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seen by the Administration)

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Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee

Minutes of the 7th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Kenneth LEUNG (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon YIU Si-wing
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kwong, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Hon TANG Ka-piu
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Member absent:

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Public Officers attending:

Ms Esther LEUNG, JP

Deputy Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury (Treasury)1

Mr Eddie MAK Tak-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1)
Ms Olivia NIP, JP	Deputy Head, Central Policy Unit
Mr Raymond FAN, JP	Secretary to the Commission on Strategic Development, Central Policy Unit
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Raymond LEE	Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau
Ms Winnie HO	Deputy Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Connie SZETO	Chief Council Secretary (1)4
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mr Hugo CHIU	Council Secretary (1)4
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)9

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The Chairman also drew members' attention to the information paper ECI(2012-13)13, which set out the latest changes in the directorate establishment approved since 2002.

EC(2012-13)23 and 23A	Proposed creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) as Assistant Secretary to the Commission on Strategic Development in Central Policy Unit under the Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary with immediate effect upon the approval of Finance Committee up to 30 June 2017
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2. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to create one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C as Assistant Secretary to the Commission on Strategic Development (CSD) in Central Policy Unit (CPU) under the Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration

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and the Financial Secretary with immediate effect upon the approval of Finance Committee (FC) up to 30 June 2017.

3. Mrs Regina IP, Chairman of the Panel on Public Service, declared that she was an appointed member of the new term CSD. She reported that the Panel on Public Service was consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 19 November 2012. Panel members in general supported the proposal while Hon Emily LAU expressed objection and considered that it was a waste of public money in sustaining the operation of CSD as evidenced by the futile outcome of a number of key policy initiatives which CSD had taken part in the formulation process. Some Panel members were concerned that since the Administration had set up a number of advisory bodies to discuss long-term issues of Hong Kong, CSD's work would overlap with the advisory bodies. The Administration responded that the meetings of CSD were convened by the Chief Executive (CE), and the discussions were conducted from a macro, long-term and strategic perspective, while other advisory bodies mainly focused on particular policy areas. Some Panel members also asked about the need for the proposed post given the planned reduction in the membership size of the new term CSD. The Administration advised that although the number of CSD members would be reduced, the amount of work to be undertaken by CSD would increase with the introduction of various measures to enhance CSD's effectiveness. The Administration also pointed out that the current proposal did not seek additional manpower to cope with the increase in the workload of the CSD Secretariat, but sought to reinstate the supernumerary post of Assistant Secretary to CSD, which had expired together with the tenure of the last term government.

Work of the Commission on Strategic Development and the need for its continued operation

4. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Ms Emily LAU said that they were opposed to the proposal. They considered that CSD only conducted superfluous discussions in the past and queried whether its work had brought concrete benefits to Hong Kong in justifying its continuous existence. Dr KWOK further pointed out that only few members of the public supported the work of CPU and CSD. He considered the continued operation of CSD a waste of public money. Ms LAU expressed dissatisfaction that there was no mention in EC(2012-13)23 about any plan for CSD to discuss topics relating to political development in Hong Kong in the near future. While it had been pointed out in EC(2012-13)23 that CSD Secretariat would strengthen its capability in conducting policy researches, Ms LAU queried whether this had implied insufficiencies in research work undertaken by CSD in the past.

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5. Secretary to the Commission on Strategic Development, Central Policy Unit (S to CSD) responded that the role of CSD was to provide a platform for discussion of long-term strategic issues from a macro perspective, though each term of CSD might have their own work focuses and priorities. In providing a platform for consideration of policy initiatives from a long-term, macro and strategic perspective, CSD had and would continue to play an important role in the initial stage of the policy formulation process. The current term CSD would place a much greater focus on strategic, macro and long-term issues related to the international competitiveness as well as social, economic and political developments of Hong Kong. CSD would also adjust its mode of operation. S to CSD stressed that the new term CSD would not merely hold discussions on issues but CSD Secretariat would conduct more direct and efficient communication with Bureaux or Departments (B/Ds) at the senior levels in enriching their understanding and consideration of the initiatives and policy suggestions raised by CSD members during meetings. In order to enhance public participation and input in the policy formulation process, CSD Secretariat would, after CSD meetings, prepare and issue reports summarizing the papers and CSD's discussion for public consumption and feedback as appropriate. Regarding the concrete benefits of CSD's work in the past, S to CSD remarked that a number of topics discussed at CSD meetings had been studied in great depth by CSD. Such topics included Hong Kong and regional cooperation in East Asia and Hong Kong's role in complementing the National Twelfth Five-Year Plan. For instance, upon the announcement of the National Eleventh Five-Year Plan by the Central Government, CPU and CSD had organized a large-scale forum and compiled a comprehensive report on related issues. On the new topics to be pursued by CSD, S to CSD said that CSD Secretariat was currently exploring with CSD members on the tentative discussion topics, which might include environmental protection and the relationship between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Regarding the issue of political development, S to CSD advised that a previous term CSD had established a dedicated committee on political development of Hong Kong. He stressed that CSD would conduct in-depth discussion on any specific policy issues/topics if considered necessary.

6. Given that the Administration had established a number of advisory bodies to study policies and subjects to be deliberated by CSD, like international competitiveness and economic development of Hong Kong and population and long-term housing policies, Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Mr Kenneth LEUNG questioned the need to sustain the work of CSD. Mr LEUNG said that he did not support the proposal. Noting from paragraph 5 of EC(2012-13)23 that CSD had only held a total of 18 meetings/focused discussions during the three-year period from 2009 to 2012, he opined that CSD's workload was not substantial. He queried the need to strengthen directorate support for CSD Secretariat and expressed concern that the holder

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of the proposed post might be left idle owing to the possible reduction in the workload of CSD. Mr LEUNG further sought information on the details of discussion papers, researches and reports released by CSD and asked whether such materials were available in the Internet.

7. Ms Starry LEE considered it reasonable for CE, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and the Financial Secretary (FS) to have an advisory body to assist them in the policy formulation process in devising long-term development strategies for Hong Kong. Noting the Administration's plan in the new term CSD to devote each meeting for in-depth and comprehensive discussion of a specific subject, Ms LEE enquired how consensus reached by CSD members on the subject would be followed up by CSD Secretariat. She further concurred that CSD should enhance transparency and increase public participation in its work.

8. On the respective roles of CSD and other Government advisory committees, S to CSD responded that CSD was different from other advisory committees. CSD was one of the two committees (the other one was the Economic Development Commission) convened by CE. CE, CS and FS directly participated in the discussions at CSD meetings. There would be no overlap between the work of CSD and other Government advisory bodies as each committee had its own terms of reference and focuses at work. CSD had been servicing as a platform for the Government and various sectors of the community to discuss long-term and strategic issues from a macro perspective. The value and benefits of CSD's work should not be merely assessed by the numbers of meetings held and research reports released. S to CSD added that CSD placed great emphasis on transparency in its work. For instance, the relevant meeting documents like discussion papers and records of deliberations and press releases were provided at CSD's website. To further enhance transparency and public involvement in CSD's work, after each CSD meeting in the new term CSD, CSD Secretariat would prepare and issue reports on the points raised for public consumption and feedback as appropriate at CSD's website. As for the workload of the proposed post, S to CSD pointed out that since creation of the post in 2006, the post holder had been assisting him in drafting papers and conducting internal policy researches as well as coordinating with external experts in research work. He said that the post holder would be fully deployed for duties in supporting CSD's work, and stressed that directorate support was necessary given the complexity of the tasks involved. It was expected that the workload of the post holder would be substantial as CSD Secretariat had to communicate with B/Ds to enrich their understanding and consideration of the initiatives and policy suggestions raised by members during meetings and engage public participation.

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9. Mr YIU Si-wing noted from paragraph 5 of EC(2012-13)23 that the last term CSD had discussed a wide range of topics relating to social and economic development of Hong Kong, and enquired about CSD's concrete work in taking forward policy initiatives in these areas and the relevant work progress.

10. S to CSD clarified that CSD, being an advisory body for CE, CS and FS, was not responsible for executing policies and measures. CSD would provide a platform for members to express their views from a long-term and macro perspective on relevant topics for consideration by CE, CS and FS in the policy formulation process. For instance, CSD would provide a useful discussion forum on relevant issues, such as Hong Kong's role in complementing the National Twelfth Five-Year Plan and regional topics like Hong Kong's role in the Mainland's development. B/Ds would also follow-up relevant discussion results of CSD as necessary in devising concrete measures in implementing the various policies. The role of Hong Kong in the National Twelfth Five-Year Plan had indeed been strengthened.

11. Mr YIU Si-wing said that while he supported the proposal, he opined that CSD should assume a more enhanced role than other Government advisory committees. It should not only serve as a discussion forum in formulating policies but should be actively involved in taking forward the relevant policies. He considered that there should be more elaboration on CSD's role in this respect in the job description of the proposed post.

12. Referring to item (e) of the job description of the proposed post in Enclosure 2 to EC(2012-13)23, Dr KWOK Ka-ki sought details on the work in preparing briefs and speeches for the Chairman of CSD (i.e. CE). S to CSD explained that such briefs and speeches referred to background information for reference of and scripts to be delivered by CSD Chairman during meetings.

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13. At the request of Ms Emily LAU and Dr KWOK Ka-ki, the Administration undertook to provide the following information:

- (a) subjects discussed and concrete results of the work of CSD in the past years; and
- (b) list of papers, reports, researches and analyses released by CSD in the past years, and means through which the public can access these materials.

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Possible change in the role of the Central Policy Unit

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14. Ms Emily LAU said that some Members had expressed grave concern about possible change in the role of CPU and were considering making amendments to the 2013-14 Draft Estimates to delete the appropriation for CPU. In this regard, Ms LAU said that she could not accept the recent comments made by Mr SHIU Sin-por, Head of CPU (H/CPU), that CPU was a "government's political tool". Deputy Head, Central Policy Unit (DH/CPU) responded that the role of CPU as an internal think-tank providing advice on policy matters to CE, CS and FS remained unchanged since its establishment in 1989. She stressed that while the work and research focuses of CPU might change in response to evolving needs of society, the primary role and functions of CPU as a government unit in providing advisory service to help in the policy formulation process through conducting policy researches, keeping track of public opinions and attaining a good grasp of community sentiments remained the same. DH/CPU also pointed out that at the meeting of the Panel on Public Service on 19 November 2012, H/CPU had clarified his remarks made at an earlier television interview, i.e. that CPU was part of the Government providing service to the public and the Administration and was therefore a "government tool". Ms LAU said that CPU should clarify the previous remark made by H/CPU in this regard. The Administration took note of Ms LAU's request.

Background of the non-official members of the Commission on Strategic Development

15. Noting that CSD would look into long-term strategic issues on Hong Kong's development as well as regional and international development and that the information technology (IT) sector was among the fastest growing sectors in the global economy, Mrs Regina IP was concerned that in the new term CSD, there did not appear to be any non-official members from the IT sector.

16. S to CSD responded that in determining the CSD membership, factors including the number of CSD members and the efficiency of meetings, had to be taken into account. The membership size of CSD had been reduced from over 100 in a previous term to some 60 in the last term and 31 in the current term. The reduced membership size would contribute to increased interactions among members and facilitate making arrangements for meetings. On the membership of CSD, S to CSD stressed the importance of having a complementary list and that non-official members had been appointed with due regard to their respective personal background rather than the companies they worked for. He added that some of the non-official members were involved in IT sector notwithstanding that they were not directly working in IT

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companies. Mrs IP suggested that the Administration and CSD should adopt a forward-looking approach and include non-official members who were experts in the IT sector to keep the Commission abreast of latest development in the sector. S to CSD took note of Mrs IP's views.

17. Dr KWOK Ka-ki noted that the majority of the newly appointed members of CSD were supporters of the incumbent CE, and expressed concern that CSD membership was a reward given by CE to his supporters. Ms Emily LAU was dissatisfied that in announcing the membership list of the new term CSD, the Administration had only disclosed the name of non-official members without providing information on their background. Both Ms LAU and Dr KWOK requested the Administration to provide information on the occupation and affiliation with political parties of each non-official member. Dr KWOK was of the view that the Administration should give information on whether the non-official members were among those who had nominated the incumbent CE in the Fourth Term Chief Executive Election or belonged to his electioneering team.

18. S to CSD said that the background information of the non-official members of the current term CSD was not released because the members were appointed on an individual basis. Of the 31 non-official members, seven were Legislative Council (LegCo) Members and most of the members were public figures. The Administration would provide information on the occupation and political affiliation (if available) of the non-official members after the meeting.

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19. Ms Emily LAU further requested the Administration to provide information on the occupation and affiliation with political parties, if applicable, of each non-official member appointed to Government committees/bodies/boards in discussion/information papers submitted to committees of LegCo in the future. She said that she had made the same request to the Administration on a number of occasions previously. Ms LAU stressed that such information would be essential for Members in understanding the background of non-official members appointed to Government boards and committees and might shed light on the reasons for the appointments. She urged the Administration to take note of her request and take follow-up action accordingly.

20. The item was voted on. Ms Emily LAU claimed a division. Of the 14 members present, 10 voted for the item and 3 voted against it. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee agreed to recommend the item to FC for approval. Ms LAU requested that the item be voted on separately at the FC meeting to be held on 3 May 2013. The voting results of individual members were as follows -

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For

Ms Starry LEE
Mrs Regina IP
Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr Martin LIAO
Mr TANG Ka-piu
(10 members)

Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mr Steven HO
Mr KWOK Wai-keung
Mr POON Siu-ping
Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan

Against

Ms Emily LAU
Dr KWOK Ka-ki
(3 members)

Mr Kenneth LEUNG

EC(2012-13)24 Proposed retention of two supernumerary posts of one Principal Government Town Planner (D3) and one Government Architect (D2) in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau for a period of four years with effect from 1 July 2013 to continue taking forward the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East through the established Energizing Kowloon East Office

21. The Chairman said that the Administration's proposal was to retain two supernumerary posts of one Principal Government Town Planner and one Government Architect in the Works Branch of the Development Bureau for a period of four years with effect from 1 July 2013 to continue taking forward the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East (EKE) through the established Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO).

22. The Chairman advised that the Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal at its meeting on 7 January 2013. Panel members generally supported the continuous operation of EKEO and expressed the following views during the discussion:

- (a) EKEO should promptly implement measures under the EKE initiative and set out the timetables for the major tasks to facilitate the public in understanding the work progress.
- (b) In promoting the transformation of Kowloon East (KE) into a new Central Business District (CBD), EKEO should not push for changes and redevelopment and must respect the industrial heritage and cultural development of KE and listen to the

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views of the local community.

- (c) The Administration should proactively approach owners and enterprises of the old industrial buildings in KE, including individuals/groups engaging in creative industries, in order to understand the impact of the transformation on them and assist them to continue operating in KE.
- (d) The Administration should promptly resolve the problem of vehicle-pedestrian conflicts in the region and utilize footbridge network to enhance pedestrian connectivity.

The Chairman said that the Administration had responded to Panel members' views during the meeting and provided supplementary information after the meeting on assistance provided to the operators of cultural and creative workshops in the region for helping them to continue their operation.

Assistance offered to individuals/groups engaging in creative work in Kowloon East

23. Dr KWOK Ka-ki remarked that many individuals/groups currently engaging in cultural and creative work in industrial buildings in KE were forced to move out because of redevelopment of the buildings into offices and hotels and these workshops could not afford the high rentals of the new premises. Noting that the land uses of some government sites in KE had yet to be re-zoned, Dr KWOK enquired whether the Administration would consider reserving certain unplanned sites for use by the affected individuals/groups to enable them to continue operating in the district.

24. Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (PS(W)) said that the Administration was aware of the concerns expressed by the creative and cultural workshops operating in KE and reaffirmed the Administration's support for these workshops in taking forward the initiative of EKE. He remarked that in revitalizing the two ex-industrial areas of Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay, the Administration needed to take care of the interests of various stakeholders, including the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) which employed ten or less employees and the creative and cultural workshops operating in the two districts. According to a survey conducted by the Planning Department in 2011, some 80% of the business establishments in the two areas belonged to SMEs and around 500 establishments were cultural and creative workshops. The Administration would conduct a new survey in 2013 to up-date the information on these establishments. PS(W) advised that the Administration would assist these creative and cultural workshops through various fronts, including exploring opportunities to release the potential of

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unused public areas, such as the vacant area underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass. The site called Fly the Flyover 01 with an area of about 3 000 square meters underneath the Kwun Tong Bypass had been opened for arts/cultural uses. The other two sites were under consideration for such purpose. Moreover, the Development Bureau would continue to collaborate with other B/Ds in identifying spaces in the existing and new buildings in KE, namely spaces in the two Action Areas, for use by creative and cultural workshops. In response to Dr KWOK Ka-ki's enquiry about the amount of spaces to be reserved for this purpose, PS(W) remarked that the relevant details would be worked out having regard to the findings of the new survey to be conducted in 2013.

Coverage of the initiative of Energizing Kowloon East

25. Ms Starry LEE declared that she was a Kowloon City District Council Member and a resident of Kowloon City. Ms LEE said that while she supported the current staffing proposal, she pointed out that the residents of Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan had expressed disappointment that the two districts were not included in the EKE initiative given their proximity to the new Kai Tak Development (KTD) area. In this connection, she said that the Kowloon City District Council had passed a motion in 2012 requesting the Development Bureau to include Kowloon City, particularly the old districts of Lung Shing, To Kwa Wan and Hung Hom, in the EKE initiative. As some old industrial buildings in To Kwa Wan were also undergoing redevelopment, Ms LEE enquired whether the relevant measures of the EKE initiative would be applied to the neighboring regions and whether the planned Environmentally Friendly Linkage System (EFLS) would be extended to Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan. Ms LEE remarked that she had raised such concerns in various occasions before but was disappointed that they were not addressed in EC(2012-13)24.

26. PS(W) explained that the EKE initiative covered only Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong because transformation of these two old industrial districts had started a decade ago when the market took the initiative to redevelop industrial buildings in the districts into office buildings with retail facilities. While Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan were not included under the EKE initiative, the EKE initiative would have synergy effect in promoting transformation of these neighboring districts. PS(W) further explained that the progress of EFLS was not mentioned in EC(2012-13)24 as it was not related to the staffing proposal under discussion. He added that the stage one public engagement on EFLS had completed and divergent views had been received, including whether EFLS should be pursued, the alignments if the project was to be taken forward, possible impact on the operation of the existing Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS) etc. These issues would be

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further explored in the second stage public engagement exercise of EFLS which would commence in the second quarter of 2013.

27. Ms Starry LEE re-iterated that the redevelopment of a number of industrial buildings in To Kwa Wan had commenced and considered that the relevant projects/measures under the EKE initiative should be extended to cover Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan. She stressed that the EKE initiative should not be confined to Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong and the new KTD area given that transformation of KE should be considered in a more comprehensive manner. Referring to item 5 of the job description in Enclosure 4 of EC(2012-13)24, which stated that the duties of the Head of EKEO included the central coordination and monitoring role in the strategic issues pertaining to the EKE initiative, Ms LEE enquired how the Administration could ensure the needs of the neighboring regions would not be neglected. The Chairman concurred with Ms LEE's views on the need to take care of the interests of the neighboring regions in taking forward the EKE initiative.

28. Head of Energizing Kowloon East Office, Development Bureau (H/EKEO) clarified that EC(2012-13)24 set out the duties of EKEO. EKEO would tap the opportunities brought by the new KTD area to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong into a new CBD. H/EKEO added that other B/Ds might make reference to the experience of EKE in tackling relevant issues like the transformation of industrial buildings in To Kwa Wan. EKEO would maintain regular contact with the relevant B/Ds in the sharing of experience.

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29. Ms Starry LEE urged the Administration to give an undertaking to take care of the needs of Kowloon City, such as to ensure that improvement in its connectivity with the three districts of KE would be incorporated in the strategic planning of the EKE initiative. The Chairman said that members might consider pursuing the implementation details of the EKE initiative in the relevant Panel. PS(W) responded that although the duty of EKEO was confined to the new KTD area, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong, it would co-ordinate with the Kai Tak Office (KTO) and the relevant B/Ds like the Planning Department on measures affecting the neighboring regions of KE. For instance, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) was implementing a project in Kwun Tong. Although the project area was outside KE, EKEO would also co-ordinate with URA. Ms LEE requested the Administration to provide details of interface between EKEO and KTO, and how the two offices would coordinate efforts of and collaborate with other B/Ds on programmes or projects which straddle areas not covered by the KE initiative.

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Implementation of the Energizing Kowloon East initiative

30. Mr POON Siu-ping expressed support for the staffing proposal in principle. He sought information from the Administration on the implementation timetables for the various projects under the EKE initiative and details of the public consultation work. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan also enquired about the timetables and progress of various projects under the themes of Connectivity, Branding, Design and Diversity (CDB2) in transforming KE into a new vibrant business district.

31. PS(W) responded that EKEO had published the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) version 2.0 for KE in June 2012, which set out ten main tasks and their preliminary timetables. It was anticipated that during the four-year period of EKEO, the majority of the design and investigation works for the various projects would be completed and the implementation timetables could be confirmed. The staffing of EKEO would also be reviewed near the expiry of the four-year period. H/EKEO explained the implementation details of CDB2 as follows:

- (a) Connectivity would be implemented by improving the transport system of the districts, such as the introduction of the EFLS, the commissioning of a consultancy study on improving the pedestrian environment at the Kowloon Bay Business Area (KBBA) for enhanced accessibility from Kowloon Bay Mass Transit Railway Station to KBBA and further to the waterfront of Kai Tak area, and the study on enhancing the pedestrian connectivity in Kwun Tong;
- (b) Branding would be implemented by a number of "place-making" projects aiming at changing the public impression of KE and facilitating the transformation of KE into a commercial district;
- (c) Design would be implemented by local transformation incorporating good designs and green elements; and
- (d) Diversity would be implemented by listening to the views and catering for the needs of various kinds of stakeholders in the region.

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32. In response to Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry, PS(W) advised that apart from implementing certain small and medium projects, KEKO would carry out the preparatory and advanced engineering work for the major tasks in transforming EKE during the coming four years. At the request of

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Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan, PS(W) undertook to provide details on the implementation timetables of the ten main tasks identified in the CMP of KE.

33. While agreeing that the EKE initiative was a complex and long-term project, Mr YIU Si-wing expressed concerned that transforming KE into another CBD would further aggravate the serious traffic congestion problem in the district, as well as the nearby districts. He stressed the need for the Administration to undertake transport planning in a holistic manner for both land and sea transport links for EKE and the neighboring districts as well as cross-boundary traffic with the Mainland, including the transport links with the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Referring to complaints by some local residents on specific projects under the EKE initiative, Mr YIU also expressed concern about delay in the implementation of some projects and enquired how EKEO would carry out inter-departmental and inter-district coordination in facilitating smooth planning and implementation of the EKE initiative.

34. PS(W) responded that CBD2 covered the improvement of intra- and inter-district transportation of KE. The latter would be achieved by the introduction of EFLS while the former would be achieved by enhancing the existing footbridge network, building a pedestrian-friendly environment and improving the transport facilities. For instance, the Transport Department had been engaged to improve some forty signalized traffic junctions in KE. Regarding the issue of cross-boundary traffic with the Mainland, PS(W) said that it would be tackled by strengthening the connection of KE with the relevant strategic routes such as Route 6 and the existing railway system.

35. Mr WONG Kwok-kin indicted support for the EKE initiative. Pointing out that a number of stakeholders had expressed concern about EFLS and the arrangement for relocating KTTS, Mr WONG expressed concern whether the Administration had conducted adequate consultation with the local community and the relevant stakeholders on these projects. PS(W) said that as EKEO would only be responsible for the strategic planning of KE, details of EFLS and the arrangements for relocation of KTTS were not mentioned in EC(2012-13)24. The actual implementation work for EFLS was under the purview of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). As regards the proposed arrangement for KTTS, they would be set out in the second stage public engagement on EFLS. CEDD had been maintaining regular dialogue with the users of KTTS in consulting their views.

36. Mr WONG Kwok-kin remarked that he had recently received a complaint from users of KTTS about the lack of consultation on the relocation arrangements for the typhoon shelter. Mr WONG stressed the need for the Administration to take care of the interests of users and the importance of

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conducting thorough consultation with the relevant stakeholders in working out the alternative sites of the new typhoon shelter and the relocation arrangements as early as possible. The Chairman concurred that the issue should be handled properly. PS(W) took note of the concern and invited Mr WONG Kwok-kin to relay the complaint letter to the Administration for follow-up as appropriate.

37. The item was voted on. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should recommend the item to FC for approval. No members requested for separate voting for the item at the FC meeting to be held on 3 May 2013.

38. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:04 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 April 2013