

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 sixth meeting
held on Tuesday, 15 May 2012, at 8:30 am
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 : Items I and II

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

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

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr LAM Woon-kwong
Chairperson

Item I

Mr WONG Chiu-hung
Senior Property Services Manager / Tuen Mun &
Yuen Long
Architectural Services Department

Miss Regina YEUNG Sau-ting
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

Item II

Miss Wendy CHUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary (Infrastructure and Research
Support)
Education Bureau

Mr Anchor TSE Lap-wa
Senior Maintenance Surveyor (School Premises Maintenance)
Education Bureau

Mr KWONG Ying-wai
Senior Education Officer (School Development / Central
Team)
Education Bureau

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. Progress of the Government's follow-up action on the Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1955/11-12(01) and CB(2)1967/11-12(01)]

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

2. Members noted the progress of the Government's consolidated retrofitting works programme in response to the Equal Opportunities Commission ("EOC")'s Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises as at 31 March 2012, as detailed in its paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1955/11-12(01)]. Members were advised on the respective enhancement works carried out by the Housing Department, Transport Department and the Architectural Services Department.

3. Noting that the progress of the consolidated retrofitting programme was satisfactory, members called on the Administration to ensure the timely completion of the retrofitting works as scheduled. Members also appealed to the Administration to fully implement the concept of universal design in the development of new government projects, such as the new cruise terminal project at Kai Tak and new railway projects.

4. Members also noted that EOC had provided a paper on the proposal to legislate for retrospective improvement to access in buildings built before 1997 and considered that the recommendations put forward by EOC should be incorporated in the report of the Subcommittee as far as practicable.

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5. The Administration was requested to -

- (a) extend the site visits to gauge views from the stakeholders on the improvement works under the consolidated retrofitting programme to the Subcommittee; and

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- (b) provide supplementary information on the provision of barrier-free facilities at the Public Transport Interchange in Sun Tin Wai Estate in Tai Wai.

(Post meeting note: On paragraph 5(a) above, a site visit was scheduled for 23 May 2012, but was subsequently cancelled due to the unavailability of members. The Administration had provided information relating to paragraph 5(b) above and was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2079/11-12(01) on 21 May 2012.)

II. Provision of barrier free access facilities in public sector schools
[LC Paper No. CB(2)1955/11-12(02)]

6. Members noted that of the 140 public sector schools without lifts, six schools were housed in single storey premises which did not require lifts, nine schools would complete installation of lifts under the annual major repairs programme from 2013 to 2015 and another six schools would have lifts upon completion of works on their redevelopment, reprovisioning and extension of school premises from 2012 to 2017. Of the remaining 119 public sector schools, 29 had technical difficulties and 30 had submitted application of which nine schools would proceed to have installation works. As a standing practice, around five schools were provided with lifts in each financial year.

7. Members generally considered that the lift installation works should be expedited to address the needs of staff, students and parents with physical limitations. Noting that the schools without lifts included some Government schools, members held the view that the Administration should take the initiative in drawing up an improvement works programme for these schools.

8. The Administration advised that it would strive to expedite the work progress for those schools which had already applied for lift installation under the annual major repairs programme and would continue to explore the feasibility upon receipt of such applications and process the requests in accordance with established criteria such as technical feasibility, urgency of their need for lifts, availability of alternative measures to solve the inaccessibility problem and availability of funding.

9. Noting that some schools might not be aware of the arrangement, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Subcommittee would send a letter to public sector schools without lifts drawing the school

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management's attention to the above arrangement.

(Post meeting note: A letter was sent to each of the public sector schools without lifts on 21 May 2012.)

III. Any other business

10. The Chairman advised that the Subcommittee had completed its work and would submit its report to the Panel on Welfare Services ("the Panel") in May 2012. As agreed at previous meetings, the Subcommittee would seek the support of the Panel and the agreement of the House Committee for priority allocation of a debate slot to the Chairman of the Subcommittee under House Rule 14A(h) for moving a motion on the Subcommittee's report at a Council meeting in this session.

11. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:35 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 August 2012

**Proceedings of the sixth meeting of the
Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities
on Tuesday, 15 May 2012, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 2A of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Progress of the Government's follow-up action on the Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises</i>			
000336 - 000506	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000507 - 001153	Administration Chairman	Briefings by the Administration on the progress report of the Government's follow-up action as at 31 March 2012 on the Equal Opportunities Commission ("EOC")'s Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises ("the EOC Report"). [LC Paper No. CB(2)1955/11-12(01)]	
001154 - 003327	Administration Chairman	Briefings by the Housing Department on the enhancement of barrier-free facilities at premises under its management including public rental housing estates, shopping centres and car parks, as well as the application of universal design principles since 2002 for newly built housing estates.	
003328 - 003512	Administration Chairman	Briefings by the Transport Department on the provision of barrier-free facilities at public transport interchange ("PTI"), footbridges, etc.	
003513 - 003843	Administration Chairman	Briefings by the Architectural Services Department on the progress of the retrofitting works and the arrangement of site visits to gauge the stakeholders on the improvement works in respect of barrier-free facilities in premises covered under the retrofitting programme. The Chairman's suggestion of extending the site visits for the stakeholders to the Subcommittee.	Admin
003844 - 004056	Equal Opportunities Commission Chairman	Advice of EOC - (a) positive feedback had been received from associations of persons with disabilities on the progress of Government's follow-up action on the provision of barrier-free facilities; and (b) the Administration's efforts in upgrading the hardware in regard to building a barrier-free community being encouraging and satisfactory.	

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004057 - 005600	Ms Emily LAU Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>Ms Emily LAU's appreciation of the efforts of government departments and EOC in the provision of barrier-free access and facilities in government premises and facilities. She urged the Administration to ensure the timely completion of the retrofitting programme as scheduled.</p> <p>Views of Ms Emily LAU and the Chairman that the Administration should review the provision of barrier-free facilities at the new cruise terminal project at Kai Tak and PTI in Sun Tin Wai Estate in Tai Wai. She called upon the Administration to adopt the universal design principles in the development of new government projects.</p> <p>Response of the Administration -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee had all along provided advice to the provision of barrier-free facilities at new government projects, including the new cruise terminal project. It would convey members' views to the relevant bureau for consideration; (b) the Administration had from time to time updated the best practices regarding the provision of barrier-free facilities at new buildings. The latest one was the "Universal accessibility – Best practice and Guideline" published in September 2011; and (c) information on the provision of barrier-free facilities at PTI in the Sun Tin Wai Estate would be provided after the meeting. <p>Views of EOC that instead of meeting the minimum requirements in the Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 ("DM 2008"), the Administration should adopt higher standards on the provision of barrier-free facilities for new government projects including the new cruise terminal project and new railway projects.</p>	Admin
005601 - 010227	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's concern that it was not uncommon that persons with disabilities could enter a building but not be able to access the facilities inside due to other physical and operational barriers, e.g. heavy doors. Managers of government premises should ensure venue staff were well versed with the relevant principles and knowledge to implement measures for building a barrier-free community.</p> <p>Advice of the Administration on its commitments to enhance the hardware and software for creating a</p>	

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		<p>barrier-free community, including the implementation of retrofitting programme, provision of training and workshops for staff, and appointment of Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers to be responsible for accessibility issues.</p> <p>EOC's advice that it would continue to provide training and organize education programmes to enhance awareness and understanding of accessibility issue.</p>	
010228 - 012204	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission Ms Emily LAU</p>	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's concern whether and how the Administration would revise the requirement on the provision of barrier-free facilities in government projects which had been tendered in accordance with the requirements under DM2008 but not yet completed, given that the Universal accessibility - Best practice and Guideline had been published in 2011.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that the latest DM was amended in 2008 after wide consultation and discussion with the stakeholders and the public. It had been the established policy for the Government to make reference to the Best Practice Section of DM, in which the standards were higher than the statutory requirements under DM 2008.</p> <p>Views of Ms Emily LAU that the Administration should fully implement the concept of universal design in the development of new government projects, such as the Shatin to Central Link.</p> <p>EOC's view that the Administration should take the lead to incorporate the universal design concept and principles in Government policies and new development projects.</p> <p>The Chairman concurred with EOC's view and suggested that the Administration should consider requiring the private sector to make reference to the latest guidelines on universal accessibility.</p>	
012205 - 012716	<p>Chairman Equal Opportunities Commission</p>	<p>EOC's elaboration on its paper on the proposal to legislate for retrospective improvement to access in buildings built before 1997 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1967/11-12(01)].</p> <p>Views of the Chairman that the recommendations put forward by EOC would be incorporated into the report of the Subcommittee.</p>	

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<i>Agenda item II – Provision of barrier free access facilities in public sector schools</i>			
012717 - 013806	Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>Briefings from the Administration on the provision of lifts at public sector schools [LC Paper No. CB(2)1955/11-12(02)].</p> <p>The Chairman's concern about the possibility of expediting the progress of lift installation works at public sector schools and adopting a more proactive approach by the Government in drawing up improvement plans for the schools concerned.</p> <p>Response of the Administration that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) some 30 schools had applied for the provision of lifts. As a standing practice, around five schools were provided with funding for the installation of lifts under the annual major repairs programme in each financial year; (b) individual schools would have lifts upon completion of works on their redeveloping, reprovisioning or extension of school premises; (c) the progress of installation works was subject to site constraints of individual schools and urgency of their need for lifts; and (d) upon receiving funding applications for annual major repairs programme, officers from the Education Bureau would visit schools to provide advice to the school management on the provision of barrier-free facilities. <p>Views of EOC that the Administration should take the initiative in drawing up an improvement works programme to enhance accessibility of the schools concerned, especially for Government schools.</p>	
013807 - 015454	Ms Emily LAU Chairman Administration	<p>Concerns of Ms Emily LAU –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the progress of lift installation in schools was too slow; (b) the plan to provide lifts to the two special schools listed in Appendix to the Administration's paper; and (c) whether the Administration would take the initiative in drawing up lift installation plans for Government schools. <p>Response of the Administration -</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(a) the lift installation works programme was subject to various factors including the technical feasibility and the priority of improvement works of individual schools. The Administration would strive to increasing the number of schools to be provided with lifts in each financial year;</p> <p>(b) Tung Wan Mok Law Shui Wah School would have lifts upon completion of works on reprovisioning of school premises; and Hui Chung Sing Memorial School was a special school for boys with behavioral problems, thereby there was no imminent need for lift installation for students with disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) Government schools without lifts could apply for funding under the annual major repairs programme.</p> <p>The Chairman's view that the Administration should incorporate universal design principles in policy making and invite individual schools to draw up lift installation plans.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that it had since 2010 highlighted to school management in the circular inviting applications for annual major repairs programme that individual schools might apply for improvement works for provision of lifts under the programme. District Education Officers had conducted visits to schools to understand the site constraints, and provide advice and assistance if necessary.</p> <p>Suggestions of the Chairman to send letters to public sector schools without lifts to draw their attention to the fact that they could apply funding for lift installation under the annual major repairs programme.</p> <p>Ms Emily LAU's concern about the availability of contractors and adequacy of the approved funding for lift installation works.</p>	
015455 - 020217	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>Views of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung that instead of providing lifts at schools in-situ, the Administration should consider reprovisioning of those schools which were found technically infeasible for lift installation.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that it would explore the feasibility upon receipt of applications for lift installation and process the requests in accordance with established criteria, such as technical</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
		feasibility, urgency of their need for lifts, availability of alternative measures to resolve the inaccessibility problem and availability of funding.	
020218 - 020402	Ms Emily LAU Chairman	Views of Ms Emily LAU that Members should follow up the Administration's work in the provision of barrier-free facilities and the incorporating the principles of universal design in the formulation and implementation of policies in the next LegCo term. Proposed wording of the motion to be moved by the Subcommittee Chairman at a Council meeting.	
<i>Agenda item III – Any other business</i>			
020403 - 020606	Chairman	Reporting the deliberations of the Subcommittee to the Panel on Welfare Services.	

Council Business Division 2
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 15 August 2012