# 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. FC177/17-18 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: FC/1/1(18)

# Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Friday, 5 May 2017, at 3:09 pm

## Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP (Chairman) Hon James TO Kun-sun Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon Claudia MO Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, JP Hon WU Chi-wai, MH Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP Hon CHAN Chi-chuen Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Hon KWOK Wai-keung Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan Hon IP Kin-yuen Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan Hon Alvin YEUNG Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin Hon CHU Hoi-dick Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP Hon HO Kai-ming Hon LAM Cheuk-ting Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding Hon SHIU Ka-fai Hon SHIU Ka-chun Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH Hon YUNG Hoi-yan Dr Hon Pierre CHAN Hon CHAN Chun-ying Hon Tanya CHAN Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP Hon HUI Chi-fung Hon LUK Chung-hung Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai Hon KWONG Chun-yu Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho Hon Nathan LAW Kwun-chung Dr Hon YIU Chung-yim Dr Hon LAU Siu-lai

#### Members absent:

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman) Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP Hon Kenneth LEUNG Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, MH, JP

[According to the Judgment of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 14 July 2017, LEUNG Kwok-hung, Nathan LAW Kwun-chung, YIU Chung-yim and LAU Siu-lai have been disqualified from assuming the office of a member of the Legislative Council, and have vacated the same since 12 October 2016, and are not entitled to act as a member of the Legislative Council.]

# **Public officers attending:**

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-yee, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)					
Ms Carol YUEN, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial					
	Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1					
Mr Alfred ZHI Jian-hong	Principal Executive Officer (General),					
	Financial Services and the Treasury					
	Bureau (The Treasury Branch)					
Mr James LAU, JP	Under Secretary for Financial					
	Services and the Treasury					
Ms Jeanne FUNG	Assistant Secretary for Financial					
	Services and the Treasury (Financial					
	Services) 6					

## **Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT Assistant Secretary General 1

# **Staff in attendance:**

Mr Derek LO	Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Ms Ada LAU	Senior Council Secretary(1)7
Mr Raymond SZETO	Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)6

# Item No. 1—FCR(2017-18)2 CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND NEW HEAD—ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK New Subhead—"Capital Subscription in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank"

<u>The Chairman</u> reminded members of the requirements under Rule 83A and Rule 84 of the Rules of Procedure.

2. <u>The Chairman</u> said that this item invited the Finance Committee ("FC") to approve a commitment of HK\$6 billion for Hong Kong's subscription to shares in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank ("AIIB") (comprising HK\$1.2 billion for paid-in shares and HK\$4.8 billion for callable shares). On 16 March 2017, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau consulted the Panel on Financial Affairs on the relevant proposal. The Administration, in response to members' requests, provided four information papers for members' reference. Those papers had already been issued to members.

# Motion to adjourn discussion on the item FCR(2017-18)2

3. At 3:10 pm, <u>the Chairman</u> said that FC would continue to deal with the motion moved by Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung at the last meeting for the adjournment of discussion on the item FCR(2017-18)2.

4. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> introduced his motion. <u>Mr LEUNG</u> held that this item had no urgency and the Chairman should not have waived the notice period requirement arbitrarily to allow submission from the Administration. He also criticized the ruling made by the Chairman at the last meeting which ordered him to withdraw from the meeting.

5. Mr Nathan LAW, Ms Claudia MO, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr CHU Hoi-dick, Mr SHIU Ka-chun, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Dr YIU Chung-vim and Mr Andrew WAN spoke in support of Mr LEUNG's motion. In essence, they considered that the Administration should withdraw this item and resubmit it in the future. They recalled that at the last meeting, while the Chairman decided to allow the Administration to correct a typo in its paper right on the spot, he refused to exercise discretion to waive the notice period requirement for Mr CHU Hoi-dick to propose motions under paragraph 21 of the Finance Committee Procedure ("FCP"). In their view, his decision was unfair to members and had imposed restrictions on FC. Those members also raised objection to the item for they had doubts as to how the local economy could actually benefit from the huge financial commitment of HK\$6 billion borne by the Administration for joining AIIB.

6. <u>Mr CHU Hoi-dick</u> considered that China's promotion of AIIB was similar to the building of military facilities on the South China Sea islands in the sense that both of them were strategies for external expansion. <u>The Chairman</u> disagreed with Mr CHU's comments on the South China Sea issue. Noting that the Chairman had commented on a member's speech, <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u> and <u>Mr Andrew WAN</u> held that he might have undermined his neutrality as the Chairman.

7. <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> spoke in reply in respect of his motion. <u>The Chairman</u> put the motion to vote. At the request of members, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division and the motion was negatived. The votes of individual members are set out in **Annex**.

# Status of Hong Kong after joining AIIB

8. <u>Mr Jeremy TAM</u> and <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> enquired about Hong Kong's status in AIIB. <u>Under Secretary for Financial Services and the</u> <u>Treasury</u> ("USFST") advised that Hong Kong, after joining AIIB, would become a member of the Board of Governors who would be entitled to vote. Hong Kong would also join one of the 12 constituencies (i.e. the constituency to which China belonged) represented in the Board of Directors and might also act as an Alternate Director or a consultant of its constituency.

# Capital subscription for joining AIIB

9. <u>Mr Jeremy TAM</u> asked for the details of how the amount of capital subscription was calculated. <u>Mr TAM</u> opined that if Hong Kong would not stand any chance of becoming a Director of AIIB, it should only subscribe an amount of capital which met the threshold for joining the Board of Governors. <u>Mr James TO</u> expressed similar views.

10. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> and <u>Ms Claudia MO</u> asked when AIIB would draw on the callable capital of HK\$4.8 billion and whether this sum would be withheld and could not be used for other purposes.

11. <u>Mr CHAN Chi-chuen</u> enquired about the amount of paid-in capital which would be booked in the financial year 2017-2018.

- 12. <u>USFST</u> responded that:
  - (a) the amount of capital to be contributed by Hong Kong for joining AIIB, i.e. HK\$6 billion, was calculated based on the relative share of the global economy of the relevant member. There was no such thing as a capital threshold;
  - (b) the callable shares, valued at HK\$4.8 billion, would be a contingent liability. No payment would be made for the callable shares, unless AIIB needed to call on its members' callable subscriptions. To date, no multilateral development banks known had ever had to draw on its callable capital; and
  - (c) the amount of paid-in capital to be entered as expenditure in the financial year 2017-2018 would depend on when AIIB would draw on such capital.

13. <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> asked whether AIIB had any leftover shares for Hong Kong to increase its subscription amount. <u>USFST</u> replied that if Hong Kong wished to subscribed to more shares, it must wait until AIIB increased its capital.

# Benefits for Hong Kong to join AIIB

14. <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u>, <u>Ms Claudia MO</u>, <u>Mr SHIU Ka-chun</u>, <u>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung</u> and <u>Mr Nathan LAW</u> queried whether AIIB could bring Hong Kong with tangible benefits. The five merits stated in paragraph 3 of the paper were the advantages of establishing AIIB but had no relevance to the participation of Hong Kong.

15. <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Ms Claudia MO</u> were concerned that the sub-office, if set up in Hong Kong, would simply be an office serving AIIB without bringing any benefits to Hong Kong.

16. <u>Mr Jeremy TAM</u> asked whether Hong Kong would apply for loans from AIIB in the foreseeable future to launch large-scale infrastructure projects (e.g. the three-runway system project at the Hong Kong International Airport) or new town development projects, and enquired about the applicable interest rate and whether Hong Kong, as a member, could enjoy any concessions.

17. <u>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung</u> questioned how the participation of Hong Kong in AIIB could be a good demonstration of the working of the "One country, two systems" principle.

- 18. <u>USFST</u> responded that:
  - (a) Hong Kong, as an international financial centre, stood a good chance in its bid for AIIB to set up a sub-office here so as to benefit from AIIB's financing activities. Other AIIB members were also active in bidding for the establishment of such a sub-office. As a matter of fact, Hong Kong had benefited from the projects of the Asian Development Bank ("ADB") before;
  - (b) although the decision-making of AIIB would mainly take place at its headquarters in Beijing, the sub-office, if set up in Hong Kong, could support the operation of AIIB by providing services such as financing management, debt issuance and training;
  - (c) in view of the present economic situation and public finances of Hong Kong, there would be no need for Hong Kong to ask for loans from AIIB. As for the applicable interest rate, it would depend on the actual circumstances; and
  - (d) Hong Kong would be the one and only non-sovereign member if it joined AIIB. Its participation in an international multilateral development bank would be a good demonstration of the working of the "One country, two systems" principle.

19. <u>Mr SHIU Ka-chun</u> held that Hong Kong should not join AIIB as it promoted transnational capitalism. He therefore objected to the item.

# Operation of AIIB

20. <u>Mr LUK Chung-hung</u> supported Hong Kong in joining AIIB and expressed reservations about the attitude of some other members who raised multiple queries. In response to the question of Mr LUK, <u>USFST</u> said that members might refer to the written reply provided by the Administration in light of the enquiries made by a member on this item (Annex B to LC Paper No. FC122/16-17(04)) for information on the 12 projects which had already been approved by AIIB.

21. <u>Mr Nathan LAW</u> and <u>Mr James TO</u> queried whether the China-led AIIB was only meant to serve the Belt and Road Initiative. <u>Mr LAW</u> also asked whether all of the 12 approved projects involved the Belt and Road countries.

22. <u>Mr Nathan LAW</u> and <u>Ms Tanya CHAN</u> enquired about the projected returns on the approved projects. They were also concerned about the high risks involved in a number of those 12 approved projects. They wondered how Hong Kong could participate in the risk scrutiny of AIIB's investment projects in the future if Hong Kong would not have much say.

23. <u>Ms Tanya CHAN</u> enquired about the public officers of Hong Kong who would be tasked to participate in the operation of AIIB.

- 24. <u>USFST</u> responded that:
  - (a) apart from the approved projects, there were some other projects pending approval and they did not involve any Belt and Road countries. AIIB had made it clear that it was not an institution established to serve the Belt and Road initiative;
  - (b) AIIB, when approving projects, would mainly consider the need for local infrastructure development;
  - (c) many of the approved projects were co-financed by ADB or the World Bank. Generally speaking, AIIB's Board of Directors would conduct due diligence to identify project risks. Hong Kong, should it have any views, enquiries or concerns, might inform the representative of its constituency who would then voice them to the Board of Directors; and
  - (d) after joining AIIB, the Administration would review the manpower requirement for its participation in the operation of AIIB.

## Other comments

25. <u>Dr KWOK Ka-ki</u> criticized the Chinese Government and the Hong Kong Government for ignoring the problem that a huge population in the Mainland and Hong Kong was living in poverty while they invested in overseas infrastructure development through AIIB.

26. <u>USFST</u> said that Hong Kong had not participated in the decisions made by China in respect of AIIB. Moreover, some of the member countries of AIIB were developing countries.

27. At 5:00 pm, <u>the Chairman</u> declared that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat 9 March 2018 點名表決DIVISION: 1日期 DATE: 05/05/2017時間 TIME: 03:47:56 下午 PM

動議 MOTION: 動議中止議程文件 FCR(2017-18)2 的討論 Motion that discussion on FCR(2017-18)2 be now adjourned

#### 動議人 MOVED BY:

出席 Present			:	51
投票 Vote			:	50
贊成 Yes	:	20		
反對 No	:	30		
棄權 Abstain	:	0		
結果 Result			:	否決 Negatived

#### 個別表決如下 THE INDIVIDUAL VOTES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

議員	MEMBER	投票	VOTE	議員	MEMBER	投票	VOTE
陳健波	CHAN Kin-por	出席	PRESENT	葉建源	IP Kin-yuen		
涂謹申	James TO	贊成	YES	葛珮帆	Dr Elizabeth QUAT	反對	NO
梁耀忠	LEUNG Yiu-chung	贊成	YES	廖長江	Martin LIAO	反對	NO
石禮謙	Abraham SHEK			潘兆平	POON Siu-ping	反對	NO
張宇人	Tommy CHEUNG	反對	NO	蔣麗芸	Dr CHIANG Lai-wan	反對	NO
李國麟	Prof Joseph LEE	贊成	YES	盧偉國	Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok		
林健鋒	Jeffrey LAM	反對	NO	鍾國斌	CHUNG Kwok-pan		
黃定光	WONG Ting-kwong	反對	NO	楊岳橋	Alvin YEUNG	贊成	YES
李慧琼	Starry LEE	反對	NO	尹兆堅	Andrew WAN	贊成	YES
陳克勤	CHAN Hak-kan	反對	NO	朱凱廸	CHU Hoi-dick	贊成	YES
梁美芬	Dr Priscilla LEUNG	反對	NO	吳永嘉	Jimmy NG	反對	NO
黃國健	WONG Kwok-kin	反對	NO	何君堯	Dr Junius HO	反對	NO
葉劉淑儀	Mrs Regina IP	反對	NO	何啟明	HO Kai-ming	反對	NO
謝偉俊	Paul TSE	反對	NO	林卓廷	LAM Cheuk-ting	贊成	YES
粱國雄	LEUNG Kwok-hung	贊成	YES	周浩鼎	Holden CHOW	反對	NO
毛孟靜	Claudia MO	贊成	YES	邵家輝	SHIU Ka-fai	反對	NO
田北辰	Michael TIEN	反對	NO	邵家臻	SHIU Ka-chun	贊成	YES
何俊賢	Steven HO	反對	NO	柯創盛	Wilson OR	反對	NO
易志明	Frankie YICK			容海恩	YUNG Hoi-yan		
胡志偉	WU Chi-wai	贊成	YES	陳沛然	Dr Pierre CHAN		
姚思榮	YIU Si-wing	反對	NO	陳振英	CHAN Chun-ying	反對	NO
馬逢國	MA Fung-kwok	反對	NO	陳淑莊	Tanya CHAN	贊成	YES
莫乃光	Charles Peter MOK			張國鈞	CHEUNG Kwok-kwan	反對	NO
陳志全	CHAN Chi-chuen	贊成	YES	許智峯	HUI Chi-fung	贊成	YES
陳恒鑌	CHAN Han-pan			陸頌雄	LUK Chung-hung	反對	NO
梁志祥	LEUNG Che-cheung	反對	NO	劉國勳	LAU Kwok-fan	反對	NO
梁繼昌	Kenneth LEUNG			劉業強	Kenneth LAU		
麥美娟	Alice MAK			鄭松泰	Dr CHENG Chung-tai	贊成	YES
郭家麒	Dr KWOK Ka-ki	贊成	YES	鄺俊宇	KWONG Chun-yu		
郭偉强	KWOK Wai-keung	反對	NO	譚文豪	Jeremy TAM	贊成	YES
郭榮鏗	Dennis KWOK			羅冠聰	Nathan LAW	贊成	YES
張華峰	Christopher CHEUNG	反對	NO	姚松炎	Dr YIU Chung-yim	贊成	YES
張超雄	Dr Fernando CHEUNG			劉小麗	Dr LAU Siu-lai	贊成	YES
黃碧雲	Dr Helena WONG						

秘書 CLERK\_