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Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(3) 873/10-11

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 15 June 2011

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Perfecting tree management system”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 833/10-11 issued on 2 June 2011, four Members (Hon CHAN Hak-kan, Hon IP Wai-ming, Hon KAM Nai-wai, and Prof Hon Partrick LAU Sau-shing) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Tanya CHAN’s motion on “Perfecting tree management system” scheduled for the Council meeting of 15 June 2011. As directed by the President, the respective proposed amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Tanya CHAN to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Tanya CHAN’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the four Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon CHAN Hak-kan;
 - (ii) Hon IP Wai-ming;

- (iii) Hon KAM Nai-wai; and
- (iv) Prof Hon Patrick LAU;
- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon Tanya CHAN to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the four Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon CHAN Hak-kan to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon CHAN Hak-kan's amendment;
- (i) after Hon CHAN Hak-kan's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other three amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Tanya CHAN to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Tanya CHAN's motion, or her motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Perfecting tree management system”
to be held at the Council meeting of 15 June 2011**

1. Hon Tanya CHAN’s original motion

That planting trees may achieve the effects of improving air quality, alleviating the greenhouse effect and lowering the temperature in urban areas, and improve the urban environment; greening may also improve community landscape as well as people’s living environment, thereby upgrading quality of life; a comprehensive system of tree preservation and management is an indispensable segment of the greening process; while proper tree management may strike a balance between conserving trees and protecting people’s lives and properties, it can also reduce the chances of the Administration having to handle tree risk management and hazardous trees in the future and reduce expenditures; in this connection, in order to further perfect Hong Kong’s tree preservation and management system, this Council urges the Government to:

Establishment of a framework and perfecting resource allocation –

- (a) set up an independent and dedicated department to co-ordinate the work of green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, which is at present scattered among various government departments;
- (b) set up an advisory framework comprising tree and greening experts as well as community members for advising the relevant policy bureaux and government departments on policies and specific measures relating to green planning as well as tree preservation and management;
- (c) increase resources for green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management;
- (d) study enacting specific legislation on tree management, establish a comprehensive legal framework, and formulate various policies and measures on tree preservation and management, so as to ensure that trees can receive comprehensive and appropriate protection;

Perfection of green planning –

- (e) add green elements to various large-scale public and private works projects as well as new development areas, and formulate a tree preservation and management mechanism;
- (f) formulate a comprehensive green planning system, and comprehensively examine the greening arrangements in Hong Kong;

Perfection of the training and regulation of talents –

- (g) formulate a licensing and regulatory system for tree management personnel and tree management contractors;
- (h) strengthen the training of tree preservation and management personnel, and encourage various organizations to offer courses on tree preservation and management as well as green planning;

Strengthening of community work –

- (i) conduct tree surveys in the various communities, so as to identify trees of conservation value, and include such trees in a specific register, and conserve them through specific legislation on tree management; and
- (j) strengthen public education on tree preservation and management, and organize the participation of interested people and groups in tree preservation and management work in the districts.

2. Motion as amended by Hon CHAN Hak-kan

That *with the presence of high-rise buildings everywhere, air pollution and the heat island effect are very serious in Hong Kong, and* planting trees may achieve the effects of improving air quality, alleviating the greenhouse effect and lowering the temperature in urban areas, and improve the urban environment; greening may also improve community landscape as well as people's living environment, thereby upgrading quality of life; a comprehensive system of tree preservation and management is an indispensable segment of the greening process; while proper tree management may strike a balance between conserving trees and protecting people's lives and properties, it can also reduce the chances of the Administration having to handle tree risk management and hazardous trees in the future and reduce expenditures; in this connection, in order to further perfect Hong Kong's tree preservation and management system, this Council urges the Government to:

Establishment of a framework and perfecting resource allocation –

- (a) set up an independent and dedicated department to co-ordinate the work of green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, which is at present scattered among various government departments;
- (b) set up an advisory framework comprising tree and greening experts as well as community members for advising the relevant policy bureaux and government departments on policies and specific measures relating to green planning as well as tree preservation and management;
- (c) increase resources for green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management;
- (d) study enacting specific legislation on tree management, establish a comprehensive legal framework, and formulate various policies and measures on tree preservation and management, so as to ensure that trees can receive comprehensive and appropriate protection;

Perfection of green planning –

- (e) add green elements to various large-scale public and private works projects as well as new development areas, and formulate a tree preservation and management mechanism;
- (f) formulate a comprehensive green planning system, and comprehensively examine the greening arrangements in Hong Kong;

Perfection of the training and regulation of talents –

- (g) formulate a licensing and regulatory system for tree management personnel and tree management contractors, *and establish a demerit point system and a penalty mechanism for the Government's outsourcing contractors for tree management work, so as to strengthen the monitoring of outsourcing contractors' quality*;
- (h) strengthen the training of tree preservation and management personnel, and encourage various organizations to offer courses on tree preservation and management as well as green planning;

Strengthening of community work –

- (i) *establish a comprehensive database of trees in the communities for recording the basic information of trees, their health conditions and locations, etc., to facilitate the Government to carry out tree management and the public to access the relevant information, and conduct tree surveys in the various communities, so as to identify trees*

of conservation value, and include such trees in a specific register, and conserve them through specific legislation on tree management; ~~and~~

- (j) strengthen public education on tree preservation and management, *set up a complaints hotline operated by a dedicated department, make use of various channels such as smart phone or the Internet, etc., to facilitate the reporting of problematic trees by the public*, and organize the participation of interested people and groups in tree preservation and management work in the districts; *and*
- (k) *allocate funds for encouraging the community to organize research projects and activities in relation to greening management and tree preservation, so as to enhance public awareness towards tree conservation.*

Note: Hon CHAN Hak-kan's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon IP Wai-ming

That *the society is highly concerned about tree conservation in recent years, and* planting trees may achieve the effects of improving air quality, alleviating the greenhouse effect and lowering the temperature in urban areas, and improve the urban environment; greening may also improve community landscape as well as people's living environment, thereby upgrading quality of life; a comprehensive system of tree preservation and management is an indispensable segment of the greening process; while proper tree management may strike a balance between conserving trees and protecting people's lives and properties, it can also reduce the chances of the Administration having to handle tree risk management and hazardous trees in the future and reduce expenditures; in this connection, in order to further perfect Hong Kong's tree preservation and management system, this Council urges the Government to:

Establishment of a framework and perfecting resource allocation –

- (a) *as the urban Greening Master Plans have been in implementation for quite some time, consolidate the relevant experience in a timely manner, take on board the community opinions, and promote public engagement, so as to further develop and upgrade the effectiveness of the urban Greening Master Plans on the basis of collective wisdom and concerted efforts, thus enabling more effective tree management;*
- (b) *drawing on the experience of implementing the urban Greening Master Plans, incorporate the features and characteristics of New Territories districts and seriously heed and take on board the views of*

District Councils and the community, so as to formulate a clear timetable on drawing up the Greening Master Plans for the New Territories and an implementation schedule as part of perfecting tree management;

- (a)(c) set up an independent and dedicated department *and appoint civil servants on permanent establishment* to co-ordinate the work of green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, which is at present scattered among various government departments, *so as to dovetail with future development of the society;*
- (b)(d) set up an advisory framework comprising tree and greening experts as well as community members for advising the relevant policy bureaux and government departments on policies and specific measures relating to green planning as well as tree preservation and management;
- (c)(e) increase resources for green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, *including resource allocation for setting up specialist academies to train professionals;*
- (d)(f) study enacting specific legislation *and formulating guidelines on landscaping and* tree management, establish a comprehensive legal framework, and formulate various policies and measures on tree preservation and management, so as to ensure that *landscaping and* trees can receive comprehensive and appropriate protection;

Perfection of green planning –

- (e)(g) add green elements to various large-scale public and private works projects as well as new development areas, *including green rooftops and vertical greening,* and formulate a tree preservation and management mechanism;
- (f)(h) formulate a comprehensive green planning system, and comprehensively examine the greening arrangements in Hong Kong;

Perfection of the training and regulation of talents –

- (g)(i) formulate a licensing and regulatory system for tree management personnel and tree management contractors;
- (h)(j) strengthen the training of tree preservation and management personnel, and encourage various organizations *in the community* to offer courses *of further studies* on tree preservation and management as well as green planning *to meet market needs;*

Strengthening of community work —

- (k) *adopt proactive and effective measures for strengthening the conservation of local plants of economic value, such as Buddhist pines and incense trees, etc., so as to eradicate these plants from being stolen and felled by people, and educate the public about caring of trees with local characteristics as well as relevant conservation knowledge, so as to protect Hong Kong's green environment;*
- (i)(l) conduct tree surveys in the various communities, so as to identify trees of conservation value, and include such trees in a specific register, and conserve them through specific legislation on tree management; and
- (i)(m) strengthen public education on tree preservation and management, and organize the participation of interested people and groups in tree preservation and management work in the districts.

Note: Hon IP Wai-ming's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

4. Motion as amended by Hon KAM Nai-wai

That, *given that* planting trees may achieve the effects of improving air quality, alleviating the greenhouse effect and lowering the temperature in urban areas, and improve the urban environment; greening may also improve community landscape as well as people's living environment, thereby upgrading quality of life; a comprehensive system of tree preservation and management is an indispensable segment of the greening process; while proper tree management may strike a balance between conserving trees and protecting people's lives and properties, it can also reduce the chances of the Administration having to handle tree risk management and hazardous trees in the future and reduce expenditures; ~~in this connection~~, in order to further perfect Hong Kong's tree preservation and management system, this Council urges the Government to:

Establishment of a framework and perfecting resource allocation —

- (a) set up an independent and dedicated department to co-ordinate the work of green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, which is at present scattered among various government departments;
- (b) set up an advisory framework comprising tree and greening experts as well as community members for advising the relevant policy bureaux and government departments on policies and specific measures relating to green planning as well as tree preservation and management;

- (c) *study establishing a trees and greening conservation fund to offer funding on a ‘dedicated-funds-for-dedicated-uses’ basis for application by various types of organizations or institutions, including civil society institutions, so as to conserve trees and valuable trees which are beneficial to the community and which are grown on non-government land (for example, the land under the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society and public organizations, as well as private land of public welfare purposes) and not managed by the Government; this fund may also be used to increase resources for green planning, tree preservation and, tree risk management, public education and the promotion of green tourism;*
- (d) study enacting specific legislation on tree management, establish a comprehensive legal framework, and formulate various policies and measures on tree preservation and management, *including the setting of penalties for prohibiting any persons from felling, transplanting, trimming or damaging trees without authorization*, so as to ensure that trees can receive comprehensive and appropriate protection;

Perfection of green planning –

- (e) add green elements to various large-scale public and private works projects as well as new development areas, and formulate a tree preservation and management mechanism;
- (f) formulate a comprehensive green planning system, and comprehensively examine the greening arrangements in Hong Kong; *review and increase the green belts as provided in the statutory town plans of Hong Kong (especially the urban areas);*

Perfection of the training and regulation of talents –

- (g) formulate a licensing and regulatory system for tree management personnel and tree management contractors;
- (h) strengthen the training of tree preservation and management personnel, and encourage various organizations to offer courses on tree preservation and management as well as green planning;

Strengthening of community work –

- (i) conduct tree surveys in the various communities, so as to identify trees of conservation value, and include such trees in a specific register, and conserve them through specific legislation on tree management; ~~and~~

- (j) strengthen public education on tree preservation and management, and organize the participation of interested people and groups in tree preservation and management work in the districts;
- (k) *study establishing a tree protection and observation team in various districts; and*
- (l) *implement a tree adoption scheme to put community-wide tree observation into action; at the same time, invite relevant professionals to provide the public with tree protection knowledge and training.*

Note: Hon KAM Nai-wai's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing

That, *given that* planting trees may achieve the effects of improving air quality, alleviating the greenhouse effect and lowering the temperature in urban areas, and improve the urban environment; greening may also improve community landscape as well as people's living environment, thereby upgrading quality of life; a comprehensive system of tree preservation and management is an indispensable segment of the greening process; while proper tree management may strike a balance between conserving trees and protecting people's lives and properties, it can also reduce the chances of the Administration having to handle tree risk management and hazardous trees in the future and reduce expenditures; ~~in this connection,~~ in order to further perfect Hong Kong's tree preservation and management system, this Council urges the Government to:

Establishment of a framework and perfecting resource allocation –

- (a) set up an independent and dedicated department to co-ordinate the work of green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management, which is at present scattered among various government departments;
- (b) set up an advisory framework comprising tree and greening experts as well as community members *with a passion for tree preservation* for advising the relevant policy bureaux and government departments on policies and specific measures relating to green planning as well as tree preservation and management;
- (c) increase resources for green planning, tree preservation and tree risk management;

- (d) study enacting specific legislation on tree management, establish a comprehensive legal framework, and formulate various policies and measures on tree preservation and management, so as to ensure that trees can receive comprehensive and appropriate protection;

Perfection of green planning —

- (e) add green elements to various large-scale public and private works projects as well as new development areas, ~~and~~ formulate a tree preservation and management mechanism, ***and undertake extensive greening in the vicinity of residential areas and on urban structures, including wall faces, slopes, pavements and rooftops, etc.;***
- (f) formulate a comprehensive green planning system, and comprehensively examine the greening arrangements in Hong Kong;
- (g) ***formulate strategic green planning with special landscape design features for various districts and the planting of theme trees in selected streets and places for showing various shades of colours in different seasons, so as to create beautified streets and scenic spots to attract tourists and stop any haphazard planting from ruining the beauty of trees;***

Perfection of the training and regulation of talents —

- ~~(g)~~(h) formulate a licensing and regulatory system for tree management personnel and tree management contractors;
- ~~(h)~~(i) strengthen the training of tree preservation and management personnel, and encourage various organizations to offer courses on tree preservation and management as well as green planning;

Strengthening of community work —

- ~~(i)~~(j) conduct tree surveys in the various communities, so as to identify trees of conservation value, and include such trees in a specific register, and conserve them through specific legislation on tree management; ~~and~~
- ~~(j)~~(k) strengthen public education on tree preservation and management, and organize the participation of interested people and groups in tree preservation and management work in the districts; ***and***

Strengthening of studies on sustainable development –

- (1) *through conducting studies on planting bamboo groves or other plants, develop a green economy to dovetail with sustainable urban development; in particular, as bamboo grows quickly and its photosynthetic rate is three times that of other plants, it can convert more carbon dioxide into oxygen, thereby helping to alleviate greenhouse effect; at the same time, bamboo has the property of tightly gripping the surface of the soil and is safer than other trees; bamboo can also provide substantial natural construction materials and can be used for manufacturing bamboo products; planting bamboo can even increase employment opportunities in the fields of research, planting, landscaping, manufacturing, design and certification, etc.; with the economic benefits of sustainable development, put in more resources to perfect tree preservation and management work.*

Note: Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.