

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)931/09-10
(These minutes have been cleared
with Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/DEV/1

Panel on Development

Minutes of special meeting
held on Tuesday, 8 December 2009, at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP

Members absent : Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

Clerk in attendance : Ms Anita SIT
Chief Council Secretary (1)4

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Secretary General

Mrs Percy MA
Assistant Secretary General (Special Duties) (Acting)

Mr Matthew LOO
Chief Council Secretary (Special Duties) (Acting)

Mr Ian LEONG
Senior Information Technology Officer
Legislative Council Secretariat

Mr WONG Siu-yee
Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Ms Christina SHIU
Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

I Integration and application of information technology in the New Legislative Council Complex

(LC Paper No. CB(1)491/09-10(01) -- Paper on integration and application of information technology in the New Legislative Council Complex prepared by the Project Team for the New Legislative Council Complex of the Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(1)94/09-10(07) -- Paper on Tamar Development Project prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Background brief))

Secretary General (SG) of the Legislative Council Secretariat introduced the proposal to create a new commitment of \$99,017,600 for implementing the integration and application of information technology (IT) in the new Legislative Council (LegCo) Complex at Tamar. She said that the existing IT infrastructure of LegCo had been in use since 1994. Although new features had been added progressively over the years, the IT infrastructure was aging and inadequate to

meet present and future needs. In this connection, The Legislative Council Commission ("the Commission") approved in December 2008 the conduct of a study by engaging IT specialists to draw up an information systems strategic plan for LegCo. The study had identified that to support the business operation of LegCo upon its relocation to the new LegCo Complex, establishment of new IT infrastructure, migration of existing application systems and installation of new application systems were required. The proposed new commitment of \$99,017,600 under the current proposal was dedicated to these purposes, and the proposal was supported by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

2. With the aid of PowerPoint presentation, Senior Information Technology Officer (SITO) briefed members on the work plan for the integration and application of IT in the new LegCo Complex.

(Post-meeting note: The soft copy of the presentation notes (LC Paper No. CB(1)620/09-10(01) was issued to members by email on 8 December 2009.)

Broadcasting of meetings through television and the Internet

3. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that at present open meetings held in LegCo were broadcast selectively by certain pay television channels. He asked whether in future, there would be live broadcast of all open meetings held in LegCo through domestic free television channels and the Internet. Mr Albert CHAN also asked whether the future IT systems in the new LegCo Complex would allow the public to select and view live and recorded broadcasts of all open meetings through the Internet.

4. SG responded that every conference room in the new LegCo Complex would be equipped with video cameras and there would be a television production centre in the Complex with professional staff to record the proceedings of open meetings of committees and transmit the signals to television stations. The LegCo Secretariat would discuss with television stations on the feasibility of designating specific television channels for broadcasting open meetings held in the new LegCo Complex. Upon relocation to the new LegCo Complex, all open meetings held in the Complex could be viewed real time or by retrieving past recordings from an archive on LegCo's website.

Provision and dissemination of information to the public

5. Mr Albert CHAN considered that the public should be able to have access to latest LegCo information on the Internet. He asked whether there was any plan to digitize the old audio recordings of meetings recorded on tapes and hard copies of old documents of LegCo, with a view to facilitating retrieval of such information by the public on the Internet. He also suggested that consideration be

given to making arrangements with outside organizations, say through a simple registration procedure, to disseminate LegCo news on a regular basis.

6. SG responded that documents of open meetings held since 1994 had already been placed on the current LegCo website. The LegCo Secretariat would continue to tackle the problems encountered in digitizing older documents to facilitate public access. Some of those documents might need to be retyped. As regards old audio recordings of meetings, SITO said that they would be digitized as far as possible if they were available. On the dissemination of LegCo news, SG advised that the LegCo Secretariat had sought additional manpower resources to enhance the dissemination of LegCo news through its own online newsletter on the website. SITO added that the search function of LegCo's website would be further strengthened to facilitate information retrieval.

Accessing library resources in university libraries and public libraries

7. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked whether the future IT systems could connect with the library systems in university libraries and public libraries so that Members and other users could access these libraries' resources, such as digital books. SG responded that Members could access resources in the university libraries in Hong Kong at present. However, extending this arrangement to the public in future would need further discussion with the universities because the relevant franchises had a limit on the total number of users who could access the library resources concerned. The LegCo Secretariat would also explore with the Administration on how to access resources such as digital books in public libraries in Hong Kong in future. At present, the IT infrastructure of the LegCo Secretariat did not have sufficient capacity to cope with such services.

Provision of Wi-Fi service

8. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that at present, Members had to install additional software in using the Wi-Fi service in the LegCo Building. He enquired about the availability of Wi-Fi service to Members and the public in the new LegCo Complex. He also asked whether the Administration would provide Wi-Fi service in areas outside the precincts of the LegCo Complex and suggested that the LegCo Secretariat should discuss the matter with the Administration.

9. Dr Samson TAM expressed concern about the capacity of the future Wi-Fi service in the new LegCo Complex, and considered that the relevant system should be tested thoroughly to ensure that there would be sufficient capacity to cater for simultaneous use by Members. Otherwise, the performance of the system would be sluggish.

10. SG responded that the present requirement for Members to install additional software to use Wi-Fi service in the LegCo Building was to prevent unauthorized access by outside parties. SITO supplemented that for the new LegCo Complex, Members would be able to use Wi-Fi service after completing a

login procedure and there would be appropriate security measures. Members would be allocated a dedicated bandwidth with sufficient capacity, which would be separated from that allocated for public use. Regarding the Wi-Fi coverage, SG pointed out that the Wi-Fi service provided by the LegCo Secretariat would also cover the demonstration areas of the Complex. The LegCo Secretariat would discuss with the Administration the feasibility of providing Wi-Fi service in nearby areas outside the precincts of the LegCo Complex, such as the "Green Carpet", SITO added that the future Wi-Fi service would cover the whole of the precincts of the LegCo Complex as far as possible.

Open standards

11. Dr Samson TAM suggested that the future IT systems should adopt open standards so as to maintain flexibility and reduce constraints imposed by vendors, such as the need to use proprietary parts and software. SITO responded that the Project Team for the New LegCo Complex was aware of the issue, and would adopt open standards as far as possible in designing the future IT systems.

Permanent disaster recovery centre

12. Dr Samson TAM asked whether the permanent disaster recovery centre would be set up in a separate location outside the new LegCo Complex, and whether it would serve other purposes, such as a backup meeting venue, in addition to data backup and recovery. SG responded that the disaster recovery centre would cater for data backup and recovery only. It would not serve as a backup meeting venue. SITO also confirmed that the disaster recovery centre would be located at a separate site outside the new LegCo Complex.

Receiving public views during meetings

13. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked whether in future it would be possible for the public to send in views on a real time basis when meetings were being broadcast live through the Internet. Such a facility might operate in a way similar to a "real time chat box". SITO responded that while this was technically feasible, policy issues such as how to respond to the views received would need to be considered. Operating such a facility would also have manpower resource implications. SG shared the view that resources would be required to handle real time feedback received from the public through the Internet during meetings.

14. Dr Samson TAM said that while allowing the public to give views on a real time basis through the Internet during meetings was a good idea, substantial manpower resources would be required to handle those views. The LegCo Secretariat would also have to tackle sensitive issues such as whether the views received should be screened. As such, the suggestion required careful consideration.

Staffing requirement

15. Mr Tommy CHEUNG enquired about the staffing requirement for the enhanced IT services in the new LegCo Complex and asked whether the relevant expenditure had been included in the recurrent expenditure stated in the discussion paper. SG responded that with the support of the Commission, a total of 10 new posts would be included in the Resource Allocation Exercises for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 for enhanced IT services in the new LegCo Complex. The Administration had noted the additional staffing requirement of the LegCo Secretariat after relocation to the new LegCo Complex and, with the support of the Commission, agreed that an additional floor of the new LegCo Complex should be constructed under the Tamar Project. Between now and relocation to the new Complex, some contract IT professional staff would be engaged for work related to the implementation of the IT project in the new Complex.

16. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that Members of the Liberal Party supported the funding proposal.

Other issues

17. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked whether an intranet would be set up for Members. He also suggested that the public should be able to reserve seats in the public galleries through the Internet. SG responded that after relocation to the new LegCo Complex, it would be possible to set up an intranet for Members. Online reservation of seats in the public galleries and booking of guided tours of the new LegCo Complex would also be considered. SITO added that Members could access the intranet via the computers allocated to them in the new LegCo Complex.

18. Dr Samson TAM asked whether activities in the demonstration areas of the new LegCo Complex could be viewed on the LegCo's webpage so that Members would know the demands of the petitioners and decide whether they should go out to get a petition letter. Dr TAM added that virtual demonstration areas on the Internet were common at present. SG responded that the demonstration areas of the new LegCo Complex would be equipped with facilities such as lighting and audio equipment to facilitate shooting by television crews. The LegCo Secretariat could also shoot the activities held in the protest zone if necessary.

19. The Deputy Chairman said that members' views would be reported to the Finance Committee when the funding proposal was considered by the Committee.

II Any other business

20. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9:15 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
21 January 2010