

立法會
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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 4th meeting
held in Conference Room A of Legislative Council Building
on Wednesday, 13 January 2010, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Margaret NG (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP

Members absent:

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

Public Officers attending:

Ms Bernadette LINN, JP

Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and
the Treasury (Treasury)

Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, JP

Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service

Miss Susie HO, JP

Director of Administration and Development,
Department of Justice

Mr Kevin ZERVOS, SC	Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Prosecutions Division, Department of Justice
Ms Christina CHEUNG	Deputy Law Officer(Civil Law), (Civil Litigation Unit), Department of Justice
Miss Janet WONG, JP	Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Mr Andrew LAI	Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology
Mr John HUNG	Secretary-General (Testing and Certification), Innovation and Technology Commission
Mr John CHAI, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr KWONG Hing-ip, JP	Project Manager (Kowloon), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Kenneth CHENG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury (Revenue)

Clerk in attendance:

Mr WONG Siu-yee	Chief Council Secretary (1)4 (Acting)
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Staff in attendance:

Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Noel SUNG	Senior Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)3

Action

The Chairman drew members' attention to an information paper (ECI(2009-10)10) provided by the Administration, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002.

Action

EC(2009-10)13 Proposed creation of two permanent posts of Deputy Principal Government Counsel (DL2) in Civil Division and Prosecutions Division of Department of Justice with effect from 1 April 2010 to cope with the pressing demand for legal service

2. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS Panel) was consulted on the staffing proposal at its meeting on 15 December 2009. Dr Margaret NG, Chairman of AJLS Panel, advised that AJLS Panel members generally supported the staffing proposals. As regards the proposed post in the Civil Division, Dr NG said that the Department of Justice needed additional staff with appropriate qualifications and experience in order to cope with the pressing demand for legal service in relation to torture claim cases, as such cases had a wide spectrum of legal issues such as customary international law, and references to the relevant laws and practices in overseas jurisdictions might be required. The officer filling the proposed post would need to lead a dedicated team to conduct legal research having regard to new developments in torture claims in other jurisdictions. Given the diversity of the issues that might arise from the torture claim cases and the tight legal schedule, she supported the creation of the post for the supervision and co-ordination of torture claim related litigation handled by courts at various levels, from tribunals to the Court of Final Appeal.

3. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2009-10)14 Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Innovation and Technology Commission for a period of two years from 16 March 2010 to 15 March 2012 to provide continued support to Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification in formulating and implementing a development plan for the testing and certification industry

4. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Panel on Commerce and Industry (CI Panel) was consulted on the staffing proposal at its meeting on 15 December 2009. Apart from giving in-principle support to the staffing proposal, members of the CI Panel had raised comments and suggestions on the accreditation mechanism, consultation with stakeholders, the provision of training, business opportunities in the Mainland and assistance for the testing and certification sector. The Administration had advised the Panel that the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) would not directly provide testing and certification services. It would work with the trade to formulate a three-year market-driven development plan. The CI Panel would be updated on HKCTC's work as and when necessary.

Action

5. Mrs Regina IP expressed support for the proposal. She remarked that of the six economic areas identified, the testing and certification industry had the greatest development potential, especially in the training of testing expertise and creation of job opportunities. She opined that it would be better to set up high valued-added industries rather than low value-added ones. She enquired about the number of jobs that would be created as a result of the three-year development plan and the relevant academic qualifications required for the personnel. She also asked whether HKCTC would propose to set up testing and certification centres near the Closed Area in order to facilitate the use of services by Mainland companies.

6. In response, the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology (CIT) said that the Administration was assessing the manpower needs of the industry. Statistics showed that some 10 000 employees were working in the sector and the annual manpower growth rate of the testing and certification industry was about 5% to 10% per year over the past decade. Looking ahead, the formulation of the 3-year development plan for the sector would help sustain this growth. At the macro level, HKCTC would facilitate the development of talents and technology in the industry, with a view to establishing Hong Kong as a leading testing and certification centre. The jobs to be created would include those at the graduate and non-graduate levels. The Government would liaise with the universities and the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) to enhance manpower training for the testing and certification industry at different levels, including professionals, technicians and frontline workers. IVE had already agreed to devise training programmes to support the development of the testing and certification industry. CIT said that HKCTC had initial discussions on whether sites near the Closed Area, in particular the Lok Ma Chau Loop, would be suitable for the testing and certification industry. While some HKCTC members considered that the location might facilitate the testing and certification industry in conducting their business with Mainland companies (e.g. in collection of samples), other HKCTC members were concerned that staff would not prefer to work in such locations. HKCTC was aware that the Development Bureau would conduct public consultation on the Lok Mau Chau Loop later. HKCTC would further discuss the issue and provide its views in response to the consultation exercise as necessary.

7. Mrs Regina IP remarked that in the long run transport would not be a concern for the development of the testing and certification industry near the Closed Area as the transport system would continue to improve. She said that many people had in fact chosen to live in the New Territories in view of the high property prices in the urban areas.

8. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Action

EC(2009-10)15 **Proposed creation of one supernumerary bi-disciplinary post of Government Engineer/Government Architect (D2) in Civil Engineering and Development Department with effect from 1 March 2010 up to 31 March 2014 to head the Kai Tak Office to be set up under the Kowloon Development Office to lead and oversee the coordination and implementation of Kai Tak Development**

9. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Panel on Development (Dev Panel) was consulted on the staffing proposal at its meeting on 24 November 2009. Professor Patrick LAU, Deputy Chairman of Dev Panel, advised that in view of the magnitude and complexity of the Kai Tak Development and the need to complete the project as scheduled, Panel members supported in principle the staffing proposal. While some members had asked whether the additional work could be absorbed by the existing offices of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Panel noted that the post was necessary for overseeing the implementation of the various facilities under the Kai Tak Development and to co-ordinate with various parties concerned.

10. The item was voted on and endorsed.

EC(2009-10)16 **Proposed redeployment of one permanent post of Chief Assessor (D1) in the Inland Revenue Department from Unit 2 to the Headquarters Unit with effect from 1 April 2010 to reflect changes in responsibilities and workload in the two Units**

11. The Chairman informed members that an information paper on the staffing proposal was issued to members of the Panel on Financial Affairs on 3 December 2009.

12. The item was voted on and endorsed.

13. The Subcommittee was adjourned at 8:50 am.