

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. FC4/13-14  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/1/2

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Friday, 12 July 2013, at 3:30 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yea, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon YIU Si-wing  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon MA Fung-kuok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon Dennis KWOK  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, JP  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon TANG Ka-piu  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kuok, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

**Members absent:**

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-ye, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Ms Elsie YUEN	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Ms Michelle LI, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (1)
Ms Pecvin YONG Pui-wan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Further Education)
Mr LEUNG Kam-pui	Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects), Architectural Services Department
Mr Gary AU	Senior Assistant Executive Director (Corporate Governance), Vocational Training Council
Dr LEE Kin-wang	Head (Estates, Health and Safety Division), Vocational Training Council
Miss Rosanna LAW, JP	Deputy Commissioner for Tourism
Mr WONG Kam-sing, JP	Secretary for the Environment
Mr Albert LAM Kai-chung, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)
Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung, JP	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Environmental Infrastructure)
Mr Lawrence LAU Ming-ching	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Facilities), Environmental Protection Department

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mr Andy LAU

Assistant Secretary General 1

**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Derek LO

Chief Council Secretary (1)5

Mr Daniel SIN

Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Mr Ken WOO

Council Secretary (1)5

Mr Frankie WOO

Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3

Ms Christy YAU

Legislative Assistant (1)7

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The Chairman advised members that two meetings had been scheduled for the day. There would be a 10-minute break after the first meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm. The second meeting would begin at 5:40 pm.

**Item No. 1 – FCR(2013-14)31**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 24 JUNE AND 2 JULY 2013**

2. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval of the recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) made at the meetings on 24 June and 2 July 2013. Members of PWSC had requested that items PWSC(2013-14)17, PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21 should be considered and voted on separately at the Finance Committee (FC) meeting.

3. The Chairman put the item FCR(2013-14)31 to vote. The Committee approved the funding proposal.

**PWSC(2013-14)17**

**HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND  
EQUIPMENT**

**Technical Education and Industrial Training Vocational Training Council  
20EM – Development of the Vocational Training Council International  
Culinary College**

4. The Chairman said that the PWSC(2013-14)17 sought the Committee's approval for upgrading 20EM to Category A at an estimated cost of \$657.5 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for the development of the Vocational Training Council International Culinary College (ICC).

#### Design and facilities of ICC

5. Ms Cyd HO said that as she had previously pointed out at the meetings of the Panel on Education and the PWSC respectively, the reflections from the external wall of the ICC building might cause a visual nuisance to the residents of Pokfulam Village nearby. She asked if other materials would be used for the façade instead. Dr Helena WONG expressed a similar concern. Senior Assistant Executive Director (Corporate Governance), Vocational Training Council (SAED(CG),VTC) informed members that the relevant stakeholders in the Southern District, when being consulted, had expressed a similar concern, and accordingly non-reflective materials would be used for the façade of the building to avoid causing nuisance to the neighbourhood.

6. Mr IP Kwok-him indicated that Members belonging to the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) would support this funding proposal. He commented that the proposed development should match with the surrounding historic buildings.

7. Ms Emily LAU expressed her support for the funding proposal. While commending the design of the ICC building, Ms LAU asked whether the façade of the building would be easy to clean. She was also concerned if the provision of barrier-free access (BFA) facilities and the ratio of male to female toilet compartments therein would be up to or even exceed the prevailing standard. SAED(CG),VTC responded that building materials that could prevent accumulation of dust on the surface would be used for the façade of the ICC building to reduce the need of frequent cleaning. He assured members that the provision of BFA facilities and toilet facilities in the ICC building would be up to the required standard. The Vocational Training Council (VTC) would make its best endeavours to enhance the provision of BFA facilities where possible.

8. Mr IP Kin-yuen indicated his support for the funding proposal. Pointing out that the location of ICC was far away from mass transportation network and was inconvenient for in-service practitioners, Mr IP advised that locations with better accessibility should be identified for setting up institutions providing training for in-service practitioners in the future.

Career development of ICC graduates

9. Mr Michael TIEN said that he had expressed strong dissatisfaction regarding the absence of government officials of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) when the item was discussed at the PWSC meeting on 24 June 2013. He reiterated that with a view to promoting diversification of local industries, the Administration should consider providing assistance and relevant training for in-service practitioners of the catering industry to set up their own business after they had completed their studies in ICC. For example, the Administration might consider setting up a large-scale public food court as a testing ground for the graduates of ICC to run a trial business prior to their transition to setting up their own eatery in the open market. Similar proposals, if realized, could help create more employment opportunities for people of low educational attainment and promote their upward social mobility. Mr TIEN enquired if the Administration would put in place any policies to promote commercialization of the results of the vocational education provided by ICC for in-service personnel. Mr TIEN said that as he had pointed out at the PWSC meeting held on 24 June 2013, he might vote against all funding proposals of vocational training submitted to the LegCo in future should the Administration be unable to present a comprehensive plan to assist the trained talents of ICC to seek employment or establish their own business in the market.

10. Miss CHAN Yuen-han shared Mr Michael TIEN's views. She pointed out that CEDB's support was essential in putting in place relevant policies in collaboration with other government bureaux and departments to offer an environment conducive to the setting up of small businesses by young people with particular skills, thereby reducing the unemployment rate of the youth. While expressing her disappointment regarding the absence of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development at the meeting, she reiterated that the Administration should consider setting aside space in the future redeveloped Central Piers Nos. 4 to 6 for the trained young chefs of ICC to set up their own catering operations.

11. Deputy Commissioner for Tourism responded that the Administration noted the concerns of Mr Michael TIEN and Miss CHAN Yuen-han. She said that the CEDB supported the development of ICC from the tourism development point of view as it would help train up talents to promote the development of the catering industry, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's attractiveness to tourists. The Administration was supportive of incorporating internship programmes and relevant training on business operations in ICC's curriculum to help equip students with relevant knowledge and skills to facilitate them to set up their own business in the future upon

accumulating sufficient working experience. Meanwhile, the Administration maintained an open mind in respect of the setting up of small businesses by the graduates of ICC upon their graduation. Mr Michael TIEN said that he would abstain from voting on this item as the Administration was unable to offer any concrete policy support to assist in-service practitioners graduated from ICC to set up their own catering operations to commercialize the training outputs in the market.

12. Pointing out that the Administration was unable to demonstrate its commitment to providing cross-policy-area support for graduates of ICC in seeking employment and setting up their own catering business and had not provided any further information to address Miss CHAN Yuen-han's concerns in this regard raised at the PWSC meeting held on 24 June 2013, Miss Alice MAK said that members belonging to the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions would abstain from voting on this funding proposal. Deputy Secretary for Education (1) (DS(Ed)(1)) responded that the Administration had furnished members with supplementary information on 8 July 2013 regarding the multi-pronged approach adopted by VTC in enhancing the employability of ICC graduates to address the concerns expressed by Miss CHAN Yuen-han and Mr Michael TIEN at the aforesaid PWSC meeting. She said that as graduates of the Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC) and Chinese Cuisine Training Institute (CCTI) were well sought after by the catering industry and their employment rate had been consistently over 90%, the employment prospect of ICC graduates was expected to be promising.

13. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung supported Mr Michael TIEN's and Miss CHAN Yuen-han's views. He opined that the development of the catering industry and the level of culinary service in Hong Kong could be further propelled and enhanced with the setting up of more catering operations by the trained talents of ICC.

14. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired about the employment prospect of graduates of CCTI and ICC, as well as the division of work between the two institutions. SAED(CG),VTC replied that the employment rate of graduates of CCTI was over 95%, and a similar employment rate was expected of graduates of ICC. As regards the division of work between CCTI and ICC, SAED(CG),VTC said that the former focused on training on Chinese cuisine while the latter would offer a wide spectrum of programmes on international cuisines.

15. Pointing out that the catering industry had been suffering from labour shortage, Ms Emily LAU said that she was not worried about the employment prospect of graduates of ICC. She further asked whether the Administration

could get hold of the vacancy situation in the catering industry so as to ascertain the manpower needs of the industry. DS(Ed)(1) responded that according to a survey conducted by VTC, there were 5 672 vacancies in the catering industry in 2011, which accounted for 3.1% of the total number of jobs in the industry. The number of vacancies was expected to further increase in the light of the continuous development of the industry.

16. Mr Andrew LEUNG declared that he was the former Chairman of VTC and the incumbent Chairman of the Steering Committee of ICC. He informed members that CCTI and HITDC under VTC's management were tasked to provide vocational training for students who might be less academically-oriented. The courses of VTC had been carefully designed to provide a continuous learning path for students under the Qualifications Framework (QF). Besides, VTC had a long history of co-operation with the Education Centre of the Hospitality Industry for Business and Management of Koblenz of Germany. They jointly organized Western Cuisine Trade Tests, which were recognized by the member states of the European Union and led to Western cuisine qualifications. In addition, VTC was authorized by the National Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (NMHRSS) to jointly implement the "PRC Chinese Cook Trade Test" system with the Department of Human Resources and Social Security of Guangdong Province. Through the "One Trade Test Two Certificates System", in-service chefs and students could acquire two qualifications in one single assessment, namely the Professional Qualification of Chinese Chef awarded by CCTI, and the National Occupational Qualification of Chinese Cook awarded by the NMHRSS. Mr LEUNG informed the meeting that the employment rate of graduates of CCTI had all along been highly satisfactory.

17. Mr James TIEN expressed his support for the funding proposal as it would help train up talents for the catering industry to reinforce Hong Kong's image as a Gourmet's Paradise. Mr TIEN was optimistic about the employment prospect of ICC's graduates in view of the severe labour shortage in the catering industry. He advised that it would be more appropriate for graduates to consider setting up their own catering operations upon accumulation of sufficient working experience.

18. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok declared that he was the Chairman of the Engineering Discipline Advisory Board of VTC. Ir Dr LO considered the proposed site of ICC appropriate in view of the synergy that could be achieved by its proximity to HITDC and CCTI at Pokfulam, both of which were also under the management of VTC. However, he was concerned if there would be sufficient participation of industry's representatives in the advisory body of ICC to supervise and provide guidance for the development of ICC.



SAED(CG),VTC responded that a Steering Committee had been set up to oversee the development of ICC. Meanwhile, there were various Training Boards comprising representatives from the relevant industries and professional bodies to advise on curriculum design, manpower trend and industry development needs. Advice from the relevant Training Boards would be sought as appropriate.

19. While understanding members' concerns on the employment prospect of ICC's graduates, Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok opined that discussion of this Committee should focus on the funding proposal. Mr Charles Peter MOK concurred with Ir Dr LO's views and expressed his support for the project. He was of the view that VTC had already put in place various measures to enhance the employability of its students and the Government should not be vested with the responsibility of assisting the graduates of ICC to set up their own business in a free market economy.

#### Training for the disabled and students with special educational needs

20. Dr Fernando CHEUNG indicated his support for the proposal as it would provide additional career progression for young people. Pointing out that CCTI had become a high-end cuisine training institute that was hardly accessible to students with special educational needs (SEN) and students with unsatisfactory academic performance, Dr CHEUNG opined that VTC should design appropriate courses at CCTI and ICC so that students with different learning abilities and potential could enrol and acquire the necessary qualifications in their pursuit of further education. SAED(CG),VTC responded that at present, CCTI and the Western cuisine programmes offered by the HITDC had attached importance to students' passion and aptitude in culinary and not on academic performance in their admission policy, and ICC would adopt similar criteria in its intake of students. He said that as the courses offered by VTC's institutions had pitched with QF at various levels, the programmes to be offered at ICC could provide continuous learning pathways for both full-time students and in-service personnel.

21. Ms Emily LAU supported Dr Fernando CHEUNG's views and urged VTC to explore the provision of relevant training for the disabled in ICC. She also requested VTC to proactively demonstrate the ability of the disabled trainees under VTC's institutions to potential employers in the catering and hospitality industries, such as the Ocean Park and the Hong Kong Disneyland, emphasizing corporate social responsibilities with a view to securing more employment opportunities for them.

## Training programmes of ICC

22. Dr Helena WONG sought information on the distribution of qualifications awarded by ICC, the level of course fees at ICC and the financial subsidies available for students. She was also concerned if the declining secondary student population, which was due to emerge from 2014/2015 onwards, would have any impact on ICC's student enrolment. She further asked if non-local students would be allowed to enrol in ICC's programmes. DS(Ed)(1) responded that the level of tuition at ICC would be comparable to that of CCTI and HITDC which was currently in the range of \$3,500 to \$16,000. For 2-year higher diploma programmes, the tuition was payable in five instalments with each instalment in the range of \$11,800 to \$12,100. On the provision of financial assistance, students of sub-degree programmes (i.e. Higher Diploma (HD)/ Associate Degree (AD) programmes) with financial needs could apply for grants and loans under schemes administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency, while those admitted to programmes below HD/AD level could apply for tuition fees concession from VTC. Secondary school leavers admitted to VTC courses which were subvented by the Government who had not yet completed their 12-year free education would continue to receive the free education in pursuing these courses. She added that according to prevailing policy, some of the places for programmes at sub-degree level or above could be allocated for admission of non-local students (NLS). However, enrolment of NLS in programmes below sub-degree level was not allowed. In respect of the impact of the declining secondary student population on student enrolment of ICC, DS(Ed)(1) responded that as ICC would offer some 400 pre-employment training places for secondary school leavers and 1 600 places for in-service personnel, the declining secondary student population might not have a substantial impact on its student enrolment since the demand for culinary and hospitality training would remain strong. SAED(CG),VTC undertook to provide information on the study places to be provided by ICC after the meeting in response to Dr Helena WONG's request.

Admin

*[Post-meeting note: The Administration provided the information on 20 August 2013 which was circulated for members' reference vide LC Paper No. FC178/12-13 on 22 August 2013.]*

## Campus management

23. Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that VTC should adopt a more open approach in the management of the ICC campus. He enquired if the training restaurant at ICC could be opened for business to the public. SAED(CG),VTC responded that as the core function of the training restaurant was for training and bearing in mind the concern over food safety and

environmental hygiene in the training process, VTC considered it not feasible to provide unrestricted public access to the training restaurant. Nevertheless, ICC would provide support for special activities of the Southern District Council. Mr Andrew LEUNG added that the training restaurants of CCTI and ICC could only provide limited access for the public under a membership scheme in view of the restrictions posed by the Fire Services Department in respect of restaurants licensing.

24. The Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. A total of 50 members voted for and 4 members voted against the funding proposal. Six members abstained from voting. The voting results of individual members were as follows –

*For:*

Mr Albert HO Chun-yan	Mr LEE Cheuk-yan
Mr James TO Kun-sun	Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung	Dr LAU Wong-fat
Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing	Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee	Mr Vincent FANG Kang
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung	Mr Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen
Mr WONG Ting-kwong	Mr Ronny TONG Ka-wah
Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan	Ms Starry LEE Wai-king
Dr LAM Tai-fai	Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr CHAN Kin-por	Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che	Mr IP Kwok-him
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee	Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
Ms Claudia MO	Mr James TIEN Pei-chun
Mr NG Leung-sing	Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming	Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr YIU Si-wing	Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Mr MA Fung-kwok	Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr CHAN Han-pan	Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Dr KWOK Ka-ki	Mr Dennis KWOK
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Mr SIN Chung-kai	Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Mr IP Kin-yuen	Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong	Mr POON Siu-ping
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan	Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan	Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen

(50 members)

*Against:*

Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Mr WONG Yuk-man  
(4 members)

Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen

*Abstained:*

Mr WONG Kwok-kin  
Miss CHAN Yuen-han  
Mr KWOK Wai-keung  
(6 members)

Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun  
Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen  
Mr TANG Ka-piu

25. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

**PWSC(2013-14)20**

**Head 705 – CIVIL ENGINEERING**

**Environmental Protection – Refuse Disposal**

**163DR – Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension**

**PWSC(2013-14)21**

**HEAD 705 – CIVIL ENGINEERING**

**Environmental Protection – Refuse disposal**

**165DR – West New Territories Landfill Extension**

26. The Chairman said that as the two proposals in PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21 were related to landfill extension projects, discussion of the two items would be combined but the items would be voted on separately at the meeting.

27. The Chairman advised that the proposal of PWSC(2013-14)20 sought the Committee's approval of upgrading 163DR to Category A at an estimated cost of \$7,026.9 million in MOD prices for the proposed Northeast New Territories (NENT) Landfill Extension project. The proposal of PWSC(2013-14)21 sought the Committee's approval of upgrading part of 165DR to Category A at an estimated cost of \$35.1 million in MOD prices for engaging consultants to commission a study and undertaking tasks to make preparations necessary for the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill Extension project.

28. The Chairman drew members' attention that prior to the meeting the Secretariat had received a total of five motions from Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Dr KWOK Ka-ki who intended to move the motions in accordance with

paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee (FC) Procedure to express views on the funding proposals. At the meeting, the Secretariat had further received 576 motions and 8 motions from Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Ms Cyd HO, respectively. The Chairman said that he had not yet determined whether these motions were directly related to the funding proposals under deliberation. In any case, the Committee would deal with the motions after members had finished asking questions on the funding proposals.

29. The Chairman said that among the more than 500 motions received, some were solely related to the NENT Landfill Extension project or the WENT Landfill Extension project, while some were related to both projects. He suggested that when dealing with these motions, the Committee should deal with the motions related to the NENT Landfill Extension project first and vote on the proposal of PWSC(2013-14)20. The Committee should then deal with the motions related to the WENT Landfill Extension project and vote on the proposal of PWSC(2013-14)21. Members raised no objection. The Chairman reminded members that motions in relation to the two proposals should be put forth while that particular item was discussed by the Committee.

30. The Chairman further informed the meeting that the Administration had provided information on waste management and the landfill extension projects as requested by Mr WU Chi-wai in his letter dated 9 July 2013. The Administration's response had been issued to members by email prior to the meeting and a copy of it had been tabled at the meeting.

31. The Chairman said that up to 11 July 2013, two submissions expressing views on the funding proposals had been received from the public and the said submissions had been issued to members for reference by email on the same day.

32. The Chairman drew members' attention that in accordance with paragraph 43 of the FC Procedure, "members' questions on a proposal must relate directly to the contents of the agenda item. On wider questions of policy, members should raise them either in the full Council or at an appropriate Legislative Council Panel".

33. The Chairman instructed that the speaking time for each member would be five minutes, including the Administration's reply.

34. Mr Albert CHAN raised a point of order. He suggested that items PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21 should be dealt with separately in order to speed up the voting process. The Chairman clarified that with a view to enhancing efficiency of the meeting, discussion of the two funding proposals

would be combined as they were related to the same policy issues. After finishing discussion, the Committee would first deal with the motions moved by members under paragraph 37A of the FC Procedure related to the NENT Landfill Extension project and after that, vote on the funding proposal of PWSC(2013-14)20. The Committee would then deal with the motions related to the WENT Landfill Extension project and vote on the proposal of PWSC(2013-14)21 accordingly.

Motions to adjourn discussion on PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21

35. Mr James TIEN said that the Liberal Party supported the NENT Landfill Extension project and the WENT Landfill Extension project when they were discussed at the meetings of the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the PWSC held earlier as opposition to the proposed projects by local residents was not intense at that time. However, the discontent of Tuen Mun residents towards the proposed WENT Landfill Extension project had soared in the past two weeks. The Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) had eventually voted against the project at its meeting held on the day before, i.e. 11 July 2013. To allow time for the Administration to lobby for the support of TMDC for the WENT Landfill Extension project and to enable this Committee to deal with the next agenda item on 2013-14 Civil Service Pay Adjustment, Mr TIEN proposed two motions to adjourn the discussion of PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21 pursuant to paragraph 39 of the FC Procedure.

36. The Chairman declared that discussion of the two motions moved by Mr TIEN be combined but the motions should be voted on separately. The Chairman said that each member could speak once on the motions, and the speaking time should not be more than three minutes.

Discussion

37. Pointing out that the WENT Landfill Extension project had been voted down by TMDC at its meeting held on 11 July 2013, Miss Alice MAK opined that the funding proposals should be put to vote at this meeting to make known to the Administration the stance of members on the proposed landfill extension projects. She deemed it unnecessary for the Committee to adjourn discussion of the items to buy time for the Administration to solicit support for the projects during the summer recess unless the Administration withdrew the funding proposals. She urged Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung not to filibuster, so that the funding proposals could be put to vote.

38. Mr WONG Yuk-man expressed his support for the motions. Pointing out that the motions would likely be endorsed by this Committee,

Mr WONG requested the Administration to review its consultation process on the proposed landfill extension projects during the summer recess and to make further efforts in soliciting Tuen Mun residents' support for the WENT Landfill Extension project. He also criticized the Administration for lacking the political wisdom in handling the landfill extension proposals as the withdrawal of the Southeast New Territories Landfill Extension project by the Administration due to strong local opposition had stirred up discontent among Tuen Mun residents.

39. Dr KWOK Ka-ki indicated that Members belonging to the Civic Party would support the motions. Dr KWOK said that the Administration had injected a lot of resources for the extension of landfills but no funding commitment for reduction of waste at source had been made so far. He urged the Administration to draw up a concrete plan for reduction of waste at source as well as to earmark related funding commitments in the Government's budget. It should also work out a compensatory proposal which was acceptable by residents of Tuen Mun and those of the Northeast New Territories who were affected by the proposed landfill extension projects.

40. Ms Cyd HO expressed that Members belonging to the Labour Party would support the motions. Ms HO urged the Administration to withdraw the funding proposals in view of the lack of public support for the projects due to insufficient consultation. She requested the Administration to draw up a solid plan to promote the development of the local recycling industry with recurrent financial commitment and to put in place effective measures to reduce the environmental nuisances associated with operation of the landfills. The Administration should also implement compensatory measures for the concerned districts in consultation with various political parties, the concerned District Councils and the affected local residents. Meanwhile, the Administration should engage members of the community and various political parties in the discussion on the way forward regarding waste management in Hong Kong with the ultimate goal of reducing the landfill disposal to not more than 5% of the total volume of municipal solid waste (MSW).

41. Ms Claudia MO indicated her support for the motions. Ms MO was of the view that the Administration should further consult the affected local communities on the proposed NENT Landfill Extension project and WENT Landfill Extension project prior to reverting the related funding proposal to LegCo after the summer recess.

42. Mr WU Chi-wai said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party would support the motion. He criticized the Administration for lacking detailed implementation plan for the various new waste management initiatives

proposed in the "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" (the Blueprint) and a comprehensive strategy to make waste management every individual's responsibility. Mr WU urged the Administration to discuss with various political parties on how to take forward the waste management proposals. He opined that the Administration should clearly state its waste management policy in the coming Policy Address and allocate necessary resources in the Budget.

43. Dr Helena WONG expressed her support for the motions for it would enable the Committee to deal with the next item, i.e. 2013-14 Civil Service Pay Adjustment, on the agenda for the meeting. Dr WONG urged the Administration to withdraw the funding proposals for further discussion with the local residents and to draw up the compensatory proposal for their consideration. Pointing out that the organic waste treatment facility at Siu Ho Wan could only help reduce 500 tonnes out of a total of 3 500 tonnes of food waste generated every day, Dr WONG considered that the Administration should co-ordinate the relevant bureaux/departments in implementing an effective and comprehensive food waste reduction plan. A waste recycling and management system should also be set up in order to come up with a more realistic estimation on the size of landfills required.

44. Mr Frederick FUNG indicated his support for the motions. Mr FUNG pointed out that the current approach adopted by the Administration on waste management which emphasized on landfilling and incineration was erroneous. He criticized that while it had been the international trend to reduce and recycle waste, the Administration had been trying to extend landfills and incinerate waste and had not taken any measures to reduce waste at source and improve the recycling network. Mr FUNG said that he had been to the three existing landfills and found the environment of the WENT landfill most unfavourable. He indicated that he would not support the funding proposals unless the Administration could draw up a comprehensive waste management strategy that covered reduction, recovery and recycling of waste.

45. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok was of the view that the multi-pronged approach to waste management including waste reduction, recovery and proper disposal was of paramount importance in the light of the imminent waste management challenge. Ir Dr LO said that the engineering professionals had been urging for the proper handling of MSW by implementing measures to reduce waste at source, building of waste-to-energy incinerators and proper management of landfills to reduce the nuisances caused by their operation, which included diversion of traffic for transport of refuse and requiring all refuse collection vehicles to be fully enclosed. However, he was disappointed that the progress of the implementation of these initiatives was slow. While pointing out that



the proposed extension of landfills was imminent, Ir Dr LO urged the Administration to take heed of the views of Tuen Mun residents and put in place appropriate measures to address their concerns.

46. Mr Albert HO criticized the Administration for not following the established practice of fully consulting the concerned District Councils on policy issues with substantial impact on the local community by submitting the related funding proposals to PWSC for approval on 2 July 2013 prior to consulting TMDC. In fact, TMDC had requested that for further addition of obnoxious facilities in Tuen Mun after the establishment of the sludge treatment facility, the Administration should widely consult TMDC and the local community for a consensus. The Tuen Mun Development Liaison Working Group was thus formed in 2009. However, the Working Group had yet to commence operation when the proposed WENT landfill extension project was put forward by the Administration. Mr HO further said that the compensatory measures proposed by Chief Secretary at the meeting of TMDC held on 11 July 2013 was in fact the betterment projects provided for Tuen Mun district in shouldering about one third of the waste of the territory in the past, while the proportion of waste to be received by the district would be further increased to 80% upon the extension of the WENT landfill. Pointing out that members of TMDC belonging to DAB had stated their objection to the proposed WENT Landfill project, Mr HO questioned whether DAB would reconsider its stance over the said funding proposal in LegCo. He further said that he had received an email from a member of the public expressing concern over the inconsistent voting decisions of Mr LEUNG Che-cheung at the Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) and LegCo on the WENT Landfill Extension project.

47. Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered it inappropriate for the Administration to put forward the funding proposals at the present meeting. Dr CHEUNG commented that the proposed NENT Landfill Extension and WENT Landfill Extension projects were not mature enough for implementation as the Administration had yet to formulate a comprehensive waste management plan to reduce waste at source. He said that the Administration should make every effort to minimize the environmental impact of the proposed landfill projects prior to re-submitting the funding proposals to LegCo. He also criticized the Administration for failing to provide the water quality reports in the past three years on the water samples taken from the stream at Wo Keng Shan Tsuen as requested by him at the PWSC meeting held on 2 July 2013 prior to this FC meeting as promised.

48. Ms Emily LAU expressed her support for the motions. Ms LAU pointed out that the whole community should be widely engaged in the discussion on how to address the waste management problem in Hong Kong.

She said that the Democratic Party had once suggested to the Environment Bureau to convene a summit meeting on waste management but the proposal was not accepted by some political parties. Nevertheless, the Administration should at least consult the relevant District Councils on the proposed landfill extension projects. Meanwhile, the Administration should also work out a compensatory proposal for districts which had shouldered the responsibility of receiving the waste of the territory in the past. The Administration should obtain the consensus and support from local residents and District Councils for re-submitting the proposals to LegCo in future. Pointing out that members of TMDC belonging to DAB had clearly stated that they would object to the WENT Landfill Extension project, Ms LAU asked why members of DAB at LegCo had supported the said funding proposal at the PWSC meeting held on 2 July 2013. Ms LAU further enquired if Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's stance in YLDC and LegCo on the WENT Landfill Extension project would be different.

49. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung clarified that the Environmental Improvement Committee of YLDC had passed a motion at its meeting on 8 July 2013 that YLDC would object to the WENT Landfill Extension project unless YLDC and the Ha Tsuen Rural Committee were duly consulted on the project by the Administration. Meanwhile, arrangements were being made for Secretary for the Environment to consult members of YLDC on the proposed WENT landfill extension project and he would make a decision on his stance over the project based on the result of the consultation. He further said that Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung had announced on the day when the aforesaid motion was passed that he would move a large number of motions on the WENT and NENT Landfill Extension projects and therefore these two funding proposals would unlikely be put to vote at this meeting. Pointing out that the Ha Pak Nai Tsuen in Yuen Long District would be directly affected by the proposed WENT Landfill Extension project, Mr LEUNG asked what mitigation measures would be implemented by the Administration to address the concerns of the villagers regarding the environmental nuisances arising from the project. Mr LEUNG also enquired about the Administration's plan for re-submitting the proposed funding proposals to LegCo should the motions be passed by the Committee.

50. Mr James TO indicated his support for the motions. Mr TO said that since the discussion on the proposed landfill extension projects would be rather lengthy in view of the large number of questions to be put forth by members, it might be necessary for the Committee to accord a priority to deal with the agenda of 2013-14 Civil Service Pay Adjustment at the present and the next meeting of the day. Mr TO further asked the Chairman how he would handle the Administration's request for re-submitting the funding proposals at the FC meetings scheduled for the following week if the motions were passed at the second meeting of the day due to start at 5:40 pm.

51. At 5:30 pm, the Chairman instructed that the meeting be adjourned and that discussion be resumed at 5:40 pm.

52. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
22 October 2013