(Translation)

Motion on

"Protecting the safety and health of employees at work in inclement weather" moved by Hon LI Fung-ying at the Legislative Council meeting of Wednesday, 12 May 2010

Motion as amended by Hon CHAN Hak-kan and Hon IP Wai-ming

That, in view of the aggravating problems of global climate change and air pollution, this Council urges the Administration to review the relevant guidelines and legislation for employees at work under very hot weather warnings, typhoon or rainstorm warnings and severe air pollution, so as to enhance the protection of employees' safety and health when working in inclement weather or severe air pollution, especially when working outdoors, and formulate the relevant guidelines and legislation for employees at work under cold weather warnings and early warnings on sandstorms, which include:

- (a) to stipulate that employees who have contracted a disease attributable to working in inclement weather may be regarded as suffering from work injury and are entitled to statutory compensation;
- (b) to provide employees with rest breaks or arrange for them to take turns to work when working in inclement weather, such as making arrangement for employees to take rest during periods of very hot weather, or to take turns to work in very hot and chilly workplaces, so as to shorten their period of working continuously in a very hot environment;
- (c) the Labour Department should step up inspections and strictly institute prosecutions against employers who have not taken appropriate preventive measures for their employees in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance or the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance; and
- (d) employers should take appropriate preventive measures and install suitable facilities to protect the occupational safety and health of their employees.