

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 1st meeting
held in the Chamber of Legislative Council Building
on Tuesday, 14 October 2008, at 2:20 pm**

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP (Chairman)
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon CHAN Tanya
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

4. As Ir Dr Raymond HO was nominated for the chairmanship, Mr Fred LI, the member present who had the highest precedence among the members not nominated for the office, presided over the election.

5. As there was no other nomination, Mr Fred LI declared that Ir Dr Raymond HO was elected Chairman of the PWSC for the 2008-2009 session. Ir Dr Raymond HO then took over the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

6. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr Alan LEONG was nominated by Ms Cyd HO and the nomination was seconded by Mr Fred LI, Miss Tanya CHAN and Mr LEE Wing-tat. Mr Alan LEONG accepted the nomination.

7. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared that Mr Alan LEONG was elected Deputy Chairman of the PWSC for the 2008-2009 session.

Any other business

Schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session

8. The Chairman advised that PWSC meetings would normally be held on Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. He said that he would discuss with the Clerk and inform members on the schedule of PWSC meetings for the 2008-2009 session. As presently scheduled, the next PWSC meeting would be held on Friday, 7 November 2008, at 8:30 am.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session was issued to members vide PWSC4/08-09 on 16 October 2008.)

Progress of capital works projects and increase in approved project estimates

9. Mr Abraham SHEK expressed concern about the slow progress of capital works projects particularly in the light of upsurge in construction cost in the past year. He noted that some approved projects would require increases in their approved project estimates (APE) to meet contract price fluctuations allowed for under the contracts, or to enable tendered projects to proceed to construction. He urged the Administration to submit funding applications to increase APE for these projects at the next PWSC meeting so as to avoid delays in the delivery of the projects.

10. The Chairman advised that in line with the past practice, the Administration would provide a list of potential capital works items to be submitted to PWSC at the beginning of each legislative session. He believed that

the Administration would also submit requests for increase in APE shortly.

11. Mr LEE Wing-tat considered that as Hong Kong's economy would likely be hard-hit by the recent global financial turmoil, the Administration should speed up the large-scale infrastructure projects so as to boost the local economy. He opined that if the Administration intended to adopt a fast-tracking process for the capital works projects, PWSC would need to hold more meetings to consider the proposals. While acknowledging the need to pursue fast-tracking to expedite project works, the Chairman however cautioned that successful implementation of fast-track projects would be subject to proper coordination between the design and construction phases of the projects.

Design of capital works projects

12. Mr Albert CHAN expressed grave concern that albeit members' repeated requests and criticisms made at previous PWSC meetings on the design of capital works projects, little improvements had been made. For example, members had time and again urged the Administration to improve the design of projects, such as roads, footbridges and schools. However, the Administration had stressed the need to contain costs, and did not take much heed to members' views. Sometimes, members had to consider project proposals even when the design layouts were not yet available. Mr CHAN urged that the Administration should take heed of members' views. The Chairman said that he would discuss the matter with the relevant Government officials.

13. Mr LEE Wing-tat shared Mr Albert CHAN's concern and pointed out that in the past, members had made suggestions regarding enhanced utilization of open space in projects making reference to designs adopted in similar projects in Singapore, Japan and Taiwan. He stressed that optimal use of open space in projects should be a policy adopted by all Bureau Directors in planning capital works projects. The Chairman said that there was room for improvement in the design of projects. However, he noted that it was a common practice under the "design and build" approach for capital works projects to be approved before proceeding to design works. In fact, this could be viewed as a form of fast-tracking. In this connection, Prof Patrick LAU remarked that it would be more appropriate for the Panel on Development to deal with the policy issues concerning the design of capital works projects.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:33 pm.