

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 848/04-05

Ref : CB2/H/5/04

House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 15th meeting
held in the Legislative Council Chamber
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 4 February 2005**

Members present :

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBS, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Bernard CHAN, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Mrs Vivian KAM	Principal Council Secretary (Complaints)
Miss Kathleen LAU	Chief Public Information Officer
Mrs Constance LI	Chief Council Secretary (2)5
Mrs Betty LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (3)1
Ms Bernice WONG	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Ms Connie FUNG	Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Miss Lolita SHEK	Senior Council Secretary (2)7

Action

**I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting held on 21 January 2005
(LC Paper No. CB(2)764/04-05)**

The minutes were confirmed.

II. Matters arising

**Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for
Administration (CS)**

**(a) Frequency and duration of Chief Executive (CE)'s Question and
Answer Sessions**

2. The Chairman said that she had again drawn CS's attention to Members' request that CE's Question and Answer Sessions should be held monthly and each Session should be extended by half an hour. CS had undertaken to remind CE again.

(b) Provision of Policy Address-related papers by the Administration

3. The Chairman said that she had informed CS that Members had requested that all Policy Address-related papers, including the Policy Address, Policy Agenda and papers for the policy briefings for the 18 Panels, should be provided at the same time by the Administration for distribution to Members, immediately after the delivery of the Policy Address by CE.

4. The Chairman further said that CS had explained that it might be difficult for the papers for the policy briefings to be issued on the day of the Policy Address, because these papers would not be finalised until after the delivery of the Policy Address by CE. However, he undertook to raise the matter with the Principal Officials and then discuss with the Legislative Council Secretariat. The Administration would also review the arrangements for briefing the media to ensure that relevant papers would be provided to Members before they were released to the media.

Action

III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

(a) Legal Service Division report on bills referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)

Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Shipowners Liability) (Amendment) Bill 2005

(LC Paper No. LS 22/04-05)

5. The Legal Adviser explained that the Bill mainly sought to –

- (a) extend the liability regime applicable to international carriages to carriages between Hong Kong and Macau, and between Hong Kong and ports of the Mainland; and
- (b) give effect to the amendments to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 adopted by the International Maritime Organization in 1996 to enhance protection for ship passengers and cargo owners.

6. The Legal Adviser said that the Legal Service Division had sought clarification with the Administration on certain technical points. The legal and drafting aspects of the Bill presented no problem.

7. Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill.

(b) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 28 January 2005 and tabled in Council on 2 February 2005

(LC Paper No. LS 33/04-05)

8. The Legal Adviser said that only one item of subsidiary legislation, the Official Languages (Alteration of Text under Section 4D) (Medical Officer of Schools) Order, was gazetted on 28 January 2005 and tabled in Council on 2 February 2005.

9. Members did not raise any queries on this item of subsidiary legislation.

10. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending this item of subsidiary legislation was 2 March 2005, or 6 April 2005 if extended by resolution.

Action

IV. Position on Bills Committees/subcommittees

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 799/04-05)

11. The Chairman said that there were seven Bills Committees and six subcommittees in action.

12. Mr James TO said that the Administration should be reminded to introduce the bills on the 2004-2005 Legislative Programme as soon as possible and avoid introducing a large number of bills at the end of the session.

13. The Chairman said that she would raise the matter with CS at their next meeting on Monday.

V. Any other business

Arrangement for asking questions at special meetings of the House Committee

14. The Chairman said that the existing arrangement for asking questions at special meetings of the House Committee was that Members who wished to ask questions should press the “request-to-speak” button. She would then call upon Members belonging to different political groupings and those without declared political affiliation to ask questions in turn. In determining Members’ order of asking questions, she would also make reference to the number of times that a Member had asked questions at previous special meetings in the term. Members did not raise objection to the arrangement.

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:40 pm.