

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 822/04-05

Ref : CB2/H/S/1/04

Special House Committee Meeting on 18 February 2005 Background Brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

Sustainable Development

Purpose

The topic of sustainable development was last discussed with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) at the special meeting of the House Committee held in the second term on 28 February 2003. This paper provides a summary of the discussions held by Members of the Legislative Council since that meeting.

Definition of sustainable development

2. According to the Council for Sustainable Development (CSD), sustainable development for Hong Kong means –
 - (a) finding ways to increase prosperity and improve the quality of life while reducing overall pollution and waste;
 - (b) meeting our own needs and aspirations without doing damage to the prospects of future generations; and
 - (c) reducing the environmental burden we put on our neighbours and helping to preserve common resources.

Council for Sustainable Development

3. In his 1999 Policy Address, the Chief Executive (CE) first announced the establishment of a new CSD to “provide expert advice to the Government and keep the public regularly informed about its work, so that we can build a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development. It will also encourage the community to put the concept of sustainable development into practice”.

4. CE appointed the CSD on 1 March 2003, under the chairmanship of CS. The membership list and the terms of reference of the CSD are in **Appendices I and II** respectively.

5. The Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Planning, Lands and Works were briefed on the role and functions of the CSD at their joint meeting on 14 May 2003. According to the paper provided by the Administration for the joint meeting, the CSD will focus its efforts initially on the following two key areas –

- (a) advising on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate social, economic and environmental perspectives; and
- (b) promoting public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development in partnership with stakeholders.

6. Some of the comments and concerns raised by Members at the special House Committee meeting on 28 February 2003 and the joint Panel meeting on 14 May 2003 are summarised below –

- (a) the CSD should listen to the public's views in setting its priority for future work programme;
- (b) the CSD should enhance its transparency by making public its agenda and deliberations; and
- (c) the CSD should perform policy audit to ensure that sustainable development objectives are met, report annually on policies/projects which are not conducive to sustainable development, and identify areas for improvement.

Sustainable Development Fund

7. The Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Planning, Lands and Works received a briefing on the Administration's proposal to establish the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) at their joint meeting on 14 May 2003. The Finance Committee (FC) subsequently approved the creation of a new commitment of \$100 million to establish the SDF at its meeting on 13 June 2003.

8. According to the Administration's papers for the joint meeting and the FC meeting, the SDF provides a central source of support for initiatives aimed at developing a strong public awareness of the concept of sustainability, as well as

providing grants for projects that will promote sustainable practices in Hong Kong. Specifically, the SDF is a source of grants for activities that promote –

- (a) public understanding of the importance of advancing the economic, social and environmental interests of the community in a balanced and integrated manner;
- (b) everyday practices that are consistent with the principles of sustainability; and
- (c) public participation in the discussion of Hong Kong's long-term sustainable development.

9. The authority for awarding grants under the SDF rests with the Director of Administration. The Director decides on the disbursement of funds on the advice of the CSD.

10. Some of the concerns and views expressed by Members at the joint meeting on 14 May 2003 and the FC meeting are summarised below –

- (a) the vetting of applications for the SDF will be very difficult as the scope of sustainable development is vaguely defined;
- (b) the funding criteria are not clear;
- (c) overlapping and duplication between the SDF and other funding schemes should be avoided;
- (d) some indicators are required for assessing the cost-effectiveness of approved projects under the SDF; and
- (e) new commitments should not be created for the purpose of establishing funding schemes. The use of various funds should be rationalised by pooling the respective commitments together to achieve better utilisation of public money.

Engagement process for building a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong

11. In November 2003, the CSD decided that a five stage “engagement process” should be implemented for the initial stage of building a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong, as follows –

- I. Identifying Pilot Areas for the initial stage of the strategy
- II. Preparing a document to invite responses
- III. Directly involving the wider community
- IV. Reporting on the community response
- V. The Government to publish a strategy document”

12. Three Pilot Areas have been identified for the purpose of the first round of the engagement process, namely: Solid Waste Management, Renewable Energy and Urban Living Space. The CSD launched the “Invitation and Response” document entitled “Sustainable Development – Making Choices for Our Future” in July 2004 to inform the public of aspects of the three Pilot Areas. Members of the public were invited to provide their responses to certain key questions in these areas by 12 November 2004.

13. The Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Planning, Lands and Works received a briefing by the CSD on the “engagement process” at their joint meeting on 16 November 2004. Some of the views expressed by Members at the meeting are summarised below –

- (a) efforts should be stepped up to promote public awareness of sustainable development, especially among the younger generation, and to intensify the public consultation process to encourage greater public participation;
- (b) the CSD should extend its scope of studies to cover protection of marine resources, creation of employment opportunities and governance; and
- (c) the latest development in cross-boundary activities should be taken into account in formulating the sustainable development strategy.

The Administration’s paper entitled “The Sustainable Development Strategy Engagement Process” and extract from the minutes of the joint meeting are in **Appendix III and IV** respectively.

14. According to the Administration’s paper provided for the policy briefing for the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 17 January 2005, the CSD is preparing a report on the “engagement process”, the strategy and the way forward. The Administration is committed to publishing the strategy document which will focus on the three Pilot Areas by mid-2005.

Progress of other initiatives under “Plan for sustainability”

15. The targets set and progress made in respect of some of the initiatives listed under “Plan for sustainability” are summarised in **Appendix V**.

Related Council question and motion

Oral question raised by Hon LEE Cheuk-yan on waste disposal methods on 26 November 2003

16. At the Council meeting on 26 November 2003, Hon LEE Cheuk-yan asked, among other things, whether the Government had made a comparison of the various waste disposal methods in terms of their impact on sustainable development. The question and the reply are available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/1126ti-translate-e.pdf>.

Motion moved by Hon CHOY So-yuk on corporate social and environmental responsibility on 17 March 2004

17. At the Council meeting on 17 March 2004, Hon CHOY So-yuk moved a motion to urge the Administration to implement the concept of corporate social and environmental responsibility in Hong Kong with a view to enhancing Hong Kong’s international image and its position as a financial centre and achieving sustainable development. The motion was passed. The record of proceedings of the debate on the motion is available at <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0317ti-translate-e.pdf>.

Membership List of the Council for Sustainable Development

Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman)

Dr Edgar Cheng, GBS, JP (Vice-chairman)

Dr Lily Chiang

Hon Choy So-yuk

Mr Barrie Cook

Ms Christine Fang, JP

Mr Hans Michael Jebsen, BBS

Mr Thomas Kwok, JP

Professor Lam Kin-che, JP

Mr Andrew Liao, SBS, SC, JP

Ir Otto Poon, BBS

Mr Tai Hay-lap, BBS, JP

Mr Tik Chi-yuen, JP

Professor Tsui Lap-chee

Secretary for Economic Development and Labour

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

The Terms of Reference of the Council for Sustainable Development

- To advise the Government on the priority areas it should address in promoting sustainable development;
- To advise on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- To facilitate community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
- To promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.

For discussion
on 16 November 2004

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
PANEL ON PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS

The Sustainable Development Strategy Engagement Process

Introduction

This paper briefs Members on progress with the engagement process designed by the Council for Sustainable Development (SD) with the aim of involving the community in building an SD Strategy for Hong Kong. The paper covers the following areas -

- The background to the engagement process
- The public involvement programme
- Feedback on the engagement process
- The next steps in building an SD Strategy for Hong Kong

Background to the Engagement Process

2. The Council for SD was appointed by the Chief Executive on 1 March 2003. The membership and terms of reference of the Council are at **Annex A** to this paper. One of the terms of reference of the Council is -

“To advise on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives.”

3. In November 2003, the Council for SD convened a workshop, inviting

stakeholders from various sectors to consider an appropriate way of taking forward this task, with particular emphasis on the need to involve the community in building a suitable strategy for Hong Kong. As a result of input from stakeholders, the Council agreed that for the initial stage of strategy building, a five stage “engagement process” should be implemented, as follows -

- I. Identifying Pilot Areas for the initial stage of the strategy
- II. Preparing a document to invite responses
- III. Directly involving the wider community
- IV. Reporting on the community response
- V. The Government to publish a strategy document

4. In December 2003, based on proposals from Principal Officials sitting on the Council, three Pilot Areas were identified for the purpose of the first “round” of the engagement process, namely: Solid Waste Management, Renewable Energy and Urban Living Space. When selecting these areas, Council members noted that for future rounds of the engagement process, there was a need to consider an effective arrangement for collecting direct community input into the selection of Priority Areas for the strategy.

Public Involvement Programme

5. In order to ensure that the engagement process would be steered by concerned stakeholders, and with a view to promoting a participatory and inclusive approach consistent with the principles of sustainable development, the Council for SD in February 2004 established three Support Groups to take forward the process. These Support Groups are chaired by non-Government representatives of the Council or its Strategy Sub-committee, and the membership includes stakeholders from various sectors, as well as relevant government officials.

6. The immediate tasks of these groups was to advise on the preparation of an appropriate document to inform the public of aspects of the three Pilot Areas and to seek their responses to certain key questions in these areas that are relevant to Hong Kong's sustainability. The result of the Support Groups' deliberations was the issue of the Council for SD "Invitation and Response" (IR) document: *Sustainable Development – Making Choices for Our Future*.

7. Following the launch of the IR document in July, the Council opened a range of channels to encourage a wide response to the issues raised in the document. Some of the initiatives were -

- A dedicated interactive website (www.susdev.org.hk) as a resource for providing information and allowing the public to post views on the engagement process and the individual Pilot Areas
- A public exhibition on SD and the Pilot Areas that toured popular public venues in Hong Kong
- IR leaflets with simple questionnaires, distributed at various public locations together with SD Strategy "wishing wells", into which people placed the completed questionnaires
- Four public forums and eleven public workshops on the Pilot Areas, in various locations throughout Hong Kong.

8. Throughout the course of the programme, the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU - which serves as the Secretariat to the Council for SD) has prepared reports and updates on these activities, and has posted these on the SD Strategy website.

9. As well as the responses that have been generated by the specific activities described above, the Council has received direct written submissions, either on specific Pilot Areas or on the process in general. Members may wish to note also

that an Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on the IR document has been shown regularly on local TV stations.

Feedback on the Engagement Process - A Brief Preliminary Analysis

10. We are currently reviewing the feedback on the engagement process. However, a number of indications of public preferences and tendencies are already apparent from the responses to the IR document and the detailed reports from the workshops.

A. Solid waste management

11. Stakeholders agreed that landfill facilities are not a sustainable measure and that a long-term and comprehensive waste management strategy, based on a four-tier waste management hierarchy¹ is required. There was general support for “user pays” charges for waste disposal, with many respondents arguing for a fair charging mechanism and gradual implementation. A large number of stakeholders favoured mandatory producer responsibility schemes. There was support for the development of waste disposal facilities that use new thermal and biological treatment technologies to reduce the volume of waste, although there was also concern that such facilities should meet stringent environmental standards.

B. Renewable energy

12. Respondents indicated support for solar and wind energy facilities, but

¹ Tier 1: to reduce waste generation at source as far as possible

Tier 2: to recover and recycle remaining waste as far as possible

Tier 3: to reduce the volume of remaining waste as far as possible (including use of best available technologies for thermal or biological treatment)

Tier 4: finally, to dispose of any remaining waste at sanitary landfills as a last resort

acknowledged the practical difficulty of finding suitable locations for these facilities and the initial cost of such installations. Issues concerning access to the electricity grid were raised; in this regard, it was felt that the power companies should play a role in encouraging RE both by initiating their own RE projects and allowing access to the power grid to other RE providers. Some stakeholders suggested investing in land on the Mainland to facilitate the development of RE facilities that could supply power to Hong Kong. Energy from waste was broadly recognized as a form of Renewable Energy. Many respondents suggested that public education on energy conservation should be more strongly promoted as part of an SD Strategy.

C. Urban living space

13. While recognising that in some cases full redevelopment of run-down urban areas might be necessary, stakeholders generally preferred urban revitalisation to redevelopment where possible, with many suggesting that old buildings and communities should be preserved and their local environment improved, for example, through the provision of more open space. Some stakeholders raised the issue of changes in population growth and profiles, and felt that these should be taken into account in reaching any decisions on further development of urban areas. Stakeholders had diverse views on how NT areas might be developed to maximise land resources, although most favoured a balanced approach that would allow for more mixed types of development while preserving rural characteristics. In regard to the built environment, on issues such as development density and building height, the majority expressed a wish for Government to draw up an overall policy on sustainable building design.

The Next Steps in Building an SD Strategy for Hong Kong

14. The next steps for the Council for SD are: to collate detailed responses from stakeholders to the IR document; to present a summary of the feedback that the Council has received; and to discuss this further with stakeholders, *including the Government*, before finalising recommendations on the SD Strategy. To this end, the Council will host an SD Strategy Summit in mid-December with the aims of -

- Presenting the summary of feedback on the engagement process
- Preparing the proposed recommendations to the Government on the strategy, in the light of comments from the participating stakeholders
- Beginning a dialogue on how best to take the engagement process forward to address future topics for SD

Government Response

15. One of the key factors in putting together an effective and credible SD Strategy will be the reaction of the Government to the outcomes of the engagement process. Officials with responsibilities relevant to the Pilot Areas sit on the Support Groups, and the Principal Officials concerned are full Council Members. Several government officials have attended workshops and other activities during the engagement process, and have been able to gain a first-hand insight into how the public perceives the issues in the IR document. Nonetheless, a formal response will be required from the Government on the issues outlined in the document before the Council for SD will be able to conclude its recommendations on the SD Strategy. In this regard, we shall specifically invite views from concerned bureaux and departments before compiling a final report on the Strategy. We would then expect the Government to publish an SD Strategy document based on the advice of the Council

for SD and the findings of the engagement process, before the middle of 2005.

Conclusion and Views Sought from Members

16. Although considerable effort has gone into promoting stakeholder ownership of this first exercise in putting together an SD Strategy, and the public's response has been encouraging, we recognise that improvements need to be made in taking this task forward. Sustainable development is a relatively new subject for most people in Hong Kong, and there is a need to review and build on this initial engagement process to ensure that the community can identify the issues that are key to the city's long-term sustainability and help define appropriate goals and priorities. In this regard, we invite Members to comment on the engagement process, on the outcomes of the process so far, and on how we might take this forward to achieve an effective and participatory SD Strategy for Hong Kong.

Sustainable Development Unit

Administration Wing

11 November 2004

Membership and Terms of Reference of the Council for Sustainable Development

Terms of Reference

- (a) To advise the Government on the priority areas it should address in promoting sustainable development;
- (b) To advise on the preparation of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
- (c) To facilitate community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
- (d) To promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.

Membership

Chairman : Chief Secretary for Administration

Vice-chairman : Dr Edgar Cheng, GBS, JP

Members : Dr Lily Chiang
Ms Choy So-yuk
Mr Barrie Cook
Ms Christine Fang, JP
Mr Hans Michael Jebsen, BBS
Mr Thomas Kwok, JP
Professor Lam Kin-che, JP
Mr Andrew Liao, SBS, SC, JP
Ir Otto Poon, BBS
Mr Tai Hay-lap, BBS, JP
Mr Tik Chi-yuen, JP
Professor Tsui Lap-chee
Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

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Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 731/04-05
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs and
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works**

**Minutes of joint meeting held on
Tuesday, 16 November 2004, at 8:30 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Members present : Members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs

- * Hon CHOY So-yuk (Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
- * Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
- * Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yea, GBS, JP
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP

Members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

- # Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, BBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP

Members absent : Members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs

- * Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
- * Hon LEE Wing-tat
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

(* Also members of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works)
(# Also members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs)

**Public officers
Attending** : Dr Edgar CHENG
Vice Chairman
Council for Sustainable Development

Mr Albert LAI
Convenor
Support Group on Solid Waste Management

Prof Peter HILLS
Convenor
Support Group on Urban Living Space

Ir Otto POON
Convenor
Support Group on Renewable Energy

Mrs Susan MAK
Deputy Director of Administration

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY
Assistant Director of Administration
(Sustainable Development)

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)4

I. Election of Chairman

As Mr LAU Wong-fat, Chairman of the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works, was not able to attend the joint meeting, Miss CHOY So-yuk, Chairman of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, took the chair for the joint meeting.

II. Engagement process for building a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1254/02-03 — Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the special House Committee meeting on 28 February 2003

LC Paper No. CB(1) 235/04-05(01) — Paper provided by the Sustainable Development Unit of the Administration Wing)

2. The Chairman advised that as the meeting was initiated by the Council for Sustainable Development (the Council), an independent unit appointed by the Chief Executive for promoting and advising the principles and strategies of sustainable development (SD), representatives from the relevant policy bureaux had not been invited to attend the meeting. She also declared interest as a member of the Council as well as a member of the Strategy Subcommittee of the Council.

3. At the Chairman's invitation, Dr Edgar CHENG, Vice Chairman of the Council, gave a power-point presentation on the background to the engagement process and the next steps in building a SD strategy for Hong Kong. The Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable Development) (AD of A(SD)) then briefed members on the public involvement programme. The convenors of the three support groups also took turns to report on the latest development in their respective pilot areas. Mr Albert LAI, Convenor of the Support Group on Solid Waste Management, said that charging for waste disposal was adopted by many overseas countries as an effective means to reduce waste. However, its implications on the community, in particular on the underprivileged, would need to be carefully assessed taking into account feedback from public consultation. Ir Otto POON, Convenor of the Support Group on Renewable Energy, said that Hong Kong was geographically constrained in developing renewable energy. Besides, the development of renewable energy would hinge on the involvement of the power companies. It was hoped that the views of the Council would be taken into account in the review of the Scheme of Control in 2008. Prof Peter HILLS, Convenor of the Support Group on Urban Living Space, said that based on the views gathered, the declining population growth rate was an issue which should be looked at very carefully in the context of future development and where it should take place.

(Post-meeting note: A copy of the power-point presentation materials was circulated to members under LC paper No. CB(1) 254/04-05.)

Public involvement programme

4. Ms Emily LAU noted with concern that the District Councils (DCs) were not consulted on the SD strategy. She pointed out that as SD was a relatively new subject for most of the people in Hong Kong, it was essential for the Council to solicit the support of DCs to get the message across the territory at the district level. She then enquired about the attendance for the forums and workshops organized by the Council.

5. Dr Edgar CHENG advised that DCs were keen participants in many of the public forums and workshops organized by the Council. In fact, with the assistance of the Home Affairs Bureau, he had arranged a briefing for the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the 18 DCs on the work of the Council. He acknowledged that a lot had to be done in building a suitable SD strategy for Hong Kong and the initial stage was the implementation of an engagement process. As regards attendance, AD of A(SD) advised that 240 people had attended the three public forums while around 450 people had attended the 11 workshops held in various districts. About 40% of the participants were from DCs and district-based groups such as district business organizations and owners corporations etc. Discussions at these public forums and workshops were held under an interactive process and arrangements had been made to mix people of different backgrounds within the groups.

6. Given the relative low attendance of around 700 people, Ms Emily LAU considered that efforts should be stepped up to promote public awareness of SD before finalizing the relevant policy. Dr Edgar CHENG clarified that the Council's role was not policy formulation but to advise on the preparation of a SD strategy. He added that apart from the forums and workshops, a dedicated interactive website was set up for dissemination of information on SD and for the public to post their views on the engagement process. As a result, there were far more than 700 people who had given their views. He nevertheless agreed that more should be done to promote SD. In this connection, a working group under the chairmanship of Ms Christine FANG was set up to enhance education and publicity on the subject.

7. Ir Dr Raymond HO said that Hong Kong had lagged behind many overseas countries in taking forward SD since the last Norwegian international conference on SD in 1987. He was also disappointed at the lack of active response from either the Government or the community to the questions and motions on SD which he repeatedly raised at the Council meetings over the past years. He therefore considered it necessary for the Administration to intensify the public consultation process to encourage greater public participation. The Council should also take a proactive role in advising the Government on the latest development in SD so that the latter could take on board such information in formulating and implementing its policies. While agreeing that efforts would be stepped up to promote public awareness on SD, Dr Edgar CHENG said that it was not possible for the Council to pursue all aspects of SD in detail within its limited resources. He stressed that SD should be taken forward with good governance not public referendum.

8. Mr Patrick LAU supported that the concept of SD should be promoted in Hong Kong, and that targets and milestones should be set to achieve SD. As it was important to foster the concept of SD in the younger generation, he suggested that this should be included as part of liberal studies in the school curriculum. Expressing similar views, Mr Martin LEE proposed that student representatives should be engaged as observers in the decision-making process of high-powered committees responsible for formulating SD strategies. A simpler language should also be adopted to facilitate better public understanding of the concept of SD. He added that Hong Kong should learn the experience of other overseas countries in taking forward SD.

9. Dr Edgar CHENG agreed that targets and milestones were necessary in achieving SD, and that a simpler language should be used in promoting SD. He said that the Council would take into account overseas experience in devising the SD strategies that were most suitable for Hong Kong's own situation. As regards education for the younger generation, Dr CHENG said that the Education Subgroup of the Council supported the inclusion of the concept of SD in the school curriculum. Apart from the SD Strategy Summit to be held in December 2004, the Council was planning to hold a youth forum on SD strategy. AD of A(SD) added that about 20% of the participants in the public forums were students and young people. The Council would be organizing a youth forum on 5 December 2004 in conjunction with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups targeting at young people aged 16 to 25. Through the Sustainable Development Fund, the Council would be funding projects such as training of student SD ambassadors who would be promoting the concept of SD in both primary and secondary schools. The Chairman requested the Council to notify members of the details of Summit so that they could participate and provide views.

Solid waste management

10. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong noted with concern that substantial amount of wastes would be generated from the proposed demolition of Hunghom Peninsula. These wastes, including 2 400 bath tubs, 5 000 water taps, 12 000 doors and 200 000 tonnes cement, would have to be disposed of in landfills. He then sought the Council's views on whether the proposed demolition ran contrary to the concept of SD and corporate responsibility.

11. Mr Albert LAI said that as a member of a green group in Hong Kong, he was opposed to the proposed demolition of Hunghom Peninsula albeit the economic and social factors involved. While the Council had not discussed the subject before, it agreed in principle that corporate responsibility should be promoted in Hong Kong. The SD strategy would also require waste producers to bear the cost of waste disposal to encourage waste reduction. Prof Peter HILLS said that there was no way that the demolition of Hunghom Peninsula could be defended from the perspective of sustainable development. As the concept of SD was related to governance and public policy, the issues being touched upon reflected the different views on how

Hong Kong should be developed in future. He stressed the importance of integration of policies such that all Government departments could work together as in the case of the building practices under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) where planning had to be interfaced with other developments.

12. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong opined that the Council should not only focus on devising a SD strategy for the long term but should also monitor existing issues which contravened SD principles, such as the demolition of Hunghom Peninsula, as otherwise it would be seen to be working on paper and out of touch with controversial matters. He hoped that the Council and/or the Administration would make a fair statement on the demolition of Hunghom Peninsula based on SD principles at the SD Strategy Summit to be held in mid-December 2004. He further pointed out that the Council would not be able to garner support from the community if it failed to meet public aspirations. Dr Edgar CHENG said that the Council might need to decide whether such a statement should be made by the Council or jointly with the Administration. As the Council had not looked into the matter, DD of A said that it would be more appropriate for the relevant Policy Bureau to respond.

Urban living space

13. Mr LAU Kong-wah opined that the planning of new towns like Tseung Kwan O and Tin Shui Wai was far from satisfactory as compared to that of Shatin. Instead of planning for large satellite towns, consideration should be given to developing small communities scattered over the New Territories. This would not only minimize the adverse environmental impacts arising from large-scale development on the natural habitat, but also help spread out the working population so that residents in the rural areas would not have to travel a long way to their workplace. Mr WONG Yung-kan echoed that consideration should be given to better utilizing the green areas which comprised about 67% of the land in Hong Kong. He further pointed out that the protection of marine resources as well as the creation of employment opportunities were also SD issues which should be looked into by the Council.

14. Dr Edgar CHENG assured members that the Council would continue its efforts in gathering views from different sectors of the community. He however reiterated that task of the Council was to advise on the preparation of a SD strategy for Hong Kong. It would be up to the Administration to take forward and implement the strategy. On planning issues, Prof Peter HILLS clarified that the documents provided by the Council were meant to be a summary of the responses from the community rather than a detailed proposal. The Council was only acting as a spokesman of the community and the responsibility for taking forward the proposals rested with the Administration. By promoting public debate, the Administration would be able to know the sentiments of different sectors towards SD.

Scope of studies

15. While appreciating the time and efforts which the Council had taken in promoting SD, Mr Abraham SHEK was frustrated that the Administration had failed to take the lead in ensuring compliance with the SD principles as reflected by its policy on reclamation and air quality. Given that the three pilot areas of renewable energy, urban living space and solid waste management represented only a small part of SD, Mr SHEK emphasized that more efforts should be made to promote public awareness on the concept of SD which was a relative new subject to the general public. He then sought clarification on the means to achieve the right balance in meeting the competing priorities in political, economic and social needs.

16. Dr Edgar CHENG advised that cooperation from all sectors of the community was crucial in promoting SD. After collating the views from the engagement process, the Council would analyze the feedback before finalizing its recommendations on SD strategy to the Government. Ir Otto POON said that the concept of SD had to be built up in a longer term. With the present economic climate where quick profits were an overriding factor, economic growth would take precedence over SD. Hence, there was a need to educate the younger generation on the importance of SD. Mr Albert LAI pointed out that the pursuit of sustainable development required innovative means to integrate the needs of social, environmental and economic aspects, rather than mechanically balancing such needs. Professor Peter HILLS said that Hong Kong was a society driven by livelihood and economic issues. The findings of the SD study commissioned by the Planning Department (PlanD) years ago revealed that economic issues were placed on the top of the agenda. In order for the public to accept SD, there was a need to foster a change in the priorities. The question was how this could be done and who should take the lead as some might prefer more emphasis on social and economic injustices while others would opt for political and other issues. It would be a slow process and education would play an important role.

17. While supporting the principles of SD, Ms Emily LAU did not agree that the SD strategy should be confined to the integration of economic, social and environmental perspectives. Referring to the findings of the study conducted by PlanD, she opined that economic development was accorded the high priority because this was the focus of the Government in the past. However, in view of the recent controversy over constitutional reform, more emphasis should now be placed on political development, social responsibility etc which were also important SD issues. In this connection, the Council should extend its scope of studies to cover governance as well. She also considered it necessary for the Council to state its stance on the recent incidents, including the demolition of Hunghom Peninsula, the West Kowloon Development and harbour reclamation, as otherwise the Council would be seen as a tool to rationalize Government actions and would not be able to gain support from the public. Dr Edgar CHENG took note of Ms LAU's views. He explained that political development was not included in the SD strategy because it had already been integrated in the economic, social and environmental perspectives. The Chairman concurred that the Council should look into more immediate issues.

18. Ms Emily LAU asked if the Administration had conducted any SD assessments for its legislative and financial proposals. The Deputy Director of Administration (DD of A) confirmed that a set of over 40 SD indicators had been adopted in assessing the sustainability of all legislative and financial proposals. Since 2002, the Administration was required to set out in all papers submitted to the Chief Executive in Council outcome of SD assessments and about 500 of such papers had been issued.

19. Mr Patrick LAU asked if the Council would also look into the issues of waste recycling and development of hydro-electricity. In response, Dr Edgar CHENG said that the related information and discussions could be found in the interactive website of the Council.

Coordination with the Mainland

20. Mr LAU Kong-wah agreed that community involvement was essential in reaching a consensus on the way forward for building a long-term SD strategy for Hong Kong. As the engagement process had just begun, he wished to remind the Council the need to ascertain the implications arising from the close interaction between Hong Kong and the Mainland which would directly affect the economic, planning, transport, and population policies of both sides. He hoped that the Council would take into account the latest development in cross-boundary activities in formulating the SD strategy. Mr Jeffrey LAM echoed that the task of the Council was not an easy one having regard to the need to balance the competing demands among economic, social and environmental development. From a business point of view, cleaner environment and better air quality would encourage foreign investments but over emphasis on environmental protection might deter economic and business development. Direct application of overseas experience in SD to Hong Kong would not be appropriate given its unique situation. With the increase in economic activities between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the developments on both sides should be taken into account in formulating the SD strategy. Mr Albert LAI advised that SD was essential as it aimed to protect our existing resources for future generations. It was also meant to resolve the conflict between environment protection and economic development. By way of illustration, a good waste management programme would enhance the recycling business which would in turn bring about economic benefits to Hong Kong. Dr Edgar CHENG added that cross-boundary issues were being dealt with by the joint working group of the Pearl River Delta Region.

Way forward

21. Dr Edgar CHENG assured members that the Council would conduct its work in an open and transparent manner. Comments from members and the public on the outcomes of the engagement process so far and how the Council might take this forward to achieve an effective and participatory SD strategy for Hong Kong were most welcomed. The Chairman informed members that the Administration's

response to the recommendations of the Council would be presented to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works for consideration in due course. Meanwhile, political parties were invited to give their views on SD to the Council.

III. Any other business

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:30 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 January 2005

**Targets set/progress made in respect of initiatives listed under "Plan for sustainability"
as detailed in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 Policy Agenda booklets**

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
1.	To develop the environmental policy.	<p>To develop a land use, transport and environmental strategy under the Hong Kong 2030 study to guide the long-term development of Hong Kong.</p> <p>To promulgate in 2003 a comprehensive nature conservation policy. A consultation exercise on the review of the nature conservation policy was conducted from July to October 2003.</p>	<p>Ongoing initiative.</p> <p>To draw up a more comprehensive nature conservation policy and a proposed implementation programme by taking into account the comments received during the three-month public consultation exercise which ended in mid-October 2003.</p>	<p>Ongoing initiative.</p> <p>To implement the new nature conservation policy including a pilot scheme on the improvement proposals of management agreement with landowners and public-private partnership.</p>	<p>The new nature conservation policy was promulgated in November 2004.</p> <p>The Panel on Environmental Affairs was briefed on the policy at its meeting on 22 November 2004.</p>

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
2.	To encourage the community as a whole to gradually accept the implications of the polluter pays principle.	To implement the “polluter-pays” principle and introduce a landfill charging scheme for construction and demolition waste in 2004.	Ongoing initiative.	Ongoing initiative. To review the existing sewage services charging scheme according to the “polluter-pays” principle with a view to achieving an equitable sharing of the funding responsibility in respect of the provision of sewage services.	The Waste Disposal (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2003 was introduced in 2003 to give effect to a revised construction waste charging scheme. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Council on 2 July 2004. Two Regulations were also made under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap.354) to set out the details of the charging system in October 2004. These Regulations will come into operation on a date to be appointed by the Government.

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
3.	To invite individual businesses to play a greater role in protecting the environment.	To promulgate in 2003 a comprehensive nature conservation policy including practicable measures to better conserve ecologically important habitats in close partnership with academics and non-governmental organisations.	To encourage the power companies to undertake pilot production-scale wind energy projects for public demonstration and evaluation purposes and to continue to promote the wider application of renewable energy.	<p>Ongoing initiative.</p> <p>To implement the new nature conservation policy including a pilot scheme on the improvement proposals of management agreement with landowners and public-private partnership.</p> <p>To draw up measures to promote and facilitate the development of the recycling industry under the environmental industry policy.</p>	The Panel on Environmental Affairs was briefed on the new conservation policy at its meeting on 22 November 2004.

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
4.	To establish effective institutional arrangements to ensure efficient and effective consideration of policies related to the environment and conservation.				The Chief Executive appointed the Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) on 1 March 2003.
5.	To ensure all major policy and strategic initiatives go through full assessment of their social, environmental and economic implications.		To ensure that planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission to protect the Victoria Harbour and enhance it for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.	Ongoing initiative.	
6.	To conduct studies and public consultation on sustainable development.			To establish an engagement process that facilitates public participation in formulating a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong.	<p>The Strategy Sub-committee has been set up under the CSD and has begun work on the preliminary task of gathering information and working out a practical timetable for involving the public in formulating the strategy.</p> <p>The CSD briefed the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works on the progress with the engagement process at their joint meeting on 16 November 2004.</p>

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
7.	To involve the public in building a sustainable community in Hong Kong.		<p>To consult the public on the viable technology(ies) to be adopted with a view to developing state-of-the-art, cost-effective and environmentally friendly large-scale waste treatment facility(ies) in Hong Kong.</p> <p>To implement a comprehensive greening policy. A high Level Steering Committee on greening has been set up, and a community garden programme will be rolled out to enlist community participation in greening activities at neighbourhood level. Various greening and horticulture activities will also be organised in the 18 districts to promote public support of a green environment.</p>	<p>To identify the viable technologies to be adopted and to consult the public on the options to be adopted.</p> <p>To produce greening master plans for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central by around mid 2005. Six community gardens in different districts have been established in 2004. The programme will be extended to cover all districts in 2005-06. Various greening and horticulture activities will be organised to promote public support for a green environment.</p>	

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
8.	To strengthen co-operation with the Guangdong Authorities on protecting Deep Bay and Mirs Bay.				<p><u>Deep Bay</u> The Government and the Guangdong Government agreed in January 2000 to launch a Deep Bay Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme to reduce the pollution loading to Deep Bay to an acceptable level by 2015. The effectiveness of the Programme will be reviewed every five years. The first review is scheduled for 2005.</p> <p><u>Mirs Bay</u> The Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy Study jointly conducted by the Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government was completed in March 2003. The recommended pollution control strategy pertaining to the Study was endorsed by both Governments which have since maintained close liaison to exchange</p>

Initiative		Target set / progress made			
		2003 Policy Agenda booklet	2004 Policy Agenda booklet	2005 Policy Agenda booklet	Remarks
					information on implementation of the strategy and major development and infrastructure projects that could have significant implications on the sustainability of the Bay's water environment.
9.	To introduce a pilot emissions trading scheme among power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong.	To optimise the use of resources in the reduction of emissions in the same air shed as part of the current programme with the Guangdong Provincial Government to improve the air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region.	To implement the Regional Air Quality Management Plan with the Guangdong Provincial Government including the introduction of a pilot emissions trading scheme among power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong.	To start monitoring jointly with Guangdong the air quality of the region and to discuss the introduction of further enhanced emission control measures in 2005.	The State Council has approved the implementation of emission trading. However, it will still take time to work out details of implementation having regard to the disparity in environmental legislation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.