

立法會
Legislative Council

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Panel on Welfare Services

**Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities**

**Minutes of the fourth meeting
held on Saturday, 18 February 2012, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Hon WONG Sing-chi (Chairman)
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Member absent : Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC

Member attending : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Public Officers attending : Item I

Mr Stephen SUI Wai-keung
Commissioner for Rehabilitation
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Mr FONG Siu-wai
Assistant Director (Property Services)
Architectural Services Department

Mr LEE Man-ho
Chief Transport Officer/Disabled Transport and Projects
Transport Department

Mr Roger LEE Ping-kwan
Chief Highway Engineer/Bridges & Structures
Highways Department

Mr Allan WONG
Chief Manager/Management (Kwai Chung)
Housing Department

Mr Danny CHENG
Senior Maintenance Surveyor/Research & Development
Housing Department

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr LAM Woon-kwong
Chairperson

**Attendance by : Item I
invitation**

Mr CHAN Kai-wai
Sai Kung District Council member

Ms Christine FONG Kwok-shan
Sai Kung District Council member

Mr MAK Ip-sing
Yuen Long District Council member

Mr Rayman CHOW Wai-hung
Kwai Tsing District Council member

Mr Ivan WONG Yun-tat
Kwai Tsing District Council member

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Miss Karen LAI
Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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I. Meeting with the Administration and representatives/members of District Councils

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1006/11-12(01) to (03), CB(2)1071/11-12(01) and CB(2)1129/11-12(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Meeting with District Council ("DC") members

2. DC members attending the meeting urged the Administration to, in addition to the retrofitting programme in response to the Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises ("the EOC Report"), attach equal importance to respond to the strong community call for the provision of barrier free access and facilities, such as the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems and barrier free access and facilities in commercial premises under the management of private developers.

3. The Administration advised that the scope of the EOC Report was to conduct access audits on 60 publicly accessible premises. In drawing up the retrofitting programme to follow up on the EOC Report, the Administration had already comprehensively examined the existing government premises and facilities which had a frequent public interface on the basis of the latest Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 ("DM 2008") and devised a retrofitting programme covering about 3 700 government premises and about 300 Housing Authority properties. Having regard to operational requirements, technical feasibility and time required for retrofitting works, the retrofitting programme would be completed by phases and nearly 90% of them would have works completed by end-June 2012. Where considered necessary, improvement works for other venues not covered under the programme could continue to be carried out under the regular maintenance programme. This apart, the Highways Department had also devised a retrofitting programme to improve the accessibility of the

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public footbridges and subways under its maintenance. Furthermore, Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers had been appointed in bureaux/departments since April 2011 in enhancing the management of the barrier-free access and improving the accessibility of government premises and facilities.

4. In respect of the progress of the proposals of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems, the Administration advised that having regard to the available resources, the top 10 ranked projects had been taken forward, of which the feasibility studies for five proposals had been completed and the rest five were expected for completion within 2012. Upon completion of the feasibility studies, the Administration would then work on the preparatory works in the pre-construction stage. All preparatory works at the pre-construction stage involved complicated procedures, the actual timetable would depend on the extent and complexity of the proposals.

Progress of the retrofitting programme

5. Members noted the Administration's follow-up action as at 31 December 2011 on the EOC Report as detailed in its paper [LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/11-12(01)]. They urged the Administration to ensure the timely completion of the retrofitting works as scheduled.

6. Members noted that EOC had provided a paper entitled "Mainstreaming of Universal Design concept" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/11-12(02)]. Members expressed support for the incorporation of Universal Design concept and principles into government policies and urged the Administration to play an active role in promoting Universal Design in different policy areas as far as practicable.

7. Members noted with concern that pre-1997 buildings were not obliged to comply with the DM 2008 to incorporate barrier free facilities. Members urged the Administration to consider introducing the relevant legislative proposal in this respect.

8. To facilitate the Subcommittee to prepare its report, the Chairman invited EOC to provide further information, if any, on the approach to incorporate the Universal Design concept in the formulation and implementation of government policies and programmes as well as the introduction of legislative proposal relating to the provision of barrier free facilities for all pre-1997 buildings.

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9. The Administration was requested to -
- (a) convey members' views to respective responsible bureaux/departments on incorporating the principles of Universal Design in formulation and implementation of policies and action plans, with a view to building a barrier free community; and
 - (b) provide information, if any, on the manpower deployment for taking forward the first phase of retrofitting works at public pedestrian footbridges (involving 10 facilities) and the measures adopted to expedite the progress of the works.

Work plan of the Subcommittee

10. Members agreed that a motion on the report of the Subcommittee should be moved at a Council meeting by 27 June 2012.

11. Members agreed that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be held on 30 March 2012 to meet with representatives of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation, The Link Management Limited and the Hospital Authority to follow up on the implementation progress of the improvement/upgrading works in respect of barrier free access and facilities in premises and facilities under the management of these organisations. The Chairman added that two further meetings of the Subcommittee would be scheduled for April and May 2012 to discuss issues relating to the accessibility of schools and the latest progress of the Government's retrofitting programme respectively.

II. Any other business

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:05 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 April 2012

**Proceedings of the fourth meeting of the
Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities
on Saturday, 18 February 2012, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda item I – Meeting with the Administration and representatives/members of District Councils</i>			
000737 - 001136	Chairman	Opening remarks.	
001137 - 001630	Ms Christine FONG, member of Sai Kung District Council ("DC") Chairman	Concerns/enquiries of Ms Christine FONG - (a) the scope of the Government's retrofitting programme in response to the Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises ("the EOC Report") and progress of the retrofitting works in Sai Kung district; (b) whether priority of retrofitting works in individual districts was determined based on the population size; and (c) the Government should monitor the provision of barrier free facilities in new private housing estates as well as consider the specific needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly when formulating policies and approving building design in regard to accessibility issues.	
001631 - 002118	Mr MAK Ip-sing, member of Yuen Long DC Chairman	Views of Mr MAK Ip-sing that since the scope of the EOC Report was rather limited, the Administration should actively follow up the provision of barrier free facilities in shopping malls managed by both private developers and The Link Management Limited ("The Link") as well as the installation of passenger lifts connecting concourses in individual Mass Transit Railway stations and the ground level.	
002119 - 002402	Mr Rayman CHOW, member of Kwai Tsing DC Chairman	Concerns of Mr Rayman CHOW - (a) the Housing Department ("HD") and The Link should accord higher priority for expediting the installation of hillside escalator links to enhance the accessibility of public rental housing estates located along hillside in Kwai Tsing district; and (b) the concrete implementation timetable for the lift and pedestrian walkway system between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road,	

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		which ranked fifth under the proposals of hillside escalator links and elevator systems.	
002403 - 002808	Mr Ivan WONG, member of Kwai Tsing DC Chairman	Views of Mr Ivan WONG that the Transport Department and Highways Department ("HyD") should expedite the implementation of the proposed hillside elevator and escalator systems as well as improve the barrier free facilities and the connectivity of public transport network in Kwai Tsing to enhance the accessibility of persons with disabilities and the elderly.	
002809 - 003236	Mr CHAN Kai-wai, member of Sai Kung DC Chairman	<p>Mr CHAN Kai-wai highlighted to members the findings of an investigation report on barrier free access and facilities in Sai Kung conducted by the Sai Kung DC in 2010. Mr CHAN considered that EOC should collaborate with DCs and non-governmental organisations ("NGOs") to identify and prioritise the improvement works/programmes relating to accessibility issues in individual districts</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, Mr CHAN Kai-wai provided a copy of the abovementioned investigation report for members' reference.</p>	
003237 - 004942	Administration Chairman Equal Opportunities Commission	<p>The Administration's response to DC members' views -</p> <p>(a) the scope of the EOC Report was to conduct access audits on 60 publicly accessible premises. In drawing up the retrofitting programme to follow up on the EOC Report, the Administration had already comprehensively examined the existing Government premises and facilities which had a frequent public interface on the basis of the latest Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008 ("DM 2008") and devised a retrofitting programme covering about 3 700 government premises and facilities and about 300 Housing Authority properties. Having regard to operational requirements, technical feasibility and time required for retrofitting works, the retrofitting programme would be completed by phases and nearly 90% of them would have improvement works completed by end-June 2012;</p> <p>(b) the Administration would keep in view the need for improving accessibility of government premises/facilities not covered under the retrofitting programme, and improvement works for these venues could be funded under regular maintenance programmes of the</p>	

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		<p>Architectural Services Department, if considered necessary;</p> <p>(c) HyD had also devised a retrofitting programme to improve the accessibility of the properties under its maintenance. HyD would also accelerate its retrofitting programme for the provision of lifts or ramps at public footbridges, subways or elevated walkway structures without such access, where technically feasible;</p> <p>(d) government departments would consult NGOs and persons with disabilities through established mechanism on the needs of persons with disabilities on accessibility issues, such as design of buildings and choice of building materials from the users' perspective;</p> <p>(e) Access Co-ordinators and Access Officers had been appointed in bureaux/departments since April 2011 in enhancing the management of barrier-free facilities and improving the accessibility of government premises and facilities. They would also be responsible for resolving accessibility issues in the premises/facilities under their management. Views and suggestions from respective DCs were welcome;</p> <p>(f) of the top 10 ranked proposals of hillside escalator links and elevator systems, the feasibility studies of five proposals had been completed and that of the remaining five were ongoing and were expected for completion by 2012. Upon completion of the feasibility studies, the Administration would then proceed to the preparatory works in the pre-construction stage; and</p> <p>(g) the provision of accessible facilities at public transport interchanges comprising bus and public light bus termini had been included in the retrofitting programme. About 80% of which was put under Class A and would be completed before 30 June 2012.</p> <p>Advice of EOC -</p> <p>(a) while the scope of the EOC Report was to conduct access audits on 60 publicly accessible premises owned or managed by the Hong Kong Housing Society, The Link, the Housing Authority and eight government departments, this would have demonstration effect and help build a barrier free environment in the</p>	

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		<p>community. The overall progress of the Administration's retrofitting programme was so far satisfactory;</p> <p>(b) as the next step, EOC planned to conduct access audits on premises and facilities under the management of private sectors, such as shopping malls; and</p> <p>(c) pre-1997 buildings represented about 75% of the total buildings in the territory. As pre-1997 buildings were not obliged to comply with DM 2008 and EOC would act on complaints regarding accessibility issues of these buildings, this would waste both time and cost for seeking civil remedy to deal with accessibility issues. The Administration should introduce legislation to require all pre-1997 buildings/premises to comply with the latest DM 2008.</p>	
004943 - 005444	Ms Emily LAU Chairman	<p>Enquiries of Ms Emily LAU -</p> <p>(a) whether the progress of the Government's retrofitting programme in response to the EOC Report was on schedule;</p> <p>(b) the extent of the implementation of the Universal Design concept by government departments; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration would consider introducing legislation to require the provision of barrier free access and facilities for all pre-1997 buildings.</p>	
005445 - 011145	Administration Chairman Ms Emily LAU	<p>Briefings by the Administration on the progress report of the Government's follow-up action on the EOC Report as at 31 December 2011. [LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/11-12(01)]</p>	
011146 - 011908	Equal Opportunities Commission Chairman	<p>Briefings by EOC on its paper entitled "Mainstreaming of Universal Design concept". [LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/11-12(02)]</p> <p>EOC's advice that owners of pre-1997 buildings could apply for subsidies/loans from the financial assistance schemes under the purview of the Development Bureau for provision, improvement and maintenance of barrier free access in common areas of these buildings.</p>	
011909 - 012623	Ms Emily LAU Chairman Administration	<p>Views/suggestions of Ms Emily LAU that -</p> <p>(a) a motion on the Subcommittee's report should</p>	

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		<p>be moved at a Council meeting by 27 June 2012;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should accord priority to promote the incorporation of the Universal Design principles into government policies; and</p> <p>(c) the Administration should introduce legislation to require the provision of barrier free access and facilities for all pre-1997 buildings and in the meantime provide financial assistance for owners of these buildings to improve the related facilities in the premises.</p> <p>The Chairman invited EOC to provide further information, if any, on the approach to incorporate the Universal Design concept in the formulation and implementation of government policies and programme and the introduction of legislative proposal relating to the provision of barrier free facilities for all pre-1997 buildings.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that HD had since 2002 been adopting the Universal Design concept in newly built public rental housing estates. Retrofitting works had been/would be carried out in public rental housing estates built before 2002 in accordance with the Universal Design concept at the time of renovation works as far as practicable.</p>	
012624 - 013557	Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Chairman Administration	<p>Dissatisfaction of Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung at the lack of concrete implementation table for the hillside escalator links and elevator systems and the retrofitting programme for the provision of barrier free access at public footbridges.</p> <p>The Chairman's enquiry about the criteria for the priority ranking of the proposals of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems.</p> <p>The Administration's response -</p> <p>(a) having regard to the available resources, the top 10 ranked proposals of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems had been taken forward for the feasibility studies, of which the feasibility studies for five had been completed and the rest five were expected for completion in 2012;</p> <p>(b) all preparatory works at the pre-construction stage involved complicated procedures, the actual timetable would depend on the extent and complexity of the proposals;</p>	

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		<p>(c) the proposals for the hillside escalator links and elevator systems were selected according to a comprehensive set of objectives and transparent evaluation criteria as set out in the Administration's paper; and</p> <p>(d) the retrofitting works for the provision of lifts or ramps at public footbridges, subways or elevated walkway structures items would largely be completed by around 2016-2017.</p>	
013558 - 014650	Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung Administration Equal Opportunities Commission Chairman	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's enquiry whether the Administration had fully implemented the recommendations of the EOC Report and his views that the Administration should seek additional resources to take forward all the proposals of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems in one go. In the longer term, the Administration should introduce legislation to require the provision of barrier free facilities for all pre-1997 buildings.</p> <p>The Administration's reiteration that it had actively followed up on the EOC Report, and the scope of the retrofitting programme was broader than the recommendations made in the EOC Report.</p> <p>EOC's advice that the provision of barrier free facilities in all pre-1997 buildings should be dealt with from the policy perspective. Similarly, the relevant bureaux should formulate comprehensive plans for the provision of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems and seek additional resources for the projects as appropriate.</p>	
014651 - 015150	Mr Alan LEONG Chairman Administration	<p>Views of Mr Alan LEONG that the Civic Party fully supported the implementation of Universal Design principles for providing a barrier free community having regard to the ageing population. The Administration should designate a high-level officer to take forward the adoption of Universal Design principles in the formulation and implementation of policies and action plans.</p> <p>The Administration's advice that members' views in relation to Universal Design and accessibility issues would be relayed to the respective bureaux/departments.</p> <p>To facilitate the compilation of the Subcommittee's report, the Chairman reiterated his earlier request for EOC to advise on how the Government should take forward the implementation of Universal Design and the introduction of legislative proposal relating to provision of barrier free facilities for pre-1997 buildings.</p>	EOC

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015151 - 015700	Mr TAM Yiu-chung Chairman	Concerns of Mr TAM Yiu-chung that - (a) the implementation of the Universal Design concept should be expedited given that the subject had been raised by the Elderly Commission a decade ago; (b) government bureaux/departments should enhance collaboration and seek additional resources to expedite the building of a barrier free community; and (c) the Administration should expend more efforts on enhancing the provision of barrier free facilities for pre-1997 buildings.	
015701 - 015838	Ms Emily LAU Chairman	Work plan of the Subcommittee.	
015839 - 020102	Chairman Ms Emily LAU	Ms Emily LAU's reiteration that a motion on the Subcommittee's report should be moved at a Council meeting by 27 June 2012.	
020103 - 020553	Mr Ivan WONG Chairman Mr Rayman CHOW	Mr Ivan WONG's concern about the expected completion date for the conversion of all buses running on the road to super-low floor buses and the plan to improve the accessibility of public minibuses to cater for the needs of persons with physical limitation. Mr WONG's further enquiry about the manpower deployment for taking forward the first phase of retrofitting works at public pedestrian footbridges (involving 10 facilities) and the measures adopted, if any, to expedite the progress of the works. Mr Rayman CHOW's view that the accessibility to premises should be designed from the users' perspective, and in particular the needs of persons with disabilities and elderly. Owing to time constraints, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide written response to Mr Ivan WONG's enquiry after the meeting.	Admin
<i>Agenda item II – Any other business</i>			
020554 - 020608	Chairman	Date and discussion items of the next two meetings.	