

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1976/13-14
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

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Panel on Commerce and Industry

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 17 June 2014, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

Members absent : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP
Hon Dennis KWOK
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

Public officers attending : Agenda item IV

Miss Janet WONG, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Dr Cecilia PANG
Biotechnology Director
Innovation and Technology Commission

Mr Kesson LEE
Secretary-General (Testing and Certification)
Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification

Mr Terence MAN
Senior Pharmacist (Traditional Chinese Medicine)
Department of Health

Agenda item V

Miss Janet WONG, JP
Commissioner for Innovation and Technology

Mr Johann WONG, JP
Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology

Mr Frank TSANG
Assistant Commissioner for Innovation and
Technology (Funding Schemes)

**Attendance by
invitation**

: Agenda Item V

Hong Kong Automotive Parts and Accessory
Systems R&D Centre

Dr Lawrence CHEUNG
General Manager

Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and
Apparel

Mr Edwin KEH
Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology
Research Institute

Dr CHEUNG Nim-kwan
Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply
Chain Management Enabling Technologies

Mr Simon WONG
Chief Executive Officer

Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Limited

Mr Daniel YU
Chief Executive Officer

Clerk in attendance : Ms Annette LAM
Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Staff in attendance : Ms Connie HO
Senior Council Secretary (1)3

Miss Rita YUNG
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms May LEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)3

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1593/13-14 -- Minutes of meeting held on
15 April 2014)

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that no paper had been issued since the last meeting held on 20 May 2014.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(01) -- List of outstanding items
for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(02) -- List of follow-up actions)

3. Members noted that the next regular Panel meeting would be held on 15 July 2014 at 2:30 pm to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration:

(a) Trade relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong; and

- (b) Implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement

IV. Research and development of Chinese medicines

(LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(03) -- Administration's paper on research and development of Chinese medicines

LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(04) -- Paper on research and development of Chinese medicines prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

Presentation by the Administration

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology ("CIT") gave a video presentation on Good Manufacturing Practice ("GMP") for proprietary Chinese medicines ("pCm") to enhance members' understanding on the relevant requirements. CIT then highlighted the Administration's work in supporting the industry to move towards GMP-compliant, including the free-of-charge Chinese medicines ("CM") basic GMP training conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology ("HKIB") to help local pCm manufacturers get prepared for the future implementation of mandatory GMP requirements.

5. On enhancing GMP hardware support for pCm manufacturers, CIT said that the HKIB had submitted a proposal requesting the Innovation and Technology Fund ("ITF") and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust ("HKJCCT") to provide funding support of \$24.81 million and \$9 million respectively to set up a GMP product development and technical support platform for traditional oral solid pCm products. The project was expected to bring direct benefits and important support to the local CM industry, particularly small and medium enterprises ("SMEs"), by facilitating them to manufacture high quality and safe pCm products, as well as strengthening their capability to meet the mandatory GMP requirements in future.

6. CIT said that the HKJCCT had approved a funding support of \$10.8 million to cover the renovation cost of the project on the condition that the costs of manpower, equipment, operation and promotion activities would be covered by ITF. Subject to members' support, the Administration would commit a funding amount in the region of about \$23 million from ITF to support the project. CIT added that as the funding amount requested from

ITF for the project did not exceed \$30 million and was within the delegated approval authority of ITC, approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council was not required.

7. Members noted that details of other CM-related work including strengthening of research and development, promoting testing and certification, facilitating collaboration among stakeholders, and promoting the work of the Committee on Research and Development of Chinese Medicines to the industry and the community were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(03)).

Discussion

Promoting testing and certification of Chinese medicines

8. Noting that CM was one of the specific trades considered to have good potentials for generating demand for using testing and certification services, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan enquired about the Administration's efforts and achievements in promoting the development of testing and certification of CM. Mr CHUNG also asked whether the testing laboratories accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service ("HKAS") would perform efficacy testing of CM to ascertain the efficacy of Chinese Materia Medica ("CMM").

9. CIT and Secretary-General (Testing and Certification), Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification ("SG/HKCTC") advised that the HKCTC had been promoting the development of CM testing and certification and the major initiatives in this regard included the introduction of inter-laboratory comparison programmes and new accreditation services for CM testing laboratories based on Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards ("HKCMMS"). The first inter-laboratory comparison exercise on chemical testing for 10 CMM based on the HKCMMS was conducted in 2012 with participation of 12 laboratories. The participating laboratories could assess their CM testing capability by comparing their testing results with other laboratories through this exercise. The second inter-laboratory comparison exercise for testing laboratories, which covered a total of 12 CMM, had just begun with the participation of 15 local testing laboratories.

10. On accreditation of CM testing laboratories, CIT advised that the HKAS under the Innovation and Technology Commission ("ITC") had launched new accreditation services to cover authentication and testing of CM based on HKCMMS since March 2011. As of March 2014, 12 laboratories had been accredited for testing heavy metals, pesticide residues and microbial contents of CM. SG/HKCTC added that efficacy of CMM was not included in the scope of testing services provided by testing laboratories accredited by HKAS for CM testing.

11. CIT further reported that the Product Certification Scheme for Chinese Materia Medica ("PCSCMM"), a voluntary programme certifying the CM traders capability to provide products in compliance with the standard requirements, was being developed by the Hong Kong Productivity Council to provide traders with an effective means of attracting consumers through enhanced quality assurance. The PCSCMM was expected to be rolled out within 2014.

12. In response to Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's enquiry on the recognition of CM testing results issued by HKAS-accredited Hong Kong testing organizations in the Mainland and overseas, SG/HKCTC advised that through participation in multilateral mutual recognition arrangements, assessment results issued by HKAS-accredited organizations were recognized by over 85 accreditation bodies in more than 65 economies.

Support for pCm manufacturers to comply with GMP requirements

13. Noting that only 11 pCm manufacturers, out of some 290 licensed manufacturers in Hong Kong, had been awarded the GMP Certificates, the Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the GMP hardware support rendered to pCm manufacturers who were not yet GMP-ready. In this connection, Dr CHIANG enquired about the number of pCm manufacturers procuring the contract manufacturing services from HKIB as well as the number of products involved. Biotechnology Director, ITC ("BD/ITC") advised that at present, 40 pCm manufacturers had engaged the HKIB for pCm production under contract manufacturing arrangement. She undertook to furnish the Panel with information on the number of pCm products produced by HKIB under the contract manufacturing services after the meeting.

Admin

14. Pointing out that most of the pCm manufacturers were SMEs that lacked the requisite capital and technical expertise to build and operate GMP facilities, Mr WONG Ting-kwong said that the GMP requirements should not be made mandatory. He opined that the adoption of GMP standards should be voluntary rather than a mandatory requirement so as to allow room for the survival of SMEs whose valuable traditional prescriptions with proven efficacy could be preserved. The Chairman expressed a similar view, adding that some pCm manufacturers, which were micro-enterprises employing one to two staff members only, might be squeezed out from the pCm manufacturing industry despite the proven efficacy of their traditional formula should GMP requirements become mandatory.

15. In response, CIT advised that at present, the GMP requirement for pCm was not mandatory in Hong Kong. While the 2010-2011 Policy Address had announced that a timetable for mandatory compliance with GMP

would be worked out to ensure safety of pCm as well as to keep up with the international trends of developing GMP for medicines, there was currently no specific implementation timetable. The Administration would continue to listen to the views of the industry before deciding on the way forward while providing the necessary support and assistance to pCm manufacturers to move towards GMP-compliant.

16. Mr WONG Ting-kwong considered that while the proposed expansion of the HKIB's GMP production facilities could serve the short-term needs of the industry, the Administration should consider encouraging more public organizations to set up GMP hardware facilities to bring in competition among service providers and provide more choices for SME pCm manufacturers in procuring contract manufacturing services. CIT said that from the pCm manufacturers' participation in the briefing sessions organized by the Department of Health ("DH") and in the GMP training conducted by the HKIB, it was noted that about 100 pCm manufacturers, out of the some 290 licensed pCm manufacturers, had been actively exploring how to refine and enhance their production process to become GMP-compliant. The Administration would provide tailor-made support and assistance to these pCm manufacturers to enable them to comply with the GMP requirements and would closely monitor the industry demand for GMP manufacturing service when considering whether more GMP facilities operated by non-profit making operators should be set up.

17. The Chairman enquired about the reason for not directly adopting the Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention and Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme ("PIC/S") GMP standard at the outset so that the pCm manufacturers needed not make further investment for compliance with the PIC/S GMP standard upon satisfying the current GMP requirements for pCm manufacturing. The Senior Pharmacist (Traditional Chinese Medicine) 1, Department of Health ("SP(TCM)1/DH") explained that with reference to the relevant GMP guidelines published by the World Health Organization and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong, the Chinese Medicines Board ("CMB") under the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong had issued the "Hong Kong GMP Guidelines for Proprietary Chinese Medicines" in 2003. Up till now, 11 pCm manufacturers had been awarded the GMP Certificates. Having taken reference of the development of GMP in other countries and regions, the CMB recommended in 2011 the adoption of the PIC/S GMP standard, which was the most commonly adopted international standard, as a licensing requirement for local pCm manufacturers. The Administration would decide on the way forward upon soliciting the views of the pCm manufacturing industry on the proposed adoption of PIC/S GMP standard as a licensing requirement for local pCm manufacturers.

Providing exemption for pCm registration under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance

18. The Deputy Chairman noted that the number of overseas pCm manufacturers participating in the annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Modernization of Chinese Medicine and Health Products, a well-recognized foremost platform for CM and health products, had declined in the past few years as exhibitors were not allowed to sell their pCm products during the exhibition unless the products concerned were already registered in Hong Kong. She said that due to the stringent registration requirements of pCm in Hong Kong, as well as the substantial cost and the lengthy process involved in the registration of a new pCm product, pCm manufacturers were reluctant to proceed with the necessary registration prior to ascertaining the market receptiveness of their products. Relaying the views of some industry stakeholders, she said that the existing pCm registration requirements had impeded the development of new pCm products by local pCm manufacturers and frustrated the introduction of new pCm products by overseas pCm manufacturers into the local market, thereby undermining the development of the CM industry. In this connection, Dr CHIANG called upon the Administration to appropriately relax the registration requirements of pCm in Hong Kong and to allow the sale of a small quantity of non-registered pCm as tester. Sharing Dr CHIANG's view, the Chairman suggested that consideration be given to provide a small volume exemption for non-registered pCm, similar to the small volume exemption scheme under the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

19. SP(TCM)1/DH advised that same as the practice adopted in other countries, a medicinal product must be registered locally prior to being sold in the market so as to safeguard public health and ensure safety in using the product. CIT added that all kinds of pCm must be registered by the CMB under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) before they could be imported, possessed or sold in Hong Kong. She undertook to convey members' views to the Food and Health Bureau and the DH that were responsible for regulatory matters relating to pCm under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance.

Enhancing intellectual property right protection for traditional CM

20. Mr Martin LIAO remarked that the existing intellectual property ("IP") laws in Hong Kong in respect of trademarks and patents did not offer enough legal protection for traditional CM as well as new medicinal products evolved from traditional CM. The CM industry was therefore reluctant to invest in R&D and in manufacturing pCm. BD/ITC said that as advised by the Intellectual Property Department, some CM companies might prefer to protect the IP of their products by trade secrets rather than patent registration

to avoid disclosure of the relevant prescriptions. Pointing out that the formula of a CM product sold in the market could be easily deciphered by reverse engineering in the light of technology advancement, Mr LIAO considered IP protection of traditional CM by way of trade secrets inadequate. Calling for a sound IP protection regime for traditional CM to encourage R&D investment, Mr LIAO advised the Administration to explore with the Mainland Government IP protection issues in relation to CM by way of legislation along the concept of biodiversity protection.

Ensuring the efficacy of pCm

21. Mr SIN Chung-kai enquired about the mechanism in place to ensure the efficacy of pCm products sold in the market. SP(TCM)1/DH responded the pCm manufacturers/ importers had to submit supporting information certifying the safety, efficacy and quality of the new pCm products when applying to the CMB for registration under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. For registration of pCm products under the "Established Medicines" category, the CMB would assess the efficacy of the relevant pCm products based on official standards such as the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China in deciding whether to approve the registration.

Summing up

22. The Chairman concluded that the Panel supported the development of CM and the proposed funding support for the "GMP Project Development and Technical Support Platform for Traditional Oral Solid Proprietary Chinese Medicines Products" under the ITF proposed by the HKIB to enhance the GMP hardware support for pCm manufacturers. The Chairman urged the Administration to take heed of members' concerns and put in place necessary measures to provide room for the survival of micro-enterprises in the pCm manufacturing industry when considering the implementation of the mandatory GMP requirements.

- V. Progress report on Research and Development Centres 2013-2014**
(LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(05) -- Administration's paper on progress report on Research and Development Centres for 2013-14

LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(06) -- Paper on Research and Development Centres set up under the Innovation and Technology Fund prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

Presentation by the Administration

23. Members were shown a 10-minute video presentation featuring the work, including the major progress of realization/commercialization of R&D projects of the five Research and Development ("R&D") Centres set up under the Innovation and Technology Fund. Details of the overall performance and operation of the five R&D Centres, including key activities of each Centre in 2013-2014, statistics and progress of realization/commercialization of the R&D Centres' projects, were set out in the Administration's paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1595/13-14(05)).

24. Commissioner for Innovation and Technology ("CIT") highlighted that all R&D Centres had achieved the industry contribution target of 20% in the first three years (i.e. from 2011-2014) of their second five-year period. The numbers of collaborative projects and projects under the Public Sector Trial Scheme conducted by the R&D Centres in 2013-2014 had both increased. The Administration would critically evaluate the operation of the R&D Centres in around 2015, and put forward recommendations on their future operation beyond March 2017 having regard to the outcome of the review.

Discussion

Commercialization of R&D results

25. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan was glad to note that the R&D Centres had made good progress in commercialization of R&D results in 2013-2014. Referring to the functional high performance rowing suits developed by the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel ("HKRITA") for the Hong Kong Rowing Team participating in the upcoming Asian Games to be held in Incheon, South Korea in September 2014, Mr CHUNG enquired about HKRITA's plan for promoting the relevant R&D deliverables to facilitate commercialization of the technology. Mr CHUNG also welcomed the Image Colour Measurement ("ICM") system developed by HKRITA and enquired about the progress of industry adoption of the ICM system which provided a solution for the textile and apparel industry for meeting the rigorous standards of colour management. Mr CHUNG commended

HKRITA's achievements at the 42nd International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva held in April 2014, winning three gold medals and one silver medal. He called on HKRITA to continue pursuing the commercialization of the awarded technologies.

26. Chief Executive Officer, HKRITA responded that apart from developing "performance sportswear" for Hong Kong's elite athletes, HKRITA had also promoted the relevant technologies to the industry to demonstrate its R&D capabilities. Recently, HKRITA had signed memoranda of understanding ("MOUs") with four international sportswear brands to co-operate in conducting R&D. He further advised that the ICM system, which was awarded a gold medal at the 41st International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva in April 2013, was well received in a textiles exhibition in Shanghai. HKRITA was discussing with various potential clients to explore licensing opportunities of the ICM system, and would continue to enhance the system to meet the demands of the industry.

27. The Deputy Chairman pointed out that water seepage problems were common in buildings in Hong Kong, causing public health concerns and posing structural safety risks to buildings. She suggested the R&D Centres to explore the development of waterproof paint or sealants which would contribute to resolving water seepage problems. CIT took note of the Deputy Chairman's views, and said that the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute ("ASTRI") had worked with relevant government departments to explore more effective methods for addressing the problem, and the departments would further evaluate the latest technological methods for identifying the source of water seepage in buildings.

28. Mr WONG Ting-kwong was concerned that the whole process of commercialization, namely from the commencing of an R&D project to turning of R&D results into marketable products or applications, would take a long span of time. He also enquired about the R&D Centres' statistics on the commercialization of their R&D results.

29. Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology ("DCIT") responded that commercialization of R&D results required long-term efforts. The R&D Centres would continue to build up their research capabilities in new and emerging technologies that meet the demands of the industry. DCIT further advised that in 2013-2014, ASTRI had made continual progress in the commercialization and licensing of technologies to the industry, receiving over \$8 million and \$9 million respectively from licensing/royalty and contract services.

30. Mr WONG Ting-kwong called on the R&D Centres to further reach out and forge closer ties with the trade associations of different industries to promote their R&D deliverables, so as to increase commercialization opportunities with industry partners. CIT took note of Mr WONG Ting-kwong's suggestion, adding that the R&D Centres maintained close connection with the industry partners in their selected focus areas through various activities including seminars, trade shows, workshops, etc.

31. Mr Charles MOK invited the R&D Centres to share their experience or challenges faced in commercialization of R&D results. General Manager, Hong Kong Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre ("APAS") said that APAS had undertaken seven new collaborative projects in 2013-2014. The significant increase in the number of collaborative projects demonstrated the confidence of APAS's industry sponsors in its technical competence and in the good market potential of its R&D results. APAS would also conduct seed projects which were more forward-looking and exploratory that aimed to provide foundation work for future platform/collaborative projects. He said that one of the key challenges in commercialization was to identify and develop the technologies that were commercially viable and could address the industry's demands. Chief Executive Officer, Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Limited ("NAMI") said that NAMI had been adopting industry engagement and business development strategies to proactively solicit industry support for more market-driven collaborative research projects, and to bring about commercialization of more R&D results. NAMI would attach greater emphasis to technology areas such as display and solid state lighting, environmental technologies, biotechnology and healthcare as well as construction and building materials so as to diversify its R&D portfolio. NAMI would utilize its core technologies to fit into different companies' product roadmaps in order to establish long-term technology partnership with potential partners identified in different market sectors.

R&D collaboration

32. Echoing Mr WONG Ting-kwong's enquiry about the R&D Centres' collaboration with overseas research institutes, the Deputy Chairman said that collaboration between the R&D Centres and overseas research institutes or multinational technology companies would be beneficial to the promotion of R&D in Hong Kong. In particular, she called for more R&D collaboration in Chinese medicines between Hong Kong and the Mainland, thereby helping to promote the development of the Chinese medicines industry in Hong Kong.

33. In response, DCIT advised that HKRITA had signed MOUs with various overseas research institutes such as the Fiber Innovation Incubator of

Shinshu University of Japan, a well-known research institute in textiles and clothing in the world, to further enhance international collaboration. DCIT and Chief Executive Officer, ASTRI further advised that ASTRI had established the ASTRI-HP Information Technology Research Centre ("the Research Centre") with HP Hong Kong to conduct applied research in big data analytics and cloud computing. The Research Centre had commenced a collaborative project to develop software modules which could support enterprise-scale big data analytics platform systems. ASTRI had also established a long-term strategic partnership with TCL Communication Technology Holdings Limited to conduct joint R&D of 4G product applications and 5G wireless technologies.

Proposed establishment of the Innovation and Technology Bureau

34. Ms Emily LAU enquired how the proposed Innovation and Technology Bureau could facilitate the further development of the R&D Centres. Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong R&D Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management Enabling Technologies opined that a new Innovation and Technology Bureau, with a more focused portfolio and dedicated high level leadership, would facilitate stronger policy co-ordination across the innovation and technology industries. A dedicated bureau would also enhance the co-operation between government bureaux/departments/industries in promoting the use of R&D Centres' deliverables in the public sector and various industries.

Other concerns

35. Referring to the Administration's proposal to develop Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas (NDAs), the Deputy Chairman was concerned whether the areas would offer sufficient employment opportunities for the new population in the two NDAs. She called on the Innovation and Technology Commission to attract R&D and technology companies to establish operations in the NDAs, so as to provide more job opportunities in the NDAs. CIT took note of the Deputy Chairman's views, and advised that under the present planning, some of the land in the Kwu Tung North NDA and Lok Ma Chau Loop were being reserved for R&D and development of high-tech industry.

Summing up

36. The Chairman concluded that members affirmed the positive role of the R&D Centres in driving and co-ordinating applied R&D in their respective focus areas and promoting commercialization of R&D results. He further said that the promotion of R&D was long-term investment that required time for the realization of R&D deliverables. The Administration

therefore should not take short-term monetary income as the sole performance indicator for the R&D Centres.

VI. Any other business

Overseas duty visit to Israel

37. The Chairman informed members that a total of 10 Members, including 9 Panel members and one non-Panel member, had indicated interest in taking part in the overseas duty visit of the Panel to Israel from 3 to 8 August 2014.

38. The Chairman further said that pursuant to Ms Emily LAU's suggestion made at the meeting with the Consul General of Israel in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macau SAR on 17 April 2014, the Secretariat had written to the CIT inviting ITC's officials to participate in the visit to advise the delegation on the applicability of Israeli Government's experience in Hong Kong and issues relating to the development of innovation and technology industry. In response to the Panel's invitation, the CIT had subsequently nominated Mr Frank TSANG, Assistant Commissioner for Innovation & Technology (Funding Schemes) and Mr Rayson CHAN, Senior Manager (Innovation and Technology Fund)⁵ to take part in the visit. The expenses incurred by the two officials for the visit would be borne by the Administration. Members endorsed the above arrangement.

39. Members also noted that as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel were unable to participate in the visit, a meeting would be convened in due course for members of the delegation to choose the delegation leader.

(Post-meeting note: At the working meeting of the delegation on 3 July 2014, members had chosen Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok to be the delegation leader. In view of the escalating tension between Israel and Palestine, Ir Dr LO had, in consultation with delegation members, decided on 11 July 2014 not to proceed with the visit to Israel as scheduled.)

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:27 pm.