

立法會

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Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 12th meeting
held in the Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 20 May 2009, at 8:30 am**

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 CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, 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 Tanya CHAN
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Members absent:

Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP

Public officers attending:

Mr Joe C C WONG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr MAK Chai-kwong, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Raymond YOUNG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Miss Sandra LAM	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Mr John CHAI Sung-veng, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr CHAN Chi-chiu, JP	Project Manager (New Territories North and West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mrs Sorais LEE KWAN Siu-kuen	Chief Engineer (Project 1) (New Territories North and West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Eric CHIANG Nin-tat	Chief Engineer (New Territories East) ² (Acting), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LAU Ka-keung, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Mr Elvis AU Wai-kwong, JP	Assistant Director (Water Policy), Environmental Protection Department
Mr LEE Tai-kwan	Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects), Drainage Services Department
Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung	Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department
Mr Alex NG Yau-wing	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste and Landfill Restoration), Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Debbie YAU	Chief Council Secretary (1) ⁶
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Staff in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Angel SHEK	Senior Council Secretary (1)1
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

The Chairman reported that a total of 99 capital works projects of an amount of \$52.129 billion had been endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in the 2008-2009 session so far.

PWSC(2009-10)27 259RS Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories

2. The Chairman advised members that the proposal was to upgrade part of 259RS, entitled "Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories – Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section" to Category A at an estimated cost of \$230.3 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices; and the retention of the remainder of 259RS in Category B. The Administration had consulted the Panel on Development on the proposal at the meeting on 28 April 2009.

3. Prof Patrick LAU, Deputy Chairman of the Panel on Development reported that Panel members were in support of the proposal but had raised the following concerns and suggestions:

- (a) existing cycle tracks should be enhanced to ensure the safety of cyclists, in particular the ramps of some footbridges and subways through which the cycle tracks would pass;
- (b) the proposed cycle track should be so designed as to facilitate access to nearby heritage sites;
- (c) construction of feeder cycle tracks to nearby villages should be included;
- (d) there should be supporting facilities at certain locations along the cycle track network to promote parent-child cycling, and engage non-government organizations or social enterprises to operate those facilities;
- (e) consideration should be given to using the cycle track also for conducting international cycling competitions;

- (f) consideration should also be given to constructing cycle track networks in other areas, e.g. linking the Southern District to the Central and Western District, and also on the new Kai Tak Development;
- (g) the existing legislation relating to cycling offences should be reviewed; and
- (h) the Administration should proactively promote cycling as a means of transportation, and also promote cycle tourism such as connecting the cycle track network with that in Shenzhen.

4. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming expressed support for the proposal. He asked when the construction of the network linking Sheung Shui to Kam Tin would commence. He also asked whether the Administration's proposal would include construction of feeder cycle tracks to remote villages, and how the Administration would take forward the land acquisition as stated in paragraph 23 of PWSC(2009-20)27.

5. Project Manager (New Territories North and West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (PM(NTN&W)) responded that the construction of the cycle network linking Sheung Shui to Kam Tin would be a separate project. Subject to some fine-tuning in the alignment, the construction would commence in 2010, after the proposal was submitted to the PWSC and Finance Committee (FC) for approval.

6. Responding to Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming's concern about the construction of feeder tracks, PM(NTN&W) advised that the current proposal was to construct a backbone cycle track. Existing cycle tracks of nearby villages along the backbone would be connected but not for those remote villages far away from the backbone. Chief Engineer (Project 1)(New Territories North and West), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CE(NTN&W)) supplemented that the Administration had taken into account the circumstances of the nearby rural areas and responded to the residents' needs by constructing the proposed cycle track away from the access to their villages to enhance pedestrian safety and smooth traffic flow.

7. PM(NTN&W) further advised that \$10.7 million had been provided for land resumption and clearance costs arising from the proposed works. Those affected would be compensated in accordance with the stipulated guidelines. CE(NTN&W) added that satisfactory settlement had been made regarding the affected household which comprised five persons, and they would be resided to a public housing estate.

8. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether emergency fixed-line phone services would be provided at suitable intervals along the cycle track. He also urged for improvement to the design of the bollards to prevent collision of the cyclists.

Admin

9. PM(NTN&W) advised that it might not be cost-effective to install emergency fixed-line phones as the mobile phone network had already provided good coverage along the proposed cycle track. General facilities such as first aid stations, resting and meeting points would also be provided at suitable intervals for cyclists in need. The Director of Civil Engineering and Development (DCED) said that the Administration would review whether there were blind spots along the proposed cycling track which were not covered by the mobile phone network and the need to provide emergency phones at these locations. As for the bollards along cycle tracks originally intended to remind the cyclists to reduce speed, PM(NTN&W) advised that an improved design was undergoing trial by the Transport Department to enhance the safety of cyclists and the trial design would be provided to members for information. The test results were expected to be available by mid 2009.

10. Noting that the current proposal would mainly cover construction of cycle tracks in North East New Territories, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked when the other cycle tracks would commence construction. PM(NTN&W) advised that the proposed cycle track running from Yuen Long to Sheung Shui would commence construction in stages from 2010, aiming at completion in stages by 2013. The Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section was being studied and planned for construction in stages starting 2011, with the completion of the first stage construction works in 2014. The branching off sections including those from Nai Chung to Sai Kung, from Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Tan and from Yuen Long to Nam San Wai, would commence construction in stages in 2011. Upon completion of these cycling tracks in stages from 2014, there would be a continuous cycle track up to 112 kilometres.

11. Ms Miriam LAU expressed support for the proposal. As the proposed cycle track would cost \$230.3 million, she asked if the cycle tracks would also be used for conducting international cycling competitions other than leisure and recreational purposes. PM(NTN&W) explained that cycle tracks for competition purposes were subject to more stringent requirements, and it would involve substantial costs to upgrade the proposed cycle tracks for meeting these requirements. PM(NTN&W) advised that many international cycling races were held on roads rather than on cycle tracks because of the width requirements.

12. Mr IP Kwok-him expressed support for using the cycle tracks for recreational purposes. He suggested that the proposed cycle tracks could be designed to facilitate access to scenic spots and natural sites such as Sam Mun Tsai and Ma Shi Chau Nature Trail. He also expressed concern over cyclist safety in view of the steepness of the cycle ramps along Tai Hang, Au Tsai, Tai Wo and Kowloon Hang. He was worried that some cyclists might, despite the steepness of the footbridge, attempt riding over it and this might cause danger to cyclists. He asked if the Administration could consider implementing some safety measures along the footbridge to enhance safety of the cyclists.

13. PM(NTN&W) responded that it was also the Administration's objective to facilitate access to scenic spots, as reflected by the design of the cycle track sections from Sai Kung to Nai Chung, Tai Po to Fanling and the section along the Tolo Highway. The section of cycle track linking up with Sam Mun Tsai was being studied and local residents were being consulted.

14. In response to Mr IP Kwok-him's suggestion of enhancing the safety of the Tai Po-Fanling section, PM(NTN&W) said that the Administration would study the need for carrying out modification works to the footbridge in question if necessary. The Administration would also study whether it would be feasible to provide a connection to the bicycle practicing area at Pak Shek.

15. Mr Albert CHAN expressed grave concern that there were insufficient cycle parking space, especially at locations near MTR stations and along the cycle tracks, causing illegal parking and environmental problems. He said that more and more residents in new towns were using bicycles as a means of feeder transportation and there was strong demand for cycle parking space in new towns such as Tin Shui Wai and Tung Chung to facilitate park and ride. He was most dissatisfied with the inadequacy of the cycling parking space despite repeated complaints from residents of new towns. He suggested that the Administration should make reference to overseas experience, such as Amsterdam, to provide double deck parking space for bikes. He also requested the Administration to provide the estimated number of bicycle parking space and their locations under the project. Mr CHAN also expressed concern that under the current legislation, cyclists could be prosecuted if they did not alight at pedestrian junctions even if no pedestrians were passing by. He urged the Administration to review the relevant legislation.

Admin

16. DCED responded that parking space could not be provided to cater for every bicycle being used as a means of transport, and agreed to provide the number and location of bicycle parking spaces proposed in the project for members' reference. PM(NTN&W) added that issues such as regulation of cyclists by way of legislation and provision of cycle parking space for commuters had been raised at the Panel on Development on 28 April 2009. The Secretary for Development had advised the Panel at that meeting that these issues were outside the purview of the Development Bureau and she would relay members' views to the Transport and Housing Bureau for consideration.

17. Mr Albert CHAN expressed reservation about the proposal and requested the item be separately voted on at the relevant meeting of the FC.

18. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2009-10)28 715CL Tseung Kwan O further development —
infrastructure works at Town Centre
South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O**

19. The Chairman advised that the proposal sought to upgrade 715CL to Category A at an estimated cost of \$546.7 million in MOD prices to carry out site formation and infrastructure works for the planned development at Town Centre South and Tiu Keng Leng, Tseung Kwan O. An information paper on the proposal had been circulated to the Panel on Development on 20 April 2009.

20. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 704 – Drainage

**PWSC(2009-10)19 236DS Tai Po sewage treatment works, stage 5
phase 2B**

21. The Chairman advised members that the proposal was to upgrade 236DS to Category A at an estimated cost of \$659.0 million in MOD prices. The Administration had consulted the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) on the proposal on 27 April 2009, and Panel members expressed support for the proposal.

22. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern about the emission of odour from the Tai Po sewage treatment works (TPSTW) and asked what measures would be adopted to prevent the problem. He recalled that the Administration had undertaken to control odour emission from a similar sewage treatment plant at Siu Ho Wan before, but there were still complaints from the residents of Lantau about the strong odour emission. He said that there was strong odour emission from the sewage treatment plant at Siu Ho Wan, on occasions when he drove along the Lantau Link in evenings.

23. The Assistant Director (Water Policy), Environmental Protection Department (AD(WP)) responded that mitigation measures had been implemented for the TPSTW, such as covering the exposed area of treatment facilities and installation of deodourizers, to ensure that the sewage treatment plant would not cause odour nuisance. Since the implementation of such measures, no complaints of odour emission were received from nearby residents. The Director of Drainage Services (DDS) advised that for the treatment plant at Siu Ho Wan, adequate measures had been adopted to control odour emission.

24. Mr KAM Nai-wai and Mr IP Kwok-him shared Mr Albert CHAN's concerns that effective measures should be adopted to control odour emission. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that there was also odd smell from the sewage treatment plant in Chai Wan. He asked whether there was any monitoring system to ensure that odour emission at TPSTW could effectively be reduced by means such as the installation of covers. DDS responded that covers would be used for inlet works and the primary sedimentation tank which were the sources of odour. There would

be close monitoring of the odour emission during and after the construction of the proposed works.

25. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming expressed support for the proposal which was to cope with the progressive increase in sewage flow as a result of population growth. Nevertheless, he was concerned about the transportation of the increased quantity of treated sewage (i.e. sludge). He asked if the Administration would consider transporting the sludge to the landfill sites mainly by sea, in order to minimize the possible nuisance caused by land transportation of sludge.

26. AD(WP) responded that the estimated increase in sludge would be 6 000 kilograms (kg) per day. The sludge would be transported in closed trucks on land to the landfill site at Northeast New Territories, and it should not cause any odour nuisance. It was also appropriate and cost-effective to transport the sludge on land because of the shorter distance.

27. Ms Miriam LAU asked whether the proposed TPSTW had adopted world standards and best technology for odour control. She also suggested enhancement measures for covers on inlet works to ensure no emission of odour. DDS responded that odour control should not be a problem as during open days regularly organized by Drainage Services Department (DSD) in STWs, there had been no complaint received from the public on odour emission so far. AD(WP) advised that the standards adopted by the proposed works were in compliance with international requirements and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance. AD(WP) added that there were no complaints on odour emission since the completion of odour mitigation measures in May 2008 under TPSTW stage 5 phase 1 project. The mitigation measures, such as covering the exposed area of treatment facilities and the installation of deodourizers, had proved to be effective in odour control.

28. In response to Prof Patrick LAU, AD(WP) advised that covers would be used on inlet works and primary sedimentation tanks. He agreed to provide the sectional plans showing the design of "covers" as requested by Prof Patrick LAU.

Admin

29. Referring to paragraph 14 of LC Paper No. PWSC(2009-10)19, Mr Alan LEONG asked if the odour control measures at TPSTW were implemented in accordance with the requirements under the EIA Ordinance, and whether the sewage treatment plants in Siu Ho Wan and Chai Wan were designated projects under the EIA Ordinance. Mr Alan LEONG considered that it was necessary for members to know whether the standards and technology were adopted by the sewage treatment plants at Siu Ho Wan, Chai Wan and the TPSTW, to ensure that such measures were effective in controlling odour emission. AD(WP) advised that TPSTW and the sewage treatment plant in Siu Ho Wan were designated project. He would ascertain the status of the plant in Chai Wan and advise later. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment (PS(Env)) advised that the design of the proposed works had already taken into account the requirements for implementation of mitigation measures as stated in the EIA study, and necessary measures had been adopted to prevent the emission of odour from TPSTW.

Admin PS(Env) agreed to provide information on the measures taken to control odour emission at the various sewage treatment plants in Hong Kong. Ms Miriam LAU suggested that the EA Panel should follow up the issues relating to odour control at sewerage treatment plants.

30. Mr LEE Wing-tat asked whether specialists would be engaged to assess and monitor odour emission of sewage treatment plants and the costs for engaging such specialists. DDS responded that a consultants' fee of about \$4 million had been earmarked to conduct environmental monitoring and audit to ascertain the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

31. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern about the possible conflict of interest if specialists were engaged by consultants to monitor their work. DDS assured members that independent specialists would be engaged for the monitoring work, with the consent of DSD and Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

32. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 705 – Civil Engineering PWSC(2009-10)16 233DS Sludge treatment facilities

33. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 233DS to Category A at an estimated cost of \$5,154.4 million in MOD prices for the design and construction of the sludge treatment facilities (STF). The Administration had consulted the EA Panel on the proposed project on 30 March 2009.

34. The Chairman said that some members of the EA Panel had expressed grave concern that the Administration had placed many perceivingly unwelcomed public facilities (including the proposed STF) in Tuen Mun and this was unfair to the residents in Tuen Mun. Panel members had suggested that, as a compensatory measure, the Administration should expedite the provision of certain wanted facilities in the district. Some Panel members had indicated that they would not support the proposed STF unless the Administration had reached agreement with the Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) on the matter. Some other Panel members expressed support for the proposed STF since incineration of waste seemed to be the ultimate solution for waste treatment in the long term, and overseas experience showed that the use of incineration technology in the treatment of waste did not have much adverse impact on the surrounding environment. In response to the Panel members' request, the Administration had provided supplementary information (LC Paper No. CB(1)1278/08-09) on the emission standards to be adopted for STF and the considerations in setting the standards, the outcome of discussion of the working group on the planning and development of Tuen Mun led by the Environment Bureau (ENB), and arrangements for the marine transport of sludge for treatment at STF. Panel members did not object to the Administration's submission of the funding proposal to PWSC for consideration.

Consultation

35. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern that the Administration had not provided the full picture on the consultation with TMDC in PWSC(2009-10)16. He recalled that at a meeting held between the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members and TMDC members on 12 March 2009, of which he was the Convenor, TMDC members had raised strong objection to the proposed STF in Tuen Mun. He had suggested the Administration to consider establishing an inter-departmental group to discuss with TMDC on the development of the proposed STF. ENB had subsequently taken the lead to set up a Tuen Mun Development Liaison Working Group with representatives from TMDC and relevant bureaux and departments to discuss the overall planning and development of Tuen Mun. Mr WONG informed members that at the TMDC meeting held on 22 April 2009, TMDC had passed two motions requesting the Administration to arrange for funding application only after the Working Group and TMDC had reached agreement on the matter. Mr WONG was very concerned that the Administration's paper had not reflected these latest developments. He considered that ENB and other relevant bureaux/departments should further discuss with TMDC to come up with a consensus before seeking funding approval for the STF project. He said that it would be difficult for PWSC members to support the project if TMDC objected to the proposal.

(Post meeting note: The minutes of the meeting of TMDC on 22 April 2009 was tabled at the meeting and subsequently issued to members vide LC Paper No. PWSC103/08-09 on 27 May 2009.)

36. PS(Env) said that the Administration attached great importance to engage the views of district councils in taking forward district facilities, including the proposed STF. Further to TMDC's meeting on 22 April 2009, the Working Group had held a meeting in May 2009 when the Administration provided preliminary responses to TMDC's proposals for improving Tuen Mun's overall image and development. Under this premise, at its meeting on 5 May 2009, TMDC had expressed no objection to ENB's submission of the STF project to PWSC for consideration.

37. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed regret that the Administration had not provided the latest information to PWSC. He remarked that it was difficult for PWSC members to consider the proposal without information on the latest stance of TMDC following the passing of the two motions at TMDC meeting on 22 April 2009. The Chairman and Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming shared similar concerns.

38. PS(Env) explained that the PWSC paper was issued originally for the meeting on 22 April 2009, but discussion of the item was postponed twice pending further discussion with TMDC. The PWSC paper therefore had not included information on the latest discussions of the Working Group and TMDC in late April and May 2009. PS(Env) undertook to provide updated information on the consultations and the outcome.

Admin

39. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party did not support the proposal and would abstain from voting. He expressed concern about the lack of planning in the provision of obnoxious public facilities in Hong Kong. He criticized that the Administration had pushed ahead with the STF proposal in spite of the strong objection from TMDC, in the hope of being able to solicit sufficient support among LegCo Members. However, many TMDC members of different political affiliations did not support the project. Mr LEE further said that he was disappointed that the proposal was hastily put forward to PWSC for consideration, even before the Working Group had made any substantial progress. While the Administration had attempted to solicit the support of TMDC members by proposing certain projects in May 2009, some TMDC members, especially those belonging to the Democratic Party, considered that the Administration should undertake to cap the number of obnoxious facilities in Tuen Mun. However, this could only be achieved with effective coordination among the relevant bureaux, and the Administration should devise a coordination mechanism in developing obnoxious facilities in Tuen Mun, and where necessary, bring the matter to a higher level of discussion with the Chief Secretary for Administration.

40. PS(Env) highlighted that the Working Group had discussed proposals to improve the image of Tuen Mun. For instance, it had been agreed that the provision of a crematorium in Tuen Mun Area 46 would not be taken forward, and alternative locations to accommodate columbarium facilities were being explored. Nevertheless, some other issues concerning Tuen Mun's development would take time for detailed study and planning. She assured members that the Administration would proactively follow up with TMDC on the matter. PS(Env) stressed that given the scarcity in landfill space, there was a need to provide a dedicated and sustainable outlet to cope with the increased sludge from the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. Any delay in the provision of STF might give rise to unacceptable environmental impacts on the community. She added that the TMDC had been briefed on the technologies of the proposed STF.

41. Ms Miriam LAU said that TMDC's concerns were understandable as many unwelcomed public facilities were currently placed in Tuen Mun. She opined that the Administration should conduct thorough consultation with TMDC and seriously consider compensatory measures by providing wanted facilities in the district.

42. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that the local community was worried that the Working Group led by the ENB might be disbanded after the proposed STF project was approved. He said that the Working Group should continue its work and follow up on other projects impacting on the planning and development of Tuen Mun. PS(Env) responded that the ENB was willing to continue to lead the Working Group and work with other relevant bureaux/departments in discussion with TMDC on the development of Tuen Mun.

Technologies of the proposed STF

43. Ms Miriam LAU supported the use of incineration method to treat sludge as this would mitigate the emission of malodour that might otherwise occur in the case of sludge disposal at landfills. Referring to the visit to Pearl River Delta Region by a delegation of LegCo Members from 15 to 18 May 2009, she said that some Members had noted that the technologies adopted by waste incinerators and landfills in the area were very advanced. Noting the comparison of STF emission standards with other international standards (Enclosure 1 to LC Paper No. CB(1)1278/08-09(01)), Ms LAU enquired how the Administration would ensure these targets would be met, in order to convince TMDC and local residents that the proposed facility was environmental-friendly.

44. The Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), EPD advised that the proposed STF would adopt the most stringent target emission standards which were equivalent to the European Union Standards (EUS), and advanced treatment systems, such as flue gas treatment system, would be installed to achieve the target. Citing the adoption of EUS for the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi, she explained that the target standards represented a ceiling for the emission, and the actual performance could be much lower than the emission limits. Relevant data of emission performance would be provided on EPD's website for public monitoring.

45. Ms Miriam LAU suggested that, apart from publicizing the monitoring data on the website, the Administration should step up publicity and increase public awareness of the technologies and benefits of STF. The Administration took note of the suggestion.

46. Prof Patrick LAU enquired whether the Administration had explored alternative sludge treatment technologies. He noted that a company had proposed to EPD to use their novel technology (i.e. Eco-co-combustion) at their existing cement plant site for the treatment of municipal solid waste (MSW) and sludge, and suggested to recycle the sludge for use as construction materials. The Chairman said that, according to the company's letter to LegCo Members, the project estimate of its proposal (i.e. \$950 million) was far less than the proposed STF (i.e. \$5,154.4 million). He enquired why the Administration had not given consideration to the proposal.

47. PS(Env) responded that in view of the scale and importance of the STF project, the Administration had exercised caution in the selection of capable contractors in terms of their experience and technical know-how. It had openly invited prequalification submissions from interested parties but the company in question had not made any submission by the deadline. She said that the technology proposed by the company was a cement-making related process which was not specifically designed for sludge treatment. Having studied the proposal and taken reference from similar operations overseas, the Administration considered the proposed technology unproven. Besides, as the site of the company was currently zoned for cement plant use, and MSW and sludge treatment might

not be compatible with this current land use designation. Nevertheless, the Administration was willing to consider request for the provision of sludge as fuel sources. The Chairman and Prof Patrick LAU suggested that the Administration should further study the company's proposal in detail.

Provision of environmental education and recreational facilities

48. Ms Miriam LAU enquired whether the STF project would include the provision of recreational facilities as a compensatory measure. PS(Env) said that the Administration was open-minded to the type and design of facilities (such as environmental education facilities and visitor centre) to be provided in consultation with TMDC. At this stage, the TMDC had not put forth such a request.

Meeting arrangements

49. Owing to time constraint, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that discussion of this item (PWSC(2009-10)16) and other remaining items (PWSC(2009-10)29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37) be carried forward to the additional meeting scheduled for Monday, 25 May 2009, at 8:30 am.

50. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.