

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1462/08-09
(These minutes have been seen by the
Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 20 March 2009, at 10:45 am
in the Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Tanya CHAN (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun

Members absent : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public Officers attending : Item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms HUI Hiu-fai, Florence, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss KWOK Wai-ling, Polly
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)2

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHOW Tat-ming, Thomas, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture)

Ms WONG Sau-lan, Belinda
Chief Curator (Heritage Museum)

Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Grace LUI, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Miss Winnie TSE
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Civic Affairs)³

Clerk in attendance : Ms Betty FONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)²

Staff in attendance : Ms Janet SHUM
Senior Council Secretary (2)²

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)²

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I. Confirmation of minutes
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1088/08-09]

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2009 were confirmed.

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

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

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- LC Paper No. CB(2)860/08-09(01) -- Administration's response to the views of members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs and deputations at the special meeting on 6 February 2009 to discuss the proposed injection of funds into the Arts and Sport Development Fund
- LC Paper No. CB(2)955/08-09(01) -- Referral from the meeting between LegCo Members and Heung Yee Kuk Councillors on 8 January 2009 on revision of rural development strategy and policy in relation to improvement of the rural minor works programme
- LC Paper No. CB(2)955/08-09(02) -- Summary of the discussion at the meeting between LegCo Members and members of Tai Po District Council on 22 January 2009 on the construction of a new Civic Centre in Tai Po
- LC Paper No. CB(2)955/08-09(03) -- Referral from the meeting between LegCo Members and members of Southern District Council on 5 February 2009 regarding the provision of a Civic Centre in the Southern District
- LC Paper No. CB(2)997/08-09(01) -- Extract from the confirmed minutes of Public Works Subcommittee on 21 January 2009 on the conversion of Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building into a Xiqu Activity Centre
- LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1068/08-09(01)&(02) -- Letter from a Wan Chai District Councillor expressing her views related to the timeframe on the claiming of

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prizes in respect of Mark Six and the Administration's response

LC Paper No. CB(2)1104/08-09(01) -- Administration's response to a motion on the cultural conservation of the Sunbeam Theatre passed at the Panel meeting on 13 February 2009

LC Paper No. CB(2)1109/08-09(01) -- Administration's paper on Lam Tin North Municipal Services Building

3. Mr WONG Yung-kan suggested that the Panel should consider following up the issue regarding the construction of a new Civic Centre in Tai Po. He expressed dissatisfaction about the Administration's decision to withhold the project which had been pursued by members of the Tai Po District Council (TPDC) for two decades. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming suggested in his capacity as the Chairman of TPDC that the issue should be followed up by TPDC first since the Administration had agreed to consider TPDC's requests for the reprovisioning of the swimming pool in Area 33 to the site originally reserved for the new Civic Centre at Plover Cove Road, and the upgrading of facilities of the existing Tai Po Civic Centre. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the case could be further discussed under the item "Implementation of recommendations of the 2006 District Council Review" scheduled for the end of 2009, if deemed necessary.

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1090/08-09]

4. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting on 17 April 2009 -

- (a) 2009 East Asian Games;
- (b) Development of public library services; and
- (c) Tree preservation and maintenance.

(Post-meeting note: Upon the Chairman's instruction, members were informed via CB(2) 1140/08-09 that the title of agenda item 4(c) should be revised as "Greening and tree preservation".)

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5. On item 4(a), the meeting agreed that a site visit to the Hong Kong Coliseum and Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG), venues of the 2009 East Asian Games, should be scheduled for 15 April 2009. On item 4(c), the meeting agreed that members of the Panel on Development should be invited to join the discussion as the issue also straddled the areas of responsibilities of that Panel.

(Post-meeting note: A visit to the Hong Kong Coliseum and TKOSG was arranged on 15 April 2009.)

6. A letter from the Deputy Chairman was tabled at the meeting requesting the Panel to follow up on the governance of the major performing arts groups. The Deputy Chairman said that the recent incident in the termination of the contract of a principal dancer of the Hong Kong Ballet had raised public concern about various management issues of these arts groups such as the role of their Board members and their policy in the nurturing and retention of artists. She suggested that the nine major performing arts groups should be invited to give their views on the issues concerned. Ms Cyd HO expressed similar concern and requested the Administration to include in its discussion paper information on its provision for arts management training, the mechanism to monitor the administration of these arts groups, as well as measures to safeguard their artistic autonomy. The Chairman suggested and members concurred that the abovementioned issues should be discussed under the item "strengthening the software and humanware for culture and the arts" scheduled for June 2009.

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(Post-meeting note: The letter from the Deputy Chairman was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1177/08-09(01) on 26 March 2009 and the Panel agreed at the meeting on 17 April 2009 that discussion on the governance of major performing arts groups should be advanced to the regular meeting in May 2009.)

Building Management (Amendment) Bill

7. Referring to the Administration's decision to take out the Building Management (Amendment) Bill, which was intended to simplify the statutory declaration requirement for members of the management committees (MC) of owners corporations, from the Legislative Programme for 2008-2009, the Chairman said that the issue of statutory declaration requirement was discussed at the Panel's regular meeting on 12 December 2008, and members agreed that the Administration should facilitate MC members to observe the requirement by providing declaration service outside office hours. The Chairman further suggested and members agreed that the Administration should provide a letter to set out the considerations for not introducing the bill in the current session and where deemed necessary, the Panel might further discuss the issue. The Under Secretary for Home Affairs (USHA) explained that as discussed by members at the meeting of 12 December 2008, the declaration requirement was

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a serious and solemn statutory declaration requirement. As requested by Panel members, the Administration would implement administrative measures to assist MC members to observe the existing statutory requirement. USHA agreed to provide a written response as requested with updates on the administrative measures taken to facilitate compliance with the requirement.

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(Post-meeting note: The paper was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1342/08-09(01) on 16 April 2009.)

IV. Territory-wide Survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 1090/08-09(01) and IN10/08-09]

8. USHA briefed members on the Administration's plan to carry out a territory-wide survey of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in Hong Kong, which sought to identify and define the various ICH items present in the territory for drawing up the necessary safeguarding measures.

Safeguarding of ICH in Hong Kong

9. The Deputy Chairman considered that the Administration should formulate a long-term policy for the safeguarding of ICH in Hong Kong, and expressed concern about its slow progress in the preservation and protection of ICH in comparison with the work accomplished in the Mainland.

10. USHA said that the Administration had already put in place measures on preserving and protecting ICH before the enforcement of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the Convention) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2006. For instance, in the safeguarding of Cantonese opera, the Administration had established the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee and the Cantonese Opera Development Fund in 2004 and 2005 respectively to support and fund programmes and activities on the study, promotion and development of Cantonese opera. Following the enforcement of the Convention, the Administration had taken prompt action to conduct a pilot study on the 78 items of ICH inscribed on the first provincial list of ICH of Guangdong, resulting in 34 items on the list identified as being relevant to Hong Kong.

11. Mr Paul TSE considered that the preservation and promotion of ICH would attract visitors and enhance community spirit, and urged the Administration to act expeditiously in identifying elements which could be recommended for inscription onto UNESCO's Representative List of the ICH of Humanity (Representative List). To enhance the effectiveness of the ICH project, he suggested that the Administration should adopt a more focused approach and give priority to the promotion of distinctive ICH elements with

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exclusive Hong Kong characteristics. The Deputy Chairman further commented that the Administration had not been efficient in taking forward the ICH project following the 2006 pilot study on ICH by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

12. In response, USHA advised that -

- (a) the Administration had been working on the promotion and preservation of ICH in parallel. The museums and libraries of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had been documenting and making record of local ICH items and conducting thematic exhibitions, public lectures, seminars and conferences on ICH. LCSD had also been active in arranging music performances and related arts appreciation activities, such as the Music of Guangdong Region Series in 2007 and the Guangdong Music Project organised by the Windpipe Chinese Ensemble in 2008. To further enhance the preservation and protection of ICH, the territory-wide survey was initiated with a view to establishing a comprehensive and inclusive ICH inventory and drawing up appropriate safeguarding measures; and
- (b) the Administration had also focused on the preservation of distinctive ICH items, as suggested by Mr Paul TSE. For instance, it had embarked on the safeguarding of Cantonese opera, an ICH item on the national ICH list, by injecting additional resources for nurturing Cantonese opera talents and budding artists, building audience and enhancing venue provision for Cantonese opera troupes. In addition, the Administration, in collaboration with Guangdong and Macao, had successfully applied to the State Ministry of Culture for the inclusion of Cantonese opera into the first batch of ICH items at national level in 2006, and to the Central Government for the submission of inscribing Cantonese Opera on UNESCO's Representative List in 2008.

13. As requested by members, USHA agreed to provide a full list of Guangdong's first batch of provincial ICH items highlighting the 34 items relevant to Hong Kong, and the Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (DLCS) agreed to provide a summary of the pilot study report for members' reference.

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(Post-meeting note: The list and summary were circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1379/08-09(01) on 20 April 2009.)

Collaboration with the Mainland in safeguarding ICH

14. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming enquired about the Administration's approach in preserving those ICH items which were common to Hong Kong and

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Guangdong such as the fish-lantern dance, and the procedure for Hong Kong to nominate local ICH elements for inscription onto UNESCO's Representative List.

15. USHA advised that Hong Kong and Guangdong could work in collaboration to safeguard elements of ICH items which were commonly present in the two places. She further pointed out that while many of these items originated from Guangdong, their contents had evolved after they had been adapted to the local environment. In the process, these ICH items had established their own identity in the local community, and the fish-lantern dance in Sha Tau Kok was a case in point. For proposing the inscription of a local ICH item onto the Representative List, USHA explained that the item should have been successfully listed as ICH at the national level, and the application should be made through the Mainland, which was one of the State Parties to the Convention.

Territory-wide survey

Methodology of the survey

16. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming enquired about the methodology of the survey and mechanism for drawing up the inventory list. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the information collected in the field survey in the respective districts would be further classified for assessment purpose.

17. In response, USHA said that the Administration would adopt a bottom-up approach in identifying and defining the various ICH items present in Hong Kong, with the participation of the communities, groups and relevant non-governmental organisations, in particular the 18 District Councils (DCs). To achieve efficiency, the territory-wide survey would be divided into two field survey areas, each covering nine districts. The information so collected would be categorized according to their respective domains as specified in the Convention for further evaluation.

Listing of ICH items

18. Mr LAM Tai-fai asked whether the public would be consulted before the ICH inventory list was finalised and whether popular traditional food would be considered as ICH. Noting that the respective DCs would be consulted in the survey, Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired about the mechanism to ensure that heritage elements of territory-wide interest such as the Hong Kong style cafes would not be left out.

19. USHA responded that the survey would be conducted in an open and non-prescriptive manner, and members of the public might express their views on the items to be preserved, including those of territory-wide interest, in the course of conducting the survey. USHA then quoted the example of herbal tea

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in explaining the general considerations for a tradition or local culture to be recognised as an ICH item. She advised that in the case of herbal tea, the factors considered for its inclusion on the first National ICH List of the State Council included its prescription, the practice and process in its making and the 80 years' history in the transmission of these elements. It would be necessary for popular items of strong local and historical characteristics, such as Hong Kong style café or milk tea, to meet similar requirements in order to be considered as an ICH item.

20. Referring to the June Fourth memorial ceremony held annually since 1989, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that this well-known social practice which had been held in Hong Kong for 20 years with the participation of tens of thousands of Hong Kong people would to a certain extent meet the criteria to be manifested as an ICH. He asked whether the Administration would consider the inclusion of this event onto the list of ICH. In response, USHA said that for a social practice to be recognised as an ICH item, it should have been transmitted from generation to generation for a considerably long period of time according to the Convention.

21. Mr WONG Yung-kan opined that the Administration should consult the community generally in the survey about the inclusion of the specific arts/culture and tradition of various clans, such as Hakka folk songs and Chiuchow music, in the inventory. Mr CHAN Hak-kan asked whether a mechanism would be put in place to enable appeals to be made against the decision for not including a particular item on the list; and whether the Administration would provide support for traditional items which were worth preserving, such as clan rituals and festive events of villages, which might not be shortlisted in the list.

22. USHA took note of Mr WONG and Mr CHAN's views. She added that the Administration would be vigilant in compiling the ICH inventory to ensure that ICH items with cultural/traditional value, in particular those at risk of extinction or which required urgent safeguarding, would be identified. Where the preservation of an ICH item was not viable, proper documentation on such items would be made for future reference.

Mechanism and selection criteria

23. The Chairman enquired about the mechanism for compiling the ICH inventory. The Deputy Chairman considered that a policy framework including the selection criteria should be established prior to the scrutiny and assessment of the items. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong enquired about public participation in the compilation of the list. Mr Paul TSE suggested that the Administration should work out objective selection criteria by making reference to the national/international standards to facilitate public consultation.

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24. USHA responded that the ICH survey would be carried out on the advice of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and the findings of the survey would be used for compiling an ICH inventory. As professional input from experts familiar with local history and cultural origin was required to work out the inventory, relevant experts and cultural bearers would be invited to advise the Committee on the specific items identified in the survey. The Administration would also make reference to the selection criteria adopted by the Guangdong authority, and if required consult the public and the Panel in this regard.

Resources requirement

25. In response to Mr Paul TSE's enquiry about the resources for the territory-wide survey and the manpower requirement for safeguarding ICH, USHA said that the amount for the survey project could not be disclosed as the tendering exercise was still in progress. DLCS added that a Curator of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, with the support of other LCSD staff, had been overseeing the preservation of ICH, and staff of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum had been providing secretariat service to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Compliance with the Convention

26. As the Convention had become effective in 2006, Ms Cyd HO sought clarification as to whether it was still possible for Hong Kong to proclaim ICH items for the purpose of inscription onto the Representative List, having regard to Article 31(3) of the 2003 Convention which specified that no further proclamation of ICH would be allowed after the enforcement of the Convention. The Chairman also enquired about the development of the Convention from 2003 and 2006.

27. Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture) (DD(Culture)) explained that the Convention was adopted by UNESCO in 2003 and came into force in 2006. As a precursor to the Convention, UNESCO had launched the "Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" project and proclaimed 90 ICH as Masterpieces from 2001 to 2005, including four items from Mainland China. These 90 items were automatically incorporated into the "Representative List of the ICH of Humanity" as specified in the Convention. No further proclamation of "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" would be made after the entry into force of the Convention in 2006 and there was no limit on the number of elements proposed for inscription on the "Representative List of the ICH of Humanity".

28. Ms HO requested updated information on the Convention. She further asked -

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- (a) how far the Administration would implement measures and provide resources to enable Hong Kong to comply with the Convention which stipulated that the State Parties should adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures for safeguarding ICH;
- (b) whether Hong Kong had to contribute to the fund for the safeguarding of the ICH established under the Convention; and
- (c) whether the Administration would introduce legislation for the protection of ICH transmitters or bearers as being undertaken in the Mainland.

29. For the compliance of the Convention, USHA reiterated that the immediate task was to establish a list of ICH inventory, in particular those at the risk of extinction, and devise appropriate measures to safeguard these items. She added that Hong Kong was not required to contribute to the fund as it was not a State Party to the Convention, and Ms HO's suggestion regarding the protection of ICH bearers would be further considered by the Administration.

V. Measures to address gambling-related problems

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 1090/08-09(02) and (3)]

30. The Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) (DSHA(1)) briefed members on the progress in the implementation of measures to address gambling-related problems as detailed in the Administration's paper.

31. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that the study report of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University had highlighted the inadequacy of administrative support for the implementation of preventive measures to combat gambling problems and asked how the Administration would respond to its recommendations, in particular whether the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) would agree to add warnings on betting/lottery tickets available at betting stations, as recommended in the report. He further asked whether the Administration would reform the appointment mechanism of the Betting and Lotteries Commission (the Commission) where half of its current members were also members of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), taking into account the apparent conflict of interest for these members in discharging their respective roles, for example, in their deliberations of HKJC's recent proposal to increase the number of racing days.

32. DSHA(1) responded that: (a) the recommendations in the report would be considered by the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) in its deliberation of the future strategy on the preventive and remedial measures to address gambling-related problems; (b) members' suggestion regarding the inclusion of warnings on betting tickets would be

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conveyed to the Advisory Committee; (c) the Administration would take into account the concerns expressed by members and the public over the composition of the Commission in the future appointment of members to the Commission; and (d) the Commission had yet to arrive at a decision on HKJC's proposed increase of racing days in addition to the existing 78 days.

33. Pointing out that only one-third of those interviewed in the study took notice of the publicity on advocating the prevention of or solution to gambling problems, whereas almost two-third showed an interest in advertisements promoting gambling activities, the Deputy Chairman considered that the Administration should enhance its efforts in discouraging gambling in the following areas: (a) adoption of a more innovative approach in its publicity work; (b) prominent display of warning signs against gambling at betting stations and on betting tickets; (c) strict prohibition of underage betting at HKJC's betting stations; (d) opening of counselling and treatment centres for problem or pathological gamblers on Saturdays and Sundays; and (e) provision of 24-hour gambling counselling hotline service.

34. DSHA(1) responded that the continued strengthening of publicity and community education work was the key focus of the Advisory Committee in addressing gambling-related problems. Having regard to the public feedback, two Announcement of Public Interest (API) television trailers on the impact of gambling, one with a more conventional appeal while the other with a more creative approach, had been released. DSHA(1) further advised that the contracts of the four counselling and treatment centres for problem gamblers would end on 31 December 2009, and the future service providers would likely be required to extend their service hours and provide 24-hour hotline service in the new service contracts to be awarded upon completion of the tendering exercise in the second half of 2009.

35. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che supported the findings of the study report, in particular its recommendations on the need to offer one-stop multi services to problem gamblers; the setting up of a database to facilitate the handling of problem gambling; and the formation of a "Central Commission on Gambling Problem". In response to Mr CHEUNG's enquiry on the follow up actions on these findings, DSHA(1) said that the Advisory Committee would make reference to the recommendations of the study report in mapping out the strategy in publicity and education campaign for preventing gambling-related problems and the future direction of the counselling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers.

36. To facilitate better service and manpower planning of the service providers, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the Administration should commence the tendering exercise at least 18 months prior to the expiry of the service contracts, and introduce longer contract periods of three to five years. He also urged the Administration to consult the sector concerned regarding the service to be specified in the new contracts.

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37. DSHA(1) responded that the Administration would endeavour to speed up the tendering procedure with a view to announcing the result as soon as possible, and was prepared to offer service contracts of at least three years to facilitate service planning by the relevant contractors. She further assured members that the Advisory Committee would seek the views of service providers regarding the scope and scale of service to be specified in the new contracts.

38. In response to Dr LAM Tai-fai's enquiry about the source of funding and the current balance of the Ping Wo Fund, DSHA(1) said that the Fund was mainly supported by HKJC which had undertaken to maintain a contribution of \$15 million annually to the Fund for five consecutive years from 2008 to 2013. This apart, the Fund had received a total of \$500,000 from public donations in the past years. The balance of the Fund as at February 2009 was \$4 million.

39. Ms Cyd HO said that given the prevalence of gambling activities in Hong Kong, the key issue was not to prohibit gambling but forestall problem gambling particularly in the light of the increasing attraction of Macao's gaming industry to many Hong Kong families. She asked how the Administration would address the undesirable impact brought about by the growing gaming industry in nearby cities on the Hong Kong society. Pointing out that the total annual provision of \$4.8 million to each of the four treatment centres was far from adequate, Ms HO said that the Administration should consider introducing legislation requiring HKJC to provide a fixed percentage of its income for injection to the Fund.

40. DSHA(1) advised that in accordance with the Betting Duty Ordinance (Cap. 108), HKJC was already required to pay a guaranteed amount of betting duty annually to the Government, which, being general revenue, would be allocated for various public expenditure. The Advisory Committee would constantly review the funding provision for the treatment centres and where necessary, the Administration would solicit funding from other sources or provide direct injection to the Fund. DSHA(1) added that the Administration would continue to strengthen the publicity work to minimize the impact of gambling liberalization in nearby cities.

41. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that students had apparently been attracted to football betting as more than one third of those interviewed in the study had first took part in gambling activities before the age of 18. In addition, the study showed that male who had taken part in various gambling activities, including football betting, bore the biggest possibility of becoming problem or pathological gamblers. He opined that these trends were attributed to the Administration's policy in the authorization of football betting, and criticized the Administration for being hypocritical in promoting football to students as a healthy sport on the one hand, while implementing legislation to legalize and encourage football betting on the other.

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42. DSHA(1) said that there were extensive discussions in the community in 2002 on the proposed legislation to regulate football betting. Despite diversified views on the issue, a proposal in relation to the enforcement of a regulatory system on football betting was formulated and subsequently endorsed by LegCo. She assured members that the Administration would be vigilant of the need to constantly review and improve the regulatory system on games betting and step up measures in tackling underage football betting through various educational programmes, such as the "Do Not Gamble" campaign. As requested by Mr CHEUNG, DSHA(1) agreed to consider conducting a survey on football betting among students with a view to better understanding and devising appropriate measures in addressing the problem.

43. Mr Paul TSE did not see the need to impose too much restriction on gambling so long as the behaviour did not become habitual or pathological. Pointing out that the liberalization of gaming industry in nearby cities such as Singapore should benefit the economy, in particular the tourism sector, Mr TSE opined that the Administration should consider adopting a more open attitude towards gambling. He further suggested that the Administration should focus on conveying positive rather than negative messages in its publicity work, and keep track of the latest technological development in addressing gambling-related problems, such as underage betting through the internet.

44. DSHA(1) took note of Mr TSE's views. She further advised that the Administration would commission the Radio and Television Hong Kong to launch through the internet a series of public education programmes aiming at enhancing the awareness of young people on problem gambling.

45. The Chairman concluded the discussion by pointing out that the problem of gambling was a controversial issue of public concern, and the Ping Wo Fund, which financed preventive and remedial measures against problem and pathological gambling, should have an important role to play in addressing the negative impact of gambling.

VI. Any other business

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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 May 2009