

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)136/08-09

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/EDEV/1

Panel on Economic Development

**Minutes of meeting held on
Tuesday, 14 October 2008, at 11:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present: Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP
Hon CHAN Tanya
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Members attending : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Member absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

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

Staff in attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Debbie YAU
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Ms Guy YIP
Senior Council Secretary (1)5

Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Alice CHEUNG
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1

Miss Queenie LAM
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2

Miss Christy YAU
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman for the 2008-2009 session

Mr Albert HO, Panel member who had the highest precedence among the members present, presided over the election of the Chairman. He invited nominations for the chairmanship. Mr Jeffrey LAM was nominated by Mr Andrew LEUNG and the nomination was seconded by Ms Emily LAU. Mr Jeffrey LAM accepted the nomination.

2. As there was no other nomination, Mr Albert HO declared that Mr Jeffrey LAM was elected Chairman of the Panel for the session.

Election of Deputy Chairman for the 2008-2009 session

3. The Chairman took over the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Ms Starry LEE was nominated by Ms Emily LAU and the nomination was seconded by Mr Vincent FANG. Ms Starry LEE accepted the

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nomination. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared that Ms Starr Y LEE was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the session.

II Schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session

4. The Chairman drew members' attention to the proposed schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session tabled at the meeting. Members agreed that the regular monthly meetings of the Panel for the 2008-2009 session would be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 10:45 am. They also agreed to the proposed schedule of meetings for the session except for the months of December 2008 and January 2009.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the dates for the regular meetings of December 2008 and January 2009 were re-scheduled to 16 December 2008 and 19 January 2009 respectively, both at 4:30 pm. The schedule of meetings for the 2008-2009 session was subsequently issued vide LC Paper CB(1)17/08-09 on 15 October 2008.)

III Items for discussion at next meetings

(LC Paper No. CB(1)18/08-09(01) — List of issues suggested to be
(tabled and subsequently issued via discussed
email on 14 October 2008)

LC Paper No. CB(1)18/08-09(02)) — List of follow-up actions)
(tabled and subsequently issued via
email on 14 October 2008)

Special meeting on 24 October 2008

5. The Chairman informed members that the Panel would hold a special meeting on 24 October 2008 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon to receive policy briefings by the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Secretary for the Environment, and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on relevant initiatives featuring in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2008-2009. He said that the Administration also proposed to brief the Panel on the latest development of a new cruise terminal at Kai Tak at that meeting.

6. Mr CHAN Kam-lam was concerned that despite drastic reduction in international crude oil prices recently, the local pump prices had only fallen slightly. He suggested that the Panel should discuss with the Administration and oil companies on matters relating to the mechanism for adjustment of local pump prices.

7. Mr Andrew LEUNG supported the above suggestion, and requested the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat to prepare an information note comparing

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the movements on local pump prices in Hong Kong and overseas jurisdictions. Mr Abraham SHEK added that it would be useful to compare the levels of fuel tax imposed by overseas governments. Ms Emily LAU also requested the Clerk to prepare a background brief on the subject to facilitate members' consideration.

8. Mr Albert CHAN and Mr Fred LI also supported Mr CHAN Kam-lam's suggestion. Mr LI said that, if necessary, the Panel might consider, as in the past, holding closed-door meetings with the oil companies. Ms Emily LAU opined that apart from oil companies, the Consumer Council should also be invited to attend the meeting.

9. Having noted members' views, the Chairman proposed that in addition to the briefings by the three Bureau Directors and the item on the new cruise terminal, the special meeting on 24 October 2008 be extended to 12:45 pm for discussion of the item of "Auto-fuel prices". Members agreed. Mrs Regina IP LAU Shuk-yee and Ms Emily LAU opined that if sufficient time was not allowed to discuss the item of "Auto-fuel prices" at the meeting on 24 October 2008, the Panel could consider convening a special meeting to continue the discussion.

Regular meeting on 24 November 2008

10. The Chairman advised that the Administration had proposed to discuss the following two items at the regular Panel meeting to be held on 24 November 2008:

- (a) Re-allocation of berths in Public Cargo Working Areas; and
- (b) Progress update on Hong Kong Disneyland.

11. Mr Andrew LEUNG expressed concern that despite an estimated 9% reduction in electricity tariff under the new Scheme of Control Agreement (SCA) entered with the CLP Power Limited (CLP) which commenced on 1 October 2008 was envisaged, CLP had only lowered the tariff for residential customers by 3% and less than 1% for non-residential customers. He considered it necessary for the Administration and CLP to brief members on the reasons for failing to bring down the electricity tariff to the expected level and to account for the discrepancies in electricity tariff between residential and non-residential customers. In this connection, members noted that the new SCA entered with Hongkong Electric Company Limited (HEC) would commence on 1 January 2009. The Panel should also discuss with HEC on tariff adjustment before implementation of the new SCA. Members agreed to discuss the subject suggested by Mr LEUNG at the regular meeting on 24 November 2008.

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Other items proposed for discussion

Assistance for small and medium enterprises

12. Mr Albert CHAN expressed concern that the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) would likely be hard-hit by the recent financial market tsunami. He said that the Administration should brief the Panel on measures to be devised to assist SMEs to tide over the difficult period. In this connection, the Chairman pointed out that the Panel on Commerce and Industry (CI Panel) had agreed to hold a special meeting on 27 October 2008 to discuss the matter. Panel members who were interested on the subject could join the meeting of the CI Panel.

13. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:20 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
28 October 2008