

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 May 2009

The Council met at Three o'clock

MEMBERS PRESENT:

THE PRESIDENT

THE HONOURABLE JASPER TSANG YOK-SING, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT HO CHUN-YAN

IR DR THE HONOURABLE RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI, S.B.S., S.B.ST.J.,
J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEE CHEUK-YAN

DR THE HONOURABLE DAVID LI KWOK-PO, G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE FRED LI WAH-MING, J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE MARGARET NG

THE HONOURABLE JAMES TO KUN-SUN

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG MAN-KWONG

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KAM-LAM, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS SOPHIE LEUNG LAU YAU-FUN, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG YIU-CHUNG

DR THE HONOURABLE PHILIP WONG YU-HONG, G.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE LAU KONG-WAH, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE EMILY LAU WAI-HING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW CHENG KAR-FOO

THE HONOURABLE TIMOTHY FOK TSUN-TING, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TAM YIU-CHUNG, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ABRAHAM SHEK LAI-HIM, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LI FUNG-YING, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TOMMY CHEUNG YU-YAN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP

THE HONOURABLE FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE AUDREY EU YUET-MEE, S.C., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT FANG KANG, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG KWOK-HING, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE LEE WING-TAT

DR THE HONOURABLE JOSEPH LEE KOK-LONG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE JEFFREY LAM KIN-FUNG, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW LEUNG KWAN-YUEN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALAN LEONG KAH-KIT, S.C.

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG KWOK-HUNG

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG HOK-MING, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG TING-KWONG, B.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE RONNY TONG KA-WAH, S.C.

THE HONOURABLE CHIM PUI-CHUNG

THE HONOURABLE KAM NAI-WAI, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE CYD HO SAU-LAN

THE HONOURABLE STARRY LEE WAI-KING

DR THE HONOURABLE LAM TAI-FAI, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN HAK-KAN

THE HONOURABLE PAUL CHAN MO-PO, M.H., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KIN-POR, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TANYA CHAN

DR THE HONOURABLE PRISCILLA LEUNG MEI-FUN

DR THE HONOURABLE LEUNG KA-LAU

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG KWOK-CHE

THE HONOURABLE WONG SING-CHI

THE HONOURABLE WONG KWOK-KIN, B.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE WONG YUK-MAN

THE HONOURABLE IP WAI-MING, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE IP KWOK-HIM, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS REGINA IP LAU SUK-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE PAN PEY-CHYOU

THE HONOURABLE PAUL TSE WAI-CHUN

DR THE HONOURABLE SAMSON TAM WAI-HO, J.P.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

THE HONOURABLE WONG YUNG-KAN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LAU WONG-FAT, G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P.

PROF THE HONOURABLE PATRICK LAU SAU-SHING, S.B.S., J.P.

PUBLIC OFFICERS ATTENDING:

THE HONOURABLE HENRY TANG YING-YEN, G.B.S., J.P.
THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

THE HONOURABLE JOHN TSANG CHUN-WAH, J.P.
THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

THE HONOURABLE WONG YAN-LUNG, S.C., J.P.
THE SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL SUEN MING-YEUNG, G.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

THE HONOURABLE STEPHEN LAM SUI-LUNG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE AMBROSE LEE SIU-KWONG, I.D.S.M., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

DR THE HONOURABLE YORK CHOW YAT-NGOK, S.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR FOOD AND HEALTH

THE HONOURABLE DENISE YUE CHUNG-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

THE HONOURABLE TSANG TAK-SING, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG, G.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND WELFARE

PROF THE HONOURABLE K C CHAN, S.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY

THE HONOURABLE MRS CARRIE LAM CHENG YUET-NGOR, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENT

THE HONOURABLE EDWARD YAU TANG-WAH, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

THE HONOURABLE EVA CHENG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND HOUSING

MR GREGORY SO KAM-LEUNG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROF LAU SIU-KAI, J.P.
HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT

CLERK IN ATTENDANCE:

MS PAULINE NG MAN-WAH, SECRETARY GENERAL

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL UNDER RULE 8
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT
BY MEMBERS.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Members will please remain standing while the Chief Executive enters the Chamber.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung displayed a placard with slogans on it)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, will you please lower your placard, alright?

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): The placard obstructs no one but just myself.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please put it down.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung put the placard down on his table)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Chief Executive will first address the Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): President and Members, last week we fought the first battle against the pandemic influenza, and yesterday the second confirmed imported case was identified. The Government is making all-out efforts to combat the epidemic. I would like to thank Members for supporting the Government's ongoing work in the fight against and the prevention of the epidemic.

No matter how views differ in society, or how fierce the rows between the executive and the legislature are, we can still put aside our views, stand united and fight against external challenges in times of crisis. This shows the political maturity of Hong Kong, and this also shows the spirit of Hong Kong.

Secondly, I was touched by the efforts made by health care professionals, civil servants, cleaners and even hotel staff in the battle against the epidemic, as

they have been performing their duties faithfully and undauntedly, and they have really got the job done. This spirit was fully demonstrated six years ago when SARS hit Hong Kong. Six years later, we have in no way lowered guard, we have not fallen behind, instead, we have become more mature, more professional and more united.

Hong Kong is a place that we both love and hate. We were born and raised here, and we love the lifestyle of Hong Kong, but sometimes we have high expectations of it in the hope that it will improve. We also hope that it will make incessant progress and surpass others in the world; we are proud of being the people of Hong Kong. With this mentality, the public set a very high standard for the Government. When the Government makes a mistake, it will come under fierce criticism. However, I am also an ordinary person. In the face of criticism, of course, I will feel unhappy. Nevertheless, I always believe that the people of Hong Kong are of good quality and Hong Kong is a city full of vibrancy, and it is this vibrancy which enables us to tide over the difficult times one after another.

At present, the battle against the epidemic has just begun. We must be vigilant and act according to circumstances, but at the same time, we have to meet the challenges of economic recession. Hong Kong's economic performance for this year has been deteriorating and in the first quarter, a 22% year-on-year decrease was registered in the values of total exports, while retail sales have shrunk by 5.5%. The situation further deteriorated when compared with the fourth quarter of last year. I believe the figures on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter to be released by the Census and Statistics Department tomorrow will show a significant decline in the Hong Kong economy. Prospect of the second quarter is not optimistic. The global economy has yet to be fully recovered, and the human swine flu has brought uncertainties to Hong Kong. Hong Kong's annual economic forecast will have to be adjusted downward accordingly.

The war against the epidemic sheds light on the fact that as long as the Government and the general public are in the same boat and working together, we can win the war. I believe the battle against economic recession is the same. In the debate in the Legislative Council, the Financial Secretary said that he will devise appropriate plans according to the latest economic situation. If the situation deteriorates rapidly, he will not hesitate to introduce appropriate relief measures to alleviate the people's predicaments. We are now actively taking steps to make the preparation, which include consulting political parties and

groupings, and discussing these measures repeatedly within the Government. I would like to reassure the public that a new round of relief measures will be introduced within a month.

As to other medium to short-term responsive measures, we will work actively in accordance with the guiding principle of stabilizing our financial system, preserving employment and supporting enterprises. With regards to supporting enterprises, a total loan amount of \$17.6 billion has been approved under the Government's Credit Guarantee Scheme, and 6 500 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have benefited from the scheme with a total of more than 120 000 jobs being securely protected. At present, the scheme has been granting SMEs about \$200 million per working day in average, thus bringing about a significant effect.

In respect of preserving employment, we will make a funding application for over \$100 billion to the Legislative Council within the current legislative session in accordance with our plans, for the purpose of implementing a number of large and small works projects. At present, the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council has approved nearly 100 works projects and the total funding amounted to \$52 billion. We will endeavour to secure the remainder of the funding from the Legislative Council in the next two months or so, and to implement as soon as possible the works projects for which funding approval has been secured and start the works immediately, in the hope that more jobs can be created in the short term and to give new impetus to Hong Kong's economy. We expect that when key infrastructure projects are launched one after another next year, the economy and the employment situation will improve gradually.

As to the medium to long-term strategy for economic development, the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) led by me has proposed to further develop six economic areas where Hong Kong has enjoyed clear advantages. We are now focusing on research studies and the grounds of argument, and members from various industries and experts who have joined the focus groups under the TFEC have also made valuable contributions. This is no empty talk without a solid basis. We will, after sorting out all the views, formulate as soon as possible a highly operational development blueprint which suits the environment of Hong Kong.

In the past six months or so, we have been through large and small difficulties. In future, there will be immense difficulties that we have to face,

but I remain confident in the people of Hong Kong, and I believe we can certainly make it, and we can certainly get the job done.

Thank you, President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive will now answer questions put by Members. Members who wish to ask questions will please press the "Request to speak" button to indicate their wish, and wait for their turn. Members will please stand up when asking questions. In order to enable more Members to raise questions, Members should keep their questions as short and precise as possible.

After the Chief Executive has answered the question put by a Member, the Member may forthwith ask a short supplementary question on his/her question. The Member concerned only needs to raise his/her hand to indicate, and there is no need to press the "Request to speak" button again.

MS STARRY LEE (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive, the offices of many government departments are still situated in prime locations. For example, the Trade and Industry Department at Nathan Road, Mong Kok, and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Water Supplies Department at Sai Yee Street. Members of the public have frequently complained to me about that during my visits to my constituency. They criticize the Government for occupying prime locations and thus competing with the private sector for profit. Besides, the traffic in the area is also rather congested and therefore, they hope that there will be more spaces to ease the traffic flow. However, I can see that the Government has some new ideas in this regard. Earlier, the Financial Secretary proposed in the Budget that he would examine the relocation of three government buildings in the Wan Chai waterfront, while the Kai Tak Development Project has already earmarked the site for the construction of a government complex. I would like the Chief Executive to tell us whether he will consider making it a policy to relocate the Government Secretariat away from the core of the urban area, and conduct a comprehensive assessment, with a view to examining the possibility of relocating different government departments away from the core of the urban area?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): The most important consideration is how we should serve members of the public, and whether members of the public consider the location appropriate. At present, the location for government offices has been selected in this direction. Some of these places have now become very busy; a lot of people will go there, and these sites have become prime sites of the city. Nevertheless, I recall that in the 1980s when we moved the Trade and Industry Department from Tsim Sha Tsui to Mong Kok, many people had objected to the relocation. The business sector considered that the new location was too far away, and the staff were also not so happy as the new office was a bit remote and far away from downtown, but now they have found that the place has flourished, then people start to say that the offices should be relocated again.

We consider that most importantly, the major consideration is whether the service recipients consider the location convenient to them, but I also agree with the Member that it is not necessary for us to move all government office buildings to downtown. Where the need arises and if possible, we can relocate them to other areas as far as possible. Furthermore, as we have all along been developing towards the New Territories, consideration can be given to setting up government offices in newly developed areas. In this regard, we will take the matter into consideration over and over again. As I said earlier, from the perspective of services and demands, as well as the value of the sites and the transport aspect, as Ms LEE mentioned just now, all these can be taken into consideration.

We do intend to relocate a number of existing government buildings in Wan Chai to newly developed areas, in order to release land for other development purposes. This is our plan. In line with this trend, I can also consider making similar arrangements for other government departments, but of course, as I said just now, the most important thing is whether the service recipients have such needs. The Trade and Industry Department will issue a lot of export documents and export licenses, so they must be located in places easily accessible to the general public. At present, properties above MTR stations are easily accessible and popular to the public, therefore we must take into account public needs and needs for other land uses when considering the matter, in order to strike a proper balance.

MS STARRY LEE (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive, will you undertake here that officials will be appointed to conduct research in this area? It is because in addition to the three office buildings in Wan Chai, many government offices are still located in prime locations.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): With regards to the reasons I have mentioned just now, at present, a colleague in the Government Property Agency has been reviewing these issues, and if you have any specific comments, in particular which government building in your view should not remain in its present location and should be relocated, you may put it forward for us to consider, and I will be happy to listen to your views.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive, good afternoon.*

A local newspaper Wen Wei Po, one of the mouthpieces of the Central Government, made an extensive report on the panel discussion of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) members representing Hong Kong and Macao held on 11 March this year, in which Mr LI Guikang, the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the SAR (the Liaison Office), mentioned a 10-point agreement reached between the Central Government and the SAR Government. The 10-point agreement includes requesting the SAR Government to particularly allow the participation of national or local CPPCC members in Hong Kong affairs by, among other things, appointing them to advisory and statutory bodies, providing them with venues for activities, and even paying special attention to them when preparing the honours list.

At the same time, it was disclosed in January this year — I believe that the Chief Executive is aware that Mr CAO Erbao, the head of research department of the Liaison Office, had written an article entitled "Ruling Force in Hong Kong under 'one country, two systems'" in the Study Times. The article stated that Hong Kong should have two ruling teams: one is the team of officials under the leadership of the Chief Executive; the other is officials from the central and certain regional governments who have close ties with Hong Kong. Under such circumstances, a lot of people are worried that "one country, two systems" will

gradually fade away, or even exist in name only. Chief Executive, my question is:

- (a) will you please clarify to the people of Hong Kong on this occasion today as to whether this 10-point agreement really exists, be it a written or verbal agreement, and regardless of whether it is an agreement reached by both sides face-to-face or a tacit consensus? and*
- (b) whether the SAR Government has received the list given to you by the Liaison Office or the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, which required you to make appointments to certain statutory bodies or committees? How will you deal with this list, and on the whole, how will you respond to public concerns and worries about this issue?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Mr HO, I have said this before, and I wish to solemnly reiterate here that the SAR Government has not reached any consensus or agreement with the Liaison Office. As to the appointment of deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) or CPPCC members, we do not have any such agreement either. I can answer this in a definitive way.

Secondly, you said that there was a list, but I have never seen any list given to me by the Liaison Office, and there is no such thing that I was required to appoint someone to a specific committee or other committees. I believe that you need not worry too much; I have never seen that happen over the past decade or so. We will definitely act in accordance with the principle of "One country, Two systems", and we have all along been adhering to the Basic Law and this has never been changed. The Central Government will always respect our stance and will act in accordance with the Basic Law.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): *President, at least I have heard that the Chief Executive is willing to deny in public that the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office or the Liaison Office has provided him with a list and required him to make appointments. With regard to this, I have asked the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs to make a denial, but he has refused to deny it. Today, at least the Chief Executive made a clear statement on it. However,*

the Chief Executive has not responded to the issue about the so-called two ruling teams.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): You did not ask me.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): *Does another ruling team exist? Especially in 2003, we all know that after the July 1 march in Hong Kong, the former Vice President of the State Mr ZENG Qinghong said that a Hong Kong and Macao working group had to be established in order to pay more attention to the affairs of Hong Kong and so, a lot of people were gathered to follow up many policy matters of Hong Kong. Do you know whether or not this working group and the so-called second ruling team exists? Is there any connection between you and them? How will you ensure that your policy is not affected or intervened by this team?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): "One country, two systems" and "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" are implemented by the State, and the two concepts are fully put into practice under the Basic Law. Since the reunification, the Central Government has all along been putting the policy into effect. Under the Basic Law, we all know that the Central Government is responsible for Hong Kong's defence and foreign affairs. When the relevant departments of the Central Authorities and offices of the Central Authorities in Hong Kong carry out their duties relating to these affairs, they have all along been acting in accordance with the Basic Law. Since the reunification, co-operations between the Mainland and Hong Kong have been greatly enhanced, such as CEPA, Individual Visit Scheme, Renminbi business, and Hong Kong-Guangdong co-operation. Naturally, it can be seen that the Central Authorities as well as provincial and municipal governments have set up dedicated teams to deal with matters in this respect, to sort things out and to do the liaison and co-ordination work for us in Hong Kong and other places. The Liaison Office has all along been playing this role. However, in Hong Kong, the ruling work is done by the HKSAR Government itself. Their assistance does not mean that there is another ruling team, so we need not worry about this. Over the years, we have all along been acting in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong. There is only one ruling team in Hong Kong performing this duty and it is the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

MR TOMMY CHEUNG (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, good afternoon. The Travel Industry Council and members of the tourism sector recently told the Liberal Party that the operation of the tourism sector has been very difficult since the onset of the financial tsunami. Long-haul tours, overall tourists' spending and per capita spending have been dropping, even though they are not dropping drastically. Furthermore, from the figures they just showed me, I learnt that the numbers of in-bound and out-bound tours between Hong Kong and the Mainland have dropped by 60% to 70% since the outbreak of swine flu on 3 May. Although the quarantine has been lifted a few days ago, the number of tourists has not rebounded. They hold that the industry has been dealt a serious blow. And it is learnt that all tours to Japan in June have been cancelled. As such, the situation of most travel agencies is critical. They are caught in financial difficulties, and may even have to close down.*

I remember that Mr Howard YOUNG and I had urged the then Financial Secretary to offer 100% guarantee for low-interest loans to travel agencies. The Chief Executive also mentioned just now that he would ask the Financial Secretary to examine what other initiatives could be made in the coming month. They wish to ask the Chief Executive whether he will, in view of the hardships faced by the industry, ask the Financial Secretary to give special consideration to implementing measures for the tourism industry, such as reducing their licence fees or providing 100% guarantee on their low-interest loans.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): He has heard your suggestion. I think Members are also aware that in the present situation where the human swine influenza rages, the tourism industry will certainly be hard hit and the volume of tourists will also be affected. I hope that this is only short-term volatility. I note that tourists who come to Hong Kong under the Individual Visit Scheme and in-bound mainland tours have been on the increase every year. Although the number of overseas tourists has dropped, the increased number of mainland tourists coming to Hong Kong has made up for the decline. However, I am not at all surprised that the outbreak of swine flu incident in recent weeks will affect people's desire to travel. I believe we will certainly be mindful of the situation. Thus, if the small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong, including those in the tourism industry, have any needs, we will do our best and do all we can to help them. This is my usual practice.

MR TOMMY CHEUNG (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, I asked just now whether the Government could suspend their licence fee and provide 100% guarantee for their low-interest loans. This is what they hope the Chief Executive can do immediately. It seems that the swine flu — Just now, you mentioned the mainland tourists coming to Hong Kong, and I also said that their number has dropped by 60% to 70%, and the effect is not just short-term. Judging from the present situation, and as we had new infection cases again yesterday, the coming days will be even tougher than the past two weeks. I know that the Financial Secretary has heard my suggestion, but do you think that it is necessary to ask the Financial Secretary to assist this industry apart from the catering industry to which I belong?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): You have made some very specific suggestions and I am not in a position to make a decision because this should be decided by the Financial Secretary. Members have to understand that he has to consider other industries as well, and he needs to consult colleagues of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. But I can assure you that all industries in Hong Kong are adversely affected by the financial tsunami, and their business has been further dragged down by the human swine influenza. Thus, their plights certainly warrant our concern, and what we can do is to take all possible measures to respond to their situation. As for the specific suggestions such as waiving the licence fee, I cannot make a decision at this Question and Answer Session. But we will look into your suggestion, alright?

MRS SOPHIE LEUNG (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, recently, many members of the business sector wish to know where we can gain new momentum for our future development. They would like me to ask you this question: How will the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) led by you promote or implement measures for the development of new economic pillars? This is my question.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Those industries are not new industries. Apart from our existing pillar industries such as financial services and logistics, the TFEC have identified those six industries with development potentials. But these industries are not new and they already have a solid foundation in Hong Kong. And we will examine how to further boost their development on the

basis of this foundation. Our present approach is that, first, the Central Policy Unit (CPU) has organized in these few weeks a series of focus group discussion with extensive participation by representatives of the relevant industries, scholars, researchers, TFEC members and government representatives. We have organized five group meetings and formed six groups, and the results of discussion will be summarized and then reported and discussed at the next TFEC meeting. After examining public opinions and views of the TFEC, we hope that we can formulate a strategy for implementation. If the strategy is truly feasible, we will implement the strategy early so as to prioritize and assess the specific policies. As I said just now, these are not empty talk. We hope that at the government level, measures which are considered feasible and which can obtain the resources required can be implemented, so that we can truly help the industries concerned. Moreover, these are industries with true potentials. We very much hope that we can hammer out a specific implementation plan in the near future. By then, I will certainly take this matter to relevant Panels of the Legislative Council and interested industries for further discussion.

MRS SOPHIE LEUNG (in Cantonese): *President, Chief Executive, in fact, the business sector has proposed many plans and strategies, and they wish to participate and provide input in exploring the best way forward. While the existing membership of the CPU may not necessarily need to be expanded, the business sector wishes that they can participate in the discussion as early as possible and give their views. May I know what channels are available for them?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): There is now a specific website for this purpose, so I think views can be expressed through the Internet for the CPU's reference. If these views can reach the TFEC before its next meeting, I think it is best to have all these views and the conclusion of the group discussions incorporated into the agenda for discussion at the meeting. I believe the existing channels are adequate. Certainly, we cannot invite everyone in Hong Kong to participate in the group discussions, but I believe the existing focus groups are quite representative. And the discussions are open rather than closed. I earnestly hope that if anyone has any views on a particular industry, such as medical services, innovation and technology, environmental industry, educational services, and testing and certification, they are welcomed to provide their views through the CPU's website. We will collate and publish all views for public discussion and examination.

DR PHILIP WONG (in Cantonese): *President, I wish to ask the Chief Executive a question through you. Since I became Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, I noted from Report No. 44 to Report No. 52 of the Director of Audit that many public-funded bodies have common problems of corporate governance. An example is the attendance rate of appointed directors or board members. Another example is that procurement departments do not follow procedures and entertainment expenses are not handled according to rules and regulations. Having arduously compiled these reports, we certainly hope that they can benefit the public-funded bodies concerned as well as other institutions. In this connection, may I ask the Chief Executive how he will put an end to these problems?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Thank you for your opinion. We attach great importance to each recommendation made by the Director of Audit in its report on every government department or institution. If these recommendations are applicable to other public bodies, we will review their guidelines, particularly those of the several statutory bodies discussed recently. If we find any irregularity in their day-to-day work, or any procurement problem which you mentioned just now, we will conduct a review, and we will target not only at the statutory bodies concerned, but also other institutions, so as to look into whether the same guideline is applicable to the latter. I promise you that we will do this.

Yet, I hope Members will understand that when these statutory bodies were established, Members had a common aspiration that these bodies could be independent of government control. Such being the case, we have to strike a balance. If irregularities are found, it may not necessarily be attributed to the lack of government regulation because the design of the mechanism itself primarily does not allow for our regulation. So, we believe this problem has to be addressed in future. Should the relationship between these statutory bodies and the Government be strengthened? How should these statutory bodies be managed? These issues are worthy of our consideration. Especially when new statutory bodies are formed, we should pay more attention to these issues. There is no rose without a thorn. In order for these bodies to be completely independent, they cannot be regulated all the time. But if they are not subject to constant regulation, with the passage of time, their operation may be jeopardized.

There is another problem which is often of our concern. I agree and insist that a public officer should not be the one to approve his own business trips. Such trips should be approved by his superior or a committee, but not by the officer himself, as this is a sensitive issue to the public. However, it is by no means easy in execution because statutory bodies manage their finances on their own, and in some cases, the management is resistant to regulation. I think this is another issue which warrants our review.

Members, actually, apart from studying the updating of the guidelines due to problems relating to the operation or attendance rate as we mentioned just now, we also need to consider ways to carry out regulation; otherwise, troubles will often arise.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Is Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung present? With these objects placed there, I cannot see you. It is now your turn to ask a question.

(Mr WONG Yuk-man held a large cardboard)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man, please put down that cardboard.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Putonghua): *Old TSANG, although you are a bogus Chief Executive returned by a small-circle election, you should still serve the country and the people. However, recently there were two incidents, in which you were very wrong, extremely wrong, really wrong and awfully wrong.*

(in Cantonese) *Why do I say so? I know that you do not speak Putonghua very well because you spent \$100 million on promoting national education. I did participate in actions to defend the Diaoyutai Islands, and at the 90th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, you repeatedly sent your aides to stop us from taking actions to defend the Diaoyutai Islands*

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *Traitor!*

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *I have written a poem dedicated to you, you listen very carefully: Nine decades have passed since the May Fourth attempt to cleanse our shame, setting sail to defend the Diaoyutai Islands with will indomitable, you flatter the Japs when I fight against the tyrant; traitors are standing in the way of the boat of righteousness*

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *Traitor!*

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *You spent \$100 million* It is more effective to teach by example than by words. But you forbade us from following the example of our predecessors of the May Fourth Movement to cleanse our national shame. Besides, the Tiananmen Square incident happened two decades ago, but when you spent \$100 million, only a few sentences were devoted to the 4 June incident. In this connection, I have also written a poem for you: *Tears are running in the Tiananmen Square; with sorrow, the earth was shaking; with shame, the whole country aching; disbelieving that Qin Shi Huang's reign is everlasting, splash your ink to cover traces of pain.*

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *It is condemned by heaven and earth!*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please ask your question.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *It is condemned by heaven and earth. May I humbly ask you a question: You have spent \$100 million, and you are also Chinese, then why do you have to take advantage of the disadvantaged and help the Chinese Communist Government curry favour with the Japanese Government and help them cover up the traces of blood shed in the 4 June incident? When you are using public funds, you should be truthful. As you are the Chief Executive, you should take the lead to implement national education and foster the love of the nation and its people*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please do not make a speech

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *I wish to humbly ask him this question: Why do you do so? Are you doing a service to people participated in the actions to defend the Diaoyutai Islands? Are you doing a service to the Tiananmen warriors who died in the quest for democracy 20 years ago?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, ask your question

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *I know it is difficult for you*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please sit down

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *But you should say what is right as right, and denounce what is wrong as wrong. You should instruct those people responsible for national education to say the same thing*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *You should resist the pressure from the Communist Party of China, let the boat set sail*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Lest set fire to Zhaojialou*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): You are denying the other Members of their opportunities of asking questions. Please sit down, for you have asked your question. Please sit down, so that the Chief Executive can answer your question.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Fine, just answer it.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Chief Executive.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *We were thrice stopped*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I did not catch the question.

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *Why not*

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *President, I am so agitated*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please put your question clearly, and then sit down.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Why did you thrice stop the boat setting sail to defend the Diaoyutai Islands? Why can you spend \$100 million on the promotion of national education, but only making scanty references to the 4 June incident? Disbelieving that Qin Shi Huang's reign is everlasting, splash your ink to cover traces of pain.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please put your question clearly

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *This is the question already*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please sit down.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *He can answer, or not answer.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please sit down.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung sat down)

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *If he does not answer, I will rise again to ask him again.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): President, the first question I could catch was about the movement to defend the Diaoyutai Islands. But I could not catch the second one.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung stood up again)

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *You think that you have spent \$100 million on promoting national education*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please sit down.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Why are the traces of blood shed in the 4 June incident covered in the textbooks?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): OK. There are two issues, and that looks like a question. First, about Diaoyutai, I have learnt from the press that that boat is called "Baodiao 2". It carries the Diaoyutai activists to the Diaoyutai Islands to manifest sovereignty. It is used not purely for fishing purposes. Hence it constituted a violation of the law prohibiting a class 3 vessel from being used to carry passengers. I am also aware that the Director of Marine,

considering it a non-compliance with the conditions of licence, stopped the vessel from setting sail. I believe this action should merit our support because the boat, once set sail not for fishing purpose and given that it was not equipped with enough safety installations and the people on board could not take out any insurance, would violate the relevant marine legislation. In fact, the authorities were not pinpointing this particular boat. The Director of Marine has initiated 56 cases of prosecution in the past three years against vessels setting sail not for fishing purposes but for other purposes. The most important principle is the protection of the safety of vessels. Besides, it fails to meet the regulatory requirements on fishing vessels, so it was barred from setting sail.

About the second issue, it is a matter of course for Hong Kong to spend public funds to promote national education. After the reunification, there is a need to enhance people's understanding of China in many aspects. In particular, in respect of the imparting of such knowledge, we believe it is a must, and a worthy task which has the people's support. The relevant provision is made through the Budget subject to approval by the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, a simple follow-up only.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *He is lying. Chief Executive, in 2006, the boat set sail without any hindrance. But the times have changed, for the communists are trying to curry favour with Japan. May I ask you why it could be done three years ago, but not now? And one last point I must finish this, for I have to clarify his remarks. He has not done his homework*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): You should not make a clarification. You can only ask a simple follow-up.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *I am asking a follow-up. I did not say national education is not a worthy cause. I was asking why an incident, considered dynastic by the whole world and witnessing bloodshed in the capital, lightly mentioned in a few sentences in the textbooks. Was the \$100 million*

wasted? Do not evade the question. It does not matter if you do not answer it. But do not offer any sophistry, for you will only be doing a disservice.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please sit down. Chief Executive, please reply.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): First, the Director of Marine has to have regard for the safety of every one of the crew of a fishing boat at sea. Actions were taken in 2006, and a prohibition was imposed in 2007. I believe it was a different boat in 2006, and now it is the 2007 boat that is being barred from setting sail. Please remember one thing. We know clearly that a Taiwan vessel was rammed to the bottom of the sea by the Japanese navy. They were also manifesting sovereignty then. The Director of Marine, on learning that a vessel registered and licensed in Hong Kong would sail to Diaotyutai to manifest sovereignty, will certainly consider the current situation and whether, in the event of a collision, the Hong Kong people on board the vessel would be exposed to dangers. Under the circumstances, there must be some safety considerations. Moreover, as I said just now, the boat in question was actually not sailing on a fishing expedition, which means that it is not in compliance with the licensing conditions.

About the 4 June incident, Members had a long debate yesterday. I do not wish to say too much about it. But I take a keen interest in it. I have got hold of several history textbooks of the Senior Secondary level and looked up the contents on 4 June. You might as well take a look at them, which are pretty detailed, not as brief as a few sentences. These are textbooks of rich contents evidently dealing with the issue in a factual and objective manner.

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *Like the Japanese textbooks, Chief Executive, exactly, juggling the facts.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man, should you violate the Rules of Procedure again, I could only ask you to leave the Chamber.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *I know he cannot make any great achievements, but for small things, you have to help the Lemman Brothers victims No great achievements, but he should still do small things.*

MR IP WAI-MING (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, good afternoon. In your opening remarks, you mentioned that Hong Kong's economy is worsening and future outlook may be bleak. As more and more workers are laid off and facing financial difficulties, they may have to apply for assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) scheme. But many in genuine hardships are unwilling to apply for CSSA because of the labelling of CSSA recipients. Has the Government considered providing transitional relief to the unemployed for them to tide over difficulties before they turn to CSSA?*

Moreover, some returning workers have to stay for 309 days in Hong Kong before they are eligible for CSSA. Many have become homeless as a result. In view of this and given the fact that the unemployment rate now stands as high as 5.2% with some 187 200 people unemployed in Hong Kong, and that the number is on the rise, the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) has called on the Government to allocate at least \$2.5 billion to set up a temporary unemployment assistance fund. Has the Chief Executive considered our proposal so as to help the unemployed tide over the difficult times?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I can assure Members that the Government's top priority these days is to formulate measures that can mitigate the negative impacts of the financial tsunami which has affected the livelihood of so many people. Going back to your question about measures from the Government to help specifically those not eligible for CSSA, I think the FTU has already submitted your proposals to the Financial Secretary for consideration. I think we have to study this matter from a number of perspectives. Most importantly, we have to consider whether the proposed measures would constitute a regular financial burden in the long run. And if so, whether we can indeed afford it? Then there is the question as to how the eligibility criteria can be determined and what consequences there will be if the assets test is relaxed. If the applicants are required to pass the assets test, the existing CSSA would have already served the purpose. These are all the questions we have to consider. In face of the challenges from the financial tsunami, it is of utmost importance for the Government to make every effort to stabilize our financial services and the

banking industries as well as to maintain social harmony. For enterprises, we must support and help them stay in business so that jobs would not be lost. Then we can move on to creating new job opportunities. That will be the main thrust of our work.

As for those who are already in the safety net, our view is that their problems could take a back seat for the time being because they have already been provided with basic assistance. Inflation is not a problem right now. Hence, our top priority must be to help the unemployed look for jobs. If we have to set up a new social security system, we must proceed with utmost care because it would incur recurrent expenditure. But I agree with you that under the circumstances, we have to consider each and every option. Better still, we welcome any concrete proposals. We will consider all options as long as no long-term financial commitment is involved.

MR IP WAI-MING (in Cantonese): *President, Chief Executive, we have already made repeated suggestions to the Government about setting up a temporary unemployment assistance fund. We want to know whether the Government is willing to do so. Our view is that all the problems cited by the Chief Executive are just technical in nature, and they are not insurmountable if the Government has the will to do so. While we understand the importance of developing the economy and helping the people to land jobs, the fact is the eligibility of CSSA is set with a very low income/assets threshold, and many unemployed workers still may not meet the relevant requirements. We hope that transitional arrangements could be put in place to help them tide over the difficult times. So, in citing the above technical problems, the Chief Executive has given me the impression that the Government is unwilling to establish this unemployment assistance fund. The crux is whether the Government has the will to do so. So it is either a "yes" or a "no". I think the points you raised are just technical.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Please do not label them technical problems because they are actually our most important and pivotal considerations. We have to consider carefully whether the proposal is practical and whether it can win the support of the Legislative Council. Moreover, we have to consider whether we can shoulder the financial burden. The Government is willing to consider any proposal that can help those with

livelihood problems as a result of the financial tsunami. Rest assured that the Government is totally committed. But we have to consider the best way forward. We will consider any option that is effective and within our affordability without causing great controversy in society.

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *President, I would like to ask the Chief Executive a very simple question. In society nowadays, people's confidence in the Government is very important. Whether or not the man in charge has a conscience and upholds principles is also a most significant question. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 4 June incident. Twenty years ago, you were an ordinary Administrative Officer, and yet you were moved by the 4 June movement. Today, can you tell the people categorically whether or not you support the vindication of the 4 June incident?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I understand Hong Kong people's feelings and views about 4 June. But it has been many years since the incident happened. During the interim, our country has made remarkable achievements in various aspects and brought Hong Kong economic prosperity. I believe Hong Kong people will pass an objective judgment on the national development. This is my view.

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *President, I asked about the conscience and principles of the Chief Executive personally. I am asking about the Chief Executive's view. Does he mean as long as a good job is done with the economy, one can deny all the killings? Should the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region bury its conscience just to share the benefits?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I mean, time passes. To Hong Kong people, the national development in various aspects, not only on the economic front, has made remarkable achievements and brought not only prosperity, but also social stability. I very much hope that we can trust Hong Kong people to pass an objective judgment. What I said just now reflected

(Someone was shouting in the public gallery)

A member of the public (in Cantonese): Do you have a conscience at all, Donald TSANG?

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Persons in the public gallery, please behave.

(The man in the public gallery continued to shout aloud, three security guards came forward trying to stop him)

A member of the public (in Cantonese): You kill lives

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Our staff please

(The man in the public gallery continued shouting, two security guards surrounded him)

A member of the public (in Cantonese): How can you be responsible?

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): The man in the public gallery, please leave.

(The man in the public gallery kept on shouting aloud, two security guards escorted him from his seat and led him towards the passageway)

A member of the public (in Cantonese): What is your personal commitment? You play Hong Kong people like toys

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Please leave immediately.

(The man in the public gallery continued to shout aloud, two security guards escorted him away)

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *Has the Chief Executive finished? President, if the Chief Executive has finished, I would like to raise a point of order.*

President, at an ordinary meeting of this Council, if a public officer fails to answer our question, we can raise the point. But during the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session, does the same rule apply? Because the Chief Executive has not answered my question.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Dr NG, as I have said more than once during Oral Question Time in ordinary meetings, a public officer attending the meeting may have given a response to a question not to the satisfaction of the Member asking it, and very often, despite the public officer thinking that he has answered it, the Member will still rise to say the officer has not answered the question. I think Members including myself cannot force a public officer to answer a question as per a Member's requirements. By convention, the practice during the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session is, a Member, having asked a question, can put a simple follow-up. If a Member is not satisfied with the Chief Executive's answer, I believe he can pursue it through other avenues.

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *President, will you please clarify your ruling just now? First, to my understanding, do you consider the rule applicable to an ordinary meeting of the whole Council also applies to the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session? Second, if yes, and normally, you can tell when a public officer has given an answer and when the answer is not satisfactory, then can you make the same clear distinction today? Do you think, given your authority as the President, the Chief Executive has answered my question?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Dr NG, the rule applicable to an ordinary Question Time also applies to the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session. Do you think that the Chief Executive did not answer your question just now?

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *Yes, President.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Which part of your question did he not answer?

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *I asked him about personal conscience, but he answered with national development, which is wide of the mark, President.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Let me repeat this once again. If a Member thinks that the attending public officer or the Chief Executive has not answered a question, I think I can ask the officer or the Chief Executive if he has anything to add. If he thinks that he has nothing to add, then so be it.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I say this once again. My opinion represents the opinion of Hong Kong people as a whole. Their opinion will also influence mine. What I said just now is my feeling about Hong Kong people's view of the existing institutions, which is also mine.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Point of order. I think the Chief Executive is defiling public opinion.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, yours is not a point of order. Please be seated.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *It's a point of order.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, what you have raised is not a point of order. Please sit down.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *How can he speak for me?*

(Both Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan stood up)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Members.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Human blood is not make-up.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please sit down.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *President, a point of order. I request the Chief Executive to clarify how he can represent me. Why did he say that he could represent Hong Kong people? I feel a great deal of resentment, total resentment. I demand the Chief Executive's clarification on*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, please sit down.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *I do not mind if he says that he is speaking for himself. However, if he says that he represents Hong Kong people, then I ask the Chief Executive to withdraw that remark.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, please sit down.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (in Cantonese): *President, I ask the Chief Executive to clarify why he thinks that his view on the 4 June incident is representative of Hong Kong people, that it is the view of all Hong Kong people?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): What I said was that I am speaking on behalf of Hong Kong people — Hong Kong people in general. Of course, I cannot represent all Hong Kong people. I can say this again.

(Someone was shouting in the public gallery)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I can say once again that I wish to express my understanding of the feelings and views of Hong Kong people on the 4 June incident. Many years have passed since this incident happened. In the interim, our country has made accomplishments that we can be proud of in various areas of development and has also brought economic prosperity to Hong Kong and brought about development in various areas in Hong Kong. I believe that Hong Kong people will make objective evaluations on the development of our country. This is my judgment of the present situation. I also believe that this judgment I also agree with this judgment.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *President, I think*

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *President, I respect you because you have expressed your views on the 4 June incident, but he fails to do so. He is not qualified to be our Chief Executive. You do not have to expel me*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung put down the microphone and left his seat)

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Can one betray one's conscience?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, please sit down.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Outrageous, Donald TSANG.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, leave immediately.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung kept on shouting aloud)

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *How can he represent me?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, you must leave the Chamber immediately.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *He just cannot represent me.*

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung continued to shout aloud)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Clerk.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *He may be able to represent me if he talks about other things.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *People were killed. Human blood is not make-up.*

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung kept on shouting aloud along Members' passageway)

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *President.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung.

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Outrageous! He thinks I will condone him?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, you must leave the Chamber immediately.

(The Clerk and security staff approached Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung intending to escort him away from the Chamber)

MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG (in Cantonese): *Does he not know many people have cried over this incident?*

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung left the Chamber)

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *President.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, please sit down first.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *President, let me say something first. I will give the Chief Executive one last chance. He can withdraw his comments. Otherwise, I will walk out in protest*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, sit down.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *Because I think he has defiled public opinion.*

(Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong were still standing)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, please sit down.

According to the Rules of Procedure, when a Member or public officer speaks and other Members request him to make a clarification, the public officer

or Member who is speaking can decide if he wants to clarify and how to clarify. Our Question and Answer Session should not turn into a debate. Therefore, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, please sit down. Do not hinder other Members asking questions.

MR RONNY TONG (in Cantonese): *President, a point of order.*

DR MARGARET NG (in Cantonese): *We have to walk out in protest because the Chief Executive said he was speaking on our behalf that once Hong Kong people saw something beneficial to them, they would forget what was righteous.*

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (in Cantonese): *I walk out.*

MR RONNY TONG (in Cantonese): *President, point of order. This is not about whether this is a debate or not, because according to the Basic Law, answering Members'*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Members.

(Dr Margaret NG, Ms Audrey EU, Mr Alan LEONG, Miss Tanya CHAN, Mr WONG Yuk-man, Mr Albert CHAN, Ms Emily LAU, Ms Cyd HO, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che, Mr Frederick FUNG, Dr Joseph LEE, Mr KAM Nai-wai, Mr WONG Sing-chi, Mr Albert HO, Mr Fred LI, Mr LEE Wing-tat, Mr James TO and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong all left their seats)

MR RONNY TONG (in Cantonese): *..... questions is a constitutional duty. President*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr Ronny TONG, I have made the decision

MR RONNY TONG (in Cantonese): *If this is a constitutional duty, one cannot play it down*

(Mr WONG Yuk-man approached the Chief Executive with two cardboards in his hands and intended to put the two cardboards on the President's desk, while the Clerk and security staff came forward trying to stop him)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man, you

MR WONG YUK-MAN (in Cantonese): *Outrageous, what the*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now suspend the meeting.

(Someone was shouting in the public gallery)

3.55 pm

Meeting suspended.

(Mr Albert CHAN still kept on shouting when the meeting was suspended; he left the Chamber under the assistance of the Clerk and security staff)

4.06 pm

Council then resumed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Would Members please remain standing while waiting for the Chief Executive to enter the Chamber.

(The Chief Executive entered the Chamber for the second time)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Several Members are waiting for their turn to raise questions. I hope Members would adhere to the Rules of Procedure, so as to allow Members the chance to raise questions and the Chief Executive ample opportunity to reply. I have to remind the public in the public gallery to remain silent and not to disturb the meeting of this Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): President, I feel sorry that Members were agitated just now; but what I meant to say was very clear. I earnestly hope and believe that after a period of time, the people of Hong Kong could make an objective judgment on 4 June and our nation's development. This is my assessment on this incident now and I think this is also shared by the people of Hong Kong. It is not the case that I do not respect the different attitudes held by individual Members towards this incident. Hence, I am sorry if there had been any misunderstanding; but what I meant was that a long time has lapsed since 4 June, and we should have made our own judgment and we should also respect the judgments of others, alright?

DR SAMSON TAM (in Cantonese): *President, being Members, we have the opportunity of having direct communication with the Chief Executive and asking him questions directly; however, many members of the public, especially many internet users, have no opportunity to put questions directly to the Chief Executive. These internet users often relate to me that there exists a certain gap between the Chief Executive and them, and that they really want to strive for this opportunity. I also notice that other political leaders such as OBAMA of the United States, and the President and Premier of our country, have also communicated on line with their people through the internet.*

Here, I would like to put two questions to the Chief Executive. First, I would like to know whether the Chief Executive dares to or has the intention to hold a Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session online. This is the first question. The second question is that regarding the development of the Internet which is of concern to many people, particularly with the launching of the Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance in the beginning of this year, I would like to ask the Chief Executive this: as the head and parent of the Hong Kong

Special Administrative Region, would you think that the monitoring of the Internet should be enhanced?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Two issues are involved here: one is the use of the network. At present, communication with the public on the Internet is also conducted through channels such as blog sites, which I believe are highly effective and an unforgettable means for politicians like us. I would keep this up.

Are you asking whether the Question and Answer Session could be conducted on the blog and the Internet? I can study this with my colleagues. This might be a good way.

A bigger issue is involved regarding the monitoring of the Internet. The most important point is that this is not something which could be done merely by Hong Kong alone; effective implementation would require the support of international conventions.

At present, obscenity is subject to monitoring in various aspects. The Internet also has a role to play in this regard. However, I believe this is not an issue which could be resolved in a few words, and I think we would know how the issue should be dealt with only after extensive discussions in the community. Nevertheless, insofar as the use and monitoring of the Internet is concerned, there is a need for monitoring, and this is worth discussing especially after the occurrence of some incidents.

DR SAMSON TAM (in Cantonese): *I would like to further pursue my question: the Chief Executive said just now that studies could be conducted on instantly answering questions from internet users online. I do not know whether the Chief Executive is capable of doing so, that is, does he know the Internet language? Would he require his secretary to key in the conversation for him, or could he communicate with the Internet users directly online?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Do you mean conducting mutual dialogues on the Internet

DR SAMSON TAM (in Cantonese): *To communicate with them and reply to their questions directly in Chinese or English.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I have been doing this every day; I have done that every day. *(Laughter)* Well, I am not that far behind the trend. Yes, I have been doing that.

MS LI FUNG-YING (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, the Task Force on Economic Challenges has identified six industries with competitive advantages and indicated that further development on how to attract customers from neighbouring places would be studied. Many of the six industries, such as medical services and education, have a close relationship with the livelihood of the public. In fact, while these industries generally enjoy good reputation on the one hand, there is a great discrepancy between their resources and the public demand on the other. I would like to ask the Chief Executive this: in the aspect of medical services, currently, the public often have to wait for one to two years or even a much longer time if they want to seek specialist consultation, which is highly ridiculous and hardly acceptable. Another example is that the admission of local students by universities has still remained at 18%. Hence, in studying how these services could attract customers from neighbouring places, should the Chief Executive give priorities to conducting studies on how the needs of the local public could be satisfied first?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I think both areas will require our excuse me, President, I think we have to study and follow up both areas. Certainly, we will keep up with the review on the quality and scope of medical services in Hong Kong. What we have to face now is whether the quality of our medical services could be permanently maintained and whether we have the financial capability to cope with it. Members all know that we have conducted the first round of consultation, and would conduct the second round of consultation on financing options with the sole objective of reinforcing and bettering our services, as well as making use of the limited resources in a more effective manner. Hence, we would make ongoing efforts in this area. However, at that same time, we see a lot of development potentials in our medical

services industry, which could provide new momentum for economic development. Hence, we reckon that apart from the study on how to reinforce and maintain the quality of the current medical services, we also have to study whether this can provide new momentum for the economy and create more job opportunities through the new economic activities.

MS LI FUNG-YING (in Cantonese): *Though the Chief Executive mentioned that both areas have to be studied, in considering ways to enable the non-locals to benefit from these services, could he ensure that the local public would not be affected by a decline in the standard of service?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Well, if no new solution is available for health care financing, our medical services would definitely go downhill. This is a fact which we would have to face. However, I could assure you that local medical services would not be affected in any way by our study on the industrialization of health care services or its development. I can assure you of this point.

MR CHEUNG HOK-MING (in Cantonese): *President, in his Policy Address in the past two years, the Chief Executive had emphasized promoting the economic development of Hong Kong by infrastructure. The importance of infrastructure to Hong Kong has also been emphasized in the speech you made just now. The Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong and I agree to this. In fact, we do see that many large-scale infrastructure projects are ready for commencement in the first half of this year, but meanwhile, I believe colleagues from government departments well know that many difficulties had been encountered in the process in which various stakeholders or parties including the environmentalists, title owners and even squatter dwellers who were extremely concerned about the issue were involved. I wish to take this opportunity to ask the Chief Executive — today serves as a very good platform — you had been the District Officer of Shatin and had done a lot of work in respect of new town development, land resumption and demolition. Through this platform today, could you say something to convince the affected residents of your plan?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Engineering and building works has to be performed for each and every development project, especially the development of large scale infrastructure. Such works would certainly affect some interest groups and there are also people who do not want any development. We should respect these views as well. I think it is most important for open discussions to be held on this matter, such as discussions held in District Councils, the related professional advisory bodies, and the relevant panels and committees of the Legislative Council. This is the practice that we have been adopting all along. In this way, the rationale for development, the benefits that would be brought about by the development, as well as the price to be paid can be explained frankly and repeatedly, thereby striking a balance in society. I believe this is the only way to do it. Particularly, as for the affected parties concerned, when a large-scale project is to take place, those people who have to be relocated or whose lands have to be resumed would certainly be given appropriate care and compensation by the SAR Government. The Government will certainly assist all the affected persons. There are, of course, other problems as well. How about situations, such as the problem of squatter dwellers, for which no policy has been formulated? Flexibility is required in dealing with those issues.

I think development is important, but according to my theory, the needs of various parties have to be balanced out. We could not just dash forward like a train engine; we need to make the affected persons understand the rationale behind and the price that has to be paid. Those who have to pay a price because of the development would be given reasonable compensation, and only in this way would there be progress in our society. However, as far as I am concerned, in-depth studies had been conducted on these large-scale engineering works, which can bring about overall economic and financial benefits. Hence, there should not be any delay in their implementation. Consensus in the community has been obtained for implementing the projects, but we would arrange for appropriate co-ordination and explanation to a small number of people who are directly affected, and provide compensation to them at the appropriate time.

MR CHEUNG HOK-MING (in Cantonese): *President, I would like to follow up the answer. In saying that the existing policy cannot resolve some of the problems during the course of development, is the Chief Executive implying that amendment could be made to certain policies under the premise that Hong Kong's overall interest would not be affected?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): All policies are designed to serve the public, and it is my belief that all policies are subject to examination and review. However, there is rationale for each and every policy, and it would not be right for changes to be made frequently. Hence, in implementing any development project, we have to consider the views of various parties. If any necessary adjustment to the policy does not only have a bearing on a particular project but also the future, the future consequences have to be considered as well. I say this because in implementing these large-scale projects, interests of all parties and the price they have to pay, as well as the need of appropriate co-ordination and rationalization have to be considered.

MR CHAN KIN-POR (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, Star Insurance Company Limited (Star Insurance) was found to be in financial difficulties and has gone into provisional liquidation. Fortunately, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) has adopted a series of measures which include retaining its \$200 million guarantee and restricting its scale of operation. However, most importantly, it is believed that the \$2 billion compensation fund under the Motor Insurers' Bureau could provide guarantee and meet the payment for third party injury claims of Star Insurance. It could be seen from this incident that a compensation fund is indeed highly helpful and important to consumers. In last year's Policy Address, the Chief Executive had stated clearly that the OCI would study and review the establishment of a policy holder protection fund (protection fund). I believe many policy holders in Hong Kong, such as the 8 million life-insurance policy holders, hope that the protection fund could be launched as soon as possible so that protection and confidence of the public could be enhanced.*

I would like to ask about the progress of the study on the protection fund and when it could be actually launched.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): We have a compensation fund at present, but we are now pressing full steam ahead for the establishment of the protection fund so as to enable policy holders to be protected in cases of insolvency of insurance companies. You are an expert in this field, and you should know that in the first half of the year, the OCI has maintained adequate and close liaison and discussions with the insurance companies on this issue. Various factors for consideration which include the scope of protection, and whether the consumers

can afford extra expenditure, have been raised by the industry. We have to balance out those factors and I hope my colleagues could report to the Panel on Financial Affairs of the Legislative Council the relevant development in July this year.

MR CHAN KIN-POR (in Cantonese): *Since we all hope that the protection fund could take effect as soon as possible, I would like to ask clearly when the Government will expect the protection fund to be brought into effect. While I do not worry about the tabling of the bill to this Council, I am concerned that the discussion would be time-consuming. There is an imminent need for such a protection fund to be established for the industry.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Shall we work on it together? We would work on it as soon as possible.

MR IP KWOK-HIM (in Cantonese): *A question which I originally wished to ask the Chief Executive is whether the "enhanced" measures would be launched ahead of schedule. However, the Chief Executive has pointed out at the start that news would be announced for public information within one month, so I would ask another question, that is, a question about the Chief Executive taking up the role of "captain of cleaning" again.*

In a survey conducted by the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), it was found that the general public in Hong Kong acknowledged the performance of the Government in fighting the epidemic, and they were confident of the Government's anti-epidemic measures. A recent publication by The Chinese University of Hong Kong also points out that the evaluations of the principal officials by the public, with the Chief Executive included, are higher. The DAB regards this to be an improvement made after the Government has learned from the experience in handling avian influenza and the SARS epidemic. We also acknowledge the efforts of the Government and the medical professionals, which absolutely merit our recognition.

However, we also believe and have seen that — after the outbreak of SARS in 2003, extensive publicity and education had been carried out by the Government, especially in the area of hygiene. Appeals had been made to the

public, urging them to wash their hands and do cleaning work; however, today, that is, several years later, we find that the efforts made in this area have become lax.

Earlier on (last week), the DAB organized a team of volunteers from the 18 districts and formed a "Thousand-strong Army to Fight the Epidemic". We conducted a territory-wide clean-and-search campaign and found that the hygiene conditions in some locations were far from ideal. This morning, we held a press conference and announced 68 hygiene black spots. I would like to ask the Chief Executive whether he could pledge to clean up these black spots speedily after we had provided the Government with those black spot locations and what measures he has for eliminating these black spots.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Valuable experience had indeed been gained from the SARS epidemic. Not only is the Government concerned about the hygiene conditions in Hong Kong, the public of Hong Kong are also particularly concerned about public hygiene; however, there are still locations in Hong Kong which we consider to be hygiene black spots.

Recently, after consulting the views of the 18 District Councils, we identified 86 (not 50-plus) black spots, which are mostly in public places. I would certainly ask the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to conduct large-scale cleaning and disinfection at these places; however, quite a number of those black spots are within private premises and private property rights are involved, hence, problems could be resolved only with the concerted efforts of the property owners and tenants. It is also not possible for us to go to these private premises every day, for this would cause nuisance.

Hence, in order to truly succeed in this area of work, and to turn the "black spots" into "white spots" in the long run, we need to foster in co-operation among the District Councils, the public, and the Government. While cleaning of public places would be performed by the Government to enable Hong Kong to remain as almost the cleanest city in Asia, landlords and tenants of private premises have to reinforce by all means the cleanliness of their premises. If necessary, we would provide assistance as much as possible; but still, encouragement from the District Councils and co-operation from the residents is needed. While we would be pleased to conduct these special cleaning operations, individual tenants and

landlords have to shoulder their own responsibilities for maintaining cleanliness consistently.

MR IP KWOK-HIM (in Cantonese): *President, I am delighted that the Chief Executive has made an undertaking in this regard. In fact, in the coming few weeks, our volunteers would upload these hygiene black spots on to the Internet every week for public information. Could the Chief Executive undertake that assistance could be provided in dealing with these continuously emerging black spots (I certainly hope that there is none and that all places are clean and tidy as the Chief Executive described)? To my knowledge, some black spots are located in private premises, but it would certainly be helpful and effective if substantial assistance could be provided by the Government for the cleaning work. Could the Chief Executive give us his undertaking in this respect?*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I would definitely provide assistance, and we would do as much as we can if assistance from the Government is needed in the relevant work. With the consent of property right owners, we would certainly render assistance as far as private premises are concerned. If it is found that the filthiness has reached a level that poses hazards to the hygiene conditions, legal actions would be taken even if the property right owner has not given his consent. Nevertheless, keeping the places clean all the time is definitely the responsibility of the landlords, tenants and local residents.

DR LEUNG KA-LAU (in Cantonese): *President, Chief Executive, good afternoon.*

I would like to follow up the development of medical services, one of the six economic areas identified by the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) as priority areas for focused study. The hard fact is that Hong Kong's medical services have been thriving in the past few years. The majority of bed spaces in private hospitals are taken up by expecting mothers from the Mainland. As a result, the health care industry has been calling on the Government to introduce additional measures including the provision of more land. I am aware that in the past week or two, the Central Policy Unit has organized a focus group discussion on medical services to explore the direction of further development.

Although I was not at the meeting, I later learnt that I really have no need to attend it because the conclusion drawn by the discussion is simply this: the key lies in the lack of suitable sites for development of private hospitals in Hong Kong, and the serious shortfall in nursing staff.

These problems are nothing new. First of all, I have to complain to the Chief Executive about the Food and Health Bureau's inability to resolve these problems throughout the years. The last new private hospital in Hong Kong was built some 14 or 15 years ago. I want to ask the Chief Executive whether he has any practical solutions on hand, that is something that can realistically be done at your level, to resolve these two problems?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I think the key lies in land supply, as you also mentioned just now. In Hong Kong, the shortage of land is a serious constraint not only for the development of medical services, but for other developments as well. Our land resource is scarce. However, I think if medical services are identified as a key area worthy of development, the land requirement would not be excessive at all. In fact, the Government has already identified two to three sites suitable for the development of private hospitals. As we all know, these sites are located in various districts including Wong Chuk Hang in Aberdeen, Tuen Mun and other areas. The Government is very committed to taking forward this area of work and we will work proactively to initiate the relevant planning process for these sites so that they could be put out for public auction as soon as possible. At the moment, at least two suitable sites for the development of health care services have been identified. We intend to launch an Expression of Interest exercise soon and hopefully the work could be completed within the near future. I will follow up the progress together with Secretary Dr York CHOW.

As regards nurse training, this relates to manpower planning. We have to enhance the supply, training and import of nursing professionals in Hong Kong. The Government has a lot of work to do in the immediate future and we will consider all views from the health care industry. I know it is difficult to increase the supply of nurses, but the problem is not insurmountable if the mode of training could be like As far as I know, many nurses are presently required to have the qualification of a degree. Is there any merit if we revert to the

previous system of nurse training? I think we can discuss these issues with an open mind so that specific measures could be formulated to cope with our short-term, medium-term and long-term needs. I am open and hopeful about the development of medical services in Hong Kong. If we need to make greater efforts in identifying suitable sites, we will do more. If we need to allocate more resources on nurse training, we will also do more.

DR LEUNG KA-LAU (in Cantonese): *Just a brief follow-up, Chief Executive. You talked about the establishment of two medical centres of excellence in Hong Kong in both of your 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Policy Addresses, likely with the participation from the private sector. I want to ask whether these two centres have become part of the initiatives contemplated under the development of the medical services industry, and whether their establishment could be expedited.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I think so. As far as I know, we Well, I do not have the details right now. But we have the necessary expertise in neuroscience as well as some other fields. We should be able to develop a School of Excellence. I am confident that these two centres would showcase Hong Kong being a in respect of medical services they would showcase the achievements of Hong Kong's medical services as well as our vision. Their establishment will no doubt complement the industrialization of medical services in Hong Kong.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Last question.

MRS REGINA IP (in Cantonese): *Good afternoon, Chief Executive. I wish to ask you a question, which should be raised by the Lehman ELN victims sitting in the public gallery now. They came to me this morning. Firstly, they said that up to now, the subcommittee was mainly focusing on mini-bonds, but their situation was in fact similar to that of mini-bonds, as they considered that they were being misled, because the bank, which sold them the product, told them that "the worst-case scenario was to redeem the notes or the shares at maturity". They had not been told that they could end up losing everything.*

Secondly, all of them have opened their own bank accounts. As the bank saw that they have deposits, the bank would find someone to persuade them to buy those ELNs by means of some "hard sell" techniques. They bank staff who came into contact with them, including the daughter of one of the victims who sold the ELNs to the victim and her friends and relatives, had not received any relevant training. In particular, they pointed out that the attitude of foreign banks was the worst. Certain local banks have already started to make compensation. They asked the Chief Executive to help them by discussing the matter with foreign banks.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): Yes, I believe that we have to deal with this from two perspectives. It is true that we are dealing mostly with cases relating to mini-bonds, and we will deal with them as soon as possible in various ways, such as handling the complaints and helping the victims to initiate litigations through the Consumer Legal Action Fund of the Consumer Council. In particular, their interests should be protected in case the Lehman Brothers goes into liquidation. I also hope that these banks will reach a settlement with their customers at an appropriate time. Mrs IP, the work we are doing now indeed focuses on the mini-bonds investors first. With regards to other complaints, I believe that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) has received the complaints. We will follow up the cases upon receipt of such complaints. If the complaints are substantiated, we will notify the banks concerned in the hope that they can reach a settlement with their customers. If any individual is not satisfied with the results, he can file applications for the Consumer Legal Action Fund in order to follow up the matter. Nevertheless, we have to deal with the mini-bonds cases first.

MRS REGINA IP (in Cantonese): *President, I wish to tell the Chief Executive that these ELNs, or equity-linked notes, involve several billions of dollars. Many people in the public gallery are really some of them are former civil servants who used their pension to buy these ELNs, and they are really miserable*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I understand that.

MRS REGINA IP (in Cantonese): *In particular, those foreign banks may have to take orders from their overseas headquarters they do not even bother to pay attention to them. Therefore, I implore the Chief Executive to come forward and take up the cudgel for them, thank you.*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE (in Cantonese): I understand that, but it is most important to act according to the results of their complaints. I believe that if their complaints are substantiated, we can continue to follow up their cases through the Consumer Legal Action Fund. However, I hope that we can deal with the bulk of the complaints first, and then we will take a look at other cases and see what kind of help can be offered. I believe that as regards cases in which the customers were misled, or the customers had mistakenly bought the products, there are already sufficient channels for them to follow up their cases and with assistance from the HKMA and the Securities and Futures Commission. The support of these organizations, the victims may also initiate litigation through the Consumer Legal Action Fund, alright?

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): This is the end of the Question and Answer Session for today. Chief Executive

(A hubbub in the public gallery)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will the person in the public gallery please leave.

(Someone kept on shouting in the public gallery)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive will now leave the Chamber. Members will please stand up.

(Someone kept on shouting in the public gallery, and she was taken away by security guards)

NEXT MEETING

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now adjourn the Council until 11.00 am on Wednesday, 20 May 2009.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-nine minutes to Five o'clock.