

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)2604/11-12  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 26 March 2012, at 2:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon CHAN Hak-kan (Chairman)  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, 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 Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon Tanya CHAN

**Members attending** : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

**Public officers attending** : **For item IV**  
  
Mr Edward YAU  
Secretary for the Environment  
  
Mr Albert LAM  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Miss Linda CHOY  
Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment

Mr Elvis AU  
Assistant Director (Nature Conservation &  
Infrastructure Planning)  
Environmental Protection Department

Dr Ellen CHAN  
Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure)  
Environmental Protection Department

Mr Samson LAI  
Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy)  
Environmental Protection Department

**For item V**

Mr Albert LAM  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

Mr Elvis AU  
Assistant Director (Nature Conservation &  
Infrastructure Planning)  
Environmental Protection Department

Dr S F LEUNG  
Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation

Mr C C LAY  
Assistant Director (Conservation)  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Simon CHAN  
Senior Conservation Officer (Biodiversity)  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

**Attendance by invitation : For item IV**

(Session 1 - 2:40 pm to 4:10 pm)

Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Mr Watson CHAN  
Senior Director, Policy

The Hong Kong Association of Property Management  
Companies

Ir Alkin KWONG, JP  
President

終極關閉將軍澳堆填區大聯盟

Ms Christine FONG

Tai Po Environmental Association

Dr YAU Wing-kwong  
Chief Executive Officer

Energy Advisory Committee

Mr Edmund LEUNG  
Chairman

The Boys Brigade, Hong Kong Limited

Ms NG Suk-ling  
General Secretary

Federation of Hong Kong Industries

Mr Daniel CHENG  
Deputy Chairman

Association of Engineering of Professionals in Society  
Limited

Ir YIM Kin-ping  
Senior Vice-Chairman

Ever Green Association

Ms Virginia IP  
Executive Secretary

將軍澳居民

Mrs CHAN

Mission Healthy Greens

Mr MAI Kwok-wah  
Chief Executive

Individual

Mr CHAN Kai-wai

Individual

Mr LUI Kim-ho

Individual

Mr LO Man-him

專業動力

Dr LAM Chi-hung

西貢將軍澳環保會

Mr Jackie PO

Individual

Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung

Range Education Centre - Environment Concern Group

Mr Basil HUI  
Convenor

長洲街坊會

Ms KWONG Wai-kuen  
Member

Queen's College Old Boys' Association Secondary School

Mr HUI Yung-chung  
Principal

Individual

Ms NG Lai-ching

Individual

Ms YEUNG Mei-ling

Individual

Mr Boris KO

Individual

Mr TANG Sheung-shing

Courtyard - Mutual Support Network Among  
Self-help Groups

Mr CHOW Tak-wai  
Community Organizer

The Greenwise Workers Co-operative Society Limited

Ms Polly LUK  
Chairperson

Green Lantau Association

Mr Clive NOFFKE

Cheung Chau Wei Hoi Luk Clansmen Limited

Mr KWONG Sai-loi  
Chairman

(Session 2 - 4:10 pm to 5:40 pm)

Individual

Ms Connie TUNG

Cheung Chau Ching Wa Sports Association Limited

Mr SIU Ka-mun  
Chairman

Association for Tai O Environment and Development

Ms HO Pui-han  
Executive Committee Member

Environmental Contractors Management Association

Ms Catherine YAN  
President

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Mr CHENG Nok-ming  
Conservation Officer

長洲大新街街坊會

Mr Johnny HUNG  
Chairman

長洲華商會

Mr KWONG Kwok-wai  
Chairman

長洲聖心學校校友會

Mr WONG Pak-ling  
Chairman

Individual

Ms Connie HO

Individual

Ms LI Oi-Ling

Individual

Mr Eric CHEUNG

Individual

Ms SIT Siu-hung

Individual

Mr LAM Chung-yu

Individual

Mr TSANG Sing-hung

Individual

Mr YEUNG King-wai

Individual

Ms Stella WONG

Individual

Ms CHAN Suet-mui

Environmental Campaign Committee

Professor David LUNG, SBS, JP  
Chairman

Individual

Ms SU Wan-chen

Individual

Ms HO Hai-fung

Individual

Mr NI Bing-wen

Individual

Mr YIP Chi-shing

(Session 3 - 5:40 pm to 7:10 pm)

Individual

Mr CHONG Wing-hing

Individual

Mr Raymond KWAN

Cheung Chau Environment Concern Group

Mr CHAN Chi-ping  
Convener

Individual

Ms CHEN Li

Individual

Mr SAM Chi-ngai

Individual

Mr FONG Siu-leung

Individual

Ms LEE Mui-ling

Individual

Ms LO Kwai-sim

Individual

Ms LAI Siu-chi

Individual

Mr LAU King-nam

Individual

Mr LEE Tak-lun

Individual

Ms AU YEUNG Ching-yi

Momentum 107

Mr HO Man-kit  
Convener

Individual

Dr Robert HANSON

Business Environment Council

Ms Suzanne BHANJA CHEUNG  
Head-Environmental Management

Global Eco Resource Limited

Mr LEE Man-biu  
Chief Executive Officer

Individual

Mr Michael TSE

Individual

Ms Susan CHEUNG

Islands Development Alliance

Dr Rosa MA  
Chairman

No YAU, No Incinerator

Mr TSE Sai-kit  
Representative

Lantau Buffalo Association

Ms HO Loy  
President

Individual

Ms Natalie HONG

**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) 1219/11-12 — Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2012)

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2012 were confirmed.

**II. Information paper issued since last meeting**

2. Members noted the following information papers which had been issued since last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1105/11-12 — Two referrals from the Public Complaints Office (CPC 354/2011 and CPC 223 to 225/2012) on the proposed development of a waste incinerator at Shek Kwu Chau (Restricted to Members);

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1383/11-12 — Referral arising from a meeting between Duty Roster Members and the "終極關閉將軍澳堆填區大聯盟" regarding objection against the extension of the Tseung Kwan O Landfill (Restricted to Members); and

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1384/11-12 — Referral from the Public Complaints Office regarding the extension of the South East New Territories Landfill (Restricted to Members)

**III. Items for discussion at the next meeting**

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/11-12(01) — List of follow-up actions

LC Paper No. CB(1)1370/11-12(02) — List of outstanding items  
for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 23 April 2012, at 2:30 pm –

- (a) Environmental impact assessment on the third runway project; and
- (b) 272DS – Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2, 273DS – Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3 and 331DS – Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – South Lantau sewerage works.

As agreed at the last meeting on 27 February 2012, the nine environmental groups which had earlier written to the Panel requesting for discussion of item (a) would be invited to express their views.

**IV. "Reduce, Recycle and Proper Waste Management"**

Session 1

*Meeting with Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(06))

4. Mr Watson CHAN, Senior Director (Policy), said that HKGCC supported the "polluter-pays" principle and the adoption of a holistic approach on waste management. Over 60% of the respondents to HKGCC's Annual Business Prospect Survey conducted in 2011 indicated support for waste incineration. With the advancement of modern technology, incinerators which had minimal impact on air quality and human health would be a cost-effective way to reduce waste and to turn waste into energy. Hence, there was a need for the large-scale Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) to treat and reduce the volume of waste. To ease public concern, efforts should be made to enhance public understanding on the safety and emission standards of IWMF. To reduce waste at source, HKGCC considered that more land on long-term leases should be provided to facilitate the development of the local recycling industry. A green procurement policy should also be introduced to create a market for recycled goods. Through the establishment of a green manufacture and supply chain, a regional circular economy could be developed within the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region to harness the recycling network and industrial capacity of the Mainland in partnership with the management expertise of Hong Kong.

*Meeting with The Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies (HKAPMC)*

5. Ir Alkin KWONG, President, said that HKAPMC agreed with the Administration on the need to resolve the imminent waste problem through waste reduction at source, introduction of IWMF, and landfill extension. As regards Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging, a gradual approach should be adopted starting with systems which were easier to implement (such as the proxy or fixed charge system), to be followed by a quantity-based system subject to wider public acceptance of the "polluter-pays" principle. To facilitate effective implementation, the Administration should provide sufficient assistance to the property management companies as the latter would play an important role in organizing waste disposal activities as well as administering and monitoring the compliance with the waste charging scheme. A monitoring mechanism should be set up to minimize the impact of incineration and landfill extension on the environment. Compensatory measures should also be put in place for the betterment of residents living in the vicinity of obnoxious facilities like landfills and incinerators.

*Meeting with 終極關閉將軍澳堆填區大聯盟*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(01))

6. Ms Christine FONG said that Tseung Kwan O (TKO) residents were strongly opposed to the proposed extension of the Southeast New Territories (SENT) Landfill on account its proximity to residential developments at TKO. The continued extension of landfill for disposal of waste would not only undermine the effectiveness of incentives on waste avoidance and recovery, but also aggravate the environmental nuisances which included excessive emissions from vehicles travelling to and from Wan Po Road and SENT Landfill, which had been posing a hazard to public health. She stressed on the need for strenuous efforts to reduce waste at source, and urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Tai Po Environmental Association (TPEA)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1394/11-12(01))

7. Dr YAU Wing-kwong, Chief Executive Officer, said that waste reduction was everyone's responsibility. Despite efforts to reduce and recycle waste, there would still be a massive amount of unavoidable waste to be disposed of at the three strategic landfills which were approaching their designed capacities in the next few years. There was an urgent need for waste management facilities, including incinerators and extension of landfills. There was also a need to raise the recovery rate of MSW further although it had already reached 52%.

*Meeting with Energy Advisory Committee*

8. Mr Edmund LEUNG, Chairman, said that power generation was a major source of green house gas (GHG) emissions. While the development of large-scale solar or wind power projects might not be viable given the natural and geographical limitations of Hong Kong, consideration could be given to developing waste-to-energy technologies as the energy to be recovered from IWMF Phase 1 would be sufficient to supply electricity for 100 000 households annually. Together with the Sludge Treatment Facility (STF) and the two Organic Waste Treatment facilities (OWTFs), the total energy to be recovered from these waste-to-energy facilities in 2020 would be able to meet about 2% of local demand for electricity. As regards the technology to be used for IWMF, he said that the moving-grate incineration technology was mature and reliable as this had been in use for more than 100 years. It was worth noting that more than 900 MSW treatment facilities in over 20 countries in the world had adopted such technology.

*Meeting with The Boys Brigade, Hong Kong Limited (BBHK)*

9. Ms NG Suk-ling, General Secretary, said that BBHK supported the Administration's efforts in waste reduction and recovery. To tackle waste problem in a timely manner, advance planning of infrastructural facilities for waste management including incinerators and landfills was necessary. Apart from stepping up promotion and education efforts to induce change in people's habits and behaviour towards waste, incentives should also be provided to encourage the community to recycle. Reference could be made to overseas experience, including the mandatory Product Responsibility Scheme (PRS) for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and the "from product to product" concept in Japan, the latter of which aimed to recycle useful components for other products.

*Meeting with Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(02))

10. Mr Daniel CHENG, Deputy Chairman, said that FHKI fully supported the introduction of MSW charging on a quantity basis which was the most effective economic disincentive to deter waste generation, particularly food waste as the two OWTFs could only handle about 500 tonnes of source separated food waste out of over 3 000 tonnes of food waste generated daily. The MSW charge collected should be ploughed back to support the development of local recycling industries. Other administrative measures should also be put in place to facilitate recycling operation. On the introduction of a mandatory PRS for WEEE, FHKI considered that the levy should be collected at the retail level upon purchase of new electrical and electronic products. In determining

the location of IWWMF, due consideration should be given to the cost and lead time for construction.

*Meeting with Association of Engineering of Professionals in Society Limited*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(01))

11. Ir YIM Kin-ping, Senior Vice-Chairman, opined that the existing waste management strategy was not able to solve the waste problem in a sustainable manner. For instance, the MSW recovery target was too conservative and the progress of implementation of various initiatives was too slow. The reliance on landfill as the final depository of waste was not a sustainable solution, and the proposed extension of SENT and West New Territories (WENT) Landfills would have adverse health and environmental impacts on the local community. Besides, it was also not fair to place a number of obnoxious facilities in Tuen Mun, particularly to the residents. To this end, the Administration should expedite the development of IWWMF which would meet the up-to-date stringent European Union emission standards. The process of incineration would not only turn waste into energy but also help reduce local GHG emissions at the same time. He also supported the Administration's proposal as set out in the public engagement exercise on "Enhancing Land Supply Strategy" to construct an artificial island at south of Cheung Chau not only as a public filling area for inert construction and demolition (C&D) material but also a landfill for waste disposal.

*Meeting with Ever Green Association (EGA)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(02))

12. Ms Virginia IP, Executive Secretary, opined that MSW charging was not a positive motivator to reduce waste. Consideration should be given to providing financial incentives to encourage the community to separate and recycle waste. The MSW charge collected should be ploughed back to support social enterprises in taking forward waste recycling programmes in the local community. Given that food waste accounted for 35% of the total waste stream, efforts should be stepped up to recover and recycle food waste with a view to reducing the volume of waste requiring disposal before the introduction of MSW charging.

*Meeting with Mrs CHAN, 將軍澳居民*

13. Mrs CHAN was strongly opposed to the proposed extension of the SENT Landfill as the odour nuisances had disturbed her family for many years. Despite repeated complaints, the situation had not improved. She said that the decision to place a landfill in close proximity to residential developments was wrong at the outset let alone repeated extension. It was also not right to use TKO as the dumping ground for all sorts of wastes. She further criticized the

Administration for failing to take adequate measures to reduce waste at source, as evidenced by the higher rate of MSW generation per capita of Hong Kong when compared with other countries. She urged members to vote against the proposed extension of SENT Landfill.

*Meeting with Mission Healthy Greens (MHG)*

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(03))

14. Mr MAI Kwok-wah, Chief Executive, said that MHG considered it necessary for the Administration to adopt a multi-pronged approach to tackle the waste problem. This should include -

- (a) strengthening education efforts to encourage waste avoidance;
- (b) expediting the introduction of a suitable waste charging scheme;
- (c) developing IWMF with incineration as the core technology;
- (d) expanding landfills;
- (e) implementing "Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates" across the territory;
- (f) expediting the development of the two OWTs; and
- (g) formulating a comprehensive framework on collection of recyclable materials to facilitate the development of local recycling industry.

*Meeting with Mr CHAN Kai-wai*

15. Mr CHAN Kai-wai said that it was a wrong decision for the Administration to locate a landfill in close proximity to a densely populated district like TKO. Besides, it would take time and money to restore closed landfills. Despite repeated complaints by TKO residents against the odour nuisances associated with the operation of SENT Landfill, the situation had not improved. The odour problem would be further aggravated with the proposed extension of the SENT Landfill. Instead of extending existing landfills, efforts should be stepped up to reduce, segregate and recycle waste. Financial incentives should be provided to encourage waste avoidance and minimization. There was also a need to enhance enforcement against illegal dumping. As regards food waste, the Administration should work with waste recyclers to explore possible outlets for compost generated from food waste.

*Meeting with Mr LUI Kim-ho*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(03))

16. Mr LUI Kim-ho pointed out that the frequent falling of waste from refuse collection vehicles while on their way to SENT Landfill had not only posed a safety hazard to other road users, the toxic substances released from hazardous and industrial wastes disposed of at SENT Landfill was also a threat to public health. To reduce, reuse and recycle waste at source, adequate facilities should be provided to support the local recycling industry. More information on the development of IWWMF should also be made available to ease public concern on public health and safety.

*Meeting with Mr LO Man-him*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(04))

17. Mr LO Man-him said that the environmental impacts brought about by the growing population, affluence, and technology could be reflected using the "IPAT" formula under which human impact (I) on the environment was equal to the product of population (P), affluence (A) and technology (T). To deal with the waste problem, a holistic package of measures was required which should include actions to reduce waste at source, development of incinerators and extension of landfills. In this connection, proper measures should be taken immediately to improve the design and planning of current and future landfills (including the facilities nearby), as well as future IWWMF. Reference could be made to The Hennepin Energy Recovery Centre (the Centre) in Minneapolis of USA, which was a waste-to-energy project combining waste management facility, power plant, office complex and a railway interchange station. The Centre was purposely designed and built to fit into the surrounding environment, making it neighbourhood-friendly.

*Meeting with 專業動力*

18. Dr LAM Chi-hung said that 專業動力 considered that the Administration should adopt a multi-pronged approach to tackle the waste problem which should include -

- (a) stepping up education efforts to enhance public awareness on waste reduction, source separation, and proper disposal of waste;
- (b) raising the MSW recovery target progressively to achieve the level on par with other advanced economies;
- (c) providing financial support to promote local recycling industry. Reference could be made to the experience in Singapore which had achieved a waste recycling rate of 80%;

- (d) ensuring wastes to be segregated and collected for appropriate treatment, and formulating different treatments for different types of wastes;
- (e) expediting the development of IWFM to provide for waste-to-energy technology to treat and reduce the volume of unavoidable waste, thereby relieving the burden on landfills;
- (f) identifying suitable sites for offshore landfill for disposal of unavoidable and non-recyclable wastes, non-combustible waste, incineration ashes and sludge. Consideration could also be given to developing columbarium facilities thereat; and
- (g) closing down landfills which were situated in the vicinity of residential developments as soon as possible in the interest of public health such that the landfill sites would be used for other purposes.

*Meeting with 西貢將軍澳環保會*

19. Mr Jackie PO shared the experience of his visit to the Semakau Landfill in Singapore, which was located on an offshore island not far away from the urban centre. Much care had been put into the design and operation of the landfill to ensure that the site was clean, odorless and aesthetic. The project, which was designed to work in harmony with its surroundings and to protect the natural environment, had demonstrated that development and conservation could co-exist as evidenced by the presence of mangroves and coral reefs in the neighboring waters. Unlike landfills in Hong Kong, the Semakau Landfill only received C&D materials, incineration ash, and sludge to avoid odour nuisances. He opined that the experience in Singapore should provide a useful reference to the Administration in formulating a long-term and sustainable waste management strategy for Hong Kong.

*Meeting with Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung*

20. Mr CHEUNG Mei-hung was strongly opposed to the proposed extension of SENT Landfill given its close proximity to residential and industrial developments. Apart from the odour nuisances from landfill sites (including Tseung Kwan O Landfill Stages I/II/III (which had ceased operation in 1995)) and SENT Landfill) which had been disturbing the local residents for years, There were also concerns about air and noise pollution associated with land transport of waste to the landfill sites. He therefore urged members to vote against the proposed extension of SENT Landfill.

*Meeting with Range Education Centre - Environment Concern Group*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(05))

21. Mr Basil HUI, Convenor, criticized that both the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for the development of IWMF at Shek Kwu Chau (SKC) and Tsang Tsui Ash Lagoon (TTAL) had failed to take into account the environmental and social costs, and that the Advisory Council on the Environment had endorsed the EIA report in the absence of advice from the medical field on the adverse health impact associated with emissions from waste incineration. The current outdated Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) had also failed to provide proper yardsticks for air quality management to safeguard public health. He was skeptical about the announced MSW recovery rate of 52% as not much had been done to reduce and avoid the generation of waste at source. He urged the Administration to step up efforts in preventing waste generation at source with reference to the practices of overseas countries like Japan.

*Meeting with 長洲街坊會*

22. Ms KWONG Wai-kuen was opposed to the more expensive option of developing IWMF at the artificial island at SKC when the same could be built at TTAL at much lower cost. Besides, SKC was an area zoned for conservation with remarkable biodiversity, and an important habitat for the Chinese White Dolphins. The proposed reclamation works and construction in relation to IWMF at SKC would inevitably threaten the survival of the endangered species of Chinese White Dolphins. It was also worth noting that Cheung Chau residents had expressed grave concern about possible adverse impact of IWMF on the feng shui of Cheung Chau.

*Meeting with Queen's College Old Boys' Association Secondary School*

23. While supporting the Administration's strategy on "Reduce, Recycle and Proper Waste Management" to resolve the imminent waste problem through implementation of MSW charge, development of IWMF, and extension of landfills, Mr HUI Yung-chung, Principal, stressed the need to enlist greater public participation in waste avoidance and minimization starting with measures that were beneficial to the community. With the enhancement of public awareness on environmental protection in the past few years, he trusted that the general public would render their support to waste management measures which were reasonable and practicable.

*Meeting with Ms NG Lai-ching*

24. Ms NG Lai-ching supported full-scale implementation of MSW charging

on a quantity basis, which was an effective economic disincentive to deter waste generation. In parallel, there was a need to enhance the existing waste collection facilities, including the provision of three-coloured waste segregation bins on each floor of buildings for the convenience of residents. This would not only enable collection and separation of household waste at source, but also create employment opportunities. On the development of IWMF, reference should be made to the experience in South Korea where waste had been turned into energy sufficient to provide electricity for use by the local community through incineration.

*Meeting with Ms YEUNG Mei-ling*

25. Ms YEUNG Mei-ling opined that the reliance on landfills for waste disposal was not sustainable. She supported expediting the introduction of MSW charging on a quantity basis to reflect the "polluter-pays" principle on the one hand and to encourage waste avoidance and separation on the other. To enlist public participation, more details of the four proposed charging systems should be made available for an in-depth discussion by the community. Consideration should also be given to extending the three-month consultation period for MSW charging to allow sufficient time for the public to express their views. There was a need for complementary measures upon the implementation of MSW charge, as in the case of South Korea where recycling bins were conveniently located on the streets at every 200 meters, along with close monitoring systems to deter illegal dumping.

*Meeting with Mr Boris KO*

26. As landfills and incinerators were not sustainable solutions to the waste problem, Mr Boris KO supported the introduction of MSW charging by quantity of waste (which was in line with the "polluter-pays" principle) through the mandatory use of pre-paid garbage bags. To allow sufficient time for the public to express their views, the consultation period for MSW charging should be extended. In parallel, complementary measures should be put in place to facilitate waste separation, with enforcement actions being stepped up against non-compliance. Efforts should also be made to collect recyclables other than waste paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles such as food waste. Assistance should be provided to develop local recycling industry and to foster closer co-operation with the Mainland in waste treatment and recycling.

*Meeting with Mr TANG Sheung-shing*

27. Mr TANG Sheung-shing was opposed to landfill extension on account of the adverse health impact on neighboring residents. He opined that the Administration should endeavour to reduce waste at source through the collection and recovery of recyclable materials, particularly those of low values

such as waste glass. It should also encourage manufacturers to use recyclable packaging materials and reduce packaging waste. While MSW charging was an effective disincentive to deter waste generation, complementary measures should be taken against illegal dumping and other circumventions to ensure the effectiveness of the charging scheme. To ease the financial burden of MSW charging on low-income households, consideration could be given to providing a limited number of garbage bags free of charge. On the development of IWMF, stringent control should be imposed on emission of dioxin from incineration. Consideration could also be given to applying biological treatment to treat non-recyclable waste.

*Meeting with Courtyard - Mutual Support Network Among Self-help Groups*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(04))

28. Mr CHOW Tak-wai, Community Organizer, criticized the Administration for failing to provide enough land for lease at reduced prices to waste recyclers to facilitate their operations. Despite the setting up of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun to promote the recycling industry, the tenancy requirements were overly stringent to attract tenants as evidenced by the withdrawal or termination of tenancies. He considered it necessary for the Administration to formulate a policy on the development of local recycling industry to recycle waste on the one hand and create more employment opportunities for low-skilled workers on the other. He also urged for the shelving of the proposed landfill extension.

*Meeting with The Greenwise Workers Co-operative Society Limited*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(05))

29. Ms Polly LUK, Chairperson, was worried that the development of IWMF would undermine the incentive to reduce and recycle waste. As a result, more incinerators would have to be built. She urged the Administration to shelve the incineration option and put more efforts in promoting waste avoidance, separation and recycling among government departments and stakeholders. Consideration should be given to enhancing the existing waste collection facilities (such as the three-coloured waste segregation bins) to cover recyclables such as used cooking oil, waste glass, rechargeable batteries, compact florescent lamps etc. Assistance should also be provided to assist the development of local recycling industry.

*Meeting with Green Lantau Association*

30. Mr Clive NOFFKE expressed disappointment at the decision to locate the proposed IWMF at SKC, which was zoned for conservation and recreation. Instead of developing IWMF which would not only be too costly to build but also give rise to toxic emissions, more efforts should be made to recycle waste

before proceeding with the incineration option. Consideration should be given to mandating the use of recycled materials in the manufacture and packaging of products, and imposing tax on excessive consumption. There was also a need to expedite MSW charging, which in his view had lagged behind other advanced economies. Meanwhile, public education should be stepped up to induce behavioral changes towards waste avoidance.

*Meeting with Cheung Chau Wei Hoi Luk Clansmen Limited*

31. Mr KWONG Sai-loi, Chairman, was opposed to developing IWFMF at SKC as the toxic pollutants from waste incineration would not only pose a health threat to the residents in the vicinity but also undermine the eco-tourism in Cheung Chau. The reclamation works and breakwater construction at SKC would destroy the habitat of Chinese White Dolphins and threaten their survival. He held the view that the need for IWFMF would not be imminent if sufficient efforts had been made to reduce and recycle waste.

Session 2

*Meeting with Ms Connie TUNG*

32. Ms Connie TUNG said that she was representing the interest of Cheung Chau residents. She stressed the need to protect the environment on account of its far-reaching effect on the community. In this regard, the Administration should endeavour to conserve the natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

*Meeting with Cheung Chau Ching Wa Sports Association Limited (CCCWSA)  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(07))*

33. Mr SIU Ka-mun, Chairman, said that CCCWSA and most of the Cheung Chau residents were opposed to the proposed development of IWFMF at SKC and extension of landfills. Given the close proximity of SKC to Cheung Chau, there was grave concern about the adverse health impact of the emissions from waste incineration on residents nearby. Besides, the marine ecology in the vicinity of SKC would be destroyed as a result of the reclamation works and breakwater construction. He also questioned the need to include desalination and wastewater treatment facilities as well as environmental education centres in the IWFMF project as the recurrent operating costs of these facilities would be very high. The most effective way to tackle the waste problem was through the three Rs i.e. reuse, recovery and recycling.

*Meeting with Association for Tai O Environment and Development*

34. Ms HO Pui-han, Executive Committee Member, opined that the

Administration had failed to provide the needed assistance to local recyclers to create a sustainable recycling industry. To this end, the Administration should formulate a comprehensive recycling policy, introduce various initiatives to ensure a steady supply of source materials, as well as provide secured outlets for recovered materials and recycled products. She cautioned that the development of IWMF would reduce the incentive to reduce and recycle waste, which would further undermine the business opportunities of waste recyclers.

*Meeting with Environmental Contractors Management Association (ECMA)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(08))

35. Ms Catherine YAN, President, said that ECMA recognized the importance of proper waste management to the environment, economy and community. Given that the three strategic landfills would become saturated in the next few years, there was an imminent need for –

- (a) a sustainable waste treatment technology, such as the waste-to-energy option, which should be subject to stringent emission control and monitoring. Electricity generated from incineration should be for the benefit of the local community;
- (b) extension of landfills to receive incombustible wastes and inert residues from incineration;
- (c) development of OWTF Phase 2 and treatment facilities for WEEE; and
- (d) more efforts to promote waste reduction and recycling in local community, including the wider use of on-site food waste treatment in housing estates.

*Meeting with Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(09))

36. Mr CHENG Nok-ming, Conservation Officer, said that HKBWS welcomed the introduction of MSW charging to reduce wastes. However, there was a need for effective enforcement actions against illegal dumping, particularly in rural areas to protect sites with high ecological value. He opined that the proposed development of IWMF at SKC ran contrary to the EIA principles, viz. avoidance-mitigation-compensation, and that the EIA studies had failed to propose mitigation measures to compensate for the loss of habitat for the Chinese White Dolphins and White-bellied Sea Eagles at SKC. The development of IWMF at SKC would also set a bad example for similar works which would pollute and destroy the natural environment.

*Meeting with 長洲大新街街坊會*

37. Mr Johnny HUNG, Chairman, said that Cheung Chau residents were strongly opposed to the development of IWMF at SKC because the reclamation works would not only result in the loss of fishing grounds and fish culture zones which in turn would adversely affect the livelihood of Cheung Chau fishermen, but also the tourism in Cheung Chau. He was also worried about the impact of IWMF on air quality as the current AQOs adopted as benchmarks in the EIA studies were actually outdated. The toxic emissions from IWMF would further aggravate the air pollution problem in Hong Kong which was deteriorating in 2011 when compared with 2010 in terms of premature deaths, hospital bed days, doctor visits and asthma hospitalization as revealed in a report of 2011 Hong Kong Air Quality Review by Clean Air Network.

*Meeting with 長洲華商會*

38. Mr KWONG Kwok-wai, Chairman, expressed concern about the choice of site for IWMF at SKC and the related high construction cost, the cost-effectiveness of shipping MSW to SKC for treatment, and the adverse health effects of dioxin emissions from IWMF. To this end, efforts should be made to identify an alternative location which was well served by available transport network and supporting facilities with a view to reducing the capital cost on the one hand and ensuring timely delivery on the other. He also opined that more resources should be allocated to the Environment Bureau to tackle waste problem in Hong Kong.

*Meeting with 長洲聖心學校校友會*

39. Mr WONG Pak-ling, Chairman, urged the Administration to withdraw the proposed development of IWMF at SKC given the damages to the natural environment and tourism of Cheung Chau, which was in close proximity to SKC, let alone the threat of air pollution associated with the emissions from IWMF. He was worried that the Administration's efforts to encourage source separation of waste for recovery and recycling would be diminished with the adoption of the incineration option. Besides, the development of IWMF at SKC facing the Pak Tai Temple and Cheung Chau Cemetery would be offensive to deity and ancestors.

*Meeting with Ms Connie HO*

40. Ms Connie HO urged for the permanent closure of SENT Landfill in view of its health hazards to TKO residents. She criticized the Planning Department (PlanD) for approving residential developments to be built at Area 86 (LOHAS Park) albeit their close proximity to the nearby TKO Landfill.

She also expressed disappointment at the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for failing to reduce and recycle waste before considering landfill extension.

*Meeting with Ms LI Oi-ling*

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(06))

41. Given its proximity to the residential developments at LOHAS Park, Ms LI Oi-ling cautioned that the proposed SENT Landfill Extension would not only affect the residents nearby but also aggravate the roadside air pollution in the area as a result of increased exhaust emissions from dump trucks transporting waste to the landfill site. She also expressed disappointment that the EIA study on SENT Landfill Extension had failed to take into account the risk on public health.

*Meeting with Mr Eric CHEUNG*

42. Mr Eric CHEUNG questioned the Administration's plan to extend the SENT Landfill having regard to its close proximity to the residential developments at LOHAS Park. He urged the Administration to review the need for the proposed SENT Landfill Extension in the interest of public health.

*Meeting with Ms SIT Siu-hung*

43. Ms SIT Siu-hung expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of public consultation on the proposed SENT Landfill Extension. She pointed out that there were not only concerns about the adverse health impact of exhaust emissions and traffic noise from dump trucks entering and leaving the landfill site, but also the safety hazard associated with falling objects from dump trucks to other road users. To this end, consideration should be given to identifying suitable and more remote locations for the development of new landfills to meet the need for waste disposal.

*Meeting with Mr LAM Chung-yu*

44. Mr LAM Chung-yu opined that the SENT Landfill should not be extended and should cease operation given its proximity to residential developments. According to his understanding, the study on "Extension of Existing Landfills and Identification of Potential New Waste Disposal Sites" completed in 2003 did not consider the SENT Landfill Extension an option in view of the residential developments nearby. Besides, the development of TKO Area 86 was planned on the basis that the SENT Landfill would be closed after reaching its design capacity in 2012. He was disappointed that the EIA on the SENT Landfill Extension was approved in May 2008 in the absence of adequate consultation with TKO residents. He also criticized the

Action

Administration for failing to implement the "The Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" (Policy Framework) to tackle the waste problem.

*Meeting with Mr TSANG Sing-hung*

45. Mr TSANG Sing-hung urged the Administration to withdraw the proposed extension of SENT Landfill on account of its adverse health impact on the neighbouring community. Apart from the odour problem which had been disturbing TKO residents over the years, the hazardous wastes disposed of at the landfill site would release toxic substances to the environment let alone the traffic noise and exhaust emissions from dump trucks entering and leaving the landfill site. The frequent occurrence of falling objects from dump trucks along the Wan Po Road had also posed a safety risk to other road users. He also criticized that the EIA report on SENT Landfill Extension approved in May 2008 was not comprehensive as it had failed to take into consideration the planned development of LOHAS Park.

*Meeting with Mr YEUNG King-wai*

46. Mr YEUNG King-wai said that he was an elderly retiree residing at LOHAS Park. His decision to move to LOHAS Park was made on the understanding that the SENT Landfill would be closed in 2012 but this seemed to be untrue. Apart from the odour nuisance, there was also concern about the fire hazard associated with the methane gas generated from the landfill site, which was a flammable gas, to the neighbouring community. He urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Ms Stella WONG*

47. Ms Stella WONG said that she was a resident of LOHAS Park, and was strongly opposed to the proposed extension of SENT Landfill given its close proximity to LOHAS Park. She said that the owners' corporation and residents of LOHAS Park had a keen interest in protecting the environment through segregation and recycling of solid waste at source, recycling of wastewater and conservation of energy. It was therefore unfair that they should be exposed to various environmental hazards, including both odour and noise nuisances, associated with the landfill nearby. She would like to thank Mr LEE Cheuk-yan and Mr Alan LEONG for visiting SENT Landfill and to see for themselves the problems faced by TKO residents, and would like to appeal to other members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Ms CHAN Suet-mui*

48. Ms CHAN Suet-mui reproved the Administration for poor land use

planning to allow a residential development and a landfill to be placed in close proximity to each other. She said that her decision to move to TKO was made on the understanding that SENT Landfill would be closed in 2012. However, the continued operation of the SENT Landfill would further aggravate the local air pollution problem. To reduce the reliance on landfills, consideration should be given to providing incentives to encourage separation and recycling of waste. Measures should also be taken to enhance the existing waste collection and separation facilities.

*Meeting with Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC)*

49. Professor David LUNG, Chairman, said that ECC had all along been promoting environmental practices within the community. It was necessary for the Administration to tackle the waste problem at root through avoidance of excessive consumption. There was also a need for better planning on land use to achieve a right balance between development and environmental protection on the one hand and to minimize conflict on the other.

*Meeting with Ms SU Wan-chen*

50. Ms SU Wan-chen said that she had used all her savings to buy a flat at LOHAS Park as she was very impressed with the scenic environment. However, since moving in, she and her family had been faced with various environmental nuisances associated with the nearby landfill, notably the odour problem and the abundance of flies and mosquitoes, which had adversely affected the health of her family. She questioned the credibility of the EIA report on SENT Landfill Extension (approved in May 2008) as this had failed to take account of the planned development of LOHAS Park. She also criticized the poor land use planning to locate residential developments near a landfill site. She urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Ms HO Hai-fung*

51. Ms HO Hai-fung said that as a resident of LOHAS Park, she was extremely frustrated with the persistent odour nuisance from the SENT Landfill, which was particularly serious during the hot summer months, and she had to have all the windows closed. The odour nuisance had not only caused adverse health impacts, but also mental suffering, emotional distress and even depression. She held that view that the Town Planning Board (TPB) and EPD were to be blamed for causing the land use conflict.

*Meeting with Mr NI Bing-wen*

52. Mr NI Bing-wen expressed grave concern about the adverse environmental impacts of SENT Landfill on residents of LOHAS Park. To this

end, consideration should be given to placing landfills in a remote location and far from residential developments. Meanwhile, the Administration should shelve the extension of SENT Landfill having regard to the strong opposition from the community.

*Meeting with Mr YIP Chi-shing*

53. Mr YIP Chi-shing was opposed to the proposed SENT Landfill Extension, which in his view was unfair to residents, particularly those who moved to LOHAS Park on the understanding that the landfill would be closed by 2012-2013. Apart from the environmental hazards, there was also concern about road safety given the heavy flow of dump trucks travelling to and fro the landfill site. He urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

Session 3

*Meeting with Mr CHONG Wing-hing*

54. While acknowledging that the SENT Landfill would only receive construction waste with no odour generation upon the proposed extension, Mr CHONG Wing-hing remained concerned that the waste previously disposed of at the landfill might contain toxic substances, the release of which to the environment would pose a health threat to TKO residents.

*Meeting with Ms LEE Mui-ling*

55. Ms LEE Mui-ling said that she was extremely frustrated with the environmental problems associated with the operation of the SENT Landfill, particularly the odour nuisance which would have adverse health effects and cause mental stress, let alone the traffic problems caused by dump trucks travelling to and fro the landfill site. She urged members to support the permanent closure of the SENT Landfill.

*Meeting with Mr Raymond KWAN*

56. Mr Raymond KWAN questioned the intent of the public consultation on the proposed SENT Landfill Extension in view of the short consultation period which was not sufficient for the public to give response. The short notice for opposition given by TPB had also rendered many TKO residents not able to turn up at the meeting. Even those who had attended the meeting were not given adequate time to express their views. As a result, the proposed SENT Landfill Extension was approved despite the strong objection from TKO residents. He stressed that TKO residents had been suffering from environmental problems associated with landfill operation for years, and that the Administration should

identify other suitable locations for new landfills.

*Meeting with Cheung Chau Environment Concern Group*

57. Mr CHAN Chi-ping, Convener, criticized the Administration for failing to take heed of public views on the development of IWWMF which was not only too costly to build but also produce toxic ash. To tackle the waste problem, more efforts should be made to reduce waste generation. There was also a need to step up education and publicity to induce behavioural changes towards waste recycling.

*Meeting with Ms CHEN Li*

58. Ms CHEN Li expressed disappointment that the Administration had failed to address the repeated calls from residents of LOHAS Park for measures to tackle the environmental problems and health concerns arising from the operation of SENT Landfill. It was unfair to prolong the suffering of TKO residents as a result of proposed extension of SENT Landfill.

*Meeting with Mr SAM Chi-ngai*

59. Mr SAM Chi-ngai questioned the reliability of the 2008 EIA study on SENT Landfill Extension as this was conducted on the basis of the feasibility study in 2005, which had failed to take into account the potential environmental impacts on the planned residential development of LOHAS Park and other industrial developments. In the light of the latest development in the vicinity of the landfill site, there was a need to review the study findings. Compensatory measures, such as medical subsidies, should be mapped out for the betterment of the TKO residents in exchange for the proposed landfill extension.

*Meeting with Mr FONG Siu-leung*

60. Mr FONG Siu-leung was strongly opposed to the proposed SENT Landfill Extension, and urged members to support its permanent closure. He was disappointed that the Administration still tried to press ahead with the proposed landfill extension despite the numerous complaints from TKO residents against the environmental problems associated with landfill operation. Instead of extending the SENT Landfill, consideration should be given to identifying a remote location for the provision of a new landfill together with an incinerator such that ashes from incineration of MSW could be disposed of direct at the landfill. Efforts should also be made to promote the local recycling industry.

*Meeting with Ms LO Kwai-sim*

61. Ms LO Kwai-sim said that her decision to move to TKO was made on the understanding that the SENT Landfill would be closed in 2012. She pointed out that TKO residents had been suffering for years, and that it was not fair for the Administration to further extend the SENT Landfill at the expense of TKO residents. She was also disappointed that TPB had not properly addressed the views and concerns of TKO residents expressed in the public consultation on the proposed SENT Landfill Extension. To tackle the waste problem, the Administration should show its commitment in waste reduction and recycling, as well as provide assistance to promote the local recycling industry. She urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Ms LAI Siu-chi*

62. Ms LAI Siu-chi said that she was lured into buying a flat at LOHAS Park in 2009 as the developer had claimed that LOHAS stood for "life of health and sustainability". Contrary to her original hope of improving the health of the family with the better living conditions, the actual situation was quite different as she was not only worried about the adverse health impact associated with landfill operation, but also the traffic problems along Wan Po Road. The situation would further be aggravated if the landfill was to be further extended. While the Administration had claimed that the extension site would only receive construction waste with no odour problems, these materials might contain toxic substances such as asbestos, the release of which to the environment would pose a health hazard to neighboring residents. As it was unfair to TKO residents to continue to suffer from the environmental nuisances, the Administration should identify a remote location for the development of a new landfill. She urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension.

*Meeting with Mr LAU King-nam*

63. Mr LAU King-nam blamed the Administration for failing to work out a long-term policy on waste management (in terms of legislative control, public education and waste facilities) to address the waste problem in a timely and sustainable manner. He further criticized the Administration's attempt to press ahead the proposed SENT Landfill Extension without taking heed to the views and concerns of TKO residents and Sai Kung District Council during the consultation stage. It was also disappointing that TPB had approved the proposed SENT Landfill Extension despite strong objection from TKO residents. He urged members to vote against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension, and support the permanent closure of all landfill sites across the territory.

*Meeting with Mr LEE Tak-lun*

64. Mr LEE Tak-lun said that he bought a flat at LOHAS Park because of the green and scenic environment as advocated by the developer. After moving in, he was appalled by the environmental problems associated with landfill operation. He had met with the developer protesting against the environmental nuisances but to no avail. To tackle the waste problem, the Administration should make reference to the successful overseas experience on collection and separation of MSW with more efforts on waste segregation and on-site treatment and recycling of food waste.

*Meeting with Ms AU YEUNG Ching-yi*

65. Ms AU YEUNG Ching-yi was strongly opposed to the proposed SENT Landfill Extension. Apart from the odour and dust generated from landfill operation which had resulted in poor air quality, the methane emission from landfill was also another cause for concern as it posed a fire hazard to the neighboring community. The Administration's claim that only construction waste would be disposed of at the extended site was not particularly convincing as the waste might contain contaminated materials which would likely be released to the environment. It was also worth noting that the restoration of a landfill site was very costly, and that there were considerable restrictions on its future use due to settlement problems.

*Meeting with Momentum 107*

66. Mr HO Man-kit, Convener, criticized the Administration for not taking effective measures to reduce waste generation before considering the development of IWWMF. In the past years, the Administration had only been concentrating its efforts on certain environmental initiatives such as environmental levy on plastic shopping bags but such had not been effective in reducing waste as the use of garbage bags had since increased significantly. He also failed to accept the rationale for grouping several waste management proposals together for joint approval. He opined that the investment in IWWMF was not a prudent use of public funds on account of its high capital and operating costs. Consideration could be given to developing smaller and decentralized waste incinerators.

*Meeting with Dr Robert HANSON*

(LC Paper Nos. CB(1) 1386/11-12(10) and 1394/11-12(02))

67. Dr Robert HANSON said that there was evidence showing that the so-called energy-efficient lighting installations, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), actually used more energy than incandescent light bulbs. Besides, they contained toxic elements

(including mercury, lead and arsenic) which would have adverse effects on health and the environment. He therefore urged the Administration to stop promoting the replacement of incandescent light bulbs by CFLs and LEDs.

*Meeting with Business Environment Council (BEC)*  
(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1394/11-12(03))

68. Ms Suzanne BHANJA CHEUNG, Head-Environmental Management, declared that some member companies of BEC might be involved in waste management business. She said that BEC considered it necessary to reduce MSW and supported the development of IWMF to treat waste. While MSW charging was an effective economic disincentive to deter waste generation, the charge collected should be ploughed back to support other environmental initiatives. Consideration should be given to expanding the three-coloured waste segregation bin scheme to cover other types of recyclables such as WEEE, glass bottles, wood and food waste. Education efforts should be stepped up to induce behavioural changes to reduce waste. There was also a need for concerted efforts from government departments to assist recyclers, particularly small and medium enterprises, to start up and run their businesses in a sustainable manner.

*Meeting with Global Eco Resource Limited*

69. Mr LEE Man-biu, Chief Executive Officer, expressed concern about the practicability of the Food Waste Recycling Project in Housing Estates, under which the food waste would remain inside an enclosed chamber for at least 21 days before discharge. Given the space constraints in housing estates, this would give rise to hygiene and odour problems. Residents might also find it troublesome to bring the food waste containers to the centralized collection point within the specified time on a daily basis. To this end, consideration should be given to using degradable paper bags for storage of food waste. The Administration should ensure the use of the most advanced facility for composting to avoid creating environmental nuisance to residents. Apart from domestic food waste, there was also a need to recycle food waste from the commercial sector, which generated over 1 000 tonnes of food waste each day.

*Meeting with Mr Michael TSE*

70. Mr Michael TSE held the view that the existing policies on waste management and environmental protection were piecemeal in nature and not well thought out. He urged the Administration to address the environmental problems in a holistic manner.

*Meeting with Ms Susan CHEUNG*

71. Ms Susan CHEUNG was opposed to the proposed SENT Landfill Extension. Given that the EIA report approved in May 2008 had failed to take into consideration the adverse environmental impact of the SENT Landfill Extension on the development of LOHAS Park, she urged the Administration to review the EIA report in the light of the latest development. To address the concerns over exhaust emissions and traffic noise generated from dump trucks, consideration should be given to shortening the operation hours of the SENT Landfill from 8:00 am - 11:00 pm to 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. The Administration should also make available the data on particulate matters smaller than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) for public inspection.

*Meeting with Islands Development Alliance*

72. Dr Rosa MA, Chairman, was strongly opposed to the development of IWMF lest this would adversely affect the health of neighbouring residents, since a number of medical reports had already established that emissions from waste incineration could cause significantly higher rates of birth defects, infant deaths and chronic diseases (including asthma and cancers). She was also skeptical about the overall MSW recovery rate of 52%, particularly when the per capita MSW generation was on the rise. She stressed that reduction at source and recycling were the most practical means to reduce waste.

*Meeting with No YAU, No Incinerator*

73. Mr TSE Sai-kit, Representative, criticized the lack of commitment on the part of the Administration in taking forward waste reduction and recycling initiatives. He was disappointed that the Administration should press ahead the development of IWMF despite the strong objection from the community. He urged the Administration to launch another round of consultation on IWMF to allow a more in-depth discussion by the community.

*Meeting with Lantau Buffalo Association (LBA)*

74. Ms HO Loy, President, said that LBA was strongly opposed to the development of IWMF and extension of landfill to treat waste when the efforts made by the Administration in promoting waste reduction were far from sufficient. She criticized the Administration for trying to push forward the proposed development of IWMF in the absence of adequate public consultation. To prevent waste generation, consideration should be given to mandating the use of recycled materials in products and packaging. There was also a need to enhance the existing policy on nature conservation.

*Meeting with Ms Natalie HONG*

75. Ms Natalie HONG said that she represented the owners' corporation of LOHAS Park. She said that there had been much concern about the odour nuisance arising from the SENT Landfill given its close proximity to residential developments. Since TKO had become a densely populated district, it was no longer a suitable site for landfill. She criticized the Administration's attempt to press ahead the proposed SENT Landfill Extension, despite that this was not a recommended option in previous studies. Besides, the Administration had earlier committed to closing the SENT Landfill when it reached the design capacity in 2012.

76. Members also noted the following submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting –

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(11) — Submission from Dr TSANG Hing-fung;

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1386/11-12(12) — Submission from Sino-Forest Applied Research Centre for Pearl Delta Environment, Hong Kong Baptist University;

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(07) — Submission from Liberal Party; and

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1431/11-12(08) — Submission from a member of the public

Meeting with the Administration

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1369/11-12(01) — Administration's paper on "Reduce, Recycle and Proper Waste Management"

LC Paper No. CB(1) 1369/11-12(02) — Paper on management of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief))

77. Before responding to deputations' views, the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) gave a power-point presentation on the progress of the key initiatives under the waste management strategy as set out in the action agenda, which listed out the three-pronged approach (viz strengthening actions to reduce

Action

waste at source, introduction of modern technologies to upgrade the waste treatment facilities, and timely extension of landfill) to resolve the waste problem in Hong Kong. Waste reduction at source was indeed the top priority of the waste management strategy because this would not only reduce the amount of waste to be treated, but also lessen the pressure on landfills. With concerted efforts of the Administration and stakeholders, the MSW recovery rate of Hong Kong had increased from 43% in 2005 to 52% in 2010. On the other hand, the MSW generation per capita was on the rise which warranted for additional measures to reduce waste. Despite the efforts made on waste reduction at source and waste recycling, there remained waste that could not be recovered or recycled and required proper treatment. As reliance on landfills for waste disposal was not sustainable in the long run, the development of modern facilities for bulk reduction of waste should form an integral part of the waste management strategy.

78. SEN added that deputations' views were in fact quite similar to the Administration's waste management strategy with priority being accorded to waste reduction and recycling before consideration was given to waste incineration which, if adopted, should apply the waste-to-energy technology that was reliable and environment-friendly and would meet the most stringent emission standards. The process of waste incineration would not only turn waste into resources i.e. electricity, but also reduce GHG emissions. To facilitate exchange of dialogue between responsible bureaux/departments and stakeholders (such as the Island District Council), a dedicated working group had been set up to coordinate the various aspects of the IWMF project. SEN also noted the objections against the proposed SENT Landfill Extension. He however pointed out that even with the continuing efforts to reduce and separate waste and the introduction of modern waste treatment technology, there remained the need for landfills as the final depository for unavoidable waste. As the three strategic landfills were expected to be exhausted by 2014, 2016 and 2018 respectively, there was a need for timely extension of existing landfills to ensure MSW could continue to be properly managed in an environmentally acceptable manner. To address the odour problem, the proposed revised SENT Landfill Extension would be designated to receive only construction waste while the remaining waste would be diverted to other waste disposal facilities. The Administration would continue to take measures to abate the environmental nuisances associated with landfill operation.

Waste reduction at source

79. Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about the projected MSW recovery rate following the implementation of MSW charging. Professor Patrick LAU also enquired how the MSW recovery rate of Hong Kong compared with other major cities in the world. SEN said that the Administration aimed to raise the MSW recovery rate to 55% by 2015 through a range of enhanced or new initiatives but

these did not include MSW charging. While the experience of some cities showed that MSW charging was a very effective way to reduce the generation of waste, the success of MSW charging would be contingent upon various factors such as the charging mechanism. The Administration would endeavour to draw up the recommended way forward as soon as possible in the light of the comments received during the public consultation on MWS charging.

Modern treatment facilities

80. The Chairman sought justifications on the choice of site for IWMF at SKC rather than TTAL, particularly when the construction cost incurred from the latter site would be much less than that from the former. The Assistant Director Environmental Protection (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning) (ADEP(NC&IP)) said that a territory-wide site selection study had been conducted to examine all possible sites in 2007-2008 before short-listing the artificial island near SKC and TTAL in Tuen Mun for further feasibility and environmental impact assessment. Having considered the spatial distribution of waste management facilities, environmental factors and transport efficiency, the Administration had selected the artificial island next to SKC as the site for the first IWMF on the following grounds -

- (a) the proposed choice ensured a more balanced spatial distribution of waste facilities. By way of illustration, there was NENT Landfill and the proposed landfill extension in the North New Territories. In the Western New Territories, there were WENT Landfill and the proposed WENT Landfill extension, the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre at Tsing Yi, and a STF with a capacity of 2 000 tonnes per day under construction at TTAL. In the East New Territories, there was SENT Landfill and proposed landfill extension. In the urban area, there was a network of Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS), including two at both ends of Hong Kong Island;
- (b) the artificial island next to SKC was closer to the Island East, Island West and West Kowloon RTS, as well as the catchment area for IWMF than TTAL. The sea route for delivering MSW from these stations to the artificial island next to SKC was shorter than that to TTAL by one fourth. This routing would not cause significant impact on the marine traffic in the area. Consequently the transport of MSW to the island would help reduce the current transport of MSW to the WENT Landfill, hence reducing marine traffic in the busy Ma Wan Channel;

- (c) the SKC site, which was located at about 3.5 to 5 km from Cheung Chau, was far away from the densely populated areas and not in the direction of prevailing wind (northeasterly wind towards southwest in the sea). The proposed IWMF would adopt advanced incineration technology with on-site air cleansing systems to further minimize the impact of gas emission on ambient air quality and residents nearby; and
- (d) IWMF together with the planned on-site educational and community facilities would bring considerable economic benefits (including more job opportunities, enhanced ferry services, and visitors) to the nearby islands such as Cheung Chau.

81. Ms Audrey EU recalled that at one of the election forums, the Chief Executive-elect (CE-elect) had stated his stance that waste incineration might not be necessary and that waste reduction and recycling would be the way forward in resolving the waste problem. His proposed waste management strategy had since received overwhelming support from environmental groups. Noting that the proposal on the development of IWMF would be submitted for consideration by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in June 2012 by the existing term of Government rather than the new term of Government, she enquired if SEN had consulted CE-elect in this respect. Mr KAM Nai-wai echoed that as CE-elect had pledged to make strenuous efforts to reduce and recycle waste, it might not be necessary to proceed with the funding for the proposed IWMF.

82. In response, SEN said that the waste management strategy as well as the action agenda had been discussed at length at Council and Panel meetings. Different political parties had also been consulted on the way forward of the strategy. The urgency of the waste problem as exemplified by the exhaustion of the three existing landfills called for timely action regarding the introduction of modern treatment facilities and landfill extension. Therefore, the Administration had to seek funding approval from the Legislature so that the needed facilities would be commissioned in time to ensure that MSW could continue to be properly managed in an environmentally acceptable manner. Ms Audrey EU said that she would have difficulty in supporting the funding proposals at the present stage in the lack of sufficient information on issues such as the feasibility of incineration option. There might be a need for further discussions on the proposals where expert views should be invited. Professor Patrick LAU agreed that the Administration should provide more information on IWMF. SEN said that details of the funding proposals on IWMF and landfill extensions had been set out in the Administration's paper provided to the Panel the week before. Notwithstanding, he would be pleased to have further meetings with members to exchange views on various waste issues.

Landfill extension

83. Mr KAM Nai-wai said that he also had difficulty in supporting the funding proposals at this stage. He was particularly concerned about the land use planning on the provision of landfills in close proximity to residential developments, as well as the inadequacy of measures to abate the environmental nuisances which had been subject to complaints by affected residents. Besides, the funding proposals did not set out the compensatory measures for the betterment of residents living in the neighborhood of obnoxious facilities. He enquired about the latest development of consultation with the relevant District Councils on the proposed landfill extensions and IWMF. SEN said that the Administration maintained close liaison with affected residents on the proposed landfill extensions, in particular the SENT Landfill Extension. Efforts would be made to address the problems associated with the increased traffic travelling to and fro landfill sites as well as falling objects from refuse collection vehicles (RCVs). Meanwhile, cleansing of RCVs would be stepped up to alleviate the odour problem and parking spaces would be provided to these RCVs as appropriate. It was expected that the number of RCVs travelling to and fro SENT Landfill would be reduced upon diversion of MSW to other landfills.

(At this juncture, the Chairman ordered the removal of Ms Christine FONG from the meeting due to her disorderly manner.)

84. Mr KAM Nai-wai reiterated that he was not prepared to support the funding proposals at this stage. To facilitate further discussion, the Administration was requested to provide the following supplementary information –

- (a) progress of district consultation on the proposed landfill extensions and IWMF;
- (b) details of IWMF, including the operational standards;
- (c) compensatory and mitigating measures for the betterment of residents living in the neighbourhood of obnoxious facilities viz. landfills and IWMF; and
- (d) interface between the current and new term of Government on the implementation of waste management strategy.

85. Ms Audrey EU sought clarification on whether members had to decide whether they would support the submission of the funding proposals to PWSC. In view of the limited number of members present at the meeting, Professor Patrick LAU said that the funding proposal could not be voted on in

the absence of a quorum. Expressing similar concerns, Miss Tanya CHAN found it unacceptable for the Administration to bundle the four funding proposals together and force the Panel to make a decision in a hasty manner. She cautioned that the funding proposals approved within the current term of Government might not have the support from the new term of Government. She urged the Administration to consult CE-elect on these proposals, particularly the one on IWWMF, as the latter might incline to step up waste reduction and recycling before deciding on the need for incineration. Besides, there was a need for further discussion on the scale and location of IWWMF. She suggested holding another meeting to discuss the proposals. SEN said that the waste management strategy had been discussed over the years and he had nothing more to add. Notwithstanding, he would welcome another meeting to allow sufficient time for members to study the funding proposals and submissions from deputations before the proposals were submitted to PWSC in June 2012.

86. In concluding, the Chairman instructed that another meeting to be held to further discuss the four funding proposals, the date and time of which would be decided after consultation with members. Meanwhile, the Administration should provide a comprehensive response to the concerns raised by members and deputations to facilitate future discussion.

*(Post-meeting note: On the instruction of the Chairman, a special meeting had been scheduled for Friday, 20 April 2012, at 10:45 am to continue discussion on the funding proposals.)*

**V. Proposed Exemption under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607)**

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/11-12(03) — Administration's paper on proposed Exemption under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607)
- LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/11-12(04) — Submission from Tai Po Environment Association
- LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/11-12(05) — Submission from Green Power
- LC Paper No. CB(1) 1370/11-12(06) — Submission from School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong
- LC Paper No. CB(1) 1394/11-12(04) — Submission from The Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative

87. The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) (DDEP(2)) briefed members on the background to the Administration's revised proposal to exempt genetically modified (GM) papaya under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607) (the Ordinance). He explained that the original proposal was to exempt all varieties of GM papaya, including new varieties of GM papaya, since the risk assessment had concluded that it was highly unlikely for GM papaya to pose any adverse biosafety effect to the biological diversity of the local environment because papaya was an exotic species which did not have any close relatives in Hong Kong. In response to comments from the Panel and some interested groups, the Administration had further consulted relevant stakeholders and reviewed the original proposal. The revised exemption was to exempt all varieties of GM papayas from the application of section 5 of the Ordinance, and to exempt only two commercialized varieties of GM papayas from the application of section 7 of the Ordinance.

88. In the absence of information on the potential biosafety risk of existing and new varieties of GM papayas to the local biological diversity, Mr KAM Nai-wai held the view that the Administration should work out a list of GM papayas to be exempted rather than exempting all varieties of GM papayas from the application of section 5 of the Ordinance. The Assistant Director (Conservation) of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation said that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had conducted a risk assessment on GM papaya, the report of which had been critically examined by the Expert Group set up to advise on the administration of the Ordinance. The Expert Group endorsed the findings of the risk assessment that the potential of gene flow from GM papaya to its wild relatives did not exist given that no native species of the papaya family was known to occur in Hong Kong. Given the species barrier, the release of GM papaya to the environment would unlikely result in gene contamination or adverse biosafety effect on the local biological diversity.

89. Noting that the risk assessment was conducted on the basis of existing information and available knowledge, Miss Tanya CHAN said that there might be new varieties of GM papayas emerging as a result of the latest development in genetic modification which might have biosafety risk to the local biological diversity. She therefore supported that instead of exempting all GM papaya, consideration should be given to including in the relevant subsidiary legislation a schedule of GM papayas to be exempted such that the schedule could be updated as and when necessary. She also called upon interested stakeholders to submit their views on the proposed exemption in writing.

90. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DDAFC) advised that the revised proposal was worked out after further consultation with relevant parties. As the continued planting of GM papaya by the general public would have no adverse effect on the local biological diversity, it was logical and sensible to exempt GM papayas from the application of section 5 of the Ordinance so that any member of the public who wanted to grow or maintain GM papaya would not be subject to threats of enforcement. Meanwhile, the exemption under section 7 would only apply to the import of two commercialized varieties of GM papayas. As regards the concern on the adverse biosafety effects of GM papayas to be developed in future on the local environment, DDAFC explained that there were established mechanisms to produce GM papayas, and hence the biosafety of existing and new varieties GM papayas would be similar. Notwithstanding, the Expert Group recommended that AFCD should continue to monitor the latest progress and development of GM papayas and carry out a review of the exemption of GM papayas in three years' time for reporting to the Expert Group.

91. Noting that the existing labeling regime for GM food was voluntary in nature, Mr KAM Nai-wai enquired about the feasibility of mandating the labeling requirement for GM papayas following the proposed exemption. DDEP(2) explained that the proposed exemption for GM papayas and the labeling requirement for GM food were two separate issues. Besides, food labeling fell outside the remit of the Ordinance.

## **VI. Any other business**

92. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:15 pm.