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**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Economic Development and  
Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**Minutes of joint meeting  
held on Monday, 28 May 2012, at 9:30 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Panel on Economic Development  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH

**Members absent** : Panel on Economic Development  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP

**Public officers attending** : Agenda Item II

Office of the Chief Executive-elect

Mrs Fanny LAW FAN Chiu-fun

Head of the Chief Executive-elect's Office

Ms Alice LAU Yim

Secretary-General of the Chief Executive-elect's Office

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Ms Linda LAI, JP

Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry)1

Miss Rosanna LAW, JP

Deputy Commissioner for Tourism

Transport and Housing Bureau

Ms Julina CHAN, JP

Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 5

Mrs Sharon YIP

Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 4

**Clerk in attendance :** Mr Derek LO  
Chief Council Secretary (1)6

**Staff in attendance :** Mr Andy LAU  
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms YUE Tin-po

Chief Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Sarah YUEN  
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Miss Rita YUNG  
Council Secretary (1)3

Ms Michelle NIEN  
Legislative Assistant (1)6

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Action

**I Election of Chairman**

Mr Jeffrey LAM was elected Chairman of the joint meeting.

**II Proposal to set up a Commerce and Industries Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat**

- (LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/11-12(01) — Administration's paper on Trade & Industry, Tourism, Maritime, Aviation and Logistics Policy Portfolios under the Current Administration's Organization Structure
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/11-12(02) — Letter from Democratic Party Legislative Councillors' Office to Chairman of Panel on Economic Development dated 22 May 2012
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1996/11-12(03) — Letter from Democratic Party Legislative Councillors' Office to Chairman of Panel on Commerce and Industry dated 22 May 2012
- LC Paper No. CB(2)2106/11-12(01) — Administration's paper on "Transfer of Statutory Functions Currently Exercisable by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development"
- LC Paper No. CB(2)2058/11-12(03) — Administration's paper on "Re-organization of the Government Secretariat : Changes in Establishment"
- LC Paper No. CB(2)1908/11-12(01) — Administration's paper on

LC Paper No. IN25/11-12	"Re-organization of the Government Secretariat" —Information note on "Re-organization of the Government Secretariat" prepared by the Research Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat
CMAB F19/6/3/2	—Legislative Council Brief on "Re-organization of the Government Secretariat: Legislative Amendments"
LC Paper No. CB(3)735/11-12	—Proposed resolution under section 54A of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance)

2. The Head of the Chief Executive-elect's Office (Head of CEEO) drew members' attention to the Administration's papers on the re-organization plan announced by the Chief Executive-elect (CE-elect) on 4 May 2012 (the re-organization plan). According to the re-organization plan, the existing Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) would be restructured into two new bureaux, namely, the Commerce and Industries Bureau (CIB) and the Technology and Communications Bureau (TCB).

Justifications for the re-organization plan

3. Mr Fred LI referred to paragraph 21 of the Administration's paper on "Re-organization of the Government Secretariat" (LC Paper No. CB(2)1908/11-12(01)) and, noting that the major reason given for the above restructure proposal was that "there have been complaints from the concerned sectors that" CEDB "had not been able to attend to their needs", asked the Administration to explain the reason in greater detail, in particular what "the concerned sectors" and their complaints were, so as to ascertain whether the proposal was justified.

4. Head of CEEO responded that in gist, the views which CE-elect had gathered from meeting with various sectors of the Election Committee were as follows –

- (a) Insufficient efforts had been made to capitalize on the measures offered by the Mainland in support of Hong Kong. There was room for improvement in inter-bureau co-ordination, so that we could, for instance, maximize Tung Chung's infrastructural development to develop a "bridgehead economy";
- (b) Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) had been over-burdened by

local transport and housing matters, and was hence unable to devote sufficient attention to developing external transport which was closely related to Hong Kong's economic development and tourism development. The policy responsibilities for the maritime, aviation and logistics industries should be taken out from the existing THB and be put together with tourism under CIB supported by a newly created Permanent Secretary post;

- (c) Insufficient efforts had been made to promote diversified development of industries in Hong Kong, and further development of Hong Kong's wholesale markets to promote tourism. The purviews and workload of the officials concerned should be reduced to enable them to better perform the above tasks; and
- (d) Regarding the establishment of TCB, the technology sector had long called for a dedicated technology bureau. A motion on "Studying the establishment of an innovation and technology bureau" had also been passed by the Council in 2011.

5. Ms Emily LAU, however, questioned the use of establishing more bureaux and appointing more politically appointed officials (PAOs). In her view, the above move would only result in duplication of structure but no real improvement as shown by the following –

- (a) One reason given for establishing CIB was the need to improve co-ordination among different bureaux to capitalize on the support measures for Hong Kong by the Mainland. However, such measures regrettably did not include lifting the some 20-year ban on Members belonging to the Democratic Party visiting the Mainland although they also supported development of commerce and industry and would like to communicate with relevant Mainland authorities regularly. It was therefore questionable whether the establishment of such new bureaux as CIB could resolve the above deep-rooted conflict;
- (b) The establishment of more bureaux could not help improve Hong Kong people's competitiveness nor could it strengthen the coordination of policy formulation and implementation that cut across policy programmes. What was needed instead was the readiness to co-operate and dedicated high-level leadership were more important; and
- (c) The re-organization plan could not optimize the distribution of responsibilities as exemplified by comments that the Hong Kong Observatory should be put under the Environment Bureau instead of CIB, and queries why the logistics industry should be placed under

CIB while the intimately connected transport services were under THB. Moreover, land disposal necessary for the development of commerce and industry was under the purview of the Planning Department and not CIB.

6. Mr Fred LI shared Ms Emily LAU's views, pointing out that the establishment of the proposed CIB and TCB would only enable the workload concerned to be borne by more officials. He was not convinced how this could help address the above concerns of relevant sectors and the issues highlighted in paragraph 5 above, in particular inter-bureau co-operation. In fact, CIB would still have to seek assistance from other bureaux if tourism development required infrastructural support.

7. Mr CHIM Pui-chung expressed concern about the re-organization plan which in his view was haphazard. He saw a need to justify why the political structure of Hong Kong should expand while that of the Mainland was being streamlined. Head of CEEO responded that it might be inappropriate to compare Hong Kong with the Mainland because their starting points were different. She considered that Hong Kong was evolving into an appropriately proactive government in recognition of the limitations of a "small government" and the conventional laissez-faire policies. The Mainland, on the contrary, was progressing from a planned economy to market economy, and hence felt the need to streamline its political structure.

8. The Chairman, however, considered the re-organization plan agreeable. In his view, the establishment of TCB was necessary because technology was developing at a fast pace requiring dedicated officials to take the helm. It was also appropriate that technology should take precedence over communications. As to CIB, he pointed out that industries in the Mainland included more endeavours than commerce and industry, and asked what industries would be covered in the Hong Kong context.

9. Head of CEEO responded that the scope of industries in Hong Kong was also wide as evidenced by the six priority industries identified in CE's 2009-2010 Policy Address, which included educational services, medical services, testing and certification, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, and environmental industry. Although the proposed CIB would not be directly involved in the promotion and liaison work regarding educational services and environmental industry because they were overseen by the bureaux which had the relevant expertise, CIB would still be responsible for their overall co-ordination. The Deputy Financial Secretary (DFS) post to be created could also help oversee the implementation of supportive measures required to speed up the development of new industries, such as site identification and provision of international school places to attract external direct investment to Hong Kong.

Distribution of responsibilities between the Commerce and Industries Bureau, and the Technology and Communications Bureau

10. Mr Fred LI expressed concern that the workload of TCB, being only centred around broadcasting, telecommunications, information technology as well as innovation and technology, was significantly lighter than that of CIB, which would have overall responsibility for trade and industry policy as well as the development of the maritime, air, logistics and tourism industries. Moreover, CIB would soon be involved in the heavy work of setting up independent statutory body to regulate the operation of the tourism sector, and formulating plans to construct the third runway.

11. Quoting the case of the apparently limited purview of the Environment Bureau, Head of CEEO responded that TCB's workload might not be light because many of its tasks were exploratory in nature likely requiring significant time and efforts. Moreover, TCB's important role alone would suffice to justify its establishment because innovative technology was essential to Hong Kong's economic development, and that the development of a knowledge-based economy in Hong Kong could create many quality job opportunities for young people, and provide the technical support required for the development of a high-end manufacturing base in the Pearl River Delta.

12. Mr WONG Ting-kwong expressed support for the re-organization plan but urged the Administration to review from time to time the workload of and delineation of responsibilities between CIB and TCB and to make improvements as necessary on grounds that their workload was imbalanced though heavy for both. He referred to the findings of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on the competitiveness of Mainland cities, and said that although Hong Kong was still ranked the 1<sup>st</sup>, the distance between it and the other cities had apparently narrowed, notably in the areas of innovation and technology. The establishment of TCB was therefore a move in the right direction and, while its workload would hinge on how it prioritized its work directions, it would not be light. The workload of CIB would even be extremely heavy and might require two to three bureaux to handle because of the importance of economy to Hong Kong's continued development. It was therefore undesirable to further place the development of the maritime and air industries, which were highly technical involving ship sale, vessel registration and vessel insurance, under CIB, not to mention that CIB might not have the necessary expertise.

13. In response, Head of CEEO made the following points –

- (a) The two new bureaux's heavy workload explained the need to create the DFS post to assist the Financial Secretary (FS) in fostering Hong Kong's trade and investment ties with the Mainland, in particular in implementing the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between Hong Kong and the Mainland (CEPA), and in coordinating

the formulation and implementation of policies to promote Hong Kong's development set out in the national five-year plan; and

- (b) Although CIB's workload would be heavy, its policy areas were all closely related. Moreover, the Establishment Subcommittee (ESC) had already endorsed the staffing proposal to create three supernumerary directorate posts for establishing a dedicated Airport Expansion Project Coordination Office to coordinate efforts and steer the work of the Airport Authority Hong Kong to take forward the Hong Kong International Airport Master Plan 2030. Holders of these three posts as well as other THB staff responsible for aviation matters would be transferred to the new CIB to ensure continuity in this important area of work.

14. Mr CHAN Kam-lam opined that despite the seemingly imbalanced workload of CIB and TCB, delineation of responsibilities would be reasonable as long as all policies would be overseen by the most suitable bureau(x), instead of being transferred to an unrelated bureau just for the sake of ensuring a balanced workload. It was long hoped that information technology could be developed as a new industry, and that the new CIB would be able to ensure all relevant trades would make greater efforts to support this new direction of Hong Kong's development. Mr CHAN therefore considered the re-organization plan reasonable, and indicated support for it and said that where necessary, adjustments to the re-organization plan could be made. He called upon members to positively suggest improvements to considered the re-organization plan for the new Government's consideration, instead of rejecting the plan altogether and resorting to filibustering to the detriment of other Members, the Legislative Council (LegCo) and the public while serving no practical purposes.

15. In response to Mr Fred LI, Head of CEEQ emphasized that the workload involved in the development of technology by TCB had yet to be ascertained pending the formulation of a comprehensive long-term technology policy to integrate the development of emerging industries in the Mainland with innovative technology in Hong Kong. Moreover, related policies should be grouped together to achieve synergy and facilitate implementation.

#### Purview of the Commerce and Industries Bureau

16. Ms Starry LEE echoed Mr WONG Ting-kwong's views on CIB's heavy workload, and added that CIB's responsibilities were important because the development of new industries could help rectify Hong Kong's imbalanced economy tilting towards financial services and property development. CIB's purview was also extensive encompassing three areas, namely, development including investment promotion, industry support, trade facilitation and tourism; protection involving intellectual property protection and consumer protection; and operation covering postal services and meteorological services. However, while

she endorsed CIB's wide purview, she also saw difficulty in assessing the effect of the efforts made to develop industries, and asked how the Administration planned to facilitate public understanding and monitoring of CIB's performance in this regard.

17. Head of CEEO responded that since Hong Kong was not a planned economy and its economic cycle was affected by the world economy, there was difficulty in setting indicators for assessing CIB's performance in developing industries. However, comments from the relevant trades could serve as reference. Many suggestions on new industries that could be developed had been received. They, however, would not be taken forward at the same time but would be prioritized strategically. Hence efforts would first be made to establish the Economic Development Commission under CE's chairmanship to attract external direct investment to Hong Kong by strengthening the coordination of policy formulation and implementation that cut across policy programmes. After drawing up an overall economic development strategy and industry policy, the development progress of individual new industries could then be assessed without using rigid numerical indicators.

*Release of data for monitoring performance*

18. Ms Starry LEE considered the provision of numerical indicators necessary to facilitate monitoring by the public of CIB's performance in developing new industries. As such, she opined that relevant data analysis should be released regularly. Head of CEEO responded that new industries, even the six priority industries identified in the 2009-2010 Policy Address, took a long time to develop. For example, land disposal and the development of relevant infrastructures would all take time. However, to enable LegCo to continue monitoring Government's work, the two Panels could require the Administration to report to them progress in this regard from time to time.

19. Ms Starry LEE pointed out that the regular release of data about the development of new industries would enable the public to monitor the effectiveness of the work bureaux and departments and motivate them concerned to make better efforts. Head of CEEO undertook to convey Ms LEE's views and requests to the future entourage of PAOs for consideration.

*Additional manpower resources*

20. The Chairman opined that a permanent secretary under CIB should be designated to co-ordinate the development of new industries. Head of CEEO responded that the present plan was to introduce only essential changes to the existing structure of the Government Secretariat. Hence, only one additional Permanent Secretary would be added to CIB to share out the workload involved in facilitating the growth of developing industries. Where necessary, the usual procedure for securing additional manpower resources would be followed.

However, in recognition of the difficulties encountered in taking forward the re-organization plan, a more detailed plan for developing new industries should be made available before seeking any such additional resources.

Reporting lines between bureaux and FS and DFS

21. Ms Emily LAU referred to the solid and dotted reporting lines in the proposed organization chart of the Government Secretariat (Appendix B to LC Paper No. CB(1)1908/11-12(01)) that respectively linked up DFS and FS with CIB and TCB, and expressed concern about the likely duplication of structure and unclear accountability so revealed.

22. In response, Head of CEEQ made the following points –

- (a) In comparison with the reporting lines in the proposed organization chart, those in the existing organization chart of the Government [Enclosure 1 to the Administration's paper on "Re-organization of the Government Secretariat: Changes in Establishment" (LC Paper No. CB(2)2058/11-12(03))] were even more complicated. The proposed organization structure was an improvement in this respect;
- (b) There would be forums for different bureaux to meet and discuss the relative priority and urgency of various policies, and to exchange views on the budget, with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) and FS respectively;
- (c) Although Mrs Regina IP's previous suggestion for CS, FS, the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration (DCS) and DFS to directly report to CE might help flatten the organizational structure, the different bureaux under the four PAOs might as a result operate separately in their own way with little collaboration; and
- (d) A common-sense approach should be adopted to minimize duplication of efforts and enhance efficiency in handling individual issues.

Inter-bureau co-operation

23. Ms Emily LAU said that she was seeking to convey many civil servants' concerns about the above reporting lines, and to strengthen the coordination of policy formulation and implementation that cut across policy programmes. She questioned whether, with so many of the incumbent PAOs staying in the new Government, the re-organization plan could bring any real improvement in policy co-ordination. The Chairman considered that inter-bureau co-ordination should be discussed at meetings of the Subcommittee to Study the Proposed Legislative Amendments Relating to the Re-organization of the Government Secretariat (the

Subcommittee). Head of CEEO made the following points in response –

- (a) Flexibility should be exercised to optimize the operation of the re-organized Government Secretariat. The distribution of responsibilities between FS and DFS should be determined by the degree of their involvement in specific issues concerned. For instance, if responsibilities were properly delineated, DFS might not need to attend every meeting of LegCo unless he was directly overseeing the matters discussed, such as CEPA. If, however, aviation was discussed, the meeting might be attended by the Secretary for Commerce and Industries, or even the Under Secretary for Commerce and Industries only; and
- (b) Differentiation should be made between political accountability and administrative accountability. For example, it might not be reasonable to hold the Secretary for Food and Health accountable for the wrongful release of a dead body to another family by the Fu Shan Public Mortuary under the Department of Health. Every civil servant should be responsible for the duties he/she performed.

24. Ms Emily LAU reiterated her view that improving inter-bureau co-ordination was more important than re-organizing the Government Secretariat, which would only aggravate the present problem of different bureaux each seeking to avoid being held accountable. Head of CEEO responded that this was the reason for the creation of the two Deputy Secretary of Department (DSoD) posts, titled as DCS and DFS, to assist CS and FS respectively to oversee and coordinate issues cutting across different policy areas. When consulting different trades on various occasions, the new Government had been reminded of the need to handle the above problem in a timely manner. It was considered that the creation of the two DSoDs to make decisions and give directions should improve the situation. Ms LAU opined that if so, details on the decision-making powers of the two DSoDs should be provided for examination by the Subcommittee.

#### Working with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

25. Mr CHAN Kam-lam urged CIB to co-operate more with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) in recognition that many endeavours in the areas of commerce and industries involved the Mainland. In his view, the two had always wasted time on waiting for each other to take action first, and when problems were encountered in the Mainland, the relevant trades did not know which bureau to turn to. CIB should in future play a greater role in liaising with the Mainland where commerce and industries were concerned instead of waiting for CMAB to take the lead as was the current situation. Ms Emily LAU shared his views, noting that under the re-organization plan, CIB and CMAB were respectively placed under FS and CS. Head of CEEO indicated

agreement with Mr CHAN, and reported that it had already been agreed that the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office would be accountable to both CMAB and CIB in future.

Abilities of candidates for filling politically appointed official posts

26. Mr CHIM Pui-chung expressed reservation about the candidates to be appointed into the new Government as reported in the press, especially those in the existing Government. In his view, if these PAOs could not perform satisfactorily under the incumbent CE, the possibility of effecting immediate improvement to their performance under CE-elect was remote. He further expressed concern that some professionals joining the new team of Principal Officials might not be able to stand the "grilling" at LegCo under the present political climate. Head of CEEO responded that CE-elect's criteria for selecting candidates to be appointed to the new political team were vision, and capability including communication skills and emotional quotient.

27. The Chairman enquired whether some sort of "stress testing" would be conducted to ascertain whether potential PAOs could withstand the present political climate. Head of CEEO responded that the candidates who had agreed to take up political appointment were well prepared psychologically for entering the "hot kitchen".

Timing of organization structure review

28. The Chairman also highlighted CE-elect's undertaking to review the operation of the new organization structure of the Government two years later, and sought details on the planned review. Head of CEEO responded that what CE-elect had referred to was the interim review of the Accountability System for Principal Officials (the accountability system). If the new bureaux mapped out new initiatives that incurred additional workload, funding support from LegCo could be sought to increase manpower resources as necessary.

29. Mr CHIM Pui-chung considered it unacceptable that CE-elect, being former Convenor of the Non-Official Members of the Executive Council and familiar with the accountability system, should distance himself from criticism of the present Government. Mr CHIM expressed regret that the new Government still quoted the need to gain experience as a reason to justify review of the system two years later.

30. Head of CEEO assured members that a paper on the accountability system would be provided to the Subcommittee, and that the Administration welcomed any comments or suggestions Members might have on the system. However, time would be required for the new Government to accumulate experience to facilitate a proper review of the system and, since relevant parties were also not satisfied with the interim review of the system conducted two years before,

CE-elect saw a need to review the system again seriously and comprehensively, so that improvement could be introduced as necessary in the light of practical experience, the expectation of LegCo Members and the public, and overseas experience, in particular in relation to the system of penalizing incompetent officers.

Attendance of Panel meetings by Directors of Bureaux or Under Secretaries

31. The Chairman pointed out that at present, Panel meetings were not always attended by Directors of Bureaux or Under Secretaries but sometimes by Permanent Secretaries and even departmental staff only. There had been calls from LegCo Members that Directors of Bureaux and Under Secretaries should attend Panel meetings as far as possible to reflect the great importance the Administration attached to LegCo.

32. At the Chairman's request to convey the above calls to the new Government, Head of CEEO said that the suggestion should be examined further when the accountability system was discussed. She opined that to ensure efficiency, the most suitable person should attend meetings to answer questions at LegCo instead of rigidly requiring the attendance of officials at or above certain ranks. It would be desirable to retain flexibility.

33. Ms Emily LAU, however, pointed out that it was the consensus of Members that meetings of LegCo should be attended by PAOs, who were accountable for policies, and not civil servants unless they were departmental staff directly responsible for implementing the relevant policies. Head of CEEO responded that since a bottom-up approach was adopted for developing policies, civil servants were more familiar with the policy details. However, if agreement could be reached with LegCo for policy details to be supplemented in writing after the meeting concerned, civil servants might be spared of the time for attending LegCo's meetings. Ms LAU stressed the need for PAOs to answer questions at LegCo, and questioned how civil servants could remain politically neutral if they were required to attend meetings of LegCo. She also pointed out that it would be undesirable if all the officials attending a meeting of LegCo were civil servants.

Consumer protection policies

34. Mr Fred LI and Ms Emily LAU expressed grave concern that consumer protection, presently a policy area under CEDB's Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch, could not be found in the description of the restructuring of CEDB [paragraphs 21 to 24 of LC Paper No. CB(1)1908/11-12(01)]. Head of CEEO responded that consumer protection would remain an important task of the Government. As it was an ongoing policy initiative, it had not been set out in the election platform of CE-elect. She further said that what mattered more was how the new Government set its policy priorities.

Conclusion

35. Summing up, the Chairman stated that while members had raised a number of questions and indicated hope for the highest levels of PAOs, namely, Directors of Bureaux and/or the two DSoDs to attend Panel meetings in future as far as possible, most members were in support of the proposed transfer of functions currently performed by CEDB to the new CIB and TCB with effect from 1 July 2012. Members had also expressed concerns about inter-bureau and intra-bureau co-ordination, and about the communication between civil servants and PAOs. Some members had further expressed concern about the imbalance in the workload of the new TCB and CIB. He urged Head of CEEO to relay the above views to CE-elect, and concluded that the two Panels supported the relevant changes to the establishment of the Government and submission of the proposals concerned to ESC for consideration.

**III Any other business**

36. Mr Fred LI asked about the status of his request for the Panel on Economic Development (ED Panel) to discuss the impact of fuel cost on electricity tariff. Ms Emily LAU added that the recent statement of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited on the impact of fuel cost had aroused grave public concern. A clear explanation of the statement and discussion on the possible way forward were necessary. The Chairman advised that pending a clear indication of the readiness of the Administration and the two power companies to brief members on the issue, the issue would as far as possible be scheduled for discussion at the ED Panel's June regular meeting.

37. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:45 am.