

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)380/12-13
(These minutes have been cleared
with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PS/2/12/1

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Air, Noise and Light Pollution

Minutes of meeting
held on Wednesday, 12 December 2012, at 10:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen
- Members absent** : Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
- Clerk in attendance** : Ms Miranda HON
Chief Council Secretary (1)1
- Staff in attendance** : Miss Lilian MOK
Council Secretary (1)1
- Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)1

Action

I. Election of Chairman (and Deputy Chairman)

Ms Cyd HO, the member who had the highest precedence among members of the Subcommittee present at the meeting, presided at the election of Chairman of the Subcommittee. Ms HO invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Subcommittee.

2. Mr Dennis KWOK nominated Ms Cyd HO, and the nomination was seconded by Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr KWOK Wai-keung. Ms Cyd HO accepted the nomination.

3. There being no other nominations, Ms Cyd HO was declared Chairman of the Subcommittee.

4. Members decided that it was not necessary to elect a Deputy Chairman.

II. Schedule of meetings and items for discussion

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

6. Members noted the proposed meeting schedule of the Subcommittee tabled at the meeting. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that in anticipation of the heavy workload of the Secretariat and members towards the second half of the current legislative session when bills relating to environmental protection were introduced into the Legislative Council for scrutiny, the Subcommittee would hold meetings on a bi-weekly basis in order to complete its work within 12 months. Apart from the proposed meeting dates, additional meetings would be convened as and when necessary on Friday afternoons after meetings of the House Committee if no Finance Committee meeting was scheduled thereafter.

7. Members suggested the following items for discussion by the Subcommittee in the 2012-2013 session –

- (a) impacts of air, noise and light pollution on public health and the associated medical costs;
- (b) current legislation and administrative measures on the control of air, noise and light pollution and the associated public expenditure; and
- (c) noise pollution and mitigation measures.

Action

8. Members also agreed that pollution cases at district level which caused serious nuisances to residents in the localities could serve as case study examples to facilitate deliberation of the Subcommittee on different pollution problems.

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, Dr Kenneth CHAN proposed that the noise impact of construction works for transport infrastructure such as railway depots and MTR construction sites should be included for discussion by the Subcommittee. Furthermore, the Subcommittee should be briefed on the operation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) and ways for improvement.)

III. Any other business

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:17 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 January 2013

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Air, Noise and Light Pollution

**Proceedings of the meeting
on Wednesday, 12 December 2012, at 10:00 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda Item I - Election of Chairman (and Deputy Chairman)</i>			
000118 - 000239	Ms Cyd HO Mr CHAN Han-pan Dr Kenneth CHAN Mr KWOK Wai-keung Mr Dennis KWOK Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr Christopher CHUNG Mr Tony TSE	Election of Chairman Ms Cyd HO was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.	
<i>Agenda Item II - Schedule of meetings and items for discussion</i>			
000240 - 000543	Chairman	Opening remarks Members noted the proposed meeting schedule of the Subcommittee tabled at the meeting. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that in anticipation of the heavy workload of the Secretariat and members towards the second half of the current legislative session when bills relating to environmental protection were introduced into the Legislative Council for scrutiny, the Subcommittee would hold meetings on a bi-weekly basis in order to complete its work within 12 months. The Chairman further advised that the Subcommittee should focus its work on – (a) reviewing the current legislation and administrative measures on the control of air, noise and light pollution; (b) examining the impacts of air, noise and light pollution on public health and the possible association of these kinds of pollution with various illnesses and diseases, e.g. mental illness, commonly found in modern cities;	Clerk to follow up on subsequent meeting arrangements

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(c) examining pollution cases at district level which caused serious nuisances to residents in the localities; and</p> <p>(d) making recommendations on improvement measures for consideration of the Administration as and when necessary.</p>	
000544 - 000719	Chairman Mr Christopher CHUNG	Mr Christopher CHUNG suggested that the Subcommittee might consider holding meetings on Friday afternoons. The Chairman agreed that apart from the proposed meeting dates tabled at the meeting, additional meetings would be convened as and when necessary on Friday afternoons after meetings of the House Committee if no Finance Committee meeting was scheduled thereafter.	Clerk to follow up on subsequent meeting arrangements
000720 - 001248	Chairman Mr CHAN Han-pan	<p>On the issues to be examined by the Subcommittee, Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern about the noise impacts of existing roads/flyovers, air traffic operation and logistics facilities on residents in the localities. He proposed that the Subcommittee should study the following specific cases of noise pollution and review the existing mitigation measures taken by the Administration to address the cases –</p> <p>(a) aircraft noise and its impacts on the residents in Ma Wan;</p> <p>(b) the noise nuisance caused by the flyover at Texaco Road in Tsuen Wan; and</p> <p>(c) with the development of the logistics industry in Tsing Yi, there were an increasing number of logistics sites in the area which created noise nuisance affecting people living in the vicinity, such as the residents of Rambler Crest. This case could illustrate the need for the Administration to install noise barriers along roads affected by the operation of the logistics industry.</p> <p>On the subject of aircraft noise, the</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>Chairman drew members' attention that policy issues concerning air transport facilities and flight paths were under the purview of the Panel on Economic Development. Nevertheless, the Subcommittee could focus its deliberations on related noise abatement measures taken by the Administration.</p>	
001249 - 001414	<p>Chairman Dr Elizabeth QUAT Mr Christopher CHUNG</p>	<p>Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concern about the noise nuisance caused by existing highways/flyovers running outside residential developments, particularly the flyover at Wan Po Road in Tseung Kwan O. She requested that the matter be discussed by the Subcommittee.</p> <p>Mr Christopher CHUNG also suggested that the impact of noise arising from railway operation should be included for discussion by the Subcommittee. As regards aircraft noise, Mr CHUNG was of the view that the Subcommittee could discuss related mitigation measures instead of flight paths which might fall outside the Subcommittee's terms of reference.</p>	
001415 - 001637	<p>Chairman Mr Dennis KWOK</p>	<p>Mr Dennis KWOK proposed that the Subcommittee might consider inviting academics from the School of Public Health of The University of Hong Kong to give views on the impact of air pollution on public health.</p> <p>Apart from the academics, the Chairman further proposed to invite representatives of the Environment Bureau, the Food and Health Bureau and the Hospital Authority to attend the next two meetings of the Subcommittee to brief members on the impacts of air, noise and light pollution on public health and the associated medical costs. She suggested that the academics should be invited to provide relevant research reports on the association of air pollution with respiratory diseases for members' reference. She also requested the Administration to provide information on the current legislation on the control of</p>	<p>Clerk to follow up on invitation</p>

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		air, noise and light pollution and the associated public expenditure. Members were invited to inform the Secretariat in writing after the meeting if they wished to put forth any item for discussion by the Subcommittee in the 2012-2013 session.	Clerk to prepare a list of proposed items for discussion

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8 January 2013