

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. PWSC72/11-12  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/2/2

**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee  
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting  
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex  
on Wednesday, 16 May 2012, at 8:30 am**

**Members present:**

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP (Chairman)  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, 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 Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

**Member attending:**

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

**Members absent:**

Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Ms Doris HO Pui-ling, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) <sup>3</sup>
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Mr Benny WONG Yiu-kam, JP	Deputy Director (1) Environmental Protection Department
Ms Joyce HO Kwok-shan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Miss Petty LAI Chun-ye	Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) Home Affairs Bureau
Mr LEUNG Koon-kee, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Miss Margrit LI Lai-fun	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) <sup>1</sup> Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Charles CHOW Chi-ping	Project Director (3) Architectural Services Department
Mr Harry TSANG Chin-kwong	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) <sup>1</sup> Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHAN Chi-chiu, JP	Director of Drainage Services
Miss Amy YUEN Wai-yin	Assistant Director (Water Policy) Environmental Protection Department
Mr LAI Cheuk-ho	Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects) Drainage Services Department
Mr TAI Wai-man	Chief Engineer (Consultants Management) Drainage Services Department
Mr HON Chi-keung, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Mr CHENG Nim-tai	Chief Engineer (Fill Management) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms Mable CHAN, JP	Deputy Secretary (2) Education Bureau
Miss Wendy CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research Support) Education Bureau
Mr LEUNG Kam-pui	Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects) Architectural Services Department
Mrs Avia LAI WONG Shuk-han	Deputy Secretary (3) Home Affairs Bureau
Ms Elaine MAK Tse-ling	Principal Assistant Secretary (Culture)1 Home Affairs Bureau
Dr Herbert HUEY	Associate Director (Administration) and Registrar, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Ms Winnie SIN	Bursar, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Mr Ray NG	Director of Estates The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Mr Sam TSEN	Assistant Estates Manager (Projects) The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Professor Bernard V LIM, JP	Principal Architecture Design and Research Group Limited
Mr Patrick TAM	Associate, Architecture Design and Research Group Limited
Mr MA Lee-tak, JP	Director of Water Supplies
Mr LEUNG Wing-lim	Assistant Director (New Works) Water Supplies Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mr Derek LO	Chief Council Secretary (1)6
-------------	------------------------------

**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Ken WOO	Council Secretary (1)6
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8

Action

The Chairman reported that a total of 33 projects amounting to \$154,922.8 million had been endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in the 2011-2012 session so far. Of the total amount endorsed, \$151,430.4 million was related to capital works projects.

**Head 703 – Buildings**

**PWSC(2012-13)12 420RO Local open space at Chung Yee Street, Kowloon City**

2. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 420RO to Category A at an estimated cost of \$88.8 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for the construction of a local open space at Chung Yee Street, Kowloon City. The Panel on Home Affairs had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 20 April 2012 and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

3. Mr IP Kwok-him, Chairman of Panel on Home Affairs, supplemented that residents of Ho Man Tin Estate, Oi Man Estate and Hung Hom would be able to reach the open space conveniently through the future covered footbridge system and a lift located at Chung Yee Street.

Design of open spaces

4. Mr Albert CHAN expressed strong opposition to the extensive use of the more costly concrete instead of turf to cover open spaces in Hong Kong and urged the Administration to consider his suggestion on covering at least 70% of the area of each open space with turf which he had raised repeatedly in the past. The Chairman shared Mr CHAN's views and said that members had reiterated for years their requests for incorporating more greening in open space projects.

5. Director of Architectural Services (D Arch S) responded that when working out the proposed facilities for the project site, the Administration had consulted the Kowloon City District Council which expressed support for the provision of facilities such as an area with fitness equipment usable by the elderly, a multi-purpose area for Tai Chi and other activities, a pebble walking trail, and facilities for sitting and pedestrian access.

6. In response to Mr Albert CHAN's further question, D Arch S advised that the construction cost of the project was around \$700 per square foot. Considering that the cost was high, Mr Albert CHAN urged the Administration to provide more greening area in future projects to bring the cost down.

7. Prof Patrick LAU suggested the planting of trees on the slope between the project site and Chung Yee Street so as to provide a better environment for users of both the proposed open space and the footbridge at Chung Yee Street.

8. Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department responded that the Administration would plant shrubs, ground covers, climbers, creepers and about 220 trees under the project. Since there might be technical difficulties to plant trees on the slope, the Administration would consider adding more greenery in the open space and on the slope as appropriate.

9. Prof Patrick LAU suggested that the Administration should draw reference from the Hong Kong Housing Authority which was very experienced in planting trees on slopes near public housing estates.

#### Pedestrian access facilities in the district

10. Prof Patrick LAU opined that in view of the difficulty encountered by residents of the area of Oi Man Estate walking up and down the steep hillside every day, more resources should be allocated on improving the pedestrian access facilities in the area, such as by providing covered access between the public housing estates and the future Mass Transit Railway (MTR) Ho Man Tin Station.

11. D Arch S responded that the covered pedestrian access facilities in the vicinity as indicated in Enclosure 2 of the Administration's paper would be provided under the Kwun Tong Line Extension Essential Public Infrastructure Works project. Measures would be introduced to minimize disturbance to park users during construction of these facilities.

12. Prof Patrick LAU commented that there was a lack of detailed drawings on future pedestrian access facilities in the discussion paper. The Chairman shared Prof LAU's views. He said members had made repeated requests over the years to the Administration for supplementing written information with detailed pictorial illustrations, including maps and drawings, in its discussion papers to PWSC and the Finance



its website to facilitate inspection by the public including professional engineers.

18. DDS explained that the rural committees, district councils and village residents would be given full details, including detailed plans on existing and future sewerage networks, in the course of consultation on sewerage projects. The public would also have access to the drawing plans upon gazettal of the projects. The Administration would consider the suggestion of making available the plans and drawings of existing public sewerage systems on the Internet.

19. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2012-13)14 331DS Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 —  
South Lantau sewerage works**

20. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade part of 331DS to Category A at an estimated cost of \$30 million in MOD prices for engaging consultants to carry out detailed design and conducting site investigation for the provision of sewerage in South Lantau. The Panel on Environmental Affairs had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 23 April 2012, and Panel members had no objection in principle to the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Programme of works

21. Mr TAM Yiu-chung expressed support for the proposal and urged the Administration to take forward the project expeditiously. Noting that the Administration had planned to commence the proposed design consultancy in September 2012 for completion in September 2015, he asked why it would take as much as three years to complete just the design work.

22. DDS explained that the project would need to be carried out in phases due to the presence of private developments and the gazettal procedures required. Works were expected to commence in mid 2014 upon the completion of detailed design on government lands, while works on villages could only be carried out from end 2014 to early 2015 as it would take a longer time to conduct the detailed design within villages.

### Impact of the project on water and air quality

23. Mr TAM Yiu-chung expressed concern that the water quality of the popular beaches along South Lantau would be affected by the project. Mr Albert CHAN expressed a similar concern and pointed out that the proposed provision of a sewage treatment works (STW) in San Shek Wan would have an impact on the water quality of southern waters. He suggested that the consultancy should also assess the design and site selection of the proposed STW.

24. AD(WP), EPD advised that there were currently four public beaches on the southern coast of Lantau, namely Tong Fuk Beach, Upper Cheung Sha Beach, Lower Cheung Sha Beach and Pui O Beach. The water quality of the four beaches had been rated good in recent years, except Pui O Beach where the water quality was fair in summer times. Instead of creating an impact on the water quality, the current project had been proposed to enhance the treatment of increasing sewage from unsewered areas following the growth in population and tourism. DDS added that treated effluent would be discharged to the sea at a distance of more than one kilometre from the shoreline through a submarine outfall. The impact of the proposed STW on the beach water quality would be kept to the minimum.

25. Mr Albert CHAN asked about the Administration's measures to prevent the nuisance of odour upon commissioning of the proposed STW. Prof Patrick LAU asked whether the design of the proposed STW would be able to cater for the future development of the area.

26. DDS advised that the proposed STW would be located indoor and an advanced treatment technology would be adopted. As such, the odour effect would be minimal. Moreover, odour would be controlled through advanced deodorization measures, if required. The proposed STW was designed to have a sewage treatment capacity to cater for the need of the area up to 2031 which was two times that of the commissioning year.

### Connection of village houses to public sewerage systems

27. Mr Albert CHAN declared that he was a resident of the area served by the project. Pointing out that many village house owners had refused to carry out connections to public sewers at their own cost, he reiterated his view made previously at various committee meetings that the Government should consider providing final sewer connections for individual houses to enhance cost effectiveness of sewerage projects.

28. DDS responded that the Administration would optimize the sewerage network in villages by carrying out a detailed investigation into the geographic condition and underground utilities with a view to facilitating the final sewer connections by village house owners.

29. The item was voted on and endorsed.

### **Head 705 – Civil Engineering**

#### **PWSC(2012-13)15 737CL Dredging, management and capping of contaminated sediment disposal facility to the south of The Brothers**

30. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 737CL to Category A at an estimated cost of \$617.7 million in MOD prices for the dredging, management and capping of a new contaminated sediment disposal facility to the south of The Brothers. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 29 March 2011, and Panel members had no objection in principle to the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting. At the request of the Panel, the Administration had provided supplementary information on 19 April 2012.

#### Design capacity of the proposed facility

31. Mr IP Kwok-him called on the Administration to address the needs of the fisheries industry in taking forward the project. Noting that the Administration had planned to finish the capping of the proposed facility at about the same time when the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge projects were completed in 2016, he asked whether the facility would be capped even its capacity was not fully utilized.

32. Director of Civil Engineering and Development (DCED) advised that various infrastructural projects along with maintenance dredging of the harbour fairway would give rise to about 11.4 million cubic metres of contaminated sediments from 2012 to 2018. The proposed facility at an estimated capacity of about five million cubic metres would therefore be fully filled before 2016. After the proposed facility was filled up to its designed capacity, it would be capped with clean mud so as to seal off the deposited contaminated sediment from the surrounding marine environment. The capping was expected to be completed by December 2016.

Environmental monitoring and audit programme

33. Mr KAM Nai-wai asked whether the construction method and the environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) programme for the proposed facility would be similar to the existing facility at the east of Sha Chau (ESC facility). He also enquired whether the operation of the ESC facility had met the required environmental standard and whether the Administration had received any complaint with regard to its operations.

34. DCED responded that the ESC facility had commenced operation since 1992. Its operation had been monitored through field sampling and laboratory testing on the level of dissolved oxygen, suspended solids and toxicity to benthic communities in its vicinity. The ESC facility had been operating in an environmentally acceptable manner and the Administration had not received any complaint case with regard to its operations.

35. DCED further advised that the approach to construction and the EM&A programme for the proposed facility would be similar to the ESC facility. A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had been conducted making use of a scientific numerical model to evaluate the impact of the proposed facility on the surrounding marine environment and creatures. According to the EIA, the project would induce no unacceptable impact on the water body outside 500 metres from the facility boundary. The Administration had also engaged three renowned academics from local universities to conduct an independent examination of the relevant parts of the approved EIA report for the proposed facility. The independent examination confirmed that the EIA findings, which were conducted according to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499) and in compliance with relevant international standards, were precise and accurate.

36. As regards monitoring measures, DCED pointed out that while field sampling for the ESC facility was taken every two months, such exercise would be conducted on a monthly basis for the proposed facility. The frequency of field sampling would be further increased during the construction process.

37. The Chairman said that he had visited the ESC facility and was satisfied with its operation.

### Contaminated sediment disposal strategy

38. Noting that the proposed facility along with the ESC facility would only be able to cope with the forecast demand for disposal of contaminated sediment up to 2018, Miss Tanya CHAN enquired the Administration's way forward on handling the disposal of contaminated sediments.

39. DCED responded that the treatment of contaminated sediments was a matter of challenge and urgency. The Administration had examined incineration and direct land disposal but both were technically unviable due to the substantial land resource required. The Administration had conducted a comprehensive territory-wide search to identify suitable sites for a new contaminated sediment disposal facility. The exercise identified the area to the south of The Brothers as the only remaining place within the territory suitable for the provision of new mud pits for confined marine disposal that could meet the environmental, engineering and planning requirements.

40. As regards the way forward on contaminated sediments disposal strategy, DCED advised that the Administration had commissioned a consultancy on "Enhancing Land Supply Strategy" in July 2011 to explore the feasibility of land supply options of reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development and carry out public engagement. The consultancy had explored the option of providing contaminated sediment disposal facility in nearshore areas, as well as providing open spaces above the facility after it was fully capped. Stage one of the public engagement exercise had just ended and the public views collected were being analyzed. Stage two of the exercise would commence at the end of 2012.

41. In response to Miss Tanya CHAN's further question on overseas experience on providing developments above facilities for contaminated sediments disposal, DCED advised that the Administration had conducted preliminary studies on the cases of the United States and Singapore and found the relevant developments safe. The Administration would continue exploring the possible development options under the consultancy.

42. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**Head 708 – Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment  
PWSC(2012-13)16 94EB Redevelopment of Ying Wa Girls'  
School at Robinson Road, Hong Kong**

43. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 94EB to Category A at an estimated cost of \$432.7 million in MOD prices for the redevelopment of Ying Wa Girls' School (the School) at Robinson Road, Hong Kong. An information paper on the proposed works had been circulated to the Panel on Education on 20 April 2012. At the request of the Panel, the Administration had provided supplementary information on 27 April 2012.

Pedestrian connection between the sites of the campus

44. Noting that the School would comprise two separate sites to be linked up by an uncovered public walkway along Robinson Road upon redevelopment, Prof Patrick LAU called on the Administration to optimize the design of the walkway, such as by providing covered walkway, in order to facilitate the use by students.

45. Deputy Secretary (2), Education Bureau (DS(2), EDB) explained that the scope of the project included demolition of the existing buildings of the School at 76 Robinson Road (referred to as "Site A" under the project) and the buildings currently let to the Hong Kong Institute of Technology (HKIT) by the Government at 2 Breezy Path (referred to as "Site B"), and construction of three new building blocks on the cleared sites. Site B would be allocated to the School under the redevelopment project upon the relocation of HKIT before October 2013. The new school buildings at Site A mainly accommodated classrooms and other key facilities for teaching and learning purposes. On the other hand, the teaching block at Site B mainly accommodated ancillary facilities for student activities. The facilities provided at both sites were carefully planned taking into account operational needs of the School and to minimize movement of students between the two sites.

46. DS(2), EDB further advised that the School Sponsor had already set back the boundary of the school buildings to be constructed in the redevelopment project to cater for the road widening works of Robinson Road in future for improvement of the walkway connecting the two sites. The School Sponsor had also planned to explore with the London Mission and a private residential development, both situated in between the two sites of the campus, on whether a more direct route between the sites might be feasible.

47. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's further enquiry on the number of daily trips between sites A and B envisaged for students, DS(2), EDB advised that while some students might be required to go to Site B occasionally for group activities under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum, the vast majority of student activities would be met by the facilities in Site A.

48. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed support for the proposal in view of the sub-standard and dilapidated condition of the campus as well as the contribution of the School made to the education service for the community over the past century. Considering it highly undesirable for students to have to travel between the two campus through a public walkway, he requested the School Sponsor to provide a pedestrian facility linking up the two sites for the exclusive use of the School. He suggested to the School Sponsor that reference might be drawn from the experience of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in providing a subway connecting its campuses. Alternatively, the walkway should be covered if the subway option was infeasible. Ms Cyd HO expressed similar views and said that it was common for overseas institutions to provide subways to link up the building blocks to avoid the impact of extreme weather conditions.

49. DS(2), EDB pointed out that the School Sponsor had decided to make use of the existing walkway to connect both sites since the subway option was not cost effective. The fact that the campus was located on a hillside slope had also limited the options for pedestrian facility. The use of the existing walkway should not impose undue difficulties for students as Site B had been designed in such a way to provide a level pedestrian connection with the uphill Site A. While the suggestion on providing covers for the walkway required further consultation with the local community, the School Sponsor would be encouraged to optimize the design of the walkway through an extension of the design concept of the campus.

#### Protection of heritage at Ying Wa Girls' School

50. Mr IP Kwok-him said that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) supported the proposal. He noted that the former kindergarten block built in 1926 (the 1926 Building) currently located within the school campus which housed the first kindergarten in Hong Kong was a proposed Grade 3 historical building and was pleased that it would be preserved, revived and blended in with the future school campus design. He called on the

Administration to take part in the preservation of the 1926 Building in view of its significant historical value to the history of education in Hong Kong.

51. DS(2), EDB responded that apart from providing capital grant for the redevelopment project, under the prevailing arrangement for maintenance of public sector schools, the Government would also be responsible for the annual recurrent expenditure for the maintenance works for the school premises which include the 1926 Building.

52. Ms Cyd HO was pleased to note the School's plan to set up a School Archive at the 1926 Building. Given the significance of the building in the education history of Hong Kong, she opined that the building should be open for public visits taking into account the daily operation of the school and other safety and security considerations. Prof Patrick LAU expressed similar views.

53. DS(2), EDB responded that the planned School Archive at the 1926 Building would be used to display historical records after the heritage conservation works there were completed. In considering the appropriate mode of opening the 1926 Building for public visits, the efficiency and security of the daily operation of the School was the key consideration. The School had been contemplating to open the 1926 Building with docent service for visits in special occasions, such as school open days. Ms Cyd HO requested the School Sponsor to, before the relevant meeting of FC, provide a plan on opening the 1926 Building. The Administration agreed to provide the information.

Admin

54. In response to Mr KAM Nai-wai's request for the Administration to take part in running the School Archive to sustain its operations, DS(2), EDB advised that the School Sponsor might apply for subsidies from the Antiquities and Monuments Office on preserving the 1926 Building in accordance with relevant procedures applicable to graded historical buildings.

55. Mr IP Kwok-him said that the Central & Western District Council (C&W DC) was pleased to note the allocation of the site currently let to HKIT to the School for the redevelopment project in view of the acute shortage of space in the School. He however called on the Administration to preserve the low fence wall built of stones at Robinson Road near Site B. Mr KAM Nai-wai made a similar request.

56. DS(2), EDB responded that the School Sponsor acknowledged the historic value of the low fence wall and would reuse the old stones of

the wall in constructing the entrance to Site B. A signboard would also be put up near the stones to give an account on their history.

### Environmental concerns

Admin

57. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that the local community had expressed support for the redevelopment of the School in recognition of its contribution to the education service over the past century. However, residents nearby had expressed concern about the possible environmental nuisance caused by the project during the construction period as well as the preservation of the trees in the project site. In view of the fact that the redevelopment of the School was not a designated project under EIAO, he requested the School Sponsor to provide the details of the Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) conducted for the project before the relevant meeting of FC.

58. DS(2), EDB responded that the School Sponsor had responded to the concerns of the local community by engaging a consultant to conduct PER for the project. It recommended various measures for mitigating nuisances from noise, dust and site run-off. These included the use of silencers, mufflers, acoustic lining or shields and frequent cleaning and watering of the site. As regards the concerns on the noise impact of the future school playground at Site B on the residential developments nearby, DS(2), EDB advised the playground was a rather small one. It was expected to be used for conducting sports lessons and the noise impact would be minimal. The School Sponsor would also reduce noise from the activities held on the playground as far as practicable. DS(2), EDB further advised that there was no important trees in the project area. While about 20 trees would be felled under the project, the School Sponsor would incorporate planting proposals as part of the project, which included the planting of about 42 new trees.

### Traffic impact

59. In response to Mr KAM Nai-wai's question on the traffic impact of the project, DS(2), EDB advised that due to the heavy use of Robinson Road, the School Sponsor had taken the opportunity of the redevelopment project to move the school buses lay-by and private vehicle parking spaces into the school premises. The vehicular access would also be relocated to Breezy Path instead to alleviate the busy traffic on Robinson Road.

60. Ms Miriam LAU expressed support for the proposal and welcomed the relocation of school parking spaces to free up the capacity

of the section of Robinson Road adjoining the School. To alleviate traffic congestion on Robinson Road caused by the project during the construction stage, she requested the Administration to put in place effective traffic arrangements, such as prohibiting construction vehicles from using Robinson Road during rush hours.

61. DS(2), EDB responded that the School would move to a vacant school premises for decanting during the redevelopment. HKIT would also move to another school premises in Sham Shui Po before October 2013. The vacation of both Site A and Site B would help reduce the traffic of Robinson Road and Breezy Path during the construction phase. The Administration would work out possible measures in collaboration with the School Sponsor in order to minimize the traffic impact of the project while ensuring its timely completion.

62. Ms Cyd HO said that walkways were mostly very narrow at Mid-levels. The situation was further worsened by the dense population of the district accompanied by busy road traffic. Following the Ombudsman's report pointing out the over-development of the district, the Administration had requested developers to reduce the construction floor area of those sites to be redeveloped in old districts to facilitate road widening. Pointing out that Breezy Path was in fact quite narrow, she asked whether the private cars/taxis lay-by provided under the project along Breezy Path would be open for the use of the public, and if not, whether the School Sponsor would consider reducing the construction floor area of Site B to release space for widening the road. Mr KAM Nai-wai shared Ms HO's concerns. He said that some students would take private transport and the School Sponsor should designate appropriate drop off area within the campus to avoid disturbance to road traffic.

63. DS(2), EDB explained that the private cars/taxis lay-by in Site B would be provided within the school boundary for its exclusive use. This was to meet the requirements of the relevant planning standards on providing appropriate lay-by areas within school premises. As there were just a few students taking private transport and they would drop off at the designated lay-by within the campus, their impact on road traffic would be minimal. The School Sponsor would take into account members' views and explore if there might be any room for further improvement in finalizing the school design.

#### Escalator link system between Central and Mid-levels

64. Mr KAM Nai-wai pointed out that the Government was carrying out a study on the provision of an escalator link system between Pound

Lane and Robinson road. He asked whether the project had been designed to facilitate the relevant provision. Mr IP Kwok-him expressed similar concerns and opined that if the extension of the proposed escalator link system to Robinson Road was technically difficult, the Administration might consider extending the escalator link system to a point for connection to Robinson Road by the provision of a passenger lift.

65. DS(2), EDB responded that the Administration had strived to carry out the project to tie in with local community development. Regarding the proposed escalator link system, the Education Bureau was open towards the suggestion. However, the safety and operation of the School should not be compromised. In this regard, the School Sponsor had expressed reservation as it might pose security concerns to the School, which was a girls' school. Even though the Administration currently had no plan to extend the proposed escalator link system to the vicinity of the school premises, the Transport Department (TD) would study the various alignment options for the system and consult C&W DC.

66. Prof Patrick LAU asked whether it was possible for the proposed escalator link system to be extended to Robinson Road through the short path (i.e. No. 80 Robinson Road) between the two sites of the campus. He opined that the said alignment option would bring benefits to the private developments there and minimize the impact on the School. He urged the Highways Department to work with TD to study the possible alignment options and engage the relevant stakeholders in the discussions.

67. DS(2), EDB replied that the sloping relief at No. 80 Robinson Road as well as the presence of the residential development and the London Mission there posed a great limitation on the feasibility of Prof Patrick LAU's proposal.

68. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong remarked that it might pose security concerns and affect the integrity of such a renowned and long-established school if the proposed escalator link system was to pass between the two sites of its campus. Ms Miriam LAU opined that even providing an escalator link system in close proximity to the School might be inappropriate, the Administration should explore other options of pedestrian linkage between Central and the Mid-levels to minimize the road traffic in the area.

69. DS(2), EDB advised that TD would conduct a preliminary study into the provision of a pedestrian access facility linking up Tai Ping Shan Street with Bonham Road. In view of the different views expressed by

the local community as to whether and how the section between Bonham Road and Robinson Road should be provided, TD would further study the relevant proposals.

70. The item was voted on and endorsed.

**PWSC(2012-13)17 28QJ Expansion and improvement of Wanchai Campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts**

71. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 28QJ to Category A at an estimated cost of \$444.8 million in MOD prices for the expansion and improvement of the Wanchai campus of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA). The Panel on Home Affairs had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 20 April 2012 and Panel members in general supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

72. The Chairman said that he would extend the meeting for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time of the meeting at 10:30 am, to allow time for members to discuss this item. Members agreed.

73. While expressing support for the proposal, Prof Patrick LAU was concerned that the proposed expansion was far from adequate to address the issue of space shortage of HKAPA. Noting that the harbourfront promenade would provide more open space in Central and Wanchai, members of the Panel on Home Affairs had requested the Administration to investigate into the feasibility of including the small playground adjacent to HKAPA in the HKAPA expansion plan.

74. Deputy Secretary (3), Home Affairs Bureau (DS(3), HAB) responded that the Administration together with HKAPA would explore the feasibility of members' proposal.

75. Ms Cyd HO noted that HKAPA provided a great variety of extension programmes despite the space shortage. She was keen to know whether these programmes were aimed at preparing individuals for the performing art profession, or simply for enhancing their artistic sense. She requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the objectives of the extension programmes, the time and space taken up by these programmes in using the main and second campus in Wanchai and Pokfulam, as well as the performing opportunities for students of these programmes.

Admin

76. DS(3), HAB replied that HKAPA's own full-time programmes were given first priority in the use of the Academy's venues. Facilities of HKAPA were rented out for use by extension programmes when they were not in use by HKAPA programmes, mainly during weekday evenings, weekends and during summer holidays. The total venue hours hired for extension programmes was about 1% of HKAPA's total available venue hours.

77. The item was voted on and endorsed.

### **Head 709 – Waterworks**

#### **PWSC(2012-13)18 345WF Planning and investigation study of desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O**

78. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 345WF to Category A at an estimated cost of \$34.3 million in MOD prices for carrying out a planning and investigation study and the associated site investigation works for the construction of a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and the associated fresh water transfer facilities. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 17 April 2012, and Panel members had no objection in principle to the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting. At the request of the Panel, the Administration had provided supplementary information on 4 May 2012.

#### The need for a desalination plant

79. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that DAB had expressed reservation about the proposal when it was discussed at the meeting of the Panel on Development. Since fresh water imported from Dongjiang had been a stable source of water supply and the investment on providing water transfer channel from Dongjiang was huge, the proposal might be unnecessary. Also, supplying water locally was not cost-effective due to the huge investment in setting up and operating catchments and the limited amount of rainwater that these catchments could collect. He was concerned that the provision of a desalination plant might not be cost-effective.

80. Director of Water Supplies (DWS) advised that fresh water was imported from Dongjiang of Guangdong since local natural precipitation provided on average 20% to 30% of the total fresh water demand at present. The production cost per cubic metre of fresh water supplied by

local catchments, Dongjiang and desalination plant was around \$4, \$8 and \$12 respectively. Fresh water supplied by local catchments was thus considered cost-effective.

81. As regards the needs for providing a desalination plant, DWS advised that climate change had brought about more frequent occurrence of extreme weather condition in recent years. Examples were the consecutive seasonal drought in Guangdong in 2009 and the drought in Guangxi in 2010. The local rainfall in 2011 was also about 40% lower than the average annual rainfall over the past 30 years. In view of Hong Kong's reliance on fresh water supply from Dongjiang, it was necessary to get prepared for water shortage arising from severe droughts in the region by studying seawater desalination in good time. The provision of a desalination plant was further justified by the long-term change in currency exchange rate, which would drive up the cost of fresh water imported from Dongjiang to a level close to that of the cost of water from desalination in around 10 years. The proposal was also a response to the "Vision on Expediting Seawater Desalination Industry Development" published on 13 February 2012 by General Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China aiming at expediting the development of seawater desalination.

82. DWS further advised that seawater desalination technology had been progressing over the years and the Government had been keeping abreast of the latest developments in it. The recent advancement on desalination technology would be conducive to further bringing down the cost of desalination. DWS stressed that the proposal was only a study to enhance the planning and formulation of implementation strategy and programme. The Administration would engage the public in the discussion and submit separate funding proposals to FC on detailed design and construction as the next stage of work.

83. Ms Cyd HO opined that the study was a responsible act in response to the lack of fresh water resource in China as a whole. She expressed support for the proposal and urged the Administration to expedite the proposed study.

84. DWS responded that with rapid development of various Guangdong cities, the water consumption of some cities had already exceeded their allocated quantities specified in the "Water Resources Allocation Plan in the Dongjiang River Basin of Guangdong Province" promulgated by the Government of the Guangdong Province in 2008. These cities needed to supplement by importing water from other parts of the Pearl River Delta Basin and some had to use lower grade water

resources. Being one of the responsible partners to other economic zones in the Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong should investigate and explore alternative water resources in order to mitigate difficulties encountered by its neighbours in Guangdong Province.

85. At this juncture, the Chairman proposed and members agreed to further extend the meeting for 10 minutes.

86. Mr KAM Nai-wai commented that there was a need to explore desalination in order to provide an alternative source of water. Apart from the proposed desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O, he asked whether the proposed study would investigate into the need and location for additional desalination plants to make seawater desalination cost-effective. He also enquired when the proposed plant would come into operation and the cost implications.

87. DWS replied that the proposed study would project and compare the cost of different sources of fresh water supply. The desalination plant was tentatively scheduled for commissioning in 2020 subject to the project being proved feasible and cost-effective. DWS further advised that cost-effectiveness would have to be established for the proposed desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O alone.

#### Prediction of fresh water demand

88. Referring to the Government's prediction that the annual fresh water demand would increase steadily from 923 to about 1 100 million cubic metres from 2011 to 2030, Ms Cyd HO was concerned that the prediction might not be accurate if it was made based on the 2030 population forecast because certain uncertainties, such as the immigration policies, had remained unresolved. She requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the annual rainfall for the past 30 years in tabulated format and an explanation on the basis of the population forecast before the relevant meeting of FC.

Admin

#### Environmental concerns

89. Miss Tanya CHAN said that the Civic Party supported the proposal. She called on the Administration to conduct a detailed assessment into the marginal costs of the proposed plant and enquired about the circumstances under which the Administration would select another site for the plant or even give up pursuing desalination.

90. DWS responded that various kinds of impact assessment would be conducted under the proposed study and the findings would be made available for public consideration during the next stage of work. He said that desalination as an alternative water resource had been well established. The proposed plant was strategically sited in Tseung Kwan O for releasing part of the outputs from serving water treatment works to other parts of the territory.

91. In response to Ms Cyd HO's question, DWS advised that the Fat Tong O site earmarked for the desalination plant in Tseung Kwan O was located on reclaimed land and no further reclamation was required for the proposed project.

#### Promoting water conservation

92. Miss Tanya CHAN asked about the measures in place to promote water saving as the expenditure on fresh water imported from Dongjiang was huge and rising.

93. DWS responded that the Administration had published and distributed teaching kits and booklets for primary and secondary schools and a leaflet on saving water in several languages for foreign domestic helpers. The Administration was also conducting a domestic water consumption survey with a view to providing tips on household water saving.

94. The item was voted on and endorsed.

95. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:48 am.