

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 627/09-10
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

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Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 2 November 2009, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
- Members attending** : Hon Vincent FANG-kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
- Members absent** : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
- Public officers attending** : **For item IV**

Mr Edward YAU
Secretary for the Environment

Ms Anissa WONG
Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Mr Roy TANG
Deputy Secretary for the Environment

Mr Benny WONG
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)

Mr Albert LAM
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Mr Carlson K S CHAN
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Miss Linda CHOY
Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment

Mr Alfred SIT
Assistant Director (Electricity & Energy Efficiency)
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

For item V

Mr Edward YAU
Secretary for the Environment

Mr Roy TANG
Deputy Secretary for the Environment

Dr Shermann FONG
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Cross-Boundary &
International)⁵
Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)¹

Staff in attendance : Assistant Legal Adviser 5
Miss Kitty CHENG

Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)²

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)⁴

I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 194/09-10 — Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009)

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since last meeting

2. Members noted the following information papers which had been issued since last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(1) 110/09-10 — Copied letter from the Hong Kong Retail Management Association together with the Administration's response regarding the Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation; and

LC Paper No. CB(1) 181/09-10 — Copied letter from the Hong Kong Taxi & Public Light Bus Association together with the Administration's response regarding the banning of idling vehicles with running engines.

III Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 196/09-10(01) — List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(1) 196/09-10(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 23 November 2009, at 2:30 pm -

(a) Banning of commercial fishing in marine parks; and

(b) Introduction of Euro V standard for motor vehicle fuel.

4. The Chairman sought members' views on a proposal put forward by Ms Cyd HO at the meeting on 15 October 2009 regarding a duty visit to Guangdong to observe some environmental facilities and have more in-depth discussion with the relevant authorities. Members raised no objection to the proposal.

5. Regarding Miss Tanya CHAN's proposal of holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Development to discuss the subject of "Green buildings", the Chairman said that she had consulted Mr LAU Wong-fat, Chairman of the Panel on Development, who had raised no objection to the proposal. It was also agreed that deputations should be invited to express their views on the subject.

(*Post-meeting note*: With the concurrence of the Chairmen of the Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Development, a joint meeting had been scheduled for, Thursday, 10 December 2009, at 8:30 am to discuss the subject of "Green buildings".)

IV. Policy initiatives of the Environment Bureau in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2009-2010

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 168/09-10(01) — Administration's paper on distribution of cash coupons for compact fluorescent lamps scheme)

Relevant papers

The 2009-2010 Policy Address – “Policy Agenda”

Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 14 October 2009

LC Paper No. CB(1) 28/09-10(01) — Administration's paper on 2009-2010 Policy Address and Policy Agenda - Policy Initiatives of the Environment Bureau

Proposed scheme on distribution of cash coupons for compact fluorescent lamps

6. The Chairman said that when the policy initiative on promoting the replacement of incandescent light bulbs (ILBs) by compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) through the distribution of cash coupons for CFLs to residential electricity account holders by the two power companies was discussed at the last Panel meeting on 16 October 2009, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the process and discussion which it had gone through in formulating the policy initiative, and the basis upon which the additional tariff rates could be charged under the Schemes of Control Agreement (SCA) of the two power companies. The Administration's response setting out the background and details of the proposed scheme on distribution of cash coupons for CFLs (the Scheme) was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)168/09-10. However, information on the basis upon which the additional tariff rates could be charged under SCA of the two power companies was not available. The two power companies had also indicated in their replies that they were not in a position to comment at this stage as the implementation details of the Scheme had yet to be finalized by the Government.

7. The Secretary for the Environment (SEN) acknowledged that the Scheme had generated much controversy. He said that the replacement of ILBs was an internationally recognized measure to combat climate change. Many overseas jurisdictions had put in place legislative measures to restrict the sale of ILBs, and time tables to phase out ILBs. The Administration had commissioned a consultancy study on the phasing out of ILBs to be replaced by the more energy-efficient lighting products such as CFLs. To promote the replacement of ILBs with CFLs, the Administration had considered various options, including the provision of

Government subsidy and/or a self-financing arrangement on a "no gain no loss" basis. The proposed implementation of the Scheme by the two power companies was devised because achieving energy efficiency was part of their corporate responsibility. However, the power companies were not expected to benefit financially from the Scheme. To allay public concerns on the Scheme, he had explained at the Motion Debate on the Policy Address 2009-2010 that the Administration would try to identify alternative financing arrangements for the Scheme so that it would not give rise to an increase in electricity tariffs. Consideration would also be given to including other energy saving products in the Scheme. To achieve a low carbon economy, a multi-pronged approach would be adopted and promoting energy efficient lighting was an integral part since lighting accounted for 16% of the domestic electricity consumption. Efforts would be made to expedite the phasing out of ILBs and at the same time expanding the recycling of CFLs.

8. Referring to his earlier letter to the Chairman, Mr Albert CHAN said that he had sought legal advice on the question of whether the increase in electricity tariff rates could be charged under SCA of the two power companies for rolling out the Scheme. Assistant Legal Adviser 5 (ALA5) said that the concern about possible increase in electricity tariff was raised on the assumption that the Scheme would be financed by the two power companies. As the Administration had indicated its intention to revise the Scheme, including the financing arrangement, it would be more appropriate to provide legal advice on the Scheme when specific information on the implementation of the Scheme was provided by the Administration. Mr CHAN expressed disappointment at the unavailability of legal advice, and considered it necessary for ALA5 to provide a paper on the basis upon which additional electricity tariff rates could be charged under SCA of the two power companies. The Chairman invited ALA5 to give oral advice based on available information. ALA5 said that under SCA, a number of specified grounds would be taken into account in the annual Tariff Review. These included the forecast on the total operating costs which involved, inter alia, recurrent expenditure incurred in promoting energy efficiency and conservation. While the distribution of cash coupons for CFLs could be considered an energy efficiency measure, it seemed to be one-off in nature and hence should not fall under the category of recurrent expenditure. As such, the Scheme might not be considered a ground for increase in electricity tariffs. The Administration's paper also did not expressly state that the Scheme would form a basis for increase in electricity tariffs.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, ALA5 had reduced in writing her advice to the Panel. The relevant paper was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1) 302/09-10 on 9 November 2009.)

9. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that the saga over the Scheme for the last two weeks mainly focused on the possible increase in electricity tariffs. There was also question on the rationale for confining the coupons to CFLs and not other energy saving or lighting products, such as light emitting diode (LED). He said that the controversy should be expeditiously resolved to avoid further damage to the Administration's credibility, but to his disappointment, the Administration had yet to

come up with an acceptable solution to address public concerns. SEN said that he had discussed with political parties as well as members of the public on whether the Scheme should be proceeded with. The general sentiment was that the Scheme was worth supporting to promote energy efficiency and a low carbon economy. In view of public concerns about the possible increase in electricity tariffs, the Administration had undertaken to consider working out a financing arrangement to implement the Scheme which would not have impact on electricity tariffs. As regards the coverage of the Scheme, SEN said that the concept of replacing ILBs with CFLs was worked out on account of the proven energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the latter. In view of the technological development in energy efficient lighting, the Administration was prepared to review and consider extending the coverage of the Scheme to include other energy saving products.

10. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that the alleged transfer of interest on the part of the Chief Executive to his in-laws had undermined the good intention of the Scheme. As such, the Administration should announce the alternative plan quickly to stem public indignation. It should not spare further time to dwell on the implementation details, such as coverage of the Scheme and price of LED, which could be worked out later, but should allocate funding, which was estimated to be around \$230 million, for the distribution of cash coupons to residential electricity holders for the replacement of ILBs as soon as possible. He cautioned that if the Scheme was not successfully implemented, it would set bad precedents to other energy saving schemes to be implemented in future. SEN thanked Mr LEE for his support and proposal to use public fund to finance the Scheme. He said that the Administration was prepared to consider the need to extend the coverage of the Scheme to other energy efficient products coming into the market within the next year or two. Consideration was being given to allowing a redemption period of about two years for consumers to redeem the cash coupons for energy efficient products. In addition, legislative amendments to progressively restrict the sales of ILBs would be introduced together with the revised Scheme some time next year.

11. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party (DP) were supportive of energy efficient measures but these should be properly implemented. He said that the Administration had failed to take into account public sentiment against increase in electricity tariffs when announcing the Scheme. Notwithstanding, the Scheme should not be scrapped as the provision of \$100 cash coupons for CFLs would provide an incentive to encourage energy conservation. DP Members agreed that public fund should be used to finance the Scheme, which was not unprecedented as in the case of the one-off grant for early replacement of diesel commercial vehicles. SEN said that the Administration was prepared to review the financing arrangements. He stressed that it was not the Administration's intention that the two power companies would benefit from the Scheme. Mr KAM further enquired about the manner in which the cash coupons would be distributed, and whether reference would be made to the distribution of health care vouchers where beneficiaries were required to produce identity cards upon collection to prevent forgery and abuse. SEN said that the initial idea was to request the power companies to distribute the cash coupons together with the electricity demand notes to residential electricity account holders. The problem with forged coupons could be dealt with

when details of the Scheme were worked out.

12. While supporting measures to achieve a low carbon economy, Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) stressed that the Scheme should not lead to an increase in electricity tariffs. They agreed that the coverage of the Scheme should be extended to include other energy efficient products, but were concerned about the additional administrative costs incurred. SEN advised that the administrative cost of the Scheme would be kept to the minimal if the cash coupons were distributed to residential electricity account holders by the two power companies. Under the Scheme, registered retailers would be required to cease the sale of ILBs after a certain period of time and assist in the recycling of CFLs.

13. Miss Tanya CHAN said that Members belonging to the Civic Party supported the extension of the Scheme to cover other energy efficient products. They would also support the use of public fund to finance the Scheme as this would not give rise to any increase in electricity tariffs which would be recurrent in nature. Miss CHAN however pointed out that some households were using fluorescent lamps which could not be replaced with CFLs and as such, no use could be made of the cash coupons. SEN said that those who might not be able to use the cash coupons could give them away to their friends and relatives.

14. Mr Albert CHAN said that the controversies over the Scheme had reflected the inadequacies in formulating policies on the part of the Administration. It was regretted that the Administration had failed to take into consideration various factors, such as public sentiment, impact on trades, and the legal basis for additional electricity tariffs, before introducing the Scheme. Apart from improving energy efficiency, efforts should also be made to address the problem of excessive glare, particularly from signboards and street lamps, with a view to reducing light pollution and electricity consumption. He was disappointed that the Government was slow in taking forward environmental initiatives, such as the use of solar-powered water heaters which was commonly adopted in the Mainland, but quick to jump start the Scheme where implementation details had yet to be worked out. He held the view that the Scheme should be shelved, and that a more comprehensive policy on energy efficiency should be worked out in consultation with the public. SEN said that the Administration had been taking the lead in promoting energy efficiency. Since June 2009, the Administration had ceased purchase of ILBs and switched to CFLs after the current stock of ILBs exhausted. Consideration would be given to using LED for street lamps and more energy efficient forms of lighting in the new Government headquarters. As regards public concerns on the possible increase in electricity tariffs, he reiterated that the power companies would not set to benefit financially from the Scheme.

15. The Chairman opined that the Administration should be more innovative in putting forwarding environmental initiatives. Referring to the promotion of CFLs in Australia, she said that the Australian authorities had secured the cooperation of a supplier to sell CFLs to consumers at cost. Buyers could win an electric car if their CFLs they bought turned green when lighted. The electric car, being the winning

prize, was sponsored by a car manufacturing company. The promotion plan had turned out to be very successful and created a win-win-win situation as the distributor and the car manufacturer had enjoyed very good publicity while consumers had benefited from savings in electricity bills. She enquired if the Administration could adopt similar approach to solicit participation of suppliers of CFLs in the Scheme. SEN said that different countries had adopted different means to promote environmental products. Countries which manufactured environmental products would have greater flexibility in promoting these products than Hong Kong, which was basically a user. Nevertheless, the Administration would make reference to these countries in formulating plans to promote the use of environment-friendly products, including the provision of incentives.

16. On phasing out ILBs, Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern that there were difficulties in finding alternatives to replace certain types of ILBs, such as flood-lights used for stage performances. He considered that a study should be made on the availability of alternatives for ILBs. He also enquired about the time-table for phasing out ILBs. SEN said that when devising the plan for phasing out ILBs, the Administration would take into consideration the availability of alternatives for ILBs. The restriction of sales of ILBs would be limited to those which were commonly used and where alternatives were readily available. Special ILBs used for stage performances or ILBs with high light intensities would be exempted. Stakeholders would be consulted on the proposed phasing-out programme before implementation.

17. On promotion of energy efficient products Mr Andrew CHENG stressed that reference should be made to the latest technological developments when implementing environmental protection measures. Given that CFLs contained toxic mercury, arrangements should be worked out for recycling CFLs to prevent contamination of the environment. In the long run, it would be more desirable to use LED lighting, albeit the higher price. The Chairman noted that mercury used in some CFLs was in solid form which could be disposed of easily without contaminating the environment. There were also many new types of energy efficient lightings as showcased in the recent exhibition on environmental products.

18. In response, SEN said that the Administration had been promoting the use of energy efficient lighting, including LED. While a number of enterprises in Hong Kong and the Mainland were conducting researches on the development of LED, standards had yet to be worked out to assess the performance of LED. The Administration had taken the decision not to include LED in the Scheme because unlike CFLs, there were no labelling requirements for LED. It would be more prudent to proceed with the replacement of ILBs with CFLs as a start. The Assistant Director (Electricity & Energy Efficiency) (AD(E&EE)) added that studies on the latest development of energy efficient lighting were being conducted with advice from the universities. Trials on different types of energy efficient lighting, including LED lighting, were also underway. LED lighting was still a developing technology and its performance had yet to be proved. Besides, the selling price of LED general lighting, ranging from \$150 to \$400, was much higher than CFLs. On recycling of CFLs, SEN said that retailers registered under the Scheme would be required to cease the sale of ILBs and provide assistance in the recycling of CFLs. The

Administration intended to invite representatives of some 3 000 retail outlets to attend briefings on the proposed Scheme.

19. Mr Vincent FANG was pleased to note that the Administration had adopted a proactive approach to promote public awareness on environmental protection. He said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party would support the use of public fund to finance the Scheme as well as other environmental initiatives to facilitate the three "Rs", i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle. The wholesale and retail trades would welcome the Scheme as the distribution of cash coupons would help stimulate the economy. He said that apart from CFLs, the other two products under the initial phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labeling Scheme (MEELS), namely room air conditioners and refrigerating appliances, as well as products to be included in the subsequent phases of MEELS, should be considered for inclusion under the extended coverage of the Scheme. To ensure impartiality, the Scheme should also apply to commercial electricity account holders. He stressed that the trades were opposed to any electricity increases arising from the implementation of the Scheme, particularly if they had to bear the additional electricity tariffs without the benefit of the cash coupons. SEN said that the Scheme was targeted at the residential sector to promote awareness on energy efficiency which was already quite high in the commercial sector given the need to reduce operating costs. The Administration would need to re-think about extending the coverage of the Scheme to include other energy efficient products. He said that if the Scheme were to be extended to cover other products, these would need to be energy efficient, cost-effective, with proven performance and energy labels. The rationale for choosing CFLs as a start was because these had proven energy efficiency performance, and could save up to 70% of electricity as compared to ILBs with the same lighting intensity. The replacement of ILBs with CFLs could be implemented easily as the latter were readily available and commonly used. The same might not apply to other energy efficient products like refrigerators and air conditioners, but the Administration would further examine the feasibility.

20. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the time-frames for implementing the revised Scheme and the public consultation process. SEN said that the Administration planned to consult the Panel on the phasing-out programme for ILBs as well as the revised Scheme in late 2009 or early 2010.

Motion

21. Miss Tanya CHAN and Mr CHAN Hak-kan proposed and seconded the following motion -

"本事務委員會促請政府優化慳電膽優惠券計劃，將現金券涵蓋範圍擴大至其他節能產品，並改由政府直接撥款落實有關計劃。"

"That this Panel urges the Government to improve the scheme on distribution of cash coupons on compact fluorescent lamps by expanding the coverage of the coupons to other energy-saving products and funding the implementation of the scheme direct."

22. Mr KAM Nai-wai and Mr LEE Wing-tat proposed and seconded amending the motion by adding "及保證不會增加市民電費負擔" (and ensuring that the burden of electricity tariff on the public will not be increased) to the end of the motion. The wording of the motion as amended was as follows –

"本事務委員會促請政府優化慳電膽優惠券計劃，將現金券涵蓋範圍擴大至其他節能產品，並改由政府直接撥款落實有關計劃，及保證不會增加市民電費負擔。"

" That this Panel urges the Government to improve the scheme on distribution of cash coupons on compact fluorescent lamps by expanding the coverage of the coupons to other energy-saving products, funding the implementation of the scheme direct, and ensuring that the burden of electricity tariff on the public will not be increased."

23. The Chairman put the motion to vote. All seven members present voted for the motion as amended by Mr KAM Nai-wai and Mr LEE Wing-tat. The Chairman declared that the motion as amended was carried.

Electric cars

24. While supporting the introduction of electric cars, particularly those manufactured in Hong Kong, Miss Tanya CHAN was concerned that the two power companies would use this as an excuse to increase electricity tariffs. Ms Cyd HO echoed that the power companies might request for an increase in electricity tariffs to make up the reduction in electricity consumption as a result of the energy efficiency initiatives. She was also worried that the power companies would try to increase their rates of return on average net fixed assets (ANFA) through installation of new gas-fired generation units and natural gas conveyance systems, while maintaining the existing coal-fired power generation units and the land concerned. She considered it necessary for the Administration to undertake that it would not yield to pressure from power companies to increase electricity tariffs when taking forward environmental initiatives.

25. SEN said that the placing of the environment portfolio and the energy portfolio under the Environment Bureau was meant to enhance coordination between the two policy portfolios. This was evidenced by the new SCA signed in 2008 with the power companies where the permitted rate of return, which had also been reduced to 9.99%, was linked to their emission performance. An enhanced return was also allowed for investments on renewable energy to encourage the development of cleaner energy. The Deputy Secretary for the Environment (DS/Env) added that as the timetable for increasing the proportion of natural gas in the fuel mix for power generation had yet to be decided, it would not be possible to assess the tariff impact of the replacement of old coal-fired power generation units by new gas-fired power generation units. The existence or otherwise of tariff impact would depend on whether the existing coal-fired plants were allowed to run until the end of their natural economic lives or retire prematurely. As regards the land for housing the generation units, DS/Env said that the land concerned was industrial land and the power

companies were required to pay full premium for such land. On the strategy and specific measures to promote the use of electric cars, SEN said that the First Registration Tax for electric cars had been waived as a start. The Administration would collaborate with the two power companies to launch an electric vehicle leasing scheme by the end of 2010. It would also seek cooperation from the two power companies and car-park owners on the provision of charging facilities for use by electric cars. A number of vehicle manufacturers had already set up production lines for the manufacture of electric cars. It was not expected that the launching of electric cars would lead to increases in electricity tariffs.

26. Noting that the batteries of electric cars would wear out easily and their replacement costs were quite high, Mr Jeffrey LAM enquired if the Administration was prepared to provide electric car owners with subsidies for the replacement of batteries in an attempt to encourage the switch to this more environment-friendly vehicle. SEN said that the technology for batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles had been well developed. In fact, some of the batteries of hybrid vehicles had a 10-year warrantee, which was even longer than the warrantee for the vehicle itself. As such, it might be more worthwhile to consider the provision of incentives for electric vehicles rather than their batteries. Mr LAM however pointed out that the batteries for electric vehicles, like any other batteries, would gradually deteriorate in performance to the extent that they were no longer energy efficient. These would need to be replaced to ensure energy efficiency. He remained of the view that Government subsidy was required for the early replacement of batteries.

Post-2010 emission reduction targets

27. Mr CHAN Hak-kan was pleased to note the joint cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong in creating a green and quality living area in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region, the strategy of which would be incorporated into the National 12th Five-year Plan. As both Governments would be working together to formulate air quality management plans for 2010 onwards, he enquired about the post-2010 emission reduction targets and whether these would include carbon dioxide and particulate matters smaller than 2.5 microns. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment said that the Administration maintained close cooperation with the Guangdong authorities on emission reduction. In August 2009, both Governments signed an agreement on environmental cooperation to formulate emission reduction plans for 2010 onwards. Expert groups had been set up on both sides to study and draw up the emission reduction plans, including control on the level of pollutants.

Application of environmental initiatives to the commercial and industrial sectors

28. Mr Jeffrey LAM said that the commercial and industrial sectors had always been supportive of measures to protect the environment. This was evidenced by the active participation in the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme by Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region. In addition, many commercial and industrial enterprises had been using energy efficient lightings, such as CFLs and LED. However, the commercial and industrial sectors were not able to get a fair share despite their efforts in environmental protection and contribution to the

economy. Taking the Scheme as an example, the commercial and industrial sectors would not be eligible for the cash coupons but they would have to bear with the additional electricity tariffs which might arise from the Scheme. SEN said that the Government had taken into account the interest of the commercial and industrial sectors in implementing environmental initiatives. By way of illustration, the Government had committed \$93 million for implementing the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme to facilitate Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region to adopt cleaner production technologies, the scope of which would be expanded to cover areas such as effluent reduction and control. In addition, \$450 million under the Environment and Conservation Fund had been earmarked to subsidize owners of buildings, including industrial and commercial buildings, to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects. It was worth noting that about half of the applications received were from owners of commercial and industrial buildings since they were keener to improve energy efficiency which would help save operating costs.

Use of landfill gas

29. The Chairman enquired about the progress on recycling of landfill gas. SEN said that landfill gas had been put out to beneficial use since this would help reduce climate change as landfill gas comprised a high percentage of greenhouse gases. The landfill gas from Ta Ku Leng Landfill had been used as fuel for the Tai Po Industrial Centre. The Government was liaising with the Town Gas Company on the use of landfill gas from other landfills.

V. United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 196/09-10(03) — Administration's paper on Hong Kong Government's preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009

FS03/09-10 — Paper on United Nations Climate Conference 2009 prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (fact sheet))

30. SEN briefed members on the Government's latest initiatives and efforts in addressing climate change with a view to, inter alia, preparing for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (the Conference) to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. As the Conference was an important milestone in fostering future international cooperation to address climate change, representatives of the Government would continue attending the Conference as part of the Mainland Delegation. This year, he and officials of professional grade would be attending the Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. Preparatory arrangements were underway to facilitate participation of Hong Kong in the Conference.

31. Referring the fact sheet on United Nations Climate Conference 2009 prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat, the Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Cross-Boundary & International)⁵ said that there might be a need to refine the phrase of "all countries" in the third sentence of paragraph 2.1 because this should refer to the 37 industrial countries and the European Community, not all the 184 countries which had ratified the Kyoto Protocol. He also pointed out that the emission reduction targets for developed and developing countries in paragraph 6.1 were not in line with the agreed outcome of the Copenhagen Conference as set out in the Bali Action Plan agreed in Bali in 2007. Subsequently, the footnote 3 on page 3 of the fact sheet regarding the two emission reduction targets did not apply.

32. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that the Chief Executive (CE) should take part in the Conference to demonstrate Hong Kong's commitment and determination in addressing climate change. SEN reiterated that he would personally attend the Conference to take stock of the efforts made by the member countries in combating climate change, which would provide useful reference for Hong Kong in contributing towards the Mainland's efforts in addressing climate change.

33. Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired if SEN would speak at the Conference and if so, the subjects which he would present. He also opined that SEN should share his experience with the Panel upon his return from the Conference. Miss Tanya CHAN echoed that as one of the major cities in China, Hong Kong should demonstrate its commitment in protecting the environment and combating climate change. She would like to know how SEN would be projecting Hong Kong in these aspects. SEN said that as representatives from Hong Kong would participate in the Conference as part of the Mainland's Delegation, the details of participation would need to be worked out in consultation with other members of the Delegation. He would be pleased to exchange views with Panel members upon his return.

34. Ms Cyd HO said that she did not have high expectation for international conferences as the member countries were not committed to emission reduction. She held the view that SEN should endeavour to exchange views with international environmental groups participating in the Conference, including the World Charter and Greenpeace etc, and she would be pleased to make such arrangements if needed. She also supported that CE should attend the Conference so that he would have first-hand information to facilitate the formulation of emission reduction policies. SEN said that apart from attending the Conference, he would take the opportunity to exchange views with other cities, organizations and environmental groups and make reference to overseas experience in combating climate change.

35. Referring to the Administration's target of reducing the energy intensity by 25% by 2030, Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired if this could be translated into emission reduction targets which were more widely accepted. Expressing similar view, the Chairman opined that reduction in energy intensity could be easily achieved. She therefore supported that targets should be set in terms of the amount of emissions reduced. Having participated in the recent activity organized by Greenpeace, Mr KAM Nai-wai agreed that CE should be requested to participate in the Conference.

He also shared members' views that reduction targets should be set using the amount of emissions reduced rather than energy intensity. He also supported the increased use of renewable energy and cleaner fuels.

36. In response, SEN said that as a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), Hong Kong would honor its pledge and seek to achieve a reduction in energy intensity of at least 25% by 2030. This would be equivalent to avoiding 20 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission. The target, which was agreed by some 20 member economies of APEC in 2007, was meant to take forward actions to combat climate change beyond the Kyoto Protocol and to prepare for any agreement on international efforts in Bali and in Copenhagen. He said that as an international city and a relatively well-developed economy, it was more important for Hong Kong to implement concrete measures which could reduce its carbon footprint. Given that electricity generation accounted for 63% of total emissions in Hong Kong, and that most of the electricity was consumed in buildings, the use of cleaner fuels and improvements in energy efficiency of buildings would be effective in reducing emissions. To this end, efforts would be made to increase the percentage of cleaner fuels for power generation. These included the commencement of construction works for the eastern section of the Second West-East Natural Gas Pipeline, the recently renewed agreement between the energy enterprises of the two sides on the supply of nuclear electricity for a further term of 20 years, utilization of landfill gas and the construction of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities to develop renewable energy. Given that public transport system was already widely used in Hong Kong, the Administration would also continue to explore more environment-friendly technologies, such as electric vehicles, for the transport sector which accounted for 16% of total emissions in Hong Kong.

37. Noting that the carbon emissions in Hong Kong were on the increase, the Chairman enquired about the total amount of carbon emissions in 2008. She held the view that apart from meeting with environmental groups, Hong Kong representatives attending the Conference should also endeavour to identify measures that should be taken to further reduce carbon emissions in Hong Kong, and the assistance that could be rendered to the developing countries in reducing carbon emissions. She hoped that the Administration would brief the Panel upon the Delegation's return from the Conference. SEN agreed to consider members' views.

VI. Any other business

Subcommittee on Combating Fly-tipping

38. The Chairman said that when the Subcommittee on Combating Fly-tipping (the Subcommittee) was first formed in the 2008-2009 session, it was agreed that the Subcommittee should complete its work within the session. The Subcommittee was subsequently dissolved after submission of the report on its work to the Panel in August 2009. Given that the problem of fly-tipping was still rampant, Mr LEE Wing-tat had proposed to seek the Panel's approval to re-activate the work of

the Subcommittee in the current legislative session.

39. As Mr LEE Wing-tat had left the meeting, members agreed that discussion on the subject be deferred to the next meeting.

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:45 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 December 2009