
INFORMATION NOTE

C40 workshop

1. Background

1.1 The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF)¹ of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is going to sponsor the C40 workshop to be held in Hong Kong from 5 to 6 November 2010. The C40 workshop is co-organized by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC)² of the Government and Civic Exchange, an independent Hong Kong-based public policy think tank. Against such background, the purpose of this information note is to provide the Panel on Environmental Affairs with information on the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) as well as details of the C40 workshop.

2. C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group

2.1 The effects of climate change are often more keenly felt in cities, such as the urban heat island effect.³ The majority of the world's energy consumption either occurs in cities or as a direct result of the way that cities function. According to many research studies⁴, cities consume the vast majority of global energy and are therefore major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, they are the key to alleviating climate change.

¹ ECF was established under the *Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance*. ECF provides funding support for educational, research, technology demonstration, and projects and activities in relation to environmental and conservation matters, as well as community waste recovery projects. Since its establishment in 1994, ECF has supported over 1 000 projects, with a total commitment of about HK\$200 million.

² ECC has been set up since 1990 to promote public awareness of environmental issues and encourage the public to contribute actively towards a better environment. Membership of ECC comprises both members appointed by the Chief Executive and representatives of relevant government departments.

³ *C40 Cities* (2009).

⁴ Kamal-Chaoui, Lamia & Alexis Robert (2009) and *C40 Cities* (2009).

2.2 In the light of such situation, in October 2005, the former Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, organized the World Cities Leadership Climate Change Summit in London. Representatives of 18 leading world cities met in the conference to discuss joining forces to tackle global warming and climate change. The representatives saw the need for action and co-operation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pledged to work together towards achieving that goal. At the end of the conference, a communiqué was signed which recognized the need for cities to take action and to co-operate on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These cities together formed the Large Cities Climate Leadership Group and agreed on a number of action points, including most notably the creation of procurement policies and alliances to accelerate the uptake of climate-friendly technologies and influence the market place.

2.3 In August 2006, the initiative was further strengthened when former United States President William Clinton and Livingstone announced a partnership between the Large Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI)⁵. This new partnership pledged to reduce carbon emission and increase energy efficiency in large cities across the world.

2.4 The participating cities in the Large Cities Climate Leadership Group, which was later renamed C40, are listed in the footnote.⁶ Hong Kong has joined C40 since November 2007.

⁵ CCI is a Clinton Foundation project dedicated to make a difference in the fight against climate change in practical and measurable ways, and initiate programmes that directly result in substantial reductions in heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions. CCI has joined with a range of the world's leading organizations and institutions to achieve these objectives. In its first phase, CCI is working with members of C40 to develop and implement a range of actions that will accelerate greenhouse gas emissions reductions. To enable the partner cities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, CCI is providing direct assistance to individual cities, creating a purchasing consortium to pool the purchasing power of these cities, and facilitating the sharing of information about successful and replicable programmes.

⁶ The participating cities are Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Athens, Greece; Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing, China; Berlin, Germany; Bogotá, Colombia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cairo, Egypt; Caracas, Venezuela; Chicago, the United States; Delhi NCT, India; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Hanoi, Vietnam; Houston, the United States; Hong Kong, China; Istanbul, Turkey; Jakarta, Indonesia; Johannesburg, South Africa; Karachi, Pakistan; Lagos, Nigeria; Lima, Peru; London, the United Kingdom; Los Angeles, the United States; Madrid, Spain; Melbourne, Australia; Mexico City, Mexico; Moscow, Russia; Mumbai, India; New York, the United States; Paris, France; Philadelphia, the United States; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome, Italy; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Seoul, South Korea; Shanghai, China; Sydney, Australia; Tokyo, Japan; Toronto, Canada; and Warsaw, Poland.

3. C40 workshop

3.1 Civic Exchange has initiated an idea of organizing an international public workshop on climate change in Hong Kong, with a view to raising public awareness to the subject and facilitating exchanges on the strategies to tackle the environmental problem. ECC has been invited to collaborate with Civic Exchange over the C40 workshop to help draw the public's attention to the threats and challenges posed by climate change, as well as to build the image of Hong Kong as a "thought-and-action" city with innovative ideas on climate change. ECC also considers that the workshop may raise Hong Kong's profile on climate change and encourage dialogues between cities from overseas as well as the Mainland, in particular the Pearl River Delta.

3.2 The C40 workshop will form part of the "Climate Change Creativity – Creating a Low Carbon Economy for Low Carbon Living – Climate Change Conference 2010" (Climate Change Conference 2010).⁷ The latter will coincide with the 5th Eco Expo Asia, an annual local event for environmental industries from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas to showcase their latest products, services and networks.

3.3 According to ECC⁸, Civic Exchange proposes that the Climate Change Conference 2010 will be a series of events in Hong Kong from 3 to 6 November 2010⁹. Days 3 and 4 will be the C40 workshop in which inter-city discussions will be made on the areas of building energy efficiency and promotion of electric vehicles. The C40 workshop is designed for approximately 350 to 450 participants. Mayors and senior officials of the C40 cities, key figures from government, business, civil society, and academia of the Mainland as well as relevant local stakeholders will be invited to participate in the C40 workshop. All delegates from the C40 cities and the Mainland will be requested to submit reports or to give presentations on their case studies for exchange and discussion with other cities with regard to climate change strategies and measures.

3.4 The C40 workshop is proposed to include keynote presentations by relevant C40 cities and experts; panel discussions to involve public officials, property developers, built environment professionals, business and civil society actors; and breakout sessions for more intense dialogue and exchange of experience.

⁷ Environmental Campaign Committee Secretariat (2009a).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ According to the Environment Bureau, the workshop may possibly extend to 7 November 2010. See Environment Bureau, Environmental Protection Department (2010).

Organizing Structure

3.5 According to ECC, a high-level Steering Committee will provide the overall programme direction of the C40 workshop. Membership will include the Secretary for Environment (or his designate), the C40 Secretariat, CCI, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, Civic Exchange and ECC. The ECC Chairman will chair the Steering Committee.

3.6 Operational matters will be overseen by a Hong Kong-based Management Committee, with a number of subcommittees for specific subject matters (e.g. low-carbon buildings and electric vehicles). The Management Committee will seek advice from the supporting organizations.

Budget

3.7 The budget for the C40 workshop for Day 3 and Day 4 of the Climate Change Conference 2010 is HK\$5,421,319, which will be funded by ECF. Separately, Civic Exchange is seeking around HK\$5.9 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for organizing the events of Days 1 and 2 (and possibly Day 5).¹⁰

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¹⁰ Environmental Campaign Committee Secretariat (2009a) and Environment Bureau, Environmental Protection Department (2010).

Reference

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