

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1912/10-11
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 28 February 2011, at 2:30 pm
in Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Chairman)
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Member absent : Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP

Public officers attending : **For item IV**
Dr Kitty POON
Acting Secretary for the Environment

Mr Sam WONG
Acting Assistant Director (Environmental
Assessment)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Maurice YEUNG
Principal Environmental Protection Officer
(Assessment and Noise)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr TAO Kei-hung
Chief Engineer 2 / Major Works
Highways Department

For item V

Dr Kitty POON
Acting Secretary for the Environment

Dr YEUNG Hung-yiu
Acting Assistant Director (Water Policy)
Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHAN Kin-kwong
Assistant Director (Projects and Development)
Drainage Services Department

Mr IP Wing-cheung
Chief Engineer (Project Management)
Drainage Services Department

Mr LAI Cheuk-ho
Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects)
Drainage Services Department

Mr TAI Wai-man
Chief Engineer (Consultants Management)
Drainage Services Department

For item VI

Dr Kitty POON
Acting Secretary for the Environment

Miss Vivian LAU
Deputy Secretary for the Environment

Miss Mary TSANG
Assistant Director (Cross-Boundary &
International)
Environmental Protection Department

Dr Shermann FONG
Acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Joe FONG
Senior Environmental Protection Officer
Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)1

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)1

Action

- I. Confirmation of minutes**
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1229/10-11 — Minutes of the meeting held
on 20 December 2010)

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since last meeting

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

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(01) — List of follow-up actions
LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(02) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following two items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 28 March 2011, at 2:30 pm -

- (a) External lighting in Hong Kong; and
- (b) Environment and Conservation Fund.

On item (a), Ms Audrey EU requested for inclusion in the discussion paper information on the latest progress of complaints against excessive glare from the external lighting and signboards of The One by residents of The Masterpiece, particularly on whether the lighting and signboards concerned had the approval from relevant authorities. Miss Tanya CHAN added that the discussion paper should also include control over the disturbance caused by the display lighting at Hopewell Centre.

4. Miss Tanya CHAN requested early discussion on the "Findings of Public Consultation on the Producer Responsibility Scheme for Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment". The Acting Secretary for the Environment (Atg SEN) said that the Administration was analyzing the views collated from the public consultation and would report the findings to the Panel in the second quarter of 2011.

IV. PWP Item No. 818TH - Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(03) — Administration's paper on PWP Item No. 818TH - Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road)

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1422/10-11(01) — Submission from Po Nga Court Residents Association (Chinese version only)

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1422/10-11(02) — Submission from The Incorporated Owners of Po Nga Court (Block A.B.C) (Chinese version only)

5. Before commencing discussion, the Chairman drew members' attention to the submissions from Po Nga Court Residents Association and The

Incorporated Owners of Po Nga Court (Block A.B.C) expressing support for retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road.

6. Atg SEN briefed members on the proposal to upgrade part the project on retrofitting of noise barriers on the section of Tai Po Tai Wo Road fronting Po Nga Court to Category A at an estimated cost of \$95.8 million in money-of-the-day prices.

7. Mr Andrew CHENG recalled that the consultation on retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road first started in May 2007. The original proposal involved retrofitting of noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road fronting Po Nga Court and Tai Wo Estate, and semi-enclosure at Serenity Park. The Tai Po District Council (TPDC) and residents of the housing estates concerned had been consulted on several occasions. In the light of objections from some residents of Serenity Park and Tai Wo Estate, the Administration had taken the decision to proceed with the noise barriers on Tai Po Road fronting Po Nga Court first. He held the view that instead of wasting time and efforts in persuading residents to accept the unwanted noise barriers, the Administration should have proceeded to provide the sections of noise barriers which were supported and welcomed by residents without delay. The present case was a typical example on the lack of flexibility on the part of the Administration in meeting the needs of the community. The Chief Engineer 2/Major Works (CE2/MW) explained that the original proposal aimed to implement the retrofitting works for the sections of Tai Po Tai Wo Road fronting Po Nga Court, Serenity Park and Hang Wo House concurrently so as to achieve cost-effectiveness and minimize possible disruptions resulting from the construction works. However, some of the residents of Serenity Park and Tai Wo Estate objected against the proposed noise barriers fronting their developments. The Administration had responded pragmatically by accepting their requests to handle these two sections separately and take forward the Po Nga Court section first.

8. Mr LEE Wing-tat questioned if residents of Tai Wo Estate and Serenity Park had been adequately consulted on the proposed retrofitting of noise barriers. He noted that residents of Tai Wo Estate and Tsui Yee Garden had complained that they had not been consulted on the proposed retrofitting of noise barriers and semi-enclosure within their vicinity. The Acting Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Environmental Assessment) (Atg ADEP(EA)) said the Administration had consulted Tai Po District Council and the respective residents in different occasions, and noise barriers were revised taking into account their views. In the light of the objections against the provision of noise barriers on the two road sections near Tai Wo Estate and Serenity Park, the Administration had taken the decision to proceed with the noise barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road fronting Po Nga Court first so that the dwellings of Po Nga Court could be benefitted from the noise mitigation measures as soon as possible.

It would continue to discuss with the residents on the proposed noise barriers at Tai Wo Estate and Serenity Park. If it was subsequently concluded that no noise barriers were required, the resources would be deployed to provide noise barriers in other districts.

9. While supporting the current proposal which was welcomed by residents of Po Nga Court, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming stressed the need to accord priority to those retrofitting projects which had the support of affected residents. Noting that the current project would involve the removal of trees in the surrounding areas, he enquired about the proposal for compensatory planting. CE2/MW replied that the proposed retrofitting of noise barriers would involve removal of 108 trees, including 89 trees to be transplanted within the project site and 19 trees to be felled. The latter would be compensated by the planting of 44 new trees. Miss Tanya CHAN however pointed out that planting of trees would be more useful than shrubs/grass not only from the greening perspective, but also trees could serve as noise barriers. CE2/MW explained that shrubs were planted in a greater number because of their smaller size, and undertook to consider the possibility of planting more new trees. At members' request, the Administration would advise on the types of trees to be planted under the project.

Admin

10. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming expressed concern about the impact of the project on the neighboring Shui Wai Tsuen, which was part of the village extended area, and enquired about the mitigation measures to be taken. Atg ADEP(EA) said that the road section concerned was situated at a higher level such that Shui Wai Tsuen would not be affected. Nevertheless, mitigating measures would be taken where necessary.

11. In concluding, the Chairman said that members did not raise objection to the submission of the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.

V. 160DS – Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 1, 235DS – Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage and sewage disposal and 344DS – Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon sewerage

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(04) — Administration's paper on 160DS – Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 1, 235DS – Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage and sewage disposal and 344DS – Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon sewerage)

12. Atg SEN briefly explained the proposals to upgrade part of the three

sewerage projects i.e. **160DS**, **235DS** and **344DS** to Category A at an estimated cost of about \$22 million, \$195 million and \$500 million respectively in money-of-the-day prices. The Assistant Director of Drainage Services (Projects and Development) (ADDS(PD)) gave a power-point presentation on the three projects.

(Post-meeting note: A set of power-point presentation materials was circulated to members under LC Paper No. CB(1)1481/10-11(01) on 2 March 2011.)

160DS – Tuen Mun sewerage, stage 1

13. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming opined that the progress of implementation of sewerage improvement projects in village areas was too slow. By way of illustration, the part of **160DS** to be upgraded to Category A only involved the extension of public sewerage to Tsing Chuen Wan and Tuen Tsz Wai. He enquired whether land resumption was required as this would have impact on the timeframe for completion of the project. ADDS(PD) said that no land resumption was required for the proposed works under **160DS** as the sewers would be laid on Government land, hence the completion timeframe would unlikely be affected by land issues. Subject to approval by the Finance Committee, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) planned to commence the construction works in mid 2011 for completion by mid 2014. The Chief Engineer (Project Management) (CE(PM)) added that while the proposed works under **160DS** would not involve land resumption, the construction of remaining sewers within Tsing Chuen Wan and Tuen Tsz Wai would require land resumption. DSD would further consult affected residents and the local community before proceeding further with any of these remaining works.

235DS – Yuen Long and Kam Tin sewerage and sewage disposal

14. Noting that the part of **235DS** to be upgraded to Category A would involve the construction of gravity trunk sewers and twin rising mains which traversed the major trunk road in Lau Fau Shan, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming enquired about the measures to mitigate the possible impacts on traffic. He also enquired if working groups had been set up in consultation with relevant district council and rural committees to monitor the traffic impact. ADDS(PD) confirmed that relevant district council and rural committees had been consulted on the traffic impact associated with the project. The Chief Engineer (Sewerage Projects) added that as the main trunk road in Lau Fau Shan was a double-lane six-metre wide carriageway with container storage areas on both sides, the affected trades had also been consulted. While trenchless construction method would be adopted in the laying of most of the sewers to reduce the traffic impact, temporary traffic diversions might still be required and affected parties would be duly informed of the arrangements beforehand. A

traffic management liaison group comprising representatives from the Police and Transport Department would be set up to monitor the traffic and transport arrangements associated with the project. Mr CHEUNG stressed the need for greater flexibility in traffic control as evidenced by the use of manual traffic control in resolving the recent serious congestion problem at Lam Kam Road. Given that the traffic at Lau Fau Shan was far busier than Lam Kam Road, more efforts would be required to regulate traffic.

344DS – Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon sewerage

15. Mr James TO enquired if the sewerage improvement works for Tai Kok Tsui Typhoon Shelter at West Kowloon could be included in the proposed package of works under **344DS** to address the odour nuisances. Atg SEN said that the Administration was following up the case on various fronts to mitigate the odour problem at Tai Kok Tsui Typhoon Shelter. Some of the measures were ready for implementation separately by utilizing the available resources without the need to revise the scope of proposed works under **344DS** at this stage. The Acting Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Water Policy) (Atg ADEP(WP)) said that mitigation measures, such as regular cleansing of the drainage culverts, were being pursued to abate odour nuisances at the typhoon shelter.

16. Mr James TO considered that sewerage projects should be prioritized taking into account the urgency. He therefore supported the inclusion of sewerage improvement works at Tai Kok Tsui Typhoon Shelter in **344DS** to enable early abatement of odour nuisances in the area. Atg ADEP(WP) assured members that DSD would closely monitor the abatement measures to reduce the odour nuisances at the typhoon shelter. The Environmental Protection Department and DSD would jointly work out a Project Definition Statement and follow the necessary procedures in implementing capital works. Atg SEN agreed to provide Mr TO with further information on the measures to abate odour nuisances at Tai Kok Tsui Typhoon Shelter.

Environmental implications

17. Mr Albert CHAN enquired about the control of disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) materials to be generated from the sewerage projects. To avoid recurrences of illegal dumping of C&D materials to evade landfill charges in a recent case of sewerage project at Lamma Island, he considered it necessary for the Administration to set out clearly in the construction contracts, including those for village sewerage projects, method for disposal of C&D materials. There should also be close monitoring on waste management to ensure proper disposal. ADDS(PD) said that contractors would be required to submit a plan setting out the waste management measures. An estimate on the amount of C&D materials to be generated would be worked out, and

arrangements would be made to dispose of the inert C&D materials at the public fill reception facilities (PFRF). The disposal of inert and non-inert C&D materials at PFRF and landfills respectively would be controlled through a trip-ticket system. Mr CHAN requested for information explaining why illegal dumping of C&D materials at the agricultural land on Lamma Island could have occurred during construction work on the island despite the application of the trip-ticket system.

Connection to the communal sewerage network

18. Mr Albert CHAN reiterated his concern that individual village houses were not connected to the communal sewers as owners were reluctant to make the connections on account of the high costs. As a result, the desired environmental benefits could not be achieved in spite of the investments made in these sewerage improvement projects. He urged the Administration to seriously re-consider making the connections as otherwise the efforts made in improving the sewerage network would be futile. Atg SEN noted that the subject had been discussed at a number of Panel meetings when funding proposals for sewerage improvement projects in rural areas were considered. While owners of village houses in several areas might have been less forthcoming in connecting their premises to communal sewers, the average connection rate was high in some other regions such as village areas in Shatin. However, the Administration would need to be very prudent when it came to proposals on utilizing public resources to provide private sewerage connections. The Administration had kept on liaising with residents proactively to explain the environmental benefits, with a view to encouraging them to make their own sewer connections as early as possible. Mr CHAN clarified that he only requested the Administration to provide the connection works right outside the village houses, which were situated on Government land, and not inside the houses. The works would not incur much cost but would enable the connection to the communal sewerage network. He said that if the Administration did not accede to his request, he might not support the funding proposal.

19. In concluding, the Chairman said that members raised no objection to the submission of the proposal to PWSC.

VI. Consultancy Report – A Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(05) — Administration's paper on Consultancy Report – A Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/10-11(06) — Paper on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda

Relevant papers

LC Paper No. CB(1) 2833/09-10(01) — Administration's paper on Public Consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda

LC Paper No. CB(1) 753/10-11(01) — Administration's paper on the consultancy study on climate change in Hong Kong

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1128/10-11(01) — Joint submission from Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth (HK) and WWF Hong Kong (Chinese version only) regarding the report of the consultancy study on climate change

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1128/10-11(02) — Administration's response to CB(1) 1128/10-11(01)

20. Atg SEN highlighted the salient points in the Administration's paper which set out the major findings of the consultancy study on climate change in Hong Kong (the Study). The Senior Environmental Protection Officer gave a power-point presentation on the subject.

(Post-meeting note: A set of power-point presentation materials was circulated to members under LC Paper No. CB(1) 1481/10-11(02) on 2 March 2011.)

Mitigation of greenhouse gas

21. Mr LEE Wing-tat noted that three technically feasible scenarios were developed in the Study for analysis of the mitigation measures and future performance up to 2020. He asked if the Administration had assessed the cost implications and implementation difficulties of Scenarios 2 and 3. Atg SEN said that based on local and international policy reviews, the Consultants had drawn up potentially suitable measures with regard to their technical feasibility. The major findings of the Study had been reflected as appropriate in the public consultation document on "Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda", the outcome of which would be reverted back to the Panel upon completion of analysis of views collected. She added that Scenario 1 in fact

included all the measures proposed in the Air Quality Objectives (AQO) Review that were relevant to climate change mitigation, including increased use of natural gas and renewable energy (RE) for local electricity generation, wider use of road vehicles using clean fuels, and enhanced energy efficiency in the building and appliance sectors. She said that Scenario 3 was considered the best option and had been recommended in the public consultation document. The cost implications of implementing measures in this scenario would be assessed when more details of the individual measures and implementation plans were developed, and were therefore not available at this stage. The Acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Atg PEPO) supplemented that the findings of the modeling work in the mitigation assessment concluded that the measures proposed in Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 would not be able to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in real terms, while Scenario 3 would bring an absolute reduction in GHG emissions by about 30% or a reduction of carbon intensity of about 57% by 2020 as compared with 2005 level. While all three scenarios were considered technically feasible, the Administration would need to take into account public acceptance and availability of supporting facilities before deciding on their implementation.

22. Referring to the summary table of findings of the modeling work in the mitigation assessment in paragraph 13 of the paper, Ms Audrey EU enquired about the electricity consumption adopted in working out the projections under the three scenarios. Atg PEPO said that the figures on the electricity consumption were available under table 3.9 of B50 of the Technical Appendices to the Final Report. The total electricity consumptions projected in 2020 for the Base Case, Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and Scenario 3 were 232 152, 209 169, 211 274, and 231 747 Terajoule respectively. Ms EU questioned why the projected electricity consumption for Scenario 3 was higher than that of Scenarios 1 and 2 given that more efforts should have been made to improve energy efficiency. She asked if the projections for electricity consumption under the three scenarios were made by the Consultants or the Administration. To facilitate a better understanding, the Administration should provide information to clarify her concerns. Also, for the projected 39% increase in electricity consumption in 2020 as compared with 2005, she requested for a breakdown of electricity consumptions by domestic, commercial and industrial users under the three scenarios. Atg PEPO said that the projections for local electricity consumption under the three scenarios were made by the Consultants with reference to the historical data between 1990 and 2005. Regarding the higher projected local electricity consumption in Scenario 3, he advised that an explanation had already been provided in the Final Report, and that was with the proposed change in fuel mix under Scenario 3, the projected energy cost would likely be lower than that in other scenarios. As a result, it would stimulate more economic activities not related to the energy supply sector and thus lead to a possible increase in electricity demand.

23. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired if the Consultants had carried out any assessments using 1990 as the base year instead of 2005. Atg SEN said that 2005 was used as the base year in Hong Kong to bring it in line with the voluntary national target on reduction of carbon intensity. It was also worth noting that 2005 had been used as the base year in setting carbon reduction targets by many developed economies in the world.

24. Referring to table 3.1 in pages 29-30 of the Final Report of the study on climate change in Hong Kong, Miss Tanya CHAN noted that the share of RE for meeting local electricity demand by 2030 under Scenario 2 was assumed to be 15% while that for Scenario 3 was 4%. As Scenario 3 was built upon Scenario 2, the assumption of a reduction in the share of RE under Scenario 3 in 2030 required explanation. She was concerned that the difference might be attributed to the increased reliance on imported nuclear energy. She also sought clarification on footnote 66 in Appendix B to the Technical Appendices of the Final Report which indicated that, under Scenario 2, among the 50% electricity with no associated carbon emissions, 35% was from import of nuclear generated electricity. Miss CHAN considered that important information on the percentage of imported nuclear generated electricity should be included in the context of the executive summary rather than in the footnotes. Atg PEPO explained that under both Scenarios 2 and 3, the Study projected that 4% of the local electricity demand by 2020 would be met by local RE. For 2030, as explained in paragraph 3.3.2 in the Final Report, Scenario 2 assumed that 50% of the local electricity demand could be met from energy sources with no associated carbon emissions. It further assumed that 30% of this 50% non-carbon energy source was local and imported RE and 70% was imported nuclear generated electricity, which meant that 15% of the local electricity demand would be met by RE and 35% would be met by imported nuclear electricity by 2030. For Scenario 3, for 2030, the assumed level of energy with no associated carbon emission was even higher. Miss CHAN enquired about the meaning of the term “sources with no associated carbon emissions”. Atg PEPO explained that sources with no associated carbon emissions would include imported nuclear generated electricity and RE from the Mainland.

25. Mr KAM Nai-wai was concerned about nuclear safety and the hazard associated with disposal of nuclear waste. He enquired if assessments had been made on the effect of reducing imported nuclear energy from the proposed 50% to 20%, 30% and 40%. The Deputy Secretary for the Environment (DS for Env) said that the proposed share of nuclear energy was worked out having considered the phasing out of local coal-fired power plants in the run-up to 2020 which was expected to account for no more than 10% of the fuel mix then, and the supply of natural gas from the Mainland as agreed under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Energy Cooperation in 2008, which would make up about 40% of the fuel mix in 2020. Assessments based on smaller percentages of imported nuclear energy had not been carried out as the

supply of natural gas under MOU might not make up the balance in full.

26. Ms Cyd HO said that while the increased imported nuclear generated electricity would be able to reduce GHG emissions, there were problems with nuclear safety which would need to be dealt with. She held the view that the Study should give priority to the means to conserve energy rather than the change in fuel mix. To facilitate the implementation of energy conservation measures, there was a need to separate domestic users and commercial users as otherwise the energy savings from domestic households would be used to offset the high electricity consumption by commercial users. There was also a need to safeguard against the transfer of benefits by the two power companies which owned many commercial buildings in Hong Kong. Consideration should be given to controlling light pollution by legislation to help conserve energy. Greening efforts should also be stepped up to combat climate change. Given that the Study had identified eight sectors which were more vulnerable to impacts of climate change, Ms HO suggested the Administration should coordinate inter-departmental efforts to respond to the risks identified in the vulnerable sectors, and that the response actions should be people-oriented rather than sector-oriented. Noting from table 2.2 in page 7 of the Final Report that the local GHG emissions from industrial process and product use had increased from 215 kilotonnes in 1990 to a peak in 1997 and then dropped to around 500 kilotonnes in 2005 and rose to 1380 kilotonnes in 2006, she enquired about the causes for the fluctuation and how the forecast of GHG emissions from this sector was made up to 2030. To facilitate better understanding, the Administration was requested to provide information on domestic and commercial electricity consumption and a comparison on their tariff levels.

27. While acknowledging that there was support for a low-carbon economy as advocated by the Administration, Mr Albert CHAN said that the increased reliance on imported nuclear energy was subject to much controversy, given the concerns about nuclear safety. Besides, he was disappointed at the lack of details of proposed measures on combating climate change from the Administration. By way of illustration, an effective waste management policy should be worked out as the waste generated per person in Hong Kong was far greater than that of Taiwan and South Korea. A better urban planning should be put in place to improve air circulation and reduce the wall effect. The design of buildings should be improved to enhance energy efficiency. More greening efforts should also be made to reduce the impact of climate change. Atg SEN said that the Consultants had recommended a package of mitigation measures to combat climate change such as waste to energy. When a general policy direction had been made after analyzing the feedback received from the consultation, the Administration would come up with detailed implementation plans.

28. Referring to the power-point presentation, Mr LEE Wing-tat noted with disappointment that the heavily invested District Cooling System could only achieve about 0.5% of energy savings. He also enquired about the progress of review of AQOs, which had lagged far behind international standards. Atg SEN said that the Administration was still collating and analyzing the views from the consultation on the AQO Review. Notwithstanding, some of the 19 emission reduction measures proposed in the Review had already been implemented. These included the mandatory implementation of Building Energy Codes, the trial of electric vehicles and earlier replacement of polluting vehicles.

Public Consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda

29. Ms Audrey EU expressed dissatisfaction that the findings of the Study were only made available to members after the release of the consultation document on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda, as these findings would have impact on the fuel mix to be adopted. She considered it necessary that deputations should be invited to give views on findings of the Study. Miss Tanya CHAN and Mr KAM Nai-wai agreed to the need to invite deputations to express their views.

30. Mr KAM Nai-wai opined that the public consultation on Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda conducted in September 2010 was not a real consultation. This was because the Chief Executive (CE) had already revealed in his Policy Address delivered on 13 October 2010 that by 2020, natural gas should account for 40% of fuel mix for power generation, coal for no more than 10%, RE for about 3-4%, and imported nuclear energy for the remaining 50%, while the findings of the Study, which contained comprehensive data and information, were only released in December 2010. He was concerned that the public consultation was carried out in the absence of sufficient information. Atg SEN said that the Consultants had commenced the Study in early 2008 and most of the findings were made available before September 2010. The Study was only fully completed in December 2010 because the Consultants had taken time to conduct the last round of stakeholder group meetings and complete the reports. In view of the need for early actions to reduce carbon intensity by 2020, the Administration had proceeded to conduct the public consultation in September 2010. DS for Env clarified that CE had not made a decision on the fuel mix for power generation, but had instead put it as a proposal in his Policy Address. The policy objectives were to optimize the fuel mix for power generation, significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels, phase out existing coal-fired generation units, and increase the use of non-fossil, cleaner and low-carbon fuels, including RE and imported nuclear energy.

31. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about the low percentage of RE of 3-4% in the fuel mix for local power generation. DS for Env said it was expected that with the commissioning of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities, the waste-to-energy technology would be able to meet 1-2% of local electricity demand in 2020. Also, the two power companies were exploring the feasibility of using wind energy for power generation and if feasible, this should be able to meet about 2% of local electricity demand in 2020.

Way forward

Admin 32. The Chairman requested the Administration to provide a consolidated reply to the questions raised by members. Upon receipt of the reply, the Panel would decide on the way forward.

VII. Any other business

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