

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities**

**Minutes of the fifth meeting
held on Friday, 30 March 2012, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon WONG Sing-chi (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Member attending : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung
Commissioner for Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr FONG Siu-wai
Assistant Director (Property Services)
Architectural Services Department

Mr LEE Man-ho
Chief Transport Officer / Disabled Transport and Projects
Transport Department

Mr Allan WONG
Chief Manager / Management (Kwai Chung)
Housing Department

Mr Danny CHENG
Senior Maintenance Surveyor / Research & Development
Housing Department

Hospital Authority

Mrs Sheila MAIR
Senior Manager (Planning & Development)

MTRC

Mr David LEUNG
Chief of Operations Engineering

Mr Bede TANG Siman
Operations Services Manager

Mr Jeff LEUNG Chi-keung
Senior Manager - External Affairs

The Link Management Limited

Mr K T POON
Director (Corporate Communications)

Mr Christopher WONG
Assistant General Manager - Compliance & Tenancy Works

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr LAM Woon-kwong
Chairperson

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

Action

I. Meeting with the Administration and representatives of The Link Management Limited, MTR Corporation and Hospital Authority [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)265/11-12(01), CB(2)1050/11-12(01) and CB(2)1490/11-12(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members noted the progress of the barrier free access improvement programmes carried out by The Link Management Limited ("The Link"), the Mass Transit Railway Corporation ("MTRC") and the Hospital Authority ("HA") respectively. Members, however, remained concerned about the accessibility of MTR stations, in particular the progress of retrofitting lifts in MTR stations connecting the concourse area and the street level. Other issues of concern raised by members included the progress of the provision of lifts at public footbridges and the accessibility of the Peng Chau General Out-patient Clinic ("GOPC").

3. The Administration responded that -

- (a) the Highways Department would continue to accelerate its programme for the provision of ramp/lift at public footbridges and keep in view the scope and priority of the retrofitting works;
- (b) the District Officer (Islands) had been co-ordinating different government departments and HA in handling issues relating to the accessibility of the Peng Chau GOPC; and
- (c) Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers had been appointed in individual bureaux and departments to co-ordinate accessibility issues, and to handle the day-to-day management of accessibility issues at the venues under their management respectively.

4. On members' enquiry about the progress of the consolidated retrofitting programme in response to the Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible

Action

Premises ("EOC Report"), the Administration advised that the progress of the retrofitting works was satisfactory and anticipated that the works would be completed as scheduled.

5. Chairperson of EOC considered that the progress of barrier free access enhancement programmes being carried out by The Link, MTRC and HA was satisfactory. To further enhance the barrier-free environment, he advised that both the Administration and the abovementioned organisations should be more proactive in handling the accessibility of premises under their management and consider incorporating the Universal Design principles in the design of new infrastructure and development projects.

Admin

6. The Administration was requested to provide -

- (a) the progress of improving the accessibility of Peng Chau GOPC as well as various options which had been considered by relevant bureaux/departments for improving the accessibility of the GOPC;
- (b) the progress report as at 31 March 2012 on the consolidated retrofitting programme in response to the EOC Report; and
- (c) training materials for Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers.

7. Referring to paragraph 6(a) above, the Chairman advised that the Subcommittee would consider the need for following up the matter at a future meeting after receiving the requisite information. The Chairman added that the Administration and MTRC should take the lead to study the viability of the installation of travelators or wide escalators in MTR stations during the design stage of new railway projects such as the Shatin to Central Link and the Express Rail Link.

II. Any other business

8. Members agreed to discuss the provision of barrier free access and facilities in public sector schools and the progress of the Government's consolidated retrofitting programme in response to the EOC Report at the next meeting. Members would be notified of the meeting date in due course.

Action

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:47 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 June 2012

**Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the
Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities
on Friday, 30 March 2012, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Meeting with the Administration and representatives of The Link Management Limited, MTR Corporation and Hospital Authority</i>			
000026 - 000343	Chairman	Opening remarks.	
000344 - 000929	The Link Management Limited Chairman	<p>Briefings by The Link Management Limited ("The Link") on the progress of the three-phase barrier free access upgrading programme at its retail properties launched in 2011 with highlights as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) as at March 2012, The Link had kick-started the upgrading works in 49 of its properties and 14 of them had been completed, and the latest progress of the upgrading works would be announced on the website of The Link regularly; (b) an access advisory group comprising rehabilitation organisations had been set up to gauge views of the stakeholders on the facilities covered under upgrading programme. Four meetings and two site visits had so far been held; (c) regular meetings between The Link and the Housing Department were held to enhance coordination and ensure the interfaces of barrier free facilities at premises equipped by the two parties were well connected and fit for use by the local communities; and (d) other initiatives included providing training to frontline staff and contractors, revamping its website to facilitate browsing by persons with visual/physical impairments, and conducting research projects jointly with local universities to develop new devices relating to accessibility. 	
000930 - 001043	Administration Chairman	The Administration's response to issues raised by members at the meeting on 20 July 2011 concerning the discussions of the Working Group on Access to Public Transport by People with Disabilities ("Working Group") under the Transport Department	

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		("TD") on the provision of barrier-free access and facilities by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation ("MTRC") [Annex B of LC Paper No. CB(2)265/11-12(01)].	
001044 - 001617	MTRC Chairman	<p>Briefings by MTRC -</p> <p>(a) the follow-up actions on issues raised during the discussions of the Working Group;</p> <p>(b) the latest progress of retrofitting lifts at existing MTR stations as detailed in LC Paper No. CB(2)1050/11-12(01). Most of the projects would be completed by 2015, except that for the Diamond Hill station would be carried out in connection with the construction works of the Shatin to Central Link and the installation works in Tin Hau and Fortress Hill stations would be taken forward after resolving the technical problems; and</p> <p>(c) other initiatives on barrier-free facilities including the launch of the Listening-Responding campaign, and the provision of additional wide gates and additional seats at the station platform.</p>	
001618 - 001806	Hospital Authority Chairman Ms Emily LAU	Briefings by the Hospital Authority ("HA") on the progress of the barrier-free access enhancements in all seven clusters of HA. HA aimed to complete the improvement works to all general out-patient clinics ("GOPC") by end 2014. It had completed compliance checking in 16 acute hospitals as planned, and anticipated that the implementation works would be completed by the fourth quarter of 2014. The professional consultancy services in respect of compliance checking for the remaining HA hospitals and facilities would be tendered in the second quarter of 2012 for completion in early 2013, and the implementation of the enhancement works would be completed in the fourth quarter of 2016 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1490/11-12(01)].	
001807 - 001936	Administration Chairman	The Administration's advice that The Link, MTRC and HA had made positive response in respect of the barrier-free enhancement works, and the Administration would work closely with these organisations.	
001937 - 002256	Equal Opportunities Commission Chairman	<p>Advice of the Equal Opportunities Commission ("EOC") that -</p> <p>(a) the progress of enhancement works of The Link, MTRC and HA was considered</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>satisfactory;</p> <p>(b) government departments should provide concerted efforts to work out feasible plans for the installation of lifts at the Tin Hau, Fortress Hill and Diamond Hill MTR stations as soon as practicable; and</p> <p>(c) according to the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB"), the franchised bus companies had undertaken to make available the bus-stop announcement system in all public buses by end 2012 and to convert all buses running on the road to super-low floor buses by 2015-2016 in order to facilitate passengers with visual and physical impairments.</p>	
002257 - 003210	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	<p>Enquiries/views of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung -</p> <p>(a) the criteria for the installation of lifts at public footbridges; and</p> <p>(b) the progress of the installation of an accessible lift connecting Kwai Fong Estate and the Kwai Fong MTR station.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that -</p> <p>(a) the Highways Department would continue to accelerate its programme for the provision of ramp/lift at public footbridges and keep in view the scope and priority of the retrofitting works ; and</p> <p>(b) as for the proposed lift referred to by Mr LEUNG at Kwai Fong, TD would follow up on the proposed pedestrian crossing facility on road surface to facilitate elders crossing the road.</p> <p>Advice of the Chairman that the Administration should explain explicitly the criteria for the installation of lifts at public footbridges.</p> <p>Enquiry of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung on the Government's plan to follow up on the accessibility of the Peng Chau GOPC.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that the District Office (Islands) had been co-ordinating various government departments and HA to follow up on the matter.</p>	

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		<p>Advice of the Chairman that the Administration should provide information on the follow-up actions taken and the various options considered by the relevant bureaux/departments for improving and upgrading the accessibility of the GOPC. The Subcommittee would consider the need for following up the matter at a future meeting after receiving the information.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
003211 - 004048	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission</p>	<p>With reference to an elderly centre at Nam Shan Estate, Sham Shui Po, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was of the view that the environment of elderly centres should be more elderly friendly in terms of the design of doors, the width of walkways, and font size of posters and signage.</p> <p>The Chairman's concurrence with the view of Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che.</p> <p>Advice of EOC that complaints on the design of doors at publicly accessible premises received by EOC had been increased; and EOC would discuss the issue with The Hong Kong Institute of Architects to explore the possibility of replacing these doors with automatic ones as far as practicable under the existing regulatory regime.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that Access Officers had been appointed at different venues under the management of the respective bureaux/departments to cope with the day-to-day matters relating to accessibility; and training had been provided to them for better understanding of the needs of elders and persons with disabilities.</p>	
004049 - 005239	<p>Ms Emily LAU Chairman MTRC Administration Equal Opportunities Commission</p>	<p>Concerns of Ms Emily LAU -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) whether the progress of the Government's retrofitting programme in response to the EOC's Report was on schedule; (b) the design of accessible toilets should be further improved to be more user friendly; and (c) MTRC should consider providing more seats in train compartments and at station platform to meet the needs of passengers with physical disabilities or special needs, including the elderly, the disabled and users of baby strollers as well as installing wide escalators or travelators in new railway projects such as the Shatin to Central Link to allow wheelchair users to travel freely within the stations. 	

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		<p>Response of MTRC -</p> <p>(a) after discussion and consultation with persons with disabilities groups, MTRC had re-configured the train compartments to allow for multi-purpose areas to meet the special needs of passengers, such as more wheelchair users as well as to provide more space for passengers. In addition, additional seats at station platform had been provided in 2012 to meet the special needs of some passengers; and</p> <p>(b) as travelators would take up more space than escalators, it was technically difficult to pursue the proposal having regard to the physical constraints in most MTR stations. Currently, almost all MTR stations were equipped with at least one designated barrier-free access including lifts to connect station concourse area with the street level.</p> <p>Response of the Administration -</p> <p>(a) implementation of the retrofitting programme was in good progress and the Administration was confident that the works could be completed as scheduled. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide the Subcommittee with the quarterly progress report as at 31 March 2012 in early May 2012; and</p> <p>(b) the provision of accessible toilets should comply with the requirements set out in the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 ("DM 2008").</p> <p>Concern of EOC that to tie in with the impending launch of the public transport fare concession scheme to encourage the elderly and persons with disabilities to participate more in community activities, MTRC should deploy more frontline staff to assist passengers with physical abilities or special needs at MTR stations.</p> <p>MTRC's advice that apart from displaying posters at prominent location in MTR stations to remind users of the barrier-free facilities including passenger lifts in the stations, MTRC would recruit some 500 additional frontline staff at stations to provide better service to passengers.</p>	<p>Admin</p>

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005240 - 005636	Mr Alan LEONG Chairman MTRC Ms Emily LAU	<p>Mr Alan LEONG's enquiry about whether MTRC had any plan to install passenger lifts at the Lam Tin MTR station connecting the concourse area to street level.</p> <p>Response of MTRC that the Lam Tin MTR station was equipped with a barrier-free access at entrance C. As for the installation of lifts at entrances A and D, MTRC had considered several plans but were found technically not feasible as constrained by site conditions.</p>	
005637 - 010006	Chairman The Link Management Limited	<p>Views of the Chairman that The Link should conduct a comprehensive review of the barrier-free facilities in shopping centres under its management, and implement improvement works, particularly the refinement of heavy doors and the provision of ramps and lifts in its shopping malls during the renovation/conversion programme of the existing shopping malls.</p> <p>Response of The Link that it aimed to upgrade all of its barrier-free facilities to comply with the required standards by phases.</p>	
010007 - 010915	Ms Emily LAU Chairman MTRC The Link Management Limited Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>Enquiries of Ms Emily LAU -</p> <p>(a) the specific problems encountered in taking forward the installation of lifts at MTR stations at Tin Hau, Fortress Hill and Diamond Hill; and</p> <p>(b) given that more elders would visit shopping centres after the launch of the public transport fare concession scheme, what measures The Link would roll out to provide more user friendly environment for the elderly visitors.</p> <p>On (a) above, MTRC advice that the major problems for carrying out the lift installation projects at Tin Hau and Fortress Hill were site constraints. MTRC would continue to explore the feasible plans for the lift installation in due course. As for the lift installation works at the Diamond Hill station, it would be carried out during the extension projects of the Shatin to Central Link.</p> <p>Response of The Link to (b) above that in addition to its barrier-free access upgrading programme, it had launched the Asset Enhancement Initiatives to improve the shopping environment and services to better meet the needs of visitors and customers.</p> <p>Views of Ms Emily LAU that The Link and MTRC</p>	

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		<p>should consider providing wide escalators in the premises under their respective management to facilitate wheelchair users to travel more freely within the premises. She then sought EOC's view on the viability of her proposal in the local context.</p> <p>Advice of MTRC that Ms LAU's suggestion would be relayed to the design team of the Shatin to Central Link. In the meantime, MTRC had provided barrier-free access facilities in stations in compliance with the statutory requirements under DM 2008 and taking into account the safety of the large volume of passengers at times of emergency.</p> <p>Views of EOC that it could see the concern of private developers and property owners about the optimal use of limited space in respect of the installation of travelators in premises under its management, the Government should take the lead to incorporate the principles of Universal Design in the development of new government projects such as the Express Rail Link and the West Kowloon Development Project.</p> <p>The Chairman appealed to THB and MTRC to study the viability of installing travelators in MTR stations during the design stage of new railway projects such as the Shatin to Central Link and the Express Rail Link.</p>	
010916 - 011449	<p>Chairman Equal Opportunities Commission MTRC The Link Management Limited Hospital Authority Administration</p>	<p>Views of the Chairman that prior to the completion of the major retrofitting and enhancement works on barrier-free facilities, the Administration, The Link, MTRC and HA should roll out interim measures to facilitate users with physical limitations to access and use the facilities at the premises/venues under their respective management.</p> <p>EOC appealed to public organisations/private developers to strengthen the manpower to assist persons with physical limitations in accessing their premises and facilities, especially for public transport systems with a large volume of passengers like MTR.</p> <p>Advice of MTRC, The Link and HA as well as the Administration on their respective plans and measures in place to enhance assistance to persons with physical limitations in accessing premises and using facilities under their management.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, the Administration would provide the guidelines and training materials for Access Officers and venue staff after the</p>	<p>Admin</p>

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		meeting.	
<i>Agenda item II – Any other business</i>			
011450 - 011548	Chairman	Date and discussion items of the next meeting	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 June 2012