(Translation)

Motion on "Perfecting lawn facilities in parks" moved by Hon Bernard CHAN at the Legislative Council meeting of Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Hon James TO Kun-sun and Hon CHOY So-vuk

"That, as there is a serious shortage of lawn resources for public use in Hong Kong, this Council urges that the Government should, along the existing waterfront promenades such as the Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan sections, and in the course of urban planning, including the development of future projects such as the West Kowloon Cultural District, the New Central Harbourfront and the waterfront from Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun in New Territories West, study the planting of more lawns in the open spaces, allocate more resources for the maintenance of lawns, make available lawns which are not closed for maintenance for use by the public and reduce unnecessary regulatory control, so that members of the public, especially small children, can better enjoy these public greening facilities; in addition, in view of the aggravating heat island effect, this Council urges that the Government should, in the course of urban planning, increase greened areas on the ground and provide more open spaces throughout the territory and plant more lawns in those open spaces, so that the greening ratio in urban areas can be increased as a whole, as well as extend the criteria of planting more lawns, making lawns available for public use and reducing unnecessary regulatory control to the existing lawns managed by the Government; and draw up code of practice for management and use of lawns, and increase pedestrian walkways to connect lawns and related facilities in the open spaces, so as to facilitate the access of members of the public to and their enjoyment of these public facilities, fully utilizing the function of parks to relieve people's urban stress; in addition, this Council also urges the Government to study the planting of more lawns as far as possible on the rooftops of buildings located in the open spaces and improve their maintenance work, including utilizing as far as possible solar energy facilities and providing additional rainwater and grey water recycling facilities, and as far as possible using pervious materials for the land formation works of open spaces beside the lawns, etc."