miss TAM Heung-man stressed that the Administration should avoid cost overrun by exercising stringent financial control in the use of funding for hosting the event. Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that, in the event of cost overrun, the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party (DP) respectively would not support any proposal from the Administration to seek additional funding to meet the shortfall.

14. PSHA undertook that, barring high inflation rate, the Administration, together with SF&OC, would make the best endeavors to control the total

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expenditure within the estimated budget of \$135 million. If the bid for the right to host the event was successful, the Administration would request SF&OC to exercise proper internal controls to ensure the cost-effectiveness and accountability in the use of the fund, such as requiring SF&OC to submit annual audit reports prepared by certified public accountants and appointing government officials to the relevant organising committee as ex officio members to monitor the use of funding.

15. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern that Hong Kong would suffer from a loss as the total anticipated spending of the overseas visitors would be only around \$80 million to \$110 million whereas the total expenditure would be in the region of \$123 million to \$135 million. She raised queries about the financial implications incurred and economic benefits derived in hosting the Sixth Ministerial Conference (MC6) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) TELECOM WORLD 2006.

16. Referring to the Administration's papers [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)245/07-08(02) and CB(2)587/07-08(01)] previously submitted to the Panel on this subject, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) (PAS(R&S)) said that the budget for hosting MC6 of WTO was \$256 million and that for hosting ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 was \$93 million, whereas the tangible economic benefit for hosting MC6 of WTO was about \$100 million and that for hosting ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 was about \$900 million plus creation of about 1 000 temporary jobs. She added that, while hosting MC6 of WTO seemed to have ended up in a financial loss, the intangible benefits generated as detailed in the relevant paper should be taken into account.

17. Referring to paragraph 2 of the Administration's discussion paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1053/07-08(01)], Ms Emily LAU further asked about the basis of the estimate that an IOC Session would attract about 10 000 overseas visitors to the host city. Hon SG of SF&OC responded that SF&OC had approached certain host cities of the past IOC Sessions for information, but only the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) (host NOC of the 2005 IOC Session) had responded. Ms LAU expressed concern about the accuracy of the information under reference as the estimated number of visitors was based on the experience of only one host city. PSHA explained that, as advised by IOC, an IOC Session would attract about 300 delegations involving about 10 000 participants. It was very likely that the host city of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games would be elected and announced at the 2011 IOC Session. If many cities would bid for the hosting right of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, the number of delegations of the 2011 IOC Session would be larger.

18. In response to Professor Patrick LAU's question, PSHA said that which other cities were also interested in bidding for the hosting right would not be known until after 28 February 2008, i.e. after the deadline for submission of bid

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documents to IOC. Professor LAU further enquired about the criteria of selection of a host city. Hon SG of SF&OC said that IOC would mainly consider factors including the suitability of venues in the city applying to host the event, security, transport facilities and information technology support, etc.

19. Miss TAM Heung-man queried whether hosting the 2011 IOC Session could promote Hong Kong to the world. PSHA said that, based on past experience, it was expected that hosting the 2011 IOC Session in Hong Kong would benefit the local economy as a whole, particularly the tourist, hospitality and exhibition industries. Principal Economist (3) supplemented that the total anticipated spending of overseas visitors was only a conservative estimate which was based on the average per capita spending of overnight visitors (i.e. some \$1,380) in 2006. However, it was expected that the participants of the 2011 IOC Session would mostly be business visitors whose average per capita spending in 2006 was some \$2,000. She added that, depending on the countries from which the visitors came, the actual spending could be more than the current estimate which was based on the "average per capita spending".

20. Mr Tommy CHEUNG considered that members should not consider the current proposal merely on the basis of the direct economic benefits without taking into account the long-term intangible benefits, such as the benefit of promoting Hong Kong as an international convention centre to the world. Mrs Sophie LEUNG considered that it would be an honour to Hong Kong if it succeeded in bidding for the hosting right, and Hong Kong should also keep on holding more international conventions in order to accumulate more such experience which would be important to the economic development of Hong Kong. The Chairman said that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong was also supportive of the current proposal.

21. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that DP supported the current proposal but considered that the economic benefits to be brought about would only be limited. DP's support was mainly based on the consideration that as a member of the international sports arena, Hong Kong had an obligation to host the event.

22. Mr Timothy FOK declared interests as President of SF&OC. He appealed to members for their support for the current proposal and assured members that, if the bid for the right to host the event was successful, SF&OC would exercise stringent controls to ensure prudent use of the fund and cost-effectiveness.

23. To sum up the discussion, the Chairman said that, after its discussions at the meetings held on 9 November and 26 November, the Panel supported in principle SF&OC's proposal to bid for the right to host the 2011 IOC session. As all Members present at this meeting except Mr Albert CHAN had expressed support for the current proposal, it was concluded that the Panel supported the Administration's plan to seek the FC's approval in principle of the relevant estimated financial implications on 22 February 2008. Ms Emily LAU,

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however, expressed dissatisfaction with the short timeframe between the Panel's discussion and FC's consideration of the current proposal. She requested that the Administration should include, in its paper to be submitted to FC, detailed information in response to concerns raised by members at this meeting and observe strictly the deadline of FC for provision of papers. PSHA said that the Administration would provide FC with the paper on the current proposal in due course.

(Post-meeting note: the Administration issued the relevant paper to FC vide FCR Paper No. FCR(2007-08)59.)

V. Strengthening the software and humanware in culture and the arts
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)245/07-08 (03) - (04) and CB(2)1053/07-08(03)]

Meeting with deputations

24. The Panel received views on the measures put forward by the Administration to strengthen the software and humanware in culture and the arts [paragraphs 26 to 28 of the Administration's paper LC Paper No. CB(2)245/07-08 (03)] from a total of 19 individuals and arts organisations attending the meeting. The Panel noted that Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, member of Eastern District Council and DP had also provided submissions which were issued under LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1053/07-08(05), (06) and CB(2)1101/07-08(07) respectively.

25. The views and comments made by these individuals and organisations broadly covered the following issues -

- arts education in schools, audience building and community participation;
- professional training on the arts, arts administration and arts criticism;
- a comprehensive manpower mapping survey for the development of culture and the arts;
- developing performing venues and exploring new and alternative art spaces in the community;
- resources allocation and increasing support for small and medium sized arts groups as well as the young and budding arts groups/artists;

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- initiatives to facilitate the development of culture and the arts, e.g. introducing institutional reform and setting up a Cultural Affairs Bureau;
- promotion of Chinese culture;
- development of public libraries and museums; and
- heritage conservation.

26. At the suggestion of Ms Emily LAU, the Clerk was requested to prepare a summary of the views expressed by the deputations for members' reference. The Administration was requested to provide responses in writing to the views raised by the deputations.

(Post-meeting note: the summary of views and the Administration's written responses were issued under LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1805/07-08 (04) and CB(2)1805/07-08(03) respectively.)

Administration's initial response to the views of deputations

27. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) (DSHA(3)) made the following initial responses to the views expressed by the deputations -

On increasing funding support

- (a) the Administration was conducting a review in consultation with the Funding Committee on Performing Arts, a dedicated committee appointed to advise on funding matters for the major professional performing arts groups, with a view to devising a new funding and assessment mechanism for supporting these major performing arts groups, which would include a set of assessment criteria, their quantifiable deliverables as well as their performance in management;
- (b) the review was expected to be completed in 2009-2010. During the transitional period, i.e. 2008-2010, the Administration would increase funding support for the 10 major performing arts groups to enable their consolidation before a new funding and assessment mechanism was expected to be fully implemented in 2010-2011 upon completion of the review;
- (c) the Administration would increase funding support for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to enhance its role in supporting young and budding artists as well as developing small and medium sized arts groups;

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On arts education

- (d) the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) would work closely with the Education Bureau (EDB) in forging a closer network between schools and arts groups with a view to bringing arts and cultural programmes to schools so as to enhance students' appreciation;
- (e) the Administration was planning to conduct a research study on arts education to take stock of the provision of arts education in the school sector and in the community, to review the best practices overseas, and to consider how arts education could contribute to the nurturing of a creative population to develop Hong Kong into a creative economy;

On manpower requirement

- (f) the Administration was planning to launch a manpower study in early 2008 to assess the demand and supply for artists, arts administrators, curators and other arts-related professionals taking into account the current situation and estimated manpower requirements for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) facilities, and to plan for the necessary manpower training;

On cultural facilities

- (g) the Administration was planning to explore providing more community-based venues for arts and cultural uses and to foster closer collaboration between the 18 District Councils (DCs) and local arts groups for the purpose of strengthening the provision of district-based arts related programmes; and
- (h) the Administration was planning to set up an advisory body on museums in 2008 to prepare for the establishment of the statutory Museums Board and, at the same time, develop a framework for supporting the development of private museums.

Discussion

Provision of a television (TV) channel for broadcasting cultural and arts programmes

28. Referring to a letter dated 13 February 2008 from HAB [LC Paper No. CB(2)1067/07-08(01)] informing the Panel that Hong Kong Cable TV Limited could make available to the Government not more than three channels free of charge and HKADC might consider taking forward the provision of a cultural channel, Ms Emily LAU sought deputations' views on the need for such a channel. Mr Mathias WOO, Professor CHAN Wing-wah, Mr Edward HO and

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Mr KO Chi-sum expressed the view that the provision of a cultural channel would be desirable as it could provide a platform for local artists and arts organisations to showcase their creativity and arts production. Professor CHAN further suggested that Cable TV Limited should be required to make available to the Government altogether three channels free of charge for cultural and arts programmes. Mr WOO suggested that the Administration should explain how the matter would be taken forward, for example, how a tender would be invited. He added that Radio Television Hong Kong, as a public broadcasting service provider, could have a role to play which would fall under the purview of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

Setting up a Cultural Affairs Bureau

29. Dr Fernando CHEUNG expressed dissatisfaction that the Administration had all along regarded culture and the arts as leisure and recreational activities and failed to give high priority to the need for enhancing cultural and arts development in government policies. He urged the Administration that a Cultural Affairs Bureau should be set up for implementing active measures to promote culture and the arts, and to allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of adequate policy measures for the promotion of arts development in Hong Kong.

Arts education under the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum

30. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that, as far as he understood, the subject of Arts would not be made a compulsory subject under the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum and the universities would also not consider examination results on Arts in student admission. He was concerned that the importance of the Arts subject would continue to be neglected by students and parents and this would not be conducive to the nurturing of arts talents for Hong Kong. Mr CHEUNG suggested that the subject of Arts could be made a compulsory subject without the need to impose an examination requirement on students. He sought deputations' views on his suggestion

31. Professor CHAN Wing-wah and Ms Ada WONG expressed support for Mr CHEUNG's suggestion. Ms WONG further pointed out that training on arts received by teachers was also inadequate. She said that the teacher training offered at the Hong Kong Institute of Education did not include ideas of introducing arts elements in teaching of any academic subject and this was not conducive to integration of arts with formal education.

Administration's annual recurrent expenditure on culture and the arts and subvention for the major professional performing arts groups

32. Referring to paragraph 4 of the Administration's paper, Mrs Sophie LEUNG noted that funding provisions for the areas of "building a cultural network with the Mainland and with other countries" and "venue management

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and programming expenses" both included staffing and administrative expenses. In order to give a clear picture of the actual funding support, Mrs LEUNG considered that the Administration should provide the relevant figures of provision estimates excluding staffing and administrative expenses for members' reference. She added that the Administration should also explore possible means to minimize such expenses so that the savings could be re-allocated to the use of arts development.

33. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Administration's paper, Mrs LEUNG was of the view that the 10 major professional performing arts groups should not rely heavily on government funding in the long term and the Administration should review its funding policy in this regard. She suggested that the Administration should explore the feasibility of making these performing arts groups self-sufficient financially.

The WKCD project

34. Mr Alan LEONG said that he had not for once heard any word from the Chief Executive or other relevant Principal Officials regarding their cultural vision for Hong Kong. He considered that the Administration lacked a vision of the long-term cultural and arts development in Hong Kong in implementing the WKCD project and wanted to exercise a high level of government control in the course of implementing the project only. Mr LEONG was worried that the development of the WKCD project would fall short of the expectations of the cultural and arts sector. He suggested that the sector should put forward actively their views and suggestions on their long-term cultural vision for Hong Kong and participate actively in the course of the implementation of the WKCD project.

35. After discussion, members agreed that the Panel should follow up on the Administration's response to the views expressed by deputations at a future meeting in April/May 2008 with the Secretary for Home Affairs, representatives of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, EDB as well as the Labour and Welfare Bureau (regarding arts development for the disabled). To facilitate further discussion, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide its written response to the deputations' views as soon as possible. Members further agreed that the deputations attending this meeting as well as teachers' associations should be invited to join the discussion.

Admin

Clerk

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:50 pm.