

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1) 780/10-11  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 25 October 2010, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Chairman)  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
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 IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

**Public officers attending** : **For item IV**

Mr Edward YAU  
Secretary for the Environment

Ms Anissa WONG  
Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Miss Vivian LAU  
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)

Mr Alan WONG  
Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

**Staff in attendance :** Mrs Mary TANG  
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Miss Mandy POON  
Legislative Assistant (1)4

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Action

**I. Confirmation of minutes**

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 149/10-11 — Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper issued since last meeting**

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

LC Paper No. CB(1) 30/10-11(01) — Invitation letter from the Administration regarding the C40 Hong Kong Workshop on Low Carbon Cities for High Quality Living to be held in Hong Kong from 5 to 6 November 2010

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 168/10-11(01) — List of follow-up actions  
LC Paper No. CB(1) 168/10-11(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 22 November 2010, at 2:30 pm –

- (a) Development of EcoPark; and
- (b) Development of the First Phase Organic Waste Treatment Facilities.

4. The Chairman proposed and members agreed to hold a special meeting in late November 2010 to receive deputations' views on the Public Consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda.

*(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the special meeting would be held on Friday, 26 November 2010, at 4:30 pm.)*

**IV. Policy initiatives of the Environment Bureau in the Chief Executive's 2010-2011 Policy Address**

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 168/10-11(03) — Administration's paper on the proposal to increase the share of nuclear power in the fuel mix)

Relevant papers

The 2010-2011 Policy Address – “Policy Agenda”

Address by the Chief Executive at the Legislative Council meeting on 13 October 2010

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 41/10-11(01) — Administration's paper on 2010-2011 Policy Address and Policy Agenda – Policy Initiatives of the Environment Bureau)

5. The Secretary for the Environment (SEN) said that there were two important areas under the Environment Bureau which warranted more in-depth discussion, namely combating climate change and improving air quality. The 2010-2011 Policy Address set out the strategy to combat climate change through reduction of emissions by the wider use of cleaner and low-carbon energies and

fuels in power generation. Various measures targeting at franchised buses would also be implemented to improve air quality.

### Combating climate change

6. Ms Audrey EU stressed the need for the Administration to adopt proactive approach to arouse public awareness on the proposals pertaining to the Consultation Document on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda (Consultation Document), lest the public might object to these proposals at a later stage. SEN agreed that public support for the Consultation Document was essential to foster the development of a low-carbon economy. Following the publication of the Consultation Document, a series of seminars had been held to facilitate exchanges of views with interested stakeholders. The hosting of the C40 Workshop in Hong Kong in early November 2010 would also help arouse public awareness on climate change. It seemed that members of the public were more ready to discuss climate change than before.

7. Mr CHAN Kin-por said that he had been approached by the Greenpeace on the Government's proposal to increase the share of nuclear power in the fuel mix for local power generation to 50%. Greenpeace was concerned that the development of nuclear power plants would pose considerable risk even if these were not to be built in Hong Kong. With the increased reliance on nuclear energy for power generation, any failure of the nuclear power plants would result in suspension of electricity supply. Hence, contingency plans should be worked out to deal with emergency situations and nuclear waste. A better alternative would be to expedite the development of renewable energy (RE) which was more environment-friendly and sustainable in the long run. Expressing similar views, Ms Cyd HO enquired about the basis upon which the 50% share of fuel mix for nuclear energy was arrived at. She also asked whether newer technologies were developed in generating nuclear energy (apart from nuclear fusion), and treating nuclear waste. She agreed that other alternatives, such as improving energy efficiency and conservation, should be promoted to reduce the reliance on nuclear energy for power generation. Given that Hong Kong shared the same air shed with its neighbors within the Pearl River Delta Region, Ms Audrey EU opined that the increase in share of cleaner fuels in the fuel mix for power generation in Hong Kong would not be effective in reducing emissions if the same was not adopted by the neighboring areas. She therefore asked if the proposed fuel mix would be set on a regional basis and if so, it might be useful to arrange for a duty visit to the Mainland for members to exchange views with the relevant authorities on the latest development of renewable energy and nuclear power in the Mainland.

8. In response, SEN said that the Administration's emission reduction strategy emphasized on the wider use of non-fossil fuels in power generation in the next 10 years. Successful implementation of the proposed strategy would

help reduce the carbon intensity in Hong Kong by 50% to 60% by 2020, compared with the 2005 level. To secure a safe and reliable supply of energy that would meet environmental and cost requirements, about half of the electricity consumed in Hong Kong would be generated locally while the balance would be met by imported nuclear energy. While it was hoped that the same fuel mix could be adopted on a regional basis, more cooperation would be required from the Mainland. He added that the mode of additional supply of nuclear power to Hong Kong could follow that of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), under which local power companies could invest and take part in managing the nuclear facilities. The handling and treatment of nuclear waste would meet with international requirements. The Deputy Secretary for the Environment (DS(Env)) said that of the some 440 nuclear plants in over 30 countries, 13 (including DBNPS) were operating in the Mainland. On nuclear waste treatment, the usual practice was to store the spent nuclear fuel in storage pools for a certain period of time to reduce temperature and radioactivity. About 90% of the spent fuel could be re-processed and re-used in nuclear industries. The remainder of the spent fuel would be sealed, stored and disposed of ultimately in deep geological repositories, and would not be released to the environment. On RE, SEN said that there were cost and space considerations in the development of RE. While the two local power companies were conducting feasibility studies on development of off-shore wind farms, it was worth noting that the unit generation cost for RE would likely be many times higher than that for gas-fired or coal-fired electricity. He added that strenuous efforts had been made to improve energy efficiency and conservation. It was expected that by 2020, major electrical equipment in all new commercial buildings would be up to 50% more energy efficient as compared with the 2005 building stock.

9. Professor Patrick LAU enquired if the investment on nuclear power was in line with the provisions under the Scheme of Control Agreement reached with the two local power companies. He also enquired whether RE facilities would be installed to replace local coal-fired generators which were due for decommissioning. SEN said that as power generation accounted for 67% of carbon emissions in Hong Kong, there was a need to revamp the present fuel mix made up by 54% coal, 23% natural gas and 23% imported nuclear electricity. Since 1997, all new power generation units in Hong Kong were required to run on natural gas or cleaner fuels. Therefore, most of the coal-fired generators procured before mid 1990s were already in service for a long time, and expected to be decommissioned in 10 to 20 years' time. It was expected that the share of natural gas in the fuel mix would be increased to 40% on account of its low carbon emission. Hong Kong had started to import nuclear energy since the commissioning of DBNPS in 1994. The question of whether Hong Kong should take advantage of the development of more nuclear plants in the Mainland in revamping the fuel mix for local power generation would need to be further discussed in collaboration with the two local power

companies. On replacement of coal-fired generators with RE facilities, SEN advised that photovoltaic systems had been installed in the power plants at Lamma Island. Meanwhile, studies were being carried out by the two power companies on the development of off-shore wind farms.

10. Ms Audrey EU remained concerned about the safety of nuclear plants and the risk associated with the disposal of nuclear waste. As the use of nuclear power was relatively new, there was not much experience in the treatment and disposal of nuclear waste. Given the high capital costs for setting up a nuclear plant, the unit price of nuclear power imported from the Mainland might not be lower than gas-fired electricity as claimed by the Administration. SEN said that it might not be viable to provide accurate projection now on fuel costs which were subject to market fluctuations. Besides, future imported nuclear power prices would be subject to commercial negotiation. DS(Env) added that contingency measures were in place to deal with nuclear incidents. The design and construction of nuclear power stations in the Mainland had met with national regulatory requirements and taken into account the risks involved. All the operational steps had to be well-documented and in accordance with guidelines. Much emphasis was given to the training of staff on the awareness of safety in nuclear operations. The safety operation of nuclear power stations was overseen by the National Nuclear Safety Administration which was a regulatory body under the Ministry of Environmental Protection. China was also a signatory of a number of international conventions on nuclear, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Information on the safety operation of nuclear power stations was available on the website of the Hong Kong Observatory and DBNPS.

11. Mr Andrew CHENG expressed grave concern about the proposed increase in the share of nuclear power in the fuel mix for local power generation to 50%, particularly when the proposal had not gone through public consultation. He recalled that much controversy had been raised in relation to the development of DBNPS in the 1990s, given that the adverse impacts of nuclear incidents were far more damaging than that of landfills and incineration. To allay public concern, more information on the safety operation of nuclear plants with reference to overseas experience should be provided. SEN said that since its commissioning in 1994, DBNPS had been providing stable and reliable electricity supply to Hong Kong, accounting for 23% of the fuel mix in 2009. Hong Kong could take advantage of the development of more nuclear plants in the Mainland in revamping the local fuel mix for generation. To facilitate better understanding, members requested the Administration to provide a comparison between waste-to-energy and nuclear energy in terms of cost and electricity tariff.

Air quality

12. Ms Miriam LAU said that despite the many measures taken to reduce local emissions, the air quality in Hong Kong had remained poor as reflected by the high air pollution index (API). There was a need for closer cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in working out measures to improve regional air quality, in order that the API in Hong Kong could remain at an optimum level of say, around 60. SEN agreed to the need for joint efforts on both sides to improve regional air quality. Based on the air quality data collected from the 16 air quality monitoring stations, biennial reports on regional air quality were published for reference by the public. According to findings of the reports, there was a general improvement in regional air quality, particularly in terms of sulphur dioxide level which had been reduced by about 30% to 40%. This was attributed to the strenuous efforts made by both sides in reducing emissions from power generation, vehicles and production processes. Further improvements could be made through the proposed change in fuel mix for power generation. The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme would also assist Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta Region to adopt cleaner practices in their production processes. It was expected that Hong Kong could achieve the 2010 emission reduction targets. Discussions were being held between both sides on the post-2010 emission reduction arrangements.

*Air Quality Objectives*

13. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked when the new Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) could be implemented. SEN said that preparatory work in relation to the new AQOs was underway. It was worth noting that some of the 19 emission control measures set out in the Consultation Document on the Review of AQOs had been implemented.

*Franchised buses*

14. Mr Andrew CHENG considered it unfair that franchised bus companies should be provided with funding to procure six hybrid buses to test the operational efficiency and performance of these buses under Hong Kong conditions, while other transport companies like ferry companies were not eligible for assistance. He asked if franchised bus companies which had received Government funding were required to use these hybrid buses upon satisfactory trial. SEN said that subsidies had already been provided to ferry companies to try out the use of ultra low sulphur diesel, and to owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace their vehicles. The funding of the full cost of six hybrid buses for use by franchised bus companies was meant to collect operational data of these buses under Hong Kong

conditions. Franchised bus companies would be required to use the most environment-friendly buses in renewing their franchises, taking account of the feasibility and affordability for bus operators and passengers. Mr CHENG requested the Administration to advise the circumstances under which franchised bus companies would be required to use hybrid buses.

### *Electric vehicles*

15. Ms Miriam LAU remarked that taking into account the experience in the Mainland and Japan, the taxi trades would try out the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong. The Kowloon Bus Company had also just imported an electric bus from Shanghai. To facilitate the charging of EVs, the CLP Power Company had agreed to install quick charging facilities. Having regard to the trend, she considered that the Administration should take a more proactive role in promoting EVs. This included the provision of the needed assistance in assessing the feasibility of electric buses in Hong Kong. SEN said that various measures, including the exemption of First Registration Tax for EVs, had been adopted to promote EVs. A \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund would also be set up to encourage the transport sector to test out green and low-carbon transport means and technology. Bus companies wished to test other greener buses, such as electric buses, would be provided the same financial support. Mr Albert CHAN opined that the Administration should conduct trials to ascertain the feasibility of EVs with a view to encouraging the wider use of these vehicles in Hong Kong. It should also take the lead in using EVs. SEN said that under the Government's procurement policy, preference would be given to environment-friendly vehicles such as EVs. It was expected with the production of more EVs on a commercial scale, and an increase in the number of charging facilities, there would be a wider use of EVs in Hong Kong.

### Waste management

16. Miss Tanya CHAN considered it necessary for the Administration to work out a roadmap on the implementation of the waste management strategy for the next 10 years. Ms Cyd HO echoed that as the term of the current Government would end in 2012, members would need to have a full picture on the legislation to be introduced and the public consultation to be conducted during the remaining 20 months of tenure so that they could focus discussion on more controversial subjects, such as the waste charging scheme. SEN agreed to the need for a waste management strategy, particularly when landfill spaces were running short. In this connection, a package of measures had been put in place to reduce and recycle waste. A number of environmental legislation, including the producer responsibility scheme (PRS) on plastic shopping bags (PSBs), had also been implemented. With the main PRS legislation in place, it was expected that PRS on other products, including waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), would require less time for implementation.

Nevertheless, members' support was essential for the legislation to be passed. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment (PS(Env)) added that the Administration would brief the Panel on the progress of the key initiatives under the "Policy Framework for the Management of municipal solid waste (MSW) (2005-2014)" in January 2011. Ms HO suggested that policies and legislation which would likely be subject to less political pressure should be dealt with first. The associated costs and benefits should be set out for reference by the public to facilitate the making of conscious decisions. Legislation which would be subject to strong public objection and with little environmental benefits, such as the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill, should not be pursued. As there were different views in the community, SEN said that views on the acceptability of environmental legislation from political parties would be required.

### *Municipal solid waste*

17. Mr CHAN Kin-por enquired about the treatment and disposal of MSW following the repeal of the Country Parks (Designation) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Order 2010 (the Order) to extend the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill. He asked if consideration would be given to expediting the development of waste incineration. SEN said that he had given a detailed reply on the subject at the last Council meeting. He reiterated that MSW should be reduced and recycled before they were treated and disposed of at landfills. While the source separation of waste programme was progressing well, there remained a need to work out alternative means to treat non-recyclable waste as disposal of such waste at landfills only was not sustainable in the long run. The Administration would consult members on the choice of site for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) in due course.

18. Ms Miriam LAU supported the early completion of the site selection process for IWMF. To allay concerns about incineration, publicity should be stepped up to apprise the public of the latest development in incineration technology. Consideration should be given to adopting gasification for waste treatment. Compensatory measures should also be provided for the betterment of residents in the proximity of the selected site. There might be a need to have more than one IWMF having regard to the strong objection against extension of landfills. Mr KAM Nai-wai considered it useful for the Administration to arrange a briefing on the latest development in incineration technology. SEN said that incineration technology was not new to Hong Kong as it was being adopted in the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in Tsing Yi. Representatives of the Administration and district councilors who had participated in the visit to various cities adopting incineration in the treatment of MSW had agreed that incineration was a practicable option in treating MSW. The Administration would brief members on the outcome of the environmental impact assessment on the two possible sites for IWMF.

19. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired if studies on the MSW charging scheme had been conducted and if so, details of the charging arrangements and timeframe for public consultation. SEN said that the MSW charging scheme had been discussed by the Panel. The trial schemes to examine the logistical requirements for introducing a charging scheme under different domestic housing settings had concluded that there were practical difficulties in implementing a waste charging scheme based on quantity, particularly in the multi-storey, multi-tenant household setting in Hong Kong. As the Waste Management Committee of the Advisory Council on the Environment would discuss the feasibility of waste charging scheme again, the Administration would take account of their views in drawing up the waste management strategy. Support from members would be needed for implementation of the scheme.

20. Ms Cyd HO stressed that the purpose of MSW charging scheme was not meant to generate revenue but to reduce waste. As a fixed charge would not provide the needed incentive for the public to reduce MSW, consideration should be given to introducing a charge based on the amount of MSW generated despite the administrative difficulty. SEN confirmed that the purpose of the MSW charging scheme was not meant to generate revenue. The same applied to PRS on WEEE as the fee level would be calculated on the basis of funding the treatment of WEEE. The Administration would take into account the views of the Waste Management Committee of the Advisory Council on the Environment before reaching a decision on MSW charging. Meanwhile, continued efforts would be made to identify options for treatment and disposal of waste, including incineration and extension of landfills.

21. Mr Andrew CHENG said that he was under the impression that the Administration had much difficulty in resolving the waste problem, ranging from extension of landfills to abatement of environmental nuisance associated with refuse collection vehicles (RCVs). He stressed the need to improve the operation of RCVs so that these would not become a nuisance to the public. Mr KAM Nai-wai echoed that the Administration should work out the cleaning, parking, and routing arrangements for RCVs. SEN said that Government-operated RCVs were managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. Replacement and improvement programmes were in place for RCVs. Arrangements had been made to clean the roads leading to the landfills with a view to mitigating the odour problem. Enforcement actions would be taken against RCVs which caused nuisances to the public. At members' request, the Administration would provide the replacement programme for RCVs.

Admin

#### *Producer Responsibility Schemes*

22. Miss Tanya CHAN enquired if there would be a second phase for the environmental levy on PSBs. PS(Env) said that the PRS on PSBs had been

progressing well since its implementation in July 2009. Views were being collated on the extension of the levy to other retailers.

23. Miss Tanya CHAN was concerned about the problem of WEEE. She pointed out that following the coming into effect of the legislation on ban of import of WEEE in the Mainland next year, there would be no outlet for WEEE generated in Hong Kong. As a result, the existing WEEE being kept in storage areas in the New Territories for export purpose would turn into environmental problems. Hence, there was a need for statutory control over the disposal of WEEE. SEN said that the public consultation exercise on the new PRS on WEEE had just been completed. With the tightening of export control over WEEE, it was considered timely to introduce the new PRS on WEEE. Under the proposed arrangements, the fee level would be calculated on the basis of funding the operation of the Scheme, including the treatment of WEEE. The Administration would take into account the views received and hold further discussion with the stakeholders with a view to reaching a consensus on issues of contention, which were mainly related to the point of collection of fees. This would be followed by the drafting of the relevant legislation. Efforts would also be made to promote the recycling of WEEE and assistance would be provided to social enterprises which were willing to undertake these recycling projects. The outcome of consultation would be reported to the Panel in the first quarter of 2011. PS(Env) added that it would take time to prepare the legislation on the new PRS on WEEE which would deal with the import, export and treatment of WEEE.

24. Mr Albert CHAN opined that Hong Kong had been exporting its environmental problems and its low-carbon economy was developed at the expense of its neighbors. By way of illustration, it was using electricity supplied from nuclear power stations in Shenzhen, and delivering WEEE to different parts of the Mainland. There was a need to have foresight and to set targets when implementing policies. A holistic approach should be adopted in the review of the waste management strategy taking into account the need for waste recycling and reduction as well as mandatory segregation of dry and wet waste. There should be proper land planning in the choice of site for waste management facilities. SEN said that he would be consulting political parties in the formulation of environmental legislation and proposed public works projects as approval was needed from the Legislative Council before implementation. While there were proposals which had met with approval, such as the Sludge Treatment Facilities, there were others which were rejected by members.

### Sewage

25. Noting that the completion dates for some village sewerage projects had been extended to 2016, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming was concerned that the development of the affected areas might have to be procrastinated due to the

delay. Mr Albert CHAN agreed to the need for early completion of village sewerage projects. He also considered it necessary for the Administration to provide assistance, including financial assistance, to residents to complete the connection works to the main sewerage system in order to achieve the purpose of improving the environment. Taking the Mui Wo sewerage project as an example, about 80% of residents had refused to make the necessary sewerage connections. PS(Env) said that a priority programme had been worked out in implementing village sewerage projects. With the assistance of Heung Yee Kuk to liaise with affected villagers, the sewerage works had been implemented smoothly. As regards connection works, PS(Env) said that the sewerage pipes had been laid as far as possible right next to the village houses and the villagers would only need to undertake minor works to complete the connection. It would not be appropriate to use public funds for the connection works which were to be undertaken within private premises. Continued efforts would be made to persuade villagers to complete the connection works for their own benefit. For those villagers who could not afford the cost of connection works, they could apply to the Hong Kong Housing Society for assistance. Many villages had since completed the connections to the main sewerage network. At members' request, the Administration would provide the village sewerage projects which had been completed in the last three years.

Admin

### Nature conservation

26. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming noted that following the Sai Wan incident, the Administration had announced that 50 similar sites would be included in the country parks. As some of these sites were on private land, he enquired how the Administration could obtain the consent of affected landowners on the proposed inclusion. SEN said that in the past, private land was usually left outside the country park boundaries and became "country parks enclaves". The Sai Wan incident had highlighted the need to take prompt action to regulate land use in the country parks enclaves to forestall human damage. At present, there were 77 country park enclaves under private ownership and most of them were village areas. Of these, 23 were already covered by respective Outline Zoning Plans whereas the remaining 54 sites were mostly scattered in remote areas. To meet conservation and development needs, consideration would be given to either including these enclaves into country parks, or determining their proper land uses through statutory planning. Priority for planning control would be accorded to sites which were subject to development pressure, or which had been developed in the absence of control, and sites with high conservation value. Consultation would be held with the affected parties. As the usage of most of the private land in the country parks enclaves was confined to agricultural purposes, the planning control would not affect the owners if the land was used for such purposes. Given that draft Development Permission Area plans had been prepared for Sai Wan, Hoi Ha, Pak Lap and So Lo Pun,

Miss Tanya CHAN said that there were in effect 50 instead of 54 country parks enclaves which were not covered by statutory plans.

27. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming noted with concern that apart from the pilot management agreement projects at Fung Yuen and Long Valley, there were no signs of development on the 12 priority sites which had been identified for enhanced conservation in 2004. SEN said that under the private-public partnership arrangement, development at an agreed scale would be allowed at the less ecologically sensitive portion of a site, provided that the developer undertook to conserve and manage the rest of the site that was ecologically more sensitive on a long-term basis. Meanwhile, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could apply for government funding to enter into management agreements with landowners in enhancing the ecological value of the land. Pilot management agreements had since been entered with the landowners of Fung Yuen and Long Valley.

#### *Environment and Conservation Fund*

28. Referring to the proposal of injecting \$500 million into the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) in the 2010-2011 Policy Address, Ms Miriam LAU noted that most of the projects under ECF were of educational, promotional or conservation nature undertaken by schools or NGOs. She hoped that ECF funding could be put to better use to facilitate the development of business projects which were environment-friendly and financially viable, similar to the practices of other countries. SEN said that ECF had funded projects of various natures. These included the \$450 million funding for the Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes to subsidize building owners to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects. These projects had provided employment opportunities for many trades, particularly those related to energy efficiency enhancement.

#### **V. Any other business**

29. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.