

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)430/12-13  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

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

**Members present** : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan (Chairman)  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun,  
BBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Han-pan  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon Dennis KWOK  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

**Member attending** : Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

**Members absent** : Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin

**Public Officers attending** : **For item IV**

Ms Christine LOH  
Under Secretary for the Environment

Miss Amy YUEN  
Assistant Director (Water Policy)  
Environmental Protection Department

Mr CHENG Hung-leung  
Assistant Director/Projects & Development  
Drainage Services Department

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

**For Item V**

Ms Christine LOH  
Under Secretary for the Environment

Mr Andrew LAI  
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

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

Mr Raymond WONG  
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Cross-Boundary  
& International)  
Environmental Protection Department

**For Item VI**

Ms Christine LOH  
Under Secretary for the Environment

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

Mr Edmond LAM  
Acting Assistant Director (Country & Marine Parks)  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr SHEK Chung-tong  
Acting Senior Conservation Officer  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

**Clerk in attendance :** Ms Miranda HON  
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

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

Miss Mandy POON  
Legislative Assistant (1)1

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**I. Confirmation of minutes**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)142/12-13 — Minutes of the meeting held on  
16 October 2012)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2012 were confirmed.

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

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

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

(LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(01) — List of outstanding items for discussion)

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 18 December 2012, at 4:30 pm -

(a) Municipal solid waste charging; and

(b) Restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs.

4. Regarding the subject of "Tariff reviews with the two power companies" on the list of outstanding items for discussion, the Chairman said that the subject would be followed up by the Panel on Economic Development ("EDEV Panel") as part of the energy supply policy which was within its terms of reference. As all Legislative Council Members would be invited to attend the EDEV Panel meeting when the subject was discussed, environmental issues such as emission reduction measures to be adopted by the two power companies and choice of fuel for power generation could be raised for discussion by members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs.

5. The Chairman further said that as agreed with the Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs ("HA Panel"), a joint meeting would be held with the HA Panel on the subject of "Provision of a public beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po" on Friday, 30 November 2012, at 9:00 am.

**IV. 382DS — Sewerage at Clear Water Bay Road, Pik Shui Sun Tsuen and west of Sai Kung town**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(02) — Administration's paper on "382DS — Sewerage at Clear Water Bay Road, Pik Shui Sun Tsuen and west of Sai Kung town")

6. The Under Secretary for the Environment ("USEN") briefly explained the background and justifications for the Administration's proposal to increase the approved project estimate ("APE") of **382DS** by \$68.4 million from \$290.6 million to \$359.0 million by highlighting the salient points of the

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information paper. The Assistant Director of Drainage Services/Projects & Development ("ADDS/P&D") gave a power-point presentation on the subject.

*(Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)225/12-13(01) on 26 November 2012.)*

7. Mr Tony TSE said that while he would support the sewerage project, he found it difficult to accept the proposed increase of over 23% in APE, as the original APE made in March 2012 should have taken into account the known site constraints to the west of Sai Kung town and at Clear Water Bay Road. He considered it necessary that a more cautious approach should be adopted in the assessment of APEs for works projects. Sharing similar concerns, Mr WU Chi-wai questioned why the Administration had failed to foresee the site constraints of the project areas and the additional manpower resources required when deriving the original APE of **382DS**.

8. ADDS/P&D explained that when the original APE of **382DS** was derived, reference had been made mainly to the forecast of trend rate in 2010-2011 for similar projects in Yuen Long and Tai Po, as no similar projects had been launched in Sai Kung in recent years. An 8% price adjustment had been included in the original estimate to take account of the hilly nature and difficult access of the village areas in Sai Kung and traffic restrictions on road opening at Clear Water Bay Road. However, as it turned out, the returned tender prices for the works under the first contract of **382DS** were higher than expected as it was believed that tenderers might have included much more risk allowance taking into account the severe site constraints, leading to higher-than-expected costs.

9. The Chief Engineer/Sewerage Projects, Drainage Services Department ("CE/SP, DSD") added that the assessment of APE of the sewerage project concerned was based on construction costs of projects of similar scale and nature completed during the period from 2009 to 2011. As there were no similar projects at the Sai Kung area in recent years, no good reference could be made to the site constraints of the hilly village areas. The stringent traffic restrictions at Clear Water Bay Road, which only allowed works to be carried out between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on Mondays to Fridays, also led to higher-than-expected construction costs.

10. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan sought explanation on the reduction of \$10.5 million for project contingencies, given that the rising labour cost and the stringent traffic restrictions at Clear Water Bay Road could have increased project contingencies. ADDS/P&D said that the tender prices for the first contract of **382DS** had been returned. As the risk allowance had already been

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reflected in the returned tender prices, the project contingencies could be suitably reduced by \$10.5 million. In response to members' enquiry, USEN replied that subject to members' advice, the proposal would be submitted for consideration by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") in December 2012 and by the Finance Committee ("FC") in January 2013.

11. Mr Christopher CHUNG enquired whether APEs of sewerage projects were often miscalculated and whether measures would be put in place to prevent recurrences. He was concerned about the delay in implementing **382DS** due to the proposed increase in APE as funding could only be sought from FC in January 2013. He was also concerned about further increase in the project cost during the construction stage. ADDS/P&D said the proposed increase in APE of **382DS** would delay the implementation of the project by about five months. As the tender prices had been returned, the project cost should not deviate much from the revised APE. The Administration would closely monitor the project works to ensure their completion within budget. It would also learn from the experience and take into account all relevant factors to ensure accuracy in the assessment of APEs for future sewerage projects.

12. Mr CHUNG further said that there might be a need to revamp the mechanism for assessing the project estimates for sewerage projects, such as by engaging experts and conducting modelling studies. USEN responded that based on the track record, DSD had been maintaining a high degree of accuracy in its assessment of project estimates. She stressed that DSD had learnt lessons from the under-estimation of APE for **382DS** and it would adopt a more cautious approach taking into account site constraints and manpower resources for future projects.

13. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the scope of **382DS** and whether it would cover the village areas on both sides of the Clear Water Bay Road. CE/SP, DSD said that the gravity trunk sewers would be constructed along the Clear Water Bay Road and Razer Hill Road. The project would provide sewerage to unsewered areas at Fei Ngo Shan and Lung Wo Tsuen which were located downstream. Meanwhile, the upstream sewerage works, which were at the design stage, would be carried out under the next phase of the Port Shelter sewerage stage 3 project (**273DS**) to be gazetted soon.

14. Dr Kenneth CHAN was concerned that despite the provision of communal sewers, villagers might refuse to make sewer connection to their village houses. As a result, the desired environmental benefits could not be achieved in spite of the investment in sewerage improvement projects. He enquired whether there were punitive measures against failure to connect to the communal sewerage network. The Chairman shared the concern about the need

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for connection to the communal sewerage network, as otherwise the efforts made to improve the sewerage system would be futile.

15. ADDS/P&D responded that consultation would be held with Rural Committee and village representatives on the sewerage projects with a view to seeking their support prior to implementation of the projects. After completion of the sewerage projects, the Environmental Protection Department would request owners of village houses to make the necessary connection to the communal sewerage network. While the average connection rate could be up to about 90%, the connection rate at Sai Kung was as high as 97%. The Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Water Policy) supplemented that consultation would be held with affected owners on the alignment of sewers and the location of connecting points. Under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) ("WPCO"), owners were required to connect to communal sewerage network if such was provided. Advisory letters would be issued to owners of village houses requesting them to make their own sewer connections. While in some cases there were technical difficulties which prevented them from doing so, where necessary, enforcement actions would be taken as appropriate in accordance with WPCO against failure to connect to the communal sewerage network.

16. The Chairman concluded that members supported the submission of the proposal to PWSC.

**V. Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(03) — Administration's paper on "Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme"

LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(04) — Updated background brief on "Cleaner Production Partnership Programme" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat

LC Paper No. CB(1)220/12-13(01) — Submission from The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (Chinese version only)

17. The Chairman referred members to the submissions from the Hong Kong Environmental Industry Association, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries

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and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce which were tabled at the meeting. Members noted that the submissions expressed support for the proposed extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme ("CPPP").

*(Post meeting note: The submissions were circulated to members under LC Paper No. CB(1)224/12-13(03) on 26 November 2012.)*

18. USEN said that positive progress had been made by CPPP in encouraging and facilitating Hong Kong-owned factories in both Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta ("PRD") region to adopt cleaner production ("CP") technologies and practices. The Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3) ("DDEP(3)") briefed members on the initiatives under the proposed extension of CPPP for two years from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2015 by highlighting the salient points of the discussion paper.

19. Mr CHAN Kin-por enquired whether the Administration had any plan to extend CPPP after March 2015 and if so, whether it would review the need for continuation of CPPP on a longer term basis to ensure sustainability of the environmental benefits achieved. As any reduction in government subsidy might dampen investment by operators of Hong Kong-owned factories in adopting CP technologies and practices, he enquired if the Administration had assessed the number of factories that might discontinue with CP improvement measures in case funding support was no longer provided. He further stated that as funding could not be provided on a permanent basis and given that the adoption of CP technologies and practices had resulted in reduction in emissions as well as savings in both energy and production costs, efforts should be made to encourage participating factories to implement CP technologies and practices at their own costs.

20. USEN responded that there was a need to extend CPPP on account of its environmental benefits and positive feedback received from the trades. While the levels of subsidy provided under CPPP were very modest as compared to the total investment made by participating factories in adopting CP technologies and practices, it had helped foster the development of a sustainable culture of CP in the PRD region, as well as bringing about more cooperative efforts to reduce emissions in the region. As regards the future of CPPP, USEN said that the Administration would consider different options in promoting cleaner production in the region and she hoped to come up with a proposal in 2014.

21. Dr Helena WONG also enquired whether CPPP would be further extended and become a standing arrangement. She referred to the Federation of Hong Kong Industries' submission which stated that CP technologies and practices should be promoted in a long-term and sustainable manner. As such,

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the extended programme should strive to promote awareness of the CP concept so that the enterprises would continue to make CP improvements of their own volition. Dr WONG further asked about the new initiatives under the extension programme and the justifications for raising the funding ceiling for demonstration projects from \$160,000 to \$300,000. Noting that many Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region had ceased operation, she enquired about the number of participating factories which were still in operation.

22. USEN replied that as there were over 50 000 Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region, there was scope for further extension of CPPP to encourage more factories to participate, particularly in view of the considerable environmental benefits gained from the adoption of CP technologies and practices by industries operating in the PRD region. The proposed increase in the funding ceiling for demonstration projects would allow the adoption of higher-end technologies and/or larger scale projects which would bring about more substantial environmental and economic benefits in future. Besides, the demonstration of successful CP projects would be an effective means to inspire other factories to follow suit, resulting in greater reduction in pollutant emissions and energy consumption. USEN also said that she was not aware of any participating factories that had closed down.

23. With reference to the estimated cost breakdown for the extension programme in the Annex to the Administration's paper, Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed concern about the high administrative cost associated with programme management and technical support which accounted for about 19% of the total cost of the extension programme. Noting that the government funding required for the extension programme was \$50 million while participating factories were expected to contribute around \$33 million for on-site improvement assessments and demonstration projects, Dr CHAN enquired about the cost-sharing arrangements under the extension programme.

24. DDEP(3) explained that about 19% (or around \$10 million) of the government funding would be provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council ("HKPC") to cover the project management cost of the extension programme. As the implementation agent, HKPC would be responsible for receiving and vetting applications under CPPP, reaching out to potential applicants, monitoring progress of approved projects, drawing up annual implementation plans, planning and organizing publicity and technology promotion activities, etc. The administrative cost of the extension programme was 19% of the government funding and was much lower than that of the current programme which amounted to 28% of the government funding. The reduction was made possible through the experience gained in the past years.

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25. As regards the cost-sharing arrangements, DDEP(3) explained that the costs for on-site improvement assessments and demonstration projects would continue to be shared between the Government and participating factories on a fifty-fifty basis. The funding ceiling for each on-site assessment would be increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000 while that for each demonstration project would be raised from \$160,000 to \$300,000. Any cost exceeding the ceiling would be met by participating factories. Many of the participating factories had been contributing over and above the funding ceiling under the current programme.

26. Mr Dennis KWOK enquired whether the Guangdong authorities had provided the latest information on their status of achievement of emission reduction targets. He considered it necessary for the Guangdong side to make more efforts to reduce pollutant emissions, in particular volatile organic compounds ("VOC") and particulate matters less than 2.5 microns.

27. USEN responded that Hong Kong and Guangdong had conducted a joint assessment on the attainment of the 2010 emission reduction targets and the outcome had just been announced last week. While Hong Kong was able to attain the targets, Guangdong had not been able to meet the emission reduction target for VOC. USEN said that Guangdong had been focusing on the reduction of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides in the past years and it was expected that more efforts would be made to reduce VOC in the coming years. It was worthy to note that Guangdong had been more advanced in the adoption of emission reduction measures than other provinces in the Mainland. She emphasized that by providing funding to Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region to adopt CP technologies and practices, CPPP had fostered regional collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities in reducing pollution arising from industrial production.

28. Mr SIN Chung-kai considered that more stringent vetting criteria should be adopted for the extension programme so that funding would only be provided to demonstration projects of a pilot and exemplary nature, the experience of which could be shared among participating factories. Given that CPPP had been implemented for five years, demonstration projects on popular technologies whose experience had already been widely shared should not be further funded under the extension programme. DDEP(3) said that the Administration agreed with Mr SIN's views and that had indeed been practised. CPPP had served as a useful platform for demonstrating CP technologies and practices as well as sharing of experience by participants. Funding support would be provided to demonstration projects on emerging CP technologies and practices and under the current programme, only two of such had been funded

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in each industrial sector. CP measures which were widely in use would not be supported.

29. Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan declared interest as a General Committee Member of The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong and an owner of a factory in Guangdong. He said that his factory was not a participant of CPPP, but many of his voters in the textile and garment constituency had taken part in and benefited from it. He expressed support for CPPP which had helped to introduce the CP concept to Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region. He was aware that the investment made by the Guangdong side in developing CP technologies and practices was far more than that of Hong Kong. As the geographical coverage of the extension programme would be widened from nine municipalities to the entire Guangdong Province, he was concerned that the proposed funding of \$50 million for a two-year extension might not be sufficient for the purpose. He considered that there was a need to either increase the funding or to optimize the resources provided by the Guangdong side.

30. Mr CHUNG further said that the cost of investment in CP technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories was substantial. He asked whether the Administration would assist the factories in obtaining loans from banks or financial institutions for upgrading their technologies for the purpose. USEN said that the cost-effectiveness of CPPP had been proven in the past five years and it was the Administration's intention to seek further funding to extend the Programme for a further period of two years to achieve greater reduction in pollutant emissions and energy consumption.

31. The Chairman concluded that members supported the submission of the proposal to FC.

## **VI. Sustainable eco-tourism**

32. The Acting Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Country & Marine Parks) ("Atg ADAFC(C&MP)") gave a power-point presentation on the subject of sustainable eco-tourism.

*(Post-meeting note: A set of the power-point presentation materials was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)225/12-13(02) on 26 November 2012.)*

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The Lung Mei Beach project

33. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that Lung Mei, which was an area with very high ecological value and hence an ideal eco-tourism spot, would be developed into a sand beach. He hoped that eco-tourism could be developed at Lung Mei and Ting Kok East, both of which were areas with high ecological value. Sharing similar views, Dr Helena WONG enquired about the suitability of developing Lung Mei as an eco-tourism spot and whether the Administration would reconsider developing it as such.

34. USEN responded that a decision had been made by the Administration to construct a public beach at Lung Mei. It had also announced the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan (or "Ting Kok Plus") which aimed at enhancing conservation of the Ting Kok coastline. As a joint meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Home Affairs to discuss the provision of a public beach at Lung Mei had already been scheduled for Friday, 30 November 2012, it would be more appropriate to discuss the Lung Mei Beach project at that meeting.

35. USEN further said that with increasing public interest in nature conservation, the Administration had attached much importance to the preservation of natural habitats. However, there was a need to strike a balance between conservation and development. As a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity ("the Convention"), Hong Kong had the responsibility to protect the biological diversity of its natural environment. The Ting Kok Plus would be a step in the right direction. The Administration would be inviting stakeholders, including green groups, to exchange views on the protection of biological diversity in Hong Kong under the Convention at a meeting in January 2013. The Administration would be pleased to report to the Panel on Environmental Affairs on relevant discussion and its efforts in protecting the natural environment.

36. Dr Fernando CHEUNG shared the view on the need to protect Lung Mei as an eco-tourism site on account of its high ecological value. He pointed out, however, that the recent publicity on the development of a public beach at Lung Mei and its imminent closure for commencement of construction works had attracted many tourists to the area. As the tourism activities had resulted in much damage to the marine ecology there, he enquired about the measures to be taken by the Administration to protect the marine species and ecological environment of Lung Mei during the interim pending translocation of the marine animals to Ting Kok East. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) said that efforts would be made to educate the public on the need to protect and preserve the ecological environment. It was noted that some voluntary workers were on guard to

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protect Lung Mei from further ecological damage due to tourism activities.

Development of sustainable eco-tourism

37. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that more efforts should be made to regulate eco-tourism activities so that they could be conducted in an orderly manner. For example, the number of visiting tourists at any one time and the type of transport to be taken to the tourism spots should be regulated. Dr Helena WONG also enquired about the means and hurdles in promoting eco-tourism.

38. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) said that with the commercialization of eco-tourism, there was a need for more cooperation with the tourism trades in protecting the natural environment and providing proper training for tour guides in conducting eco-tours. Close liaison had been maintained with the Hong Kong Tourism Board ("HKTB") and the Tourism Commission in promoting eco-tourism in the ecologically sensitive areas such as the Mai Po Nature Reserve and the Wetland Park, and transport arrangements were being worked. The Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning) (ADEP(NC&IP)) added that promotional efforts to enhance public awareness of ecological protection, proper training of tour guides, effective measures on crowd control as well as adequate supporting facilities were needed for promoting eco-tourism.

39. Mr CHAN Kin-por enquired whether proper training had been provided for tour guides conducting eco-tours as this would be an essential part of eco-tourism. He considered it necessary for the Administration to make reference to the successful experience of Taiwan in the development of eco-tourism. With the banning of trawling activities with the aim to protecting marine ecosystem and fishery resources in Hong Kong waters, he enquired whether consideration would be given to developing marine eco-tourism in Hong Kong.

40. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) responded that reference had been made to the successful overseas experience in the development of eco-tourism. There would be training and accreditation for tourist guides for inbound tours. ADEP(NC&IP) added that with the establishment of the geoparks, training had been stepped up for tour guides involved in eco-tourism in those areas. There were about 600 participants in the geology courses supported by the Administration since 2009 as part of the promotional activities for geoparks. With the better protection for the marine environment accorded by the banning of trawling activities in Hong Kong waters, consideration would be given to promoting marine eco-tourism. Since 2010, the Administration had launched a pilot scheme to help fishermen pursue fisheries-related eco-tourism business by retraining them to become tour guides for eco-tours.

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41. Dr Elizabeth QUAT stated that members of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong supported the development of eco-tourism and the establishment of a nature conservation fund which would provide the necessary funding for the conservation of the natural environment. Declaring interest as a licensed diving instructor, she said that Hong Kong did possess rich marine resources for the development of marine eco-tourism. In fact, many fishermen affected by the ban on trawling activities in Hong Kong waters would like to participate in the development of marine eco-tourism, i.e. by acting as tourist guides in conducting eco-tours or opening up fish ponds to tourists. However, no effort had been made by HKTB to promote Hong Kong as a tourist spot for marine eco-tourism. She enquired about the efforts to be made by the Administration to develop eco-tourism.

42. ADEP(NC&IP) said that there had been close cooperation with HKTB and the Tourism Commission in the development of eco-tourism in country parks, marine parks and geopark and regular promotional activities had been conducted. Efforts had also been made to re-train fishermen as tour guides for eco-tours and to promote leisure fishing. The Chairman remarked that there was a need to reduce the number of squid fishing activities as squids would soon be running out in Sai Kung waters.

43. Mr KWOK Wai-keung declared that he was a licensed tour guide and he supported the enhancement of training for tour guides. He opined that the Administration should provide subsidies to encourage tour guides to join the skill upgrading programmes. He also supported the taking of concrete measures to facilitate the conduct of eco-tours and protect the ecological environment. In addition, efforts should be made to educate tourists against dumping of waste.

44. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok said that there was a need to ensure barrier-free access for eco-tours. He pointed out that many tourist spots in Japan were accessible to physically disabled tourists who were wheelchair-bound. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) responded that the Administration attached much importance to providing barrier-free access for eco-tours. Many of the tourist attractions including the Wetland Park provided barrier-free access. However, as terrain in Hong Kong was mostly hilly, sometimes barrier-free access could only be provided at the country parks visitor centres/education centres.

Conservation of the natural environment

45. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether cross-border activities involving illegal harvest of valuable trees in Hong Kong, such as Incense Trees and Buddhist Pines, were still rampant. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) said that joint

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enforcement actions were taken by the Police and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to combat illegal harvest of valuable trees. Patrolling duties were stepped up in those areas of Hong Kong with a prevalence of Incense Trees.

46. Ir Dr LO Wai-ki enquired about the progress of weeding of mikania which was a widespread weed and would cover and damage other plants in the vicinity. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) replied that mikania was an imported species which was commonly found along the borders of country parks. While continuing efforts had been made to weed mikania, its quick growth and proximity to other vegetation had rendered the use of herbicides undesirable. Weeding had to be performed manually to prevent mikania plants from covering and damaging other plants.

47. Dr Elizabeth QUAT pointed out that there was a need to address the problem of floating refuse which was polluting the beaches in Hong Kong. Consideration could be given to outsourcing the cleaning of coastlines to local fishermen since many of them had been out of job. USEN said that a conservation plan that would promote eco-tourism and provide for both conservation and employment should best be provided.

48. Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed concern about the unauthorized landing of private helicopters at country park areas and enquired whether any enforcement actions could be taken against such landing. Atg ADAFC(C&MP) said that according to the guidelines issued by the Civil Aviation Department ("CAD"), approval had to be sought from the land owner or the Lands Department as appropriate for landing of aircraft outside designated aircraft landing areas. A hotline was operated by CAD for reporting of any unauthorized landing. Follow-up actions would be taken against the unauthorized landing of a private helicopter in Ham Tin Beach as recently reported in the press.

## **VII. Any other business**

### Setting up of a subcommittee on issues relating to air, noise and light pollution

(LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(05) — Paper on "Setting up of a subcommittee on issues relating to air, noise and light pollution" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat)

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49. The Chairman referred members to LC Paper No. CB(1)191/12-13(05) which set out the proposed terms of reference and work plan of the subcommittee. Members supported the setting up of the subcommittee as well as its proposed terms of reference and work plan. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would issue a circular to invite members to join the subcommittee and arrange for the first meeting.

50. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:45 pm.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
16 January 2013