## 立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 484/05-06 (These minutes have been seen by the Administration)

Ref: CB1/PL/EA/1

## **Panel on Environmental Affairs**

## Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 28 November 2005, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

**Members present** : Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP (Chairman)

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP

Hon LEE Wing-tat

Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP

**Members absent**: Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP

Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Public officers attending

For items IV and VI

Mr K K KWOK, JP

Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and

Works (Environment)

Mr Roy TANG

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

Mr TSE Chin-wan

Assistant Director (Air Policy)

#### For item V

Mr K K KWOK, JP

Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)

Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung

Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure)

Mr Alex NG Yau-wing

Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Special

Waste & Landfill Restoration)

**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

#### Action

## I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(1)344/05-06 — Minutes of the special meeting held on

21 October 2005

LC Paper No. CB(1)345/05-06 — Minutes of the meeting held on

24 October 2005)

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 and 24 October 2005 were confirmed.

## II. Information paper issued since last meeting

2 Members noted that no information papers had been issued since last meeting.

### III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(01) — List of follow-up actions LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. <u>Members</u> agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting of the Panel scheduled for Thursday, 15 December 2005, at 2:30 pm -

- (a) A policy framework for the management of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong; and
- (b) Development of EcoPark.
- 4. The <u>Chairman</u> reminded members that a joint meeting with the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene would be held on Tuesday, 29 November 2005, at 10:45 am to discuss the reorganization plan for the food safety regulatory framework. An informal meeting with a delegation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Vietnam had also been scheduled for Thursday, 15 December 2005, at 9:30 am.

## IV. Control programme on volatile organic compounds

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(LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(03) — Updated
                                                 background
                                                              brief
                                                                     on
                                      control
                                                 of
                                                      volatile
                                                                 organic
                                      compounds
                                                    prepared
                                                               by
                                                                     the
                                      Legislative Council Secretariat
 LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(04) — Paper
                                                provided
                                                                     the
                                      Administration
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5. The <u>Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)</u> (PSETW(E)) briefed members on the progress of developing a programme to control the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by highlighting the salient points in the paper provided by the Administration.

## The proposed control programme

- 6. While appreciating the Administration's effort in conducting in-depth discussions with the trades to mapping out measures to effectively reduce VOC emission and minimizing the impact on the affected parties, Ms Emily LAU held the view that this should have been done before the control programme was worked out. The much time which different Legislative Council Panels had spent in receiving numerous objections from the affected trades could have been saved too. Nevertheless, she was pleased that the Administration had finally taken on board the trades' views and had rationalized the control programme to make it more practicable. This had demonstrated the need for the Administration to establish partnership with the trades. She then enquired if the trades were agreeable to the proposed programme to control emissions of VOCs. She also questioned the rationale for adopting VOC limits equivalent to the Californian standards which were the most stringent in the world so far.
- 7. In response, <u>PSETW(E)</u> said that air pollution was a major public concern and there was a need to effectively reduce emissions in order to meet the emission reduction targets. As such, the more stringent but achievable Californian standards were adopted. Given that a large number of VOC-containing products currently in use were able to meet the VOC standards, and that consumer products emitting small amounts of VOCs were not included in the control programme, the affected trades had

generally accepted the proposed programme which was aimed at achieving the emission reduction targets without causing excessive disturbance to them. Besides, a sufficiently long transition period would be allowed to enable importers and manufacturers to comply with the requirements. The <u>Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)</u> (DDEP(3)) supplemented that at present, the United States was the only country which had imposed VOC limits. Given that the California Air Resources Board had conducted in-depth studies on the control of VOCs, and that both California and Hong Kong were experiencing serious smog problem, it was decided that the Californian standards, which were the most stringent, should be applied in Hong Kong. Experience in California also showed that the imposition of VOC limits had not adversely affected the trading of VOC-containing consumer products. It was also worth noting that the European Union was considering the need to adopt similar VOC limits on consumer products.

- Ms Miriam LAU said that she was pleased that Members returned from functional constituencies had demonstrated their influence to press for the needed changes to the control programme. She however failed to understand why local importers/distributors rather than manufacturers/suppliers of VOC-containing products were required to comply with the labeling requirement. She also enquired if consideration would be given to restricting the sale of products with high VOC content. PSETW(E) said that the previous two-stage scheme comprising of labeling requirement as well as the mandatory registration and testing of VOC-containing products had been dispensed with in light of the trades' concern about cost implications and difficulties in complying with these requirements. imposition of limits on VOC contents could indeed expedite the proposed control programme. The scope of control would also be narrowed down to the six largest emitting sources which accounted for about 80% of VOC emissions from consumer products. It was anticipated that the control programme would achieve the desired effect without adversely affecting the trades.
- 9. <u>Ms Miriam LAU</u> remained concerned that in the absence of labels, importers might need to seek information on VOC content from manufacturers in order to meet the VOC limits. <u>DDEP(3)</u> said that the Working Group on Regulatory Control of VOCs, comprising four Subgroups from different industries, had worked out the regulatory requirements and implementation dates for different kinds of VOC-containing products. The regulatory requirements would be sector-specific so that they would be most suitable and effective for the sector concerned. Sufficient transitional time would be allowed for importers/suppliers to re-formulate or source alternative products to meet the VOC limits.

### **VOC limits**

10. The <u>Chairman</u> said that she was supportive of the proposal and was pleased to note that products with low VOC content, such as cosmetics, were excluded from the control programme. Referring to the proposed VOC limits in Annexures B to D to the Administration's paper, she queried the rationale for setting high VOC limits for paints and coatings, particularly those used indoors, given the availability of

water-based alternatives to replace the high VOC-solvent based paints. She also enquired if restriction could be introduced to prevent the use of high-VOC solvent based paints indoors.

- 11. In response, <u>ADEP(AP)</u> said that the trades had been consulted on the availability of substitutes for high VOC-containing products. According to available information and depending on product categories, about 20% to 50% of the VOC-containing products to be put under control were able to meet the proposed VOC limits. Different implementation dates had been worked out taking into account the time required to reformulate or source alternative products. The trades were quite confident that alternative products which were able to meet the VOC limits would be made available by the agreed implementation dates. As regards the VOC limits for paints and coatings, <u>ADEP(AP)</u> advised that higher limits had to be imposed on these products because most of the commonly used solvent paints were of a very high VOC content. Despite the availability of water-based alternatives, the need for solvent-based paints still existed for rust prevention and other special usages. The proposed VOC limits were set by making reference to the stringent limits adopted in South Coast of California.
- 12. The <u>Chairman</u> asked if the effectiveness of insecticides would be decreased as a result of the reduction in volatility due to the lowering of VOC-content. If this was the case, an increased amount of insecticides with higher toxicity would have to be used to achieve the desired effect. <u>ADEP(AP)</u> said that the Administration had discussed with suppliers and were satisfied with the availability of insecticides which were able to meet the VOC limits. Importers would need to ensure that the imported insecticides would meet with VOC limits while manufacturers might need to reformulate their products within the transitional period. It was believed that there would not be any problem with compliance.

#### Implementation timetable

- 13. While supporting the proposed control programme, particularly the imposition of VOC limits, which was more direct and effective than the previous two-stage scheme, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong noted that the VOC limits for the first batch of consumer products would come into force on 1 January 2007 while other consumer products, such as paints and coatings, would only come into force on 1 January 2010. Given the exceptionally high VOC content of paints and coatings, he enquired if it was possible to advance the implementation dates of control plans for such products to 1 January 2009 to bring in line with the majority of VOC products.
- 14. <u>DDEP(3)</u> said that different implementation dates for different VOC products were proposed taking into account the difficulty in finding substitutes for paints and coatings and the time required for the reformulation of paint products. As an interim measure, suppliers of paints had agreed to temporarily affix a warning label on those paints with VOC content in excess of the proposed limits. As the said labeling was not a mandatory requirement, the efforts of the trades in facilitating control on VOC were highly appreciated. The <u>Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Air</u>

<u>Policy</u>) (ADEP(AP)) added that the implementation dates were set in line with that in California. As VOC limits had only been adopted by a few places, the timetable would already put Hong Kong among the first places in the world in implementing these VOC limits.

## Effect of the proposed control programme in reducing VOC emissions

- 15. Noting that the proposed control programme could help reduce approximately 8 000 tonnes of VOCs, Ms Emily LAU asked how the result would compare with the previous two-stage scheme. DDEP(3) said that the registration and labeling scheme requirements under the first phase of the scheme were meant to facilitate consumers in choosing products with low VOC content and thus no estimate was made on the extent of VOC reduction. The proposed control programme which involved the setting of VOC limits would be able to quantify the extent of VOC reduction.
- 16. The <u>Chairman</u> enquired about the effect of the reduction of 8 000 tonnes of VOCs in achieving the emission reduction targets by 2010. <u>ADEP(AP)</u> said that according to the targets, Hong Kong was required to reduce VOC emissions by 55%. The reduction of 8 000 tonnes of VOCs under the proposed control programme constituted a 15% reduction in total VOC emissions. Together with the 23% reduction in VOC emissions resulting from the implementation of a series of measures since 1997, together with the continual implementation of the various control programmes and the exploring of controls on use of solvents, it was expected that the emission reduction target of 55% VOC could be met by 2010.

# V. PWP Item 5169DR - Restoration of Northwest New Territories landfills and Gin Drinkers Bay landfill – aftercare work

LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(05) — Paper provided by the Administration

- 17. The Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Environmental Infrastructure) (ADEP(EI)) briefed members on the Administration's proposal to upgrade Public Works Project Item **5169DR** "Restoration of Northwest New Territories Landfills and Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill aftercare work" to the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) to Category A for continuing the aftercare work at Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill and Northwest New Territories Landfills (comprising the Siu Lang Shui Landfill, Ma Tso Lung Landfill and Ngau Tam Mei Landfill) for a further period of seven years (from June 2007 to May 2014) at an estimated cost of \$97.5million in money-of-the-day prices.
- 18. Given the ready availability of the basic infrastructure for the management of leachate and landfill gas, the generation of which had been reduced over time, the <u>Chairman</u> questioned the justifications for the high cost of \$97.5 million for the proposed restoration works for the second seven years of restoration for the landfills, which was not much less than that for the first seven years. In response, <u>ADEP(EI)</u>

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clarified that the cost of the restoration works of \$101.8 million for the four landfills for the first seven years did not include the capital costs of \$332 million for the basic infrastructure for the management of leachate and landfill gas. In view of the decrease in emissions from closed landfill sites, it was decided that the measurements for the landfill gas and leachate etc could be reduced from over 17 000 to about 15 000 times per year for the second seven years. She added that the cost also included labour costs for management and maintenance of systems by the contractor. annual recurrent expenditure of \$1.94 million as set out in the paper were mainly the existing Environmental Protection Department (EPD) staff costs incurred in engaging one Senior Environmental Protection Inspector, two Environmental Protection Inspectors, and 0.5 Environmental Protection Officer to manage the four landfills and supervise the aftercare work of the contractor. At members' request, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the management and maintenance costs for the four landfills and the efforts to be taken to reduce the costs before the proposal was submitted to PWSC.

- 19. The <u>Chairman</u> further enquired if landfill gas generated from landfills was put to beneficial use. <u>ADEP(EI)</u> advised that landfill gas generated from the refuse decomposition of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill had been fully utilized to provide energy for the leachate management system. However, landfill gas generated from Siu Lang Shui Landfill, Ngau Tam Mei Landfill and Ma Tso Lung Landfill could not be used to generate energy because the methane content was less than 35%.
- 20. Ms Miriam LAU said that members were very cost conscious about the restoration works which might last up to 30 years. It was expected that an even larger investment would be incurred to restore the three major operating landfills. Given the high cost in restoring landfills which had also become eyesores to the public, she urged the Administration to make reference to overseas experience with a view to identifying a better and more cost-effective restoration plan for landfills. There was also a need to review the policy on disposal of municipal solid waste and dispense with the reliance on landfills. PSETW(E) said that Hong Kong had been relying on landfills in the past to dispose of its municipal solid waste. These landfills had become a very heavy financial burden because of the high restoration costs and the long duration of the aftercare works. They were also very space consuming and the generation of landfill gas and leachate would pollute the surrounding environment if not properly controlled. He agreed that the reliance of landfills as the only means of disposal of municipal solid waste was not sustainable in the long run. on the management of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong would be discussed in greater detail at the next Panel meeting in December 2005.
- 21. Given the advancement in technology, Mr LEE Wing-tat enquired whether efforts could be made to expedite the restoration works. PSETW(E) said that refuse decomposition in a landfill was a slow process which might last up to 30 years. Since landfills would continue to produce landfill gas and leachate and be subject to differential settlement during the refuse decomposition process, the aftercare work could not have been expedited. Efforts would be made to improve the aesthetics of the landfill sites during the restoration process and best use would be made of the sites when the restoration works were completed.

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- 22. Referring to the 13 closed landfills, <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> enquired about the timetable for development of these sites for public use. <u>ADEP(EI)</u> advised that except for the Pillar Point Valley Landfill, restoration works for the 12 closed landfills were completed. Of these restored landfill sites, six had been or would be developed into recreational areas as follows -
  - (a) Sai Tso Wan Landfill was converted to a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball;
  - (b) Shuen Wan Landfill was developed into a golf-driving range and plans were in hand to further develop it into a 9-hole golf course;
  - (c) Funds had been sought from the Hong Kong Jockey Club for developing a football training centre at the Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill:
  - (d) Tseung Kwan O Stage II/III Landfill was used as a model aeroplane training field for the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps;
  - (e) Jordan Valley Landfill and Ngau Chi Wan Landfill would be developed into parks by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

The Ma Tso Lung Landfill site, which belonged to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, was returned to the Group for recreational purpose. <u>ADEP(EI)</u> added that the development of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill had been shelved as a result of the economic downturn in 2002. Plans were now being considered by LCSD and the Architectural Services Department to develop part of the site as a park under minor works project costing less than \$15 million. As regards the remaining four closed landfill sites, including Siu Lang Shui Landfill, Ngau Tam Mei Landfill (which was a part of the green belt), Ma Yau Tong (West) Landfill and Ma Tau Tong (Central) Landfill, beneficial use had yet to be worked out in view of constraints such as small size, remoteness of the sites and financial constraints.

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23. While acknowledging the need for the proposed aftercare works, Ms Emily LAU emphasized that efforts should be made to reduce the costs as far as possible. To facilitate monitoring of the works, she requested the Administration to provide a table setting out the progress of landfill afteruse, cost incurred, time taken for the works, availability and usage of the restored sites, as well as the department(s) responsible for managing the afteruse projects. Given the lack of recreational facilities in Hong Kong, she said that members would support that priority be given to the development of closed landfill sites for recreational uses. Such developments would also create job opportunities. She therefore welcomed the proposed development of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill as Kwai Chung Park in consultation with the district councils concerned. As regards those landfill sites where usage had yet to be identified, Ms LAU said that consideration should be given to developing these sites into green belts so that they would not become eyesores to the public. In reply,

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<u>ADEP(EI)</u> would consider developing Ma Yau Tong (West) Landfill, Ma Tau Tong (Central) Landfill and Siu Lang Shui Landfill into areas for public enjoyment, particularly Siu Lang Shui Landfill site which was known for its beautiful scenery and abundance of butterflies in the winter time.

24. Mr LEE Wing-tat was disappointed at the long lead time taken for developing the closed landfill sites for recreational use. By way of illustration, he had been pursuing for the development of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill since its closure about 20 years ago when he was then the Chairman of the Kwai Tsing District Board. the site was still left idle with no beneficial use. He then enquired about the feasibility of releasing part of the Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill site for public enjoyment pending the full restoration of the site. Only simple facilities, such as seats, were required to allow members of the public to take a rest in the open space during their ADEP(EI) said that the Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill site would not pose safety hazard to the public and was now suitable for recreational use whilst some aftercare works would need to be continued. She was aware that LCSD was considering to develop part of Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill site as a minor works item under Category D and some simple facilities, such as lighting and seating, would be provided so that the site could be made available for public use as soon as possible. Mr LEE Wing-tat said that the LCSD should be asked to advise when it was able to make available partially the closed Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill site for the enjoyment of the public.

25. Given the close proximity of the Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill to the adjacent cargo handling area (CHA), <u>Mr WONG Yung-kan</u> enquired if efforts would be made to clean up the CHA to facilitate anchorage and loading of goods from vessels. The <u>Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Special Waste & Landfill Restoration)</u> advised that the CHA was under the management of the Marine Department. He nevertheless undertook to liaise with the Marine Department on the cleanliness of the area.

26. In concluding, the <u>Chairman</u> said that members would not object to the proposal but had reservations on the high cost for the aftercare works. She said that the Administration would need to address members' concerns raised at the meeting before submitting the proposal to PWSC.

## VI. Indoor air quality management programme

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(06) — Background brief on indoor air quality prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(1) 348/05-06(07) — Paper provided by the Administration)

27. <u>ADEP(AP)</u> briefed members on the progress of implementing the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management Programme and the work on developing the programme further.

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- Noting that only a limited number of buildings had participated in the 28. voluntary IAQ Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places (the Scheme) since its introduction in 2003, Mr LEE Wing-tat queried the effectiveness of the Scheme in improving IAQ. He opined that the lack of coordination among the government departments involved in resolving problems related to commercial buildings might be Given that a high a contributing factor to the unpopularity of the Scheme. percentage of the working population was working indoors, more pro-active measures should be worked out to improve IAQ, which played an important role in preventing the spread of influenza and other contagious diseases. He enquired if the latest technology in building construction could help to improve IAQ. Consideration should also be given to introducing legislation to control IAQ. Expressing similar concern, Ms Emily LAU enquired about the participation rate of buildings in the Scheme. She supported that a target should be set for the Scheme, and that measures should be worked out to enhance the attractiveness of the Scheme to make it a success. She said that the public would welcome control on IAQ, although this might not necessarily be in the form of legislative control.
- 29. <u>ADEP(AP)</u> said that according to latest figures, 117 buildings were awarded IAQ Certificates under the Scheme. The present progress was considered acceptable given the lead time required for buildings to conduct assessments and put in place improvement measures to comply with IAQ objectives before being awarded the certificates. It was hoped that the increase in number of buildings being awarded IAQ certificates would help encourage more buildings to participate in the Scheme, since building management companies would not want to lag behind their counterparts in maintaining good IAQ within their buildings.
- 30. On IAQ control, DDEP(3) said that there was no country in the world which had legislative control over IAQ. There were also difficulties in implementing a mandatory IAQ control system in view of the financial implications involved in assessing IAQ of all buildings in Hong Kong. Each assessment alone would cost around \$20,000. Besides, building owners were reluctant to accept a mandatory control system. As such, the Administration was encouraging building owners and management companies to conduct IAQ assessments on their buildings on a voluntary ADEP(AP) added that it was not possible to set statutory standards for IAQ control given the complexity and many factors involved. This also explained why there was no place in the world which adopted such standards. In fact, Hong Kong was a pioneer in respect of control of IAQ in that it was the only place in the world with an IAQ Certification Scheme using IAQ objectives as the benchmark for evaluating IAQ. To help prevent emissions from building and furnishing materials, the Administration was exploring the feasibility of controlling air pollutant emitting materials by introducing appropriate standards. A stepwise approach using a package of measures would be adopted to control IAQ, taking into account public acceptance. More publicity on the need to control IAQ would be conducted to encourage more buildings to participate in the Scheme. At members' request, the Administration would provide the target to be achieved for the IAQ Certification Scheme.

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31. Noting that there was a number of existing legislation related to IAQ, notably the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) which imposed a requirement for mechanical ventilation with five air changes per hour to office not provided with natural ventilation, Ms Miriam LAU enquired if enforcement had been taken against non-compliance. ADEP(AP) confirmed that individual departments responsible for implementing the related legislation would take necessary steps to ensure compliance. He added that there were many factors affecting IAQ, including building design, choice of building materials, quality of building management etc. Hence, building owners and management companies would need to engage qualified persons to identify measures to improve IAQ. In response to members, DDEP(3) agreed to provide the prosecution figures for non-compliance with legislation governing IAQ of scheduled premises and public places for members' reference.

- 32. As regards the Chairman's enquiry on the processing of applications for IAQ Certificates, <u>ADEP(AP)</u> said that building owners would have to engage qualified persons to assess IAQ of their buildings before submitting the assessment for consideration by EPD. Where qualified, IAQ Certificates would be issued within one to two weeks' time. To improve the credibility of the certificates, the <u>Chairman</u> considered it necessary for EPD to visit the buildings concerned to verify the results of the assessments.
- 33. Mr WONG Yung-kan enquired if the IAQ control would be applicable to new Government buildings and developments, such as the proposed Government complex at the Tamar site. DDEP(3) said that based on results of the random survey conducted in 2001/02 on 72 Government buildings in Hong Kong, 95% of these buildings were found to have met the IAQ objective pertaining to the "Good" class. The remaining 5% were requested to comply with the objective upon renovation of the buildings. ADEP(AP) added that technical guidelines to ensure IAQ in new buildings were issued to the building construction industry and these would be incorporated in the building design to ensure that new buildings would have better IAQ. Meanwhile, existing buildings were also encouraged under the IAQ Certification Scheme to improve their IAQ through better management and maintenance.
- 34. The <u>Chairman</u> recalled that it was only after the motion debate on IAQ on 22 October 2003 that the Administration had started to take action on IAQ control. However, the progress was far from satisfactory given that only a limited number of buildings had been awarded with IAQ Certificates. She considered that efforts should be stepped up to improve IAQ. As an incentive to encourage building owners and management companies to take measures to improve IAQ of their buildings, consideration should be given to publicizing buildings with good IAQ. This might help buildings with good IAQ to attract a higher rental, thereby encouraging other buildings to follow suit. Spot checks to buildings should be made to ensure good IAQ and actions, such as issuing of warning letters, should be taken against buildings with poor ventilation. New buildings should also be subject to examination to ensure that VOC emissions from building materials had been reduced to an acceptable level. <a href="DDEP(3)">DDEP(3)</a> said that the list of buildings with IAQ Certificates had been uploaded onto

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the Internet. Buildings with IAQ certificates would have a competitive edge over others since building owners could make use of the certificates as a selling point to attract higher rentals. He however pointed out that the Administration would not be able to carry out regular inspection/examination of buildings in the absence of legislative control on IAQ.

35. Given the prevalence of air purifying machines, Ms Miriam LAU considered that there was a need for the Administration to apprise the public about the effectiveness of these machines in improving IAQ, otherwise these machines would eventually end up in landfills. ADEP(AP) explained that air purifying machines were able to filter the particulates in the air and their effectiveness would depend on the location where they were placed. While most of the air purifying machines could operate according to their design specifications, reliance on the use of these machines to clean the air was not recommended. A more effective way to ensure good IAQ was to improve ventilation and to avoid using materials which would pollute the air. The Administration had drawn up guidelines on ways to improve IAQ.

## VI. Any other business

36. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
12 December 2005