

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1267/14-15
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 22 June 2015, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Deputy Chairman)
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon KWOK Wai-keung
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Member attending : Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai

Members absent : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Public Officers attending : **For item IV**

Mr WONG Kam-sing, JP
Secretary for the Environment

Mr CHAN Fan, JP
Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Mrs Dorothy MA
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Energy)

For item V

Ms Christine LOH, JP
Under Secretary for the Environment

Miss Amy YUEN
Assistant Director (Water Policy)
Environmental Protection Department

Dr MAK Yiu-ming
Senior Marine Parks Officer (Acting)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr FORK Ping-lam
Assistant Director (Operations)³
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mrs Doris FOK
Chief Leisure Manager (Aquatic Venues)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr CHEUK Fan-lun
Assistant Director/Planning & Services (Acting)
Marine Department

Mr Tom CHENG
General Manager/Services (Acting)
Marine Department

For item VI

Ms Christine LOH, JP
Under Secretary for the Environment

Mr Howard CHAN, JP
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHEN Che-kong
Assistant Director
(Environmental Infrastructure) (Acting)
Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance : Ms Angel SHEK
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Miss Lilian MOK
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Ms Mandy LI
Council Secretary (1)1

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(1)979/14-15 — Minutes of the meeting held
on 27 April 2015)

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2015 were confirmed.

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II. Information papers issued since last meeting

2. Members noted that the following paper had been issued since the last meeting –

(LC Paper No. CB(1)951/14-15(01) — Referral arising from the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Heung Yee Kuk members on 5 February 2015 regarding the development of strategic landfills in the New Territories, refuse transfer stations and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (Chinese version only) (Restricted to members))

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(01) — List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 21 July 2015, at 10:45 am –

(a) Progress report on the Pilot Green Transport Fund; and

(b) Promoting green procurement.

IV. Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong 2015 ~ 2025+

(LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(03) — Administration's paper on "Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong 2015 ~ 2025+")

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Briefing by the Administration

4. With the aid of a power-point presentation, the Secretary for the Environment ("SEN") briefly introduced the Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+ ("the Energy Saving Plan") issued by the Environment Bureau ("ENB") in collaboration with the Development Bureau and the Transport and Housing Bureau. Being the first-ever energy saving blueprint for Hong Kong, the Energy Saving Plan analyzed the energy use in Hong Kong and set out the key actions in four aspects embracing economic, regulatory, educational and social initiatives to achieve the new target of reducing Hong Kong's energy intensity by 40% by 2025.

(Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials (LC Paper No. CB(1)1020/14-15(01)) was circulated to members vide Lotus Notes on 22 June 2015.)

Discussion

Government leadership in energy saving

5. Mr Albert CHAN stressed the importance of the Government's role in taking the lead and setting targets and roadmap for promoting energy saving. As one of the major electricity consumers in Hong Kong, the Administration should ensure the effectiveness of the energy saving initiatives in the Energy Saving Plan.

6. Referring to the submission from Greenpeace East Asia tabled at the meeting, which commented that the presentation of the annual environmental performance reports of different government bureaux/departments ("B/Ds") varied greatly, the Deputy Chairman urged the Administration to provide specific guidelines on energy efficiency standards for B/Ds to conduct energy audits so that the environmental performance of different B/Ds could be objectively assessed, compared and benchmarked. Mr KWOK Wai-keung and Dr Elizabeth QUAT shared the Deputy Chairman's views, and urged the Administration to enhance transparency of the energy use of different B/Ds and other buildings in the private sector. Ms Cyd HO called upon the Administration to set a more ambitious energy reduction target for government buildings to demonstrate its resolve in saving energy and reinforce B/Ds' determination to reduce electricity consumption.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairman, the submission from Greenpeace East Asia (LC Paper No. CB(1)1021/14-15(01)) tabled at the meeting was circulated to members vide Lotus Notes on 22 June 2015.)

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7. SEN responded that the Administration had set three rounds of energy/electricity consumption reduction targets for government buildings over the past years, and a total of 16% reduction in electricity consumption had been achieved so far. As the easier gains had already been reaped, it might be more costly and challenging to achieve further savings in electricity in the coming years.

8. The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services ("DEMS") advised that the Administration had set a new target of 5% electricity reduction for government buildings under comparable operating conditions in the next five years from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, using the level of electricity consumption in 2013-2014 as the baseline. It was anticipated that the potential electricity saving from the new target was about 70 million kWh per year. DEMS assured members that the Government was committed to improving energy data transparency, benchmarking and sharing. As set out in the Energy Saving Plan, the Administration would improve the provision of energy data for public use, and all B/Ds would be required to publish environmental performance reports annually to demonstrate their environmental stewardship. While guidelines would be provided for B/Ds to prepare the reports, the Administration did not impose unnecessary uniformity on the reporting styles as there were bound to be significant differences in the functional requirements and operation characteristics among B/Ds.

9. Having regard that data centres had become an essential infrastructure to sustain Hong Kong's economic development, Mr Charles Peter MOK and Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed concerns about the huge electricity consumption by the information and communications technology facilities therein. Noting that Singapore had introduced the Singapore Standard 564 to help data centres optimize energy efficiency, Mr MOK and Dr QUAT urged the Administration to play a leading role in energy saving through developing and adopting green data centre practices, and share with relevant stakeholders its experience and best practices in green data centre management.

10. DEMS responded that the prevalent energy management practices adopted in Hong Kong was the International Organization for Standardisation (commonly known as "ISO") 50001 which established a framework for organizations to develop an energy management system. Since the demand for data centres would continue to increase, the Administration had been encouraging the private sector to develop related energy saving policies and embrace best practices on energy management.

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11. Mr Albert CHAN suggested the Administration consider setting up an energy efficiency fund to provide subsidies to support energy saving practices. DEMS advised that the Hongkong Electric Company Limited and the CLP Power Hong Kong had launched the Smart Power Fund and the Eco Building Fund respectively in June 2014 to provide loans to enhance the energy efficiency of non-commercial buildings in Hong Kong. Approximately \$100 million would be injected into the two funds to support energy improvement projects.

12. In reply to Mr WU Chi-wai and Mr KWOK Wai-keung about the conduct of energy audits on government buildings and under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610) ("BEEO"), DEMS advised that all major government buildings with annual electricity consumption over 500 000 kWh would be required to conduct energy audit, whereas BEEO required owners of commercial buildings and commercial portion of composite buildings to conduct energy audits every 10 years and exhibit a copy of the Energy Audit Form, which contained the annual energy utilization index of the past 12-month period, in a conspicuous position at the main entrance of the building. B/Ds were also encouraged to carry out regular energy audits and disclose the relevant results and findings according to BEEO to raise energy saving awareness internally.

Promotion of energy wise green buildings

13. Ms Cyd HO and Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether the Administration would consider providing incentives to encourage the private sector to adopt green building designs (e.g. vertical greening and green roof) and use green building materials to enhance building energy efficiency.

14. SEN responded that Hong Kong had a range of policies and measures to promote green building. For example, the Hong Kong Green Building Council ("HKGBC") had introduced the Building Environmental Assessment Method ("BEAM") Plus in 2010, which was a comprehensive assessment tool to certify green buildings in Hong Kong. Since 1 April 2011, BEAM Plus assessment had been one of the pre-requisites for the granting of Gross Floor Area ("GFA") concessions in development projects. The Administration aimed to achieve BEAM Plus Gold for all major government buildings, and was committed to achieving BEAM Plus Gold or better rating for new public housing developments. The Administration had also revised the internal circular on Green Government Buildings to enhance the target-based green performance framework for new and existing government buildings. To achieve integrated actions across the building sector, the Administration would create a dialogue platform to discuss with built environment stakeholders on green building adoption in the private sector.

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Admin 15. Regarding Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry about BEAM Plus rating, DEMS advised that the BEAM Plus assessment scheme included six aspects of a building project and HKGBC would update the assessment criteria from time to time in accordance with local and international best practices. As requested by Mr WU, the Administration undertook to provide information on the assessment criteria of the BEAM Plus certification.

Maintaining indoor temperature

16. Mr CHAN Han-pan opined that moderating indoor temperature by improving natural ventilation could help save electricity consumption in air-conditioning. While the Government recommended that a room temperature at around 25.5°C should be maintained during the summer months in Hong Kong, he considered the recommended temperature slightly too high given also the high humidity in that season. Mr CHAN Kin-por shared similar views but remarked that the preset room temperature in the Legislative Council Complex ("the LegCo Complex") for the summer months was too low and could hardly be adjusted upward to the recommended level of 25.5°C.

17. SEN responded that private building owners were encouraged to incorporate various passive design strategies, such as installation of cross-ventilated windows, into building design, and the adoption of low energy passive design features had become one of the BEAM Plus assessment scopes. To promote sustainable building designs and energy efficient features in new developments, the Government had issued the Guidelines on Design and Construction Requirements for Energy Efficiency of Residential Buildings (i.e. PNAP APP-156). For domestic or composite developments, compliance with the requirements of PNAP APP-156 was a pre-requisite for the granting of GFA concessions.

18. As regards the recommended room temperature, DEMS advised that different factors, such as relative humidity and ventilation, might affect one's thermal comfort. To create a comfortable indoor environment, the relative humidity in a non-residential building provided with air-conditioning was recommended to be maintained at 65% or below. Under the Energy Saving Charter scheme, developers and property management companies were encouraged to maintain an average indoor temperature in the range of 24°C to 26°C during summer. DEMS further said that the room temperature in the LegCo Complex was subject to the zoning control of the air-conditioning systems of the entire Tamar Development Project. He would follow up Mr CHAN Kin-por's comment with the Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office. As regards procurement of air-conditioners by B/Ds, DEMS said that the Administration had implemented a

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green procurement policy to purchase green and recycled products, including green specifications for air-conditioners.

Energy intensity

19. Mr Kenneth LEUNG sought elaboration on the term "energy intensity" adopted in the Energy Saving Plan. SEN advised that "energy intensity" was defined to mean the amount of energy for every unit of wealth created. In other words, it measured the amount of energy that an economy took to produce a dollar's worth of economic output in terms of gross domestic product ("GDP") (i.e. energy demand per unit of GDP). To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change, the Administration proposed to set a carbon intensity reduction target of 50% to 60% by 2020 with 2005 as the base year. After the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (commonly known as "COP 21") to be held in Paris in December 2015, the Administration would announce the climate change strategy for Hong Kong. Given that climate change was an enormous challenge worldwide, Mr LEUNG urged the Administration to closely monitor the total energy consumption in Hong Kong.

20. Given that the term "energy intensity" might not be easily comprehensible to the public, Mr Tony TSE opined that the Administration should set other energy-related targets, such as an absolute reduction target relating to electricity consumption, with a view to encouraging the general public to reduce energy use. The Administration should also incorporate the energy saving concept in land use planning for new towns. SEN said that the Administration would continue to encourage the public to use energy more efficiently. To this end, ENB had liaised with the two power companies to provide more information on electricity bills so that consumers could observe their electricity consumption habit and set energy reduction targets.

Other issues

21. In reply to Mr Kenneth LEUNG's further enquiry about the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs ("ILBs"), SEN explained that the Government had launched the "Energy Saving Charter on No Incandescent Light Bulbs" in 2013 to expedite the retirement of energy-inefficient ILBs and encourage the use of more energy-efficient lighting products. The Administration would consider whether a legislative approach should be adopted to phase out ILBs as and when necessary.

22. Referring to the district cooling system ("DCS") to be provided for the non-residential premises at Kai Tak Development to reduce electricity consumption thereat, Ir Dr LO Wai-ki asked if the Administration

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planned to implement DCS in other new development areas ("NDAs") as well. SEN responded that development of some new districts, such as Hung Shui Kiu NDA, might offer an opportunity for implementing DCS. The Administration would study the feasibility in this regard.

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23. In response to Ir Dr LO Wai-kowk's further enquiry about community participation in energy saving, DEMS advised that ENB and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department had jointly launched the "Energy Saving for All" Campaign which comprised different programmes to promote energy efficiency to the community. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration agreed to provide information on the Youth Energy Saving Award and the "New Energy New Generation" Solar Car Competition which aimed to educate the younger generation about the importance of saving energy.

24. Mr CHAN Kin-por enquired whether the Administration would consider developing cycling networks in new towns to promote bicycle as a form of green transport. SEN responded that the Energy Saving Plan focused mainly on improving building energy efficiency. Nevertheless, ENB would take into members' views and suggestions and continue to collaborate with relevant B/Ds closely in taking forward different energy saving measures as appropriate.

V. Control on marine pollution from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse

(LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(04) — Administration's paper on "Control on marine pollution from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse"

LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(05) — Background brief on "Marine pollution from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Briefing by the Administration

25. With the aid of a power-point presentation, the Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Water Policy) ("ADEP(WP)") briefed members on the legislative control and measures to tackle marine pollution arising from oil spillage, marine littering and floating refuse in Hong Kong waters.

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(*Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials (LC Paper No. CB(1)1020/14-15(02)) was circulated to members vide Lotus Notes on 22 June 2015.*)

Discussion

Collection of marine refuse

26. Mr Albert CHAN opined that the Administration should formulate a comprehensive plan with specific targets and policies to address the marine refuse problem in Hong Kong. As it was costly to remove refuse from the sea and shores, it should be more efficient and effective to tackle the problem at source by reducing overall waste generation. Mr Steven HO and Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether the Administration would deploy additional resources and manpower to remove refuse from the marine environment more frequently to minimize refuse accumulation.

27. The Under Secretary for the Environment ("USEN") advised that the Administration had adopted a three-pronged strategy and identified five key improvement areas under the Marine Refuse Study ("the Study") conducted by the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") to tackle the marine refuse problem in Hong Kong. ADEP(WP) said that the Study had investigated the sources, distribution and movement of marine refuse. As refuse amount varied in different weather conditions and more marine refuse would be collected during wet seasons and following severe weather (e.g. typhoons) than during dry seasons, the Administration did not set a specific target on the quantity of refuse marine to be reduced. Instead, the strategy was to enhance the cleansing frequency at 27 priority sites which were prone to refuse accumulation due to their geographical locations. It was expected that about 440 additional cleanup operations would be conducted.

28. In reply to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry about the partnership between EPD and non-governmental organizations ("NGOs")/community groups in conducting special monthly cleanup events at locations including the 27 priority sites, ADEP(WP) advised that the Administration planned to step up its efforts in education and publicity to promote the clean shorelines messages to the public. In this connection, EPD would partner with NGOs/community groups to arrange cleanup activities, on top of the enhanced cleansing efforts made by government departments.

29. Noting that more than 80% of marine refuse in Hong Kong originated from land-based sources at present, Mr KWOK Wai-kwok enquired how the Administration would reduce the amount of land-based refuse, in particular plastic and foam plastic, entering the marine environment. He also expressed

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concern that recyclable materials from the Chai Wan Public Cargo Handling Area were carried by the prevailing winds to the harbour, which could pose danger to ship navigation or harm the marine ecology.

30. USEN advised that floating refuse used to increase noticeably following heavy rain and adverse weather conditions (e.g. typhoons) since the refuse would enter the sea through water courses and storm water drains. Shoreline and recreational activities also contributed to the major source of marine refuse. To promote the clean shorelines messages to the public, educational and outreach activities would be carried out regularly for target groups, such as visitors to beaches and shoreline recreational facilities.

31. The Deputy Chairman called upon the Administration to enhance the cleansing frequency at the 27 priority sites, in particular Lap Sap Wan in Shek O, and step up legislative control and enforcement against marine littering. While the Marine Department ("MD") currently provided free of charge domestic refuse collection service to vessels at anchorage and harbour moorings when they were staying in port, the Administration should consider whether such free service should continue to be provided after municipal solid waste ("MSW") charging was introduced. The Deputy Chairman and Mr Albert CHAN also expressed concern about the impact of seabed refuse on Hong Kong's water quality and the marine ecology.

32. The Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Operations)³ ("ADFEH(O)3") advised that with MD's assistance, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") had arranged an urgent cleanup trial at Lap Sap Wan in mid May 2015. Since the trial was satisfactory, FEHD had awarded a two-month contract at the end of May 2015 to a cleansing contractor to pack up the refuse at the site in June and July. Due to technical, weather and safety considerations, it was more feasible to conduct cleanup operations for Lap Sap Wan between May and August every year before the arrival of the northeasterly monsoons.

33. Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired whether the Administration would consider engaging local fishermen familiar with the topographical characteristics and conditions of shorelines to help remove marine refuse. The Assistant Director of Marine/Planning & Services (Acting), ("ADM/P&S(Atg)") responded that MD had all along outsourced the marine refuse cleansing services. Currently, MD's marine refuse cleansing contractor provided about 70 vessels to perform daily marine refuse scavenging and collection services. MD's pollution control staff would perform daily patrol duties to monitor the cleanliness condition of the sea and the contractor's work. There was also a 24-hour hotline for complaints about floating refuse and reports on matters concerning marine littering and floating refuse. USEN supplemented that engaging local fishermen to conduct

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regular refuse collection and cleanup events for the Government would involve contractual arrangements that should require careful consideration in accordance with the established mechanism of awarding contracts.

Enforcement against shoreline and marine littering

34. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok noted that while refuse doubled in amount on/after festivals at popular beaches according to the Study, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had no prosecution case at all regarding marine littering and general littering in gazetted beaches during the three-year period from 2012 to 2014. Ir Dr LO and Mr Tony TSE expressed concern about the inadequate enforcement actions taken by LCSD against marine littering.

35. The Chief Leisure Manager (Aquatic Venues), LCSD, responded that LCSD staff would collect marine refuse in the water or washed ashore and land refuse within the gazetted beaches on a daily basis. Due to frequent patrols by beach staff, display of notices and regular public announcement for keeping the cleanliness of beaches, members of the public were generally well aware of the need to keep beaches clean. LCSD would continue to step up enforcement against marine littering through conducting regular patrols at public bathing beaches, waterfront parks and promenades and special operations at festivities at coastal venues which were popular places for festival celebration.

36. The Senior Marine Parks Office (Acting), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD"), advised that AFCD was responsible for collecting marine refuse along the shores within marine parks and marine reserve. As recreational activities were controlled in marine parks and marine reserve and the shore areas represented a small portion of the total areas in marine parks and marine reserve, the number of prosecutions against marine littering in these areas was on the low side. ADFEH(O)3 explained that FEHD would collect marine refuse washed ashore together with other waste found at unallocated coastal areas on both regular and ad hoc basis. ADM/P&S(Atg) added that MD would strengthen enforcement and patrols at sea to enhance deterrence against marine littering.

37. Mr Paul TSE sought elaboration on the prosecution cases, patrols/inspections/operations, and complaints against marine littering tabulated in the Administration's paper. ADEP(WP) advised that when complaints about floating refuse and reports on matters concerning marine littering and floating refuse were received, relevant government departments would re-schedule their patrolling plan to cover the locations under complaint. In 2014, MD had conducted 139 special operations on marine littering at various locations, such as promenades, typhoon shelters, marine works sites

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and wholesale fish markets. Regular patrols and special inspections conducted by related law enforcement departments at black spots, together with the issue of fixed penalty notices, should have served to deter marine littering. The General Manager/Services (Acting), MD, added that MD would issue a leaflet to engage public participation to report marine littering from vessels, and explain to the public the key information necessary for facilitating follow-up investigation.

Cleanup of oil spillage

38. While expressing support for conducting regular patrols and inspections to prevent illegal discharge of oily bilge/water from ships or shore activities in Hong Kong waters, Mr Steven HO considered it unsympathetic and inconsiderate to hold ship owners involved in marine accidents (e.g. sinking, grounding collision) responsible for the costs of cleaning up oil spillage or chemicals caused by the accidents. ADM/P&S(Atg) advised that MD was the designated authority for the cleanup of oil at sea in marine oil pollution incidents. According to the "polluter pays" principle, the costs of cleaning up oil spillage or chemicals caused by marine accidents should be borne by the ship owners concerned.

39. Mr Tony TSE sought elaboration on the Regional Maritime Oil Spill from Ship Response Plan ("the Response Plan"). ADM/P&S(Atg) advised that to handle oil spills in Hong Kong waters, MD's Pollution Control Unit and its contractor would maintain oil spill response readiness on a 24-hour standby basis, and had set a 100% target to respond on site within two hours of reported oil spillage inside the Victoria Harbour. If incidents occurred within Hong Kong waters but outside the Harbour, MD's target was to respond on site within four hours of reported oil spillage as far as practicable. Since oil pollution in Pearl River Estuary might affect adjacent ports in the region, MD had been working with the maritime authorities of the adjacent ports and formulated the Response Plan which comprised a three-tier response level to combat major oil spill in the region. The Response Plan established measures in dealing with oil pollution incidents and ramped up regional co-operation in response to such incidents.

VI. Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (Commencement) Notice 2015 and Waste Diversion Plan for the South East New Territories Landfill

(LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(06) — Administration's paper on "Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation

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2013 (Commencement)
Notice 2015 and Waste
Diversion Plan for the South
East New Territories
Landfill"

LC Paper No. CB(1)995/14-15(07) — Background brief on "Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (Commencement) Notice 2015" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

Briefing by the Administration

40. The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) ("DDEP(2)") briefed members on the progress of implementation of the Waste Diversion Plan ("the WDP") for the South East New Territories Landfill ("the SENT Landfill"), and the proposal to bring into effect the relevant provisions of the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) (Amendment) Regulation 2013 (the "Amendment Regulation") so that the SENT Landfill would receive only construction waste with effect from 6 January 2016.

Discussion

41. While expressing support for the WDP to address the adverse environmental impact arising from the diversion of municipal solid waste (MSW) from the SENT Landfill, Mr KWOK Wai-keung was concerned that some waste collectors engaged in FEHD's refuse collection contracts might face a significant increase in their operating costs as they had to re-route their collection services or arrange additional refuse collection routes to transport MSW to more distant landfills or waste disposal facilities.

42. DDEP(2) advised that FEHD had been discussing with its refuse collection contractors who would be affected by the WDP the future arrangements for their waste collection services, and assisting them to make the necessary adjustments. As at 1 June 2015, FEHD had completed the re-routing of its refuse collection services in three districts, and another five districts were scheduled for re-routing in the period from July to September 2015. It was expected that new refuse collection routes would be in operation before the relevant provisions of the Amendment Regulation took effect. To ensure smooth implementation and better co-ordination of the diversion measures, the Administration had proposed to set the effective date

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for the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste as 6 January 2016, which was a normal weekday not close to a long holiday.

43. Mr Gary FAN criticized the Administration for having taken more than a year, since approval of the funding for the SENT Landfill extension by the Finance Committee ("FC") of the Legislative Council in December 2014, to prepare for the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste. He questioned whether the delay was due to unsatisfactory progress of measures under the WDP. Pointing out that Tseung Kwan O residents had been seriously affected by the environmental nuisances caused by the SENT Landfill for a prolonged period, Mr FAN enquired when the SENT Landfill would cease operation.

44. DDEP(2) responded that after seeking approval from FC on the SENT Landfill extension proposal, the Administration had been implementing a package of measures under the WDP to prepare for the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste. In order to ensure that the MSW to be diverted from the SENT Landfill would be properly handled by the existing network of refuse transfer stations and any potential traffic and environmental impact could be minimized, sufficient lead time was required for the waste collection trade and various stakeholders to make the necessary adjustments to their operation and for the Administration to implement relevant legislative amendments. DDEP(2) further advised that the extension part of the SENT Landfill was expected to commence waste intake from around 2016 to 2017. The Administration would ensure that the capacity of the SENT Landfill had been fully utilized before closing the Landfill.

45. Dr Elizabeth QUAT enquired about the reduction in the number of trips of refuse collection vehicles ("RCVs") to the SENT Landfill achieved so far along with the progress made in the WDP. She also expressed concern about the potential impact on the WDP arising from applications made by members of the public for judicial review ("JR") regarding the extension of the SENT Landfill.

46. DDEP(2) responded that the number of vehicle trips delivering waste to the SENT Landfill was expected to be reduced by half to about 500 per day upon the designation of the SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste. Based on the legal advice sought by the Administration, the implementation of the various measures of the WDP would not be affected by the JR applications in question. As requested by Dr Elizabeth QUAT, DDEP(2) undertook to provide statistics on the reduction in the overall number of RCV trips to the SENT Landfill since 2015 after the commissioning of the Sludge Treatment Facility and the implementation of the WDP.

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(*Post-meeting note:* The Administration's response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1151/14-15(01) on 24 July 2015.)

Concluding remarks

47. Concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that members had no objection to the proposal, and urged the Administration to take heed of members' views and concerns about the WDP.

VII. Any other business

48. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:22 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 September 2015