

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)653/09-10  
(These minutes have been seen by  
the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/MP

**Panel on Manpower**

**Minutes of special meeting**  
**held on Thursday, 22 October 2009, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

**Member attending** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan

**Members absent** : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

**Public Officers attending** : Item I  
  
Mr Michael M Y SUEN, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Education  
  
Mr Raymond H C WONG, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Education

Ms Michelle LI, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Mr Daniel CHENG  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education)

Item II

Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr Paul TANG Kwok-wai, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP  
Commissioner for Labour

Mrs Erika HUI LAM Yin-ming, JP  
Deputy Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety  
and Health)

Mr Stanley NG Ka-kwong, JP  
Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Employment  
Services)

Mr TSO Sing-hin, JP  
Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Occupational  
Safety)

Item III

Mr Matthew CHEUNG Kin-chung, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mr Paul TANG Kwok-wai, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP  
Commissioner for Labour

Mrs Erika HUI LAM Yin-ming, JP  
Deputy Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety  
and Health)

Mr TSO Sing-hin, JP  
Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Occupational  
Safety)

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Raymond LAM  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

**Staff in attendance** : Mrs Vivian KAM  
Assistant Secretary General 2

Ms Clara TAM  
Assistant Legal Adviser 9

Mrs Eleanor CHOW  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Ms Camy YOONG  
Clerical Assistant (2) 1

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**I. Briefing by the Secretary for Education on relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)29/09-10(01))

Secretary for Education (SED) briefed Members on the development of Qualifications Framework (QF), one of the on-going initiatives of the Education Bureau (EDB) in the 2009-2010 Policy Agenda, as set out in the Administration's paper.

2. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about vocational training facilities available for students under the new academic structure for senior secondary and higher education (the 334 structure).

3. Permanent Secretary for Education (PSED) explained that the new senior secondary (NSS) curriculum under the 334 structure provided a broad curriculum for secondary students. Apart from traditional academic subjects, applied learning courses would also be offered to suit different aptitudes of students. Through these courses, students would have a better understanding of their needs and interests in employment. To complement NSS, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) was reviewing and modifying its courses to provide school leavers alternative pathways to pursue vocational education and training.

4. Mr WONG Sing-chi enquired whether Secondary 3 school leavers were eligible for enrolling in free VTC courses under the 12-year free education scheme. Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education) (PASED) replied in the affirmative. He said that VTC had modified its courses to establish an interface with NSS. For instance, Secondary 3 school leavers could acquire vocational skills by enrolling in various courses offered by VTC. The duration of courses varied. While some courses lasted for a few months only, students who wished to pursue further studies could enrol in higher level courses such as Diploma and Higher Diploma courses, which had longer duration.

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5. Mr WONG Sing-chi enquired about the interface between NSS and QF for early school leavers. PASED explained that QF provided a platform to promote lifelong learning with a view to enhancing the overall competitiveness of the workforce. Early school leavers who joined the workforce and who did not have the requisite qualifications could obtain quality-assured qualifications under QF. So far, 13 industries had set up Industry Training Advisory Committees (ITACs) to draw up Specification of Competence Standards (SCSs). SCSs set out the skills, knowledge and outcome standards required of employees in different functional areas and provided a basis for course providers, including those of VTC and the Employees Retraining Board (ERB), to design education and training courses to meet the needs of the industries. Workers with lower level of educational attainment could attend these courses and seek recognition of their skills, knowledge and experience under different levels of QF.

6. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan enquired about the targets of QF, such as the number of industries that would set up ITACs and develop Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) qualifications, in the coming two years. He also enquired about the interface of QF with VTC, ERB and the Labour Department (LD) in respect of provision of training to young people.

7. PASED said that there was close liaison among EDB, LD, VTC and ERB on the provision of training to young people. The Administration had not set any target for QF as the setting up of ITAC was industry driven. Moreover, the preparation of SCS took time. It took about two to three years for an ITAC to draw up its own SCS. He informed members that the ITAC on Import and Export would soon commence drafting its SCS and as a start, the SCS would cover only a part of the import and export industry given its extensive coverage on different trades. The Administration would monitor the effectiveness of the various systems and schemes underpinning QF and, where appropriate, consider further enhancement.

8. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the little progress in RPL, given that only 950 workers had applied for assessment since the pilot test was launched in June 2008. He also queried the need to assess workers who were very experienced.

9. PASED responded that the three industries involved in the two-year RPL pilot scheme were the Printing and Publishing, Watch and Clock, and Hairdressing industries. Upon discussions with ITACs and the labour unions, the Administration had agreed to introduce a five-year transitional period for each of the participating industry under the RPL mechanism. During the transitional period, workers might apply for recognition of QF qualifications at Levels 1 to 3 based on their years of service and relevant working experience without the need to undergo an assessment test. After the expiry of the transitional period, all levels of RPL qualifications must be attained through assessments. Given that there would be a transitional period of five years, it

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was expected that workers in the three industries did not see a pressing need to apply for RPL qualifications at the early stage. Stakeholders in the industries concerned generally expected that the number of applicants would increase gradually at the later stage of the transitional period.

10. PASED said that about 99% of the 950 RPL applicants had successfully passed the RPL assessment and were awarded statements of attainment in respect of the cluster of competencies assessed. Applicants who had failed in the assessment were those who could not provide the necessary information to prove their working experience or who had withdrawn their applications. Free counselling service was provided to unsuccessful applicants by the assessment agency to better prepare them for re-assessment. PASED added that the Administration would step up publicity and organize briefings to employees concerned to enhance awareness of the RPL mechanism. It would also explore with industries which had developed SCSs on the possible extension of the RPL mechanism to these industries.

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11. The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to provide information on the breakdown of the 950 applicants for RPL assessment by industry, the number of applicants who failed in the assessment, and the number of applicants whose qualifications were recognized based on their years of service and relevant working experience without the need to undergo an assessment test.

12. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung noted that the assessment was mainly based on a worker's academic and vocational abilities. He enquired whether the Administration would review the contents of the SCSs with a view to enhancing the vocational language proficiency of workers in the workplace, e.g. use of English in the fashion industry and use of Putonghua in the catering industry. He also enquired whether VTC and ERB intended to provide vocational language training in this regard.

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13. PASED undertook to relay Mr LEUNG's suggestion to VTC and ERB. He said that the Administration intended to encourage training providers to develop more programmes to improve the generic competencies of workers in the areas of English, Putonghua, numeracy and information technology.

14. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that the low participation rate of workers in RPL was a result of inadequate promotion. PASED responded that the Administration had embarked on a series of publicity and promotional activities in collaboration with stakeholders, including assessment agency, trade associations and labour unions. An outreach programme had been launched under which exhibitions, talks and seminars on QF were held with the industry and school sectors. The Administration would continue to enhance publicity of QF and RPL through different channels, including broadcasting of Announcements in the Public Interest in television and public transports,

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launching exhibitions and road-show in Mass Transit Railway stations, and interviews with newspapers and radio.

15. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed concern whether sufficient financial resources were provided to EDB to implement QF, as only \$9 million had been disbursed under the financial assistance schemes to eligible training providers.

16. PSED responded that the Finance Committee had approved a funding of \$208 million in 2008 for implementing the financial assistance schemes to support the implementation of QF. As only \$9 million had been disbursed, there were adequate resources to support the implementation of QF.

**II. Briefing by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare on relevant policy initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2009-2010 Policy Address**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)29/09-10(02))

Briefing by the Administration

17. Secretary for Labour and Welfare (SLW) briefed Members on the new and on-going initiatives of the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) in respect of the labour and manpower portfolios in the 2009-2010 Policy Address and Policy Agenda as set out in the Administration's paper. He also provided Members with the following updated information on LD's employment services to alleviate the problem of unemployment -

- (a) commencing in September 2009, the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP) and Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS) were integrated to provide young people with through-train services. The revamped programme admitted young people throughout the year and some 9 000 applications had been received so far;
- (b) Some 1 000 university graduates were working as local interns under the Internship Programme for University Graduates (IPUG) launched in August 2009. Another 200 graduates were working as interns in major cities on the Mainland;
- (c) LD continued to provide employment assistance to help the disadvantaged, including the middle-aged and people with disabilities; and
- (d) the Small and Medium Enterprises Loan Guarantee Scheme had helped some 14 000 small and medium enterprises tide over the credit crunch during the financial tsunami. As a result, about 250 000 jobs were preserved.

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One-stop employment and training centre

18. Noting that a one-stop employment and training centre would be set up in Tin Shui Wai in 2011, Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired whether the project could be advanced.

19. SLW responded that with the knowledge that a new estate would be developed in Tin Shui Wai North, he had requested the Housing Department to reserve space in the Government complex for the setting up of a pioneer one-stop employment and training centre. The centre sought to rationalise the distribution of duties and responsibilities, and possibly the workflow as well as the user databases of LD, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and ERB in order to facilitate the delivery of one-stop employment and training services to job seekers. The Government had wasted no time to develop the area and the complex was expected to be completed in early 2011. If the pilot project in Tin Shui Wai was successful, the one-stop model would be extended to other districts.

Transport Support Scheme (TSS)

20. Dr PAN Pey-chyou said that before the setting up of a pioneer one-stop employment and training centre in Tin Shui Wai, residents in the district would still need the allowance provided by TSS in seeking employment.

21. Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted that over 30 000 applicants were admitted to TSS. He expressed concern that TSS would be discontinued following a review at the end of December 2009. The Deputy Chairman and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed similar concern.

22. SLW said that the objective of TSS was to provide time-limited transport subsidy so as to encourage needy job seekers and low-income employees in the four designated remote districts (Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, North and Islands districts) to seek jobs and work across districts. Under TSS, two types of allowances were made available to eligible applicants, namely, a Job Search Allowance of up to \$600 and an On-the-job Transport Allowance of \$600 per month for a period of up to 12 months. SLW clarified that TSS had not been put to a halt and eligible job seekers and low-income employees in the four designated remote districts could still apply for TSS. LD currently received some 800 to 1 000 applications for TSS a month.

23. SLW added that the review of TSS was in full swing. Apart from evaluating whether the policy objective of TSS had been achieved, the review would also cover an assessment of the overall effectiveness of TSS, the case processing procedures and practices adopted by non-government organizations participating in administering TSS, and the modus operandi, control and monitoring measures. The review would also take account of the views and

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suggestions of different quarters of the community on TSS. The Administration aimed at completing the review by the end of 2009.

24. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said that some applicants admitted under TSS had already exhausted their 12 months' entitlement to allowances. He urged the Administration to further relax TSS to operate it on a long-term basis and to extend it to employees of other districts. In addition, the Administration should consider reinstating the allowance for local domestic helpers working across districts under the Integrated Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers.

25. SLW responded that members' proposal to provide the time-limited subsidy on a recurrent basis would fundamentally change the nature of TSS. It would become an additional long-term income supplement for low-income employees on top of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme which was already providing income supplement to eligible low-income households. This would deviate from the policy intent of TSS.

Employment services for youths

26. Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern that the youth unemployment rate had increased by 10% over the previous year. He said that some young people could not find placement even after attending YPTP and YWETS.

27. SLW responded that it was a global phenomenon that the youth unemployment rate was substantially higher than the overall unemployment rate. Young people were more susceptible to unemployment because of a variety of factors, including their limited work experience and low academic qualifications and skills level. With the gradual recovery of the local economy, the youth unemployment rate for the 15 to 19 age group had dropped from 28.7% for the period May to July 2009 to 25.7% for July to September 2009. Apart from LD, VTC and ERB also ran courses to equip young people with more vocational skills. According to past statistics, excluding trainees who pursued further studies, the average placement rate of trainees of YPTP and YWETS was around 70%. Those who could not find placement had, nevertheless, acquired more skills which would stand them in good stead in the long-term.

28. Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Employment Services) (ACL) supplemented that the revamped youth programme had attracted over 9 000 applications and assisted about 1 500 youths in securing employment. The placement rate appeared low because it took time to complete the requisite training before placement could start. Trainees had on average taken three to four courses which lasted for about four months and placement followed thereafter. As the revamped programme commenced in September 2009, LD would make use of its existing extensive employer network and strong partnership relations with employers in the coming two months to canvass on-the-job training vacancies for trainees. LD had also launched tailor-made

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training-cum-employment projects to suit the needs of employers who had vacancies available.

29. Mr CHAN Hak-kan enquired whether the Administration would consider providing transport subsidy to young people attending job interviews. The Deputy Chairman suggested that young people attending job interviews which were referred by LD should receive a job interview allowance. If they failed in an interview, LD should help them identify areas of improvement.

30. SLW responded that YPTP provided youths with a comprehensive range of employment-related training and workplace attachment (WPA). Trainees who attended pre-employment training courses were entitled to a training allowance at the rate of \$30 per day and trainees who completed WPA training would receive an allowance of \$2,000. For trainees undergoing on-the-job training, they could enrol in relevant vocational courses and apply for reimbursement of course and examination fees up to \$4,000 from YWETS. While the Administration did not intend to provide other subsidy to young people at this stage, it would consider members' suggestions.

31. Mr WONG Sing-chi expressed concern that the Administration would discontinue YPTP following the implementation of the 334 structure. He enquired about the interface between YPTP and NSS and whether YPTP would be included as part of the curriculum in NSS.

32. SLW said that YPTP, like other courses, would evolve over time to cope with the ever-changing environment. While he was not in a position to give an undertaking for YPTP to be maintained permanently, the demand for training to help young people seeking employment would persist. He said that YPTP would be suitably modified to operate in tandem with NSS.

33. Mr WONG Kwok-kin enquired about the progress of IPUG and when a review would be conducted to assess its effectiveness.

34. SLW and Commissioner for Labour (C for L) informed members that IPUG was launched in August 2009 to provide about 3 000 places for interested graduates to work as interns and receive training in local enterprises and 1 000 places in Mainland enterprises for a period of six to 12 months. As IPUG had just been launched, much time had been spent on recruitment and related matters. So far, about 1 000 and 200 graduates were placed respectively in local and Mainland enterprises which were engaged in financial, telecommunication, logistics and travel businesses. The wages offered to local interns ranged from \$8,800 to \$22,000. The Administration would review the implementation situation of IPUG in the coming year.

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Employment opportunities

35. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan queried the effectiveness of placing Vacancy Search Terminal (VST) kiosks at various sites to facilitate the dissemination of vacancy information and help the non-governmental organizations provide placement service to the public. He said that many workers with low education attainment and low skill level had lost their will and determination to seek jobs after repeated failures. VST improved the information flow in the labour market but was not an incentive to encourage people to work. He suggested that the Administration should consider providing a job interview allowance to encourage the unemployed to seek jobs. He cautioned that the financial crisis was not yet over and the Administration should take more action to help the unemployed re-enter the job market.

36. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed concern about the high unemployment rate and falling wages of employees. He asked whether SWD had sufficient resources to address the problem of working poverty.

37. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed concern that the Policy Agenda for 2009-2010 was silent on the creation of job opportunities. He said that the Government was creating unemployment because the contract of over 10 000 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff would expire in the near future. As some of these positions would be turned into civil service vacancies, he enquired whether consideration would be given to filling these vacancies by NCSC staff who possessed relevant experience. He pointed out that the qualifications of NCSC staff might be lower than that of a civil servant and they would thus have difficulty in finding a job in the open market.

38. SLW responded that the Administration had continued to create job opportunities through expediting the major infrastructure projects and carrying out more minor works. As a result, the unemployment rate in the construction industry had dropped. In addition, the new minor works projects, including the renovation of 1 000 dilapidated buildings, would create 10 000 jobs in the next two years. He added that creation of jobs would take time. Recovery in the construction industry would help other industries revive, such as the logistics, transport and catering industries. In respect of the NCSC staff, SLW said that not all NCSC staff would be losing their jobs when their contracts expired. Relevant bureaux and government departments would renew the contracts of their NCSC staff if there was a continued operational need for the NCSC positions concerned, subject to their satisfactory performance. As regards civil service vacancies, they were open to all applicants and NCSC staff could apply.

39. Mr WONG Sing-chi enquired about the measures to help single mothers seek part-time jobs. SLW responded that the Neighbourhood Support Child Care Project was in place allowing single mothers who had a few hours to spare to take care of the children of their neighbours. He noted the difficulties in finding placement for single mothers.

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**III. Work-at-height Safety of the Construction Industry: Regulatory Control, Performance and Improvement**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)29/09-10(03) and CB(2)54/09-10(01))

40. SLW briefed Members on the regulatory framework governing work-at-height safety of the construction industry in Hong Kong, and the safety performance and improvements over the past years.

Effectiveness of the regulatory framework

41. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan noted that the Factories and Industrial Undertaking Ordinance (Cap. 59) (FIUO) and the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509) (OSHO) set out the general duties of an employer to protect the safety and health at work of all persons employed by him. He said that the present self-regulated system was inadequate and there was a need for all relevant stakeholders in the construction industry to review the policy on construction safety. He proposed the following three ways to improve construction safety -

- (a) LD should step up enforcement action by making more visits to construction sites;
- (b) the Construction Industry Council should consider extending the construction period of a property development. Given the high property prices in Hong Kong, the construction period of a property development in Hong Kong was relatively short as compared with other countries. The shorter construction period resulted in a higher risk of accidents; and
- (c) in line with the practice on public works, the Administration should consider imposing a statutory requirement on the private sector to reserve 2% of the construction budget for occupational safety purposes.

42. SLW considered that the general duties of employers as required under FIUO and OSHO to provide and maintain safe plants and systems of work and a safe environment, together with the concerted efforts of relevant stakeholders in the industry to promote work safety, had made steady improvement in the safety performance of the construction industry. The number of industrial accidents in the construction industry had dropped from 14 078 in 1999 to 3 033 in 2008. The Administration would try its best to prevent industrial and occupational accidents.

43. Mr WONG Sing-chi said that the drop in the number of industrial accidents was due to a decline in construction projects. He shared Mr LEE Chek-yan's view that the policy on construction safety should be reviewed with a view to introducing more stringent measures to deter non-compliance with

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safety requirements. He suggested that a demerit point system should be introduced under which the licence of an employer or a contractor who had repeatedly breached industrial safety requirements would be suspended.

44. SLW responded that there had been improvement in the safety performance of the construction industry. While there was a decline in the number of construction projects, the accident rate per 1 000 workers had dropped from one out of five in 1998 to one out of 20 in the first half of 2009. He added that the issuance of suspension notice was an effective means to deter non-compliance with constructive safety. In addition, the Administration would institute legal proceedings against an employer when there was a breach of safety legislation. He added that the Housing Authority and the Development Bureau had adopted a system similar to the demerit point system suggested by Mr WONG Sing-chi under which an employer or a contractor who had a poor track record in industrial safety would be sanctioned.

45. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should consider introducing legislative amendments to empower LD to disclose the location of construction sites with poor track record. LD's posters on construction safety should be posted in the construction sites so that workers could help monitor the work of the employer or contractor concerned. He expressed concern about accidents of "fall of person from height" caused by repair, maintenance, alteration and addition (RMAA) works.

46. SLW responded that most RMAA works were small-scale and scattered in nature, undertaken by small contractors or persons who were self-employed. They were generally less conversant with the occupational safety and health legislation and their workers were less aware of the necessary safety precautionary measures. At present, RMAA works accidents accounted for 50% of total industrial accidents in the construction industry.

47. Mr CHAN Kin-por enquired about the penalties imposed on employers for non-compliance with safety legislation and whether such penalty levels had any deterrent effect. He enquired whether the court would impose heavier penalty on repeated offenders and whether employees who had acted recklessly in construction sites had ever been prosecuted.

48. Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety) responded that while the average fine imposed on an employer or a contractor for more serious offences was about \$15,000, the amount varied with seriousness and nature of each case. LD would provide the Court with information on the defendant's previous offences and fines, if any. The Court would usually impose a higher penalty for repeated offenders. Where there was an injury in a construction site, LD would first investigate whether the employer had provided a safe working environment to protect his employees. Besides, where employers had taken steps to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that the work safety of his employees and an employee was found not to have taken

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reasonable care for the safety of himself and of other persons, LD might also initiate prosecutions against that employee. LD instituted about 20 prosecution cases against employees each year.

49. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that while the Administration had aimed at eliminating industrial and occupational accidents, the number of accidents remained high and the Administration should address the problem. He enquired about additional measures to be implemented by the Administration, apart from education and publicity. He asked whether new workers who joined the construction industry would be required to receive training before commencing work.

50. SLW responded that construction workers were required to receive safety training and obtain a green card. In addition, they had to attend refresher training periodically in order to renew the green card. The Administration adopted a multi-pronged approach, including stepping up enforcement action, enhancing publicity and education to promote awareness of industrial and occupational safety among employers and employees. While the Administration had strived to reduce the toll of occupational accidents, it was difficult to eliminate human errors. The Administration would continue to seek improvements in construction safety and work in close partnership with the relevant stakeholders.

On-site safety officer

51. Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that there was a need for the Administration to review the employment policy of on-site safety officers. At present, an employer or a contractor was required to employ an on-site safety officer to monitor compliance with safety measures in the construction site. Given that there was a conflict of interest, the safety officer could hardly discharge his duties with due diligence. Mr WONG suggested that the on-site safety officer should be recruited by LD and be accountable to LD, while his wages would be paid by the employer or contractor. He requested the Administration to consider his proposal.

52. SLW responded that in accordance with the law, a registered safety officer who was employed to take care of occupational safety and health matters at workplaces was duty bound to provide professional advice to the employer and help ensure that effective measures had been implemented. An employer was ultimately accountable for the safety and health of his employees at workplaces.

53. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung supported Mr WONG's proposal. He suggested that the Administration should hire a safety officer through an agency.

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54. The Deputy Chairman said that the Administration should consider how the independence of a safety officer in monitoring the safety of construction sites could be protected by law so that the safety officer could report cases of non-compliance without fear of retaliation by the employer or contractor concerned. SLW said that the Administration would consider members' suggestions.

The International Commerce Centre accident

55. Dr LAM Tai-fai enquired when the investigation report on the industrial accident at the International Commerce Centre on 13 September 2009 (the ICC accident) which claimed the lives of six workers would be made public. He also enquired about the result of the inspection conducted at construction sites following the incident.

56. SLW responded that the Administration was pressing ahead with investigation into the ICC accident. Given the complexity of the accident, the report would be completed within six months from the date of the accident. C for L supplemented that LD had conducted a three-week special enforcement campaign on work-at-height safety to inspect all construction sites having lift shafts following the ICC accident. During the campaign, 173 construction sites were inspected, with 156 warnings were issued and nine suspension notices served. The 173 construction sites had over 1 000 lift shafts and eight working platforms were found to be problematic. The problems identified with all these eight working platforms had already been rectified. The 156 warnings issued were relating to non-compliance with work safety standards including, among others, sub-standard working platform and improper use of personal protective equipment such as safety masks and safety helmets.

57. The meeting ended at 4:37 pm.